

Emily Gengenbach

Interview: Shahad Basahar

Location: Yazidi Community Center

00:30

Interviewee: Um, my name is Shahad Basahar. Uh, I have a family here. I have wife and two kids. So when they come to United States, I have a kid, I just have one girl. And another two girls, they born in United States Lincoln Nebraska. Uh, I, I came to Lincoln, Nebraska. US, uh, in 2000, February 18, 2017. When I came, uh, to the United States the first time I come, of course, to Chicago, didn't transfer to Lincoln that in

1:00

Interviewee: the second day I can do to Lincoln, Nebraska. Um, uh, when, when I applied to, to us did, uh, I did not, I think it's about the states, but I know just the name of America or the United States. So, um, uh, my brother in law applied for me to come to the United States. So, uh, uh, they told, he told me there's many Yazidi uh, living in Lincoln, Nebraska, uh, also my uncle. He is living here like long time. I mean, more than 10 years. And there's a lot of, uh, I mean, largely Yazidi population in the United States. So, uh, I'll be honest. I will, I would like, I would be close to the Yazidi community. I see. It's easier for me. I mean, yeah. It's easier to come

2:00

Interviewee: to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Interviewee: Uh, before, before I applied. Uh, I just heard about maybe because I was a student, so I there's many, uh, many city, they are famous in something. So I, I think I heard about Nebraska. They are famous for corn is like cultures. When I was there on one of the fame, famous is like a city or state in the United States. Maybe a little bit. It's famous for agriculture because I am, I studied biology in Iraq. So maybe I, I seen it before in like, this is small sentence is Nebraska is in the lab corp a lot.

Interviewee: Corn, cause yeah, yeah. I just it's a lot of corn. Yeah.

Interviewer: Did that become true?

3:00

Interviewer: Did you see a lot of corn when you first left?

Interviewee: Yeah, that's true. Yeah, it's true. There's a lot of corners. It's like a city or a state is, has a lot of agriculture to care for agriculture and the cutters. So, uh, I mean, because I have a bachelor degree in biology, I was, I was curious to come to Nebraska.

Maybe I find a job here is been for me. I did I have a job it's close to the to that, that my field, I have two jobs and I mean, I have a job in Yazidi cultural center, and also I have a job as a entrepreneurial community club. So, you know, it's a part of that culture. Yeah.

Interviewer: Or are you still doing any biology? If you're trained in biology?

Interviewee: I think ???. I mean, I am an interpreter with the community club organization and this organization ticket for the farmer

4:00

Interviewee: and the like planting vegetables and something like that. So it's the ?? of the closing to the biology, so, yeah. Hm.

Interviewee: Uh, I mean, my brother in law, when, when he applied for me, he told me Shahad when you come to Nebraska, move to Oregon, because there's a lot and beautiful beach over there shore. And, uh, uh, I told, I don't know any things about the United States, about Nebraska, about the other States. So, uh, let me come yeah, and I will decide, I will see. So, uh, I came. When I came to state, I came to Nebraska. I found a job. I was very comfortable for my brother in law. He told me let's go to the Oregon. So he moved. I told him, no, I am not going to move because I love people here. I have friends. I have job. I know the weather is crazy.

5:00

Interviewee: It's very cool. A lot of snow, but I mean, I am, I became sick. I become stable here. I make a bus. I mean, I mean, I made here friends here. I have friends, I

have, it's like my second home. So I did forget my, my home land in Iraq, my town, but I see I'm very comfortable here. So I see people, they are very respectful to me, to my family. Uh, this, uh, another reason I. I stayed in Lincoln, Nebraska, because I have friends. They come to my family. When I come to the Catholic social services, no organization, uh, they told me, okay, do you, would somebody come to your home just to, to help you to be engaged with the community? I told you yes, of course. So they sent three students from the University of Nebraska. They come every week and those are other week. It depends.

