



## Partnership announcement

### **Yazda and Civitas Maxima formalize partnership to strengthen justice and accountability for survivors of ISIL crimes**

**Geneva/Sinjar, 24 June 2026** – Yazda and Civitas Maxima signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), formalizing their cooperation to advance accountability for international crimes committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The partnership will focus on developing and supporting legal cases against alleged perpetrators in jurisdictions that recognize extraterritorial or universal jurisdiction and uphold fair trial principles.

Civitas Maxima is an independent non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting victims of the most serious international crimes in their pursuit of justice. The organization assists victims in seeking accountability before foreign and international courts when domestic legal remedies are unavailable, ineffective, or impossible. Civitas Maxima also documents crimes or supports local partners in documenting them, initiates legal proceedings where feasible, and provides assistance to law-enforcement and judicial authorities.

Yazda is a global Yazidi-led, survivor-centered organization dedicated to protecting the rights of the Yazidi community and supporting survivors of atrocities committed by ISIL. Established in 2014 following the Yazidi genocide in Iraq, Yazda works across justice and accountability, advocacy, humanitarian assistance, and community recovery, including supporting the documentation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed against Yazidis.

The MoU establishes a framework for supporting the investigation and litigation process through outreach and network-building. Under this agreement, Yazda and Civitas Maxima will collaborate on the identification of suspects, information collection and documentation, and/or the preparation and filing of submissions before national, regional, or international justice mechanisms.

More than a decade after ISIL committed mass atrocities in Iraq and Syria, most survivors have still not seen perpetrators held accountable for genocide, enslavement, sexual violence, torture, forced displacement and other international crimes. With the closure of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) and no clear successor, this partnership seeks to help fill the accountability gap for survivors who have not yet found a path to justice.

By combining Yazda's more than a decade of experience working with and for survivors to secure justice with Civitas Maxima's experience in international criminal justice, this partnership will strengthen efforts to investigate crimes, support survivors, and advance legal proceedings against ISIL perpetrators.

“For more than a decade, Yazda has worked alongside survivors to document crimes, preserve evidence, and advance accountability for atrocities committed by ISIL. Together with survivors and partners, we helped secure landmark convictions, including the world's first genocide conviction for crimes committed against the Yazidi community. Those efforts have contributed to a growing body of accountability, with more than 15 cases prosecuted across six jurisdictions. While this progress has created an important domino effect, it is not enough. Thousands of ISIL members travelled from more than 100 countries, and far too many perpetrators have yet to face justice. By joining forces with Civitas Maxima, we are building on years of work to pursue new cases, expand accountability across jurisdictions, and ensure that more survivors see justice delivered.” - **Natia Navrouzov, Yazda Executive Director**

“For too long, many survivors of ISIL crimes have carried the weight of what was done to them without seeing those responsible answer for it before a court. By joining forces with Yazda, an organization deeply rooted in the affected communities and with more than a decade of work advancing investigations and landmark prosecutions, we can turn years of documentation and testimony into additional concrete cases, and bring more survivors closer to the recognition and justice they are owed.” - **Alain Werner, Director and Founder of Civitas Maxima**

#Yazda #CivitasMaxima #Accountability #YazidiGenocide

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**For media inquiries, please contact:**

[info@yazda.org](mailto:info@yazda.org)

**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. Over the past 8 years, Yazda has grown to employ around 80 staff on average, 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.