

Spatial Distribution of the Graves of the Genocide Caused by the Terrorist Organization ISIS in Iraq

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Abstract

The Iraqi people have been subjected during the last sixty years to many crimes. These violations had many effects on society and its social fabric. Among these crimes, the criminal organization of ISIS committed against segments of the Iraqi people in 2014 after it entered the governorates (Nineveh, Salah Al-Din, Diyala, Al-Anbar). ISIS practiced a policy of religious, sectarian and national discrimination, which led to the killing and disappearance of thousands of innocent people in mass graves. The number of open graves reached 51, including 1,859 victims; most of them belong to the prisoners of the Speicher Air Base and civilians of the Yazidi religion in Sinjar. The genocide that occurred in these governorates reached very high levels, which included the most egregious violations that contradict international laws and norms and human rights laws, including killing, destruction, kidnapping, and the worst forms of absenteeism.

Introduction

A new phase began in the history of Iraq after the overthrow of the former regime and the period of al-Qaeda terrorist organization, which is ISIS terrorism in 2014. Its approach was violence, destruction and bloody massacres, which were later classified as crimes of genocide because they were deliberately committed against human groups on the basis of (nationality, religion, sect). Since the emergence of terrorist organizations, religious and sectarian genocide began between members of the same religion and other religions, and this is what actually happened at the hands of criminal gangs of ISIS against minorities from Christ, Turkmen, Yazidis and Shiites (1) in the governorates of Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Anbar and Diyala. Also happened in the genocides against the Sunnis who They differ in the approach, as it carried a sectarian dimension that was followed by terrorist organizations in order to destroy these components in whole or in part. Therefore, history remains a witness to the many massacres committed by terrorist gangs after the overthrow of the late dictator Saddam Hussein.

Genocide is a term consisting of two Greek words, GENOS, which means sex, and the word CIDE, which means murder, and combined them into one word (GENOCIDE), which means extermination of sex. The first to use the term genocide was the Polish lawyer Raphael Lemkin in 1944 AD (2). He defined it as a plan or systematic method that aims to destroy the life of the human race with the aim of dismantling their political, social, national and religious affiliations (3), and genocide, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 A.D. It is the denial of the right to exist for entire human groups (4), and we can deduce a procedural definition "Genocide," which means the use of methods and methods with the intent of killing more than one person deliberately by tyrannical governments or extremist organizations for religious, national, sectarian, political or ethnic reasons.

whether they were killed in their place of residence or far from their places of residence, and it is not required to bury them in mass graves. The intention of concealing their remains.

As for a mass grave, as defined by the Iraqi national law, “the land or place contains the remains of more than one martyr who were buried or permanently hidden without following the legal provisions and human values that must be observed when burying the dead and in a way that is intended to conceal. The features of a crime of genocide committed by an individual or A group or body that constitutes a violation of human rights” (5). Forensic experts defined a mass grave as a site containing the remains of two or more victims who were killed and their rights violated (6). Accordingly, a “mass grave” is the place that contains the remains of more than A person who was killed with the aim of eliminating their individual, cultural, religious or national identity, regardless of the geometry of the mass grave and the way the remains were buried there.

Study Problem

- 1- Is there a spatial discrepancy in the distribution of genocide graves in Iraq?
- 2- Do Gis programs have the ability to build a spatial database that allows researchers to study, explore and analyze it spatially?

Hypothesis of Study

The cemeteries of the genocide are distributed differently in the governorates of Iraq, and through geographic information systems it is possible to build an integrated spatial database for them, with a high design capacity prepared according to accurate scientific bases that allow the possibility of spatial analysis, documentation and mapping, and conducting studies from multiple aspects.

Study area boundaries

Spatial boundaries: The study area is represented in Iraq, which is geographically located in the southwestern part of the continent of Asia, and astronomically, as it lies between two latitudes (5 029-’5 037) in the north and between longitudes (58 038’-35 048) in the east. Its area is (434,128 km²).

Time and qualitative limits:

The temporal limits of the data for the study area were represented by the two years (2020AD - 2021AD), while the qualitative limits were represented by the study of (open) mass graves*.

