

# Yazidi Refugees from ISIS in a 5-Star Hell





Outside of Dohuk, Iraq, what was supposed to be a five star hotel has become a nightmarish makeshift refugee camp.



With construction stalled in its early stages, the concrete structure is an inhospitable environment for the 63 Yazidi families, 364 people total, who now call it home.



“We just want tents like the other refugees,” said one man, after a storm recently ravaged the little infrastructure they managed to set up in the two months they’ve been here.



After ISIS attacked Sinjar on August 3rd, massacring and enslaving the local Yazidi people, a few of those fortunate enough to escape have sought refuge at the 13 storey “Hotel Kayar” (literally “place where one receives friends”).



They use the wood they found on the field to build their shelters, but the carpenter told them he has to take the wood back.



When the cold, wind, or hunger don't torment them, the scorpions, rats, insects and snakes of the nearby mountains do. ISIS is just one hour drive away, but for the time being these refugees are safe in the Kurdish region of Iraq.



The bleak environment has become home for these Yazidi since the other refugee camps are totally full. It's a full blown humanitarian crisis.





The owner of the hotel was moved by their situation and has allowed them to occupy his property on one condition: no fire is allowed inside.



Children admit to having recurring nightmares. None of them go to school anymore.



The heavy rains have destroyed the food they kept



Families share rooms with nothing but thin mattresses and tarps sprawled out on the ground. Most are in the open air, so they have nothing to protect them from the cold



This man broke his knee while fleeing from ISIS in the mountains.



Soon, winter will come along with freezing temperatures, fierce winds, and snow. Still there are no tents to protect these people.



As wallpaper this kid has put some pics of a child killed by ISIS in Sinjal. Facebook is the a good way to get news from the community.



The men have no jobs, so the families have no revenue. Some do not say anything but their eyes reveal their struggle.





ISIS killed her husband. She has two toddlers to raise on her own now.



Children play with no railing or walls to prevent them from falling. With no toys, they make do with what they have.



Khaled broke his arm in the stairs. his father says "No one in your country would let a kid live in a place like this."



Ismail has 2 wives and 11 children. He is a former translator for the coalition forces who has found himself in this place. With no one coming to his aid, his disappointment and sense of betrayal is immense. Is this the Iraq he worked to build?



This family arrived 5 days ago. Like everyone else here, they lost everything. They have only one blanket per person.



Her husband and two children have been kidnapped by ISIS. She has had no news from them since.



The food provided by the government scarcely meets the families' needs. Many babies suffer from malnutrition.



Some escaped with their cars, but have no more money to buy gas.





With the bad weather comes mud. It's as slippery as ice and gets everywhere.



A little girl attempts to sweep the water off the floor. When it rains, everything floods.



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