



In Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC
Honorary of the UN Human Rights Prize 2023

Oral Statement at the 18th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues

AMMAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

Dear MADAM CHAIR.

The Kurdish people stand out as one of the largest ethnic groups in the world without a nation-state. Despite their distinct linguistic, cultural, and historical identity, they remain deprived of their right to self-determination, a fundamental principle of international law.

The Kurdish people are an ethnic group living in areas spanning Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Their population is estimated to be more than 50 million.

As well known, the roots of the Kurdish question extend back to the period following World War I, when the Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916) and the Treaty of Lausanne (1923) divided Kurdish lands among four countries without recognizing the Kurds' right to establish an independent political entity.

In Iraq, the Kurdistan Region enjoys broad autonomy under the 2005 Iraqi Constitution.

In Syria, an autonomous administration has existed in northern and eastern Syria since 2012.

In Turkey and Iran, the Kurds continue to face political and security challenges in their pursuit of recognition of their cultural and political rights.

Therefore, the Amman Center recommends that your esteemed council convene a special conference on the challenges facing the Kurdish people's right to self-determination, in accordance with legal principles and free from political interests.

By this way we can secure peace and development in the region.

Thank you for your time.

Geneva, November 28, 2025