1- The terrorist organization ISIS (ISIS) after the year 2014.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, known for its acronym “ISIL” or the English acronym, ISIL- Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, in addition to the most famous acronym, ISIS-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is considered an armed terrorist organization that aims to restore the Islamic Caliphate and implement the Sharia. According to the description of its members, it adopts the jihadist Salafi ideology (Takfiri), which is completely similar to Wahhabism and its workers, and in a short time this Salafi entity was formed after the dissolution of the terrorist al-Qaeda organization. It controlled large areas of Iraq and Syria and was able to occupy major provinces, and ISIS is an extension of al-Qaeda But his strategy lies in expanding the territory and power and establishing an Islamic caliphate, as he claims to replace the regimes.

It is considered one of the most dangerous terrorist organizations that spread in Iraq and the region after the Arab Spring revolutions in 2011, taking advantage of the instability in the region, and in 2014 the situation. In Iraq deteriorated significantly due to the control of terrorist groups of ISIS

criminal gangs over large parts of Iraqi territory with the fall of three provinces that are considered to be among the most dangerous. The largest governorates of Iraq, represented by (Anbar, Nineveh, Salah al-Din) and some villages and rural areas of the governorates of Diyala and Kirkuk, committed the most heinous crimes of murder, kidnapping, bombing and displacement, violating international provisions and covenants that protect human rights, and in June 2014. The most heinous crime against humanity was committed against students, officers and soldiers of the Speicher base which claimed the lives of nearly two thousand of them, all of them were shot dead inside the presidential palaces building in the city of Tikrit, which belongs to Salah al-Din Governorate. They were shot dead and buried in a mass grave, and other crimes committed by the terrorist organization ISIS, including the massacre of Dhuluiya and the AbuNimr clan in Anba. The massacres against minorities (Yazidis, Shabak, Turkmen and Messiah). After they were subjected to a genocide, in which entire areas were emptied from the presence of members of those minorities that previously constituted the overwhelming majority, such as the Nineveh Plains, Sinjar, Tal Afar. Some villages in Kirkuk and Salah al-Din, as terrorist organizations seized those. The regions and those who did not survive were killed and buried in mass graves.

Then came the fatwa of the wise reference in Najaf, represented by the supreme reference, Sayyid (Ali Al-Husseini Al-Sistani), whose shadow lasted for a sufficient jihad against these criminal gangs, as a result of which the ISIS advance towards the other provinces was halted, reaching the province of Baghdad. Thousands of zealous Iraqis from the central and southern provinces volunteered in compliance. In order to order the reference in defense of their country and their sanctities and offer to purify what these gangs had desecrated from Iraqi lands, and following this fatwa. The Popular Mobilization Authority was formed to organize these crowds of volunteers (7), to stop the control of the terrorist organization ISIS, which in a short period of time managed to occupy large parts of different areas of Iraq. In which he practiced various methods such as beheading, burning corpses and detonating people en masse, in addition to throwing civilians from high places, as well as other practices such as kidnapping and trafficking women as Yazidi women, and recruiting children and subjecting them to military training, including on how to shoot. There is no doubt that the crimes of This ISIS organization and others correspond to many forms of the crime of genocide, what the components of the Iraqi people, such as Shiites, Sunnis and Turkmen, were subjected to. Shabaks, Christians, Yazidis and other attacks are considered crimes against humanity, as ISIS committed against them the crimes of murder, kidnapping, rape, displacement, physical violence, trafficking in women and children, forcible recruitment of women and the destruction of places of religious and cultural importance, and most of these crimes are forms of crimes against humanity (8).

The criminal violence of ISIS reflects the inherited legacy of the Baathist rule that tore the social fabric of Iraq and left deep wounds that are still bleeding today. Hussein came from two contradictory ideological poles, both of whom sought to build an authoritarian regime that resorted to using all forms of violence against any opposition to silence it. ISIS, which has an extremist Salafi ideology, was able to attract elements of the Baath Party, which has a secular nationalist ideology, for the purpose of achieving its goals of carrying out mass massacres against civilians (9).

