

Welcome to the thirteenth 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 survivors covered by the YSL in October. More details can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/2cyjrpk>.

Implementation

Important updates:

Directorate Launches Tutoring and Literacy Programs for YSL Beneficiaries

The Directorate, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Terre des Hommes (TdH), has launched new tutoring and literacy programs to support survivors. These classes cover all educational stages and offer remedial lessons and literacy classes. The programs are currently available in Sinjar, Duhok, and Mosul. All survivors approved under the YSL are eligible to participate. To register, survivors can contact the Directorate at +964 751 100 2977 or contact the Directorate via the Facebook page. Read more about this initiative here: <https://tinyurl.com/tfzymkys>.



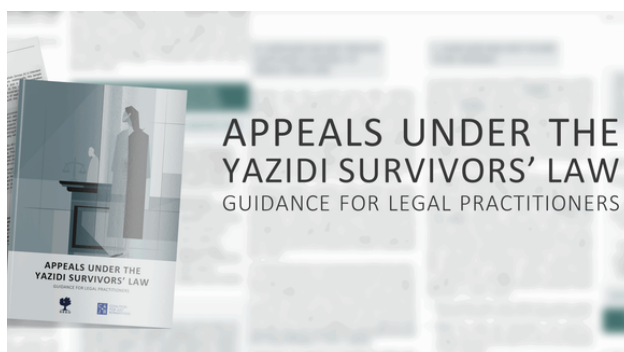
Terre des Hommes, in collaboration with the Directorate and with the support of IOM, initiated remedial classes and literacy programs for survivors. Photo Credit: The General Directorate of Survivors' Affairs.



Related News

■ The latest episode of C4JR's More Than Ink on Paper podcast features a conversation with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) on improving the documentation of torture and conflict-related sexual violence. The episode highlights how PHR is advancing informed consent and trauma-sensitive interviewing practices to prevent the harmful procedures survivors too often experience when applying for reparations under the YSL. PHR also reflects on its recent training at the Nineveh Court of Appeals in Mosul, attended by 22 judges and judicial investigators—including the YSL Committee Chair and the Director General. As one PHR representative noted: "This was our first training of this kind, and as an organization, we truly hope these sessions will continue. However, our current priority is to finalize the survivor-centered guideline, which we are now drafting." The episode underscores meaningful progress while outlining the challenges that remain, emphasizing the need for coordinated, dignified, and scientifically grounded pathways to justice for survivors. Listen to the full episode here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5B5WCSNGn0>.

■ SEED, in partnership with the C4JR, has released a new practical guide to support lawyers working on YSL cases. *Appeals Under the Yazidi Survivors' Law: Guidance for Legal Practitioners* explains how to file appeals, outlines common reasons for denial, and clarifies key eligibility and evidence requirements. The publication aims to strengthen legal practitioners' capacity to advocate on behalf of survivors whose applications have been rejected, helping ensure that all eligible survivors can access the reparations guaranteed under the law. The guidance is available in English, Sorani, and Arabic here: <https://www.seedkurdistan.org/reintegration-of-survivors-of-isis/yslguidance/>.



Accountability Efforts

■ On November 13, the Assize Court in Brussels convicted ISIL member Sammy Djedou of genocide and crimes against humanity for his role in atrocities committed against the Yazidi community. The case was tried in absentia, as Djedou is believed to have been killed in a 2016 airstrike in Raqqa. This landmark verdict represents an important step toward justice for Yazidi survivors and other communities impacted by ISIL's crimes, reinforcing international acknowledgment of the atrocities committed and the urgent need for continued accountability efforts. Read more about this historic trial here: <https://www.yazda.org/historic-verdict-in-brussels-first-european-man-convicted-of-yazidi-genocide>.

■ C4JR published a statement expressing concern about the potential inclusion of perpetrators of mass atrocity crimes under the General Amnesty Law. C4JR calls on the Iraqi Government and Judiciary to urgently review the listed cases to ensure compliance with national legislation, prevent any individual responsible for mass atrocity crimes from benefiting from amnesty, and uphold accountability for ISIL's international crimes through fair, transparent, and survivor-centered trials. Read the full statement here: <https://c4jr.org/0411202530544>.

■ On November 4, the trial against the French industrial group Lafarge began. The company—one of the largest cement producers in the world—is facing charges of financing terrorism and violating international sanctions. Prosecutors allege that Lafarge paid armed groups, including ISIL, to keep its cement plant in Syria operating between 2013 and September 2014. This landmark case highlights how multinational corporations may contribute to atrocities in conflict zones and affirms that companies can be held accountable for financing terrorism. Read more about the trial here: <https://www.yazda.org/lafarge-on-trial-in-france-a-landmark-case-for-corporate-accountability-in-the-financing-of-terrorism>.



