



## **OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

### **Media Contact:**

**Wahhab Hassoo, Yezidi Human Rights Advocate  
Founder, NLHY (NL Helpt Yezidis)  
Email: [contact@nlhelptyezidis.org](mailto:contact@nlhelptyezidis.org)  
Website: [www.nlhelptyezidis.org](http://www.nlhelptyezidis.org)**

***Yezidi Genocide Justice Campaign Calls for and Demands an International Investigation and Prosecution of Global Social Media and Technology Companies for Aiding and Abetting ISIS's Genocide Against the Yezidis, including the Crimes of Enslavement, Human Trafficking and Sexual and Economic Exploitation, including Cyber Exploitation, of Yezidis, and for the Financing of Terrorism through the Human Trafficking of Yezidis***

**AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, Monday, January 17, 2022...** After more than seven years of unaccountability for the 2014 genocide against the Yezidi people perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL/ISIS) during which almost 10,000 Yezidis were killed or kidnapped in a matter of days, and together with other Yezidi global human rights organizations including YAZDA, the Yezidi Emergency Support, the Yazidi Legal Network, Farida Global Organization, Voice of the Ezidis, Luftbruecke Irak, the Yezidi Human Rights Organization International and Prof. Dr. Dr. Jan Kizilhan, all of which are fighting for justice for the Yezidis terrorized by ISIS, NLHY, a Netherlands-based Yezidi human rights organization, today published a report as part of the *Yezidi Genocide Justice Campaign* to make a formal request to all members of the Coalition of the Willing, which invaded and occupied Iraq, for an investigation into the role of global technology and social media companies in aiding and abetting ISIS's crimes against the Yezidis and others.

Based on the comprehensive information contained in the full report, which can be found at [www.yezidigenocidejusticecampaign.org](http://www.yezidigenocidejusticecampaign.org), NLHY and its global justice partners are asking the Member Governments of the Coalition of the Willing to refer the report to the proper judicial, prosecutorial and investigative authorities within their Governments to undertake further review and action.

**[www.yezidigenocidejusticecampaign.org](http://www.yezidigenocidejusticecampaign.org)  
[www.nlhelptyezidis.org](http://www.nlhelptyezidis.org)**

Specifically, NLHY and its global justice partners are calling on all governmental leaders of the Coalition countries to demand an international criminal and civil law investigation into and the potential prosecution of global technology and social media companies and their boards of directors and executive staff for aiding and abetting ISIS in furtherance of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other grave human rights violations committed by ISIS militants.

NLHY and its global justice partners believe that there is substantial publicly available evidence that global social media companies enabled ISIS's crimes by permitting the social media platforms that they own and fully control to be utilized by ISIS as fundamental tools of terror to recruit fighters with the promise of slaves as well as to conduct human trafficking of Yezidi women and children and to conduct online slave auctions of Yezidi women and children in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention against Torture, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Convention for Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, among other international treaties and national and subnational laws.

NLHY and its global justice partners' demand for an investigation is directed at, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Messenger, Twitter, YouTube, Kik and Telegram. Publicly available information, including a significant amount of scholarly research, exposes overwhelming evidence that these named global technology and social media companies permitted their platforms to be used as tools of terror, allowing ISIS supporters and its members to plot human atrocities and commit war crimes, including genocide, and to facilitate and accelerate the recruiting of jihadi foot soldiers.

As legal and human rights experts, NLHY and its global justice partners call for and demand a thorough and complete investigation into the legal culpability and liability of social media companies that allowed their social media platforms to be openly and efficiently utilized by ISIS as a tool for spreading its propaganda, recruiting ISIS fighters with the promise of riches and slaves, and the human trafficking of Yezidi women and children as war booty. There has been no investigation of the social media companies' role in aiding and abetting ISIS in its online recruitment of fighters for its caliphate and none have been held to account for the billions of dollars in damages resulting from their inaction, whether criminal or civil.

Commenting on the campaign, Wahhab Hassoo said, “This campaign is dedicated to the Yezidi people of Iraq and Syria and is issued in honor all Yezidis who lost their lives at the hands of ISIS, including the Yezidi women, girls and boys enslaved by ISIS, and the Yezidis missing family members murdered by ISIS, especially the orphaned Yezidi children who now live without the love, security, care and protection of their beloved parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents. The Yezidi survivors of ISIS atrocities inspire the investigative team and me every day. We want them to know that they are not forgotten - that their human rights will be recognized and enforced for the benefit of the Yezidi community and other religious and ethnic minority communities around the globe needing recognition and protection just like theirs.”

NLHY and its global justice partners demand that all Coalition governments, investigative bodies and judicial institutions charged with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute the crimes against the Yezidi people, to fulfill the obligations with which they have been charged and pursue justice for the Yezidi people. NLHY and its global justice partners demand this investigation not just for the benefit of the Yezidi people, but for all religious and ethnic minorities who are at the mercy of these powerful global technology companies that fully own, design and control these social media platforms and the content placed on them.

NLHY and its justice partners remain available to discuss their call on governments, justice departments, prosecutors and investigators. NLHY and its global justice partners hope to provide additional and vital information that will be helpful in starting this indispensable investigation.

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