

Conference Program



Hawler Medical University

4th International Scientific Conference

**‘Towards Scientific Identification of
Mass Graves and Genocide in
Kurdistan Region’**

Erbil International Hotel

Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan Region

7-8 November 2018

www.hmu.edu.krd



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Welcome Note

I would like to welcome you to the 4th International Scientific Conference of Hawler Medical University, which is held under the theme of ‘Towards Scientific Identification of Mass Graves and Genocide in Kurdistan Region’.

Hawler Medical University always works on addressing the issues related to the health and wellbeing of the community and developing the medical education in Kurdistan and Iraq as a whole. Every year, we carry out different scientific activities to address these issues. In the previous conferences of Hawler Medical University, we tried to address important topics such as directing scientific research to address the community needs and promoting the medical education in Kurdistan. In the current 4th International Scientific Conference of Hawler Medical University, we discuss the important issues of mass graves and genocide.

During the last few decades, Kurdistan Region faced many ethnic cleansing and mass attacks that have results in killing hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, demolition of thousands of villages and forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Chemical weapon bombardment of different areas including Halabja and the ill-reputed Anfal operations are examples of these non-human attacks and tragedies.

Unfortunately, all these events and their consequences are not adequately covered in the literature, and limited research has addressed them. All these operations in addition to the recent attack of ISIS on civilians and mass killings have produced hundreds of mass graves throughout Kurdistan and Iraq.

Our experience with identification and exploring mass graves is very recent, and we need to do such important and sensitive work in a sound scientific method. Therefore, we ought to bring experts from throughout Iraq and from abroad together in this conference to present their experiences and discuss the best ways and method

for the scientific identification of mass graves and proper documentation of genocide in Kurdistan region. These efforts can help in getting international recognition of these genocide acts and will assist in preventing such aggressions and non-human behavior against the human being and our nation in particular in the future.

I would like to thank all the speakers and presenters for their valuable contribution to the conference and this important issue.

I would like to thank the conference organizing committees for the hard work for preparing all the details of this conference.

I wish all the conference participants a successful and fruitful participation in the conference and a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Erbil for those coming from outside the city.



**Assistant Professor
Dr. Dara O. Meran
President
Hawler Medical University**

Conference Organizing Committees

Conference Higher Committee

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Shaymaa Sabri

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Conference Scientific Program

Day I – 7th November 2018

8:30-9:30 Registration
9:30-10:00 Opening Ceremony
10:00-10:45 Keynote Lecture:
 Background of the Genocide in Kurdistan – Mr. Fadhil Mirani

10:45-11:15 Gallery and Coffee Break

11:15-12:00 Panel-Molecular Identification of Victims of Genocide
Dr. Yassin K. Amin, Paywast J. Jalal, Dr. Ayshan R. Yassin
Moderator: Dr. Aveen F. Haji Mam

Session 1 – (12:00 -13:00) Genocide and Mass Graves

Moderators: Prof. Kawa Dizaye, Dr. Daniele S. Persike

Time	Presentations
12:00-12:15	Keynote Lecture: Genocide in Kurdistan Region Should not be Ignored! Dr. Azhin Omer
12:15-12:30	Forensic Investigation of Barzani Mass Grave Skeletal Remains in Busaya Desert in Samawa Dr. Yassin K. Amin
12:30-13:00	Questions and Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch

Session 2 – (14:00-16:00)

Legal Issues and Documentation of Genocide

Moderators: Dr. Azhin Omer, Dr. Samir Othman

Time	Presentations
14:00-14:15	Religion Perspective of Genocide (in Arabic) Dr. Yassin Bahrkay
14:15-14:30	Supporting a Sustainable Mechanism to Use GIS in Forensic Investigation for the Missing Persons' Issue Garikai Crispin Mpande, Dr. Tareq Omairi
14:30-14:45	Enhancing The Support for Women and Children Affected by The Conflict: Legal Component Mr. Ayman Mostafa
14:45-15:00	Mortality and Kidnapping Estimates for the Yazidi Population: A Retrospective Household Survey Dr. Valeria Cetorelli, Dr. Nazar Shabila
15:00-15:15	Gaps in Medical Research and Documents Regarding Kurdish Genocide in Kurdistan Region Dr. Hamdia M. Ahmed, Dr. Aveen F. Haji Mam, Dr. Arazoo Falahi, Kathryn Mishkin
15:15-15:30	Documentation of Kurdish Genocide: A Retrospective Study Dr. Kareem F. Aziz, Jawdat M. Al-Hagbaker, Sideeque Sadir, Yousif Muhammad
15:30-16:00	Questions and Discussion

