

Synergy Association for Victims

Thank you Chair. My name is [inaudible], a human rights defender from north Syria and I speak on behalf of Synergy Association for Victims. I am here to highlight the situation of stateless Kurds in Syria. In 1962, the Syrian government held a quick, one-day census in [inaudible]. This census removed Syrian nationality of tens of thousands of Kurds and some Arab people. For decades, these people and their children lived without citizenship. Stateless families were denied basic rights, or even having legal recognition of their identity. By 2010, almost 500,000 Kurds were affected. And in 2011, the Assad regime restored nationality to more than 300,00 Kurds from one category. But over 150,000 people from the [inaudible] remain stateless today. They are still invisible under the law and continue to face daily discrimination. So, to address this injustice, we call upon the United Nations and the Syrian transitional government to:

- recognize the 1962 census as a discriminatory act;
- restore nationality to all affected Kurds;
- provide reparations for the harm caused; and finally,
- reform the nationality law to ensure equality and non-discrimination.

This issue is not only about documents. It is about dignity, justice, and the right of people to belong their own country. Thank you so much.