

Welcome to the Eleventh C4JR YSL NEWSLETTER

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) publishes regular newsletters to share accurate and up-to-date information regarding the Yazidi Survivors' Law (YSL) and share the views and experiences of all actors involved in the implementation of this seminal transitional justice framework to address atrocities committed by ISIL in Iraq.

Latest News on the YSL

Application Statistics

The Directorate of Survivors' Affairs (Directorate) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced the payment of reparations to 2,216 of ISIL covered by the Yazidi Survivors' Law in June. More details can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/yptfc26z>.

Implementation of the YSL

Important updates:

- **Remote Testimony Mechanism Continues for all YSL Applicants Abroad**

The Directorate, in coordination with the Al-Qosh Investigation Court, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Iraqi consulates and embassies, is continuing to record testimonies from YSL applicants via secure video conferencing. The Directorate announced that testimonies can now be submitted through Iraqi embassies and consulates in all countries. Survivors living abroad who have not yet submitted their application are encouraged to contact the Directorate at +964 751 100 2977 for assistance. More details can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/5cht46ax>.

- **Martyrs Foundation Launches National Registry Campaign in Germany for Missing Persons**

In June, the Martyrs Foundation, under the leadership of Chairman Dr. Abdullah al-Naila, launched a targeted campaign in Germany to support the establishment of



A national campaign to collect information and blood samples from ISIL victim families was rolled out in June in Stuttgart, Germany. Photo Credit: The Martyrs Foundation Facebook page.

a National Registry for Missing Persons, a vital step toward determining the fate of those abducted during the ISIL conflict, particularly Yazidi victims.

Carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health's Forensic Medicine Department, the Directorate of Survivors' Affairs at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and with support from the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), the campaign collected 29 missing persons information forms and 304 blood samples from family members. These samples will be analyzed and matched against forensic databases to assist in the identification of remains recovered from mass graves in Iraq.

This campaign also marks the second initiative of its kind in Europe and forms part of the implementation of Article 18 of Law No. 23 of 2024, which outlines the rights of missing persons' families and the documentation of their fate. Senior officials, including representatives from the Kurdistan Region, the Prime Minister's Office for Human

Rights, and the Department of Protection of Mass Graves and Missing Persons, were present to meet with families, provide updates, and demonstrate the Iraqi government's commitment to addressing this humanitarian issue. This initiative reflects a broader effort to enhance international cooperation, support survivors, and fulfill the rights of families of missing persons, wherever they may reside. Read more about the campaign on the Martyrs Foundation Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/44dyvk4a>.

• Directorate Fast-Tracks Support for Recently Liberated Survivors

In a recent initiative to support Yazidi survivors who have only recently returned from captivity, the Directorate is fast-tracking essential services. Recently liberated survivors are exempt from standard bureaucratic procedures, allowing for the immediate initiation of key processes such as issuing official identification documents, in coordination with Nineveh's Directorate of Civil Status, Passports, and Residency.

The Directorate is also working to ensure these individuals are included in the benefits provided under the YSL. However, further clarity is needed regarding what this entails in practice. For example, it remains unclear whether survivors who were recently liberated through government-coordinated efforts are subject to the same evidentiary requirements as other applicants, such as the submission of two witness testimonies. Transparency is essential to ensuring that survivors receive timely and appropriate support without facing additional burdens.

In parallel, it is prioritizing access to comprehensive healthcare, coordinating with the Ministry of Health and the Nineveh Health Department to guarantee timely medical treatment and support. Read more about this initiative here: <https://tinyurl.com/56rnrmdc>.

Related News

- Yazda Organization now issues an official Yazda Certificate for eligible survivors applying under the YSL. Under the YSL, multiple forms of evidence may be submitted to establish eligibility, including letters issued by security or governmental bodies confirming escape or rescue; notarized testimony from three recognized YSL survivors; certified reports from international organizations; visual evidence such as photographs or videos; or documents issued by ISIL. This certificate, recognized by the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs, includes key information such as the date of abduction, date of release from ISIL captivity, and the survivor's unique identification code in Yazda's database. Survivors can request the certificate online or by visiting Yazda's offices in person. For assistance, contact Yazda's referral officer via WhatsApp or phone at +964 750 170 1544.



YAZDA CERTIFICATES

ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR ELIGIBLE
SURVIVORS UNDER THE YAZIDI SURVIVORS LAW



- ✓ Abduction & Release Dates
- ✓ Unique Yazda ID
- ✓ Recognized by Government
- ✓ Support Application under the Yazidi Survivors Law



To Request Your Certificate, Contact Yazda's Referral Officer at:
+964 750 170 1544

- Physicians for Human Rights recently led a workshop in May for judges in Mosul focused on survivor-centered justice in legal proceedings. Conducted in coordination with the Nineweh Court of Appeals and the Directorate, the initiative introduced best practices for handling testimonies and evidence, especially in cases stemming from ISIL-era crimes. Through collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council and the Medical-Legal Directorate, Physicians for Human Rights is helping to develop national guidelines that promote ethical, trauma-informed approaches to

investigating and documenting sexual violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. Read more about the initiative here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr26vr6e>.



