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Yazidi Cultural Centre in the Netherlands

Amsterdam 16/11/2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

My name is Mirkhan Sheikh Hassan, head of the Yazidi Cultural Centre in the Netherlands,

[In the midst of what it is going on]

As everybody knows, the Middle East region, especially Iraq, is exposed to major events and changes on more than one level, and this affects the present and future of minorities.

There is news from Germany that Yazidi and other minority asylum seekers are being deported back to their birthplace in Iraq, despite the fact that the effects of ISIS crimes live on on the Yazidi community, starting with the fact that many kidnapped women and men are still missing and many mass graves have not yet been opened to recover the remains of the martyrs.

This is in addition to the fact that more than 300,000 Yazidis are still living in camps in the Kurdistan Region and Sinjar the damage from the Sinjar disaster has not been repaired and the situation there is far from normal for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of the displaced. Many security, political and economic challenges continue to face the people of Sinjar.

The German government is seeking to deport Yazidi refugees who struggled to come to Germany in the most dangerous and costly circumstances. We urge the German state to reconsider its decision to deport refugees back to Iraq.

We also ask the missions of the countries, especially the European Union mission to the United Nations and the presidency of this forum, to pressure the German government to reverse this decision and look at the Yazidi issue with more humane eyes and moral responsibility.

Thank you.

**Y. C. C- Nederland**  
**Address: Bullpad 18**  
**1068DkAmsterdam**  
**Nederland**

**E-mail: [alrashkani@hQtmail.com](mailto:alrashkani@hQtmail.com)**  
**Mobile:0031633153360**  
**K.v.K:52512231**  
**RSIN nr:850478881**