

## **Difficult heritage memory of Iraq's Marshes**

The research aims to document the tragic events that occurred in the marshes in the eighties and nineties of the last century in order to prepare a database that provides information for analysis, interpretation and evaluation. This information base takes two forms: digital and paper, to facilitate access to information, whether by technological methods or by classical methods.

Building the memory of the marshes, and the historical turns that took place in them, from prosperity to desertification, and a gradual return again, Even if it is below the level of ambition, constitutes a protection for the world heritage, not only the Iraqi one.

The study can be used to suggest effective solutions to develop the marshes and rehabilitate them environmentally and irrigationally, and to develop and rehabilitate their inhabitants psychologically and economically, and to civilize them, and to deal with the marshes as a world heritage recognized by UNESCO.

The research seeks to establish global concepts associated with the description and interpretation of genocide, mass killing and forced displacement, and the research will include a classification of scientific activities that assist in its achievement, to include:

1. Direct encounters with survivors and returnees of forced migration
2. Audio and video recordings, if any
3. Field studies (questionnaires, and statistics) of the marsh dwellers who are currently in the marshes.
4. Using technological means to rebuild the memory of the marshes, such as Internet programs and computer programs that simulate the original voices of the victims, to tell short stories about the lives of the victims, and the environmental changes that occurred in the marshes, starting from depriving them of a water source and ending with desertification, loss of livestock and fisheries, environmental imbalance and climate changes. .
5. Building an information base to establish the nucleus of the Marshes Museum in the city of Nasiriyah, using digital methods for preservation and display.

The research will classify the types of genocide that occurred in the marshes and provide statistical data on the type of loss and losses suffered by the Iraqi due to the extermination of the marshes, and these genocides can be classified as follows:

**Physical genocide**

**Environmental genocide**

**Biological genocide**

**Cultural genocide**

**Political genocide**

Perhaps some of these types of genocides were not included in the Genocide Convention approved by the United Nations in 1948. Therefore, the research presents

## **proposals for classifying genocides according to cultural environments and political systems.**

### **Research Question**

What are the appropriate mechanisms and ways to build the memory of the genocide of the Marshes, and how we can identify the historical context of that memory, as part of the global heritage , and how do we identify the environmental, biological and human diversity that flourished in that environment as a social environment also with its own arts, customs, literature and traditions???

### **The Context Of Question**

After more than two decades of the atrocities that occurred to the marshes and their inhabitants, the events have not been reconstructed, processed historically, and documented according to the procedures of historical verification. The problem is that the events have become part of history, and many survivors of the genocide have died, who have suffered forcible displacement, the fight against their livelihoods, and the confiscation of their money. The documentation process has faced serious difficulties and challenges, including with regard to the credibility of information collected orally from personal interviews, including with regard to the scarcity of government documents that explicitly refer to the goal of draining the marshes, expelling their inhabitants, destroying their natural environment, and transforming them from nature reserves for animals, birds and various plants into a barren desert. Not suitable for agricultural or animal production. How can we mitigate these obstacles and bypass some of them by creating a special archive for the destruction of the marshes and the genocide that the population and the vital and natural environment have been exposed to? How do we transform the marshes into a historical text that records the various stages of life in them, and how can the historical text be formulated through which the memory of the marshes can be preserved, including the flourishing and biological diversity , and then the genocide of its inhabitants and its ecological and biological diversity?

### **Research aims**

The research is consistent with the objectives of understanding the history and current status of Iraq, preserving Iraq's heritage and its environmental, social and population diversity, especially that the marshes are now listed on the World Heritage List, and helping to achieve justice and promote social peace, coexistence, tolerance and acceptance of the other, and most importantly is Benefiting from the past in understanding the present and the need to transcend it by building peace and achieving justice. One of the objectives of the UNESCO Chair for Genocide Prevention Studies is to study and understand history in order to promote peace in the current society, and to study and understand genocides by identifying their causes and circumstances in order to overcome them and prevent their recurrence.

### **Ethical Consedration**

The working group undertakes to abide by the ethical considerations in scientific research and the terms of the academic code of conduct for university professors, as well as consider the morel customs and traditions of the society in which the field research is being conducted.

### **Research Outputs**

- Workshops

- Seminars and conferences
- View on the website
- Include them in the curricula of university students
- The media

**How is prposel directly and primarily relevent to addressing these challenges in Iraq?**

The serious challenge facing Iraq is the security challenge due to the spread of violence and crimes that threaten peace. Therefore, the research outputs contribute to achieving peaceful coexistence by addressing the historical imbalance that the society has been exposed to due to the prevailing culture that justifies violence. By understanding history, we can overcome the obstacles of the present. We turn challenges into opportunities for dialogue and understanding, and address the social diseases that destroy society, the most important of which is the disease of genocide, which is justified by cultural violence.

**Promoting the economic development and welfare of Iraq**

Development and welfare require a secure environment. Therefore, if we address the security challenges, and we able to rebuild culture on objective historical foundations, we will thus pave the way towards development and welfare .