Accordingly, the terrorist organization ISIS was able to destabilize Iraq and was able to bring it to the brink of collapse. It was highly organized, and was able to carry out terrorist operations in places affecting the power of the state, which claimed many lives among the civilian and military population, and many of them were buried in the form of mass graves. In separate places in the governorates of (Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Kirkuk, and others), some of them were opened and

others remained so far without opening, and it is not excluded that there are dozens of mass graves of unknown location that contain hundreds of missing persons.

2- Analysis of the relative distribution of genocide graves in Iraq

It is noted from Table (1) and Map (1) that the total number of genocide cemeteries left behind by the terrorist organization ISIS in Iraq amounted to 51 open cemeteries, which varied in their spatial distribution over the governorates of the study area, as the highest percentage was concentrated in Salah al-Din governorate, which included 26 cemeteries With relative importance. It reached (51%), followed by Nineveh governorate in the second place, which contained 20 cemeteries and with relative importance (39.2%), and Diyala governorate came after that. The number of cemeteries was 4, at a rate of (7.8%), while Anbar governorate contained one cemetery with relative importance (2 %) of the total size of the genocide graves in Iraq, noted Figure (1).

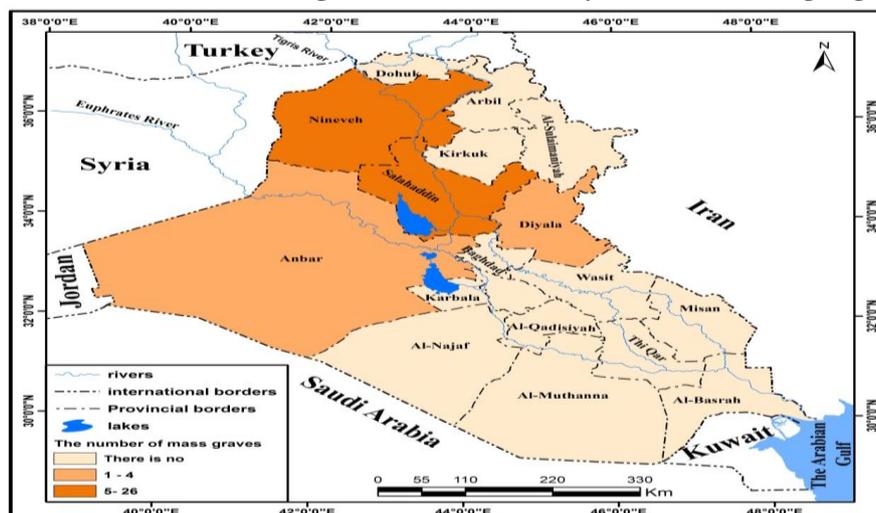
Table No. (1) Number of mass graves committed by ISIS terrorist gangs.

	Governorate	number of sites	The number of tombs	death toll	The relative importance of the cemeteries 100%
1	Salahaddin	6	26	1271	%51
2	Nineveh	4	20	549	%39.2
3	Diyala	4	4	37	%7.8
4	Anbar	1	1	2	%2
	Sum	15	15	51	1859

Source: Researcher's work, based on: Martyrs Foundation, Department of Affairs and Protection of Mass Graves, Department of Martyrs' Graves Affairs, Division of Excavation and Classification of Bones, 2021.

We conclude from the foregoing that the terrorist organizations carried out extensive arrests on a religious and sectarian basis for women, children, youth and the elderly, so they were killed and buried in mass graves, which became a living witness to the ugliness and brutality of this extremist organization (ISIS). and political purposes violating international norms and agreements, and therefore these actions that were practiced in 2014 are considered a violation of human rights targeting Shiites and Yazidis with the aim of canceling them.

Map No. (1) Number of mass graves committed by ISIS terrorist gangs in Iraq



Source: Researcher's work, based on:

1. Ministry of Water Resources, General Authority for Survey, Map Production Division, Iraq's administrative map at a scale of 1:1000000, for the year 2021.
2. Martyrs Foundation, Mass Graves Affairs and Protection Department, Martyrs' Graves Affairs Department, Excavation and Bones Classification Division, 2021.

