



PRESS RELEASE

Title: Exhumations of Mass Graves in Mosul reveal More Victims of the Yazidi Genocide

Date: 27 April 2026

From the 4th to the 20th of April 2026, the technical teams, comprising the Mass Graves Directorate (MGD) at the Martyrs' Foundation, the Medico Legal Directorate (MLD) at the Ministry of Health, and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) carried out excavation work at three mass graves located in the Al-Haramat and Al-Mushairfa neighborhoods of Mosul, Iraq. As a result of the excavation, 15 remains were exhumed, including those of at least three Yazidi women. An initial survey conducted in February 2026 by the technical teams led by the MGD, aimed at identifying and assessing sites and setting priorities before starting the excavation.

A first phase of the excavation, concluded on the 20th of April 2026, included basic field documentation, such as recording site information and documenting the conditions of discovery, to support both technical and legal requirements. Following this first phase, the MGD transferred all recovered remains to the MLD in Baghdad for laboratory testing and final classification, with the aim of identifying the victims and returning them to their families in a proper and respectful manner.

Yazda's team accompanied the national teams throughout this mission, as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting families of the victims. Since the beginning of this process, Yazda has remained consistently present in the field to help ensure that excavation efforts continue, and that families are supported in their pursuit of truth, dignity, and justice.

The uncovered victims were killed by ISIL as part of its genocidal campaign which started on 3rd of August 2014. Within days, thousands were killed and thousands were kidnapped and transferred to ISIL-controlled territory, including to Mosul. Until today, over 2,500 people are still missing, with new mass graves being discovered on a regular basis.

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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 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.