



PRESS RELEASE

Title: Update in the Trial against Asia R.A. and Twana S. in Germany (Munich)

Date: 11 June 2026

The trial at the Higher Regional Court of Munich against Asia R.A. and Twana H.S., a couple accused of being members of the so-called Islamic State (ISIL) and participating in the enslavement, torture, causing serious mental and physical harm sexual abuse and rape of two Yazidi girls is coming to an end.

The trial opened in May 2025, after the couple was arrested in Germany in April 2024 because of new allegations relating to international crimes including the enslavement and abuse of two Yazidi children. The first survivor was five years old when she was purchased in 2015 from a slave market in Mosul, and the second survivor was twelve when she was purchased by the couple in 2017 from a military base in Al Bukamal in Deir ez-Zor province. The couple allegedly inflicted serious mental and physical suffering on both girls, including beatings, humiliations, repeated sexual abuse and rape.

In her closing statements on 12 May 2026, the German prosecutor sought convictions on charges of genocide, multiple counts of crimes against humanity, and war crimes against Asia R.A. and Twana H.S., requesting life sentences for both defendants. Commenting the alleged acts against the Yazidi captives she remarked: "This monstrous violence is so far removed from any humanity that it seems unreal."

The lawyers of one of the survivors, Natalie von Wistinghausen and Sonka Mehner, delivered their final pleadings on 19 May 2026, during which they recounted their client's life and the ordeal experienced by her in the household of Twana H.S. and Asia R.A.. They highlighted the young age of both girls during their captivity and the long-lasting trauma inflicted as well as their persecution based on gender, religion, age and culture. The younger child is still in captivity in Syria.

Twana H.S., originally from Byara, close to the border with Iran, arrived in Germany in 2002, and later became radicalized in a Salafist Mosque in Munich and joined ISIL. He met Asia R.A., a Kurd from Iraq's Hawija town in Kirkuk province, in ISIL-controlled territory, where they married and had one child. The couple returned to Germany in 2018 where the second child was born. They are prosecuted under the universal jurisdiction principle which allows national courts to try international crimes committed abroad.

The verdict is expected on 13 July 2026 and will mark the completion of the tenth case in Germany on crimes committed against the Yazidi people.

You can read Yazda's Press Release on the opening of the case [here](#).

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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 selfdeclared 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.