6:00

Interviewee: So just talking to us about the culture, about the United state, about what meaning what meaning the Lake, what mean is river? What meaning these mountains, when Rocky mountains, tell me a lot about the community about what's is yeah, they taught me a lot, my family, and they helped me to engage with the community. So, uh, Bryanna, Jacy, and Colton to be about, they helped me a lot to engage with the community. Of course. There's the Yazidi cultural center. Otherwise the reasons to stay here. Yeah. Even though there is quality. Yeah.

Interviewee: Uh, huh, of course before 2014, uh, my brother in law, he was living here. So, and my uncle, they told me we can apply for you if you want to like to come to United States. I told him no,

7:00

Interviewee: I don't like, because I have a great job in Iraq. I have a lot and I was a principal for school. I have two good job and have beautiful home. Uh, So it wasn't in my plan to continue United States. I. I .. Could come because if I applied, maybe they accept me. I didn't even apply. So after 2014 August 30 exactly what happened in Iraq. I saw the ISIS attack that like these groups of the terrorist attacked Iraq attack it. Parts of North Iraq and the middle of Iraq is so particularly our species. They attack the Yazidi there was a genocide on the Yazidi. Uh, so they can kill of peoples. So, uh, they took a woman as, as, slave a slave. They, they, they come in on. They took the womans

8:00

Interviewee: Uh, so, uh, that, that day I was in, Sinjar, in the, my, my home city or, uh, so not of Iraq, uh, ISIS come on. It was horrible day and, but everything I couldn't image. So they they came and we ran to the mountains who captured, killed the main, I mean, they take a women and girls and kids, but, uh, I was in mountains sitting by the ISIS for like a week then, uh, I a flee to to North of Iraq. Yes. I survived from that genocide. So I, I mean, I, I saw by my eyes, a lot of horrible things. So I saw. Now all do men and the men, they are dying from the terrorist attack. I mean, people who is dissident, uh, they could walk and go to the mountains to the another side,

9:00

Interviewee: to then to run to the Kurdistan and literally all messaging by the ISIS. Uh, I want to tell you a little bit about this situation when the ISIS came from the South of Sinjar and the people run to the North and the people in the North, all of them, they,

they, they fled there are a to the mountains, but the people in the South, there is no source of the water over there. So they come to the North. So we were a groups of the people with taking, uh, we were taking a water to the People they come in from the South on of mountains. So I saw a lot of, a lot of people, they are dying from them, thirst from hunger. I mean, yeah. They many people, they are, they were injuries and they killed, they, they, they dead from not taking care of themselves. This is genocide, uh, I mean, many people have killed many people, kidnap

10:00

Interviewee: it under a state, a lot of woman. Kids is they are in captivity on that. Yeah. It's hard to remember. I mean, in Lincoln, Nebraska, I am one of the survivor. I think there's no many people. They are survived from genocide because they were in Kurdistan or they were here. We were in, in here before the had. So I've covered of, of, of survivor. We are in Lincoln, Nebraska. I was, uh, one of the witnesses are one of the survivor from genocide.

Interviewee: Okay. Um, in August 5th. So two days after genocide, uh, we took the water to the mountain that, uh, dry mountains. There's no water over there. Just a couple of sorts of the North. Why are we taking the water? So we give each a person, uh, uh, like a capsule of the, a button we take into the butter

11:00

Interviewee: butter of the, because they say a butter, our buck to the, we climbing the mountains. We give each person a little bit of work to survive. I remember very well. I. I was giving a water to each person a little bit, and I was encouraged them to, to continue to rid to source of the water, to be a survive. Then a woman was being, it was holding her here, our baby, like couple months, or she, the baby was feeding on her breast feeding. So on, I give it here and not a double, a cup of butter water. I give it here. A little bar and she was just, she was my eyes. I want more, I want more. So she drank a lot. I mean, she drink a glass of water then,

12:00

Interviewee: uh, then I, I went to another, like more, we are doing more further. I saw a woman. She was carrying off a better of water, but it's maybe wore black Mediware is not a ??t. I told her sister, just leave it. I will give you a little bit louder. Another, another girl. She was like in 20, she told me there's a water. She was like a crazy, she was in this it's situation. There's a water I told Yeah.Yeah. This is water. Just, could you go and you're going to arrive. If you just go you will arrive to source of water, water she's told water, I saw many people. They are just. They lie on the ground. Nobody take, who, who who's going to take care for them. I saw a man who was his lips was green. He told me it's a couple of days. I didn't eat anything.

