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Iraq: Revenge attacks in Sinjar – Arab civilians pay the price for IS crimes

Members of a Yezidi militia attacked two Arab villages, Jiri and Sibaya, in the Sinjar region of north-western Iraq on 25 January 2015. They killed 21 civilians, half of them elderly men and women and children, in what appear to have been execution-style killings, and injured several others, including three children.¹ The gunmen also abducted some 40 residents, 17 of whom are still missing and feared dead.

Amnesty International visited the villages in April 2015 and found that the assailants had systematically looted and burned homes and property, with virtually not a single house spared. Survivors, who had to leave the villages, said that Yezidi acquaintances warned them not to return to their villages; they live in fear they could be attacked again where they are sheltering. They told Amnesty International that they recognized among the perpetrators some of their Yezidi neighbours and long-time acquaintances from Gohbal and other nearby Yezidi villages who belong to a Yezidi militia.² Yezidi and Kurdish sources allege that fighters from the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and their Syrian affiliate, the People's Protection Units (YPG), who are operating in the Sinjar area, also took part in the attack on the two villages.³

The attack appears to have been in revenge for the heinous crimes – massacres, mass abductions, rape and sexual enslavement – perpetrated by the group which calls itself the Islamic State (IS) against the Yezidi minority since it took control of the Sinjar region in August 2014.⁴ Many Yezidis

¹ The Yezidis are ethnic Kurds who are members of a religious minority whose ancient religion has its roots in Zoroastrianism and who worship an emanation of God known as the Peacock Angel. They have long been subjected to discrimination and persecution by Muslims who consider them pagans and often accuse them of “devil worshipping”.

² Amnesty International visited Jiri, Sibaya and surrounding areas on 16, 17 and 18 April 2015. Survivors, witnesses and relatives of victims were interviewed on these dates in nearby villages where they are currently sheltering.

³ Kurdish Turkish PKK and Syrian YPG fighters deployed to Sinjar to assist the Yezidis immediately after the IS attack and have been operating in the area since then. See background section for more details.

⁴ The IS is also commonly known as ISIS, Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham. For more details about the IS' crimes against the Yezidi community see, for example, Amnesty International, *Ethnic cleansing on historic scale: the Islamic State's systematic targeting of minorities in northern Iraq*, 2 September 2014, http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/mde140112014en_0.pdf, and Amnesty International,

and other Kurds accuse their Arab neighbours of having joined the IS, or otherwise having co-operated with it, in committing atrocities against their communities and of having looted their homes and property. In the wake of the IS attack on the area, Yezidi residents of the Sinjar region formed a self-defence militia and together with Kurdish Peshmerga and fighters from neighbouring countries recaptured areas north and east of Mount Sinjar from the IS, including Jiri and Sibaya in late December 2014. The area has since been under Peshmerga control but Kurdish fighters from neighbouring countries also operate there alongside the Yezidi militia. Yezidi fighters and residents commonly say that they do not want Arab residents to remain in the area.⁵



Some of the 21 victims killed in Jiri and Sibaya on 25 January 2015 © Amnesty International

Residents told Amnesty International that on the morning of 25 January 2015, members of the Peshmerga and Asayish security forces of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the commander and members of a local Yezidi militia arrived in the two villages and Peshmerga forces arrested more than 20 men. Most were released the same day or shortly after, while seven or eight remain detained.⁶

Escape from hell: Torture, sexual slavery in Islamic State captivity in Iraq, 23 December 2014, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/articles/news/2014/12/iraq-yezidi-women-and-girls-face-harrowing-sexual-violence/> (both accessed 3 June 2015).

⁵ See, for example, Rudaw, “Yezidi survivors say they cannot forgive Arab complicity in ISIS atrocities”, 5 January 2015, <http://rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/05012015> (accessed 3 June 2015). Most Yezidis from the Sinjar region interviewed by Amnesty International since August 2014 have stated that they would not return to Sinjar if the Arab residents remain in the area, with some calling for the removal of Arab communities from the area and others saying that they wish to leave Iraq and settle in other countries outside the Middle East region.

⁶ Families of some of those still detained told Amnesty International that they had no information about the fate or whereabouts of their detained relatives’ until they were contacted by the International Committee of the Red



A bullet pierced a hole in this baby's blanket © Amnesty International

Residents of Jiri said that members of the Peshmerga and Asayish forces were still present in the village for at least part of the time when Yezidi militia members subsequently attacked them and looted their property but did not act to prevent or stop the attacks. They mentioned, however, that some had alerted residents of the impending attack and later freed a group of abducted women and children and delivered them to a safe area.

