

Ambassador Shakir Qasim Mahdi
Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
P.O. Box 4048 AMB
0244 Oslo

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the lack of accountability for the crimes committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) against Yazidis in Iraq in 2014. According to the UN, 5000 Yazidis were killed, more than 6000 women and children kidnapped and enslaved in 2014. 3000 are still missing, more than 300,000 Yazidis are still displaced and unable to return to their homes.

The crimes committed by ISIS are well known, yet the Iraqi government has not adopted a strategy to hold ISIS member accountable for the genocide. ISIS members have solely been prosecuted within the framework of domestic counterterrorism laws. The approach fails to capture the full range of crimes committed by ISIS against Yazidis and other religious minorities or judge members for specific actions such as rape and murder. It also denies victims their day in court to gain justice for their own case and sheds no light on the inner workings of the group.

I, therefore, humbly petition your intervention to ensure that:

- the Iraqi government adopts a strategy that captures the full range of crimes committed by ISIS, holding ISIS members accountable for the genocide, not just terrorism;
- protection of Yazidis and other minorities in Iraq is provided, so they will be able to return to their homes.

I thank you in advance for using your influence as ambassador and conveying this message to the relevant authorities in your home country.

Yours sincerely,