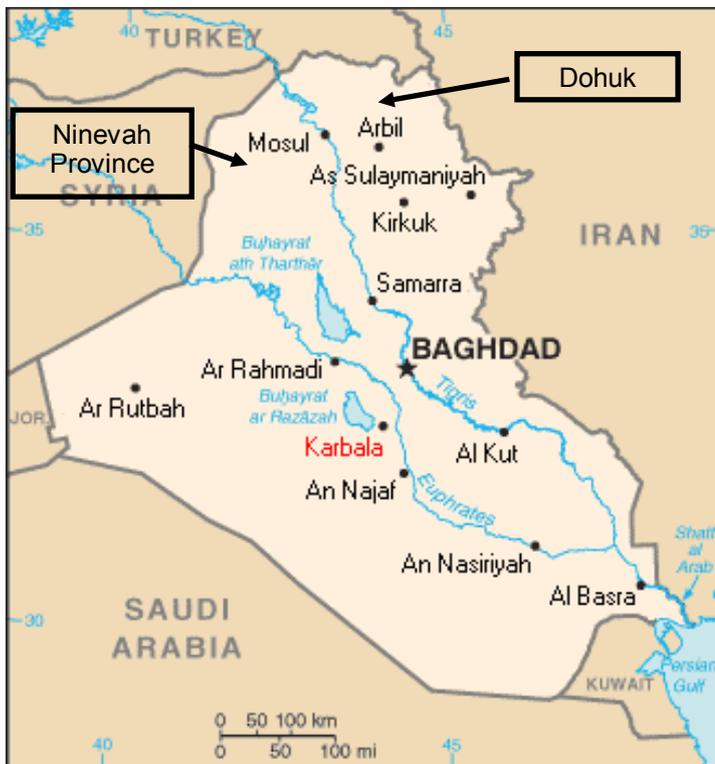


IRAQ

***TRIGGER WARNING: RAPE**

FACTS

- Yezidi women and girls from the Sinjar region in North West Iraq have been raped and suffered other forms of sexual violence by armed people calling themselves Islamic State.
- The systematic rape of women and girls from the Yezidi minority has become deeply enmeshed in the organisation and the radical theology of the Islamic State in the year since the group announced it was reviving slavery as an institution.
- The women and girls have been forcibly married, sold or given as 'gifts' or 'rewards' for war.
- There is an estimated figure of between 3000-5000 women and girls in current captivity.
- Sexual violence is increasingly being used as a weapon of war.



THE SITUATION

ISIS is currently controlling parts of Iraq and Syria. They are known for killing dozens of people at a time and carrying out public executions. The group initially started out as a splinter group from al Qaeda.

They seem to have created a “theology of rape” and have enshrined slavery in public documents. From documented reports it seems as if some members/leaders see that there is also a “spiritual component” to rape.

They have publicly acknowledged enslaving women and children. Girls as young as 11 have been being sold as slaves. The number of women and girls held has meant that an infrastructure has been created including; sales contacts, viewing rooms and buses, used as a recruiting tool to lure men to ISIS.

ISIS formal introduction of systematic slavery dates back to August 3, 2014 when its fighters invaded villages to the south of Mount Sinjar (located in Northern Iraq). Captured men and women were separated from one another. Older

women were taken to slave auctions while younger women and girls were taken as sex slaves. An article published by the UN on 18 June, 2015 tells the story of a Yezidi woman who was sold by her owner for the price of a packet of cigarettes. Some women are sold many times over to different owners.

In an article entitled “The revival of slavery before the hour” in Dabiq, the group’s online English-language magazine, ISIS said it was reviving a custom justified under Sharia (Islamic law) One particular minority is being targeted – the Yezidi women and children from Iraq.

SOURCES:

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/14/iraq-isis-escapees-describe-systematic-rape>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2014/12/iraq-yezidi-women-and-girls-face-harrowing-sexual-violence/>

NEW YORK TIMES

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/14/world/middleeast/isis-enshrines-a-theology-of-rape.html?>

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WHY DO WE PRAY?

PRAYER MAKES A WAY.

Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by the enormity of these issues but we are believing that as we pray we will see doors of opportunity and miracles open to make a difference for these women and children caught up in these atrocities.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of the dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Eph 6:12

PRAY BECAUSE IT IS THE FUEL OF CHANGE.

Prayer is not a last resort, the Bible says that prayer can change nations and heal lands. Prayer is a weapon that we can use to wage wars that look impossible in the natural.

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)*

PRAY "THY KINGDOM COME"

We believe that if as a sisterhood we focus on prayer together, that our prayers will make a way for change.

*¹⁹"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
Matthew 18:19 (NIV)*

*The LORD is King forever and ever;
The nations will perish from his land.
You, LORD hear the desire of the afflicted;
You encourage them, and you listen to their cry,
Defending the fatherless and the oppressed,
So that mere mortals
Will never again strike terror.
Psalm 10:16 (NIV)*

WHAT DO I PRAY?

If you don't know how to pray; pray Psalm 10 over this situation. Pray in the Spirit. Pray with understanding. Pray with authority. Pray for the victims. Pray for perpetrators-Yes pray for the enemy. (Matt 5:44)

FOR GOVERNMENTS AND LEADERS

Pray for wisdom for how to deal with this situation-nationally and internationally.

FOR ORGANISATIONS ON THE GROUND

Pray that they can miraculously find and rescue the women and children that have been captured.

FOR THE PERPETRATORS

Pray for God to be revealed in truth to them.

FOR THOSE IN CAPTIVITY

That they would find the strength to survive and heal. That they would know God's presence with them.

IN GENERAL:

FOR THE VICTIMS

Strength & Salvation

Ps. 138, Is. 40:29, Lk. 19:10

Protection, Freedom & Justice

Ps. 82:4, Ps. 103:6, Ps. 146:7

Hope & Healing

Ps. 40:1-2, Jer. 30:17, Jer. 31:17

FOR THE CHURCH

The Church To Prevail

Is. 60:1-2, Mt. 5:13-14, Mt. 16:18

Advocates & Labourers To Emerge

Ps. 94:16, Prov. 31:8, Mt. 9:37-38

Unity Against Injustice

Ps. 133, Jn. 17:23, Rom. 15:5

WHEN DO WE PRAY?

PRAY AT MIDDAY We are asking you as the SISTERHOOD to pray fervently for this, in essence creating a prayer chain across the world at 12pm (Midday) wherever you are.

CONTACT DETAILS

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