

Lollar, 2. August 2023

## UK Officially Acknowledges Acts of Genocide Against Yazidis

The United Kingdom officially acknowledges acts of genocide committed against the Yazidi people by Daesh (ISIS). This acknowledgment comes in the wake of the verdict delivered by the Frankfurt Higher Court, which found a Daesh fighter guilty of acts of genocide and crimes against humanity in November 2021.

The announcement was made by the Minister of State for the Middle East, Lord Ahmad, who declared the historic acknowledgement during a commemoration event organized by 27 international Yazidi organizations in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 1st. The event marked the 9th anniversary of the atrocities perpetrated by Daesh against the Yazidis.

In his statement, Lord Ahmad expressed solidarity with the Yazidi population, acknowledging the immense suffering they endured at the hands of Daesh. He emphasized the importance of justice and accountability for those whose lives were devastated by the genocide. With this recognition, the UK reinforces its commitment to ensuring that the Yazidi people receive the compensation they are owed and gain access to meaningful justice.

During his visit to Iraq, Lord Ahmad also welcomed the progress made in passing the Yazidi Survivors Law, which aims to provide reparations to survivors. He reiterated the UK's commitment to supporting Iraq in fully implementing the law and ensuring survivors receive comprehensive support and access to justice.

The acknowledgment has been met with appreciation and hope by the Yazidi community. Zemfira Dlovani, Deputy Federal President of the ZÊD, expressed satisfaction: "We welcome the UK's recognition of the genocide committed by Daesh against the Yazidis. Our hope that other European countries would prosecute the Daesh returnees before their courts and that the political recognition of the genocide would be set in motion as a result, seems to be bearing fruit. This shows that our efforts are being met with a positive response, and it reinforces our determination to continue fighting for our people."

The UK's recognition of the genocide committed against the Yazidis underscores the importance of holding perpetrators accountable and seeking justice for the victims. The government's commitment to supporting survivors and promoting reparations demonstrates its dedication to addressing the ongoing repercussions of the atrocities committed by Daesh.

Press Release