

Turkmen Rescue Foundation Human Rights Department



*New Genocide
against Iraqi
Turkmen*

*Assaults with
chemical
weapons on
Taza
Khurmatu*

March 12, 2016



Fatima samir 3 years old turkmen child from Taza khurmatoo was the first case of death because of Mustard gas exposure by ISIS attacks on the city.

Taza khurmatoo is a Turkmen Town located in southern of Kirkuk province(25)km which is north of Baghdad(260)km. Basheer is a village inside the town of Taza. The total population of Taza Khurmatu is about 40,000; all of them are Turkmen.

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After the fall of the village of Basheer in June 2014 and its invasion by ISIS gangs with forced displacement of people. Many innocent people of Basheer were held captive by ISIS and subjected to murder and assault. Documented incidents of brutal dealings by rape, killing, burning, and hanging them on electricity poles, a behavior which express the depth of hatred against the people of this City "As it was not the first massacre along history of this city ".

Since the invasion of Basheer village by ISIS,there is continuous fall of mortar shells on residential areas and on defenseless civilians in Taza Khurmatu.

The number of victims in the city as a result the continued targeting since June 10, 2014 were thirty six anti ISIS fighters from the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units and tens of civilians including women and children. This is in addition to the approximately 150 wounded innocent people from Taza khurmatu.



Picture of destroyed houses of innocent people of Taza after mortar assaults by ISIS

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The last week was the most cruelty, terror and intimidation for civilians specially for children and women, as the attacks was usually starting at late night targeting the houses and at working hours or day time targeting schools and civilian offices in the city , with a total of injured people about (16) mostly women and children in addition to (3) martyrs one of them 9 years old child. Approximately 20 House of unarmed citizens and many of primary schools was the target of terrorism for the purpose of making the biggest losses.

The civilian in the city prepared demonstration at 4 match 2016 at Kirkuk Baghdad road near Taza requesting from the Iraqi government rapid liberation of the city and protection of the innocent people.



Demonstration of Taza's resident in kirkuk-baghdad road condemning continuous assaults on the city and silence of government.

The criminality of continuous targeting of the city has not stopped ,and the evening of 8th march 2016 was the most brutal on the city as they have been attacked by more than 60 mortars associated with chemical weapon and exactly with Mustard gas (according to investigation was done in Kirkuk and exactly by (

kirkuk civilian defense department and kirkuk university labs).

The attacks destroyed many houses in Taza and caused horror and fear among civilians.

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Picture of hole on the ceiling of a house due to mortar attack.

According to resource from Taza, after the assault, there was a very bad (garlic like) odor in the city. The civilians there suffered from increasing numbers of poisoning of toxic gases, as they complained of tightness in the chest, difficulty in breathing, dryness of the mouth, nausea, vomiting and different skin changes including redness, itching and blister formation. Most of people complained of eye redness, irritation and blurred vision.

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Pictures of civilians affected by Mustard gas.

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The total number of cases were admitted and registered at Taza medical centers exceeded 670 till 11th march 2016 and counting. With the number increasing gradually and most of the patients conditions are worsening by day.

One of the cases Fatima Samir 2,5 years died as a result of sever burning and respiratory distress. The child's mother and two brothers as well as two women also transferred to baghdad from kirkuk hospital due to sever burn.



Fatima Samir a 2,5 years died because of exposure to Mustard gas.

High commissioner for human rights in iraq declared that ISIS used Mustard gas against civilians in Taza Khurmatoo and he mentioned that more than 400 cases documented till 10th march affected by chemical weapon.

According to (theguardian) "reports on Wednesday said a village in northern Iraq had become the latest target of a

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chemical attack. None of the 40 casualties died but five of them remain in hospital, health officials in Taza, a mainly Turkmen village 12 miles south of Kirkuk, told Reuters” (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/09/isis-chemical-weapons-leader-captured-iraq-us-special-forces>).

The people of Taza after death of the child “Fatima Samir” at 11th march 2016 Prepared a big ceremony funeral and burial of the child in the city and have expressed their protest and condemnation of the position of local and central government for its inability to protect civilians and preoccupation with internal political conflicts.



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pictures of ceremony of burial of “ Fatima Samir “ with demonstration and protest against the ongoing atrocities.