

Public Inquiry: Yazidis Call Upon Mr. Steve Maman to Validate His Claims of Rescue with Evidence

(النسخة العربية أدناه)

August 26, 2015

Under the names of “CYCI” and “Liberation Iraq,” Steve Maman is making the claim of having rescued a large number of kidnapped Yazidi women. All signatories to this letter welcome any legitimate assistance provided to the Yazidi community and any legitimate project that serves the health and wellbeing of the Yazidis will receive our support. However, it is imperative that any organization claiming to conduct such a high-level project, especially one that deals so visibly with such sensitive problems, recognize the need for accountability and open itself to the scrutiny of the leadership of the Yazidi community.

Yazidis and other observers are very concerned about a number of problematic claims that Mr. Maman is making:

- 1) Mr. Maman has publicly said, and the same is mentioned on his website, that his organization is rescuing “Yazidi and Christian women” from enslavement in Iraq. However, researchers who have been involved in the crisis since the IS organization first declared a caliphate in Iraq and attacked minority communities (summer of 2014) are unaware that IS has targeted Christian women as part of its enslavement program—a project that uniquely targeted the Yazidi community. Therefore, it is unclear what Christian women Steve Mamam claims to be saving.
- 2) Several weeks ago, when his website claimed to have raised \$80,000, the number of rescued “women and children” listed on his website was 102. The high number of rescues for such a low monetary figure seemed a dubious claim. Now, according to his website, he claims to have saved 128 women and children.
- 3) Steve Mamam has implied or revealed in his interviews and in a video that he posted online that he has direct negotiations with IS. We are concerned that he might be engaging in an enterprise that has the net effect of providing funding to jihadists, without any oversight.
- 4) The CYCI/Liberation Iraq project has brought a high level of visibility to a delicate and sensitive rescue effort that should have been kept low-profile. We are concerned that this may be reckless.

Over the past several weeks, Yazidi advocates have approached Mr. Maman on several occasions.

beneficiaries public; we are stating that for the purpose of accountability it is necessary for a select number of Yazidi leaders to verify his claims and scrutinize his methods.

We warn that if Mr. Maman does not meet the demands of this letter within 48 hours of it being published, we will call upon the Canadian authorities to investigate this case.

We ask the friends of the Yazidi people all over the world who passionately support our vulnerable community to stop donating to Mr. Maman until his work is verified. If his project is legitimate, safe, and ethical, we will also support him.

We appreciate the help and support from good people around the world for our desperate people, especially for the thousands of Yazidi women and girls still in captivity who are enduring horrific abuse at the hands of the IS terrorist organization. We are obligated to ensure that international support for our community is used for the purpose intended.

Signatories to this Letter:

1. **Babasheikh Kherto Ismael:**

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2. **Ms. Vian Dakhil:**

3. **Peshemam Farouq:** *R*

4. **Qawwal Bahzad Suleiman:** *R*

5. **Ms. Ameena Saeed Hasan:**

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6. **Dr. Mirza Dinnayi:**

7. **Dr. Mamo Uthman:**

8. **Mr. Dawud Sheikh Jindi:**

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9. **Mr. Ahmad Ismael:** *R*

10. **Hussein Burgess:** *R*

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11. **Mr. Eido Babasheikh:**

12. **Mr. Khider Domle:**

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13. **Mr. Khaleel al-Dakhi:**

14. **Mr. Hussein Hasan Narmo:**

15. **Dr. Saeed Khoudeida Alo:** *R*

16. **Mr. Jameel Suleiman Alo:** Yazidi former government minister

17. **Mr. Haider Elias:**

18. **Mr. Hadi Pir:**

19. **Mr. Murad Ismael:**

20. **Mr. Matthew Barber:**

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انقاذ الايزيديات من قبضة داعش

الموقعون على هذه الوثيقة: