

Sara for Human Rights

Mr. Judah, Samir

Thank you Mr. President,

I am Samir Judah from the organisation Sawra for Human Rights concerned with the rights of the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Christian people in Iraq.

Mr. President, despite what the minorities face in Iraq, especially in the Nineveh Plains, and the crimes resulted after the occupation of the region by the Islamic Caliphate State ISIS and the exodus of all the minorities from Mosul, the Nineveh Plains and Sinjar, there are some problems Iraqi Christians face that have no relationship with terrorism. It is rather the legislation and laws that the government enact that make it impossible for the minorities to live in peace, in light of unjust laws, which try in all ways to displace them and remove them from their lands as a mean for operations of demographic change in Christian areas in the Nineveh plains, their historic homeland. We have a dossier relating to these practices exercised against them at the time of the dictatorial regime and after its collapse in 2003 yet after the collapse they were more frequent and profound. We will give you a copy of the demographic changes and the transgressions on their lands and property throughout Iraq.

Secondly, the properties of Christians in Iraq were seized in various devious ways such as fraud, deception and forgery were used in the official transfer of their properties.

Thirdly, the parliament issued a decision in October on the necessity of converting underage children to Islam in case one of the parents becomes Muslim.

In light of this we demand from all of you, the international community and the organisations concerned with human and minorities rights and the protection of people,

the following:

1. Enact the decision of the European Parliament issued in March 2015 regarding the international protection of minority areas in the Nineveh Plains and Sinjar, demanding the return of (Yazidis, Shabak and Christians) after the liberation of their areas from the terrorist organization ISIS.
- 2.. The need to issue an international resolution considering what Christians, Yazidis, Shabak people and Turkmen Shiites face as crimes of genocide and work to bring the accused to the international court.
3. Demand the abolition 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.
4. Appoint an international rapporteur to examine Human rights in Iraq, as minorities face flagrant violations by different governmental agencies and organisations.
5. 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.