

Yezidi People – Request For Help

Example letter to Government Representative

Dear Member of Congress,

The United States has a long-standing tradition of responding to humanitarian crisis around the world since its creation as a nation. Some of the most egregious human rights violations are occurring in Iraq, at the hands of ISIS.

ISIS targets many people groups in the Middle East, hoping to create an Islamic State. One of these people groups specifically targeted are the Yezidi people living in northern Iraq. The Yezidi people are ethnically Kuridsh, and do not practice Islam. Because of this, ISIS considers these people devil-worshippers, and brutally attacked them.

The Yezidi people fled the violence to safety, forced to leave their homes and villages. Many live as Internally Displaced People in Iraq, while the majority have fled to Turkey. Turkey, however, will not officially recognize the Yezidi people as refugees. This means that the people who have fled their homes will not receive any benefits as refugees from the UN, including resettlement to the United States.

Member of Congress, this is where we need your help. The United States, along with the rest of the international community, needs to put pressure on Turkey to officially accept these people fleeing from persecution as refugees. This will guarantee that these individuals, who have long suffered extreme hardship, will be guaranteed that their basic needs like food, water, and shelter, will be met.

The United States' response to this crisis, however, should not stop there. This is an oppressed minority group that needs safety and security, and in the solution is resettlement. The United States has a long-standing tradition of responding to humanitarian crisis around the world since its creation as a nation. I am proud that my country has served the needs of refugees, and that the United States is a leader in protecting defenseless populations worldwide. To continue this tradition of welcoming those fleeing persecution, the United States cannot turn its back on the Yezidi.

Please urge the United States to take action in this crisis. First, what is needed is for Turkey to formally recognize the Yezidi as refugees. Then, the United States can take the action that is necessary: bringing the Yezidi into our resettlement program, so they can finally have the safety and security they need.

Sincerely, your constituent,