



YAZDA ANNUAL REPORT 2017



GLOBAL YAZIDI ORGANIZATION

About Yazda

Yazda – A Global Organization

Yazda is a multi-national Yazidi global organization established in the aftermath of the Yazidi Genocide in 2014, to support the Yazidi ethno-religious minority and other vulnerable groups. Yazda's main branch is registered in the United States under Article 501 c3. Yazda is also registered in Germany, Iraq, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and is in the process of registration in Australia and Canada.

Yazda-US operates out of both Houston and Lincoln in the United States with a newly established Community Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Yazda-Iraq consists of the main office, a women's center, and a documentation facility in the city of Dohuk, Kurdistan Region-Iraq; a mobile clinic in northern Sinjar; and a base office in Sinone, Sinjar.

Contact Us:

United States
Yazidi Cultural Center
300 N 27th St Suite C
Lincoln, NE 68503

United States
Houston Office
P.O.Box. 771448
Houston, TX 77215
USA and Canada: +1 (832) 298-9584
Email: info@yazda.org

Iraq
Duhok:
Z12/36/3 KRO-Hano Street, 27st, Duhok, KRI, Iraq

Baghdad:
Flat 3, First Floor, Buidlin number 3, Salahia Complex, Baghdad-Iraq

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- Distributed more than 2 million US dollars as monthly stipend (benefits) from Iraqi government to 9,800 female survivors.
- Helped relocate of 800 survivors, including their families, to Australia, Canada & USA.
- Secured \$100,000 for direct cash payments to 35 survivors



- Provided free psychotherapy to 430 women.
- Arranged holistic healing sessions for 200 survivors with Yazidi religious leaders
- Arranged 18 trips to Lalish, the holiest temple in the Yazidi faith, for 460 survivors
- Provided psychosocial care and case management to ~1200 survivors and their families, including direct assistance and first line response.
- Skills building: tens of survivors were trained in sewing, baking, and other basic life skills.





Capacity Building

- Built 6-classroom Albakira primary school for 230 students. Includes a water well and an electricity generator.
- Developed education program for 900 university students and young adults in the IDP camps and at the Universities of Dohuk and Zaxo to equip them with knowledge and support to cope with the effects of the genocide and succeed in their lives.

Reaching Out of School Children

Established an informal mobile education program in Sinjar area to reach 1,000 children and close the gap that these children have experienced after being out of school for 3 years.

Yazda- Annual Report 2017

Direct Assistance

- Distributed 956 goats to 250 families
- Distributed 2,500 chickens to 500 families
- Distributed food baskets to 820 families



Livelihood

Opened 23 small business in Sinjar to support low-income families and the local communities.



Documentation of ISIS Crimes

- Collected 277 survivors' testimonies.
- Collected 6 terabits of online information about ISIS crimes.
- Assisted with documentation of 50 mass graves and killing sites and marking their locations.

Legal Case and Report

- Wrote 2 reports about mass graves and ISIS crimes that have been widely covered by international media.

Legal Work

- Signed agreement with prominent international human rights lawyer Amal Clooney to act as Yazda Counsel.
- Ms. Clooney works closely with national prosecutors who are identifying ISIS members for prosecution, including in Germany, where an arrest warrant was issued in December 2016 against an ISIS commander allegedly responsible for genocide and other crimes against the Yazidi minority.
- In the US, Amal represents two Yazidi survivors in a case against Umm Sayyaf, a captured ISIS member and widow of ISIS' former Minister of Oil and Gas, before the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Opened Yazda Cultural Center in Nebraska, USA

Culture and Community ■

- This center supports the Yazidi community in the US by organizing cultural ceremonies.
- Provides free mother-language Kurmanji and English-language courses to 120 children in Nebraska.
- Has provided free legal advice to 100 people.

Preserving Yazidi Culture

- Published a book about Yezidism for Yazidi children.
- Supported 8 songs and poems about Yazidis culture and genocide.
- Organizing Yazidi cultural festivals and ceremonies in the US, UK and Iraq every year.

Recognition of Yazidi Culture and Identity

- Written 125 pages of legal research with the help of a legal firm about the recognition of Yazidis in Germany, France, UK, Sweden, and Austria.
- Assigned 2 pro-bono lawyers to provide practical advice regarding the above research.





Genocide Recognition

- Successfully lobbying by Yazda and its partners pushed several states and institutions to recognize the Yazidi genocide:
- 2017: Scottish Parliament; 2016: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Parliament, US House of Representatives, US Secretary of State John Kerry, UK House of Commons, United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, French Senate and French National Assembly; 2014: Kurdistan Regional Government Foreign Minister Falah Mustafa, Iraq Government.

Voice for Survivors

- Victims speaking out about ISIS crimes, specifically the gender-related aspects, contributed to breaking the stigma of survivors worldwide.
- Collective work of Yazda and its partners have strengthened the platform for survivors and allowed them to speak internationally about the cause. These brave survivors include Nadia Murad, Fareeda Abbas, Samiya Suliman, Shereen Jerdo, Dalal Haji and others.

Accountability/UN Security Council Resolution 2379

- The collective work of Yazda and its partners have led to the passage of a Security Council resolution to conduct an investigation, which was followed by Iraq's request for help with investigation. It also led to Iraq creating a special local investigation committee. Submission of the proposal of investigation was led by international human rights barrister Amal Clooney, on behalf of Yazda, to the UN Security Council.

Resettlement

Collective advocacy led to resettlement possibilities in Australia and Canada. In Germany, Yazda's work led to expansion of German intake of Yazidi refugees from Greece.

Media

Yazda's work reached the public through media, face to face meetings, conferences, and social media. Thousands of articles have been written worldwide about the Yazidi genocide. Nadia Murad's memoir "The Last Girl," gained international recognition. The documentary film "On Her Shoulders" won a U.S. documentary film award. Yazda has contributed to other materials by partners will have a lasting impact on genocide awareness.