In the course of the attack on Jiri, Yezidi militias killed 10 men and a 15-year-old boy and injured 10 residents, including three children. Most were shot point-blank in and around their homes and three were taken by the assailants and were later found dead in nearby Yezidi villages. By the time the attackers reached Sibaya in the afternoon, most of the residents had fled, having heard of the killings in Jiri. The militias, however, did not spare those who stayed behind: they killed eight men and women who were elderly or had physical disabilities and two children. An Asayish commander in Snuni, in the Sinjar area, told Amnesty International that on the morning of 25 January 2015, Peshmerga and Asayish forces went *“to a terrorist village and there the Peshmerga were fired at and in the firefight which ensued some Arabs were killed”*.⁷ He would not provide further details but said:

*“No women or children were killed. On the contrary, we saved more than 40 of them; we took them to al-Na'im and handed them over to the Arab tribal leaders there. There are no missing villagers; the 17 they say are missing are with Da'esh [Arabic acronym for the IS]. Most of the Jhaish tribe are terrorists. I did not see any burning of houses but I don't know what happened after we left. Maybe it was done by angry Yezidi residents, or by the PKK. The Arabs had looted everything from the Yezidi villages; in every house you enter in these Arab villages you find fridges and property they looted from the Yezidis.”*⁸

Yezidi militia commander Qasem Shesho told Amnesty International that there had been no firefight in the village. He said:

Cross (ICRC), which told them that they were detained and where. The families said they had no information about any charges against their detained relatives.

⁷ Meeting with Asayish Deputy Director Ali Ahmad al-Bashki in Snuni, Sinjar region, 17 February 2015.

⁸ *Ibid.*



Looted and burned down house in Jiri
© Amnesty International

“On the morning of 25 January, the Peshmerga and Asayish went to look for wanted men in these two villages, who had been involved in the abduction of Yezidi women and girls, and they asked me to go along and I went with my fighters. I told them that there should be no revenge, only what is permitted by the law. There was no shooting from the villagers and no exchange of fire. Some PKK and old Ba’athists who are with the Peshmerga also went there after I left. There are people who want to cause trouble.”⁹

In a media interview Qasem Shesho said that PKK and YPG¹⁰ fighters had attacked the villages, abducted women and killed a Yezidi youth.¹¹ Media also reported that after the attack local Yezidi leaders held a meeting, condemned the attack and promised it would not be repeated.¹²

In the villages Amnesty International found spent bullet cartridges and bullet holes in the walls of the houses where witnesses said some of the victims were killed.¹³ The testimonies of some 30 residents

of the two villages interviewed by Amnesty International provide consistent descriptions of the attacks. Villagers interviewed by Amnesty International reject accusations that they participated in the abduction of Yezidi women and girls and looted Yezidis’ property. Some maintain that, on the contrary, they helped several Yezidi families to hide and escape from the area. Amnesty International is not in a position to verify either the allegations against the villagers or their assertions to the contrary. Only an independent and impartial investigation could help to establish the veracity or otherwise of these conflicting claims, which, if true, would not in any case justify revenge killings and abductions.

To prevent further revenge attacks, KRG authorities and the Peshmerga forces have tried to keep

⁹ Meeting with Qasem Shesho near Hardan, Sinjar region, 18 April 2015.

¹⁰ The Syrian People’s Protection Units, commonly known by their Kurdish acronym, YPG, are an offshoot of the Turkish PKK, and are also often referred to as PKK.

¹¹ BasNews, “Yazidi Commander: PKK and YPG Creating Tension between Kurds and Arabs”, 29 January 2015, <http://www.basnews.com/en/news/2015/01/29/yazidi-commander-pkk-and-ypg-creating-tension-between-kurds-and-arabs/> (accessed 3 June 2015).

¹² Niqash, “The Sinjar Massacre: Yazidis Take Revenge Against Extremists’ Collaborators”, 29 January 2015, <http://www.niqash.org/en/articles/security/3613/Yazidis-Take-Revenge-Against-Extremists%E2%80%99-Collaborators.htm> (accessed 3 June 2015).

¹³ Had a firefight indeed taken place, there would have likely been bullet impacts on the walls of surrounding houses.

