Keynote Speech Summary

Genocide in Kurdistan Region should not be Ignored!

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The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the audience to the 4th International Scientific Conference at Hawler Medical University by reinforcing the violation of International Law on genocide in Kurdistan Region. As a Doctoral Legal Researcher on Kurdistan Region, and an Academic Lawyer at Nottingham Law School (United Kingdom), I have knowledge and understanding about the International Law regulating the crime of genocide. The proposed presentation will cover three main parts, namely the history of Kurdistan Region, the International Law on genocide, and the violation of international law in the Kurdistan Region. It starts by considering the historical background of the Kurdistan Region, more specifically the deliberate killing of thousands of Kurdish nationals in Kurdistan region in Iraq.

In order to highlight the violation of international law on genocide, the second part of the presentation will focus on the international legal provisions on genocide with a particular focus on the key requirements under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948). Under the third part of the presentation, the legal requirements under the 1948 convention will be applied to the previous and present acts of deliberate killing of Kurdish nationals to establish the violation of international legal rights of Kurdish nationals in Kurdistan region.

This presentation offers value to the audience, as the key take-a-way points include:

- An overview of the historical background of the Kurdistan Region;
- Raising awareness about the unjustified actions of deliberate killings of Kurdish population;
- Highlighting the applicable International Law to the unjustified actions of deliberate killings of Kurdish population; and
- Confirming the violated International Law on genocide in Kurdistan Region.
Supporting a Sustainable Mechanism to Use GIS in the Forensic Investigation for the Missing Persons' Issue

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Forensic geoscience is an emerging field, involving the application of spatial analysis and environmental science techniques for investigating cases, in the aim of bringing evidence to the court of law. The spatial analysis involves the use of location as defined by X, Y, Z parameters (grid coordinates and elevation) to explain the occurrence of features on the earth's surface. This tends to increase the potential for a higher degree of success in forensic search investigations.

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a support tool offering a spatial analytical capability to collect, integrate and analyze different types of geo-referenced data relevant to forensic cases. The concept of a real-time GIS-based forensic decision-making tool is to offer an interface between information collection and spatial analysis to provide regular support for ongoing and historical investigations.

GIS capabilities have not been routinely used in the collection of spatial data and the development of search and location strategies for large scale missing persons’ cases, homicide graves or other buried objects in Iraq. Through the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) engagement and cooperation with the Commission of Investigation and Gathering Evidence (CIGE), which ICMP has assisted and supported since 2016, the presentation will show the potential for the application of GIS technology to all era missing persons cases and recommend a way forward to creating a sustainable body of expertise in this area, as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to addressing the challenge of missing persons.

Keywords: GIS, Forensic, Missing Persons, Geographic, ICMP, and Mass-graves.
Enhancing the Support for Women and Children Affected by the Conflict: Legal Component

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Women are often considered particularly vulnerable in conflict. They often prove to be surprisingly strong at coping with difficulties. Women and children must be protected in particular against all forms of assault during the conflict (Articles 76 and 77 of Additional Protocol I 1977 Geneva Convention). There is a tendency for women and children in armed conflict to be systematically viewed as an especially vulnerable category of victims, and they are increasingly targeted. In a statistic based on the daily data from investigation procedures in the Commission for Investigation & Gathering Evidence (CIGE), the findings revealed that women and children were the most vulnerable affected category in the armed conflict. The vulnerability to violations has a disproportionate effect on children, adolescents, and women, placing them at a disadvantage which limits the time they take to recover and survive. The key issues have been outlined into two pillars for systemic support of conflict-affected women and children. In the existing post-conflict legal situation, victims have lost the documents required to prove their previous position and direct or indirect victims are affected by grave violations, are in need to deal with the new and existed (post-conflict) legal position. During the conflict, for protection purposes, marriages took place following customs and traditions with no record of marital status in court records and the civil register. The principle of Do No Harm is a central ethical pillar for interventions that aim to support conflict-affected victims fortified with a well-intended intervention plan to avoid any unintended negative consequences. Putting measures in place for the dependents can make alternative arrangements for the legal and financial affairs of their missing loved one by having guardianship powers in place. A certificate of presumed death can be issued to resolve all the suspended affairs of a missing person, in the same way as a death certificate. The authority would allow an application for an order of a presumed death after four years of an incident. During curatorship, the authority would allow the family to maintain and conduct the missing person's estate. Court order of curatorship will protect the financial position of the missing person for his or her dependents. It is recommended to incorporate the international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) in Kurdistan retributive legal system to provide transitional justice to victims and prevent the commission of these grave violations in future. There is a need to legislate new legislation to address the existing issues related to the unwanted pregnancies and newly born infants as a result of a sexual assault in conflict.
Age Estimation at Death Using Teeth

