

Honorable President of the Human Rights Council,

Honorable Chairman of the Forum on Minority Issues

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, I express my reserve and my disapproval with regard to the concept of minorities because I belong to an authentic people who have lived on their historic land for thousands of years and constitute the second nationalism in Syria, that of the Kurds, and therefore it is not a minority.

Nonetheless, successive Syrian governments have sought to rule since the independence of Syria and, to this day, to adopt a policy of exclusion, marginalization, and denial of the rights of the Kurds, and deprivation of the most basic natural rights, to have education in one's mother tongue.

But the case did not end in Syria when the Kurds were deprived of their legitimate national rights, but rather went beyond this, to target their existence and uproot them from their roots and historic lands, when Turkey, accompanied by Islamic extremist Syrian factions, occupied Syrian areas of Kurdish-inhabited lands in northern Syria in the spring of 2018, in particular Afrin and Serê Kaniyê, which led to the commission of atrocities, crimes against humanity and war crimes against Kurdish civilians in these areas. This further resulted in the displacement of nearly half a million Kurds from their homes replaced by hundreds of thousands of Arabs and Turkmens who were brought from other Syrian regions and installed in Kurdish homes in order to bring about a global demographic change eliminating the historical presence of Kurds in these regions and erasing the identity and private life of the Kurdish region.

Therefore, in order to prevent future ethnic conflicts in Syria, we recommend:

- a request to the United Nations for Turkey to end its occupation and withdraw from Syria while ensuring the international protection of the Kurds whose existence is threatened with extermination under the auspices of the United Nations and that it endeavor to ensure their safe return to their homes until a comprehensive political agreement to resolve the Syrian problem is reached in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2254.

- concrete measures for the participation of the Kurds in political process and in the constitutional drafting committees, with the aim of including in the future Syrian constitution legal articles which would recognize the Kurdish nationality and its legitimate rights, and which would be considered as supra-constitutional articles not subject to modifications and fines according to the desire and will of the majority under the pretext of democracy.

Thank you

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