

**KOCHO Village**



**FARIS KETI**

# **KOCHO Village**

13 DAYS FROM THE HELL OF ISLAMIC STATE

Second Edition

**2019**

3

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**To .....**

The souls of 74<sup>th</sup> Yazidi (Iyzidi) Genocide victims



"Many come; they do not know who we are.

They are trying to obliterate our faith  
And Make parents for us from their  
faith."

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**Pir Rashi Hairan (1062-1172 A.D)**

**Yezidi (Iyzidi) Literature**

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## **About the Book**

This book is a mirror of what happened in the first 13 days of the SIS attack on Shingal who seized terrible control of the village of Kocho,

from (3-August-2014) until the occurrence of Kocho massacres in (15-August-2014).

It covers in detail what went on during that black days based on stories from survivors and eyewitnesses from the village itself. It also contains some statistics, international documents, media reports, ISIS transcripts, and some of victim's pictures.

Many of the Genocides happened to the Yezidi (lyzidi) religious minority throughout history. What happened on 3rd of August, 2014 against the Yezidi (lyzidi) people in Shingal was Genocide number 74.

This is the second edition of this book, the first edition published by Noor publisher in Dusseldorf, Germany on September, 2017.

## **Preface**

It was the night of 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 2014. The children were asleep after a day of celebrating and enjoying the feast's sweets. Mothers and fathers were looking forward to their young sons guarding the village. The feast this time was not such as the ones before. It is the first feast after ISIS control of Mosul on 10 of June, 2014. The situation was too critical

and all were apprehensive and fearful as no one could expect what may happen at any moment.

Unfortunately, what the people of the village were fearful from occur. In that night ISIS started their attack on Shingal. A fighting between the Yezidi (Iyzidi)s young men guarding their villages and ISIS started at the village of 'GIR ZAREK' about 20km to the west-north of Shingal. The village of 'GIR ZAREK' was the closest Yezidi (Iyzidi) village to the ISIS supporting town of 'BAAJ'. It was about 2:00pm when the fighting started.

Rapidly, and as a result of the disproportion of forces between the two fighting sides, ISIS was able to move forward and control more regions in a very short while. Also, their sleepers' cells among the neighboring local Arab villages woke up as well.

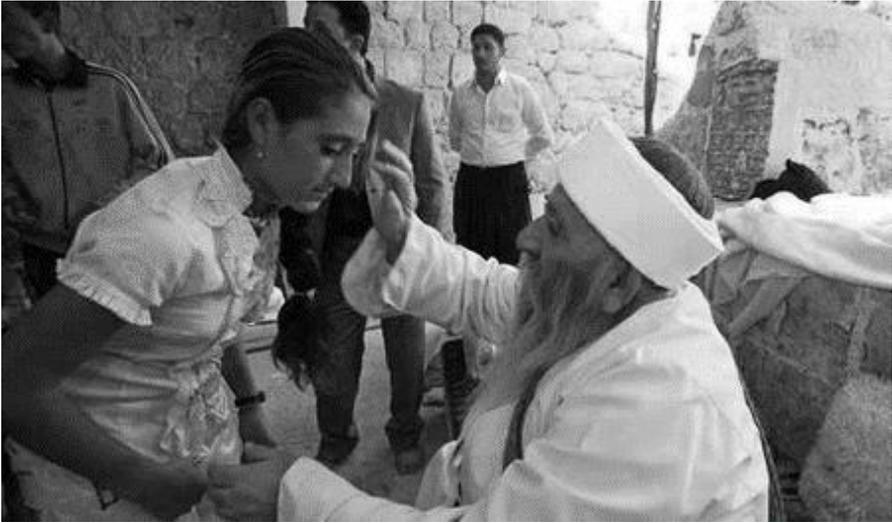
In few hours and before the morning of (3 of August), the defending Yezidi (Iyzidi) groups in areas of 'GIR ZAREK', 'SIBA SHEKH KHIDER', 'TIL QASAB' and other regions from Yezidi (Iyzidi) areas to the south of Shingal Mountain lost the fighting after running out of weapons and ammunition.

The morning of the 3rd of August, 2014 was the beginning of the first day in the hell of ISIS for all the Yezidi (Iyzidi) people and especially those helpless people of Kocho Village.

**Who are the Yezidis (Iyzidis)?**

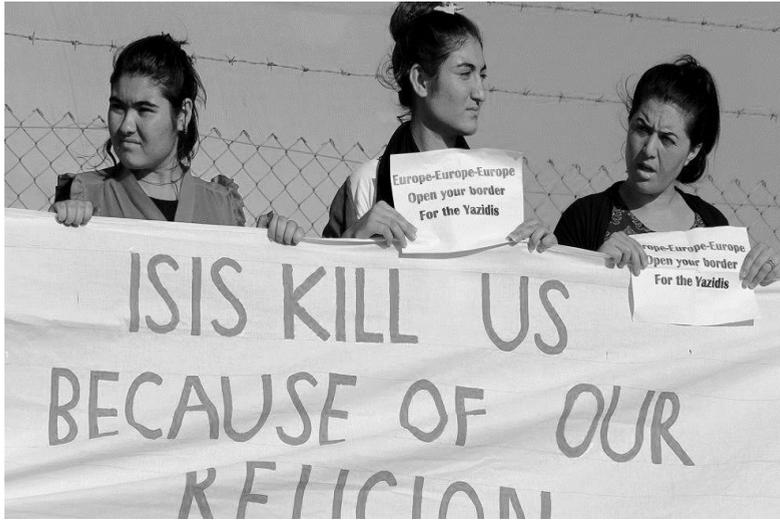


The Yezidis (Iyzidis) (also known as **Ezidî**) are a religious community whose ancient religion Yezidism is linked to ancient Mesopotamian religions. They live primarily in the Nineveh province to the north of Iraq, a region once part of ancient Assyria and capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire.



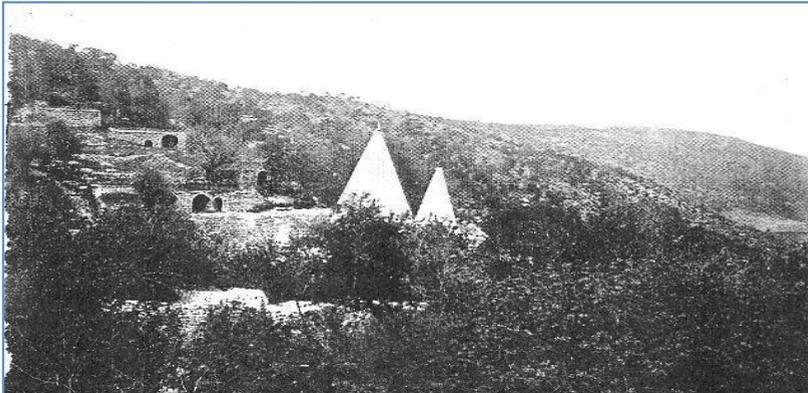
*The spiritual pope of Yazidis - Baba Sheikh*

The name 'Yezidis (lyzidis)' is taken from the modern Persian "ized", which means angel or deity. The name lyzidis simply means "worshippers of god". In the Yezidi (lyzidi) faith, it is not possible for the person to convert to Yezidism, but only to be born in to it.



*Yazidi refugee women hold a banner as they wait for the arrival of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Special Envoy Angelina Jolie at a Syrian and Iraqi refugee camp in the southern Turkish town of Midyat in Mardin province, Turkey, on June 20, 2015. Photo courtesy of REUTERS/Umit Bektas*

The Yezidis (Iyazidis) most holy temple is 'Lalish', which is located near Shekhan to the north of Mosul.



*The holy temple of 'Lalish'.<sup>(1)</sup>*

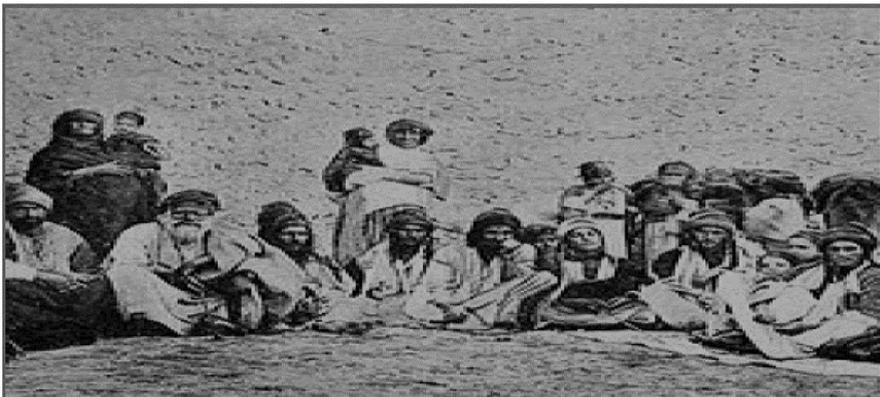
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<sup>1</sup> peacock angel, E. S. Drower © 2004.

The major population of Yazidis (Iydidis) is in Iraq, especially in Shingal (Sinjar) region. They are distributed in the areas of Shingal, Shekhan (WELAT SHEKH), Bashiqa and Bahzani, Derabun, Khanki, Baadra Shekha, and Sharia.



