

مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط

Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning



Report Summary

Speicher's Crime: Pattern of Mass Murder and Genocidal Intent

Department of Planning and Policy

Introduction:

”Not only did 1,700 people die, but 1,700 mothers, 1,700 fathers, and 1,700 brothers and sisters died with them,” one of the relatives of the victims of the Speicher crime told the UN investigation team (unitad).

The United Nations investigation team into the crimes of ISIS has officially issued its final report on the mass murder that occurred in the presidential palace complex in Tikrit, known as Speicher’s crime, in relation to the military base from which the soldiers who were killed in a genocidal massacre came out, and the report reviewed the preliminary legal and factual findings regarding the massacre committed in the presidential report in Tikrit, located in Salah al-Din governorate, in which more than 1700 young people were killed while leaving the Tikrit air base academy in the period between at least 12 and 14 June 2014, the report relied on objective documented evidence that included evidence from the perpetrators, witness statements, survivors of the murder, eyewitnesses, experts, and interviews with the victims, relatives, videos and audio recordings, forensic evidence, documentary evidence “documents” and many other evidence that can be relied on to find objective and evidence-based results, reaching the factual findings contained in the report and the preliminary legal assessment of the crimes committed.

The report concludes with two main conclusions: First, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the killings that took place in the presidential palace complex (Camp Speicher) were committed with genocidal intent against the Shiites in Iraq. Secondly, these criminal acts, based on reasonable grounds, amount to crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

The submission of this report to the Iraqi judiciary by the unit investigation team comes as the team is preparing to conclude its work in September 2024.

Investigation team (unitad):

The United Nations investigation team to promote accountability for crimes committed by the ISIS, abbreviated as the unitad team, is an independent and impartial investigation team aimed at strengthening the accountability of ISIS members for their international crimes that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Iraq. The unitary team was established in response to the request of the government. On August 9, 2017, the establishment aims to assist the Iraqi government in ensuring that ISIS members are held accountable for the serious crimes committed by the organization in Iraq, pursuant to a UN security council resolution by the consensus number. 2379, which established and provided text It will be headed by a special adviser to the secretary-general.

The establishment of the terrorist organization ISIS:

The report explains the development of terrorist groups, the change in their leadership and organizations in Iraq from 2003 to 2014, and the Speicher massacre. The report points out that the organization (Tawhid and Jihad group), founded by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and then changed its name in 2004 to (Al-Qaeda in Iraq) represents the roots of the establishment of ISIS, and this group focused on the strategy of eliminating the near enemy (Shiites, especially the Twelver Imam Shiites), instead of focusing on The distant enemy (the Zionist entity and the United States of America), and after the murder of Zarqawi in (2006) Abu Hamza al-Muhajir founded the (Islamic State) in Iraq, after which the activity of the terrorist organization declined and after the year (2012) the organization was active in re-emerging simultaneously with the escalation of the conflict in Syria and the appointment of extremist military and security officers The year 2012 witnessed multiple strikes on Shiite civilian targets either in holy places (such as the Holy Karbala) or during Shiite religious holidays, and in early 2013, protests were launched in Sunni areas in Nineveh and Anbar governorates against The

government, organized by tribal leaders, clerics, representatives of Sunni political parties, and members of the Baath party, organized what are known as Friday sit-ins and unified Friday prayers. These sit-ins and prayers spread to other provinces, such as Tikrit and Kirkuk, and members of the Baathist armed group (the Army of Men of the Naqshbandi Order) joined this movement. Hence, ISIS succeeded in attracting many protest leaders to its ranks, and many residents welcomed the arrival of ISIS and considered them tribal revolutionaries.”

Tikrit Air Base (Camp Speicher):

Camp Speicher is one of the largest and most fortified military and air bases in Iraq, and it included many military formations of the Iraqi army and counter-terrorism forces, and before (June 10, 2014) there were about (1365) members of the air force, the army, the Ministry of defense, as well as the forces of the Golden Division of the counter-terrorism service at the base, and by (June 10-11, 2014) due to the news of the fall of Mosul and the arrival of al-Qaeda in Tikrit, the members of the Air Force Command evacuated the camp, and it is likely that the members of the camp protection elements from the army led left the camp, and in the afternoon (June 11, 2014) ISIS attacked camp Speicher, but the forces of the Golden Division repelled The camp also included 1,300 military students under training, and on the morning of June 12, 2024, many individuals, estimated at more than 2,500 individuals, left the camp, the overwhelming majority of whom were Shiites, including newly affiliated volunteers, and they were not armed and dressed in civilian clothes. Although the troops of the Golden Division prevented the departing personnel from leaving in order not to be killed, but in vain, the terrorist organization ISIS intercepted the departing personnel, and the organization guided the personnel leaving the camp on the route they should take and told them that they would be guided home to return. While being taken to the compound, the detainees were beaten on the back and head with sticks, guns,

or other objects, or with the arms of ISIS elements, and they were crammed into trucks on top of each other without a place to move or air to breathe. Despite the hot weather and their complaints of thirst, the detainees were deprived of water and forced to lie down in the sun and many had their hands tied behind their backs for hours in inhuman conditions.



