

September 4th, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a Canadian citizen that's been in Syria and Iraq since November 2014. I was a combat soldier that joined Kurdish forces in their fight against ISIS. I spent roughly 9 months between the two countries serving on the front lines. I have been in regular contact with the Canadian UN NGO RINJ (Rape Is No Joke) Foundation since January 2015. In June 2015, I was approached by RINJ to do a security assessment of the Mar Mattai (St. Matthew's) Monastery, which is sitting almost directly on the front line approximately 20km east of the ISIS occupied stronghold of Mosul, Iraq. After completing the task, I reported my findings to the director of RINJ and it was determined that an additional private security presence was needed, as the 3 Peshmerga guards at the gate weren't going to suppress an attack from ISIS on their own. After making arrangements with the clergy, I assembled a small team and we moved into the monastery.

From this point forward, I continued to work with RINJ and was asked to be one of their many War Crimes Investigators in the field. In July there was a lot of talk of Canadians being involved in child sex trafficking in both Syria and Iraq and RINJ asked me to learn more about the Canadian citizens involved. Through my own substantial press coverage as a foreign fighter returning home to Israel from the battlefield, I was contacted by numerous individuals seeking advice on how to buy women and children from ISIS in an effort to free them and return them to their homes and families. One such person was Steve Maman of Montreal, Quebec and his organization CYCI (the Liberation of Christian and Yazidi Children of Iraq). I notified RINJ that Steve had reached out to me. I was advised to entertain whatever Steve proposed to me in a bid to find out more about the inner workings of his organization and their connection to ISIS and the child sex traffickers operating in the region under ISIS control.

After talking at length with Steve over video calls, he introduced me to his agent on the ground, an Assyrian Christian man by the name Dawood (David) Jajju. I had been fighting with the Assyrian Christians for over 6 months in the Nineveh Plains of Iraq and knew his uncle, who was the commander of the Assyrian Christian militia I fought with. Dawood began to ask in his community about me and got glowing reports and came back to Steve saying he'd like me to join him on the ground in Iraq to assist him with the liberations CYCI was conducting. Steve told me that Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada, supported CYCI, along with Jason Kenney, the minister of defense. Steve would message me over whatsapp and tell me he was meeting Jason Kenney for breakfast. Steve said that he had met with someone important from the UN (United Nations) and had their full support and even sent me pictures with her. He also told me that Vian Dakheel, the only female Yazidi member of Parliament in Kurdistan supported and backed CYCI's efforts. Steve told me they'd rescued over 120 women and children at that point in time. He made no mention of the fact that they could only verify 15 of those 120 names and had no proof for the rest. It wasn't until Hadi Doubani, the head of the Yazidi Affairs Office in Duhok, asked for a list that Dawood had me put together a list of 15 names and said he didn't have the rest.

I met with Steve's niece, Julia Maman in Jerusalem while she was visiting from Montreal. We sat together at a coffee shop and went over some of the liberation videos and she detailed what they'd want from me. She asked me to make a short video to upload to their social media officially saying that I was joining their mission. Within the next few days I provided them with that video and made arrangements with Steve to return to Erbil, Iraq to help Dawood on the ground.

Upon arrival, I was told by Dawood that there would be a liberation any day so to be prepared to leave on short notice at any time. A German Kurdish woman by the name of Rosa turned up shortly after. She has a lot of connections in KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government) and was to help Steve get the support he needed from the government. For 2 weeks, there were no liberations by CYCI. Dawood was having a lot of problems with the brokers, especially one using the name Abu Shujaa. He was regularly getting death threats from the man over the phone. Dawood, Rosa and I began to meet with a number of people over the situation with Abu Shujaa, including officers from the KRG Intelligence Service. The three of us met on two occasions and Dawood cancelled the third meeting for no apparent reason. Rosa and I continued to meet with the intelligence officers without Dawood and Steve's knowledge and we began to focus on inconsistencies of what Dawood was telling us, instead of on the situation with Abu Shujaa. Rosa and I began to set up other meetings with important leaders in the KRG without Dawood and Steve's knowledge. At the same time, the situation between Dawood and the brokers was getting more and more difficult and finally a meeting was set up between Dawood, the brokers and the directorate of Yazidi Affairs in Duhok.