Direct Advocacy

Yazda leaders, along with Nadia Murad and Farida Abbas, have visited 25 countries in the past three years and met with hundreds of high-profile government officials, MPs, and other prominent leaders, including representatives from the office of U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Campaigning

Yazda's two petitions on [change.org](https://www.change.org) addressed to the UK and US governments got 420,000 signers worldwide. Yazda's petitions with Global Citizen and Freedom United received more than 300,000 signatures.



Mobile Medical Clinic

- Over the past two years, Yazda's Mobile Medical Clinic has provided free medical and health care to 16,000 people in camps near Sinjar Mountain and the surrounding villages.
- PHC was providing health care to 6,000 patients /month.



Raising Health and Safety Awareness

- Raise awareness about health and safety in IDP camps
- Provide First Aid Training courses to hundreds of families

A Message from the President

In 2017, our community was challenged by a number of external factors, including the continuing crises in Sinjar and the fact that the Yazidi community's homeland is still not safe for return. This is in addition to the blockade that has been imposed for no reason other than political interests. Amidst these challenges, Yazda members are becoming increasingly vocal and partnering to achieve greater impact and effectiveness and advocating for our community's ideals with one common voice.

Yazda has continued to serve as a platform for common action, strengthening its role as one of the leading NGOs working to alleviate suffering and increase human dignity for the Yazidi community -- one of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Throughout the course of 2017, our organization implemented multiple projects to assist the Yazidi community and other vulnerable minority populations. These programs included psychotherapy, a mobile healthcare clinic, children's programs, cultural preservation programs, a small-businesses development project, humanitarian assistance, case management for victimized women and girls, and many other temporary projects that were planned and implemented by Yazda staff and volunteers.

It is only in the intertwining narratives of our staff, the strategic development of our organization, and the changed lives of our beneficiaries that the real picture becomes evident. Yazda has been serving the community with all of its energy while working with the right approach, and we are hopeful we will soon reach the light at the end of the tunnel.

We are also fortunate to have such dedicated professionals on our team: Silvia Zonino, the Country director in Iraq; Murad Ismael, Yazda's Senior Executive Director; Ahmed Burjus, Yazda's Deputy Executive Director; and the other Yazda members and educators willing to travel to remote corners of the world to share the message of Yazidis and improve the quality of life for those in need.

Murad Ismael is backed by our members and has spent the past three years of his life developing, implementing, and supporting initiatives that help to strengthen the unity of the Yazidi people. He is investing in the next generation's opportunities to expand their knowledge and appreciation of their history, heritage, and cultural identity. He is having a life-changing impact on individual Yazidis and preserving Yazidi life and community.

Please continue your support of Yazda during this critical time, and help us help the Yazidi community repair, recuperate, and revitalize in the wake of the 2014 genocide.

All the Best....

Haider Elias, President



About Yazda

Yazda is a global Yazidi organization that strives to bring justice, sustenance, healing and rejuvenation to Yazidis who have suffered as a result of the genocidal campaign against their people by the so-called Islamic State. Yazda also provides aid and assistance to other vulnerable ethno-religious minorities affected by IS in Iraq. Yazda was founded in August 2014 by Yazidi students and professionals in response to the genocide that began on August 3, 2014. Yazda is a registered nonprofit in the United States, Germany, Iraq, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Yazda was designated one of the **Top 10 Most Innovative Companies for Social Good** by *Fast Company* magazine for 2017.

[Yazda was also mentioned by Fast Company as one of the most innovative companies in 2017.](#)



Yazda's Mission & Vision

Yazda's mission is to support victims of genocide and enslavement by various means to ensure their safety and wellbeing in the areas of **humanitarian aid, community, and advocacy**.

While Yazda was founded to support the Yazidi community, its overall mission is **to support all vulnerable communities facing persecution**.

Our **humanitarian** mission consists of: trauma counselling, case management, healthcare, aid distribution, livelihood, and emergency support.

Yazda's advocacy targets raising awareness of human rights and minority rights, recognition of genocide and other atrocities, enabling survivors to speak up, and documentation of crimes for legal accountability.

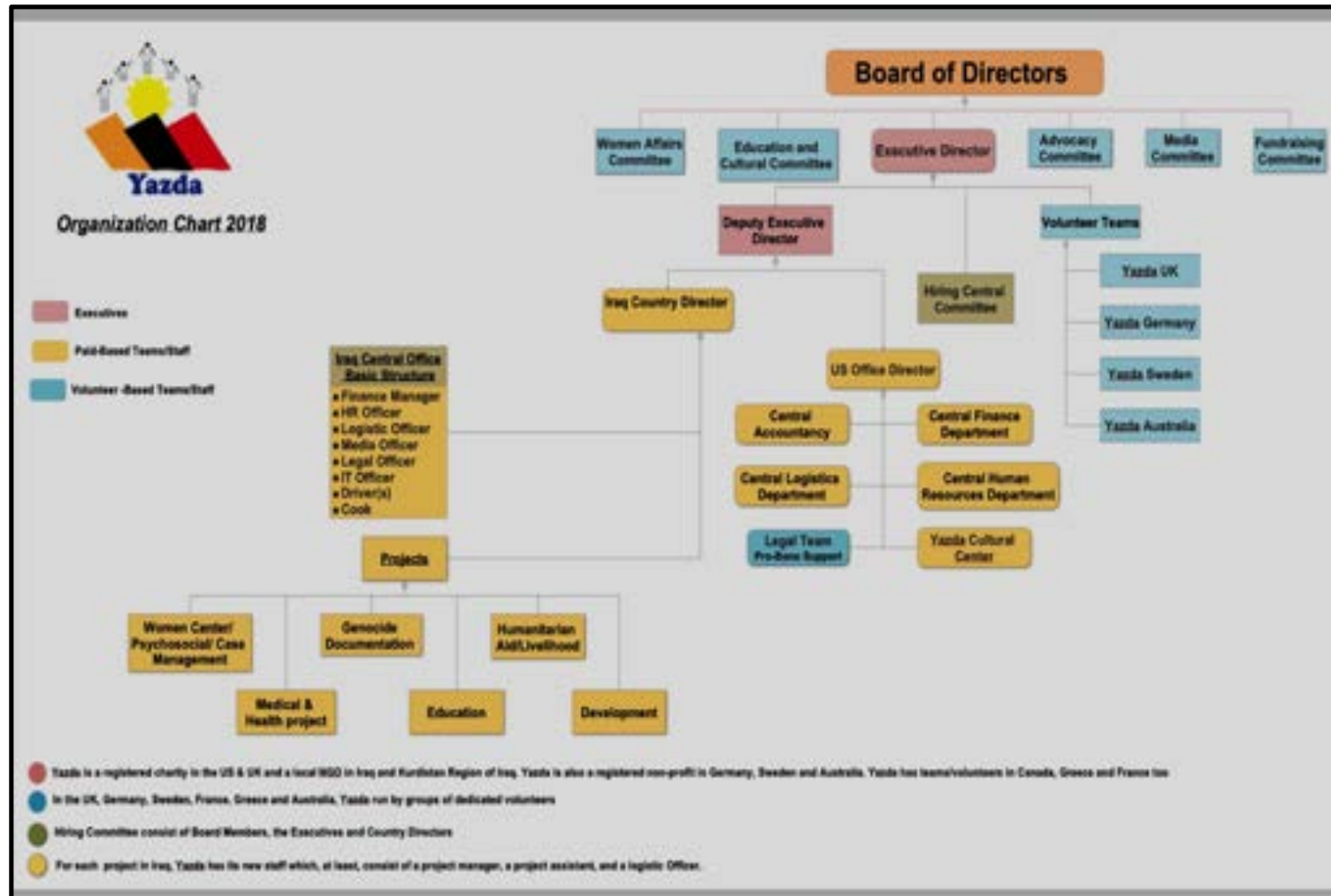
Our **community** mission includes informal education, skills building through training, assisting small businesses, integration of persecuted individuals in new environments, community development, and cultural preservation.