Yezidi and Arab communities separate, but do not appear to have taken the necessary steps to investigate the violations and bring the perpetrators to justice. Amnesty International asked the KRG authorities in a letter sent on 22 May 2015 for information about the findings of any investigation that had been carried out into the events. At the time of writing, the organization received no response.

The abuses committed in the Jiri and Sibaya are serious violations of International Humanitarian Law and some constitute war crimes. The KRG should ensure that the allegations are promptly, thoroughly and independently investigated, that those responsible are held accountable and that the fate and whereabouts of the 17 missing persons is clarified; if they are alive they should be freed immediately and if they are dead their remains should be promptly handed over to their families. Countries which provide military assistance to the KRG must put in place robust oversight mechanisms to ensure that any equipment they provide to the KRG is not used to commit human rights violations.¹⁴

Killings in Jiri

The father of two of the victims from Jiri, **Younis** and **Sattar Shamdin Meri'i**, aged 15 and 20, told Amnesty International:

“When the Yezidi militia came to the village I was in the fields with some of our sheep. I called Sattar and he said that the Yezidis had come and taken all our sheep from the house, 81 sheep, and wanted him and his younger brother Younis to go help them carry the goods they were looting from the houses in the village. We later heard from an old Yezidi friend that their bodies were dumped in Gohbal, a nearby Yezidi village. The bodies were brought back and dumped in Jiri the following day. They had been shot multiple times. I don't know what reason they could have to kill my sons.”

¹⁴ Countries reportedly providing military assistance (including some or all of the following: weapons, munitions, other military equipment, training, direct participation through air strikes against IS targets) to the KRG include: Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

The two boys' younger brother, 12-year-old Raddad, was shot four times in the back, chest, arm and leg. The child told Amnesty International that he was injured while playing near his home. Other villagers told Amnesty International that Raddad had been injured when Yezidi militiamen shot and killed their neighbour, Murad Ghadir Denu.



Nahla Meri'i, a 34-year-old mother of five from Jiri, told Amnesty International about the killing of her husband, **Juma'a Habash Meri'i**, 44, and her eldest son, **Salah**, 19:

*Location where Mohammed Habash Meri'i was killed in Jiri
© Amnesty International*

“Two armed Yezidis in uniforms stormed into our home and told us to get out. We did as they told us and as we got outside they shot my husband, and my son Salah. They killed them both. They shot several times, at him and near him. One of the bullets went through the blanket in which I had wrapped my baby, who I was holding in my arms. Luckily the bullet did not harm the baby.”

Her sister-in-law, Kazala Meri'i, who lived next door, told Amnesty International:

*“A group of some 15 Yezidis came to our home. Most were wearing military uniforms. They took everything from the house: first the car, then the generator. A few of them came and went several times carrying our possessions. Then they told us to get out. We went outside – me, my husband, **Mohammed Habash Meri'i**, 34, and our three children. At that point there were four militiamen. One of them shot my husband several times with a big rifle and killed him on the spot in front of us, in front of the children.”*

Mohammed's and Juma'a's brother, who lived next door, said that he had a lucky escape: *“Two militiamen came to my house and one of them pointed his rifle at me and said, ‘You are Da'esh’, but the other one, who knew me, told him that I'm not Da'esh and to leave me alone, and they both left.”*

Shamsa Mohammed, a mother of nine in her 50s, told Amnesty International:

*“A group of Yezidis in military uniforms came to the school [in Jiri] where we had been staying for two weeks because our house was in an isolated place outside the village and we were afraid that the Yezidis might come to attack us. They took a canister of cooking gas and a generator and left. My husband, **Zayan Ghadir Denu**, aged 61, was by the door. One of the militiamen came and shot him. He fell on his back and died after one or two minutes. He was shot in the chest.*



ID card of Zayan Ghadir Denu, 61, which he kept in his breast pocket and was perforated by one of the bullets which killed him © Amnesty International

Then other militiamen came and told us to get out and put us in a pick-up vehicle. There were about 20 of us: me, two of my daughters, two of my daughters-in-law, my cousin, and all the children. They also took our relative **Fathi Khider Khalaf**, 43. He was the only man they took with us; the rest of us were women and children. They drove us to Mujamma'a al-Andalus [a nearby Yezidi village]. There they took Fathi away from us. I heard two shots but did not see them kill him, but later his body was brought back to Jiri and dumped there. He had been shot in the head twice. He left 20 children orphans.

