

Thank you Mr. President

I want to begin with thanking Ms. Rita Izsak, UN Special Rapporteur, for giving me the opportunity to convey the suffering of my people.

Yazidi religious minority group is the indigenous people who lived in the plain of Mesopotamia.

As you know, this religious minority group has experienced a genocide inflicted by the Islamic State known as (ISIS) in August 2014. The whole world has been a witness on the horror of crimes perpetrated against a non-missionary religious minority group only calls for peace, and coexistence within a framework of tolerance. These horror practices have taken its toll on the Yazidi people, where thousands of families (Yazidi, Christian, Turkman, Shabq, and Shiite) suffered killings, captivity, expulsion and forced displacement to Kurdistan, South Iraq, and the neighboring countries like Syria, Turkey and Greece. They suffer a disastrous situation where adverse climatic conditions and scarce food resources put their lives on stake. The alarming figures are on the rise and reflect an ongoing humanitarian crisis. Of 600 thousand Azidis live in Iraq, 400 thousand were displaced. 8100 persons were in captive by Isis. 1700 Yazidi men and elderly women were killed while 6400 remain in captivity. To date, 2754 were freed from captivity: 998 females, 327 men and 1429 children. Till present, up to 1834 females and 1825 males remain in captivity by Isis.

Getting back to the theme of the session entitled, “recovering from crisis”, I would like to address this question;

How could Azidis return to their homes and lead a peaceful life in a place that was overnight surrounded by Isis who committed genocide against us because of our identity?

Mr. President,

Providing a suitable environment is the only guarantee to a safe return, and that requires the following:

First: Creating two governorates: Sinjar and Nineveh for Yazidis and Christians as well as other minorities to self-rule themselves with the support of the international community and under international protection since those minorities weren't in charge of their affairs when they endured annihilation.

Second: ordering immediate reconstruction to the devastated areas of minority groups, and earmarking necessary fund through convening a conference sponsored by granting states and decision makers in aid of Azidi people. For example, Sinoni district and its residential

complexes affiliated to Sinjar jurisdiction were liberated two years ago, however its inhabitants couldn't return to their homelands due to lack of services and infrastructure.

Third: passing a resolution recognizing the crime against Yazidis as “genocide” and perpetrators of such crimes must be brought to justice, as this resolution will assure us and establish justice.

In 2005, UN Human Rights Council (HRC), based on the acquired information, recognized what happened to minorities in Iraq a crime of genocide. In February of the same year, the EU Parliament described Isis practices as a crime of genocide, and in March the American Congress voted on a resolution describing Isis practices against minorities as a crime of genocide. The Canadian parliament also discussed the issue and implicitly acknowledged it and delegated the government to take necessary actions.

While we hail the stance of these parliaments, we also hope their respective governments follow suit and take necessary actions to call upon the UN Security Council to refer this case to the International Court of Justice so that perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, or passing a resolution that stipulates establishing an international court to prosecute perpetrators.

Fourth: Religious minority groups are often misunderstood and stereotyped, and this often fuels anti-minority discrimination and hate discourse. Too often clergymen dubbed us “unbelievers”, and because of their heavy presence in the society in addition to such hate discourse, return of minority group to their indigenous land and cohabitation became hard if not impossible. Dubbing Azidis “unbelievers” was one of the main reasons that pushed Isis to treat our minority in a different way. Christians were given the choice to convert to Islam or paying bounty or moving out from the Caliphate land. However, Isis's treatment with Yazidis was either adopting Islam or killing and taking our women captives, and our possessions bounty. Therefore, I urge you to call up the governments of Iraq and Kurdistan province to criminalize such provocative discourses which only lead to crimes and anti-minority discrimination, and passing anti-discrimination law.

Fifth: Urging the International Alliances and all forces participating in liberation of Isis-controlled areas in Iraq and Syria to launch selective operations to free the 3659 Yazidi in captivity.

Sixth: on concluding my statement I would like to extend my thanks to the German government for the program it launched for receiving 1100 displaced women, men and children. I urge them to re-introduce this program as there are more than 1600 displaced Yazidis in camps living under adverse conditions.

Mr. President

Our bodies are not a scene of crime, so please stop this war against us.

Thank you.