Yazda is dedicated to Yazidi and other communities under **persecution because of their identity or belief**. We not only believe that no one should be persecuted for who they are but also believe that no one **should be treated differently for being different**. This includes ancient communities like Yazidis, Christians, and other minorities of the Middle East.

The Middle East is the home of a mosaic of beliefs, but persecution has created conflict and struggle. For Yazidis, we simply **ask for existence**. We believe there is work to be done on many fronts so that these communities can peacefully coexist.

We believe the world must know what has happened to the Yazidi people and other minorities affected by the so-called Islamic State. This is why we give victims like **Nadia Murad** a voice. We believe that the perpetrators of genocide and mass enslavement should be brought to justice. This is why we work with world experts like **Amal Clooney and Luis Moreno Ocampo**.

Structure of Yazda



Yazda's Projects

A. Background

On August 3, 2014, the so-called Islamic State attacked the region of Sinjar (Kurdish: شنگال *Şingal*) in Nineveh province in Northern Iraq, capturing its main city and many villages with their inhabitants. As many people as possible headed to the Sinjar Mountains in an attempt to escape from IS.

In their attacks, IS targeted with particular cruelty the Yazidi and other minorities, with IS leaders openly advocating for the complete destruction of the Yazidi culture and people.

1. Documentation Project:



Because the IS attacks against the civilian Yazidi population might constitute crimes against humanity, including genocide, it became clear that it would be necessary to document all available evidence of their crimes to be used in future trials and for the historical record to ensure the facts of these attacks were not forgotten over time.

Therefore, on October 17, 2014, Yazda started a documentation project recording all available evidence of crimes committed by IS against Yazidis, establishing a Documentation Center which began work in 2016. Our goal is to build a database with victims' interviews, details of locations, dates, and other information on the perpetrators that committed these acts.

The objectives of the Documentation Project are:

- To collect testimonies of the crimes committed against the Yazidi people by IS.
- Advocate for the recognition of these atrocities as Genocide.
- To collect information on missing persons.
- To collect, document, and catalog evidence of IS crimes.
- To record the destruction of religious sites, properties, and infrastructure.
- To identify the physical location of mass graves and killing sites.
- To allow, through the process of remembering, an opportunity to heal.
- To encourage a future reconciliation based on recognition of responsibilities and justice.
- To preserve and reinforce Yazidi cultural identity.

Yazda's staff records eyewitness testimonies of the IS genocidal campaign and locates and investigates the mass graves of victims and other sites of destruction. The work involves extensive interviews with the survivors of ethnic cleansing, forced conversion, and enslavement. These are then transcribed and translated into Arabic in order to produce written reports and to serve as historical cultural records and future evidence.

This body of evidence is collected and handled according to international legal standards with high confidentiality and is managed by human rights lawyers such as Yazda's legal advisor and international human rights lawyer Amal Clooney.

This work will help in bringing justice to victims of genocide and hold IS members accountable for their crimes against the innocent people in the region.

Yazda currently needs additional funding to support the expanding range of work being carried out by our documentation team, illustrated by the reports below:

1- [Yazda Report on Mass graves in Sinjar areas](#)

2- [ISIL: Nationals of ICC states parties committing genocide and other crimes against the Yazidis”, report submitted by YAZDA and the Free Yazidi Foundation requesting the ICC the commencement of a preliminary examination of the crimes committed against the Yazidis in Sinjar and Nineveh Plains since August 2014](#)

Sector Legal Advocacy

Budget NA

Donor

This project was funded for the past 2 years by 331 Roses, Chardan Financial, ICMP and some private donors.