After they took Fathi away they wanted to take us women and children to the jabal [Mount Sinjar, the headquarters of the Yezidi militias], but luckily the Peshmerga came and saved us. They took us to al-Na'im, a village near al-Rabe'a, where they handed us over to Arab chiefs."

Killings in Sibaya

By the time the assailants reached the nearby village of Sibaya the young and able-bodied had fled, having already heard about the attack on Jiri from those who had escaped that village and having been told by Yezidi militia commander Qasem Shesho to take their families and leave the area for their safety. Consequently, most of those killed in Sibaya were men and women who were elderly or had physical disabilities and could not run away and who thought that they would not be targeted.

The son of 70-year-old **Mariam Salah Sultan** told Amnesty International:

*"My mother lived in al-Bayuna but was visiting my sister in Sibaya. When news that a massacre was unfolding in Jiri spread, most people ran away but my mother was elderly and had difficulties walking so she stayed with other elderly neighbours. They did not think that they were at risk. But they were all killed. My sister now feels terrible for having left our mother there, but she did not think she was in danger. She was killed in the house of her neighbour, **Jasem Mahmud Ali**, who was 68 years old, together with other elderly neighbours."*

The bodies of two other elderly residents, **Mariam Jasem Yousef** and **Khalaf Sa'id Mohammed**, 66, were also found in the same house, their relatives told Amnesty International.

Residents said that they feared being attacked if they went back to Sibaya. Some said that they had waited for one or several days before venturing back to look for their relatives and collect their bodies. A few said they sneaked into the village early the following morning to see what had happened, and then informed the relatives of those they found dead. "We had to sneak into the village like thieves, to find our relatives killed and our homes destroyed, because if the Yezidis see

us from the hills, they may come to attack us again,” the son of Khalaf Sa’id Mohammed told Amnesty International.

Nadhir Ali Salah, the son of another slain elderly resident, told Amnesty International:

*“My father, **Ali Salah Khalaf**, was 66 years old and was wheelchair-bound as the right half of his body was completely paralyzed. We could not imagine that they would target the old and sick, but they did. We found his body in his house. He had been shot dead in his wheelchair.”*

The son of 78-year-old **Ahmad Habib Mohammed** described the horrific discovery of his father’s body:

“He was alone in the house as my brothers and I had fled with the rest of the village. When we came back we found him in our burned-down house. He had been shot in the head and chest and was completely burned from the waist down. It was an unbearable sight. May God have mercy on those who committed such a terrible crime against a defenceless old man.”



Burned houses in Sibaya © Amnesty International

Though most of the victims in Sibaya were elderly or had physical disabilities, two were children – nine-year-old **Jihad Matar Ahmad** and his 12-year-old brother **Ahmad** – who were killed together with their father, **Matar**

Ahmad Khalif. The children’s uncle told Amnesty International: *“Perhaps my brother either did not realize quickly enough that they were in danger, or the children were out with the sheep and by the time he found them it was too late to escape, I don’t know. All I know is that they were killed.”*

Abductions

Seventeen of those who were seized by Yezidi militiamen on 25 January from Jiri, 16 men and a 16-year-old boy, remain unaccounted for and are feared dead. More than 20 women and children who were rescued and delivered to a safe place by Peshmerga shortly after having been abducted by Yezidi militiamen on the same day have no information about the 17 because they were not abducted or held with them. Efforts by the families of the 17 to obtain information about their fate and whereabouts have yielded no results to date.

A relative of three missing brothers told Amnesty International:

“The Peshmerga say they don’t know. The Yezidis sometimes say they don’t know and another time say the 17 disappeared are dead. We don’t know what to believe. We just want to know the

truth. If our relatives are dead they should tell us and give us the bodies.”

Ftayem Mohammed Ahmad, a 25-year-old mother of two from Jiri, told Amnesty International:

*“In the morning several Yezidi men dressed in civilian clothes came to our home and told my husband to give them the car keys and also took some electrical goods and furniture. Then they took my husband **‘Awad Mohammed Denu** and four of his brothers, **Hamid, Hammad, Faruq** and **‘Imad**. We don’t know where they took them or where they are now. We have no information about them since they were taken. I’m afraid for my husband’s safety, for all of their safety. I just need to know that he is alive, where he is.”*

The mother of the five men, Anud Mohammed Khalil, in her mid-60s, told Amnesty International:

“First the Yezidis came and took our three cars, then they took five of my sons and then they took us women and the children. I don’t know why they took us or what they wanted to do with us. They said they were going to take us to the jabal [Mount Sinjar] but the Peshmerga intervened and took us to a safe place. But now my five sons are still missing. We have asked some of our old Yezidi friends to help us find them but there is no result. They were our krif [blood brothers], like family, but now everything has been ruined and we have become worse than strangers.”