*A map of traditional Yazidi settlements in northern Iraq. (SBS News).*



*Yezidis (Iydidis) on the mountain of Sinjar, Iraq/ Syrian border, 1920s<sup>(2)</sup>.*

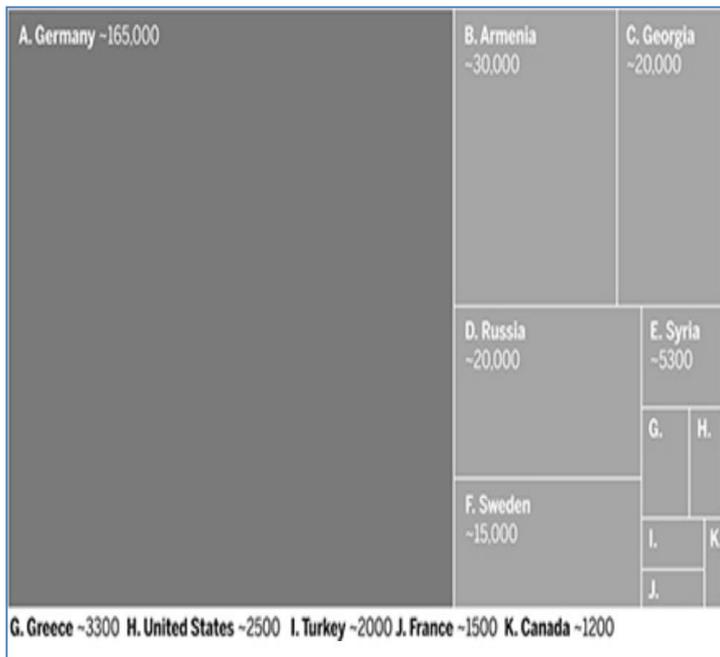
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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-magazine-monitor-28686607>

They also exist in many other countries such as Germany, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Syria, and many other countries.

The estimated population of Yezidis (Iyzidis) in Iraq before ISIS attack on Shingal was about 700000. After ISIS attack in 2014, although many Yezidis (Iyzidis) remain in their ancient Iraqi homeland, about 200000 have fled to other countries.

The Yezidis (Iyzidis) estimated distribution outside Iraq according to Science Magazine statistics are ~ 165000 in Germany, ~ 30000 Armenia, ~20000 Georgia, ~20000 Russia, ~15000 Sweden, ~5300 Syria, ~3300 Greece, ~2500 United States, ~2000 Turkey, ~1500 France, and ~1200 Canada.



*Credit: G. GRULLON / Science Magazine*



## **ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria):**

The **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)** also known as the **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)**, Islamic State (IS), and by its Arabic language acronym Daesh, is a Salafi jihadist unrecognized proto-state and militant group that follows a fundamentalist, Wahhabi doctrine of Sunni Islam.

The group once known as the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI, October 2006–April 2013), the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS, April 2013–June 2014), and the Islamic State (IS, June 2014–present). This usage conforms to the group’s own shorthand for itself—as “the Islamic State” (al-Dawla al-Islamiyya), or merely “the State” (al-Dawla)—going back to 2006<sup>(3)</sup>.

**ISIS** gained global prominence in early 2014 when it drove Iraqi government forces out of key cities in its Western Iraq offensive, followed by its capture of Mosul and the Shingal massacre.

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<sup>3</sup> Cole Bunzel, State to Caliphate: The Ideology of the Islamic State, The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Analysis Paper No. 19, March 2015

# Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant history



Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad (1999–2004)

Tanzim Qaidat al-Jihad fi Bilad  
al-Rafidayn (2004–06)

Mujahideen Shura Council (2006)

Islamic State of Iraq (2006–13)

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (2013–14)

## *Brief history of ISIS*

At the time of Shingal attack and the village of Kocho control, Abu Bakr al- Baghdadi was the leader of the Islamic state. And the Islamic prince for the AL-QAIRWAN district, or the one who was responsible - in the ISIS terminology 'al-ameer' which means prince in English- for Kocho village was Abu-Hamza al- Hamdi (Abu-Hamza al- Khatony).



**Islamic State of Iraq  
and the Levant**

**Leader:** Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi  
**Founder:** Abu Musab al-Zarqawi  
**Founded:** 1999  
**Headquarters:** Raqqa, Syria  
**Motto:** baqiya wa tatamadad (remaining and expanding)  
**Originated as:** Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad (1999)

*Leader and Founder of ISIS*

The Islamic state released its slogan, which was written on the buildings walls and every place fell under their control. They also used that slogan to raise enthusiasm among their Mujahedeen. The slogan of the Islamic state was:

**"REMAINING AND EXPANDING".**

One of the most famous quotes of the Islamic State's leader (Caliph) Abu Bakr al – Baghdadi was:

**“If you remain steadfast, Allah will support you and grant you victory and plant your feet firmly. Know that Paradise is under the shade of the swords.”**



*Abu-Bakr Baghdadi, caliph (Leader) of the Islamic State, Image from a video posted on ISIS media.*

© Associated press 2016.

## **Definition of genocide:**

Although the word 'genocide' is often used colloquially, as shorthand for the deliberate mass-murder of civilians, its definition under international law is more specific. Genocide under international law requires both a material element (specific acts such as killing members of a racial group) and a mental element (those acts must have been committed with the specific intent to destroy a particular group)<sup>(4)</sup>.

Genocide is defined in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (often referred to as the Genocide Convention). After affirming that genocide is a crime under international law whether committed in time of peace or war, the Genocide Convention defines genocide as:

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<sup>4</sup> [www.parliament.uk/commons-library](http://www.parliament.uk/commons-library) / [intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library](http://intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library) / [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk) / [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary) / Declaring Daesh massacres 'genocide' / By Arabella Lang and Ben Smith.

" Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

**(a)** Killing members of the group;



**(b)** Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;



**(c)** Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;



**(d)** Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; which is directly tied to issues of biology and reproduction inherently has gender lines in how it can be committed.

In patrilineal societies, where group membership is determined through the father's identity, this can be achieved by killing or sterilizing men, rendering them incapable of reproduction. For women, this can be achieved through rape, forced abortion or forced pregnancy.



Over **3,000** Yazidi women and girls are being held as slaves by ISIS.

Yazidi women in ISIS captivity are routinely

- SOLD AS SEX SLAVES**
- RAPED**
- BEATEN**
- IMPREGNATED**
- FORCED TO HAVE ABORTIONS**
- FORCED INTO MARRIAGES**
- FORCED TO CONVERT**



Source: <https://icrtblog.org/2016/05/05/gender-and-genocide/>

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group" <sup>(5)</sup>.



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<sup>5</sup> Source: [www.parliament.uk/commonslibrary/intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library/papers@parliament.uk/@commonslibrary/Declaring Daesh massacres 'genocide' /](http://www.parliament.uk/commonslibrary/intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library/papers@parliament.uk/@commonslibrary/Declaring%20Daesh%20massacres%20'genocide'%20/) By Arabella Lang and Ben Smith.

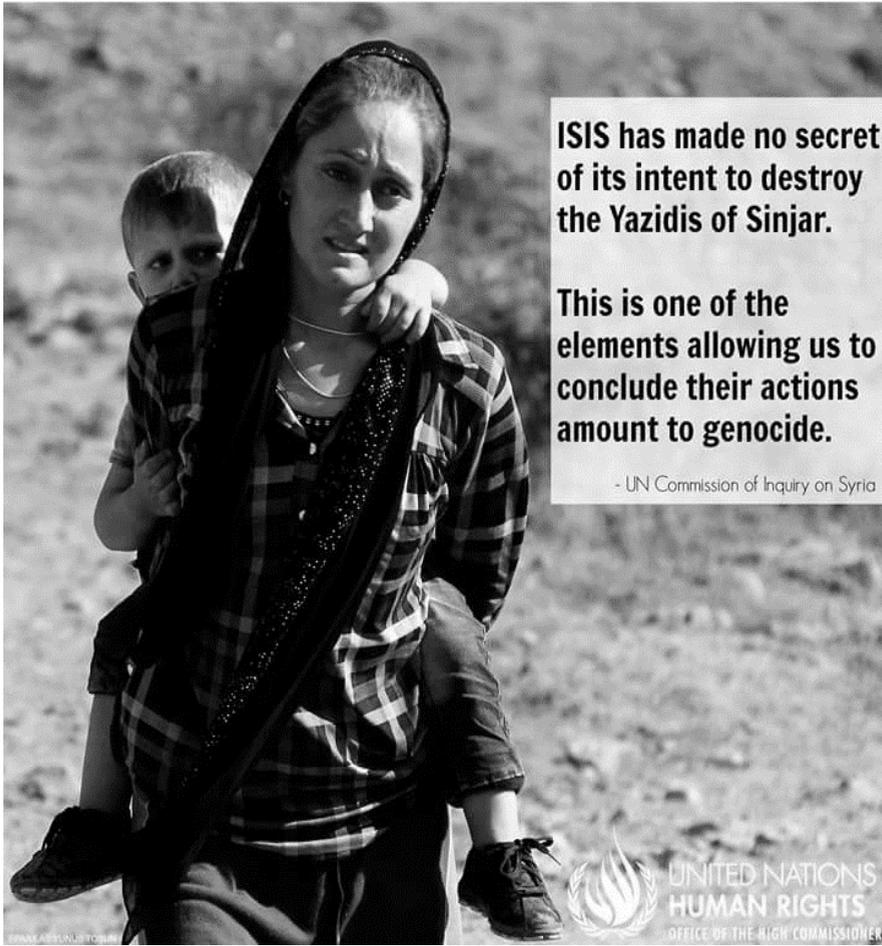
## **Crimes against humanity and war crimes:**

It is not a case of genocide or nothing: crimes against humanity and/or war crimes are extremely serious charges in their own right. Again, the ICC could be involved either through the UN Security Council or on its own initiative, or there could be a UN-mandated independent investigation into what has been taking place. Another route is via the Human Rights Council.