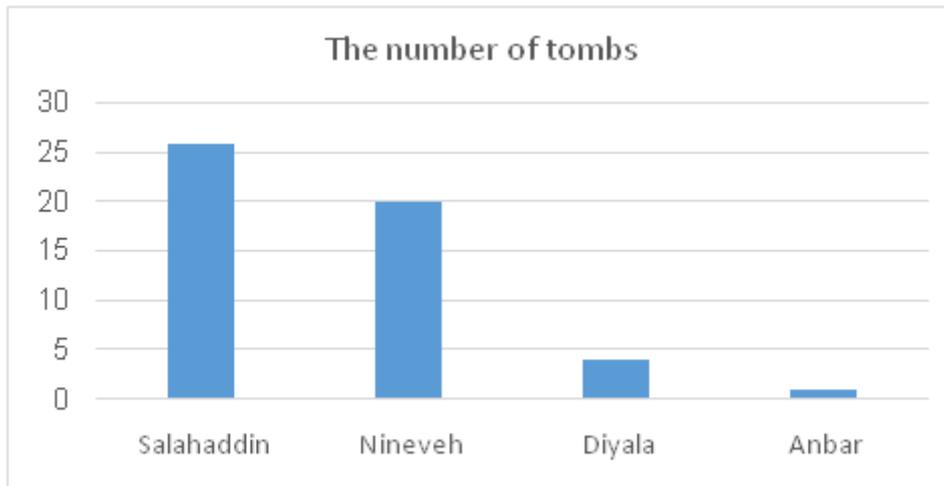


Figure No. (1) Number of mass graves committed by ISIS terrorist gangs.

Source: Researcher's work, based on: Martyrs Foundation, Mass Graves Affairs and Protection Department, Cemeteries Affairs Department Martyrs, Division of Excavation and Classification of Bones, 2021.

3- Geographical distribution of the cemeteries of genocide committed by terrorist gangs of ISIS after 2014:

The terrorist gangs of ISIS committed grave violations during the period of its control over some of the governorates of Iraq, as the number of cemeteries of genocide during the period of control of this extremist organization reached fifty-one cemeteries in fifteen locations. These tombs during the time period from 2015 to 2021, notes the table and map No. (2), and the study will describe the characteristics of some of these tombs.

Table No. (2) mass graves committed by ISIS terrorist gangs

	Cemetery name	Governorate	eliminate	death toll	The number of tombs	year of conquest
1	crossbar	Anbar	Fallujah	2	1	2018
2	Saadia - Kabashi	Diyala	Khanaqin	33	1	2015
3	Saadia - Tell Sliema	Diyala	Khanaqin	4	1	2015
4	Saadia - Court of First Instance	Diyala	Khanaqin	0	1	2015
5	Mr. Raqib's orchard	Diyala	Khanaqin	0	1	2015
6	Glam Cemetery	Salahaddin	role	0	1	2015
7	AlbuAjlil	Salahaddin	Tikrit	13	1	2015

8	Dhuluiya 1-4**	Salahaddin	country	12	4	2015
9	Awja 1-2	Salahaddin	Tikrit	7	2	2017
10	Speicher (Presidential Palaces) 1-17	Salahaddin	Tikrit	1236	17	2015-2016-2017-2018
11	Al-Dur cemetery	Salahaddin	role	3	1	2015
12	WadiAkab	Nineveh	Mosul	43	1	2017
13	morning	Nineveh	Sinjar	5	1	2019
14	Kojo 1-17	Nineveh	Sinjar	380	17	2019
15	Badoosh	Nineveh	Mosul	121	1	2021

Source: Researcher's work, based on: Martyrs Foundation, Department of Affairs and Protection of Mass Graves, Department of Martyrs' Graves Affairs, Division of Excavation and Classification of Bones, 2021.

1-3 - Speicher Site (Presidential Palaces) 1-17:

The Speicher crime is one of the most severe crimes committed by the terrorist organization ISIS in 2014, so that international dealing. it is characterized by a kind of shame to admit that it is a crime against humanity that a group of young people were exposed to after the terrorist organization ISIS took control of the city of Tikrit in Iraq. Captured soldiers, officers and students of the force The Iraqi Air Force led them to the presidential palaces in Tikrit, and they killed them by firing squad, and some of them were buried in mass graves.

