



Human Rights Council
Forum on Minority Issues
Ninth session
"Minorities in situations of humanitarian crises"
24 and 25 November 2016

Ladies and gentlemen..

The Kurds in Syria faced the harshest national oppression, which threatened seriously and dangerously their whole existence in Syria, because of racist and discriminative policies of the Baath's governments against the Kurdish people in Syria, by depriving them of the citizenship and enforcing a demographic change in the Kurdish region, in addition to brutal and systematic violations of human, political, civil, economic, cultural and social rights of the Kurds, collectively and individually.

When the Syrian revolution began, which turned later into a civil war and a proxy war, which many regional and international powers got involved with different and conflicting interests on the Syrian territory, as a result the Kurds in Syria face now a new phase of danger that can completely finish their existence on their historical land.

The armed conflict in Syria has led to giant waves of migration and refuge seekers from Syria to the neighboring countries and to all over the world, especially EU countries. As a numerical minority in Syria, Also the Kurds population began to decline tragically, as a matter of fact, they were threatened in the first place and before the outbreak of the revolution.

The Syrian government has withdrawn the officials and administrations from the Kurdish region and left the Kurds to their fate without any protection, in the same time Turkey closed the borders of the Kurdish region and prevented the medical and necessary aids to enter the Kurdish towns and villages, while they let the jihadists to pass across the border to Syria, which led to the deterioration of the security and living conditions in the region, which is now threatened by a humanitarian disaster.

Kobani resistance was one of the most important battles that took place between the Kurds and the "Islamic State" terrorists, which all the world has witnessed it. If the Kurds couldn't have achieved the victory, the Kurdish existence would be completely finished throughout a massive ethnic cleansing.

The rest of the Kurds had to maintain their security and their presence by the means they own, and took the responsibility of the rule and security in the region. Where the Democratic Union Party (PYD) came to power as a de facto ruler and declared later an autonomy region that called ROJAVA- northern Syria .

Despite the Kurds are able to this day to maintain the security and host hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrians from Aleppo and other areas in the Kurdish region, but the migration of the Kurdish people continues day after day to the neighboring countries, especially to the Iraqi-Kurdistan region and to Europe. The living circumstances in the Kurdish region are catastrophic, where Afrin, the Kurdish city and its villages in northwestern Syria, lives under siege by jihadist groups who keep trying repeatedly to invade the region from the south; and the rest of Afrin region is surrounded by Turkey, where the borders are

YASA e.V.

YASA - Kurdish
Centre for Studies and
Legal Consultancy

YASA - Kurdisches
Zentrum für Studien
und juristische
Beratungen

YASA - Navenda
kurdî ji bo lêkolîn û
rawêjkarîya yasayî

ياسا - المركز الكردي
للدراسات والاستشارات
القانونية

YASA e.V.

Brüdergasse 16-18
53111 Bonn

www.yasa-online.org

completely closed. Despite the people of the region attempted several times to ask the Turkish authorities in order to open a humanitarian route for medicines and food, but the Turkish authorities always refused, and Afrin region is not only still under siege to this day, but it bombarded from time to time by the Turkish forces and Islamic groups, who together lay a harsh siege to the city of Afrin and the rest of Region.

Ladies and gentlemen..

The Kurds in Syria desperately need the international help and support to put pressure on the conflicting parties to recognize and accept the Kurds rights in New Syria. The Kurds need also the humanitarian support by providing them with the medical and necessary aids, because the Kurdish region is still deprived of those aids, even of those which provided by Friends of Syria Group. The international community should also put pressure on Turkey to open the border gates and allow the passage of humanitarian aid of medicines and food, and to allow the trade exchange with the Kurdish region. International organizations for development, democracy and human rights should provide development aids and establish programs and training courses in fields, that support and consolidate the principles of corporate governance, democracy and human rights.