

Mr. Kamel Zozo

Council Popular of Chaldean Syriac Assyrian

Thank you Mr. President. I am Kamel Zozo from the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council from the Christians of Iraq. We turn to you and through you to the international community for support for the demands of our people in their right to live in their native homeland Iraq in peace and with equal rights with the people of the land. Despite what we suffer from terrorist operations at the hands of armed and infidel organisations since 2003 and until now, and finally at the hands of the Islamic Caliphate State ISIS, in addition to the marginalisation and exclusion in the political life in Iraq, what exposes us to extinction is the issuance of legislation and laws, which carry out our displacement, operations of demographic change, and transgressions on our lands and our properties, which have been ongoing since the dictatorial regime until now. Further, the deliberate neglect of the infrastructure in the regions of our people increases the flow of emigration. On account of the difficulty of life in light of the very bad conditions, in addition to displacement, and since more than a year the sons of our people sleep outdoors and in tents because of the occupation of their regions by ISIS. We therefore ask from you and from the international community to protect our people, one of the native people in the region, bearer of the Babylonian and Assyrian civilization, through the following:

1. Enact the decision of the European parliament issued in March 2015 in regards to the international protection of the regions of the minorities in the Nineveh Plains and Sinjar. Guarantee the return of (Yazidis, Shabak and Christians) after the liberation of their regions from the terrorist organization ISIS.
3. The need to issue an international decree considering what Christians, Yazidis, Shabak people and Shiite Turkmen face, crimes of genocide and work to bring the accused to the international court.
4. Demand the repeal of the second paragraph of the Article 26 of the National Identity Card Law, which was approved by the Iraqi Parliament, and dictates the obligation to forcefully convert the sons of non-Muslim minorities to Islam.
5. Appoint an international rapporteur to examine Human rights in Iraq as minorities face flagrant violations by different governmental agencies and organisations.
6. Demand the enactment and endorsement of what the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the UN issued in its session in October 2015, which demands from the government of Iraq and Kurdistan Iraq to remove all traces of operations of demographic change, and transgressions on the lands and property of minorities in the Nineveh Plains, Sinjar, and throughout Iraq.