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Unknown bodies of murdered people make a huge challenge for recognition. Perhaps, the age determination of victims may shorten the list and help to be close to identification. Teeth are those organs that minimally changes after death. Both, development and wearing of teeth, recently used as a tool for age estimation. The development of teeth can be used up to the age of 25th, while tooth wear can be used for the rest. Also, tooth-jaw bone relation has its role too. If the personal dental data of population were recorded, it was much easier to belong each body to his own identification data.
The Role of Medical Expertise in the Documentation of Genocide: A 30 Year Retrospective

Susannah Sirkin, Physicians for Human Rights

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has provided medical and forensic expertise to the analysis, documentation, and prosecutions for the crime of genocide in several regions during the past 30 years. I will provide an overview and examples (including through photographs and graphs) of the range of techniques that our medical and public health experts have used in these efforts. They include:

- Use of public health survey methods to document the use of poison gas by the Government of Saddam Hussein against Iraqi Kurds in 1988
- Forensic documentation of the genocidal assault of the Kurdish village of Koreme including grave exhumation (report by Human Rights Watch and PHR)
- Exhumation and examination of the graves at Srebrenica, Bosnia for the ICTY and the documentation of the massacre of hospital patients and staff in Vukovar, Croatia (1992-1996), used in the prosecutions for Bosnian Serb leaders for the crime of genocide
- Documentation and analysis of genocidal assaults on the population of Darfur, Sudan, through PHR study, “Assault on Survival” and analysis under Article 2c of the Convention on Genocide, cited in the indictment for genocide by the ICC;
- Current documentation of genocidal attacks against the Rohingya population of Myanmar, based on PHR’s medical examinations of survivors and epidemiological survey with academic partners of hundreds of survivors recently conducted in Bangladesh.
Research in Kurdistan has proved that as many as 2.9% of the Kurdish population has been exposed to the chemical weapon at some level between August 1983 and March 1988. About 40 Kurdish villages and thousands of innocent civilians were exposed to Chemical weapon. In April of 1987, the villages Balisan and Sheik Wasan were attacked by chemical weapons, more than a hundred people were killed mostly women and children. On March 16, 1988, Halabja was attacked. The attack killed around 5,000 people and injured 7,000 to 10,000 more, most of them civilians. Thousands more died of complications, diseases, and birth defects in the years after the attack; moreover, chemical weapons such as Chlorine bomb has been used extensively in different areas in Iraq during 2007 and Kurdistan in between 2014-2017 by terrorists. According to the (OPCW), the term chemical weapon can be applied to any toxic chemical or its precursor that can cause death, injury, temporary incapacitation or sensory irritation through its chemical action. Depending on their severity and toxicity Chemical weapon can be divided into two major groups; incapacitating agents like LSD and Diphenylchloroarsine, which are administered mainly, by law enforcement agencies to temporarily and non lethally impair the performance of an enemy or to maintain social order, quell civil disturbances and stop political violence. The second group; Lethal toxic chemical agent are Nerve gas, blistering, choking and Blood agents. Chemical weapons are highly toxic compounds. For instance, nerve gas or blood agents can kill people within a few minutes after exposure. Chemical weapons induce their toxicity and lethality through different mechanisms of action. For instance, Sarine acts by blocking cholinesterase; Hydrogen cyanide blocks cytochrome oxidase, while Phosgene oxime inactivates the nitrogenous bases of DNA (Guanine).
Using Chemical Weapon by ISIS (in Kurdish)

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پوخته‌ی بکاره‌یانی چکی کمیاوای له‌لانی دااعشه‌وه
ریکارئ مزوری

نیکعن حکومی لمشکری داعشه به داکیکردنی کوردستان بیرخودانی پنحارگه دااعشه پخای پرده به چکی
قدده‌کریاوه نیودولوئی ززی پنحارگه 8 هعشت جار چکی کمیاوای دزی پنحارگه بهکار هاتوه نزیکی ی 5
پنحارگه بوته قوربانی نام جاکه قاده‌کریاوه بریدنادر شهوید بووزنی‌ه‌ایکی پنحارگه دیکومینتاری بارواردکاری
میدانیه لاصعر بکارنیاوه‌ی چکی کمیاوای له‌ایی بعس و دااعشه‌وه بعظاوه نامر و بیرانکاری داعشه و
به‌عسکیاوه رون دکساروه جوزن دم دوو نایاولویی نیسلاوی عرووبی بهعسی پئشترکی عرووبی هم‌واو هنولیکیان
داهو به لخاوندینی نایب و کامه ناشوتکیا عیراق و هک تورکاننی ناشوری کلانی شهیکاک کورد کاکه‌ی نزیدی.
یکیپنحارگه‌ی دئی کوش
بیشی‌ی دئیم: بکارنیاوه‌ی چکی کمیاوای له‌ایی بعسیاوه، بارزانیاوه و هک نومونه
بیشی دوویم: دئیمی داعشه و ویزئناریکاوه و بکارنیاوه‌ی چکی کمیاوای له‌ایی دااعشه‌وه دزی پنحارگه و
بارزانیاوه و هک نومونه
بیشی سیمیم: بعرارداکاری نیوانین