

Thank you Mr President.

My name is Khalid Dagheel Sidu, and I am one of the Yazidi cultural leaders in Sinjar. I am here to talk to you on behalf of the clan leaders in Sinjar. It is known by the attendees here that the adherents of the Yazidi religion in the Sinjar District of Iraq have faced the crime of genocide perpetrated by the terrorist organisation known as Daesh on the 3rd of August 2014. This crime and its tragic repercussion persist to date.

From this platform I call on the United Nations and the international community to support the Yazidi community by seriously pursuing the reconstruction of the Sinjar District, in addition to providing compensation to its inhabitants. Furthermore, to put pressure on the Iraqi government to act to normalise conditions in Sinjar and make them lawful, by encouraging the safe voluntary return of Yazidis from refugee camps to their areas; and to confine weapons in the hands of the government, while strengthening the role of its institutions, and expelling the armed militias from our areas. We further ask that matters concerning Sinjar are left to the will and decision making of its people.

We also call for the intensification of efforts to rescue kidnapped Yazidis from the clutches of Daesh, and for the rehabilitation of survivors. We also hope for the contribution of all in working to protect the Yazidi identity as a moral responsibility, in accordance with the principles of pluralism, diversity, tolerance, and human coexistence. At the same time, we implore the international community to join with us in calling for the criminals from this terrorist organisation, which destabilised peace and security in the world, to be prosecuted.

Thank you to Yazidi House in Holland for providing the opportunity of this platform.

Thank you for listening.