There is a degree of overlap between crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. The key difference between crimes against humanity and genocide is that the former do not require intent to 'destroy in whole or in part' but instead the targeting of a given group and carrying out a policy of 'widespread or systematic' violations. Crimes against humanity are also distinguishable from war crimes, in that they apply in times of both war and peace <sup>(6)</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Source: [www.parliament.uk/commonslibrary/intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library/papers@parliament.uk/@commonslibrary/Declaring Daesh massacres 'genocide'](http://www.parliament.uk/commonslibrary/intranet.parliament.uk/commons-library/papers@parliament.uk/@commonslibrary/Declaring%20Daesh%20massacres%20'genocide') / By Arabella Lang and Ben Smith.



**ISIS has made no secret of its intent to destroy the Yazidis of Sinjar.**

**This is one of the elements allowing us to conclude their actions amount to genocide.**

- UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria



*Source: UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*

## **Recent documented cases of alleged genocide by ISIS/Daesh (Yezidi (Iyzidi) Case)**

At the time of the ISIS takeover there were about 700,000 Yezidis (Iyzidis) living mainly in the 'Shingal' district, Nineveh governorate of northern Iraq. They have been subject to violence and massacres throughout their history, during the Ottoman Empire and during the US occupation of Iraq after 2003, when a bombing campaign by Sunni militants killed hundreds of Yezidis (Iyzidis).

The UN report said that the Yezidi (Iyzidi) community in Iraq, whose identity is based on their religion, was forced to convert to Islam or face death and that ISIS had the intention of wiping out the Yezidi (Iyzidi) community in areas it controlled.

When ISIS invaded the Nineveh plains in August 2014, many men were summarily executed, including even those who agreed to convert to Islam. The report recounts how at least 700 men were killed in the village of 'Kocho' in 'Shingal' governorate. When the 'Shingal' disaster happened, some 200,000 Yezidis (Iyzidis) were driven from their homes.

At least 40,000 members of the Yezidi (Iyzidi) faith were trapped on Mount 'Shingal', where they faced slaughter by Isis if they fled, and dehydration if they stayed.



*The United Nations estimated in 2015 that 5,000 Yezidi (Iyzidi) men were massacred and 7,000 women and girls were enslaved by ISIS in that period <sup>(7)</sup>.*

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<sup>7</sup> Source: The UN Special Reporter on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson QC, said in a report in June 2015 that these acts might amount to genocide.

## **Kocho village: History and Geographic Location**

Kocho village was built in 1955-1956. It is one of the Yezidi (Iyzidi) villages in Shingal. Its population was about 30 families when it was first built. Those families came to Kocho from 'KHNS' village. 'KHNS' village is located to the north of 'QAIRWAN' district and to the South-West of the center of Shingal, and far about 7km to the east of current Kocho.

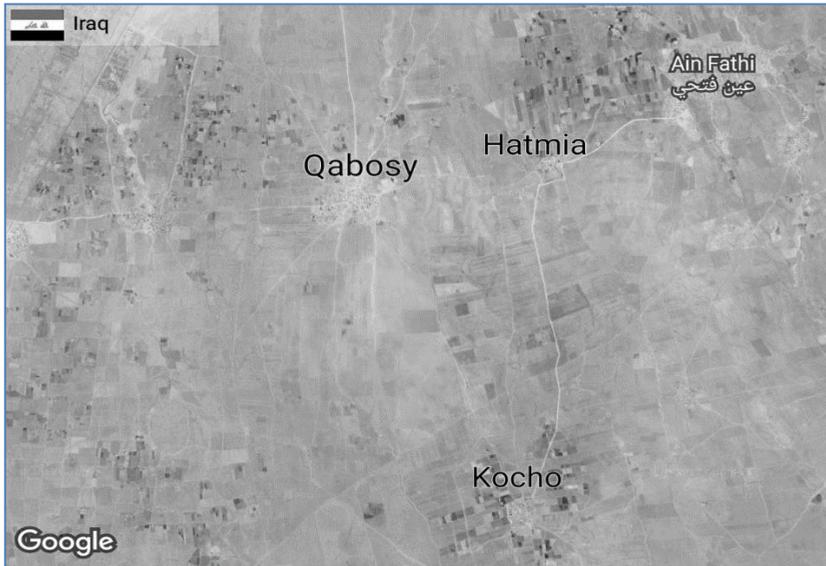


*Kocho Village*

From the incoming 30 families, more than 75% were from AL-MANDKAN tribe whom the Mayor (Mukhtar) of Kocho Jasso Qassim Mato belongs to **(He is the father of village's**

**SHEKH 'Ahmed Jasso' when Kocho fell under the control of ISIS).** About 15% of the people of Kocho were from AL-RASHKAN tribe and the remaining was from AL-QAYDI tribe.

Kocho village is affiliated to 'AL-QIRWAN' district formally, while 'AL-QIRWAN' is one of 'BAAJ' districts. Kocho is about 24 Km far away to the south-west of Shingal. It is surrounded by the villages of 'Hatmia' about 7km from north side, 'Aien Fathi' about 9km to the north-east and 'Qabosy' about 8km to the north-west.



*Kocho village on Google maps.*

The Arab residential villages are in neighborhood with Kocho from three sides. From South-West of Kocho is the village of 'ABU-KHASHAB', their citizens are from Arab Shamr tribe. To the South-East of Kocho is 'AL- QAIRWAN' district, and the village of 'AL-QAHIRA', the citizens of those villages are from the Miteuty Arab tribe. To the South of

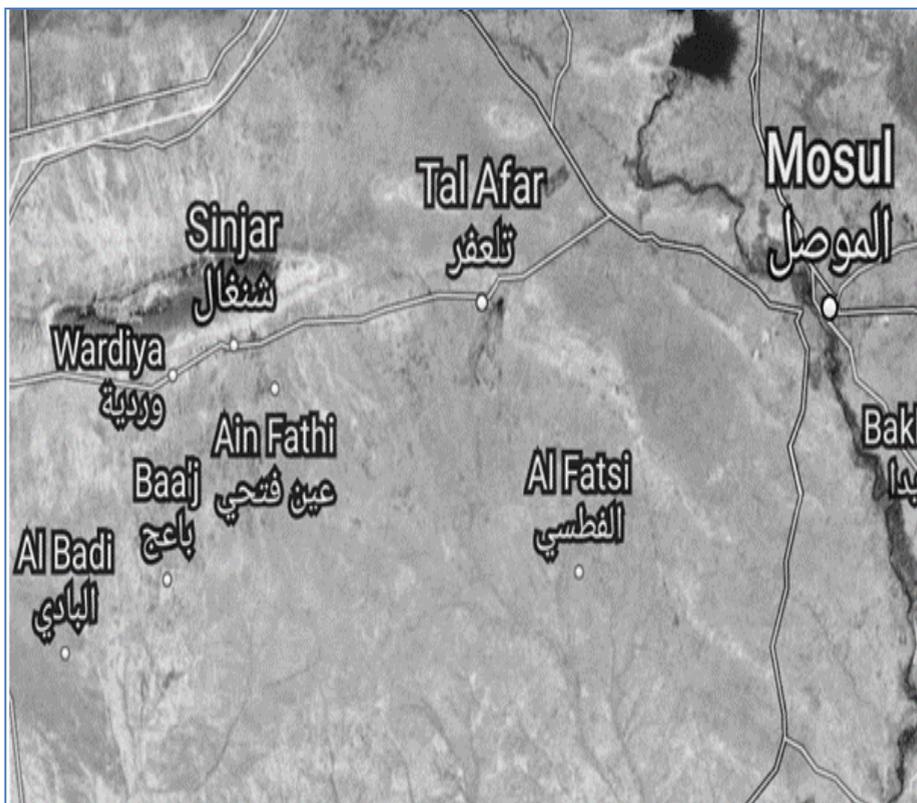
Kocho is the village of 'ALRFEEA', its citizens were almost Sunni Arab.

The main life resources of the village were farming and sheep breeding. In addition to that few families depended on incomes from salaries or serving in military stations, police, and army.



*A view of Kocho Village shows the farming land around the village.*

Because of wide areas of agricultural lands and good levels of underground water resources, there were a good number of farms (groves) around the village of Kocho. Unfortunately, according to the survivors from Kocho massacres many of the massive killing operations were done by ISIS in those farms around the village.



*A wider view of regions around Kocho is.*

In addition to the contribution of the neighboring Arab villages in Kocho crimes, according to survivors' witnesses most of the local Jihadists participated in Kocho massacres were from 'BAAJ' and 'TAL AFAR'.

In the beginning of the disaster the kidnapped girls, women, and children were almost taken to 'BAAJ', 'TAL AFAR' and 'MOSUL' then they were moved to 'RAQA-SYRIA'.



A photo posted on Facebook by 'Akhlax Khider' (Yezidi survived girl from ISIS captivity), she signed two of the ISIS Jihadists in picture with question marks where they killed her family in front of her eyes.



## **Kocho Population:**

From the 30 families in 1955, the number of families in Kocho village grew to 300 families until 3rd of August, 2014. The population in the pre mentioned date was 1738 individuals. 1200 persons were in the village at the moment of ISIS control and 538 persons were out of village for different reasons such as being at work outside the village, studying, and visiting relatives.



*Kocho Mayer (Shekh) Ahmed Jasso*



*A picture of people from Kocho village*



*A picture of girls from Kocho village*

## **Kocho: Sunday, 3rd of August to Friday, 15th of August, 2014:**

In early morning of Sunday, 3rd of August, not as usual the village leaders met in the Mayer's 'Ahmed Jasso' chamber. There were various suggestions and opinions about what to do!



