

Welcome to the fifteenth 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 survivors of ISIL covered by the YSL in May. As noted in our last newsletter, out of the 2,496 survivors approved for reparations under the YSL, only 809 currently reside in Iraq. More details and updates on the YSL can be found on the Directorate's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076062182514>.

Implementation of the YSL

Important updates:

■ Discussion Held on Rehabilitation Services for Survivors and Their Families

The Directorate recently met with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to discuss ways to enhance healthcare support for survivors of ISIL crimes. According to the Directorate, discussions focused on expanding mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), rehabilitation services, and training opportunities to support survivors' recovery and reintegration into their communities. While these discussions are a positive development, significant challenges remain. The stalled implementation of rehabilitative measures under the YSL continues to impact survivors' lives, complicated by major gaps within Iraq's public healthcare system. In 2024, plans were announced to establish dedicated rehabilitation centers in Mosul and Sinjar. However, no further information has been provided regarding their opening, timelines, or the services they will offer. The lack of progress on rehabilitation continues to limit access to the specialized and long-term support many survivors need. Read more on the meeting here: <https://tinyurl.com/4bxntyxn>.



Teams conduct exhumation work at a mass grave site in Mosul as part of efforts to identify victims of ISIL crimes. April 2026.
Photo © Mass Graves Directorate (MGD)

■ Exhumations of Mass Graves in Mosul

In April, teams from the Mass Graves Directorate (MGD), the Medico Legal Directorate (MLD), and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) conducted excavation work at three mass grave sites in the Al-Haramat and Al-Mushairfa neighborhoods of Mosul. The operation resulted in the recovery of 15 sets of human remains, including at least three believed to belong to Yazidi women. The recovered remains have been transferred to the Medico Legal Directorate in Baghdad for forensic analysis and identification. Once the identification process is completed, the remains will be returned to their families, contributing to ongoing efforts to uncover the fate of missing persons and provide answers to affected communities. See more here: <https://tinyurl.com/ymzrm5u7>.

Related News

■ The Directorate recently announced that a joint committee involving the Ministry of Interior and the Directorate has helped issue official civil documents to more than 5,000 recipients, including survivors and their family members. Access to civil documentation is essential for exercising a wide range of rights, including access to healthcare, education, employment, social protection benefits, and other public services. The initiative forms part of broader efforts to address documentation challenges faced by survivors and support their reintegration into society. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6kheae>.



Participants at the conference "From Laws to Justice: Commemorating the 12th Anniversary of the Camp Speicher Massacre," held in Baghdad on 10 June and organized by Jiyān Foundation, the Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR), and The Victims of Iraq in Speicher-1700 NGO.
Photo © Jiyān Foundation for Human Rights

■ On 10 June, C4JR, the Jiyān Foundation, and the Iraqi victims' organization Speicher 1700 convened an event in Baghdad to launch their latest report, which promotes solidarity among Iraqi communities harmed by ISIS by examining the intersections between two key reparations frameworks: the Yazidi Survivors Law and the Camp Speicher Law. The report highlights how lessons learned from the implementation of these closely related laws can strengthen institutional capacity and improve the delivery of trauma-informed, survivor-centered reparations. The event brought together Yazidi survivors, relatives of victims of the Camp Speicher massacre, civil society representatives, and government stakeholders. A panel featuring representatives of the two principal implementing bodies—the General Directorate for Survivors Affairs and the Martyrs Foundation—discussed the report's findings and explored ways to make the application, review, and delivery of reparations more efficient, accessible, trauma-informed, and responsive to survivors' needs. Full report is available to read here: <https://c4jr.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/YSL-SPIECHER-REPORT-English.pdf>.

■ The Commission for Investigation and Gathering Evidence (CIGE) recently held a coordination meeting on the issue of Yazidis who remain missing in Syria. The meeting brought together representatives from the UN Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic (IIMP) and Global Rights Compliance (GRC) to discuss opportunities for institutional cooperation. Discussions focused on improving efforts to locate missing Yazidis and facilitate their safe return where possible. Participants also emphasized the importance of survivor-centered approaches that prioritize the rights, needs, and well-being of survivors and their families throughout the process. Read more on the meeting here: <https://www.facebook.com/CIGE.KRD/posts/pfbid0tfjcT6KGZRAfK371UoySJ3x8HkVag2LDwD2NAq7nERGqpMjr2TpU9CtWoeT8w2Q5I>.

■ Yazda recently published a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Needs Assessment based on consultations with 1,560 Yazidi households with a view of furthering effective implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law and broader mental health initiatives in Iraq. The findings reveal significant unmet mental health needs among survivors and affected communities. More than one-third of respondents reported experiencing emotional distress, while nearly half stated that this distress affected their ability to carry out everyday activities. The assessment also found that many people are unaware of available mental health and psychosocial support services. The findings highlight the need for a holistic response that expands access to mental health care while also addressing livelihoods, housing, and other basic needs that are essential for long-term recovery and well-being. Read the full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycp3tk2d>.

■ UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Edwards, wrote an opinion piece reflecting on the creation of the first global Charter on Rights for Victims and Survivors of Torture and other cruelty. The charter was presented to the 61st session of the Human Rights Council in March. In this piece she reflects on the conversations that brought about the Survivors' Charter, mentioning in particular her engagements with Yazidi survivors. Read the piece here: <https://passblue.com/2026/05/05/survivors-of-torture-rewrite-the-rules-banning-it/>. The Survivors' Charter is available to read here: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc6142-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading-treatment-or>.