Target group :

Yazidi

Community

Duration

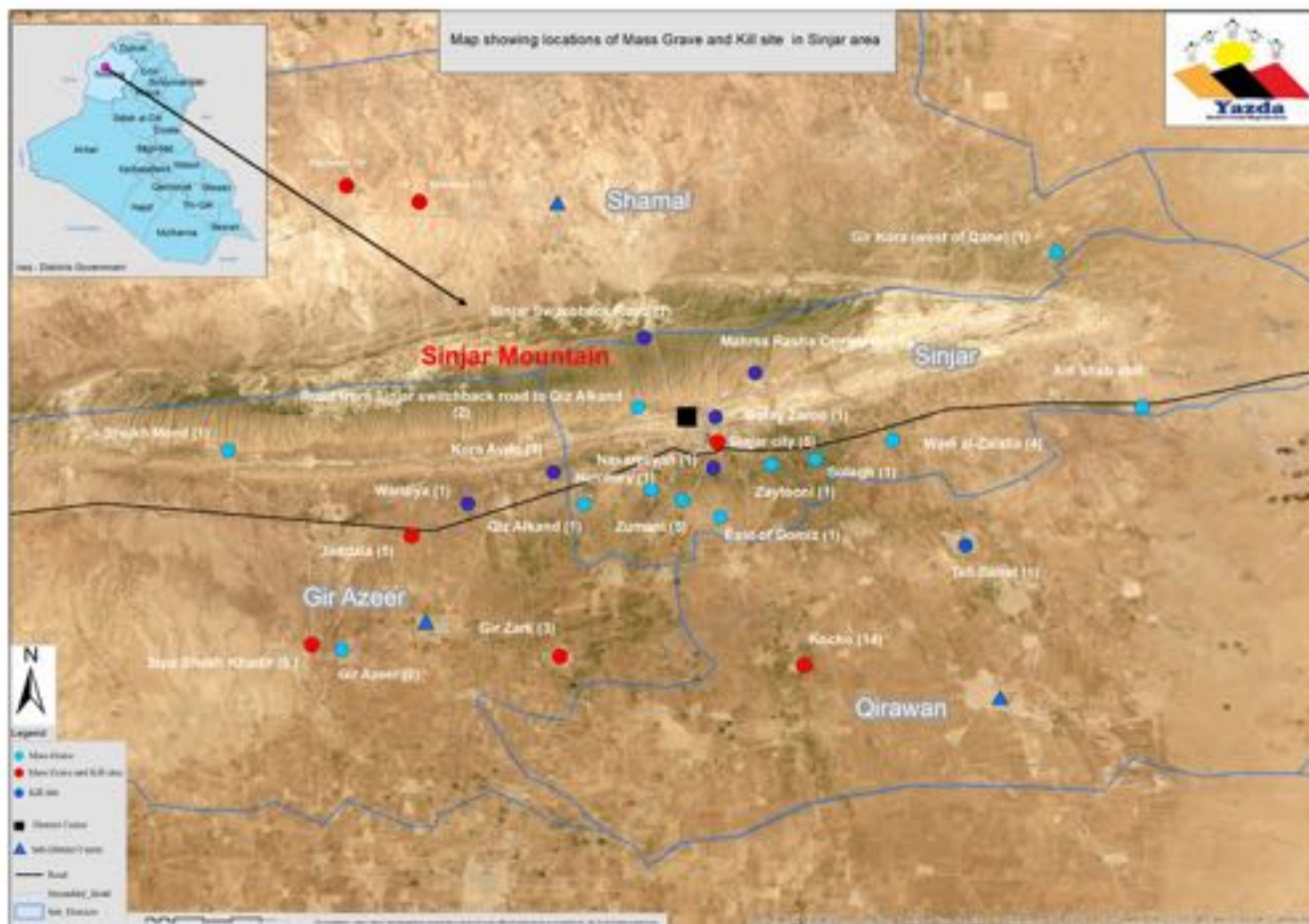
Since october2014

implementation

Location

Duhok Province ,Sinjar
(Nineveh province) ,Iraq

Yazda team



2. A-Women's Center.

When IS attacked the Sinjar region, advocating for the complete destruction of the Yazidi culture and people, their fighters abducted thousands of Yazidi women and young girls and subjected them to physical and sexual violence, slavery, forced marriages to IS militants, and forced conversions to Islam, among other atrocities.

Fortunately, around 3,000 of these women have been liberated or have escaped their captors, and are now coming back to be reunited with their loved ones. Due to the hardships and psychological trauma of their captivity, they are in need of psychological and humanitarian support and care.

In early 2015, Yazda established a Women's Center, which ran a case management program to assist survivors and provide them with administrative assistance and a psychological support program. The Women's Center ran weekly support groups, baking classes, handicraft classes, gave one-on-one psychological support, and provided material aid. A case manager was assigned to each woman, tracking her individual progress, and monitoring her needs as she recovered from her ordeal.



B. Case management for survivors

To this date, Yazda has assisted over 1,500 survivors of enslavement and captivity and also maintains one of the largest databases of women held by IS. Using this database, women are tracked and offered services, which are provided both by Yazda and the government authorities.

This case management platform achieves five key objectives for Yazda:

- a) Provides urgent humanitarian aid to victims upon rescue, including but not limited to food, clothing, and medical needs.
- b) Improves rescue services by compiling data on key locations, victim demographics, and networks of victim enslavement in Iraq, in efforts to assist the Iraqi government more effectively.
- c) Identifies areas for improvement of Yazda's rehabilitation program that will lead to make data driven decisions, improving the quality of treatment the beneficiaries receive.
- d) Builds capacity and infrastructure within the organization by streamlining the process of reporting required data/outcomes to third party funders, and allows for data utility in order to demonstrate the efficacy of Yazda's programming, in turn increasing our funding sources.
- e) Enhances post-rescue coordinated care for victims by creating an accessible database system that integrates all personal client data, including intake information, case notes, location, legal documents, medical records, appointments, and incident reports. Because victims handle emotional counselling differently and are not able to reintegrate in their communities in the same way, this platform enables survivors to receive specialized care, ensuring that their rehabilitation program is tailored to their needs. Integrating the intake information, case notes, medical records, appointments, and incident reports of survivors on to a single database is crucial to understanding this dynamic. With the case management platform all information is centralized and accessible.

Through this platform, Yazda has been able to compile information gathered during interviews, including key demographics of victims (age, nationality, place of residency, etc.) and identify gaps in service needs based on data. Furthermore, Yazda also strives to collect data on the locations where victims were held. Through this information, Yazda hopes to better understand the

physical and emotional needs of each victim, as well as identify key locations, and provide coordinated and detailed intel to the Iraqi government to increase rescue efforts.

