



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

**Human Rights Council: 28th Session
Oral Intervention- Item 2 – ID HC
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
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Thank you Mr President,

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and Initiative for Yazidis Around the World welcome the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the situation in Iraq.

In particular, we echo the conclusion of the report that systematic violent attacks targeting civilians based on their religious or ethnic affiliations, including Yazidis, Assyrians, **Chaldeans, and Shabak** by ISIL could amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Acknowledging the intentional aspect of these crimes and the gravity of the threat is paramount to the Yazidi and other minority communities. But, this is not enough. Daily massacres against minorities continue to take place to date and we urge the Council to act in urgency, and to ensure accountability for these heinous crimes

Mr President,

Monitoring and documenting the systematic violations although essential, particularly as the plight of people in ISIL's captivity continues, remains void of meaning as long as no concrete measures for accountability and reconciliation are taken. The Government of Iraq has the primary legal responsibility to exercise due diligence in protecting persons under its jurisdiction and to investigate all allegations, including allegations of war crimes committed by the Iraqi Security Forces, and to ensure that all findings of these investigations are made public and would lead to accountability and effective remedies for victims. Also, the government has the obligation to ensure effective and immediate psychosocial and medical support for survivors of sexual violence and other criminal acts as well as effective resources for the thousands displaced as a result of the conflict across the country.

An inclusive process of reconciliation, that represents legitimate grievances of all Iraqis, must be put in place in order for the different communities including the Yazidis to co-exist in peace. We remain concerned that human rights defenders and journalists are subjected to threats and violations by all parties. We remind the Iraqi government that any short-term or long term efforts to combat violence and extremism

relies on efforts exerted by both groups. Failure to protect them would encourage the re-occurrence of these crimes.

Finally, we reiterate the report's call upon the Human Rights Council to urge the Security Council to address the situation in Iraq with the utmost concern and act without delay to refer potential crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Iraq to the International Criminal Court.

Thank you Mr. President