



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Yazda Commemorates the Victims of the 2007 Tel Azer and Siba Sheikh-Khedir Attacks in Sinjar**

14 August 2026

**Sinjar, Iraq:** Today marks nineteen years since the coordinated terrorist attacks that struck the Yazidi communities of Tel Azer and Siba Sheikh-Khedir in Sinjar, Iraq, on 14 August 2007. The attacks remain among the deadliest acts of terrorism ever carried out against the Yazidi people.

Tel Azer, Seba Sheikh Khidr, and Old Azer Village sit in Sinjar, west of Mosul and south of Mount Sinjar, near the Syrian border, a predominantly Yazidi area administratively part of Al-Ba'aj District in Nineveh Governorate. On that day, coordinated explosions tore through the three villages, reducing homes to rubble and causing a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

The attacks left an estimated 1,800 people killed and injured across the three villages. In the aftermath, search efforts recovered 41 human remains, many of them unidentifiable, which were buried collectively in a mass grave at the Sheikh Mand Shrine in Wadi Jadal Village. To this day, a significant number of survivors continue to live with permanent disabilities, paralysis, and severe head injuries because of the attacks.

The destruction extended to housing and livelihoods across the area: 453 houses were destroyed, with only limited traces remaining of some, and a further 1,772 houses were partially destroyed. Every house in Tel Azer and its surrounding villages sustained some degree of damage, from cracks to partial structural collapse. Seventy commercial shops were destroyed or damaged. Among the attacks' lasting consequences, 646 children were left orphaned, without adequate care or psychological and emotional support.

Nineteen years on, the wounds of that day have not healed. Many survivors continue to live with the physical and psychological scars of the attacks. The communities of Tel Azer and Siba Sheikh-Khedir would go on, just seven years later, to be among the first Yazidi villages targeted by ISIL in the genocide of August 2014, a painful reminder that the Yazidi community has faced repeated waves of violence, and that lasting protection and justice have yet to be achieved.

Today, Yazda stands with the families and survivors of Tel Azer and Siba Sheikh-Khedir, and with the Yazidi community. We honor the memory of those who lost their lives in this attack, and we remain committed to documenting these crimes, supporting survivors, and pursuing justice and accountability for all atrocities committed against the community.



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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. 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.