13:00

Interviewee: It's just, just leaves of the tree, the out tree. Exactly. The out tree. Uh, uh, when I came from the top of the mountain, I saw. A small kids, she was laying on the

ground. Barely. She was conscious. Keep it a little bit water for myself to just for me. I try to give her. I, I pour it on her mouth, the butter of water a little bit more. She was alive. So I became happy. I mean, she was alive. I tried to take it her. She was, I mean, she was 14, 13 years old. Somebody told me, just leave it over there because she's disabled. She was, I mean, this, this feeling is this situation. They killing me every moment, every one, but it's hard for me to remember the situation. Then I, uh, then I came at dusk six days.

14:00

Interviewee: We were situation in and we were in the same situation. My wife told me your daughter is going to die that without milk, because that time my daughter was had one day old. So one month, and there wasn't milk for breastfeeding milk, the normal for her mom, because we were to hunger. I mean, there's no milk. I tried to get a milk. Can't have milk for me, but that milk is finished. So there's a little bit, my wife told me, you daughter, our daughter, it going to be die if we do find and a solution. So I try to fly to the North of Syria. Then Kurdistan, you try to find door too, to get out from that mountain. But it was very difficult situation. You know, maybe we die. Maybe we not.

15:00

Interviewee: We went to the Syria, but there was a lot of shooting within our hands. ????? YPG and actually YPG. So group of Kurdish military, they help us get to Syria. on our way in the, in the, uh, we, we walk a lot, couple of miles then. Then we, they took us in the, all the trunks of the big trunk though. So I didn't know my, I I don't know, my, my,

my daughter was still alive or not. So I was telling Hannah, who is my wife. Our daughter is alive or not. She was pinching here, told me I'm pinching her. She's she's telling me like this. So we know she's alive because my wife, she was pinching

17:00

Interviewee:, my daughter. So, um, we arrive at the Syria border. They told me, Oh, who's this daughter, who's this girl. I told her it's my, my daughter. They told me whose name, what's her name? Her name was Arabic name. I mean, I mean, our normal name. I told her we're gonna rename here. As your group, your ???. They told me no, we got a name her ??? I mean new life after fire. So her name now in the ID is different. There is ??? She's ?? 11 school in smart and happy. That girl, she survived from the genocide, thousands of the kids in her age. Kill it. Kill it, they died actually from terrorist and hunger that from genocide, but she was lucky she survived, but unfortunately,

18:00

Interviewee: yeah, many, many of kids in her age, they died from genocide. I mean, we survive it. Then I applied to continue a state. I was eager to continue. I stand because I want to find a home safe home, safe land for, for my, my family because I be, I was a dad. I want, I want my daughter like become a, become in safe place. Go to good school too, between the people, the respect, uh, the respect, our, I mean, all culture, our eye, everything is so, uh, I mean. I will be, I will be asked. Nobody tells me in Lincoln, Nebraska, who's your religion. Yeah, nobody asked me. I mean, it's my, it's the freedom.

18:00

Interviewee: Nobody asked me. In Iraq. I went, I went in the college in North of Iraq from my class 90 students. 85 of them told me can become Muslim will be honest. Nobody here. Come ask me can be kept Christian. Even nobody asking me who's your religion. I mean, uh, after I came to the state, I saw a freedom freedom of speech right now. I'm talking to you. Freedom of the freedom of that. Everything I see, I am, I am living my dream life now. I was living good life in Iraq, but not. After genocide. So, ah, I should say Lincoln, but I choose Lincoln, but my, my uncle and my brother in law and the large, Yazidi. Is it the population in USA here? Not here. So I came to, to this, this, this beautiful state

19:00

Interviewee: and there. I will I stick it. I want to stay here and I don't have any plans to go to the move to another city because I have friends. I have jobs. We have the Yazidi cultural center and, uh, yes, I mean, great living in the United States, Nebraska.

