

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 554

Affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States
for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. McCLAIN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. ALLRED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq.

Whereas national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples including Yezidis, Turkmen, Shabak, Sabaeen-Mandeans, Kaka'i, and indigenous Christians (including Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, Armenian, and Melkite communities), among others, have been an integral part of the cultural fabric and history of Iraq and the broader Middle East for millennia;

Whereas these same religious and ethnic minorities communities have made invaluable contributions to the prosperity and well-being of Iraq, and to societies across the

Middle East and the world, including in the United States;

Whereas the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (“ISIS”) committed innumerable atrocities against these ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq, including murder, subjugation, forced conversion, kidnapping, human trafficking, forced emigration or expulsion, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual enslavement, rape, and destruction of ancient artifacts and sites among other crimes;

Whereas the Secretary of State declared on March 17, 2016, and on August 15, 2017, that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yezidis, among other religious and ethnic groups;

Whereas the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–300) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to ensure that assistance for humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals who are or were nationals and residents of Iraq or Syria, and of communities in and from those countries, is directed toward those individuals and communities with the greatest need, including those individuals from communities of religious and ethnic minorities, and communities of religious and ethnic minorities, that the Secretary of State declared were targeted for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, and have been identified as being at risk of persecution, forced migration, genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes;

Whereas members of these religious and ethnic minority communities in Iraq continue to face daily insecurity, discrimination, and hardship;

Whereas internally displaced members of these religious and ethnic minority communities continue to face significant challenges to returning to their ancestral homelands, including in Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, the Nineveh Plain, and other Yezidi places, due to security concerns, economic hardship, and shifting demographics;

Whereas the restoration and economic revitalization of these regions, as well as the repatriation of the Indigenous communities to their ancestral homes in a manner that provides an opportunity for diverse ethnic and religious communities to flourish, advances Iraq's stability and the security interests of the international community; and

Whereas local self-determination and security protection for the communities of these regions, including Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plain, within the framework of the Federal Republic of Iraq would restore and preserve the fundamental human rights, including property rights, of the Indigenous peoples of these regions: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) protects and upholds that the fundamental
- 3 human right and dignity of the religious and ethnic
- 4 minority communities of Iraq should be a policy pri-
- 5 ority of the United States and the international com-
- 6 munity;
- 7 (2) supports the restoration of security, sta-
- 8 bility, and economic opportunity of, as well as the

1 safe, dignified, and voluntary return of the displaced
2 Indigenous peoples to the territories of Mosul, Baaj,
3 Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plain, and other ancestral
4 homelands of minority religious and ethnic commu-
5 nities, and should be a policy priority of United
6 States and the international community;

7 (3) supports the restoration of homes, schools,
8 churches and other religious sites, and community
9 buildings of religious and ethnic minority commu-
10 nities in these regions should receive a specific and
11 enduring budget allocation by the Iraqi Government,
12 as well as continued support from international aid
13 donors;

14 (4) supports the effective representation in con-
15 sultation with members of the Indigenous popu-
16 lation, including internally displaced members of re-
17 ligious and ethnic minority communities is essential
18 to restoring and upholding the rights of these com-
19 munities, in line with article 125 of the Constitution
20 of Iraq, which states that the Constitution “shall
21 guarantee the administrative, political, cultural, and
22 educational rights of the various nationalities, such
23 as Turkmen, Chaldeans, Assyrians, and all other
24 constituents, and this shall be regulated by law”;
25 and

1 (5) supports greater regional integration for mi-
2 nority groups in Iraq and encourages the Secretary
3 of State to promote opportunities for affected minor-
4 ity groups to achieve greater administrative auton-
5 omy within the federal structure of the Republic of
6 Iraq.

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