



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks for Tom Lantos Human Rights commission for holding this meeting, which comes in a very important time for my country Syria.

Four years before today's date, a peaceful demonstration started from the Omari Mosque in Daraa old city's center, turned to a yard to carry out the death sentence against the civilians who demanded dignity and the cancellation of the state of emergency to have a state of law, and the release of innocent children were charged guilty of writing anti-regime slogans on the wall of their school.

At that time, there was one killer, the regime, and one victim, the Syrian people. After four years of those spontaneous protests, Syrians are not only killed with bullets, but their identity, their heritage, their history and the bond that they had rounded up over the past decades are now targeted.

Today, the Syrians live between the regime's fire and what is called the "Islamic state" as the most prominent parties in the Syrian equation, in addition to others, whom see that they have rights to impose what they want on the Syrians.

Today, four years later, my country is witnessing tragedies increasing its suffering in several interrelated aspects.

The Future of Syria Children

Ladies and gentlemen.

Do you know what the favorite game is for Syria's children nowadays?

It is a game of field execution.

The children when playing this game cover their eyes with a cloth, sit on the ground, while another one shoot them with a wooden pistol on their heads. Falling to the ground, they pretend to be dead. It's the game they have learned, thanks to the (Islamic State)'s media throughout the past two years, along with many other bloody games, where detaining one of them in a cage, pretending to set fire to it will not be the last form of these games. We are clearly seeing growing brutality in the name of religion, murder in the name of the Islamic judiciary and the distortion of human in the name of erasing blasphemy.

There are growing evidences that ISIS focuses its efforts on children, in areas controlled by, in order to prepare them for future battles. These efforts begin with what is known as legitimacy camps, where children meet with immigrants, in order to teach them the interpretation of the "Islamic State", the false Islam. These methods took its way recently to primary and secondary schools, where they are teaching these kids, all that would prepare them ideologically to the stage of what is known today as "jihadists' children" or "The Caliphate Cubs", who are trained to fight in the camps held between residential neighborhoods.

What we're seeing in Syria today, is beyond the use of children's issue in limited cases, with the "Islamic state", the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, in the twenty-fifth of January this year, monitored the organization sending a battalion of about one hundred and forty members under the age of eighteen, and newly recruited in the so-called Caliphate Cubs training camps, to the battlefield in (Kobani), six of them were killed during clashes with YPG, as we recently saw two videos probably filmed in Syria, of two children, sons of immigrants, opening fire on the heads of three of the organization's detainees.

Not only this, The organization usually conducts death penalty, slaughter, crucifixion, killing, throwing people from rooftops and stoning, in front of a large audience mostly of children, in many cases, hanging or wander by the corpses, in the controlled areas in Raqqa, Deir al-Zour, Al-Hasakah, Aleppo, Homs and Hama, as the provisions of whipping are performed amid crowds of hundreds of citizens, including dozens of children.

As the Observatory documented execution of six children with charges including filming the headquarters of the organization, homosexuality and insulting the divine self, and the most prominent of these cases is the shoot the child Mohammed Kattaa's head, the fourteen-year-old boy, two years ago in Aleppo in after whipping him. In addition to the organization's usage of children in suicide attacks, as what happened on the seventh of January of 2014, near Al Shaar square in Aleppo.

Women's Rights

Ladies and gentlemen,

Besides children, women are the biggest losers with the "Islamic State" Today, on several levels, most notably the cases of captivity, where Syria has become an arena for the women sale, Yezidis who were captive after ISIS' invasion to the areas around Jabal Sinjar.

The Syrian Observatory on the thirtieth of August last, was able to document the organization distribution for three hundred Yezidi girls on the fighters involved in the war in the region. These fighters sold the girls to other fighters with the amount of up to a thousand dollars per each, as they have been forced to convert to Islam.

Not only the Yezidis, but also Muslim Senni women, where we documented six cases of captivity at least of women were grabbed from military housing of the regime fighters in the band 17 in Raqqa. We believe that there are eighty other captivities were taken from other regions in Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor, the Observatory also documented several cases of stoning women, as well as monitoring five executions by shooting at women on charges of espionage.

ISIS' practices also include beating of women in the street, under the pretext of not adhering to the legal attire, and preventing women to travel out of major cities without a legit mahram, and prevent the exit of women in general, in order to keep them in the cities, which is controlled by the organization.

Practices against Ethnic and Religious Minorities

Venerable members of the Commission,

Syria has a great variety of religious factions and races, where some estimates, that a quarter of the Syrian people, is a minority, before the protests began four years ago. Added to this, minorities have migrated from Iraq, in order to escape from the civil war a mid- the past decade. These minorities have been the target of ISIS, starting from the Kurds, who are engaged in a fierce war, along the front stretch toward (400) four hundred miles, with the "Islamic State" fighters.

