

Welcome to the Twelfth 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 General Directorate of Survivors' Affairs (Directorate) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced the payment of reparations to 2,216 of ISIL covered by the YSL in August. More details can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076062182514

Implementation

Important updates:

Directorate Continues to Facilitate Survivors' Return to Education

On August 7, Ms. Sarab Elias, Director General of the Directorate, accompanied by a delegation of female survivors, visited the Ministry of Education in Baghdad. She met with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Academic Affairs, the Director General of Curricula, and the Director of the Minister's Office. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was proposed to establish a special administrative unit to follow up on survivors' needs and issues and to incorporate the crimes committed against survivors into the Ministry's curricula. In addition, Ms. Elias also visited the Director General of Nineveh Education to discuss the mechanism for the return of survivor students to resume their studies after being interrupted for many years due to kidnapping.

More details of these meetings can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page: bit.ly/3IBXWgS



Baghdad: Meeting between the Ministry of Education and the General Directorate for Survivors' Affairs to agree on new measures supporting survivors' return to school. Photo: GDSA



The Directorate of Survivors' Affairs and Alqosh Investigation Court record Yazidi survivors' testimonies remotely in cooperation with the Iraqi Consulate in Frankfurt. Photo: GDSA

Remote Testimony Mechanism Continues for All YSL Applicants Abroad

The Directorate, in cooperation with the Al-Qosh Investigation Court and in collaboration with the Iraqi Consulate in Frankfurt, continues recording the testimonies from Yazidi survivors residing in Germany, to facilitate survivors living abroad to apply for the YSL. The Director General noted that recording testimonies through Iraqi embassies and consulates is now an adopted procedure in all countries. However, no further details have been provided on how survivors can make use of such services in locations outside of Germany and France.

Read more on the Directorate's Facebook page here: bit.ly/4nhZETK

Related News

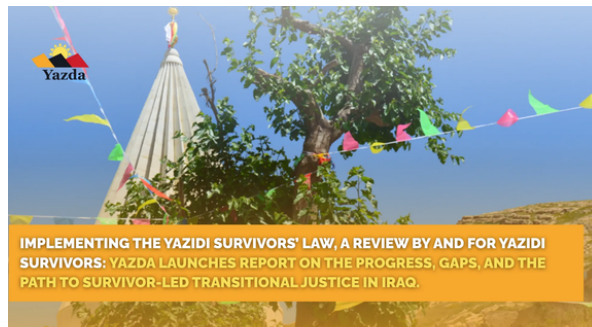


■ In July, the Global Survivors Fund published its impact report under the title “Interim reparative measures project with survivors of ISIS captivity.” The report examines the impact of GSF’s interim reparative measures project, which provided interim reparations to 1,042 survivors, including financial compensation in cash, and a collective monument and garden opened in Sinjar as a form of collective interim reparation. Read the report in full here: bit.ly/424wsY6

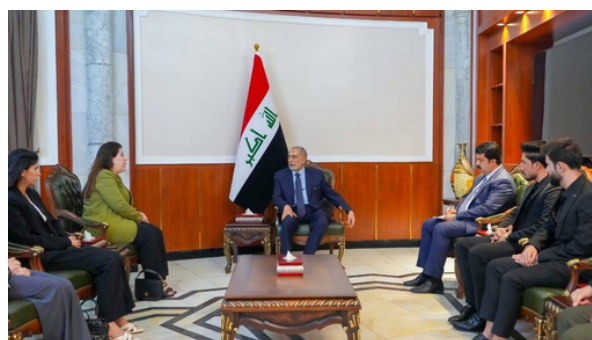


■ In April 2025, Global Survivors Fund, Yazda, and Farida Global Organization published a report under the title ‘Access to education as a form of reparation for survivors of ISIS captivity in Iraq’. The report highlights the barriers that survivors face in accessing education as reparation, their needs, and potential solutions, and recommends survivors’ active participation in designing and implementing the reparation programs, including education. Read the report in full here: bit.ly/4pHIUZ6

■ Iraqi officials have begun the first phase of excavating the Khasfa mass grave in cooperation with the Martyrs Foundation and the Mass Graves Department. Khasfa is one of the mass graves used by ISIL to bury the bodies of its victims during its control of Mosul between June 2014 and July 2017. Read more about the excavation process of the Khasfa mass grave here: tinyurl.com/57cdhptc



■ In August, Yazda released a report titled “Implementing the Yazidi Survivors Law: A Review by and for Yazidi Survivors.” Based on survivors’ own evaluations, the report highlights both progress and persistent challenges. While many survivors have received financial compensation and official recognition of ISIL’s crimes, the application process remains long, expensive, and difficult to navigate. 60% of survivors surveyed reported trouble with travel, and 45% struggled with the extensive documentation required. Survivors also emphasized priorities beyond compensation, including the exhumation of mass graves, searching for missing persons, and the reconstruction of Sinjar. Read more about this report here: tinyurl.com/ypy42f8d



Baghdad: Speaker of Parliament Dr. Mahmoud al-Mashhadani meets with Sarab Elias, Director General for Survivors' Affairs, and a delegation of survivors to reaffirm support for the rights, compensation, and safe return of ISIL survivors. Photo: GDSA

■ In August, the Director General and a delegation of survivors met with the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Mashhadani, in Baghdad to discuss enacting a law on international crimes, in addition to special laws that align with the Iraqi constitution obligations toward victims of genocide and crimes against humanity. The Director General suggested legislation of a law that protects the various components of Iraq, especially in light of the escalation of hate speech against them. Read more about this meeting here: tinyurl.com/y7jhkt79



Panel Discussion by Jiyon Foundation for Human Rights, September 2025, Baghdad. Photo: Jiyon Foundation

■ Jiyon Foundation for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, hosted a panel exchange in Baghdad titled, “Strengthening Iraq’s Legal Framework to Support Children Associated with Armed Conflict: Realising the Right to Rehabilitation for Male Survivors of ISIL Crimes.” The panel discussion highlighted the importance of the holistic rehabilitation of male survivors, including psychosocial support, education, economic empowerment, and full implementation of all reparative measures guaranteed under the YSL. Read more here: tinyurl.com/4d88w3jp



Baghdad: International workshop organised by the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation in cooperation with the General Directorate of Survivors’ Affairs, Monday, September 8, 2025. Photo: Media of the Supreme Judicial Council.

