

ITEMS

Civil Activist from the Yazidi Minority
in Iraq (Fuad Hazim)

153
153

Forum on Minority Issues - Tenth session

30 November and 1 December 2017

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Thank you, Mr. President

My name is Fuad Hazim

I am speaking as one of the youth from the Yazidi minority in Iraq.

Coming from a county like Iraq, born and raised, I grew up in a diverse society. I was raised to respect others and appreciate them everyone, and so does the rest of the Iraqi youth.

When the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) stormed northern Iraq and took over Mosul in the summer of 2014, it ran a parallel campaign of genocide against the minorities of the Nineveh Plain. For many of these groups, including Christians and Yazidis, this was the worst of a long list of genocides going back over a thousand years. As a result, calls for autonomy were renewed and strengthened. More Christian, Yazidi, Turkmen and other Iraqi leaders have expressed support for creating a region exclusively for minorities of Northern Iraq composed of three provinces. This could be a good path for preserving these endangered communities and could help better facilitate compensations for the loss of land, wealth, and belongings.

Despite the fact that the minorities in Iraq have gone and still going through a very difficult situation, yet, they have not stopped raising awareness on peace building, reconciliation, and social cohesion. In order to maintain the stability of the country, the youth must continue to fight terrorism in peaceful meanings. We must continue to call upon each and every youth to do their best to bring back peace and stability to our country again because at the end, the good must defeat the evil. Our people have suffered to the last breath from terrorism and their bad intention to ruin our country and the lives of our beloved families. For that, as one of the Iraqi youth, we must thrive tirelessly to get rid of terrorism together, hand in

hand and bring back the meaning of life to those of us who have lost it.

Iraqi minorities, like the rest of Iraqi society, are people with diverse opinions and identities influenced by national, local, ethnic, and linguistic factors. In a minority-haven province, these differences will be celebrated.

The solution for Christians, Yezidis, and other minorities in the face of persecution under ISIS can neither be to emigrate to the West, nor to stay and suffer. In order to help preserve a lasting presence of targeted Christians and Yezidis, creating a province in the Nineveh Plains for Christians and a Yezidi province in Sinjar (and Shekhan district of the Nineveh Plains) might stem their flow out of Iraq. Repurposing the districts of Tel Keif, al-Hamdaniyah, al-Shikhan and Shekhan for the Nineveh Plains province, Tel Afar district for a Turkmen province, and Sinjar district for a Yezidi province would be good ways to empower local communities. This is in line with other efforts to decentralize power in Iraq to build peace after the liberation of Mosul. Even Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi stated in April 2015 that "if we don't decentralize, the country will disintegrate.

Hope is what we will fight for even if it was a bit of it. Trust and believe in our selves and our abilities, as the Iraqi youth, to drive Iraq towards a better place is what we have been working on. The future of the country is in the hands of the youth, we either embrace it or leave it. But, we will embrace it, fight for it, to make Iraq the place where everyone wants to live in.

Recommendations and suggestions

1. Promote the role of civil society organizations in countering hate speech that produces terrorism.
2. Practicing accountable and professional journalism and considering the media ethics are essential support the youth to bring back peace.
3. The educational and religious institutions should play a vital role in promoting tolerance, combating hatred speech and terrorism, reducing and preventing extremism, and spreading the idea of interfaith dialogue as means of promoting peace, fostering tolerance and instilling love among the people of the country
4. The Iraqi State shall protect human dignity and equality, combat discrimination between its citizens, and hold accountable those who offend

minority feelings. And protect the others from the consequences of hatred speech in accordance with the duties set out against it.

5. Train locally effective institutions on the technical capabilities of counter and alternative propositions, while giving the opportunity to peace makers.
6. Drain the sources of terrorism in all of its forms.
7. Monitor the platforms of public discourse in mosques and Huseiniyat and determine its meaning and intended speech before it is conveyed to the recipients.
8. The religious references (Sunni and Shia) issue fatwas prohibiting the blood of non-Muslim minorities and call for their protection.
9. Issue set of laws and regulations that focus on awareness and prevent activities that lead to hatred, terrorism, injustice, exclusion, marginalization and negative reaction.
10. Tighten the ways on those who support hatred and violence promoters by closing all the media to reduce their negative role in the promotion of hate.
11. Internationalization of the Genocide of Minorities in Sinjar and the Nineveh Plain and its adoption in order not to be repeated. The Iraqi government is not cooperating in endorsing the genocide, but rather is indifferent to the fairness of ISIS victims.
12. Amend the Civil Status Law "Minor children, shall remain in their religion, in the event of a change of one or both parents to other religion, while retaining their right to choose, upon reaching the age of majority"

sources

- 1- The paper that was presented by Mr.HassoHormi in paris forum for minorities in October 2017
- 2- Washingtoninstitute website

Fuaad Hazim Jameel

Hazimfuaad@gmail.com

00491626940709