Committing genocide against Twelver Shiites:

The report documents the process of detaining soldiers and separating them from each other on a sectarian basis and then killing them, and after the detaining of soldiers, trainee students and volunteers in the presidential palace complex after leaving the Tikrit Air Academy (Speicher), numbering (2,500) men, the Wali Salah al-Din of the terrorist organization ISIS, after consulting with the senior leadership of SISI, after consulting with the senior leadership of SISI, ordered that repentance be offered to sunnis and that all shiites be killed, as the organization's elements used a firm method in which Sunnis were separated from Shiites through their identity cards, phones, and other personal belongings, and the name and

place of residence the two contained in the identity card would provide a reliable basis for the identification of Shia detainees. Some ISIS operatives answered incoming calls to the detainees' phones and asked whether the owner of the phone was a Sunni or a Shiite, and those who answered that they were Sunnis were tested by performing prayers. After separating Sunnis from Shiites, Sunnis were released, and all Shiites were killed, as the killing took place in four or five killing areas around the presidential palace complex, where The detainees were grouped into groups and taken to the execution areas, lying on the ground or kneeling on the ground, and then shot at close range. The bodies were buried in mass graves in the presidential palace complex, and some were thrown into the river, where the bodies of the executed victims floated and were thrown into the river on the surface of the Tigris. The recovered remains of the buried victims show that all those executed were young males (97% in the age group of 35 years and younger) and most of them were dressed in civilian clothes, the killing process lasted for at least three days in which about (100 - 150) members of the Daesh terrorist organization were killed, and the perpetrators included Daesh fighters, prisoners who escaped from tasfirat prison and other prisons and local sleeper cells belonging to Daesh, the murder was filmed by Daesh and at least two videos were published later containing horrific and shocking scenes of ill treatment and execution, one of The videos, entitled "Kill them where you educated them" clearly propagates daesh policy of genocide against Shiites.

The report concludes that ISIS and its predecessors adopted a consistent and unified policy of genocide against the Shiites in Iraq as a group, mainly by targeting and killing adult male Shiites, and the policy of genocide against Shiites was based on a false argument (Shiites are seen as a group of apostates and apostates who constantly plan and plot to outdo Sunnis, kill them, destroy Islam, and spread conflict and divisions among Muslims, and they were considered "the real danger,



the insurmountable obstacle,” and “the black crawl”) from the point of view of the terrorist organization ISIS.

The report concludes according to the statements, actions, and behavior of ISIS B (that the ISIS members involved in the murder in the presidential palace complex were aware of the organization’s policy of genocide and had the same intention to destroy the Shiites as a group in Iraq by targeting all adult males; the statements made in conjunction with their actions and in conjunction with them show that they considered the execution of Shiite detainees presidential palaces to be only one incident of the intended destruction of all tributaries according to their description).

The report confirms that the number of dead actually represents the target group of the Shiites and that they are a key component of the protected group (the Twelve Shiites in Iraq). The size and importance of the target part of the group are usually inferred from the number of dead attributed to cases of genocide, and

although the number of those actually executed in the presidential palace complex is a small percentage of adult Twelver Shia males in Iraq, the intention to target all of them is clear based on several factors.

First, the killing in the presidential palace complex must be viewed in the context of the ISIS killings against the Shiites inside the territory controlled by ISIS, and it is clear that the intention was to eliminate every adult male from the Shiites found by ISIS, and the Shiite families knew this; most of them fled before the arrival of ISIS to avoid, a new way to kill Shiites, but those who remained were followed and killed. For example, after the capture of Mosul, ISIS killed about 600 Shiite men in Badush prison, and Shiites were targeted, including Shiite Turkmen in Amerli, Tuz Khurmatu, Tal Afar, and other locations.

Second, some of the perpetrators of the crime publicly described the killing of Shiite detainees as one example of the deliberate destruction of all Rafidah.



Third: the fact that the actual killings were limited to the areas controlled by the organization or where it was active cannot be attributed to ISIS; if it had had the opportunity to penetrate further into Iraqi territory, it would have killed adult males of Twelver Shiites wherever they were, because this was its intended goal of destroying Shiites, and the targeted part was an essential component of the Shiites . There is no doubt that adult males constitute an essential component of the Shiites in Iraq, and the killing of the male members of a group or a large number of them is a sufficient basis to conclude the intention to destroy the entire group.

