

KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Council of Ministers

Office of the Coordinator for
International Advocacy



حکومه‌تی هه‌ریمی کوردستان - عێراق

هه‌نجومه‌نی وه‌زیران

هه‌وێنه‌ی رێکخه‌ری
هه‌سپاره‌ نیوده‌وله‌تیه‌کان

December 3, 2021

Statement by KRG Office of the Coordinator for International Advocacy (OCIA)

KRG agencies have given a wide range of evidence and information on ISIL leadership members and finance sources to UNITAD in processing the evidence needed for the prosecutions

In a landmark trial arraigned in Frankfurt court in Germany on November 30, 2021, the court sentenced a fanatic ISIL jihadist for life on the basis of involvement in committing core crimes under international law - genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The verdict became the headline for several international media outlets, including BBC, NBC, and Reuters.

In the onset of seizing swathes in Iraq, ISIL terrorists launched a fierce attack on a number of areas of the Kurdistan Region, in addition to the areas inhabited by the Yazidis in Shingal. The terrorists, during their brutal raids, transcended all human norms and human rights principles towards the innocent populations of the region from killing and demolishing their homes until they reached the point of kidnapping women and children and their families and selling them in both Mosul and Syria .

Taha al-Jumaily, the Iraqi national who received the verdict, was found guilty of having a role in massacring 3,000 Yezidis and enslaving 7,000 women between 2014 and 2015. These heinous crimes included hinging up a 5-year girl outside of a window to suffer immense heat and to die out of thirst .

In retrospect, other horrendous mass killings of specific ethnic and religious groups have taken place in Iraq. As far as the Kurds are concerned, 8,000 Barzanis were rounded up and taken to southern Iraq to be killed and buried alive; around 182,000 Kurds were massacred in the heinous Anfal campaigns between 1986 and 1988; and 5,000 were killed by chemical bombardments in Halabja in 1988.

Last Friday, the French National Assembly took a step forward in recognizing these atrocities as genocide. It was, however, turned down. Still, as the ISIL crimes against the Kurdish Yezidi group is on the threshold of being recognized as genocide, the massacres

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that happened in Iraq in the past century should be addressed in international platforms as well; because both series of heinous crimes are more or less threaded together, signaling oppression, extermination and ethnic cleansing .

To aid the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh (UNITAD) in processing the evidence needed for the prosecutions, KRG agencies have given a wide range of evidence and information on ISIL leadership members and finance sources. UNITAD has also been provided access to all evidentiary archives related to ISIL crimes that have been gathered and retained by the KRG as part of the digitization initiative, which coincides with Iraq's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution No 2379 to prosecute ISIL for international crimes.