Speicher site is located in Salah al-Din Governorate. This site contains seventeen mass graves, which were opened in the years (2015-2016-2017-2018). After the liberation of the city of Tikrit from the criminal gangs of ISIS, and the total that was removed from this site (1236) Of the corpses of the slain martyrs (10), the number of mortal remains from the tombs of this site varied, and they are as shown in Table No. (3).

Table No. (3) The area and numbers of victims of the Speicher site graves (presidential palaces).

cemetery number	death toll	Area m2	cemetery number	death toll	Area m2
Speicher Cemetery 1	1	80	Speicher Cemetery10	1	30
Speicher Cemetery 2	50	74	Speicher Cemetery 11	3	3 graves
Speicher Cemetery 3	1	35	Speicher Cemetery12	80	74
Speicher Cemetery 4	540	360	Speicher Cemetery 13	45	945
Speicher Cemetery 5	4	72	Speicher Cemetery 14	267	105
Speicher Cemetery6	-	-	Speicher Cemetery15	196	66
Speicher Cemetery 7	-	-	Speicher Cemetery 16	1	240
Speicher Cemetery 8	-	-	Speicher Cemetery 17	47	24

Speicher Cemetery 9	-	-	total victims	1236
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Martyrs Foundation, Department of Affairs and Protection of Mass Graves, Legal and Technical Report of Speicher Cemeteries (Presidential Palaces) from 1 to 17, 2015-2017.

2-3 : Dhuluiya 1-4 site:

This site is located in Salah El-Din Governorate, and the process of opening the tombs was started on August 11, 2015, and the site contains four tombs, so the total of the exhumed remains amounted to 12 cases, distributed among the four graves and were as follows (11):

3-2-1: Al-Dhuluiya Cemetery 1: It is individual graves close to each other, with dimensions of 2 meters in length and 1 meter in width, and a depth of about 2 meters. The cemetery is located near the Islamic Martyrs Cemetery in the city of Dhuluiya, where the bodies of three cases were found, some of which are unclear. Blindfolded, and all were handed over to the Forensic Medicine Department in Baghdad.

3-2-1: Al-Dhuluiya Cemetery 2: It is individual graves close to each other, with dimensions of 2 meters in length and 50 cm in width, and a depth of about 1.5 meters. The cemetery is located inside an orchard near the riverbed, where two undetermined victims were found, blindfolded with transparent tape, and the other Hands bound to the front, all of them were handed over to the Forensic Medicine Department in Baghdad.

3-2-3: Al-Dhuluiya Cemetery 3: It consists of individual graves close to each other, with dimensions of 2 meters in length and 50 cm in width, with a depth of about 1.5 meters for each grave. The cemetery was found inside an orchard near the riverbed, where 5 unidentified victims were found. Some of them were blindfolded with a piece of cloth, others were slashed from the front side, and others had traces of gunshots, and all of them were handed over to the forensic medicine department in Baghdad.

3-2-4: Dhuluiya Cemetery 4: It is also individual graves close to each other and with dimensions of 2 meters in length and 50 cm in width and about 1.5 meters in depth for each grave. The cemetery was found inside an orchard near the riverbed, where two unidentified victims were found. , The first victim is a skeleton, while the second victim has gunshot wounds in the head and the mouth is blindfolded with a piece of cloth with hands tied. The two victims were handed over to the Forensic Medicine Department in Baghdad.

3-3: Saadia - Tell Salima:

The cemetery is located in an agricultural and rugged area, and it is a well containing thick reeds that ISIS terrorist gangs exploited to carry out their crime against innocents by throwing them in the well and then burying them with a little dirt to hide that crime. The well is about 10 meters long, 6 meters wide and 4 meters deep. Salima on January 21, 2015, and 4 victims were raised by the mass graves team of the Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal of the Kurdistan Region, and then the team of the Department of Mass Graves Affairs and Protection participated in the excavation process, and all the victims were handed over to the Saadiya Police Station (12).

3-4: WadiAkab:

This cemetery was opened on November 28, 2017, and a cemetery is located in the WadiAkab region, where the witness's testimony was recorded and then excavations began in the cemetery. The work area was estimated at about 240 square meters and dimensions of 30 meters in length and 8 meters in width, 43 victims were raised It belongs to the Indian community and was handed over to

the cadres of the forensic medicine department accompanying the team, and to make sure that there were no evidence or other cases, the search work was expanded in the vicinity of the cemetery and nothing was found (13).

