



**YEZEDIS
BACK FROM HELL**

3 August 2014 will remain the day the life of the yazedis has changed. Up to 200,000 yazedis people have been displaced from their homes in Sinjar City and the surrounding towns and villages when ISIS arrived by surprise .

The islamist group asked the residents to convert or die...Hundreds of Yazidis were executed as they refused. Most of the people left the village on time, fleeing on foot in the mountains, without anything and most of the time without water or food , under a 50 degrees temperature. They walked for 7 days, including the babies and the elders. Many were killed, wounded or captured on the way. Now thousands are in Duhok in Kurdistan, and towns like Zoar when they have found a shelter for the winter. Some still have contacts thanks to the mobile phones with the relatives captured or trapped in Sinjar, but many do not have any news of their relatives and fear the worst...Until now, the town od Sinjar is seized by ISIS, where hundreds of Yazidis remain stranded months after fleeing their homes. But Kurdish peshmergas have regained lot of the ground lost to ISIS with the help of the U.S. air strikes. Sinjar is a strategic place as it would put the peshmergas on three sides of Mosul, the largest city under ISIS rule in northern Iraq.



There are 1,4 millions refugees in Kurdistan, so they have to be welcomed anywhere, like in a school, in Zohar...



« My father and my mother are no more with me. They have been caught by daesh the day we left Sinjar. I escaped on my own. The men from daesh had long beards and big weapons. I walked 7 days in the hills to escape daesh. i do not know if my parents are still alive »



...she nows lives in a school in Zohar,
hoping to get news one day of her
parents...



The father: « we escaped at night, we ended in daesh area... they shoot for a long time, we were surrounded... in front of me, i saw with my own eyes them killing my father, my mother, my mother in law and her two kids. »

They now all live in a school in Zohar city, Kurdistan. The living space is small, the school is not working anymore...



The mother, with one of her daughter, looking at the pictures of her two kids Nasrin and Norhan, in a french newspaper on the mobile phone web: Nasrin and Norhan were wounded by bullets and were sent to Paris to be cured in an hospital thanks to the french consulate in erbil.

"we know we are very lucky are very few have this opportunity to be cured in france, but i miss so much my kids who are only 5 and 6, when i call them they cry a lot, but they are ali-ve, and i kniow so many mother who lost their children..."



« I am Sefan, i 'm 16, i m from Kocho. I was in the village when 13 trucks with daesh men came. they killed a lot of young people. Then they asked us to go in front of the school. They separated the men and the women. They brought a big bag and asked everybody to put the gold and the silver they owned. People shouted. Then they asked us to leave and walk, between 2 trucks. We escaped with friends. We have been attacked, one died, the other one was wounded. we saw a plane coming above us, but we could not move... I was also wounded in the chest. i was .surrounded of dead people. i do not have any news of my 3 brothers and my father. »

Nasser nephew caught by daesh



« I am Nasser, from Kocho, near Sinjar. I am a peshmerga. Daesh arrived in my village at 3 in the night. we had to leave at 7. I could not take care of my parents...I called them and they told me they cannot move. I know that my .brother has been caught by daesh. They also caught his kids. I cannot help anybody by phone, i 'm so sad »

Tahsyn holding a pic of his 2 kids killed



« I am Tahsyn, from Shangal. I lived a big tragedy. I am a peshmerga. when daesh came in the village i asked my family by phone to leave as soon as possible. Daesh came suddenly, it was a big surprise for everybody. My family managed to escape the village but on the way they met Daesh again. They have all been killed: my older brother, my father, my mother, my wife and even my two kids. I just have a picture of them inside my mobile phone as only souvenir. Daesh are just savages. They .even do not respect religion, humanity, they are not humans; even animals have more pity »



lalesh, the peshmergas are still looking around



Lalesh yezedis temple



Ialash



« I am Babe Cawish, i am the main priest of the Lalesh temple for 16 years. Lalesh is the place where all the yezedis came, it is our Mecca. Yezedism forbids to kill or to steal. We have been massacred 73 times during the last centuries, but we survive. Nobody can cinvert to Yezedism if you are not born with yezedis parents. Daesh wants us to convert ot islam, they ask the 7000 yezedis who are in their hands to do so, but they refuse. Without the help of UK, USA a,d european countries, we .would have already been exterminated »



« My name is Resho, i am from Til Binat, near Sinjar. I live with 24 of my relatives sunder a big tent in Lalesh temple. Since daesh has attacked us, we have become miserable people. I had to left my 1000 goats in the mountain. I had no water for them, so it broke my heart to keep them with me, i had to let them go away. I lost everything. Some people from my village have surrendered to daesh. i refused. My old brother has surrendered to daesh. They caught 45 men, they killed all of them! Only 2 could escape and came in lalesh to tell the story. We the yezedis are peaceful people, killing someone is the worst sin we can do! With god help we hope to come back home one day. A man without land, job, house, and who has seen hundreds of his friends being killed, who knows that thousands are trapped in the mountains, and many more are starving, this man is driven to despair. You cannot .imagine what we live »



Rezal:

« When we left Sinjar, the kids suffered a lot, they cried a lot as we needed to walk days and night. Many men from our village died, many women have been captured. I saw some kids dying because of the heat, it was nearly 50 degrees hot! Daesh caught my brother and 7 members of my family. I do not have any news... They even caught one member of my family who is 90! Now we live all together under the tents in lalesh, under the rain , and in the cold, we are so tired of this...In Lalesh the weather is cold, winter is coming, we are in a terrible state of health and mind. We do not own anything anymore, we left everything, no clothes, no furnitures, no .souvenirs...Nothing

Daesh are just wild animals for me. Even animals are better than Daesh. If one day I have daesh guy in front of me, I will tear him in pieces with .my own hands. I swear I will do it »



So many refugees have come to lalesh temple that some now live inside the old rooms of the temple, without heating...



families still arrive in Lalesh temple, even if the place is overcrowded



Free clothes for Ialash refugees. Most of them are Chinese shirts and do not protect against the cold that runs in the area.