Scientific Program

Day II – 8th November 2018

Session 3 – (9:00-11:00)

Forensic Anthropology and Role of DNA and Molecular Identification of Victims of Genocide

Moderators: Prof. Ali Al-Dabbagh, Dr. Arthur Saniotis

Time	Presentations
9:00-9:15	Keynote Lecture: Age Estimation at Death Using Teeth Dr. Khurshid A. Kheder Khrwatany
9:15-9:30	Mass Grave Excavation and Osteological Evaluation of Peshmarga Mass Grave in Shakhke –Duhok Dr. Yassin K. Amin
9:30-9:45	Forensic DNA Analysis Technologies in the Identification of Human Remains in Mass Graves Dr. Soza T. Baban
9:45-10:00	The Actions of Chemical Weapons Prof. Kawa Dizaye
10:00-10:15	Forensic Investigation of Two Christian and Muslim Mass Graves. Dr. Yassin K. Amin, Dr. Goran Q. Othman
10:15-10:30	The role of medical expertise in the documentation of genocide: A 30 year retrospective Susannah Sirkin
10:30-11:00	Questions and Discussion
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break

Scientific Program

Session 4 – (11:15-13:00)

Health and Psychosocial Consequences of Genocide

Moderators: Prof. Sirwan Ali, Dr. Arazoo Fallahi

Time	Presentations
11:15-11:30	Role of Women after Genocide among Barzani Families Mrs. Paywand Naqshbandi ; Dr. Muaf Abdulla
11:30-11:45	Uncovering PTSD Symptoms: What is the Psychological Impact of Genocide on Survivors and How this been Dealt with by Healthcare Provision in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) Dr. Azhin Omar , Dr. Kay Wheat, Dr. Aveen F. Haji Mam
11:45-12:00	Lived Experience of the Activists of Barzani Genocide: A Phenomenological Study Dr. Muaf Abdulla , Dr. Hamdia M. Ahmed, Dr. Tiran J. Piro
12:00-12:15	Biochemical Mechanisms and Methodologies Applied to the Study of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Dr. Daniele S. Persike , Dr. Suad Y. Al-Kass
12:15-12:30	Health Challenges of Women of Martyr Families in Erbil City Dr. Hamdia M. Ahmed
12:30-13:00	Questions and Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch

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Session 5 – (14:00-16:00)

Effect of Chemical Weapon on the Kurdish People

Moderators: Prof. Kawa Dizaye, Dr. Nawsherwan Mohammad

Time	Presentations
14:00-14:15	Delayed Skin, Neurological and Eyes Complications of Chemical Weapons in Peshmargas Dr. Dindar Sh. Qurtas , Dr. Abdullah F. Ahmed, Dr. Barzan A. Ahmed, Dr. Barzhang Q. Saleem
14:15-14:30	Using Chemical Weapon by ISIS (in Kurdish) Mr. Rekar Mzwri
14:30-14:45	Cytogenetic Study among Chemical Bombardment Survivors in Shekh Wasan & Balisan Valley Kurdistan Region-Iraq Miss Sheeman H. Mohammed , Dr. Hazha J. Hedayat
14:45-15:00	Clinical Biochemical and Hematological Follow-up of the Peshmarga's Exposed to Chemical Weapon Dr. Mohammad Y. Qader , Dr. Ahmed M. Argushi
15:00-15:30	Questions and Discussion
15:30-16:00	Closing Ceremony

Presenters' Biography

Panels and Session 1

**Mr. Fadhil Mirani**

Mr. Fadhil Mirani was born in Mosul in 1948. He joined the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in 1966 and became a member of the political bureau of the party since 1979. He served as the Minister of Interior in the Kurdistan Regional Government from 1996 to 2000. He is the secretary of the political bureau of KDP since 2004. He speaks Kurdish, Arabic, English, Persian and Turkish languages.