That is to say, through managing data electronically, Yazda is able to quickly calculate key statistics that are required by third party funders, such as the number of meals served to victims, the number of victims in the base camps and the number of referrals for support services. This allows us to assess and report the efficacy of the programming to additional funders to expand and build capacity/infrastructure. For example, Yazda utilizes this comprehensive database to work with the Iraqi government to issue monthly stipends for survivors.

Approximately 700 applications have been submitted, 250 of which were authorized and the remainder of which are in progress. Yazda has also leveraged this database in working with the Red Cross to provide one-time financial support of 300,000 Iraqi Dinars per survivors to 500 survivors. Yazda is now in the process with Iraqi government to provide one-time financial support of one million Iraqi Dinars per survivor for 1300 survivors.

C. Psychological support for survivors

Yazda supports a vast number of women who suffered imprisonment, abuse, and physical and psychological trauma at the hands of IS, and who now find themselves unable to cope with it -- isolated, and without means for a dignified life.

Following the 2014 assault on Yazidi villages in Sinjar, many Yazidis found shelter in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps around Dohuk, while many others, after falling captive, have gradually escaped and reached Dohuk in desperate conditions. As survivors found freedom and reached Dohuk, they came to know about Yazda's activities and began to join our Women's Center.

Yazda's Women's Center offered a range of activities aimed at the psychological support of victims and vulnerable women and their children, as well as activities to recreate community bonds and promote support groups.

Pilgrimages to the sacred site of Lalish were included as a journey of reintegration in the community. At Lalish Yazidi religious and spiritual leaders offered their welcome to the victims and assisted with the process of healing, especially helping the women to shed their feelings of guilt and shame.

Material aid to survivors is also provided through the distribution of blankets, clothes, food, and livelihood (e.g., goats, chickens, sewing machines).

The staff engaged in this program includes one project manager, two case managers, and drivers with minivans and cars for the transport of the women to and from their camps.

In 2017 alone, Yazda reached a total of 700 women. Some of the main activities are listed as follows:

- A. **Counseling** and one-to-one psychological support was offered to approximately 20 women per month over several sessions according to needs.
- B. **Support Groups** to address psychologically challenging issues: groups of 35 women met in cycles of 8 weekly sessions.
- C. **Handicrafts** as a therapeutic and social space, and **Baking Classes**, as part of the socializing and empowering process. Groups of 35 women met in cycles of 8 weekly sessions for these activities. Children were welcome at Yazda's Children Program.
- D. **Pilgrimages** to Lalish were organized twice a week for approximately 12 people, including women and children.
- E. **Self-Reliance Program**, which involved the distribution of livelihood items to 16 families with average size of 12 people each.



3. Administrative support for survivors



Thanks to Yazda's strong network and good relations with the Iraqi Government, we work in close collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Social Affairs to ensure financial support for the survivors.

Since 2015, Yazda works in coordination with the Directorate of Women's Protection in Baghdad, part of the Ministry of Social Affairs, to provide survivors with the "Bataqa" card. This card is similar in form to the government-issued card providing a regular income to IDPs and refugees, but in this case, it is issued only to female survivors of IS enslavement and provides each woman with a small monthly stipend for the rest of her life.

Yazda received survivors regularly in our Women's Center, helped them to complete the necessary documents, and processed the applications directly with the Directorate of Women Affairs to deliver the cards to the women beneficiaries. So far, hundreds of Bataqa cards have been provided to survivors. Most of these women came to the Center on their own after learning of Yazda's work in the camps or hearing of our help from other survivors.

In addition, Yazda identifies survivors experiencing difficulties or living under risk in the Kurdistan Region or in refugee camps in neighboring countries, and carries out pre-screening to assist the resettlement process of the survivors to countries such as Canada and Australia, that offer asylum to these vulnerable people and their families.

Moreover, since 2017 Yazda has become the local implementing partner of the Freedom House program to assist Yazidi women survivors. Our team conducts interviews with women who have been recently freed from IS and who are in need of financial support, assessing the woman's current situation and their financial needs. The report produced by Yazda's team which includes an interview with the beneficiary and a list of references, is then sent to the Freedom House team which allocates a budget for the survivors that will be delivered through Yazda's office in Dohuk.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Psychosocial support</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda private donor
<i>Duration</i>	2015-Apr2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	Duhok province, Iraq
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi Women
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda team

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Psychosocial support</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda private donor
<i>Duration</i>	2015-Apr2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	Duhok Province, Iraq
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi Women
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda team

Women Center for survivors

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Psychosocial support</i>
<i>Donor</i>	NCA,IGE,Nadia initiative ,Yazda
<i>Duration</i>	Since June 2015
<i>Budget</i>	2000 USD
<i>Location</i>	Duhok province, Iraq
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi Women
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda team

Administrative support

Psychosocial support for survivors

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Psychosocial support</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda private donor
<i>Duration</i>	2015-Apr2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	Duhok Province, Iraq
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi Women
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda team

Case management for survivors

4. Health and Medical Services.

A. Mobile Medical Clinic.

Funded by different partners and private donors over the years, Yazda's mobile medical unit provides free healthcare to remote areas in Sinjar Mountain.

From our Sinuni office, the Mobile Medical Unit is deployed five days a week providing medical care to 35 villages. Staffed by a medic and a nurse/pharmacist, it assists close to 2,000 patients per month, in areas of Sinjar Mountain where no other medical service is available. The unit is equipped with an IT database that keeps track of each patient through multiple visits. The team is stocked with medicines provided both by private donors and government authorities. It can also offer emergency transport to local hospitals when needed.

The mission of the Yazda mobile clinic is to address the need for accessible, cost effective primary health care by bringing the doctor to the people. Our ability to deliver services directly into mountain

villages that are difficult to access helps us respond to the needs of people who may otherwise have been left undiagnosed and untreated.

The mobile clinic vehicle was kindly donated by the Central Council of Yazidis in Germany at the beginning of the project in 2015.

We are currently in need of donors willing to help cover the operational expenses of the project, which are around \$4,200 a month. These expenses





cover the personal salaries, medical equipment, and other supplies. While the Department of Health has generously provided Yazda with some medications, high demand of medicines mean they run out quickly and more medicines need to be purchased out of Yazda's budget.

