

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1117

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that United States assistance to Iraqi Christians, Yazidis, and other minority communities victimized by ISIS genocide must be combined with a clear plan for local security to facilitate the repatriation of these groups to their ancestral homelands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Mr. FORTENBERRY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that United States assistance to Iraqi Christians, Yazidis, and other minority communities victimized by ISIS genocide must be combined with a clear plan for local security to facilitate the repatriation of these groups to their ancestral homelands.

Whereas the Nineveh Plain and the wider region have been the ancestral homeland of Assyrian Chaldean Syriac Christians, Yazidis, Shabak, and others, where they lived for centuries until the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) overran and occupied much of the region in 2014;

Whereas Christians in Iraq once numbered over 1.5 million in 2003 and have dwindled to less than 200,000 today;

Whereas the United States President, Vice President, Congress, and Secretary of State have recognized that ISIS has committed genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other crimes against Christians, Yazidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities;

Whereas these atrocities were undertaken with the specific intent to bring about the eradication and displacement of Christians, Yazidis, and other communities and the destruction of their cultural heritage in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Whereas it is consistent with the commitments of the Republic of Iraq, the Kurdish Regional Government, the United States, and the international community to guarantee the restoration of fundamental human rights, including property rights, to genocide victims, and to see that ethnic and religious pluralism survives in Iraq;

Whereas the Vice President announced the “Genocide Recovery and Persecution Response Program” in which “the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development will closely partner with local faith and community leaders to rapidly deliver aid to persecuted communities, beginning with Iraq. Crucially, this support will flow directly to individuals and households most in need of help”;

Whereas facilitating the success of these communities and ensuring that they can flourish require an appropriate local security plan: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives ex-
- 2 presses that—

1 (1) it should be a policy priority of the United
2 States to support the secure return of displaced in-
3 digenous people of the Nineveh Plain and Sinjar to
4 their ancestral homeland, working with international
5 partners, the Government of Iraq, and the
6 Kurdistan Regional Government;

7 (2) the United States Department of Defense,
8 the National Security Council, the Department of
9 State, and other relevant Government entities should
10 swiftly develop a coordinated and implementable
11 plan for a stabilization and security mission, in co-
12 operation with the Government of Iraq and the
13 Kurdish Regional Government, to train indigenous
14 police units and regularized military structures that
15 include Christian and Yazidi local security forces
16 with an emphasis on the Nineveh Plain and Sinjar;

17 (3) the United States should develop this plan
18 in coordination with international partners; and

19 (4) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's
20 designee, should actively participate in the develop-
21 ment of this strategy.

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