When we arrived at the meeting in the Yazidi Affairs office in Duhok, Rosa and I were told that we were not welcome to participate in the meeting. Just sitting there for a few minutes, Rosa translated some of what was said in casual conversation between the brokers and they were talking about the price of the girls like they were a regular commodity no different from the price of oil, wheat or tobacco – it made me sick to my stomach to hear Yazidi men talking about their own women and children that way. Rosa and I waited in the car while the meeting continued for the next 4 hours inside. Before everyone came out, Rosa and I took pictures of all of the license plates of the vehicles parked outside and snapped pictures of the brokers as they left the meeting. Dawood spotted us taking pictures and told us to “stop taking pictures right now!”

Dawood told us that the meeting went really well and that all the brokers were instructed by the director to work with CYCI. Rosa and I had already begun to have doubts about what Dawood was saying so we set up more meetings just for the two of us. We met with Dr. Kmal Kirkuki, the ex-President of Parliament. We met with the intelligence officers several more times. We met with Nechirvan Ahmed, the deputy to Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani. We met with General Zaim Ali, the top Peshmerga General that reports directly to President Massoud Barzani. And we met with Qasem Shesho, the Commander and General of Yazidi Peshmerga, although we didn't get the chance to discuss much about CYCI because it was a Yazidi holiday that day. Lastly, General Zaim Ali helped Rosa and I to get a meeting with Massoud Barzani's son,

although unfortunately because they're twins with almost the same name, we ended up meeting with the son in charge of the Special Forces and not the one responsible for the Asayis, the KRG's internal security service so his answer was that we need to talk to his brother or the Prime Minister, as he couldn't help us.

Around this time, Dawood told me he had good news – we'd no longer be working with the KRG because they didn't want to give us permissions. Instead we would work with the Zoa party, who already had a green light from the government. Rosa and I knew this was a lie because several hours prior, we had met with Nechirvan Ahmed in the Prime Minister's office and we were advised that we simply had to register CYCI as an NGO in Kurdistan and we'd have full support of the government.

In these few weeks that I'd returned to Iraq, Steve did media interviews with every major news outlet in the world and had been dubbed "the Jewish Schindler." The result was that all of the media attention drove the prices of these girls up, at least tripling prices and sometimes much more. Efforts to release any girls, whether through the KRG or through CYCI were basically at a standstill. What Steve did was create a market for these women and children, where before they were of little value. It's simply the laws of supply and demand so the demand goes up and it encourages the kidnapping of more girls to be ransomed for money they know Steve Maman has and will pay. His gofundme account had raised roughly \$600,000 before being shut down for investigation into whether the money was financing terrorism. He was also receiving money through paypal, wire transfers and personal checks so I don't think it's unreasonable to estimate that he brought in close to \$1M in donations.

I told Steve several times that I had to part ways with CYCI and would return to Israel. On one occasion, several hours after telling him I was done, Dawood knocked on my door and said he had to go to Baghdad with the "Yazidi prince." In my meeting with Khairi Bozani the other day, I come to learn that there is no Yazidi prince and when I showed him a picture of the man Dawood was referring to, Mr. Bozani laughed and said that the man pictured is basically ISIS.

An article ran in VICE news talking about a letter signed by all of the brokers and Yazidi leaders, including Vian Dakheel, questioning the figures that Steve Maman claims to have rescued. Dawood was flying to Baghdad with the "Yazidi prince" to get a letter from the Central Government stating that CYCI had helped to negotiate the release of 100 people. Dawood told me there would be a liberation that day and asked if I could please take care of it for him or he'd have to cancel his trip. I agreed to handle the liberation on the condition that there was no media attending and that I not be in any of the pictures or videos.