■ On September 8, the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation (NCIJC), with the support of IOM Iraq, and in cooperation with the Directorate, organized a workshop entitled “Ways to implement female survivor-centered practices as models for accountability for international crimes committed by the terrorist entity ISIS against the Yazidi community and other minorities in Iraq.” The workshop emphasized the importance of including the voices of victims in the justice and accountability process. Read more about the event here: www.sjc.iq/view.77410/



Commemoration of the Yazidi Genocide, August 2025, at the Yazidi Genocide Memorial, Solagh, Sinjar. Photo: Ezidi24

■ To mark the eleventh anniversary of the Yazidi genocide, on August 3rd, Yazidi civil society organized a commemoration at the Yazidi Genocide Memorial in Solagh, Sinjar, to honor the victims and reaffirm their commitment to justice. At the event, they issued demands to the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government. These include opening an international court to prosecute ISIL terrorists, excluding ISIL members from the general amnesty law, searching for missing people, and rebuilding Sinjar. They also called for holding accountable those who were responsible for protecting Sinjar during the genocide, preventing future atrocities, excavating the remaining mass graves, including the Khanasor mass grave, and ensuring the safe return of displaced persons. Read the full list of demands here: ezidi24.com/?p=41981



The National Center for International Judicial Cooperation commemorates the Yazidi Genocide, August 2025, Baghdad. Photo: Media of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Accountability Efforts

■ On August 20, the NCJJC launched a conference in Baghdad to commemorate the eleventh anniversary of the Yazidi genocide. The conference was attended by the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, Judge Dr. Faiq Zidan, the head of the National Center for International Judicial Cooperation, Judge Ali Hussein Jaffat, the President of the American University in Baghdad, and the Director General, Ms. Sarab Elias. The NCJJC urged representatives from states and international and regional organizations to reaffirm their commitment to justice for Yazidi genocide victims, calling for stronger international judicial cooperation. The center launched the Iraqi Memory Service project that will document ISIL crimes. Read more about the event here: <https://www.sjc.iq/ncijcen.77268/>

■ In May, France's Highest Court ordered the reconsideration of genocide charges against French ISIL member Sonia Mejri, in relation to crimes committed against a Yazidi victim. The case will now be referred back to a newly constituted Chambre de l'instruction for re-examination of the accused as having possibly participated in genocide. Read more details of the case here: tinyurl.com/4nnkp726



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 get in touch with us.



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Challenges

In each issue of our newsletter, we highlight key challenges faced by survivors in accessing their rights under the YSL. In this issue, we focus on survivors' access to education drawing on findings from two recent reports; the Global Survivors Fund, Yazda, and Farida Global Organization report, *"Access to education as a form of reparation for survivors of ISIS captivity in Iraq"* as well as findings from Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights report *"Outlining Practical Options for Improving the Legal Framework in Iraq, Addressing the Needs of CAAFAG, Their Families, and Their Communities."*

Both reports reveal that survivors continue to face significant challenges in accessing their right to education as a form of reparation. Many missed a number of schooling years during their captivity. After their return, the re-enrolment was not possible because of the age limits under the Iraqi law. Even when allowed to re-enrol, survivors hesitated to attend classes with much younger classmates. In addition, the loss of academic records and legal documents, as proof of previous education, has caused delays in the re-enrolment process. Furthermore, survivors face issues in accessing education due to poor communication from relevant institutions, leaving many of them unaware of their educational rights and opportunities guaranteed under the YSL.

Psychological issues like PTSD, flashbacks, and self-soothing can be triggers and are barriers for survivors to active participation and focus in these spaces of learning.

Furthermore, survivors who return to school feel isolated and stigmatized for being reduced only to their survivor identity by teachers and peers. The social pressure and stigma in some communities also hinder the ability of survivors to attend school.

Both the GSF and Jiyan Foundation reports found that survivors' educational needs are underserved and recommend self-directed learning as a primary modality. Prioritizing independent exam taking, accompanied by a comprehensive informal support, is a preferred pathway for survivors to resume their education. The Jiyan Foundation report suggested the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government should support educational initiatives developed by civil society organizations and other stakeholders. These initiatives should incorporate specialized curricula designed to address the unique needs of survivors and reflect both their past experiences and current circumstances.

Echoing these reports, C4JR recommends that education support should be embedded within a broader, holistic rehabilitation model established to give effect to the YSL. This can be done by adding educational support to established rehabilitation centres, so that survivors can have accessible quality services support, including support in pursuing education by preparing for the exams, MHPSS, medical, legal, social, vocational support, community and family interventions to reduce the stigma and overcome collective trauma.



Coming up in the newsletter

C4JR recently hosted its training on administering our new survey on survivors' satisfaction with reparation payments provided under the YSL. This survey aims to assess the impact of these payments on 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:

- Adult and minor female survivors of 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ARucl4gYU&ab_channel=IOMIRAQ
- 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfoDfQWwErE&ab_channel=IOMIRAQ

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://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076062182514>

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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