



Introducing the CIRC -- The Canadian Inter-Faith Rescue Committee

On March 10, 2015 Canadian journalist Geoffrey Clarfield wrote an article on the plight of Yazidi people of Iraq for the National Post. His argument was simple. We in the West owe the Yazidi, because their translators were essential to the successful liberation of the Kurdish region of Northern Iraq by coalition forces, during the second Gulf War. With the stunning rise of ISIL in Iraq, Canada has now officially joined this fight against terror.

The Yazidi are the most highly persecuted and most at risk minority in Iraq and Syria, two countries embroiled in an onslaught by the radical Islamic forces of ISIL. ISIL's announced goal is to kill all Yazidi men and boys, rape their women and girls, and sell them into slavery. ISIL has killed thousands of Yazidi and continues to rape Yazidi women and sell them as slaves. Every day the papers report new incidents.

As the Executive Director of Mozuud, a new, Canada based human rights organization, Clarfield's Board of Directors asked him to find like minded people in the GTA, in order to form an inter communal, inter faith committee to advocate for the Yazidi and, to lobby the Canadian government to prioritize their accelerated immigration to Canada, from both inside Iraq and from refugee camps in Turkey and Jordan.

The reason for this was and is simple. The situation of the Yazidi is comparable to that of the Jews of Germany in the late 1930s. The Yazidi have no country to defend them, and no nation to advocate tirelessly on their behalf. They are alone and the target of a most brutal, armed and motivated fighting force, the expanding army of the Islamic state.

In May Clarfield found his like-minded allies. They have formed the CIRC, the Canadian Interfaith Rescue Committee. Alongside Clarfield the committee comprises Chuck Konkel, Senior Manager, Toronto Police Service and Catholic community activist, Ghina al Sewaidi, an Arab Muslim immigration lawyer who was born in Baghdad, John Legge, an officer in The Canadian Forces, Anglican community activist and lawyer, Babu Nagalingam, businessman and Hindu community activist, Dr. Martin Mark from the Catholic Archdiocese, as well as Jewish community activist, Irving Weisdorf, founder and President of Mozuud.org

The committee decided that the CIRC would comprise an official volunteer working group of Mozuud.org, acting on behalf of the Yazidi community of Canada, who have requested their help. As an interfaith group of lay Muslims, Christians, Jews and Hindus, they will advocate and fund raise tirelessly for the accelerated immigration of Yazidi to Canada from Syria and Iraq and, from the refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey. The CIRC is committed to lobbying and working alongside, the Canadian government to

accelerate an immediate and mass exodus of Yazidi from their ancestral homeland and, to raise matching funds for their resettlement in Canada.