ICMP and Yazda Global Organization Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Iraq, 31 October 2023: – The International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) and Yazda Global Organization, a prominent community-led NGO that works to provide humanitarian aid and justice to survivors of Da'esh, particularly the Yazidi community, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formalizing cooperation to support families of missing persons in Iraq.

The MoU prioritizes joint initiatives, including providing assistance to an Iraqi government-led reference sample collection campaign designed to identify human remains exhumed from mass graves. Both parties will also work to ensure that the families of the missing are fully informed about their rights to truth, justice, and reparations.

ICMP Director-General Kathryne Bomberger said today's MoU "underscores our collective mission to come together and assist families of the missing. The search for missing persons is a state obligation and a state-led activity, but it must have families at its core." She expressed confidence that the ICMP-Yazda collaboration "will be immensely valuable to survivors and their communities."

Yazda President Haider Elias said the MoU would strengthen the cooperation that already exists between the two organizations and that "Resolving the issue of missing people remains the most important priority for the Yazidi community, with thousands of families still torn apart. Together, we can work towards ensuring that missing people return and that human remains in mass graves are exhumed, identified, and restored to families with dignity."

Today's MoU is a significant step forward in the continuing effort to secure justice for families of the missing in the region.

About ICMP
ICMP is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization with Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands. Its mandate is to secure the cooperation of governments and others in locating missing persons from conflict, human rights abuses, disasters, organized crime, irregular migration, and other causes and to assist them in doing so.

About Yazda
Yazda is a global community-led organization providing critical humanitarian assistance and promoting accountability and justice for the genocide and other international crimes committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against the Yazidi community and other groups. Yazda was established in 2014, three weeks after the genocidal campaign commenced in Sinjar, Northern Iraq, and leads advocacy and strategic projects in Dohuk, Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plains (Iraq), as well as global diaspora hubs.

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