

Thank you very much Mr. President,

Addressing you is Saher Mirza, Head of the Peace Organization for Supporting Iraqi Minorities

Mr. President,

I'm honoured to stand before you today in this distinguished forum which is dedicated to the study of minority issues and cohesive communities.

I would like to convey to you the condition of religious minorities in Iraq, which constitute an important part of the fabric of Iraqi society and have a great influence on the progress of the country's economy.

The Yazidi minority has suffered and continues to suffer from numerous problems and violations that are carried out against it, just like other minorities.

The most important of which are: It was subjected to genocide [mass murder] on August 3, 2014, and a few months ago it was subjected to a fierce campaign of hate speech by hundreds of preachers in mosques and clerics who incited citizens to accuse the Yazidis of blasphemy, kill them, and refuse to coexist with them. There were over three and a half million such hate speeches. There followed dozens of murders in Sinjar district for unknown reasons, nor were they investigated. This was followed by continuous air strikes on the district, which claimed the lives of dozens of unarmed civilians, including a child no older than ten years old.

Thousands of Yazidis have been living in camps in Kurdistan province for more than nine years in harsh conditions without any attention from the government and the international community to help them to return to their homes and compensate them and bring them justice.

These conditions resulted in the migration of more than 150,000 Yazidis to European and other countries, taking dangerous and tragic routes in order to save the lives of their children from the death that they lived through and are living through now.

After all these hardships, at the cost of hundreds of lives on the way to safety, we find that there is a decision from the German government to deport members of this minority to Iraq and not give them asylum - in the same way and which [regular] Iraqi nationals whose asylum applications were rejected.

Therefore, I call upon you to alert and appeal to the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council in the United Nations and European Union countries, especially the Federal Republic of Germany, to look at this decision and recognise its great danger, and not to consider the Yazidis like the rest of the components of Iraqi society and to take into account the difficult circumstances that they have been living through for decades in Iraq, and to exclude them from deportation decisions which would put them in grave danger.

Thank you for your attention.