Accountability Efforts

■ In May, Australian authorities charged three Australian women with serious alleged offences linked to ISIL. The women are among thirteen Australians—four women and nine children—who returned to Australia following more than seven years in detention in Al-Hol camp in Syria. Two of the three women face charges of crimes against humanity for the alleged enslavement of Yazidi women in Syria. The third has been charged with allegedly entering a declared conflict zone and joining ISIL. Read more about the charges here: <https://tinyurl.com/34eecea5>.

■ In a landmark ruling issued in April, the Paris Criminal Court found former executives and security managers of Lafarge SA and its Syrian subsidiary guilty of financing terrorism and violating international sanctions in Syria. The case marks the first time a French company has been held criminally liable for such offenses. The court imposed prison sentences ranging from 18 months to 7 years, along with fines of up to €225,000. The court explicitly recognized the Yazidi genocide, referring to the forced displacement, the enslavement of women and children, and mass executions carried out by ISIL. C4JR members FYF and Yazda participated in the proceedings as civil parties to the case on behalf of the Yazidi community. The decision represents a significant step forward in efforts to hold both individuals and corporations accountable for their role in enabling atrocities. The decision represents a significant step forward in efforts to hold both individuals and corporations accountable for their role in enabling atrocities. FYF has published one of the memos submitted to French judges here: <https://tinyurl.com/pmydzjyf>. Read more on the case in Yazda's press release here: <https://tinyurl.com/5njhxfk>.

■ The in absentia trial of Sabri Essid, a French member of ISIL concluded on March 20. The Paris Criminal Court found him guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity, and complicity in these crimes, committed against Yazidi women and their children and sentenced him to life imprisonment. This is the first time a French national has been convicted of genocide. Read more about the case here: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/france/french-isis-member-sabri-essid-convicted-of-genocide-and-crimes>.

■ In a further step toward accountability for crimes committed against the Yazidi community, a French judge ordered the trial of Lolita C., a French national accused of complicity in genocide against the Yazidis. According to the allegations, she enslaved an eight-year-old Yazidi girl for more than a month in 2017 while living under ISIL control in Syria. Lolita C. will be the second French woman to face an Assize Court over alleged involvement in the genocide of Yazidis. Read more about the case here: <https://tinyurl.com/3unpdttt>.

■ The Higher Regional Court of Munich opened trial proceedings in May 2025 against Asia R.A. and Twana S., who are accused of ISIL membership and enslavement, torture, and sexual abuse of two Yazidi girls, aged five and twelve, between 2015 and 2017 in Iraq and Syria. The defendants face charges including crimes against humanity, war crimes, human trafficking, and genocide. The case is the tenth trial in Germany addressing ISIL atrocities against the Yazidi community, with a verdict expected on 13 July 2026. Read more about the case here: <https://tinyurl.com/2pzvkpf9>.

■ According to a report published by the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) on the transfer of ISIL members between January and February 2026, 5,704 ISIL detainees were transferred from Syria to Iraq, by aircraft and ground convoys to Baghdad International Airport for transfer to Iraqi authorities. The Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service managed the transfer to Iraqi detention facilities in the Nasiriyah and Karkh prisons, transferring full responsibility to the Iraqi government. The transferred detainees are from almost 70 different nations, including a number of European countries. The majority of the detainees—more than 3,500—were Syrian, according to Iraq's National Center for International Judicial Cooperation, which could be repatriated to Syria in the future. According to the report, the Iraqi government plans to investigate and prosecute detainees in accordance with its domestic legal obligations. Read the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/2e9fep7f>.

Challenges

In each issue of our newsletter, we spotlight key challenges faced by survivors and stakeholders in the implementation of the YSL. As part of the development of our survey on the experiences of diaspora survivors (see below for further details), C4JR conducted focus group discussions with survivors living in Germany, Canada, and Australia.

A first key challenge relates to the uneven availability of consular and embassy services. Depending on their location, survivors face barriers in accessing basic administrative procedures such as obtaining life certificates or renewing passports and civil documentation. In the absence of accessible services to facilitate the issuance of the new Unified National Card (al-Bitaqah al-Wataniyah al-Muwahhadah), many are left unable to complete required verification to ensure the continued payment of compensation, through the submission of life certificates. In some cases, this impasse can only be resolved if a survivor has granted power of attorney to someone in Iraq who is able to complete the necessary procedures within Iraq on their behalf.

A second challenge concerns the financial and administrative burden of applying for reparations under

the YSL. Many survivors reported spending considerable amounts of money and time on the application process, with most travelling back to Iraq in order to submit their applications in person. In the absence of awareness of NGO-based YSL application support services, several survivors instead relied on private legal assistance, resulting in significant costs in terms of both time and resources. While C4JR did not speak directly with survivors who submitted applicants remotely, this option is expected to substantially reduce costs and ease the burden on survivors abroad.

Finally, beyond compensation, survivors in the diaspora highlighted limited awareness of other reparative measures available under the YSL. Many felt that they are also not fully informed on the role of the Directorate in relation to the implementation of the YSL, suggesting ongoing gaps in outreach and information dissemination that the Directorate can work to mitigate.

Stay tuned for further findings from our survey in the next issue of the YSL Newsletter!



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.

 legalaid@c4jr.org  +9647508516311



Coming up in the newsletter

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen evidence-based monitoring of the YSL, C4JR has launched a new survey with survivors living in the diaspora. Since November 2024, the Directorate has been supporting the processing of YSL applications from survivors abroad. However, there is still limited knowledge about diaspora applicants' experiences, including procedural barriers to receiving compensation and their overall satisfaction with the reparative measures provided. This survey seeks to address these gaps and to better understand how transitional justice mechanisms can more effectively respond to the needs of a transnational survivors community. Stay tuned for the findings in the next edition of the YSL Newsletter.

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=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>

*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 33 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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