The Mobile Medical Clinic on Mount Sinjar offers:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Alcohol/drug treatment referral | . Consulting |
| 2. Cancer screening | Dispensary |
| 3. Asthma treatment | HIV Testing follow-up |
| 4. Cholesterol management | Lab service |
| 5. Diabetes support | Primary care |

Sector	Medical
Donor	Yazda private donor
Duration	Since June 2015
Budget	NA
Location	Sinjar Mountain, Iraq
Target group	Inhabitants of Sinjar
Implementation	Yazda team

5. Education projects



Children are always innocent victims in any conflict but are, nevertheless, greatly impacted by it. Often they carry its consequences for life.

Children from Sinjar are no exception and they have suffered tremendously as they escaped from IS with their families. Many of them were besieged on Sinjar mountain for days without food and water and in harsh climatic conditions, witnessed their family members being kidnapped or killed, and were displaced into IDP Camps. Some were even held in captivity, indoctrinated, brainwashed, forced to participate in violent acts, and forced to religious conversions.

These children have the right to access safe spaces, healing care, and education but often the instability of the situation and the limitation of resources makes it difficult. Three years after the attacks, many children still live in IDP camps or in precarious settlements in Sinjar and have limited access to proper education and psychosocial and health care. Thousands of them have been orphaned and, in some cases, minors are still taking part in militias.

One of Yazda's primary goals is to provide direct humanitarian and education support for Yazidi youth. Since its foundation in August 2014, Yazda has designed and implemented different educational programs targeting both adults and children. In 2017, Yazda has carried out in the following projects:

- The Tireja Roje Project aimed to teach the Yazidi youth about their own cultural and religious traditions to preserve the Yazidi heritage.
- The scholarship program to facilitate scholarships for Yazidi students attending university.
- The education for survivors' program aimed to provide psychological support to the survivors of IS enslavement and persecution.
- The Informal and English Education for Children Project that provides English lessons to children living in Sinjar and other types of informal education.
- The "In Front and Behind the Camera" project in which a group of young Yazidis were trained in photo and video editing, journalism, and social media management.



A. The Tireja Roje Project

The Tireja Roje Project has provided a learning place for children and adult Yazidis in IDP camps since 2015.

The Yazidi culture and traditions have been transmitted orally from generation to generation since the Yazidis' existence.

However, the attacks on the Yazidi community of Sinjar, the largest Yazidi community in the world, and the subsequent displacement of people, has jeopardized this oral transmission of tradition and culture, endangering the Yazidi people as a whole.

Through this project YAZDA has promoted the continuation of the Yazidi oral tradition among both children and adults. During this project, four religious leaders have been giving two different weekly sessions for groups of children and adults. Children participated in groups of 20 to 30 members and had child-friendly tailored sessions, separate from those targeting larger groups of adults. Approximately 100 adults participated in the program each month.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Donor</i>	NCA
<i>Duration</i>	June 2015-May 2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	IDPs camps in duhok province
<i>Target group</i>	Children and adult from the Yazidi community
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team, Yazidi religious leader

B. Scholarship

In May 2016, the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) awarded ten sponsored scholarships for Iraqi Yazidi students to study at the university, after a petition submitted by Nadia Murad.

After a strict screening process evaluating the academic performance and merits of 120 applicants, YAZDA selected 10 students as beneficiaries of the program. The students benefited from the sponsored scholarships during the rest of their degree, depending on their academic performance.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Donor</i>	University of Milano, Biocco
<i>Duration</i>	Since May 2016
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	University of Milano, Biocco
<i>Target group</i>	10 Yazidi student
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team



C. Education and support for children (ESASFC)

Often forgotten about during periods of crisis, children are greatly affected by conflict and displacement. They endure the hardship of fleeing from their homes, living in camps or deteriorating urban settings, and often bear witness to gross violence or the death of family members. These children have a right to safe spaces and healing care, but resources can be limited.

In Iraq, thousands of Yazidi children have been orphaned since the IS attacks of 2014, while others have been held in captivity and forced to participate in violent acts. Many of the children who avoided capture by IS still live in camps without access to education and proper care. Their childhoods are being stolen from them.

One of Yazda's primary goals is to provide direct humanitarian and education support for Yazidi youth.

Therefore, from the beginning of the crisis, our team has assisted children who visit our Women's Center located in Duhok, offering activities while their mothers are engaged in psychosocial support groups, as well as working in the IDP camps offering education programs and psychosocial support to IDP children.



Hundreds of children beneficiaries were reached between February 2016 and March 2017.

D. Informal education and English lessons for children

Since more and more families are returning to Sinjar to rebuild their houses and lives, programs providing children support need to adapt as well.

On May 2017, Yazda started an informal education program for children living in the Sinuni area of Sinjar, providing among English and other lessons to children. In summer 2017, around 500 children participated in this initiative. Aside from providing valuable education, the program allowed Yazda staff to assess cases of vulnerable children with emotional issues and to include them into reserializing activities.

The project will continue providing English lessons to around 350 children in autumn of 2017.

More funds are needed in the future in order to continue the program.



E. In front and behind the camera

Managed by Faris Mishko, a member of Yazda and a well-known photo and video journalist in Iraq, this project aimed to train the Yazidi youth in journalism, photography, filmmaking, and social media management.

Through weekly workshops the project promoted the use of journalism, social media, and photography among the Yazidi youth as a way to express themselves, tell their stories and give a voice to the community for the past and into the future.

Learning journalism skills will also provide income generating opportunities, working in the expanding media sector.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda private donor
<i>Duration</i>	2015, March 2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	Women center in duhok
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi children
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team

Education support for children

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda private donor
<i>Duration</i>	May to September 2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	Sinjar
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi Youth
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team

In front and Behind the camera

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda
<i>Duration</i>	Since May,2017
<i>Budget</i>	Between 3300 USD to 4400 USD
<i>Location</i>	Snuni area and Sinjar
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi children
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team

Informal education and English lesson



6. Aid Work

A. Sinjar Outreach Project

Since the IS attacks in 2014, which caused widespread destruction and the displacement of people, Yazda has been providing material aid and livelihood support to alleviate the precarious situation of the people returning to Sinjar (also called Singhal, شنگال / شنگار). Community outreach activities have also been provided by the organization, as well as medical and psychological facilities.

