

Canada must stand with allies on ISIS: Ambrose

Canada must stand with our allies and recognize and condemn ISIS' actions for what they really are ? genocide.

The stories from Syria and Iraq are too chilling. ISIS is systematically exterminating Christians, Assyrians, Yazidis, Shia Muslims, and other countless religious minorities in these regions. From ?sex-slave markets,? to bidding on Yazidi girls as if they were cattle, to regularly beating, whipping, burning and raping women and girls ? it is absolutely disturbing and heartbreaking that this is happening in 2016.

This is why I was compelled to introduce a motion in the House of Commons calling on the Liberal government to join Canada's allies in deeming ISIS' actions as genocide. The European Parliament unanimously called it genocide. The United Kingdom House of Commons unanimously called it genocide. The United States House of Representatives unanimously called it genocide. It's Canada's time to do the same.

But tragically, the Liberals just don't get it. When the motion was put to a vote in the House of Commons on June 14 your local Liberal Member of Parliament voted against it.

In the following days, the Liberals backed down and recognized the ISIS genocide against Yazidis ? but they still refuse to acknowledge the broader genocide against the Assyrians, Christians and others, as our allies do. It is a dark spot on Canada's record that Prime Minister Trudeau and his government cannot gather the courage to name this threat against human rights that has seen women and girls sold into sexual slavery or murdered outright, and forced thousands of innocent people into refugee camps. On behalf of the Official Opposition, my Conservative colleagues and I will continue to fight for the cultural and religious minorities targeted by ISIS.

Rona Ambrose, MP
Leader of the Opposition