*Kocho men in Mayer chamber (Archives)*

Unfortunately, most of them made the wrong decision to stay in the village after contacting some of close Arabian villages' leaders based on the belief that their neighbors of Arab villages with whom they had a long bilateral relationship and a deep-rooted neighborhood, would never betray them.

The second unanimous suggestion was to escape toward Shingal Mountain as most of the Yezidi (lyzidi) village's

residents Resorted there. Actually, few families did so but most of them unfortunately did not succeed to reach their aim and ended up in ISIS grip.

The third and final suggestion which did not get too much attention was to defend and guard the village and not to submit the weapons, gold, and money to ISIS and never trust or accept to deal or discuss with ISIS about living under their control. As a reaction to passive responses, the person who presented the suggestion went up to the roof of his house and announced the suggestion to the entire village, but no one responded positively to him

Nayef Jasso, the new Mayer of Kocho village after his brother 'Ahmed Jasso' had been massacred by ISIS on 15 of August 2014, says:



*Nayef Jasso: the new Mayer of Kocho village*

"On the 3rd of August I was not in Kocho but I was in contact with my brother 'Ahmed' continuously.

On the 4th of August in the afternoon, the Prince of Islamic state who was responsible for Kocho 'Abu Hamza AL-Hamdi' and some call him 'Abu Hamza AL- Khatoni' came to the chamber of MUKHTAR (village leader or tribe SHEKH) 'Ahmed Jasso'.

He ordered the people of village to give up all their weapons. They surrendered to his order and brought helplessly all their weapons to the chamber and then were taken by ISIS. "

"They took all the weapons and left giving 'Ahmed' and his people a 3- day ultimatum to take a decision which was either to convert to Islam or to be killed massively."

"On the second day of the ultimatum and before the deadline of three given days by the prince of Islamic state, I called my brother 'Ahmed' again. He told me that the prince was in our chamber today as well. He was insisting on his decision."

"I told my brother 'Ahmed' to try with the Arab leaders of the neighboring villages. 'Ahmed' started making his communications contacting them for Aid.

I also called many of my friends of the leaders and well known persons from Arab tribes."

"After that, some of the Arabs leaders went to the alderman (Walli) of Mosul, but they could not meet him because he was on the frontlines."

"Two days later, the Arabs leaders got a call from the alderman (Walli) of Mosul informing them that he will extend the previously given ultimatum to the people of Kocho village to be 10 days to discuss and make their decisions about their fate. That means that they had to decide by the end of 13 of August 2014".

"The people of Kocho were shocked by the alderman's (Walli) speech, and they felt too worried. During that time, ISIS militants were continuously and periodically visiting Kocho.

My brother (Ahmed) and I (Nayef Jasso) continued trying with the neighboring Arab villages leaders seeking for a way to go out from ISIS control".

"At that moment, I heard from informal resources that the Islamic State had permitted the people of Kocho to go to the Mount of Shingal.

I immediately called my brother 'Ahmed' about what I had heard. He said he had also heard the same news, but he could not trust and believe them".

"The day after, the ISIS militants informed the people that they could perform their jobs and life activities normally. They also told them that they had permission to

go even to 'Baaj' and no one would hurt them as those were the alderman (Walli) orders".



*ISIS ceremony in the town of BAAJ*

On Wednesday 13 of August, the last day from given 10 days' ultimatum by the alderman, the ISIS militants made a permanent and fixed positions for them close to Kocho leader chamber (house). But they dealt with Kocho people normally and in a good way.

That day passed without any signs of violence.

"On Thursday 14th Of August 2014, I called my brother 'Ahmed', I told him yesterday was the deadline, is there any new?"

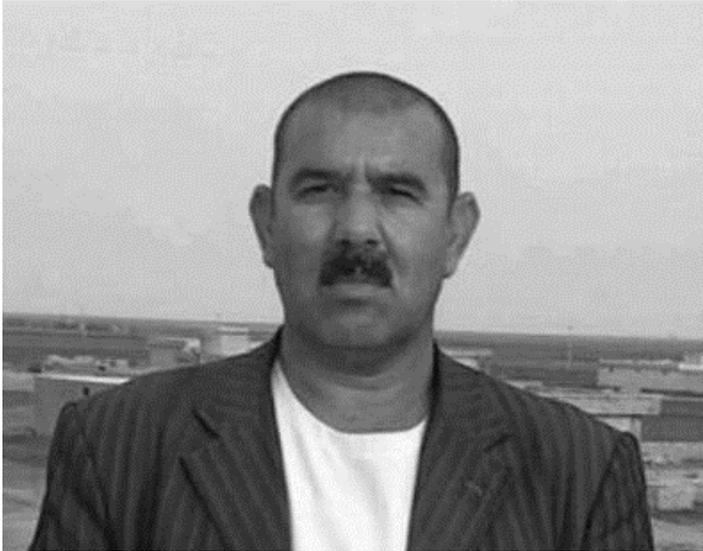
"He said, No!"

"I felt that there was something bad going on....."

"I told my brother, tomorrow is Friday, and they will decide your fate tomorrow, after the sermon in the mosque".

"I felt more scared and frightened, I could hear my heartbeats, much stressed than days before, only checking the time and counting every moment".

**Ali Abbas Ismail Loko** is one of the survivors of Kocho massacres. He was a teacher at village of Kocho, and he is the only one survived from a family that consisted of 6 persons. Ali told us his tragic story.



*Ali Abbas*

"Since ISIS controlled Mosul on the 10th of June, 2014 we had been trying to live our normal life in our small village (Kocho), although many towns and villages surrounding us were over controlled by ISIS. The ISIS fighters didn't show any aggressive signs toward us at the beginning and 'TIL BANAT' village was bombed for about a month.

There were some rumors that 'Shingal' would be attacked by ISIS."

" On the 2nd of August, 2014 the information and the rumors common people were talking about didn't make us feel afraid of the situation and we went to the ditches to take guard with "Peshmergas" to protect the village from a possible attack".

"At two o'clock in the morning on the 3rd of August, 2014 many troops of the ISIS forces came from 'Baaj' to attack the nearby villages ('GIR ZAREK', 'GIR AZER', and 'SIBA SHEKH KHIDER' complexes).

Meanwhile, there were some other troops heading toward (TIL QASAB and TIL BANAT) from (AL QAIRAWAN). There were many clashes between the ISIS fighters and "Peshmergas" with Yezidis (Iyzidis) fighters, using different kinds of weapons".

"The clashes continued until 5 o'clock in the morning and ended with ISIS (Islamic State or Daishes) controlling 'GIR ZAREK'. The situation seemed to be normal until 6 o'clock in the morning, then and because of the lack of weapons our villages remained without any protection.

After that, we made many phone calls with our friends around and they informed us that 'Shingal' was fallen and controlled by ISIS.

As a result of this tragic event, many Yezidis (Iyzidis) escaped from their villages and from 'Shingal' as well, and they headed towards the Mountain".

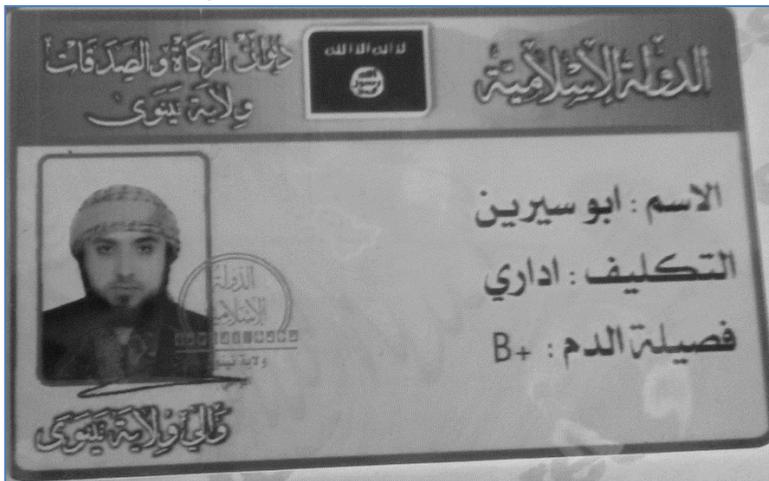
"It was just about two or three hours and all the villages and area were empty of their Yezidi (Iyzidi) inhabitants for the first time for ages. At around 9 am, in that bloody black day, we tried to escape from our village 'Kocho', and we managed to reach 'Shingal'.

There were two of our relative families with us who also managed to escape by their cars, we and the two other families were stuck in the middle of 'Shingal' and we couldn't find a clear and safe way to the Mountain because there were many ISIS checkpoints almost everywhere".

"So we had been captured by one of those checkpoint and they asked us to convert to Islam, then we told them that we want to go back to our village 'Kocho' because we had received phone calls from our people that were still in the village and they told us that the ISIS so called prince or leader (the person in charge of Kocho) who was called 'Abu Hamza Al-Khatouny', had ordered that all the people of 'Kocho' were free to return to their homes and no one will harm them and they had to put a white flag on the roof of the houses (as a surrendering sign)".

"We had put white pieces of cloth on our cars as we were returning to 'Kocho' and we managed to enter the village again. After our returning to the village, we heard that 'Abu Hamza Al-Khatouny' was in the house of the Mayer of the village 'Ahmed Jasso' and told him that the village and its people will be in safe and he wouldn't let anyone hurt them".

"After a while, he asked the Mayer to collect every piece of weapon in the village and every house should have a piece of white cloth on its roof and every person in the village (Kocho) would get his own ISIS ID on the next visit that would be made by him".



*Sample of ISIS ID*

"On his second visit on 6th of August, 2014, Al-Khatouny told the people in 'Kocho' that he would give them an ultimatum for four days that would come to an end on 10th of August, 2014. During which the people in 'Kocho' would be given two choices; they had to either convert their religion to Islam or they would be killed".