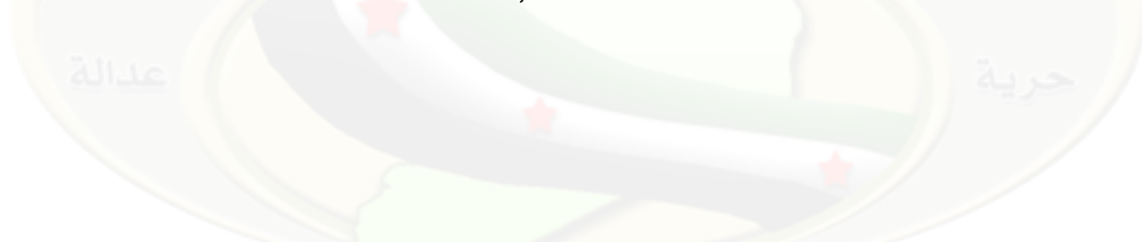
Organization has shown on several occasions, how would the minorities situation be, in case ISIS controls over their areas, where the executed Alawite and Ismaeeli citizens, under the pretext that they are apostates. The remained Christians' churches have been confiscated in the area, the crosses were taken down, historical libraries were stolen to be sold in the black market, as the rest of what they couldn't carry was burned, same of what happened with Albshara and Alshuhadaa churches in Raqqa, which their crosses were broke and the flag of the "Islamic State" was raised above instead, and when the demonstrators in Raqqa came out in September 2013, to protest against this act, the fighters burned the two churches belongings. The organization kidnapped more than two hundred Assyrians in the Khabur area in February last, during a fast military operation, and the fate of most of them is still unknown until now.

Alshuieyat

Ladies and gentlemen, whoever thinks that the "Islamic state" is only targeting minorities and women is mistaken, most of the organization's victims are the sunni Muslims themselves, and the massacre of Alsaitat tripe, which are spread in Deir al-Zour is proof of that. More than nine hundred people died within hours, and tens of thousands of members of this tribe were forced to leave, prevented from returning to their homes, unless they obey the arbitrary conditions imposed on them, as the organization destroyed a number of their homes, under the pretext of hostility against ISIS, as well as grabbing the other houses, similar to what they did in the most controlled areas in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Hasaka, Raqqa, Homs and Hama, in order to protect their fighters and leaders of the International Coalition's strikes.

Syrians deprived of education

Syrian citizens are suffering from another problem, which is the denial of education, by the "Islamic state" that prevents the transmission of students from areas under its control, to areas controlled by the opposition or the regime, and the fighters often confiscate or tear up students cards wishing to move to opposition or regime areas to study, add to that, the none-Syrian nationalities fighters, teach the Syrians, and are often using unrecognized methods, which dispense many important study fields that the organization considers invalid. They promote nationalism, encourage working with the mundane laws, and force to accept a none-based on Islamic laws governance. The organization is teaching all non-university stages, six basic materials, most notably the material of uniformity which is a message of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, one of the Arabian Peninsula scientists.



Starving Syrians

Dear attendance

In addition to depriving Syrians of education, as a weapon in order to prepare the new generations, for recruitment into its ranks, the organization, uses another weapon, in order to be the only option for the Syrians, is to join its ranks, namely, starvation. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights Activists documented the information of the organization paying excellent salaries to its fighters, along with other benefits, while depriving ordinary Syrians, from the most basic rights, to be the impetus for young Syrians to join its ranks, as the organization in the controlled areas distributed aid to the poor for a period of time under "helping the poor" program, as it later focused on helping its fighters of none-Syrian nationalities, who entered Syria with their families.

Destroy the Legacy of the Syrian people and the Peoples of the Region

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all recently watched the "Islamic state" fighters destroying the monuments of Mosul Museum, and reports on the destruction of Nimrod and Alhadar areas and the destruction of the Prophet Yunus mosque in Mosul. All this was only the tip of the iceberg, but the organization began to remove everything that has to do with the memory of the Syrian people in Syria, using multiple arguments, where they obliterated many of the shrines and tombs of the Rifai Sufi way sheikhs, and many of the graves and mausoleums and shrines, in Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hasaka, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Idlib, as they removed the shrines in the old archeological mosque in Raqqa, as well as the destruction of the statue of the Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid, etc. Interestingly, the first step, in any expansion of this organization in Syria, is destroying shrines and mausoleums, which is the first goal of its fighters.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is only few of what the "Islamic state" did within two years to the children of my country Syria, killing, displacing, executing, captivity, starving and destroying the cultural and historical legacy, planting the childhood in my country's children with improvised explosive devices along with execution and crucifixion, until the citizens in my country are no longer safe of what this organization does with ready charges.

When the "Islamic state" announced mid-year 2014, it will remove the Sykes-Picot borders, the organization's members and its leaders, did not mean fake lines painted on the map in geography books, but that is very serious matter, involving the destruction and removal of everything, starting with the character of the Syrian Child, passing the past, present and future of the Syrians, and historical relations between the components.

The "Islamic state" executed, crucified, slaughtered and stoned more than a thousand and three hundred civilians in Syria, since the announcement of what they called the "Caliphate State", in the middle of last year, in addition to killing hundreds of opponents fighters, both of Islamic combat brigades, and even Jabhet Alnusra (al-Qaeda in the Levant), these figures rejoiced the organization's spokesman Abu Mohammed Aladnana, who said in his last audio message, that those actions are proof that what was done by this gang is the state of the Islamic Caliphate, which have been set up all over again.

Dear attendance

It's not Syria, which we went out for, it's not Syria that we want to hand over to our children and grandchildren, who need your help, more than ever, so don't leave them in the face of the killing machine alone.

Rami Abdurrahman (Ossama Suleiman),

Founder&Director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

18-Mar-2015