



PRESS RELEASE

Yazda strongly condemns hate speech targeting Yazidis

11 August 2026

Iraq: Yazda is gravely concerned by the recent online violence targeting the Yazidi community, particularly as it comes right after the 12-year mark since the Yazidi genocide.

On 9 August 2026, Kurdish Religious man, Ramin Salih Zada called for genocide against the Yazidi community, stating: *“Yazidis, we consider you infidels, filthy, and scoundrels. By God, if we have even the slightest opportunity, we will not allow you to live on the earth for a single second. This is our religion. We hide this from no one, and we fear no one.”*

As it emerges from this statement, the resurgence of stigmatizing, dehumanizing, and violence-inciting language, including the glorification of genocide, is deeply distressing for Yazidis and reawakens memories of the atrocities endured by the Yazidi community.

Yazda previously published a [report in 2024](#) entitled ‘*Under Constant Threat: Hate Speech Against the Yazidi Community in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq*’ documenting the wave of hate speech targeting the Yazidi community in August 2024, just days after marking 10 years since the genocide.

Yazda strongly condemns hate speech against all ethnic and religious groups and communities in Iraq and the KRI, including Muslims, Christians, Yazidis, Turkmen, and Shabak, as well as discourses against tolerance and coexistence between communities.

We are deeply concerned that the situation could escalate, further increasing fear and insecurity within the Yazidi community. Hate speech is not only prohibited in international human rights treaties to which Iraq is a party but has been a particular focus of attention in the international community for decades.

Yazda continues to closely monitor the situation and urge national and international actors to prioritize the safety and protection of all communities across Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. We also call on the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to ensure that this matter is thoroughly and impartially investigated by the relevant Iraqi and KRI authorities, while addressing the root causes of the Yazidi genocide and providing a clear and meaningful guarantees of non-repetition for the crimes committed against Yazidis and other affected communities.

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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.