"At that time, our village was surrounded by ISIS fighters. Our Mayer 'Ahmed Jasso' had made many phone calls to the persons he knew and trusted. They were from the Arabs leaders around our village ; they were: Mahmoud AL-Khatouny, Mohammad Hamadi Al-Shemarri, Malik Nouri Jadaan Jarrah, Zaid Khalaf Al-Jasim, Hajim Menif Al-

Haroosh, Salim Mullah Alou, Sarhan Rashid Al-Tahan, and many else.

They made a delegation that headed towards Mosul and they met the brother of Mosul ISIS alderman (Walli). They didn't meet the alderman himself because he was busy with the war. The delegation had a meeting and called the Mayer of 'Kocho' and told him that everything was okay and they managed to get another ten days' time limit to look in the case and it ends on 13th of August, 2014".

"In the evening, on the 11th of August, 2014 Abu Hamza Al-Khatouny paid a visit to the Mayer's house and told him that he had met the alderman (Walli) of Mosul and he told him that no one would harm the Yezidi (Iyzidi) people of 'Kocho' and that they wouldn't be forced to convert their religion and he would visit us soon.

Next day, it was afternoon when Al-Khatouny visited us again and told the Mayer that they would allow us to leave our villages as they allowed the Christians to leave Mosul on one condition".

"The condition was, we have to leave all our properties, belongings and houses and they would allow us to leave in peace, then our Mayer Ahmed agreed on the condition and thanked him. Al-Khatouny told us that he would find us a safe path to the Mountain and had left the village".

"On the bloody Friday 15th of August, 2014, at about 11:00 am o'clock we were surprised and terrified when many vehicles packed with a large number of ISIS fighters entered the village from three sides as they reached the village, the fighters began to deploy around the village".

"They began to warn the people in the village through speakers to gather in the High School yard, in the north side of the village. They also informed that everyone should bring his/her properties, jewels, mobile phones and money with themselves".

Those who own cars had to bring their cars leaving the doors of the cars open and leaving the key on the ignition.



*ISIS fighters near the school of 'Kocho'*

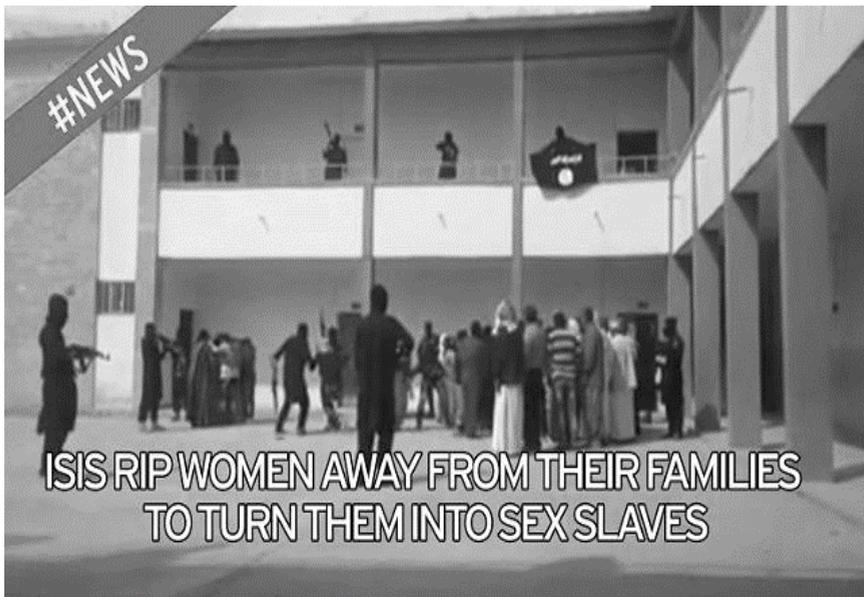
"My people couldn't find any other choice but only to follow their orders. So they gathered and did as what they had been told and they were (1172) one thousand and one hundred seventy two individuals in number".

As we were gathering in the yard of the school, Abu Hamza Al-Khatouny made a speech saying:

**“ since 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2014 you have been liberated from the dark age you have been living in, and you have been asked to convert to Islam, but you refused that, and today you have two choices:**

**First, convert to Islam, and you will be allowed to keep all your properties in your houses and you will live in peace.**

**Second, you have to leave all your properties and to leave your houses as we did to the Christians in Mosul and you wouldn't be asked to convert to Islam”.**



*A scene from a movie acting ISIS actions toward the Yezidis (Iyzidis) in the school of Kocho village.*

"Then he said: you are free to make your choice. We felt happy when we heard that and the Mayer 'Ahmed Jasso' thanked him for not converting to Islam in return we had to leave everything for them, so the Mayer advised the people to leave everything for them and that was his personal choice while everyone is free in what he/she chooses".

"After a while Abu Hamza Al-Khatouny gave an order to gather every single mobile phone, jewel and money to put them in especial containers for each item".

"At the same time, children and women were separated from the young and men and were moved to the upper floor of the school. Men were moved in cars (pick up) every about 30 persons in each car and in constant turns".

"We were thinking that they were moving them to a place near the mountain as they had promised".

"I was in the 4th trial car and I was surprised when the car turned to a place outside the village (west of the village) and it was far about 350m".

"The strangest thing at that time was, we were able to hear aircrafts flying over the sky above us".

"We were taken to a farm accompanied by armed military vehicles of ISIS. They forced us to walk to a dried pool made out of dirt which is used to contain water for watering the plants. We were forced to go inside that dried pool, and they asked us to get down on our knees. Then we could hear them yelling (ALLAH AKBAR), then I heard them telling each other "take some pictures". Then they shot us".



*ISIS fighters shooting the Yezidi (Iyzidi) people of Kocho village*

"After they had finished the shooting, they were saying "This is what you unbelievers deserve for not converting to Islam "".

"I myself couldn't believe at the first that I was still alive. I was badly injured with very serious wounds in my shoulder, my head and my back. Then they said to each other let's get back and shoot them on the head for some may be still alive".

"After that and it was about 10 minutes after they had left us. I called at the victims and said:

Who is alive and can save himself?"

"I heard two of them (Saaïd Murad Bessy and Delshad Sulaiman Qasim) were alive".

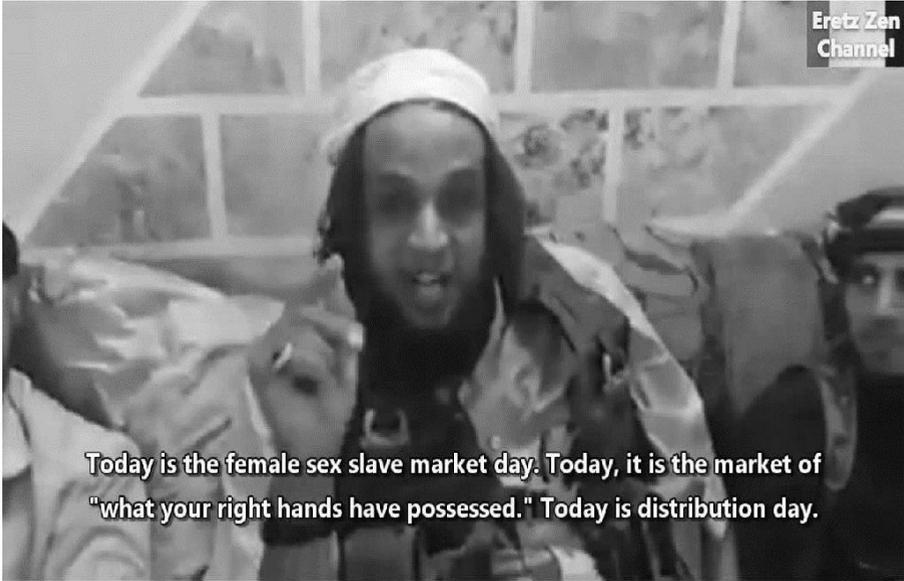
"We started to creep out of the pool towards the west where we found another 15 corpses."

"I tried to get close to the dead bodies to see if my cousins were among them, but I couldn't recognize anyone because I was so terrified and because we were in a hurry."

"Again we could hear the aircrafts flying above us without doing anything. The farm where we had been shot belonged to (Ibrahim Ahmad Qaris) who is from 'Kocho'".

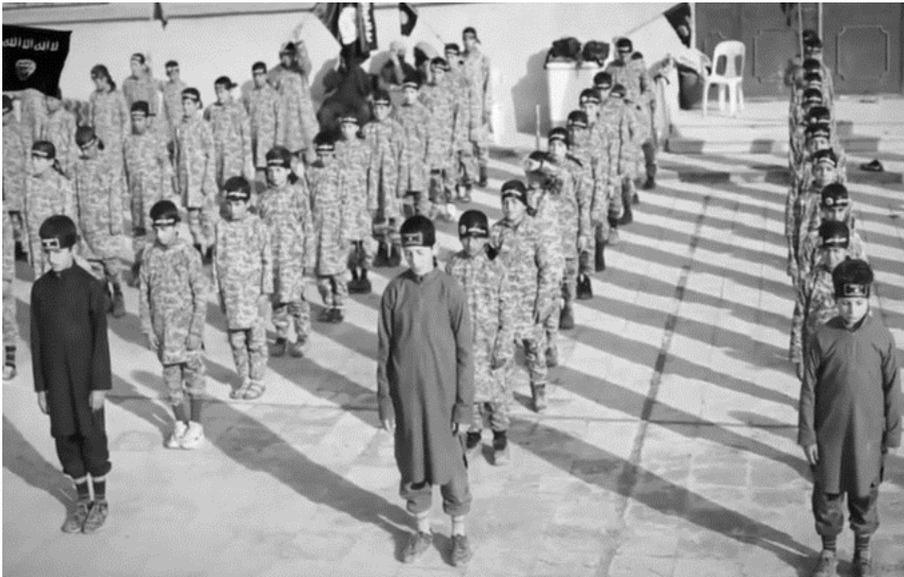
"I am sure more than 400 men and young were killed in the same way and they were all taken from the school and that only lasted for few hours".

