



Joint Statement

Title: Victims of Iraq in Speicher-1700 NGO and Yazda Mark Twelve Years Since the Camp Speicher Massacre

Date: 12 June 2026

Today, Victims of Iraq in Speicher-1700 NGO and Yazda mark 12 years since the Camp Speicher Massacre, one of the deadliest atrocities of the Iraqi conflict. Between 12 and 14 June 2014, ISIL systematically killed 2,018 unarmed soldiers, cadets, and volunteers, predominantly Shi'a Muslims. The remains of 1,134 victims have been recovered, while 884 individuals remain missing.

The cadets of the Tikrit Air Academy of the Iraqi Defense Forces were captured by ISIL after leaving the Academy on leave authorized by their commanders, following ISIL's seizure of Tikrit. Many of the victims were murdered at the Tikrit Presidential Palaces Complex in Salah al-Din province. This massacre remains one of the largest single mass killings of the conflict and a stark reminder of the crimes committed by ISIL against Iraq's communities.

UNITAD [found](#) reasonable grounds to believe that the attack may constitute several grave international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Notably, the report concluded that ISIL possessed genocidal intent in the killing of approximately 1,700 Shi'a men executed over a period of just three days.

Twelve years on, families are still waiting for answers. Many of the Air Academy personnel remain missing, and justice has yet to be fully served. Efforts must urgently focus on the search and identification of victims, criminal accountability, psychosocial support for survivors and bereaved families, and meaningful financial reparations as part of a comprehensive healing process.

Sadiq Al-Rubaie, the Executive Director of Victims of Iraq in Speicher-1700 NGO commented: "On the twelfth anniversary of the Speicher Massacre, we remember with profound sorrow and pride our sons who were brutally murdered by the terrorist organization ISIS, solely for fulfilling their national duty and because of their religious identity. This anniversary is not merely a commemoration of a human tragedy; it is a renewed affirmation of the victims' and their families' inherent right to truth, justice, and redress.

Despite the passage of twelve years, many families continue to await answers regarding the fate of their missing loved ones. There remains an urgent need to continue the search for mass graves, to identify the remains of victims, and to ensure that all those responsible for this crime are held fully accountable under the law. We also reiterate our call to strengthen psychological and social support for families and survivors, and to safeguard their legal and moral rights.

Preserving the memory of Speicher is a national and moral responsibility—not only to honor the victims, but also to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated. Our organization will

continue to work with national and international partners to achieve justice, uphold the dignity of the victims, and preserve their memory within Iraq's collective conscience."

Natia Navrouzov, Yazda Executive Director, commented: "Yazda stands in solidarity with the families of those brutally killed during the Camp Speicher Massacre. In collaboration with Victims of Iraq in Speicher-1700 NGO, we remain committed to advocating for accountability, supporting survivors, and ensuring that the memory of the victims is preserved with the dignity they deserve."

For media inquiries, please contact:

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About Yazda:

Yazda is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that was established in 2014 in response to the genocide committed by the self-declared Islamic State (ISIS) against the Yazidis and other minorities in Iraq. Yazda manages a portfolio of humanitarian, justice, advocacy, and development-related projects, all of which are community and survivor-centered in terms of design and implementation. Since its inception, Yazda has been working with local and international partners to provide humanitarian, accountability, and advocacy services to vulnerable minority groups in Iraq in their post-genocide recovery. The organization has been operating in Iraq since October 2014 and has main offices in Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and a branch office in Sinjar in Nineveh Province. Yazda is registered as a non-profit organization in the United States, the United Kingdom, Iraq, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Since its creation, Yazda has received support from numerous donors, both institutional and individual, and has reached tens of thousands of direct and indirect beneficiaries through its programs and initiatives.