

Thank you Mr. Chair,

My name is Jwan Miro. I am honored to be here today with my colleagues from the Kurdish Centre for Studies and Legal consultancies, YASA. Our organization advocates and promotes the rights of Kurdish people inside and outside Syria, cooperating with Governments and non-governmental organizations.

Kurds in Syria suffered at all levels, mainly by excluding them from administrative and judicial system so that they would not be able to govern themselves in accordance with good governance and **justice**.

Kurds were not allowed to be part of the state's judicial system. As a result, only a very few Syrian Kurdish lawyers could become judges in Syria. Many criminal disputes often turned into political ones intervened by the Syrian intelligence and security forces to force Kurds to withdraw their lawsuits and give up their rights. Lawsuits were not judged impartially because of the nature of the political system and discrimination against Kurds.

It is noteworthy to mention the laws of land expropriation in Kurdish areas in Syria, where courts decisions were influenced by Syria's multiple security agencies and the ruling Baath Party, and the lawsuits were always decided in favor of the state. In addition, Syrian Kurds were not allowed to challenge the unconstitutionality of any laws issued against them, such as the exceptional laws.

Syrian Kurds faced brutal treatment and were insulted by policemen and security forces during arrest and interrogation, because they were not considered as first-class citizens, especially if they did not spelt Arabic fluently.

Syrian Kurdish lawyers suffered from the continued widespread corruption in the Syrian judicial system, especially in criminal issues, in which the judge has broad powers, using it to support the economic and politic elite, especially if they belonged to the ruling Baath Party.

Our center has carried out in cooperation with international organizations and experts judicial and administrative training workshops for the lawyers and judges living in Syrian Kurdistan to consolidate human rights values and good governance principles, and to develop the judicial system. therefore, we call on the United Nations and its different agencies to provide workshops and training programs for legal centers to contribute to the development of the judicial system in Syrian Kurdistan.

Thank You

YASA, the Kurdish Center for Studies and Legal Consultancies