The Plight of the Yazidis



21st Century Genocide

Goals

To inform you about the Yazidi people and the genocide taking place in Iraq

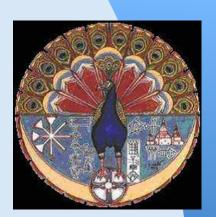
To share with you accounts of the atrocities the Yazidis are experiencing and the needs of survivors



To compel you to help

Who are the Yazidis?

Peaceful religious minority living primarily in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq



Approximately 500-600,000 in Northern Iraq

Approximately 500,000 spread out in communities in Syria and southeast Armenia, Turkey, Georgia, Russia and Germany

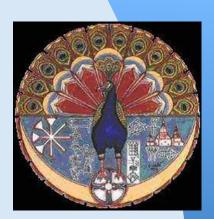


Yezidi Religion

Ancient monotheistic religion with elements of pre-Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Judaism Christianity and Islam

Believe G-d created the world and entrusted it to seven angels, the most revered being "Melek Taus" the Peacock Angel (God's representative on earth)

Traditions and history have been passed down orally



Persecution

Have faced attacks through the centuries from Muslims

Faced persecution and "Arabization" policies under Saddam Hussein's regime

Photo Credit AFP/Getty



ISIS Attacks Genocide Begins

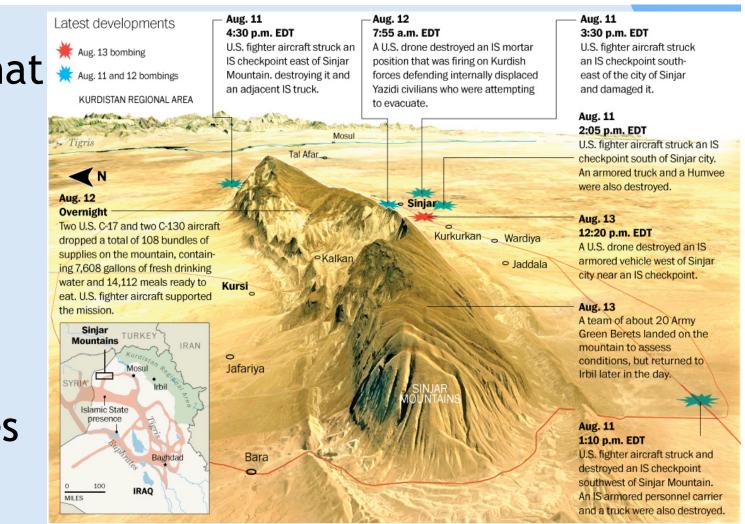
August 3, 2014





Those that escaped were trapped

U.S. Begins Airstrikes



Yazidi boys kidnapped and forced to be child soldiers





Women and Children

After being separated from the men, women and their children were loaded on trucks and busses eventually to be sold at markets as female sex slaves for ISIS fighters and supporters Estimates: 5270-7000 women and children were taken



Terrified "Yazidi Child Being Sold by ISIS as a Sex Slave in the Mosul Slave Market





Jinan, 18, an Iraqi Yazidi survivor was held for three months before escaping

Photo Credit: Jocard/ AFP



Bajed Kadal refugee camp, south west of Dohuk



Photo Credit: Youssef Boudlal/ Reuters

URGENT NEEDS

Protection and resettlement Food & shelter Medical treatment Trauma treatment Education



Photo Credit: Warzar Jaff/CNN

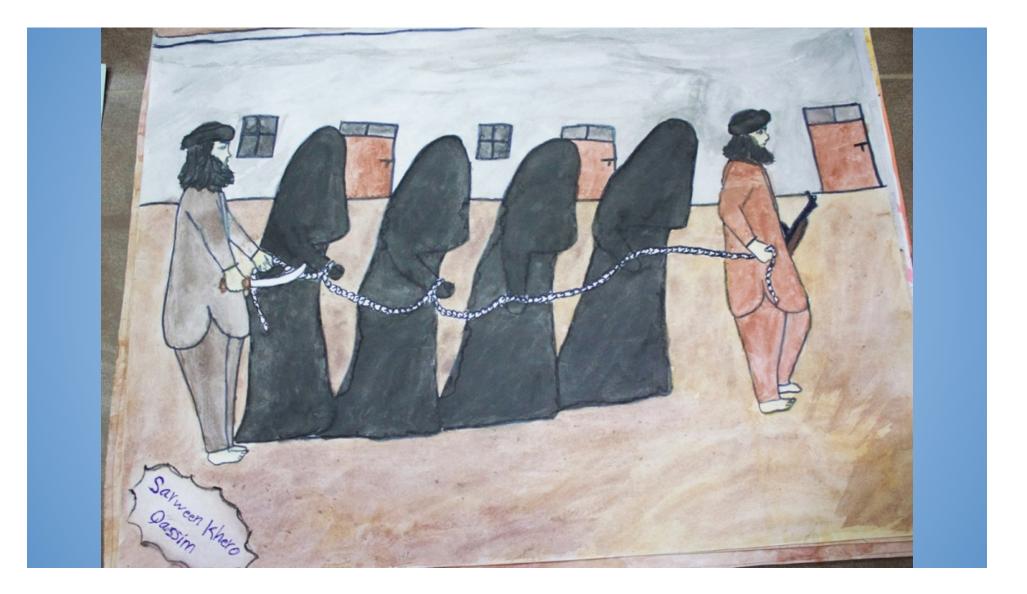
Who is helping?

Yezidi child in a refugee camp



Photo Credit: Youssef Boudlal / Reuters







What can you do?

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."

> ~Eli Weisel Holocaust Survivor



U.S. Holocaust Museum November 12, 2015 Report

Conclude that genocide did and still is taking place against the Yazidis

Urges leaders in Congress to recognize Yazidi genocide and to take action Urge leaders to officially recognize Yazidi genocide opening the way for additional aid and special refugee status

Write, Email & Call Your U.S. Legislators!

Rescue those enslaved Provide immediate aid to those in DP camps Protect & support Yazidis in their homeland Offer asylum in the United States or help them resettle in other western countries encourage the ICC and UN to classify the atrocities as genocide & take the steps to seek justice Ask your U.S. Representatives to: "Please support and declaring that religious minorities such as Yazidis in Iraq are suffering war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide at the hands of ISIS. Please institute protections for these minorities."

Petition the President and Government Leaders

Sign the petition Yazda.org set up on Change.org asking President Obama to take steps to rescue those still being held captive

Educate Yourself and Others

Link up to organizations helping the Yazidi on social media and share links with friends and celebrities asking them to repost

Ask me to come and share this presentation or help you to give your own presentation

Purchase and show the PBS Frontline Documentary "Escaping ISIS" at local organizations, libraries or faith based organizations and ask them to promote the event to their members



Fundraising Ideas

Host an informational dinner/event with a suggested donation

Hold a "Concert for a Cause" and invite a local artist to perform for a suggested donation

More Fundraising Ideas

Ask a local martial arts or yoga studio to have a fundraising class/event for a suggested donation

Race or walk for a cause and ask supporters to sponsor you or your team



Photo Credit: Feriq Ferec/Anadolu Agency/ Getty Images

Every one of us has the capacity to help the Yazidi people in even the smallest way. Inaction is not a moral option.



Thank You!

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