« As long as we are not in their hands, we survive. We prefer to die instead of being their slaves. »

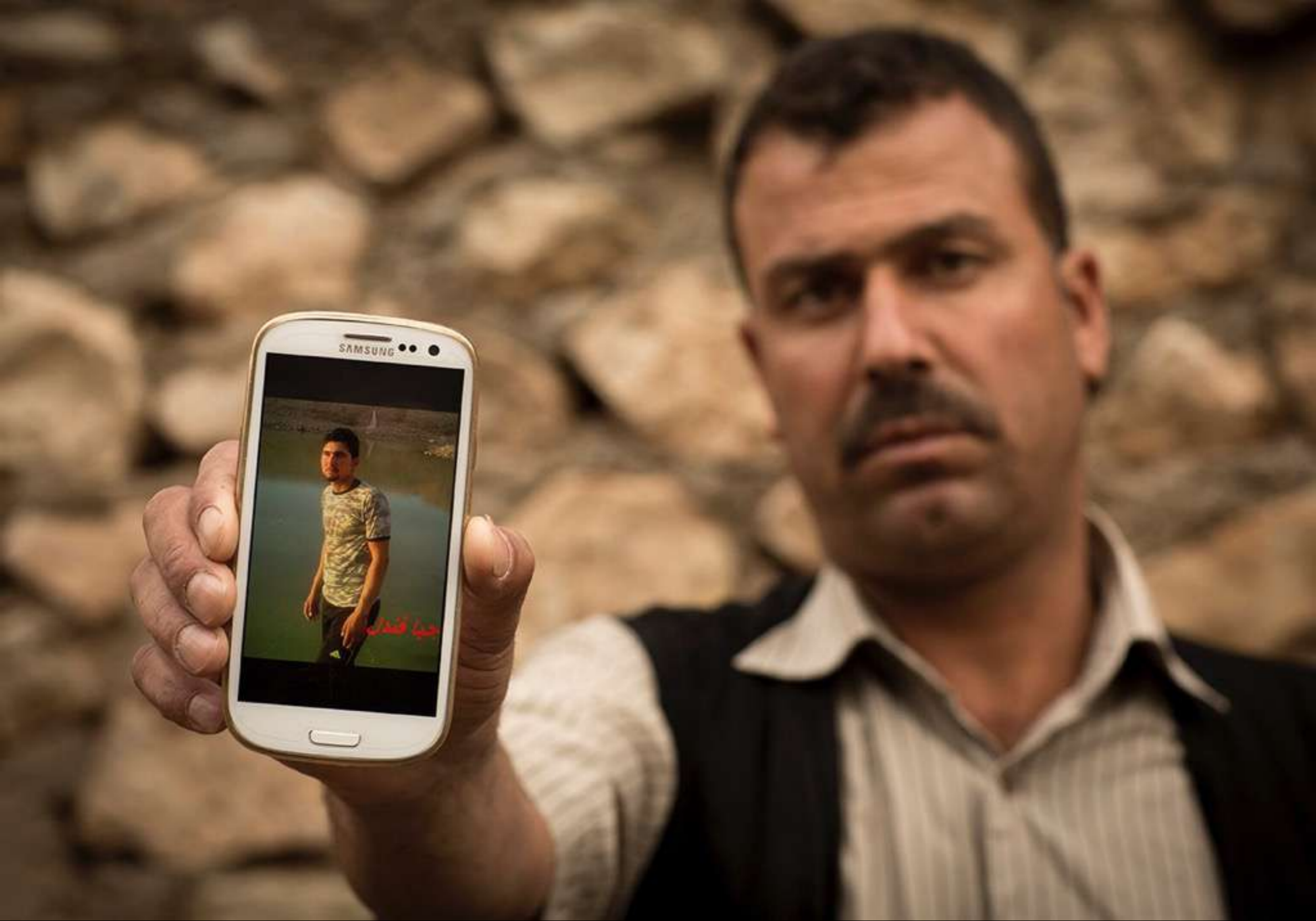


This man had to walk 7 days in the hills to escape dash...

« i lost my leg under Saddam Hussein regime... and now i suffer again under daesh regime »



« We have left Sinjar thru the hills. We walked for 7 days and 7 nights. We had no food and no water. Daesh caught my 2 sons, my father and two of my sisters. I do not have news from them. Daesh are crazy people, they even cut the throat of the babies! They want us, the yezedis, to convert to islam, but we refuse.»



Daesh killed his brother. The only picture he could save.



« My name is Hassan, i m 13. Daesh came suddenly into my village with many men, i did not understood what happened, i was scared.. I left the village, i was hungry...many of my friends have been killed, i lost my best friend Kasi, he was 9... Daesh killed nearly 100 kids from my village.I would like to go back to school... »



« When i'll be an adult, i 'll beat daesh, i 'll kill them. I will make revenge for al the yezedis people. I want daesh to live what we suffered from them. »



They crossed the hills for 7 days with 5 kids. The last one was named Nojin: « the new life »



Symbol of the futur: the refugee camp in front of the flame of an oil well, the wealth daesh is fighting for...

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