

Press Statement FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25/02/15

- **Marian Harkin MEP hosts FoRB Intergroup event in the European Parliament on ISIS crimes against humanity**
- **Painful testimony of torture and abuse shared by Yazidi victim Ms. Nadia Murad Taha**
- **Follow-up action after EP resolution calling ISIS violence against religious minorities Genocide**

On Tuesday, Marian Harkin MEP hosted an event organised with the Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief, concerning ISIS' genocide against religious minorities, and how the EU should address it.

Ms. Harkin MEP described how **'More than 3.400 women, girls and children remain in captivity under ISIS... we have an obligation to do all we can to recognise these crimes, by member states and the UN'**. She went on to praise the recent EP resolution recognising an ongoing genocide by ISIS, and applauded Mr. Adaktusson's letter to President Tusk, HR/VP Mogherini and President Schulz, to act on the resolution.

Victim Nadia Murah Taha, who has given testimony at the UN Security Council and elsewhere, shared once again her painful account of sexual slavery under ISIS. She said: **'Yazidi were given two choices: convert or die. In Mosul, Daesh told us "we have come to wipe you out". This happened because of our religious identity.'** She then turned to next steps: **"This has gone on for 1.5 years, without effective reaction from the international community... none of our children have been liberated - those who escaped did so on their own... I am looking for a solution for our people. My request to everyone is to terminate Daesh - they are a threat to entire humanity. The International community is not moving, which breaks our hopes."**

Ms. Harkin lamented **"your words shame us - you speak of no assistance available for those escaped (with exception of the German programme, which must be applauded)"**

Rev. Majed El Shafie, who also suffered physical torture on account of his religious beliefs, delivered an inspiring speech, pleading **"this is isn't about my story or Nadia's story - it is about the people left behind, facing this persecution"**. He proposed 4 solutions:

1. Humanitarian support (medical, sustenance)
2. Military security to protect minorities (green zones)
3. Maintain security in Europe at the same time as hosting refugees.
4. **"We have to understand that we are fighting an ideology, not names... we must commit to educating the next generation."**

The FoRB Intergroup hosted this event with Member Ms. Harkin MEP. For more information please contact secretariat@religiousfreedom.eu.