



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 2016

English only

Human Rights Council

Thirty-second session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Jssor Youth Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 May 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-08940(E)



* 1 6 0 8 9 4 0 *

Please recycle



The forgotten victims in Iraq in Numbers

Over the period of two years since the terrorist group known as ISIS captured Mosul and northern Iraq, the group has employed horrifying methods of killing, including beheading, bulldozing, burning alive and throwing people off the tops of buildings.

Over 20,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq and the numbers still rising in ISIS-linked violence in under two years and at least 55,047 civilian casualties.¹

More than 3.3 million people² been displaced in Iraq, including some 1 million minorities.

3,500 people are believed to be held as captives,³ mostly women and children from the Yazidi religious minority who have been forced into sexual slavery.

In the early hours of 12th June 2014, ISIS launched a surprise attack Camp Speicher, during which some 1,700 cadets were stationed to be transferred to other camps, a significant number were taken to a location in a valley near the river and systematically shot as they lay in trenches that had been dug by bulldozers. Others were taken to a location near the river and were shot there, and their bodies thrown into the river.” It also cites one interviewee who “claimed to have seen a pile of decapitated bodies in a bathroom” in the former presidential palace in Tikrit, and others who said they were kept in “holes.”⁴

The terrorist group did not only target Christians, but also other communities throughout the region’s religious minorities, including the Druze, Yazidis, Mandeans, Kurds, Shia Turkmen, Shabak and Kaka’i.⁵ Virtually all Turkmen and Shabaks –

10,000s of families – have fled their communities near Mosul as a result of ISIS raids, in which the fighters seize local men and pillage homes and places of worship.

Christian groups in Iraq estimate their numbers have declined from about 1.5 million in 2003 to less than one-third of that now and from 1.5 million to 500,000 in Syria. The Yazidis cite more than 70 acts of genocide perpetrated against them throughout their history. These onslaughts have left only about 1 million Yazidis worldwide, including between 500,000 and 700,000 in Iraq.

Over 350,000 members of the ethnic group Shabak community been forced to leave their homes, land to be arbitrary displaced to either camps in northern Iraq or Southern Iraq

Sinjar town stand as witness to this crimes, two years ago hundreds of civilians were slaughtered and more than 400,000 forced to flee. Some 5,000 were taken captive, 3,000 of whom remain hostage⁶, and disturbing accounts of their treatment at the hands of militants have emerged from those who have since been smuggled out or managed to escape. Women and children have been brutally raped and abused; bartered and sold among jihadists for as little as a packet of cigarettes. Men were rounded up and killed. Mass graves have been found, as well as underground dungeons where women were kept as sex slaves.

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/UNAMIRReport1May31October2015.pdf>

² IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, DTM Round 44, May 2016 Accessed at:<http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-un-idUSKCN0UX0ZD>

⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16229&LangID=E#sthash.XZzv6yG8.dpuf>

⁵ <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/where-is-the-outrage-un-event-highlights-isis-genocide-against-christians/#ixzz4A5BAh8mh>

⁶ <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/raped.murdered.and.persecuted.by.isis.the.plight.of.yazidis.in.iraq/86186.htm>

50 mass graves have been discovered in territory formerly controlled by ISIS in Iraq, including three burial pits in a football field, Jan Kubis told the Security Council that evidence of the "heinous crimes" committed by the jihadists in Iraq were being uncovered as territory is retaken from ISIS.⁷

Over 10 million people in Iraq, now requiring urgent aid -- double the number from last year.

Recommendations and urgent action required

- The religious minorities, and even some ethnic minorities, call for international protection in some form. Calls by many religious minorities for safe zones and autonomous zones are not new, and occurred repeatedly even before the emergence of ISIS in response to other attacks outlined earlier. The call for autonomous zones also is inspired, at least in part, by provisions for decentralization and self-administered units enshrined in the Iraqi constitution. It is, therefore, important to determine in each case what problems might be addressed by safe and/or autonomous zones, and, conversely, what problems such areas might create or aggravate.
- The Iraqi government lacks the needed technical and financial capacity, especially given the significant public budget deficit due to the drop in oil prices, to manage the multiple challenges facing them, including political wrangling, public outrage towards the government, the military campaign against ISIS, and humanitarian and economic crises.
- The Government of Iraq, and the minority communities need help to rebuild schools, hospitals, roads, and other key infrastructure in areas recaptured from ISIS. This could include helping the minorities help themselves tap into national and local budgets, and attract international support to help them address their needs.
- Given the likelihood that the current record displacements of people will be protracted, the international community should support programs in conflict prevention and peaceful co-existence for liberated areas, as well as in the communities of the Kurdistan Region and the rest of Iraq that have so generously sheltered those displaced.

⁷ <http://www.un.org/undpa/en/speeches-statements/16022016/iraq>