



New German Legislative Proposal Threatens Yezidis with Deportation from Germany

A new legislative proposal recently approved by the German Cabinet will expedite the deportation process for thousands of Yezidi refugees whose applications for asylum have been denied.

The new law seeks to deal with the influx in refugees and asylum-seekers in Germany resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. According to the Asylum Information Database, 244,000 people from other countries applied for asylum in Germany last year, with projections predicted to be as high as 300,000 this year. The draft legislation would extend the maximum period of pre-deportation detention from 10 to 28 days, grant the government the power to conduct residential searches to ascertain an individual's identity, and eliminate the obligation to provide advance notice of deportations. The German federal parliament still has to vote to pass the new law before it can become official legislation.

In January 2023, the German government officially recognized that the persecution of Yezidis in Iraq in 2014 was genocide but since ISIS no longer holds power in Iraq, fewer Iraqi Yezidis have been able to claim asylum in Germany. "While many countries, UN and international organisations have recognised the genocide, EU countries are refusing the asylum applications of so many Yezidis," says Ahmed Khudida Burjus from Yazda, an organisation which supports victims of the Yezidi massacre: "Yezidi lands are not stable. Yezidi areas have not been de-mined yet over 80 percent of them are living in a miserable situation in camps. Over 3,000 Yezidis are still missing, justice has not been served and those criminals who committed genocide and war crimes against Yezidis are walking freely in and around Sinjar. So how can Yezidis return?"



The state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is the only German state to impose a formal ban on deportations for members of the Yazidi minority. Individual states can decide to call a halt to deportations for a period of three months, which can then be extended.

Our vision is to become the leading resettlement organization supporting victims of persecution, empowering them to create a future for themselves and their children as fully integrated Canadian citizens.

Donations are gratefully accepted: [projectabraham/donate](https://projectabraham.org/donate)

Visit to Black Creek Pioneer Village

Saturday, September 30, 2023



When Faheema Qaaydi sent an invitation to the Yezidi community on WhatsApp to join a trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village, she attached a YouTube video to illustrate what participants could expect to see. She received a huge response, so on September 30th, Project Abraham staff and volunteers led approximately 70 participants in small groups on a tour of the Village.



Black Creek Pioneer Village, an open-air heritage museum which opened in North York in 1960, offers visitors a trip back in time to 1860's Ontario. For the adult Yezidis in the group, it was reminiscent of life in the villages in Iraq where they grew up. The gristmill used to grind grain into flour, the antique farming equipment, and even the recreated interiors of the old houses were all familiar sights. "Everywhere they went sparked some memory," observed Faheema: "They loved it." The children were particularly excited to touch the Clydesdale horses, and see rare heritage breeds of animals, including Moeggenborg goats, Cochin chickens, and Border Leicester sheep. It was a beautiful fall day, so everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch outdoors among the colourful fall leaves. If funding permits, the group would be eager to take another trip to Pioneer Village next fall.

Project Abraham provides settlement services, education, counselling, and other support services for immigrants and refugees in need.

Meet the Team at Project Abraham

Alan Frank

Alan Frank is a member of Project Abraham's Board of Directors and also volunteers with the Yazidi Legal Network. Born in Boston, Alan grew up in Colorado and went to school in Indiana. He moved to Ottawa in 1979 and has lived in Canada ever since. After obtaining his PhD in Experimental Psychology, Alan worked as a senior business analyst in both the private and public sectors, designing services based on the science of human decision-making.



Alan is a consultant to the YES! Program project to compile and analyze data on the outcomes of the program. His work with the Yazidi Legal Network (YLN) focuses on the development of the General Database, which contains information about the history of the Yezidis and the legal cases pertaining to the 2014 genocide perpetrated by IS. Working with research compiled by fellow Project Abraham board member, Emmanuel Didier, Alan developed a process to train volunteers to read, rate, and classify relevant articles according to the usefulness of the information. The volunteers have analyzed five to six hundred articles so far. YLN is now looking at ways to use AI technology to review and categorize the material. The project's goals are to help Yezidis understand what is known in the West about their history and to provide a resource for accessing justice and getting restitution.

Although his work with the Yezidi community can be challenging, Alan says: "What balances it is that I'm doing things to improve their future. If I can give people hope who desperately need it and help them integrate into a world they never imagined, that's my reward."