



EMERGING LAND TENURE ISSUES AMONG DISPLACED YAZIDIS FROM SINJAR, IRAQ

How chances of return may be further undermined by
a discrimination policy dating back 40 years

November 2015

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this report was investigated and developed by a purposely-setup team of researchers which included the following: Mr. Mohamed Maseer Al Rubai'y (Coordinator Researcher), Ms Mayada Daoood, Mr Khalaf Haji Hamad and Mr F. R., Mr K. J. and Mr M. Sh. in the IDP camps (full names omitted for security reasons).

Editorial and research support was provided by Ms Anna Soave and Ms Bozhan Hawizy.

The UN-Habitat team would like to warmly thank the following public officials: Mr. Myaser Haji Saleh, Mayor of Sinjar; Mr. Nayef Seydou, sub-district chairman Shimal district; Mr Khadir Rasho, Head of Qahtaniya (Tel Uzair) sub-district; Mr Abdul Hamid Younis, Director Qairowan sub-district; the respondents Mr.T. K. T, Mr Hassan Shaaban, and the Iraqi Investigation Network (TIJ). We are also grateful for the inputs of Ms Adalat Omar and Ms Samira Nader Qader, KRG Council of Ministers.

Graphic design by Anna Soave

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ACRONYMS

CRRPD	Commission on the Resolution of Real Property Disputes
HLP	Housing Land and Property
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IGC	Interim Governing Council
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Iraq Property Claims Commission
IPRF	Iraqi Property Reconciliation Facility
ISF	Iraqi Security Force
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (also known as ISIS and often referred to as <i>Daesh</i> , abbreviation of the group's name in Arabic)
KDP	Kurdistan Democratic Party
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MoMPW	Ministry of Municipalities & Public Works
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
YPG	Known as the People's Protection Units - the main Kurdish force in Syria

PREFACE



As the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the United Nations in Iraq, we welcome this important study of the critical issues impacting the return of the Yazidi population to their communities.

The costs of the anti-ISIL struggle in Iraq are enormous. More than 3.2 million Iraqis have been forced to abandon their homes, jobs, schools, and neighborhoods, often carrying with them only their children and the clothes they were wearing when they fled. Entire towns and districts have been destroyed.

As the leader in the international campaign against ISIL, the Government of Iraq is fighting to liberate captured areas while simultaneously meeting the needs of displaced persons.

The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are supporting the Government in this struggle with humanitarian, stabilization, and development assistance. In Dahuk and northern Ninewa Governorates, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons are living in seventeen camps, of which approximately 90% are Yazidis. Through the coordinated efforts of the Humanitarian Country Team, including UN Habitat, food, temporary housing, health, specialized protection support, education, water, sanitation, and winter supplies are being provided to these displaced persons, and planning is underway to help the Government respond to their longer-term needs before and after they come back to their damaged towns and villages.

The international community salutes the steadfastness of the Yazidi people. We wish to thank UN Habitat for their leadership on this issue and we congratulate everyone in the humanitarian and development community for tireless efforts throughout this crisis.

A blue ink signature of Lise Grande.

Lise Grande

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative

PREFACE



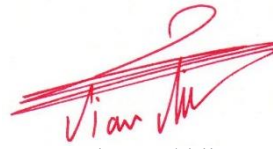
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I receive this report with strong gratitude. I hereby thank you and your team for your remarkable work. On behalf of the Yazidi community I look forward to all efforts that address the effects caused by ISIL's occupation of Sinjar and all lands of Iraqi minorities.

The importance of this report lies in that it makes recommendations to resolve the situation after the liberation of the occupied territory and the return of the displaced to their homes. It remains critical that organisations working on humanitarian issues coordinate with the Federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government in order to deliver the legal and governmental mechanisms proposed in this report. We believe the response should begin immediately, regardless of the liberation of all occupied territory.

It is clear to all that the hardship of the Yazidi people, as covered in this research, is worthy of consideration by all concerned. We are certain your organisation will spare no effort in addressing this.

Finally, I reiterate my sincere thanks for your attention and make it known that our people are always looking towards the international community as a remedy for their suffering.



Dr Vian Dakhil

Member of Iraqi Parliament

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