Other villagers also told Amnesty International that the women and children had been promptly released by the Peshmerga forces and that the Yezidi militia leader Qasem Shesho had called on militiamen not to harm the women and to let them go.

Amira Mohammed Denu, a 38-year-old mother of seven whose husband is among those killed in Jiri, told Amnesty International:

“A Yezidi in civilian clothes first came and took our sheep; we had 25 sheep and he took them all. Then a group of Yezidis in military uniforms came and took us women and the children to the mosque. There Abu Khaled [Yezidi militia leader Qasem Shesho] came and told the militiamen to let the women go.”

Background

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI, comprising the four northern governorates of Dohuk, Erbil, Halabja and Sulaimaniya) is governed by the KRG as an autonomous region of Iraq, but has some characteristics of an independent state – such as sole control over its borders with neighbouring countries.¹⁵ The KRG has been dominated by the two leading Kurdish political parties: the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Mas’ud Barzani, the current President of the KRG; and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, former President of Iraq.

Historical rivalries between the KDP and PUK initially led to the establishment of two parallel administrations each controlling its region of influence (Erbil-based KDP for the west and

¹⁵ The KRI has been an autonomous entity since 1991. A previous autonomy deal with the Iraqi central government in 1970 was never implemented.

Sulaimaniya-based PUK for the east) and each with its own Peshmerga (military) and Asayish (security or police) forces. Although in recent years KRG institutions have become more unified, divisions along political party lines reportedly persist among Peshmerga and Asayish forces.

In June 2014 significantly more territory came under the control of the KRG as it deployed its forces to secure the areas from which Iraqi central government forces fled in the face of the IS advance in northern Iraq. These included much of the Nineveh governorate, home to many of Iraq's ethnic and religious minorities (including Yezidis, Christians, Assyrians, Turkmen, Shabak, Kakai and Sabian Mandaean, as well as many Shi'a Muslims, who are a majority in Iraq but were a minority in the north of the country), and oil-rich Kirkuk, which has long been disputed between the KRG and the Iraqi central government.

At the beginning of August 2014 the IS advanced further, overrunning most of the areas in the Nineveh governorate which had come under Peshmerga control two months earlier and forcing hundreds of thousands from their homes, the overwhelming majority of them from minority communities. The IS targeted the Yezidis from the Sinjar region with particular brutality. It massacred hundreds of men and boys and abducted thousands of other individuals, mostly women and children, subjecting many to rape and sexual enslavement.

Some Yezidis promptly formed an armed militia to protect the Yezidis who remained on Mount Sinjar (the only part of the Sinjar region which had not fallen under IS control) and to try to recapture the surrounding area from the IS. The Yezidi militia has been operating alongside, and with the assistance of, Peshmerga forces as well as Turkish PKK and Syrian YPG fighters.¹⁶ Syrian YPG fighters initially played a major role in securing a safe passage for displaced Yezidis stranded on Mount Sinjar in dire conditions to escape through IS-held territory straddling the Iraq-Syria border (initially the only possible escape route from Mount Sinjar to the KRI was through YPG-held areas of Syria).¹⁷ Many Yezidis, including the Yezidi militia commander and members, blamed the Peshmerga for not resisting the IS takeover of Sinjar and for withdrawing without warning the Yezidis, leaving them at the mercy of the advancing IS.¹⁸ Such tensions between the Yezidis and the Peshmerga also exist between the Yezidis, on the one hand, and PKK and YPG fighters, on the

¹⁶ See, for example, interviews with Yezidi militia leader Qasim Shesho in Mount Sinjar area: Rudaw, "Yezidi Fighter: We Must Stay and Defend our Lands", 21 August 2014, <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/210820142>; Z News, "We want international community to help Yezidis: Qasim Shesho", 1 October 2014, http://zeenews.india.com/exclusive/we-want-international-community-to-help-yezidis-qasim-shesho_1478444.html; and YouTube, Iraq YPG in Shengal captured ISIS Tank, 7 August 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h0qfW3usAo> (all accessed 8 June 2015).