**Dr. Yasin K. Amin**

Dr. Yasin has M.Sc. of Anatomy and Histology from Salahaddin University in 2002 and Ph.D. of Embryology from Hawler Medical University in 2009. He is also graduated as Forensic Medicine and Forensic Anthropology in Bournemouth University 2005. He joined Hawler Medical University in 2002 and worked as lecturer in different fields of anatomy, embryology and forensic anthropology. Dr. Yasin worked on exhumation of mass graves in Iraq especially Kurdish mass grave in south of Iraq and genocide with the chemical bomb attack of Kurdish civilian people in Halabja and ISIS war. He obtained the assistant professor academic title in 2009 and served as the director general of Medico legal Institute (MLI) of Kurdistan Region since 2005. He is currently the director general of the Medical Research Center at Hawler Medical University.

**.Paywast J. Jalal**

Paywast is a split-site PhD student in the field of Molecular Immunology at Sulaimani University in collaboration with the University of Nottingham. In 2010, she got an MSc degree in Molecular Virology from Sulaimani University. She is currently working as a researcher in the field of Molecular Biology at the Medical Research Center in Hawler Medical University. In 2004, she participated in a training course held by the Ministry of Health/KRG on Mass Graves and later she participated in exploring one of the mass graves near Halabjah. As an academic, she is an expert in molecular techniques and analysis of the molecular data.

**Dr. Ayshan R. Yassin**

Ayshan is a researcher of molecule genetic at the Medical Research Center, Hawler Medical University. She is a graduate of the Department of Molecule Biology, University of Salahaddin. She obtained MSc degree from the Department of Medical Biology Genetics, Gaziantep University and PhD from the Molecule Genetic Department, Faculty of Medicine, Gaziantep University. She is currently working on two types of project about cancer cell line

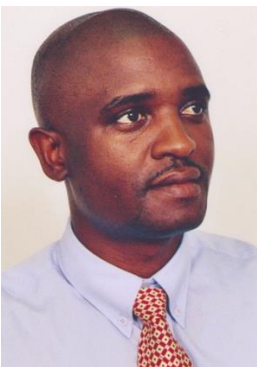
**Dr. Azhin Omer**

Azhin completed Law College in Amsterdam; Bachelor of Laws at Nottingham Law School; Master of Laws at De Montford University; and currently, a PhD Researcher at Nottingham Trent University. As a full-time lecturer, Azhin is the leader of master's module on Terrorism & International Response; and lecturer of bachelor's modules including Legal & Professional Environment; Tort & Case Analysis; Public Law & Legal Research Skills. Azhin is currently researching the healthcare system of Kurdistan region of Iraq under her PhD and aims to make recommendation for potential solutions. Azhin has recently published a chapter in Global patient safety book on patient safety strategies of Kurdistan region in Iraq. Azhin has also appeared and discussed the impact of political instabilities of Kurdistan region on the healthcare system in a number of national and international media channels including ITV News (2015) and BBC Radio (2014).

Session 2

**Dr. Yassin Bahrkay**

Dr. Yassin Bahrkay has PhD in Islamic Sciences. He has worked as lecturer, head of department and assistant dean in different departments and colleges of the University of Salahaddin and Soran University.

**Mr. Garikai Crispen Mpande**

Mr. Garikai is a Certified GIS Professional (GISP) with more than 18 years of experience in GIS and Remote Sensing technologies. This experience has been accrued through application of GIS in highly diverse fields that include agricultural research, mineral exploration, utilities management, land information management systems, peace keeping operations, infrastructure development and currently in the search and identification of missing people. He has high level ability in acquiring, processing and outputting spatial and no-spatial data as well as extensive experience in setting up GIS web platforms. He holds MSc in GIS/LIS from the University of Zimbabwe.

**Judge Ayman Mostafa**

Judge Ayman has MSc in Forensic Criminology from Sheffield Hallam University and Diploma in Public Policy & Management, KDI School, Republic of Korea. He also has BA Law & Politics from the University of Salahaddin. He works as head and investigating judge for commission of investigation & gathering evidence (CIGE) since 2014. He worked as lecturer of criminal procedures code at Nawroz University, Department of Law in Duhok from 2013 to 2016. He worked as judge for first instance court in Duhok from January to September 2014. He worked as judicial investigator for Inquiry courts to investigate in misdemeanor, felony and anti-terrorism crimes from 1998 to 2013.

**Dr. Nazar Shabila**

Nazar has MSc degree in Public Health in Developing Countries from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Ph.D. in Community Medicine from Hawler Medical University. He is an assistant professor of public health at Hawler Medical University. He has more than 50 peer-reviewed publications. His current research work is primarily related to health services research, conflict and health, women's health, and violence against women.