Also, women and children were taken to Mosul as spoils of the war as they believe. Women will be sold as slave or maids or even will be forced to marry the Islamic State fighters. Children were sent to training camps to be trained to fight for the ISIS.



Today is the female sex slave market day. Today, it is the market of "what your right hands have possessed." Today is distribution day.

*ISIS fighters distributing the captivated Yezidis (Iyzidis) girls and women*



*Children in ISIS training camps*

In this brutal and inhuman behavior, they had finished the souls of (1172) Yezidi (Iyzidi) individuals in just few hours. They killed innocent people only because they refused to convert to Islam.

**About how they managed to escape, Ali said:**

"The ISIS fighters were taking the people from the school in groups. When they were busy with shooting another group it was about one o'clock in the afternoon. We could move and be far away about 300 meters toward the north of the pool. There we reached a farm belongs to (Semo Elias Khalaf)".

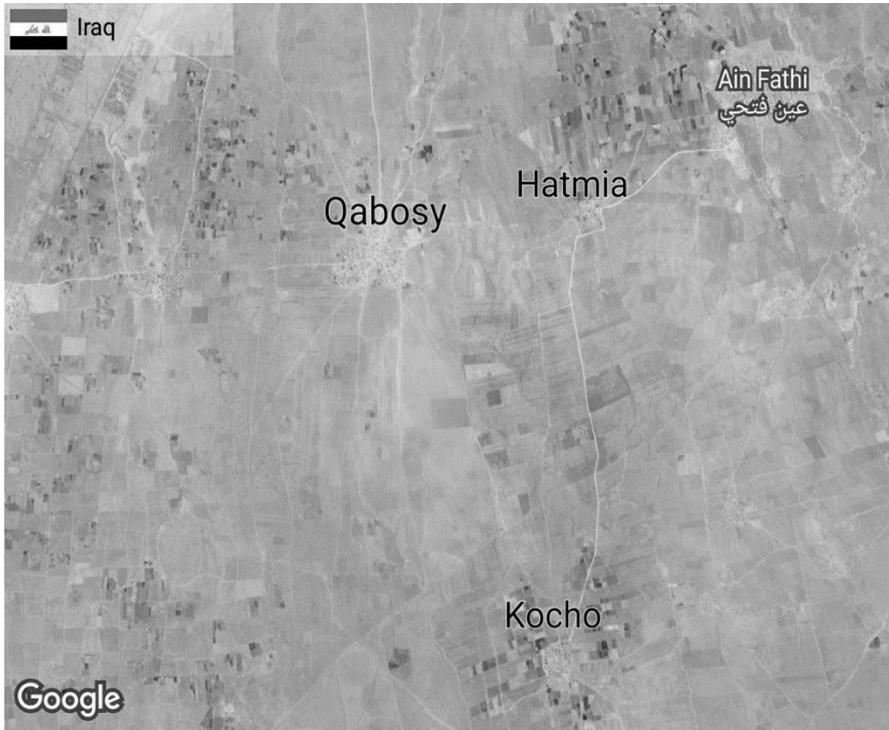
"Saaid and I stayed in the generator cabin until the night fell down. Our third friend, Delshad, was a head of us".

"It was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when we saw bulldozer moving dirt to cover the bodies which lasted for about 15 minutes. We thought that it had buried the dead, and the wounded men who couldn't walk were also buried alive".

"At night we left the farm toward the west where there was a small valley called (Nekhellah); we hid ourselves there for an hour, then we headed toward another valley called (East-West valley) which connects 'Kocho' with 'Shingal' centre.

After we had crossed the valley, we walked on a plain ground for about half an hour. In the horizon we could see

the lights on a communication tower which we thought it was (Qabosy) village".



*"The distance was about 10 kilometers, we felt very tired and thirsty, it was about 1 o'clock after mid-night when we reached (Qabosy) village".*

"My friend Saaid, told me that he has a friend called (Abdullah, also known as Abu Al gas, because he sells gas bottles) lives in the village and he could help us. It was late when we entered his house without his permission. Abdullah was sleeping with his family in the garden because it was too hot to sleep inside".

"He was astonished and terrified when he saw us, and we told him what happened with us in 'Kocho' village. He felt really sorry for that. There was a medic in the village that Abdullah could bring to the house. He had to lie to him, telling him that his grandmother was sick so that he could come to take care of my wounds".



"The medic treated our wounds and we thanked him a lot for saving our lives. After two hours, Abdullah asked us to leave the house because the ISIS had told them they would severely punish anyone who offered help to a Yezidi (Iyzidi). So we asked him to show us a secure path to the mountain. He guided us towards a valley to the east of 'Qabosy'.

We walked for about 250 meters and it was almost dawn when we heard the muezzin calling for prayers from a nearby mosque, then we felt that the night was over and we

couldn't continue. We decided to go back to 'Qabosy' before sunrise".

"On our way to the village we saw a man from (Al-Haroush family) who was going to the mosque for prayer. We asked him to help us and he accepted to do that. He welcomed us; then he took us to an old house at the outside of the village where he left us, then he went back to the mosque".

"When he returned from the mosque, he brought us breakfast. After breakfast, he brought a person called (Sheikh Omar). He was young and we thought that he was one of his brothers. Omar dressed our wounds, and took care of us for two days".

"Sheikh Omar told us that there was someone who we could trust and he would help us to escape to Syria but we had to pay him some money.

Because my injuries were too serious we had to have a way to escape. After lunch time, Sheikh Omar took us to an abandoned farm (the farm owner is Kamil Khedher Khalaf, a Yezidi (Iyzidi) person)".

"The farm was between Al- Qabosy village and Domiz Complex. Our third friend, Delshad, was waiting for us in that place. He told us that he already agreed with someone to take us to Syria".

"When we were on our way to the farm we could see some of ISIS vehicles from a distance, which made Sheikh

Omar leave us in a hurry feeling terrified. It was about two o'clock afternoon. We were looking for our friend Delshad, but unfortunately we couldn't find him.

" There were some people coming to the farm to take vegetables, and there were some shepherds, so we didn't feel safe and thus we hid ourselves in the abandoned farm".

"We couldn't find Delshad in that place, although we had been looking for him for a long time. We couldn't do anything else but returning to Al-Qabosy village, so we walked to the village and it was about 10 o'clock in the evening when I stood in a path and my friend Saaid went to some people talking to each other. A man came to Saaid and they talked for a moment, then they called me to follow them to the house".

"The house owner welcomed us and wept for what happened to us and said it was tragic. The house owner name was (Muslih Salih Dahar). They washed our feet and hands because we were in a miserable condition and we couldn't do it for ourselves".

" After we had dinner, the owner of the house told us that he could have only one of us in his house. I asked him if he could take me to (Abdullah Salih Hussein's) house. He asked his son to take me there".

"When we reached Abdullah's house, he welcomed me and told me that he was going to keep me in an old and abandoned house near his house. But if it happened and ISIS

fighters found me in that old house, I shouldn't tell them anything about him".

"Abdullah brought everything I needed to the old house and I stayed there for three days".

"During my stay in the old house, Abdullah was working on how to get me out of there. The plan was to take us to Zakho in Kurdistan region through Syria".

"He agreed with someone to smuggle us out for 2000 USD, but he asked for 8000 USD. I couldn't find anyone who could provide me with that sum of money, even Abdullah felt sorry because he couldn't do that for me".

"On the third day, when it was afternoon, Abdullah told me that my friend Saaid was in a nearby farm (owned by Abdullah Assiya), which is to the North-East of the village. Saaid was with his brother Khalid, who also managed to survive from one of the other bloody massacres in Kocho".

"Abdullah and Daham Muslit took me to them by a car. They gave me a mobile phone, some bottles of water and some food. They showed us the path to the mountain. At that time, my wounds began to bleed again, so Daham took off his shirt, tore it to pieces and bandaged my wounds to stop the bleeding and they left us and went back to home".

"At night, we walked through the valley towards (Al-Sabbahiya) village near the high way that connects Shingal with Til – Qasab village. When we reached the high way, we

felt terrified and tried to cross it to the other side (the side to the East of the road)".

"At the moment of our movement to pass the high way, we saw a laser light coming from an ISIS checkpoint near the main road to Shingal".

"A car was heading toward us from Shingal that let us run immediately and hid ourselves in an olive farm on the other side of the road. After that, we walked in a dark pitch toward Solagh Valley in the east.

We continued walking through the valley until we came close to the main high way that connects Shingal to Mosul".

"We were very careful in crossing the road to the other side toward the mountain when we heard some dogs barking and we felt very worried that the ISIS fighter nearby might notice us. At last, we made our way toward Solagh, in the north, until we reached a spring of water. We drank water as much as we could, washed our hands, faces, and filled up our bottles".

"When we got near Solagh, another group of dogs barked at us and followed us. We nearly spent about half an hour trying to get rid of them."

"Finally, we reached the mountain, at that time we could see three of ISIS vehicles entering Solagh village as they

suspected that there might be some people around because too many dogs were barking ".

"For the first time, we felt safe as we reached the mountain and enjoyed the short moments of peace but suddenly I laid down when the time was about 12 midnight".