Among both local and international NGOs, Yazda has excellent access to the local community in the Sinjar region, with its knowledge of the community, its history and geography, and its unique problems and challenges.

For all these reasons, in July of 2016 Yazda signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to become an implementing partner in the Sinjar region. The cooperation and support offered by the UNDP greatly expanded Yazda's capacity to serve and support the local community in Sinjar. The program closed in March 2017.



B. Background

On August the 3, 2014, tens of thousands of Yazidis were forced to flee their homes to the Sinjar Mountain to escape the atrocities of Islamic State (IS). For more than a week, they remained on top of the mountain with little water and food, besieged by IS fighters and facing starvation and dehydration. The Iraqi and some other foreign governments dropped food and water supplies until Syrian Kurdish militias were able to open a safe corridor to the mountain allowing people to flee. However, some Yazidis still decided to stay in the mountain to protect their ancestral homeland, but also in fear of returning to their homes.

After the Syrian Kurdish militias and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces liberated the mountains from ISIS, helped by US airstrikes, the Yazidi population began to return to their houses and towns only to find them destroyed and raided. It soon became clear that those Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) required humanitarian aid and assistance to meet their basic human needs.

Restoring the Yazidi community and rebuilding their homeland is paramount to the mission of Yazda. Our organization has been working to provide care and relief to the Yazidi community in the mountains and also in the rest of the Sinjar region, and to help in the reconstruction efforts.

Figure 9 Destruction of Sinjar after ISIS.

C. Assistance provided

▪ Direct aid assistance

In partnership with several Yazidi groups in Germany, Yazda provided several truckloads of clothes, food, education supplies, and other emergency items since 2014.

▪ Live chickens

One form of support that serves the needs of all of those living in Sinjar is live chickens, because they produce an ongoing sustainable source of food through their egg production. During the extent of the program, YAZDA distributed 2,500 chickens to over 500 families.

▪ Water filters

From 2014 to the end of the project in March 2017, Yazda distributed 1,000 water filters to approximately 1,000 families in the Sinjar area. The filters were generously donated by one of Yazda's many partners.

▪ Sanitation

As families have returned to Sinjar, many have moved into tent communities or areas still being rebuilt. Some of these places lack proper sanitation facilities. To assist, YAZDA constructed outhouses in IDP areas lacking access to toilets.

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Direct assistance</i>
<i>Donor</i>	UNDP
<i>Duration</i>	October 2016 to March 2017
<i>Budget</i>	NA
<i>Location</i>	Snuni area-Sinjar
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi community
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team

7. Building and Infrastructure

A. Bakira Primary School (Al-Bakra)

A school was very much needed in the town of Bakira (Al-Bakra). The nearest schools are too far away so most children in the area have problems attending school on a daily basis, with some families choosing not to send their children to school at all because of the financial burden it means for them.

In partnership with one of our international donors, Yazda completed the construction of a primary school in only four months, from March to June 2017. The building includes 6 classrooms and it will serve more than 120 children from the surrounding areas.

Once finished the school was handed to the governmental education authorities to be staffed by professional teachers, and in September 2017 started running as a normal public school.

Yazda is also planning to establish a small library with books in Kurmanji, Arabic, and English.



B. Clean-up and renovation of the Catholic Church of the Virgin Mary in Bashiqa

On May 2017, Yazda's team organized the cleaning up and renovation of the Catholic Church of the Virgin Mary in Bashiqa, which had been damaged by ISIS attacks and mortar shell.

Yazda's team, helped by Yazidi and Christian volunteers, cleaned up the site, repainted the interior of the church and benches, and replaced the broken glass windows. In the second and third phases of the project, the rear part of the church, which was heavily damaged by mortar shells, will be rebuilt, and the bell tower will be restored.

This project was funded through small donations from the Christian community in Italy.



8. Small Businesses Initiative

The IS attacks in Sinjar have not only provoked a mass exile of people but it also left behind vast destruction and desolation. IS fighters destroyed houses, Yazidi temples, and other places of worship, farms, businesses, and the little infrastructure that was existing in Sinjar before August 2014.

After Sinjar was recaptured from IS, different governmental and non-governmental organizations have implemented different reconstruction and development projects, focusing in particular on the agricultural sector. Since most efforts have been directed towards agriculture, other economic sectors have barely begun to recover.

At Yazda, we believe that business development is key in the growth of Sinjar's economy. On one hand, it provides a source of income for the families; on the other hand, businesses provide job opportunities and increase the availability of supplies and services in the area, attracting more returnees and stimulating the overall economy of the region.

Taking these factors into account, Yazda designed a Small Business Project to incentivize the creation of businesses, looking in particular at promoting business ideas that meet the needs of the community.

Our team conducted an initial assessment that included looking at Sinuni's economy before the IS attacks and the current situation in addition to analyzing the number, size, and type of businesses in the area before the crisis, the availability of markets now, and the needs of the returning population. Key businesses were identified, such as groceries, barber shops, bakeries, electricians, and clothing and mobile shops.

Yazda's team identified skilled beneficiaries with previous experience in business management, and provided them with initial support to start up their own business. The project offered funds to rent a business space and purchase materials, financial back-up, business advice and mentoring for 6 months, until the business is self-sufficient.

12 small businesses were opened and are currently making profits, including electrician shops, barbershops, grocery stores, and a cake shop managed entirely by women.



Since the beneficiaries are people in situations of economic vulnerability and large families, the small business initiative provides them with income to sustain their families and become self-sufficient, as well as having positive impact in the overall economy and job creation in the area.



<i>Sector</i>	<i>Economic development</i>
<i>Donor</i>	Yazda private donor
<i>Duration</i>	June to December 2017
<i>Budget</i>	93200 USD
<i>Location</i>	Snuni area, Sinjar region ,Nineveh province, Iraq
<i>Target group</i>	Yazidi Community
<i>Implementation</i>	Yazda's team



9. The 3rd August Commemoration of the Genocide

A. Third Anniversary Conference in Baghdad

On the occasion of the Third Anniversary of the Yazidi Genocide on August 3, 2017, Yazda held a conference in Baghdad at the Babylon Hotel with the theme *"Yazidis, the Persecuted People: Between Justice, Equity, and an Unknown Future"*.