**Dr. Aveen F. Haji Mam**

Aveen was born in Erbil. She finished her PhD in Midwifery and Women Health at DMU in Leicester city UK. Her research interest areas are women health and empowering, Behavioral changes Models, health education programmes and health outcomes. In 2013, Aveen was the first Kurdish student, who get Queen Elizabeth grant to participate in a research training course in Cumberland lodge in Windsor Castle/ London. She collaborated actively with researchers in several other disciplines of sociology, health sciences, and Reproduction Health in particularly. She attended around 25-30 international and national conferences. Outside of professional interests, Aveen enjoy swimming, travelling, and reading books.

**Dr. Kareem F. Aziz**

Dr. Kareem has PhD in community health nursing from Hawler Medical University. He has 35 years of teaching experience in the field of community health nursing as well as research experiences. Presently, he is working as a faculty in the Nursing Department of College of Nursing. He is the member in MSHOK organization for health education and member in scientific committee for breast cancer prevention and early detection in the ministry of health in Kurdistan Region. He has a number of publications in both national and international peer-reviewed indexed journals and also has been serving as an editorial board member as well as the reviewer of Erbil Nursing and Midwifery Journal.



Dr. Khurshid A. Khrwatany

Dr. Khurshid has a Doctor of Maxillofacial Surgery degree from Russia. He is a lecturer at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the College of Dentistry, Hawler Medical University. He is also a Consultant and Operative Surgeon at Rezgari Teaching Hospital. He has participated in different workshops, training courses and conferences.



Dr. Soza Tharwat Baban

Dr. Soza is a biomolecular and medical microbiology specialist. She is a lecturer in Molecular Medical Microbiology in the College of Health Sciences, Hawler Medical University and she is the director of infection prevention and control system at the Surgical Specialty hospital in Erbil. She has PhD in Molecular Medical Microbiology from the University of Nottingham 2011, where she studied the virulence of the human hypervirulent UK-outbreak hospital strain of Clostridium difficile infection in UK. She has MSc in Molecular Clinical Microbiology from the University of Nottingham 2007. She has more than 9 years of research activities focus on biomolecular and laboratory medicine and molecular diagnostics, hospital prevention and control of infections caused by multi-resistant hospital-acquired pathogens.



Prof. Kawa Dizaye

Prof. Kawa has PhD in Medical Pharmacology. He is a Professor of Medical Pharmacology at the College of Medicine, Hawler Medical University. He is a member of Halabja Medical Institute (HMI) which dealt with long term effects of chemical weapons on health in Kurdistan of Iraq from 1999 to 2002. He participated in the meetings of several Chemical and Biological Medical Treatment Symposia series in Switzerland, France and Croatia. He has membership of scientific committees in different universities, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Health in Kurdistan and Iraq. He has more than 55 published papers. He has supervised more than 40 Master and PhD students.



Dr. Goran Q. Othman

Dr. Goran received the M.Sc. degree in Genetics from the same institution in 2002. He completed his Ph.D. degree of cell biology at Baghdad University in 2009. Beside his qualifications in Biology, he graduated as B.A. at English department - Salahaddin University in 2009. He joined Erbil Polytechnic University in 2010 after spending eight years as lecturer and researcher at Salahaddin University. He also served as employer in Erbil Medico-legal Institute for six months working on mass grave and genocide cases. He gained assistant prof. academic title since 2015 and served as the director of scientific research center and the manager of Polytechnic journal in Erbil Polytechnic University. His fields of research include cancer biology and oxidative stress and he supervises a number of PGD and MSc students.



Susannah Sirkin

Sirkin is the Director of Policy at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), where she has worked since 1987. Sirkin has organized health and human rights investigations to dozens of countries including documentation of genocide and systematic rape in Darfur, Sudan; exhumations of mass graves in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda for the International Criminal Tribunals; and documentation of Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s; She has authored and edited numerous reports and articles on the medical consequences of human rights violations, physical evidence of human rights abuses, and physician complicity in violations. Sirkin lectures regularly on health, human rights and international humanitarian law in medical schools and schools of public health. She also served from 1992 to 2001 for PHR as a member of the Coordination Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Peace.

