



Date: 11 July 2018

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Peace be with you.

Madam chair, Congratulations on your position

Item 7 / United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples, good practices and lessons learned.

Indigenous Peoples suffer from multiple kinds of discriminations and the most critical of all affecting their lives and future as a nation is their rights to land. The Assyrian Christians in Middle East in the last 100 years, have been forcibly removed hence, losing rights to their lands, territories, and resources. Also, losing rights to the conservation and protection of the environment including the productive capacity.

In 1933, after Simele massacre in Iraq over 100 Assyrian villages were confiscated entirely and Assyrians have not returned to their lands and towns to date. In 1963 Assyrian villages were used as battlefields during the Kurdish – Iraqi conflict.

In 1968 to 1991 Iraqi regime made every effort to change the demographic for the Assyrian Christians lands in north Iraq and Nineveh Plain, destroyed hundreds of Assyrian villages.

Today, there are over 50 unsolved cases, and this comes after in 1991, the Kurdistan regional government failed to fulfill land grabs of the Assyrians villages in the region.

After June 10, 2014, when IS (Daesh) took occupation of Mosul and Nineveh Plain, losing lands including significant demographic changes occurred, which reduced the population of the Assyrian Christians in Mosul city from 60,000 in 2003 to less than 30 people to date.

The good practices noted in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and it's clear that under Articles 10, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32, that the rights of the Assyrians Christians "the Indigenous Peoples" have violated.