*Physicians for Human Rights recently led a workshop in May for judges in Mosul focused on survivor-centered justice in legal proceedings.
Photo credit: Physicians for Human Rights.*

Accountability Efforts

- In May, a landmark trial began in Bavaria, Germany, against an ISIL-affiliated couple accused of committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria through the enslavement and rape of two Yazidi girls. This case marks the tenth ISIL-related prosecution in Germany under the principle of universal jurisdiction, which enables national courts to try individuals for serious international crimes committed outside their borders. For more on the case, read Yazda's press release here: <https://tinyurl.com/2cdtp86a>.

Challenges

In each issue of our newsletter, we spotlight key challenges faced by survivors and stakeholders in the implementation of the YSL. A growing challenge affecting the implementation of the YSL is the non-recognition of powers of attorney issued in the Kurdistan Region by Iraqi federal authorities. Survivors residing in locations in the

Kurdistan Region of Iraq who need to process their cases in Mosul, Sheikhan, or Alqosh are being told that their KRI-issued powers of attorney are invalid and must instead obtain new documents through federal notaries.

This creates significant barriers, particularly for survivors who are unable to travel due to security concerns, financial hardship, or social risks. The lack of legal justification for this rejection, combined with the absence of mutual administrative recognition, is denying survivors access to legal representation and delaying their rights under the YSL.




While powers of attorney issued by federal notaries are routinely accepted in KRI, the reverse is not the case, resulting in systemic inequality and procedural discrimination. In one recent case, a survivor working with a notary in the KRG could not access her entitlements because her power of attorney was rejected in Mosul, despite it being fully valid and recognized within the KRI.

This is not just a technical issue; It is a core concern of legal access and survivor protection. Survivors should never be forced to return to unsafe areas or reengage with potentially harmful environments just to validate paperwork. A coordinated administrative solution is urgently needed to prevent further harm and ensure equal and safe access to justice for all survivors, regardless of where they reside.



C4JR LEGAL AID

To support survivors navigating challenges, C4JR is offering legal aid to applicants throughout the YSL application and appeals process through qualified lawyers.

If you or someone you know needs legal support, please contact us at legalaids@c4jr.org or by phone—available on WhatsApp, Viber, and Signal    **+964 750 851 6311**.

Success Story

Restoring Rights and Dignity through Legal Support —Yazda Organization

In the village of Kojo, two Yazidi brothers who survived years of captivity under ISIS faced immense challenges in reclaiming their rights under the YSL. Like many others, they struggled with limited knowledge of legal procedures and lacked the support needed to navigate the complex process of filing complaints and applications.

Through the support of Yazda's Transitional Justice and Rehabilitation Project, the brothers received comprehensive legal guidance and one-on-one assistance in preparing and submitting their cases to the Directorate for Survivors' Affairs. Thanks to Yazda's direct follow-up and advocacy, both were able to meet all legal requirements. Their applications were

accepted, and they received official cards, granting them full recognition and access to all entitlements under the YSL.

This moment marked not just a legal victory but a powerful restoration of dignity and identity after years of trauma and displacement. Their story is a testament to the importance of accessible legal aid and a reminder of how sustained support can help survivors rebuild their lives with hope and security.

Yazda continues to provide legal, psychosocial, and awareness-raising services to survivors in Dohuk, Sinjar, and IDP camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Survivors can contact Yazda by calling their hotline at **07501701544**, visiting their local offices, or emailing referrals@yazda.org.

Coming up in the newsletter

C4JR is currently developing an anonymous survey to gather feedback on survivors' satisfaction with reparation payments provided under the YSL. This survey aims to assess how these payments are impacting survivors' lives and overall well-being, and to identify areas where reparative measures can be improved. Updates on the survey's progress, as well as its findings, will be shared in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned for more information!

THERE IS NO DEADLINE TO APPLY TO THE YSL!

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN APPLY IF YOU ARE A SURVIVOR



The YSL provides reparations if you are a member of one of the following groups:

- Women and girls who survived ISIS captivity from the Yazidi, Shabak, Christian, or Turkmen communities;
- Male Yazidis who were abducted by ISIS when they were under the age of 18 at the time they were abducted by ISIS;
- All persons from the Yazidi, Shabak, Christian, or Turkmen communities who were abducted by ISIS and personally survived a specific incident of ISIS mass killing.



Applications are made to the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs. You can apply in three ways:

- Make an appointment with the Directorate in their Sinjar or Mosul offices and visit the office at the appointment time. You can make the appointment at <https://ur.gov.iq/login>. See this video on how to make an appointment: <https://tinyurl.com/53xtt4zv>;
- Fill out a hard copy form and take it to the Directorate physically. You still need to register online using the link above to get your unique registration code.
- Apply online: You may submit your application, together with copies of your ID and any supporting documents you have, to the link above. See this video on how to apply online: <https://tinyurl.com/3rfdhf2>.

You can apply on your own - you do not need a lawyer or NGO to apply. If you would like any support with the application, you can contact NGOs in your area. **There is no deadline to apply for the YSL. There is also no fee to apply.**

You can follow the Directorate's announcements on Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/5b567sp7>.

About us

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) is an alliance of 34 NGOs calling for comprehensive reparations for civilian victims of atrocity crimes perpetrated during the ISIL conflict in Iraq. C4JR uses Iraqi law and international human rights law to support the reparation claims of survivors and to encourage Iraqi authorities to meet their obligation to provide reparations. C4JR also works to inform, advocate, offer viable solutions, and engage with different stakeholders to ensure survivors realize their right to reparations by providing space for deliberation, collaboration, and reflection. You can visit our website at www.c4jr.org for more information.



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