Warsaw, 02.08.2018

**A special communication on the 4th anniversary of the Yezidi genocide**

Exactly four years ago, the so-called The Islamic State has attacked the Kurdistan Region.   
The first victims of the terrorist`s mors murders were the Shingal Yezidi. The international community considered this action as a genocide act by the declaration of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We commemorate all the victims on the 3rd of August. According to various estimations, 5,000 to 10,000 Yazidis were murdered, dozens of Yezidi cities, villages and temples were also destroyed.   
On this day, we do not forget about Christians and other religious minorities murdered by ISIS and those who died in the fight against terrorism, including the heroic Peshmergas.

On the anniversary of the crime, we remind you that the tragedy of Yezidi is still not over. Although Raqqa- capital of the self-proclaimed caliphate has collapsed in Syria, and authorities officially declared victory over terrorists, ISIS is not finally defeated, and not all of the captured were freed. According to the estimations various NGO`s about 3,100 people mainly Yazidi and Christmas women and children are still missing, we musn`t forget about the Yezidi tragedy until all the abductees are released, and all refugees (350,000 Yezidi among them) will not be able to return to their homes.

Unfortunately, achieving those goals has moved away in recent months. Taking advantage of the chaos in Iraq, ISIS terrorists are trying to push the offensive, especially near Kirkuk. Last year`s fall, the Peshmerga people were forced to leave those area, and no one else could provide security for them. Due to the threat posed by ISIS, the actions of the Shi'a Hashd-Shaabi militias, the lack of basic services and the prolonged reconstruction of post-war destruction, the return to the homes of refugees from camps in Kurdistan becomes distant vision. According to the latest statistics of the Kurdish *Joint Crisis Coordination Center*, there are currently 277 000 refugees and 1 11 million internally displaced people in the Kurdistan Region. Altogether 1 387 908 people. In June, only 3774 people returned to their homes, and 2757 new refugees has arrived. What is worse, international financial assistance for those in need is constantly decreasing, and the Kurdistan Region, which is emerging from the economic crisis, is struggling to provide essential shelter, food and access to the education for all those in need. This year`s financial aid covered only 12.5% ​​of the demand for *Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018* demand.

Therefore, on the anniversary of the genocide of Yezidi, we appeal for the memory of the victims. As well as for help for refugees. Is musn`t be forget about those who still suffer in captivity. Memory and helping are possible inter alia, by suport of Polish humanitarian organizations operating in Kurdistan.

Ziyad Raoof

**Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Poland**