More than three hundred guests attended the conference, including representatives of the Foreign Diplomatic Missions in Baghdad, representatives of the Iraqi and Kurdish governments, survivors of IS enslavement, victims of genocide, representatives of His Excellency, Tahseen Bek, the Yazidi Prince and the head of High Spiritual Council, and many activists from different provinces in Iraq.

The aim of the conference was to commemorate the Third Anniversary of the beginning of the Yazidi Genocide by IS forces in Iraq and Syria, and to demand both that the national and the international community continue their efforts to put an end to this ongoing genocide.

Yazda deeply appreciated the help and efforts of all of those who contributed to the conference. In particular, Yazda's team would like to thank the Iraqi government, the Al-Masarat Foundation,



11. Yazda's Activities.

- **Yazda efforts to help ease the burden for families affected by Hurricane Harvey in Houston English.**

After Hurricane Harvey made landfall and dropped nearly two feet of rain in the southeastern areas in Texas, causing unprecedented and catastrophic flooding, tens of thousands of people in Houston and its outskirts have been displaced while their homes are flooded. And as Yazda global organization it is incumbent on us to help those people who have been forced out of their homes by providing the necessary help to the best of our capacity

After coming back from Dallas where thousands of people took refuge, members of Yazidi community in Houston join Yazda efforts and begun a vital work by helping save lives and giving comfort to number of families who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. As members of an oppressed minority those Yazidi families felt the pain of Hurricane victims and urged to reach out to those who needed help the most

As Yazda, we want to thank these Yazidi families who have gone out of their way to contribute to the disaster response efforts



United Nations Association of Spain sponsored a visit for The U.N. Good-Will Ambassador Nadia Murad and Yazda President Haider Elias to Catalonia region.

People of Catalonia have proven to be great for the amount of respect and support they provided for our delegate and we forever grateful to this. The first meeting was with the representative of foreign affairs of the Government of Catalonia. Mr. Raul Romeva, another meeting with the City council of Barcelona, with Mr. Joseph Alay the commissioner of the International relations, Department of the City Council in Barcelona. A meeting with the President of the County Cancell of Barcelona Ms. Merce Conesa; Mr. Eduard Sagarra Trias, President of The United Nations Association of Spain, and many other TV and Radio interviews such as a Radio interview by Ms. Monica Terribas. A journalist for Radio Catalonia. Nadia told the audience her story and the story and the Yazidi people post August 2014 and until present. A tour to Barcelona foundation.



I survivor and Yazda member in Germany Ms Farida Abbas had a great opportunity to meet with Ms, wife of former Germany President Joachim Gauck.

Farida was accompanied by Saeed Sulaiman, Yazda member in Germany, Duzen Tekkal, activist and director of Hawar organization.

Ms Daniela has listened to Farida Abbas`s story and both sides have discussed the situations of refugees, ISIS survivors, and the situation of Yazidi people in general.

We want to thank Ms Daniela for her time and tremendous support to Farida Abbas



Yazda was honoured to visit Australia's new Yazidi community this week and present a welcome gift pack and video message from Nadia Murad. The community was very happy to receive her message and decided to send her some joyful messages back! Here are some photos of the refugees learning English, having a special lunch celebration and meeting Yazda's Australian Director, Nikki Marczak.

Thanks to the Yazidi Community in Australia for inviting Yazda to their new community and into their homes. Our thanks to Mr Nawwaf Mirza and Mr



Nadia Murad, Yazidi survivor of ISIS captivity and UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, Amal Clooney, international human rights lawyer and counsel for Yazda, and Haider Elias, Yazda's President met with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at United Nations Headquarters on Friday (March 10) in New York City.

The two sides discussed several topics including the role of UN in establish an accountability mechanism for ISIS criminals for their crimes against Yazidi people and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria.

The Secretary General encouraged and commended Nadia for



Yazda welcomes Introduction of Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act by the United States Congress. Yazda signed this petition and supported it in order to help the Yazidis and other minorities in Iraq and Syria.



Yazda financial



YAZDA Profit & Loss January through December 2017

	Jan - Dec '17
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Corporate Donations	437,488.21
Individual, Business Contributions	508,763.81
Individual & Business Grants	899,205.08
Total Direct Public Support	1,235,457.08
Total Income	1,235,457.08
Expense	
Accounting Fees	5,188.00
Advertising Expense	819.05
Bank Service Fee	8,207.12
Contract Labor	277,386.14
Events Support Fees	1,353.58
Information Technology	1,825.76
Insurance Expense	1,821.00
Internet Expense	688.00
Meals and Entertainment	2,458.90
Office Expense	11,004.98
Office Supplies	12,086.27
Permit and License Fee	587.00
Postage, Mailing Service	791.00
Software Expense	304.31
Telephone, Telecommunications	14.29
Travel and Transportation	78,121.88
Utilities	2,877.58
Yazda Projects	
Cultural Center Project	47,917.00
Documentation Project	6,000.00
Humanitarian Project Support	542,538.81
Hurricane Harvey Relief	6,000.00
Psychotherapy Project	12,200.00
Total Yazda Projects	626,155.81
Total Expense	1,141,381.84
Net Ordinary Income	79,805.22
Net Income	79,805.22

Contacts

For further information about Yazda and Yazidi case, please visit the following websites/pages. Website: www.yazda.org

Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yazda>

Twitter: [@YazdaOrg](https://twitter.com/YazdaOrg)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yazda.organization/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrJu9T0bSCRR4BVVkHRvbvg>

Or Contact us:

USA: [+1 \(832\) 298-9584](tel:+18322989584)

IRAQ: [+964 627 624 434](tel:+964627624434) or [+964 750 419 0169](tel:+9647504190169)

Europe: [+44 \(749\) 506-2635](tel:+447495062635)

Email: info@yazda.org

UK@YAZDA.ORG