LAFARGE ON TRIAL IN FRANCE: A LANDMARK CASE FOR CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

Challenges

In each issue of our newsletter, we highlight key challenges faced by survivors and stakeholders in the implementation of the YSL. In October, C4JR representatives conducted a focus group discussion with Turkmen survivors in Tel Afar to document their experiences accessing rights and benefits under the law. Participants identified several ongoing barriers to accessing their right to reparations under the YSL.

Turkmen survivors noted that they had not received sufficient information about the YSL from either the Directorate or civil society organizations working to support survivors' access to the YSL. This lack of communication has limited their understanding of their rights and the procedures required to access them. This includes information concerning survivor eligibility. Some survivors who were unaware they were ineligible for the law due to age restrictions or the date of their abduction, proceeded with the application process—only to have their applications rejected. Survivors stressed that Turkmen survivors' eligibility under the law should be based solely on the experience of abduction. They emphasized the importance of expanding the law to include all survivors of ISIL captivity to ensure that no eligible individual is denied their rights and benefits. To learn more about survivors' barriers to access YSL, read C4JR's Annual Report here: <https://tinyurl.com/5at49tsb>.

Survivors further noted that several key provisions of the YSL have not yet been implemented. There is currently no Directorate branch in Tel Afar, forcing survivors to travel to Mosul each time they need to engage with the Directorate, creating an added financial and logistical burden. Turkmen survivors also noted the absence of services from civil society organizations in Tel Afar, such as tutoring and capacity-building initiatives. Survivors emphasized the importance of active cooperation between local organizations and the Directorate to expand Turkmen survivors' access to educational and professional opportunities.

Several survivors also raised concerns about the issue of dual-salary limitations as YSL recipients. Survivors wish to

apply for government positions without being required to relinquish their YSL compensation. This restriction, they said, limits their ability to pursue long-term plans and economic stability. Read more about this challenge in C4JR YSL Newsletter Issue 9: <https://tinyurl.com/2s36rtj3>.

Survivors who received land plots expressed their dissatisfaction with the location of the land, noting that the areas are uninhabited and lack essential services. Survivors were not consulted about their preferred locations for land plots under the YSL, constituting a lack of a survivor-centered approach in its implementation.

Turkmen survivors reported they are feeling underrepresented in both local and international forums. They noted that only one Turkmen survivor is invited each year to the genocide commemoration event organized by the Directorate, without the opportunity to speak or participate actively. Survivors underscored the need for meaningful representation and active participation in all national and international events.

Reflecting these concerns, C4JR recommends that the Directorate strengthen outreach and awareness efforts to ensure all eligible survivors receive clear and comprehensive information about the YSL, including eligibility, application, and appeal procedures. Moreover, survivors should be consulted before diverse reparative measures are introduced, rather than merely informed of them after the fact. Establishing a Directorate branch in Tel Afar would significantly improve survivors' access to their right to reparation, while enhanced coordination between the Directorate and civil society in Tel Afar is essential to meet survivors' educational and professional needs. C4JR also reiterates the need to include all survivors of ISIL captivity and mass killing. Furthermore, meaningful representation of Turkmen survivors in national and international forums must be prioritized, enabling their active participation and ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making and advocacy processes.



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.

 legallaid@c4jr.org

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Success Story

Raising Legal and Social Awareness about the YSL – Peace and Freedom Organization

The Peace and Freedom Organization (PFO) has been working for many years to raise awareness about the YSL, enabling many survivors to obtain sufficient information to apply for the law and fully understand their rights. The results of this work can be summarized through the stories of two survivors: one Shabak survivor and one Yazidi survivor.

The first survivor initially did not know the law, its benefits, or how to apply to it. She learned about it through an awareness campaign carried out by PFO volunteers in her village. After contacting the organization, she was referred to a partner group providing legal assistance to survivors. With their support, she submitted her application, which is now under review.

The second survivor faced difficulties completing her application due to missing documents. After learning about the law through a PFO awareness campaign, she reached out for support. Her case was referred to a partner organization offering legal assistance, and a lawyer was assigned to help her gather the necessary documentation and complete the application process. With this support, she successfully applied under the law and was able to access her rightful entitlements.

The Peace and Freedom Organization continues to support survivors in accessing the YSL in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

Survivors can contact the Peace and Freedom Organization by calling their hotline at [+964 770 338 8968](tel:+9647703388968) or [+964770 160 9286](tel:+9647701609286), or by visiting their offices in Erbil and Nineweh, or by emailing muhannad.shaker@pfo-ku.org.



Coming up in the newsletter

C4JR recently began conducting a 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:

- Women and girls who survived ISIS captivity from the Yazidi, Shabak, Christian, or Turkmen communities;
- Yazidi children survivors who were under the age of eighteen at the time of their kidnapping;
- All persons from the Yazidi, Shabak, Christian, or Turkmen communities who 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=6ARulcl4gYU&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>

*Please note that while these details reflect the YSL text, some provisions have been interpreted more narrowly in practice. We strongly recommend seeking professional legal support when applying for or appealing YSL decisions.

About us

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) is an alliance of 32 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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