

Hello to everyone,

Speaking to you is Salar Sharo Ibrahim, from Iraqi Kurdistan.

Thank you, Madam President of the Forum for giving me the opportunity to speak.

I will speak to you today about the lack of investigations against the perpetrators of the genocide against the Yazidis.

What happened to the Yazidis in Sinjar earnestly needs the presence of criminal justice to immediately investigate the case, especially after the liberation of Sinjar, where a number of mass graves were discovered, much of the criminal evidence may contribute to the investigation and there is compelling evidence of the genocide, which we were subjected to. It is clear to you, sirs, that the most important element of criminal justice is the presence of equal laws protecting the minorities as all members of the society, but we in Iraq are lacking the presence of such laws, therefore, the minorities in Iraq are subjected to much harassment, even after the Nineveh Plains were subjected to the most hideous attack by ISIS. Yet, all this was not enough for a law to be issued in regards to the protection of minorities and until now many of the voices of Iraq and the Kurdistan region openly call for violence and attacks [against] minorities without there being any legal accountability. Another element of criminal justice is the punitive element, and unfortunately there's no efficient apparatus in Iraq to prosecute the culprits. When the incursion [reached] Sinjar, there was no force on the ground to defend it. This resulted in Yazidis facing massacres, genocide, and the enslavement of women - 3500 women and children are still in the hands of ISIS. Until now the perpetrators have not been punished, neither those who attacked Sinjar or those who were the cause for Sinjar falling into the hands of terrorists.

In light of the grievous reality, in which minorities live in tents under difficult conditions, we see today the international community in front of a real test on the issues of human rights and the commitment to international standards. Slogans and sympathy alone no longer do any good.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to emphasize that numerous activists and Yazidi officials attended [this Forum] and other international Forums to deliver the voice and the suffering of the Yazidis, but all this means nothing, if there is not a genuine response and movement on the ground. Therefore, we recommend the following:

First: we demand an international investigation into the mass graves recently discovered in Sinjar, which will be compelling evidence to what happened to the Yazidis.

Second: we demand that the international community put pressure on the Iraqi government to issue a law specifically to protect minorities.

Third: the liberation of all abducted women and children from the hands of the ISIS terrorists. Further, the rehabilitation and support of the survivors [liberated] from the grasps of ISIS.

Fourth: open an international fund specifically to compensate and reconstruct Sinjar and the region of the Nineveh Plains, which were exposed to terrorism.

Fifth: consider what happened to the Yazidi and the minorities of the Nineveh Plains genocide, demand international protection specifically for minorities in the Nineveh Plains and intensify the international efforts to provide the basic needs for the displaced minorities.

Thank you for listening