



PRESS RELEASE

Title: Remains of 22 Genocide Victims Buried in Sinjar

Date: 13 August 2025

Remains of 22 Genocide Victims Buried in Sinjar

On 5 August 2025, the Medico-Legal Directorate (MLD) of Iraq's Ministry of Health announced the identification of 22 Yazidi victims killed by ISIL/Daesh during its genocidal campaign against the Yazidi community, which began on 3 August 2014. The identified victims were from villages Ger-Zarik, Gurmez, Hardan, Kocho, Solagh, Tel Azer, and Tel Qasab.

This marks the eighth batch of remains returned to Sinjar since exhumations began in March 2019, led by the Iraqi Mass Graves and Missing Persons Directorate (MGMPD) and the MLD, with support from UNITAD (until its closure in 2024) and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP). To date, 297 victims have been identified and laid to rest, out of 734 remains recovered so far. The identification process continues for the remaining 437 sets of remains.

The remains were handed over to their families during a solemn ceremony at the Yazidi Genocide Memorial site in Solagh, Sinjar, followed by official burials conducted in accordance with Yazidi religious traditions. The ceremony was attended by members of the Yazidi community, who gathered to mourn and honor the victims.

Yazda extends its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the wider Yazidi community on this painful day, coming less than two weeks after the 11th anniversary of the genocide.

###

For media inquiries, please contact:

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.