Dawood's cousin Fadiah drove us to Zakho and to the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing with Turkey. The girls were coming from Syria, through Turkey and into Iraq. In Duhok, we met a vehicle with Sean Moore, a Canadian journalist and they followed us to the border. We waited several hours and then two little girls came out, ages 2 and 7. The youngest one was still with a pacifier and

little tweety bird socks. I was sobbing like a baby trying to hide tears behind my sunglasses. Dawood hadn't been able to release the whole family so the mother chose to send the little girls first. The mother, father and two other family members remained in the hands of ISIS. After a short reunion between the girls and their aunts, we all got in vehicles and drove to a house near Khanke IDP (Internationally Displaced Persons) Camp where more of the girls' family was waiting. On the way, Steve called me and told me what we did was incredible, we saved two little girls – don't miss the opportunity to be in the pictures and video of the liberation, even if later we have to edit you out. Suffian, the broker, went through the paperwork and I assisted him to fingerprint the girls and then we took pictures and video. At the end, I handed the uncle \$8800, which was the total cost Dawood had negotiated for these girls, \$4400 each.

Fadih then drove us home and I was holding back tears the whole way. Even after spending 9 months on the front line in Iraq and Syria, and seeing death, destruction, and violence first hand, witnessing the trade of little girls completely broke me apart. That there are people out there who buy and sell other human beings like they would buy coffee or milk, makes me sick. What Steve has done has only encouraged the expansion of child sex trafficking in region and incentivized kidnapping and ransoming. Perhaps his intentions were only to help but the amount of media attention given to him has severely handicapped the KRG's ability to bring these girls back, which is something that was being done by the Prime Minister's office and the Yazidi Affairs office long before Steve Maman entered the picture – the only difference that their work was done with the utmost discretion and was not front page news to make one man feel important and famous. What Oscar Schindler did during the Holocaust was also done with discretion. He wouldn't have been able to save anyone including himself if he'd done interviews about his activities during the time he was saving people.

Within the same week, I saw two articles featured in Israeli media connecting me with CYCI and quoting Steve saying I was CYCI's ambassador on the ground in Iraq. I had asked Steve numerous times not to use my name in the media. After the story released by VICE news calling into question the number of people Steve claims to have rescued, I began to get calls and messages from several journalists asking for comment. One reporter from the Jerusalem Post even told me he'd obtained videos and photos of the liberation I attended with the two little girls. At this point, I contacted members of RINJ and told them that if the media continued to cover my involvement with CYCI, it would have a lasting negative impact and I was advised to break contact with both Steve and Dawood and inform the media that Steve was using my name against my wishes and that I'd been present at one liberation and decided to move in a different direction in order to continue my humanitarian work for the women and children of Syria and Iraq.

Since that time, I've met with Khairi Bozani, the director of Yazidi Affairs for the KRG and given him the full story, including all of the people that Rosa and I met with from the KRG to determine where the truth lies with CYCI and its operations. I did send Steve copies of the anti-terror laws that make it illegal to raise money, even for humanitarian and charitable work, if the proceeds are going to a known terrorist organization – even indirectly. This is both relevant in

Canadian law and international law in violation of ICC Roman Statute 7. He brushed it off each time saying he had approvals and support from the highest levels.

To my knowledge, the fundraised money was being transferred to Iraq through a non-profit organization of Canon Andrew White's, FRRME. His assistant, Dr. Sarah Ahmed, was facilitating some of the transfers and she is a US citizen. Money may or may not have gone through her US bank account. If it did, this could be enough to get the attention of the FBI or other federal law enforcement in the US.

Two nights ago, I spoke to Karzan at the Kurdish Embassy in Washington D.C. and I gave him a full briefing and rundown, including the main points of contact here. They're getting a lot of pressure to answer as to whether Steve Maman's claims are legitimate. The embassy in DC also covers Canada so it falls under their responsibility to investigate and act.

Because Steve was no longer able to contact me, he started to message Rosa to pass messages to me. He was very angry when I set the record straight with both VICE news and the Jerusalem Post. He gave me 4 hours to change what I told them or he would start a massive campaign against me. He also said that there's nowhere I can hide and they can get to me anywhere, which I understood to be a personal threat against my life. I haven't spoken to any media since and have been in hiding with the KRG's help. I will continue to cooperate with anyone conducting an investigation into CYCI's activities and claims and provide any information requested.