

**Ms. Hasan** (*spoke in Arabic*):

At the outset, I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks to the Spanish delegation for having invited me today to talk about an important subject that is ravaging the members of my community.

I will open with a phrase that I heard on several occasions after the black day of the attack on the Yazidi region of Sinjar on 3 August 2014. It is a phrase told to me over the phone by a Yazidi in the hands of Da'esh: "I beg you to tell the authorities that if they cannot liberate us, they should bomb us." That phrase still reverberates in my ears, as that sad and terrified girl told it to me. That phrase, which I heard on subsequent occasions as well, from other Yazidis, was uttered in vain. Indeed, the terrorist organization Da'esh abducted over 6,500 Yazidi women and children. For two years, four months and eighteen days, our women and girls have been sold in slave markets and have been subjected to sexual slavery and the slave trade in the worst phenomenon of modern history, because Da'esh has taken us back to the age of slavery and the slave trade, where a twelve-year-old girl is sold for a pack of cigarettes. Those crimes are an embarrassment to humankind. The international community remained silent in the face of all that has happened and is happening still.

Since 3 August 2014, the suffering of Yazidi has continued. Women, in particular, and indeed, Yazidi mothers have to choose between being raped themselves or having their own children raped before their very eyes. That is how we are treated by Da'esh. The virginity of our girls has become the portal to paradise, according to the laws and ideals of Da'esh. The majority were presented as presents during Da'esh festivities or religious competitions. What Da'esh is doing is based on extremist precepts based on fatwahs and religious texts within Islamic jurisprudence. We know that Islam also contains moderate ideas and principles, but the worst part is that Muslim political and religious leaders have remained silent in the face of what Da'esh is doing. That has led to our sadness and fear.

There is no clear fatwah stating that the murder of the Yazidis or non-Muslims is a sin. There is no fatwah that clearly states those who commit such crimes are infidels. There is no such fatwa. We have heard no clear expressions of sympathy from leaders. We are facing a pernicious phenomenon that affects all States, including those that are stable and democratic. We need only consider the terrible attack yesterday in Germany and the murder of the Russian Ambassador in Turkey, committed in cold blood while the terrorists shouted religious slogans.

The international community must eradicate terrorism and eliminate its sources of financing. Da'esh could not commit all those massacres without support. The Yazidis are victims who have paid a very heavy price and been forced to leave the countries where

they have lived for thousands of years. Some have been freed, but genocide has been committed and the Council has been unable to stop it. When selected areas have been reopened, we find the mass graves of Yazidi men, women and even disabled people. Yazidis have often been the victims of murder. If the international community does not provide us with protection, other groups will commit similar crimes and once again thousands of women and girls will become sexual slaves.

We cannot compromise with the honour and dignity of our women and girls. I would ask members to imagine for a few seconds that their son or daughter became the object of a lucrative trade by terrorists or was brainwashed and became a terrorist. Those are very sad images, but unfortunately we them experience

every day. That is the reality we witness daily; it is a twenty-first century reality. Our women and our children are brought to slave markets, much like in medieval times. How can the human conscience stand for that? More than 6,500 Yazidi women were abducted but no military operation was carried out to free them. Where is justice? More than 3,000 women and children were freed by various means through the help of an office of the Government of Kurdistan entrusted with the affairs of kidnapped individuals and others.

The Yazidi religious leaders adopted a declaration facilitating the reintegration victims and their provision of special assistance. We are very grateful, but there are more than 3,000 abducted women who are not treated as prisoners of war. but used as sexual slaves, shared and exchanged among fighters. We understand that the international community has expressed sympathy for our plight, but it must act to stop the genocide and to protect our women so that they do not become objects of such slavery.

To ensure the freedom of more than 3,000 Yazidi women who remain in the hands of Da'esh, I request that Yazidi areas be protected. I also ask for the protection of other minorities to prevent the recurrence of genocide and the enslavement of women. There is a need to evacuate more than 4,000 immigrants from Turkey and other countries, who currently live in very difficult conditions, and to give the Yazidis, particularly those who have been victims of slavery, opportunities to immigrate, as Germany has done.

There are 100,000 displaced persons and refugees in camps in Kurdistan. Despite the liberation of Yazidi areas, they have been unable to return and need the Council's support given their humanitarian and health problems. They need to be provided with consistent support to face the problems of genocide and sexual enslavement. We encourage the International Criminal Court to investigate those crimes. I hope that our requests will be considered so that we are able to survive in dignity.