"I stopped moving because I felt very tired and I had lost all of my power, therefore; I asked my friends to continue without me so they could be able to save themselves. I spent that night alone, I slept on a rock and when it was morning , the next day, I continued walking toward Rashka's shrine until I reached the cemetery where I found a small bottle of water, so I drank that water and went on my way until I reached the place where there wer some vehicles".

"I managed to take out some water from the radiator of a tractor and I used a piece of cloth to filter that water through it to extract a drinkable water to drink".

I spent that night without food. In the morning I walked on my way through 'Gali Haji' toward 'CHIL MERAN SHRINE' on the top of the mountain.

On my way, I saw a shepherd so I called him loudly and told him that I was wounded and needed help".

"He sent two Yezidi (lyzidi) people to help me. They came to help me after about 15 minutes, gave me some water and food, and walked with me for a while until we reached a narrow path which is used by sheep and goats;

they asked me to go on that path till I reached the people on the top of the mountain".

"Before I could reach my destination, two Yezidi (Iyzidi) young men brought me a donkey to carry me on. It was 23 of August, 2014 when I reached the fighters on the top of the mountain and the time was about two o'clock in the afternoon".

"The medics there cleaned and bandaged my wounds, then they told me that they should send me to Syria for treatment, I felt worried and told them that ISIS were in Syria, then they told me that I would be sent to a safe place. After that, one of my relatives came to me and asked me to go with him to Zakho in Kurdistan Region for treatment".

"I was sent to Zakho hospital through Syria border. My cousin was waiting for me in the hospital in Zakho, and on the second day they made a surgery for me. I spent 15 days in the hospital till I got my strength and wellness".

**Another eyewitness (FAEZ FAISAL ALI AMAAN) told us his story and said:**

"At 8:00am of the same day, I, my family, and my uncle's families went out from the village. We were about 20 persons. At the midway between 'KOCHO' and 'HATMIA', specifically at the water feeding machines and farms, there was an ISIS check point (the Jihadists were almost from ARAB MITYUT TRIBE), therefore, we were obliged to change our direction toward the village of 'AL-SABAHYA'".



"At about 9:00 am we arrived there and on our way we saw that the people of 'TIL-QASAB' and 'TIL-BANAT' villages were fleeing toward the Mountain as well".



*TIL-BANAT residents leaving their village and fleeing toward Shingal Mount.*

"At that moment, many ISIS cars came out from the unpaved way of the village of 'QOLO'. There were some shepherds there. ISIS rebels surrounded them, and to shoot in the air. We hurried up and after that, we went through 'SOLAGH' to an area near Shingal (Sinjar) Mountain known as 'Qni' (a massive grave was made by ISIS in this area after that). In 'QNI' we met two other families from Kocho; Barakat Amo and 'Shvan Amo's families.

They decided to stay in 'QNI' while we continued our way to 'MIHRKA' which was closer to the Mountain than 'QNI' ".



*Yezidi people escaping from ISIS*

"At about 3:00 pm, 'Barakat Amo' called my uncle. He told my uncle that a hummer vehicle of ISIS was coming to him, they told them there was no need to leave to the Mountain".

They could wait for them until they brought them Islamic State's ID cards and then they would be able to live their normal life. My uncle told him not to trust ISIS and try to escape to 'MIHRKA', "we will stay here until you arrive, and we will go together to the mountain".

After half an hour, they did not show up. My uncle said: "let's go and bring them from 'QNI' to 'MIHRKA', if ISIS found them there, they would kill them all".

Faez, his brother, and his uncle went toward 'QNI'. Faez said, "Before we reached them, we heard a sound of

fighting. We looked over there, we saw that the men of the two families from Kocho ('Barakat Amo' and 'Shvan Amo' families), and about 70 other persons all were men and young boys were in kneeling in rows with ISIS shooting them."



*ISIS shooting Yezidis (Iyzidis) men on head*

We immediately ran backward to 'MIHRKA'. We told the story to our families, we took them and we went to the Mountain".

We fled to the Mountain, at about 1:00 am; we heard a wailing of a wounded person. We went to him; we saw that he was 'Jamal Shvan Amo' from Kocho. He was severely bleeding and he was shot four times.

He told us his story, saying that his brothers and uncles were killed and the women and girls were most probably taken to Tel-Afar.

" The injured Jamal stayed with us for two days in 'Mahrka' area, close to the Yezidi (Iyzidi) religious temple of 'Amaden'. But on the third day, an armed ISIS vehicle came and started shooting at us; therefore we were forced to move to 'Peri Aoura' area on the other side to the north of Shingal Mountain".

"We remained there for four days before leaving toward 'Sharaf-Al Din' which was the center of the Yezidi (Iyzidi) defending forces and a Yezidi (Iyzidi) religious temple as well. We stayed there more for two days, and then we went to Syria and from there to Kurdistan Region".



*Yezidi families entering to Kurdistan Region from Syria*

**Z. S.** is one of the Kocho village kidnapped girls. About her life under the Islamic State captivity, she told us her heart breaking story:

"After ISIS rebels gathered all the people of 'Kocho' in the school on the 15th of August, 2014 they separated the women, girls, and children from the men and young boys. They took us to the upper floor, and then they started taking the men in groups out of the school.

Because of the yelling and noise of women, girls and children we couldn't hear the sound of shooting; we thought at the beginning they were taken toward the Mountain, but later awhile that we realized they were taken to be killed, because they started to take us separately.

They took us to the 'Solagh' village first, to the technical institute of 'Shingal' building which was located there. Then, they began to take the women who were more than 50 years old out. My mother was among them; they took her.

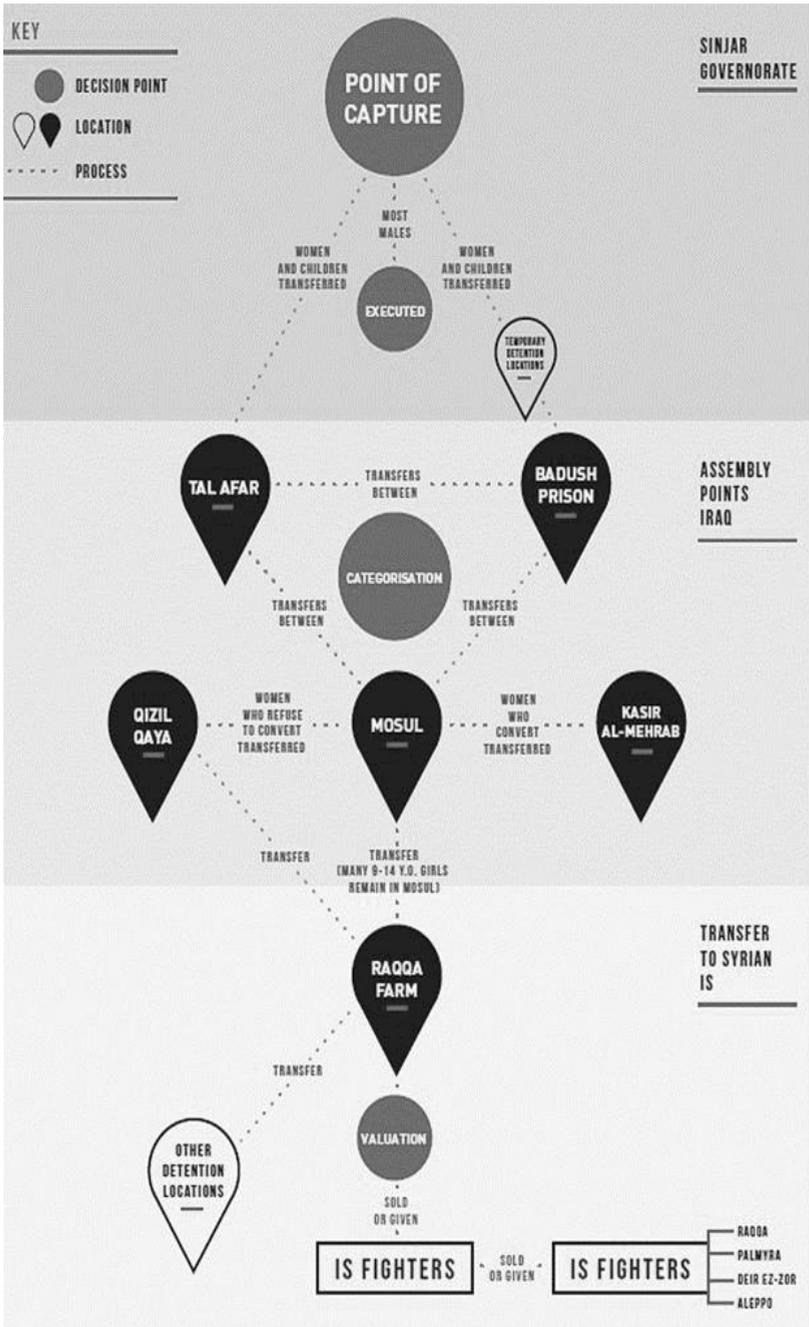


Then we heard the sound of shooting. Few minutes later, we could hear a sound of Vehicles (bulldozer). We didn't know what was going on. (After Shingal liberation a massive grave for the old women of Kocho was discovered in the Technical Institute of Shingal in 'Solagh').



*A Yezidi (Iyzidi) women looking for her missed family members in a massive grave.*

After that they took us to 'TEL AFAR', then to 'Mosul' back to 'TEL AFAR' again, then to 'BAAJ' and finally to 'Syria'.



Source: BBC

## **Nadia Murad:**

Her name is Nadia Murad Basi Taha. She was born in the village of Kocho in 1993. She is one of the Yezidi (Iyzidi) victims of ISIS captivity and sexual slaves at the time when ISIS controlled her village, Kocho and mercilessly committed the massacres on 15 of August 2014.