¹⁷ On 10 August 2014 Amnesty International visited the YPG-held area of north-eastern Syria, as thousands of Yezidis were arriving from Mount Sinjar, where they had been trapped since the IS attack on 3 August. Those interviewed said that Yezidi and Syrian YPG fighters had helped them to escape from Mount Sinjar. On 18 April 2015 Amnesty International saw YPG/PKK fighters operating along Peshmerga in the north of Mount Sinjar.

¹⁸ Rudaw, "Yezidi Fighter: We Must Stay and Defend our Lands", 21 August 2014, <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/210820142> (accessed 3 June 2015); Al-Monitor, "Peshmerga look to restore image after defeats", 23 September 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/ru/originals/2014/09/iraq-kurdish-forces-peshmerga-gain-ground-is.html#ixzz3EkBR27qE> (accessed 3 June 2015).

other, as well as within the Peshmerga itself.¹⁹

Between September and late December 2014, Yezidi, PKK and YPG fighters and Peshmerga forces recaptured several towns and villages north of Mount Sinjar, including Jiri and Sibaya. While Peshmerga forces are operating alongside the Yezidi militia and PKK and YPG fighters in the Sinjar region, it is not clear how much oversight the KRG and its Peshmerga forces have over these groups.²⁰

List of victims

Killed in Jiri:

Khider Salah Denu
Aza'ayan Ghadir Denu
Murad Ghadir Denu
Fathi Khider Khalaf
Salah Abdallah Salah
Mohammed Habash Meri'i
Juma'a Habash Meri'i
Salah Juma'a Meri'i
Sattar Shamdin Meri'i
Younis Shamdin Meri'i (Child)
Faysal Aza'ayan Ghadir

Killed in Sibaya:

Ahmad Habib Mohammed
Khalaf Sa'id Mohammed
Jasem Mahmud Ali
Ali Salah Mohammed

¹⁹ International Crisis Group, *Arming Iraq's Kurds: Fighting IS, Inviting Conflict*, 12 May 2015, [http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iraq%20Syria%20Lebanon/Iraq/158-arPeshmerga and Syrian Kurdish Forces Agree to Fight Together for Shingalming-iraq-s-kurds-fighting-is-inviting-conflict.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iraq%20Syria%20Lebanon/Iraq/158-arPeshmerga%20and%20Syrian%20Kurdish%20Forces%20Agree%20to%20Fight%20Together%20for%20Shingalming-iraq-s-kurds-fighting-is-inviting-conflict.pdf); Daily Sabah, "Peshmerga: YPG's mistake prevented us from capturing Sinjar", 13 January 2015, <http://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2015/01/13/peshmerga-ypgs-mistake-prevented-us-from-capturing-sinjar>; BasNews, "PKK Helps Arabs to Return to Liberated Areas of Sinjar", 11 February 2015, <http://www.basnews.com/en/news/2015/02/11/pkk-helps-arabs-to-return-to-liberated-areas-of-sinjar/> (all accessed 8 June 2015).

²⁰ Rudaw, "Peshmerga and Syrian Kurdish Forces Agree to Fight Together for Shingal", 10 September 2014, <http://rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/100920141> (accessed 8 June 2015); BasNews, "PKK Helps Arabs to Return to Liberated Areas of Sinjar", 11 February 2015, <http://www.basnews.com/en/news/2015/02/11/pkk-helps-arabs-to-return-to-liberated-areas-of-sinjar/> (accessed 8 June 2015).

Matar Ahmad Khalif
Ahmad Matar Ahmad (Child)
Jihad Matar Ahmad (Child)
Kasra Mahmud Mohammed (F)
Mariam Salah Sultan (F)
Mariam Jasem Yousef (F)

Abducted in Jiri:

Hamid Mohammd Denu
Awad Mohammed Denu
Omar Mohammed Denu
Hamad Mohammed Denu
Faruq Mohammed Denu
Ghadir Salah Denu
Samir Salah Denu
Mahmud Salah Denu
Salah Mohammed Ghadir
Ala Mohammed Ghadir
AbdulSattar Khider Salah
Ahmad Elias Mahmud
Mohammed Elias Mahmud
Elias Mahmud Khalif
Jasem Hassan Mohammed
Hassan Mohammed Khalil
Ahmad Bilal Meri'i