Number of victims and missing persons:

The report stated that those who left on June 12, 2014, from camp are estimated at more than 2500 personnel, and the current number of dead and missing members of the Tikrit Air Academy exceeds (2000) personnel. It is likely that those who left the Tikrit Air Academy base on June 10, 2014, or before this date have returned home safely. while those who left on or after June 11, 2014, disappeared or were killed while trying to return to their homes. But what is proven is that more than 1,700 Shia males were killed in the Speicher massacre, and a team of specialists in forensic science, pathology, and genetics from the Department of Forensic Medicine at the Iraqi Ministry of Health By examining the remains of at least 1237 victims from 14 cemeteries and two scenes of river crimes in the presidential palace complex, the Department of Mass Graves Affairs and Protection exhumed the remains and recovered them, identifying 1070 victims (86.5%) out of the 1237 recovered remains.

Classification of Speicher's crime:

The systematic and organized way of arresting the camp members and forcing them to walk in detention, pursuing the fugitives from them, collecting them, loading them on trucks, transporting them to the presidential palace complex, separating Sunnis and Shiites, landing them in specific killing areas, and executing them by ISIS elements are all factors that show that the murder in the presidential palace complex was not the result of a panic born

The report concludes that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the murder that took place in the presidential palace complex amounts to several international crimes, the most prominent of which are genocide, crimes against humanity, and the killing of detainees by virtue of their belonging to the Twelver Shiites. The filming of the killing process indicates that the project was of promotional importance for ISIS to offer the execution of adult Shiite males. The report concludes that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the killing that took place in the presidential palace complex amounts to several international crimes, most notably In particular, there are reasonable grounds to believe that:

ISIS followed a policy of genocide against Shiites through the killing of adult males of more than 1700 Shiite males who were executed over three or four days for the period between 12 and at least June 2014

Direct and public incitement to commit genocide by filming, editing, publishing, and distributing an ISIS video entitled "Kill them where you have educated them".

Crimes against humanity have been committed against the more than 1,700 male Shiita detainees executed in the presidential palace complex, as acts such as imprisonment and other inhumane acts, torture, murder, extermination, and persecution.

Acts (torture and murder) considered war crimes were committed against the detainees executed in the presidential palace complex, numbering more than 1,700 male Shiites, as they were subjected to arbitrary detention, cruel treatment, torture, and murder.

Through interviews conducted with the families of the martyrs of the Speicher massacre and their wider community (relatives and friends), the report describes that the massacre of soldiers, trainees, and volunteers who left the Tikrit Air Academy (Speicher) has a serious and long-lasting impact on their families and the wider community, and the loss, trauma, and damage inflicted on them remain dominant on a deep level, individual, collective, and intergenerational. And that the damage inflicted on them has several physical and mental forms, and these families confirm that finding the truth and what happened to their loved ones, shedding light on the crimes and violations committed, and their receipt reparation for the damage and recognition of their difficult situation would help them in get some rest.

Conclusion.

At the end of the report, a set of recommendations and important basic demands must be worked to achieve, the least of which is to provide the families of the victims and the missing with a fair and decent commemoration of the victims that carries the lessons of this massacre and horrific crime. The most important of these demands are the following:

Determine the fate of the missing from the Speiker massacre, whose families and mothers are still living in a painful situation due to the lack of recognition of the final fate of their sons.

Search for the remains of the victims, find and open the remains of the graves, identify the remains, and deliver them to their families and loved ones.

He examined the social conditions before ISIS entered Tikrit and revealed the reasons that explain the sending of individuals to Camp Speicher, despite the prevailing security situation in the area at the time in Tikrit.

Compensation, material and moral reparation, recognition of rights, provision of aid, and psychological and social support to the families of martyrs and missing persons.

The Speicher massacre was declared a genocide by the United Nations.

About center

Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2015 and registered with the NGO directorate in the general secretariat of the council of ministers in Baghdad.

The center seeks to contribute to developing the state and its institutions, by proposing ideas and practical solutions to the main problems and challenges facing the state, including improving public sector management, policies, and strategic planning, using reliable data and best practices. The center engages the relevant authorities in the state with regular meetings to support this objective and utilizes the support of international organizations dedicated to assisting Iraq's development. The center also seeks to support economic reforms, and sustainable development and provide technical assistance to the public and private sectors. The center also seeks to support the development of the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens through training and upskilling, in a way that reduces dependence on government institutions and contributes to supporting and diversifying the country's economy.

The center aims to utilize the vast amount of potential in Iraq's human resources by organizing programs to prepare and develop promising young people, including leaders capable of proposing, adopting and implementing visions and future plans that advance society and preserve its value-system based on the commitment to a high moral standard and rejection of all types of corruption.

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