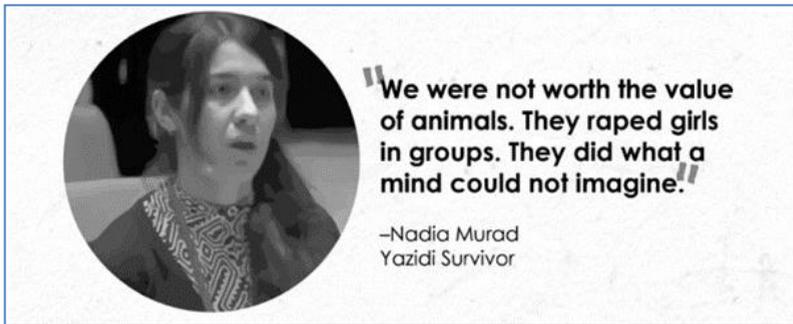
*Nadia Murad before ISIS control of her village (Kocho)*

ISIS killed six of her brothers in the massacres of Kocho village on 15 of August, and took her with all the girls, women, and children of the village out to the village of 'Solagh', to the Technical Institute of Shingal in Solagh.

When ISIS decided to kill all the women over 50 or 60 years old, Nadia's mother was one of those women who were killed and buried in a massive grave there. After that they took the girls, younger women and children to 'TEL AFAR', 'BAAJ', 'MOSUL', and 'Syria'.

**Nadia said describing her life as a sex slave:**

"ISIS forced us to pray then raped us" and added "they committed rape and genocide crimes in the name of Islam (<sup>8</sup>).



She was among more than 5000 Yezidi (lyzidi) women and girls taken captive by ISIS.

In more than one event, she told about the way that ISIS fighters bought and sold her and women like her as slaves.

During a visit to Egypt, Ms. Nadia Murad met with the President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-forced-us-to-pray](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-forced-us-to-pray), 1 january 2016. Adam withnall.



Also, she met SHEKH AL- AZHAR, and addressed students at Cairo University asking the Islamic world to stand firmly against ISIS because the later commit rape and genocide crimes in the name of Islam <sup>(9)</sup>.

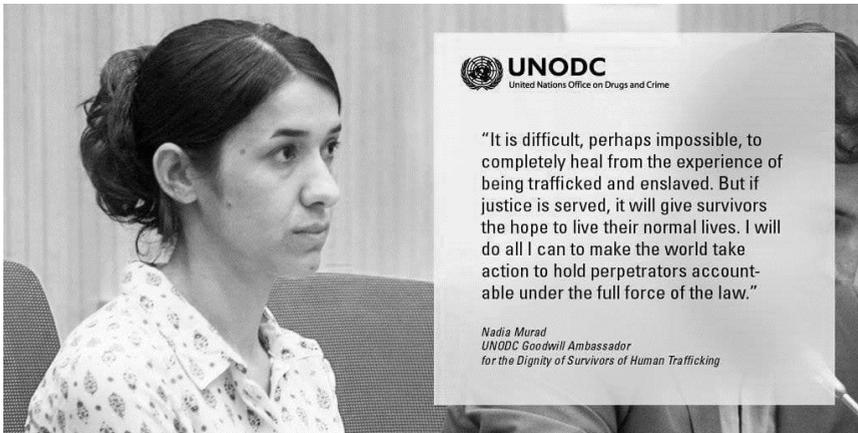
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<sup>9</sup> Adam withnall , [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-forced-us-to-pray](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-forced-us-to-pray), 1 january 2016.



*Nadia Murad with SHEKH AL- AZHAR*

About her attempts to escape, she said that after one failed escape attempt, she was beaten up and gang raped by six militants as a form of punishment. She said "they continued to commit crimes to my body until I became unconscious".



After three months of captivity, she could escape in November 2014.



## Statistics:

According to both the Directorate of Yezidi (Iyzidi) Affairs in the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Kurdistan region / Iraq government and the Directorate of the Kidnapped and Survivors' Affairs, the statistics of Yezidi (Iyzidi) victims because of the ISIS attack on Shingal, mainly and Kocho village were as bellows:

The last update of statistics was 17/05/2017.

The statistics of Yezidi (Iyzidi) genocide victims resulted from ISIS attack on Shingal on 3 of August 2014 are:

- 1293 killed individuals, the number is on the raise due to discovering new massive graves or liberating new areas and/ or new victims have been killed by ISIS in captivity.



- 6417 kidnapped person, in general male and females.



- 3005 individuals have been survived or escaped from ISIS captivity.



- 3412 individuals still in captivity.
- From the survived and escaped persons, 334 are men.

- From the survived and escaped persons, 1078 are women.
- From the survived and escaped persons, 802 are female / children.





- From the survived and escaped persons, 791 are male / children.



- 2745 orphans.

- From the orphans, 1759 are fatherless.



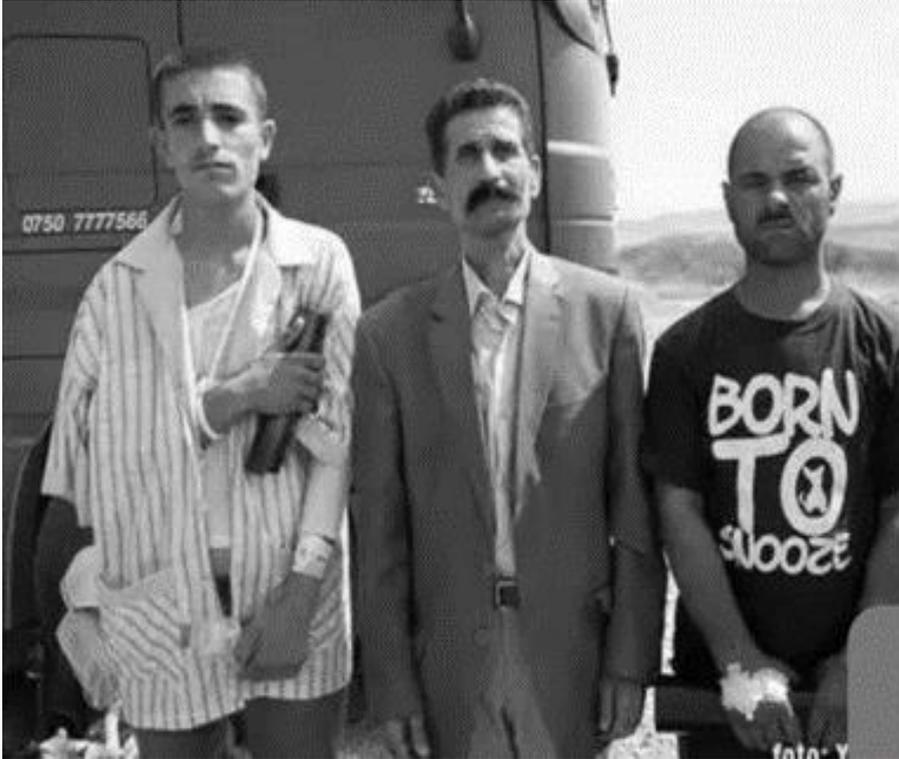
- From the orphans, 407 are motherless.
- 359 are orphans without a father and a mother.
- 220 children whose fathers and mothers are in ISIS captivity.
- 1700 children have critical mental, psychological, and illness cases.
- More than 180000 children are IDPS living in tents under severe living conditions; too hot summer and too cold winter.
- About 400000 Individuals who are either displaced or emigrated due to ISIS attack.
- About 36 massive graves have been so far discovered in addition to tens of individual graves.
- 68 holy temples and religious places were destroyed or blown up.



## **The statistics of Kocho village victims resulted from ISIS attack on Shingal on 3 of August**

### **2014 are:**

- The population of Kocho was 1738 individuals.
- About 1200 individuals were in Kocho at time of ISIS control.
- 459 individuals were killed in Kocho massacres.
- From the massacres victims, 388 were males and 71 females.
- 727 individuals (girls and children) were kidnapped. The females were raped, used as sex slaves, and sold at a very low price. The children were in ISIS camps on the doctrines of terrorism and teach were converted to Islam by teaching them 'Quran' and washed their brains with the ideopoly of ISIS.
- 42 orphans.
- 63 families were completely vanished or in other words, they lost all the family members.
- 47 families were left with only one survived member.
- 17 families were left with only two survived members.
- 19 individuals survived from Kocho massacres.



*Three of survivors from Kocho massacres*

## **Massive Graves:**

According to the survivors, eyewitnesses, and the discovering of mass graves after the liberation of Kocho village, the following massive graves are pointed out:

- 1- Ahmed Jasso farm grave, to the south-west side of the village.
- 2- Kocho school grave, to the north of the village.
- 3- East- south side of the village grave.
- 4- Archeological hillock grave.
- 5- Ibrahim Karis farm grave, north-west of the village.
- 6- Abbas Qassim farm grave, to the east of the village.
- 7- Shingal Technical Institute (Solagh) grave.

All the massive graves were discovered after the liberation of Kocho village except the old women massive grave of Shingal Technical Institute (Solagh) which was discovered before and during the time of Shingal liberation.



*A picture from a wedding party in Kocho before ISIS invasion*



*The Mayer of village (Ahmed Jasso)*



*Nadia Murad is a UN Goodwill Ambassador*



*Nadia Murad and Lamiya Aji Bashar receiving the Sakharov prize /  
Photo credit: European Parliament audiovisual*



*Nadia Murad with the President of Kuwait*



*Nadia Murad with Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel*



*Children of Kocho at School (before ISIS)*



*Mothers from Kocho (before ISIS)*



*A top view picture for Kocho village*

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