3-5: AlbuAjl:

The cemetery is located within the AlbuAjl area in Salah Governorate, and the cemetery is a rugged land with an area of 130 square meters and dimensions of 13 meters in length and ten meters in width and a depth of 3 meters, which made it difficult to search and excavate the victims, and work began to open it on March 14, 2015 by the Ministry Human Rights Department of mass graves and a team of specialists from the forensic medicine department in Baghdad. On the first day, the work team was able to extract only one case due to the difficulty of work and the lack of mechanisms to help remove the upper layer of the cemetery soil, and on the next day the work team was able to extract 12 victims, the number of victims is 13 cases, with no identity or attachment to was found, which is evidence of knowing the identity of the victims. It was noted that all the victims were wearing an orange suit and lying on their backs, some of them had their skulls crushed and others were bound with iron chains, as these remains were transferred to the Institute of Medicine Justice to reveal their identity and hand them over to their families (14).

3-6: Badush Tomb:

The cemetery of the victims of Badush Prison is located north of the city of Mosul. This crime is considered one of the most heinous massacres committed by ISIS gangs in June of 2014, after the organization's attack on Badush prison, which is located in Badush district and is called the Regional Reform Prison of the Ministry of Justice. It is considered the second largest Iraqi prison after Abu Prison Strange, as ISIS terrorist gangs took a large number of prisoners after taking them out by big wheels (trucks) to a place 2 km away from the prison, then separated the inmates on sectarian grounds and killed them after shooting them, and the number of missing prisoners reached 513 until the beginning of 2015. (15), and this cemetery was opened in June of 2021, and 121 victims were deposited with the forensic medicine department to conduct the necessary tests to determine their ownership. The genetic material (DNA), and after the matching procedure, the victims are handed over to their families (16).

3-7: Saadia - Kabashi:

Kabashi cemetery is located in Al-Saadiya sub-district. They were buried, and this part of the trench that was used to bury the victims is 60 meters long, 2 meters wide and 4 meters deep. This cemetery was opened in two stages, the first stage on 20/1/2015 by the mass graves team of the Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal of the Kurdistan Region, and 23 victims were raised. All the cases submitted to the Saadiya Police Station were handed over, as for the second phase by the Mass Graves Affairs and Protection Department on 23/4/2015, 10 unidentified cases were submitted, except for one case that was identified by its relatives through clothes, and 9 remains were handed over to the doctor. Justice in Muqdadiya district, and the case that was identified was handed over to the forensic medicine office in Khanaqin district, since the victim's family is a resident of this district (17).

3-8: Kojo site 1-17:

On August 3, 2014, the Sinjar district was subjected to the attacks of terrorist gangs of ISIS, so this extremist organization completed control of the judiciary. As a result, the Yezidis were exposed to the most heinous crimes of murder, slaughter, kidnapping of children and captivity of women in the twenty-first century and the displacement of hundreds of thousands to the Kurdistan region, as the number of families in a village reached Kojo 275 families, with a population of 1,600 from the Mandakiah clan, were subjected to a 12-day siege that extended from August 3, 2014 to August 15,

2014(18). This site was in the years 2019-2020, and 380 victims were raised by the Department of Affairs and Protection of Mass Graves and were transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department in Baghdad to reveal their identity. The team worked from the site in order to preserve their safety and return to it after securing the area to resume work (19), and the number of remains from the tombs of this site varied, as shown in the following table (4) (20).

Table No. (4) The area and number of victims of the Kojo site cemeteries.