Session 4



Mrs. Paywand Naqshbandi

Paywand is a graduate of the Nursing College in Hawler Medical University. She continued practicing her Job for 4 years as Assistance Lecturer in Nursing and Midwifery Department at the University of Polytechnique in Hawler. She finished Masters in Nursing degree in Maternity nursing. After she received her high degree education, her accomplishments did not end. She has been in my current position as a headquarters of Midwifery Department and Nursing Department since February 2016. She encourages young people—especially women and girls—to study the hard. Her life example teaches us to follow our dreams, no matter how great.



Dr. Muaf Abdulla

Dr. Muaf has BSc Nursing from the College of Nursing, Hawler Medical University in 2005, MSc Cardiothoracic Nursing from Bharati Vidyapeeth University-Pune, India in 2012, and PhD Nursing from Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2016. He is the Director of Continuous Professional Development in General Directorate of Erbil Health. As a part of his expertise as a researcher, he has experience in both quantitative and qualitative research and published 10 articles including ISI, PubMed, and scientific research studies. At present, he has six papers that are under review which will be published shortly.



Dr. Daniele Suzete Persike

Daniele is Brazilian, Professor and Visitor Researcher at University of Dohuk. She is graduated in Pharmacy and MSc in Biochemistry, both at Universidade Federal do Paraná. She received her PhD in Pharmacology at Universidade de São Paulo, which was followed by two post-doctoral positions at Universidade Federal de São Paulo. Daniele's focus on protein biochemistry has involved studies on cell signaling and apoptosis, enzymology (proteolysis and activity of caspases), neuroproteomics, and search for new compounds for the treatment of epilepsy, which has resulted in valuable published articles.



Dr. Hamdia M. Ahmed

Dr. Hamdia has MSc and PhD degree in Maternity Nursing from Hawler Medical University. She is assistant professor and she is head of Midwifery Department in the College of Nursing and Director of the Center for Research and Education in Women's Health in Hawler Medical University, Erbil, Iraq. She has more than 25 research papers in fields of women's health, health services research, conflict and health and medical education in Iraqi Kurdistan contexts that have been published in peer reviewed journals. Her current research interest is primarily related to women's health in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. Hamdia has obtained and successfully implemented a number of research and projects for improving nursing and midwifery care in Kurdistan region.

Session 5



Dr. Dindar Sh. Qurtas

Dr. Dindar is lecturer of dermatology at the College of Medicine, Hawler Medical University. He has a Master Degree in Dermatology from Russian Federation in 2008 and a Ph.D. in Dermatology from Russian Federation in 2011. He was the head of the Scientific Research Unit in DoH Erbil 2013-2016 and he is the Director of Erbil Dermatology Teaching Center since 2016. He is the head of Dermatology Unit in the College of Medicine, Hawler Medical University since 2017. He is a trainer of the Dermatology Programs of both the Kurdistan Board for Medical Specialties and the Arab Board for Health Specialties



Mr. Rekar Mzwri

Faris Tahir Maho, known as Rekar Mzwri, is a graduate of Erbil Teacher's Institute in 1988. He has published 22 books, including ten books on the Kurdish nation genocide. He has produced four short documentaries and carried out eight photography and documents exhibition in the different governorates of Kurdistan and Iraq.



Miss Sheeman H. Mohammed

Sheeman has Higher Diploma in Genetics and MSc degree in Molecular Genetics from the College of Education, Salahaddin University. She is an assistant lecturer in the Midwifery Department, College of Nursing, Hawler Medical University. She teaches different courses including genetics including genetic diseases, embryology and pharmacology.



Dr. Ahmed M. Argushi

Dr. Ahmad is a graduate of the College of Medicine, Hawler Medical University. He successfully completed the VIP Medical Support Course with Prometheus Medical (Consolidation/advancement of training within 6 months) at Birmingham in 2009. He participated in a clinical observership program in the Medical University of Vienna in 2011. He completed a training course of radiology for two years. He worked as radiologist for two years. During the war against the ISIS, he actively participated in management and follow up of injured Peshmarga in frontlines specially observation and follow up of injured Peshmarga by chemical attack. Currently, he is a Health Consultant in Kurdistan Region Security Council.



Dr. Mohammad Y. Qader

Dr. Mohammad is a follow of the Arab Council of Medical Specialties. He works as internist at Erbil Teaching Hospital and West Erbil Emergency Hospital. He has participated in different workshops and training courses. His research is related to different fields of internal medicine and the effect of exposure to chemical weapons on different body parameters.



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