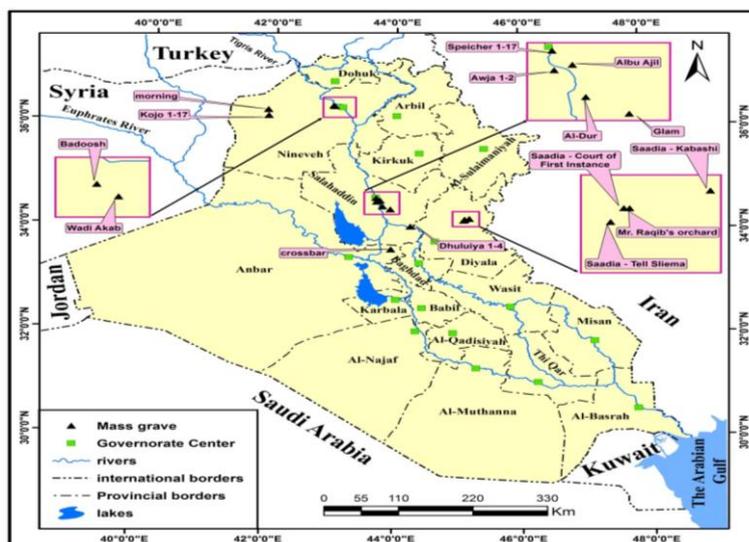
cemetery number	death toll	Area m2	cemetery number	death toll	Area m2
Kojo Tomb 1	36	97	Kojo Tomb10	80	72
Kojo Cemetery 2	42	68	Kojo Tomb 11	-	17
Kojo Tomb 3	7	7	Kojo Tomb12	1	80 cm
Kojo Tomb 4	-	6	Kojo Tomb 13	55	425
Kojo Tomb5	4	186	Kojo Tomb 14	4	31
Kojo Tomb6	4	26	Kojo Cemetery15	2	6
Kojo Tomb 7	1	70 cm	Kojo Tomb 16	45	65
Kojo Tomb 8	32	38	Kojo Tomb 17	38	56434
Kojo Tomb 9	29	115	total victims	380	

Martyrs Foundation, Department of Affairs and Protection of Mass Graves, Legal and Technical Report of Kocho Cemeteries from 1 to 17, 2019.

3-9: Morning Cemetery:

On July 13, 2019, the technical teams represented by the Department of Mass Graves Affairs and Protection of the Martyrs Foundation began removing the remains of the bones scattered on the surface of the cemetery, and 5 victims who were killed by ISIS terrorist gangs were raised. Its area is about (56 m x 35 m), and envelopes of empty bullets were also found. After the excavation work was completed and all the remains were removed, they were handed over to the Forensic Medicine Department in Baghdad for DAN samples to be taken from them to identify the victims' identity (21).

Map No. (2) The spatial distribution of the cemeteries of genocide committed by terrorist gangs of ISIS.



Source: Researcher's work, based on:

1. Ministry of Water Resources, General Authority for Survey, Map Production Division, Iraq's administrative map at a scale of 1:1000000, for the year 2021.
2. Martyrs Foundation, Mass Graves Affairs and Protection Department, Martyrs' Graves Affairs Department, Excavation and Bones Classification Division, 2021.

Conclusions

- 1- Despite our entry into the twenty-first century and humanity's great progress in terms of regulations and laws approved by international bodies and humanitarian organizations, genocide is still being committed until now, whether it is committed in times of peace or war. It is a crime in accordance with international law, humanitarian law and other laws, regardless of the articles contained in these laws.
- 2- The genocide that took place in Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Anbar and Diyala reached very high levels, which included the most egregious violations that contradict international laws and norms and human rights laws such as killing, destruction and kidnapping to turn humanity back on slavery and its ugly history.
- 3- The ideological, doctrinal, religious and national difference in Iraq, the control of some powers over the reins of affairs, and the desire of other forces to seize power and achieve hegemony and control over others has caused the existence of an internal conflict in Iraq, which led to the destabilization of security, spreading fear and disrupting the public order of the state.
- 4- During the period of ISIS control, Iraq was subjected to widespread violations if this terrorist organization deliberately killed and disappeared thousands of innocent people in mass graves, and did not exclude any of the components of the Iraqi people. Among the most severe of these crimes is the Speicher crime in Tikrit and the Kocho massacre in Sinjar. .
- 5- The total number of cemeteries for the genocide caused by the terrorist organization of ISIS amounted to 51 open cemeteries and included 1,859 victims, most of whom were Yezidis and Shiites, and the largest part of the cemeteries have not been opened so far for various reasons.

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