Interviewee: Oh, no, no, I know I did it. I did not because he told me Shahad. You have to come. I told him no it's expensive it because I ask it, he didn't ask very well when he, he moved it, it was very expensive. There wast like Arabic market. I mean, our food there's effort of parts of the culture. So he told me, Oh my God, I miss the bread. I missed the rice so that the rent was expensive. I mean, the, the life was expensive over there.

20:00

Interviewee: So, uh, he stayed couple months. I told him, came back to Nebraska it before that time you said Nebraska is not America. Nebraska is not good. It's crazy. It's called after he went to Oregon in misses us, as he said, Oh, they're real America in Nebraska. So now we, sometimes we are just like, hang out or we go to the, his car told me, man, this, this is, that is, this America is America. I don't know you. So Oregon, Oregon. He told me it's too expensive for every things. And there's not many refugee over there. Uh, he said, okay. I mean, the community, the social situation is something's important. I didn't know. After, till I, I tasted till I went to Oregon. Till I went to, Oregon, I know it's beautiful. I visited it.

21:00

Interviewee: But it's just a beach, just a beautiful weather, but you couldn't find the community. You couldn't find that like sprint. Uh, for me, uh, for me, I like talk to people. I like to be friends with you, with you. I learn from you. I mean, I'm, I learned from you and you are a part of my happiness. So, so at the Lincoln, I have a friends, it's hard to make a friends everywhere. Yeah. I mean, I have friends here. I mean, I read you, you post on Facebook. I will be. I learned from you because you have that great language. You are a professional in language. So, uh, I mean, I'm, I'm very happy in Lincoln, Nebraska. That's that's many Yazidi. Here we have conference. We have, we have meeting, we have even

22:00

Interviewee: events. We have Yazidi cultural center here. We have set up we have We have wedding party. We have, uh, holidays. We have, we have community because we are a large, because we have, we have made people, we are here. So the, the, the community from Lincoln community, they take care for us. When I, I will be in the other city, at the individual, by myself. Who are you? But right now You come to me. He's Yazidi. We know he has it. 2000 people in Lincoln, Nebraska. So if I told you I am Yazidi you now, me, I mean those religion, I mean a community, you recognize me, I have a different culture and different food, so yeah. Yeah. Yes. To my culture, you know, through my, my food. You now, uh, maybe some simple like that. Maybe some. Maybe you are, you have a more mercy than to

23:00

Interviewee: the other to, like with me, because you know what happened to me, you know, I have, I injury here heartbroken here because you know, we are poor community and they killed us because we are just, we are different from them.

Interviewee: Uh, for, for, for my culture, I mean, I have like a mix in food with like barbecue or the kids of the barbecue chicken, barbecue with, uh, I love vegetables and, uh, basically the sub parts of that. Chicken. I love chicken. I love chicken and vegetables, but then in any kind of food, I love American. I love meat chicken in McDonalds. Yeah. I love this. I know it's cheap, cheap, but I mean, I love it. I am. I love, uh,

24:00

Interviewee: I love pizza too. Yeah. American beer. Yeah. I love both of them. Uh, pizza and the chicken. Yeah.

Interviewee: Oh, Oh yeah. About the weather. I have experience with that because when I came to the United state, I became sick for a couple of months to say what I, I attended the hospital because of like a condition. The weather and I never see something like cold, like this way that, I mean, until my immunizations recognize it, the weather, I like I'm tired, but they, yeah. After a year or the season after season, I am, I think I'm, I, I'm more friends with this weather or, I mean more familiar with this weather. I know it's hard.

25:00

Interviewee: Uh, but I, I just emerged every, uh snowflake because snowflake become a flower, become, uh, a, something is green. Uh, it's helped me to just go through the hard weather. I just imagine, I know this, this is hard, but it's no, this snow, the earth, and this is become, grow and become flowers and the green. And then we're going to, you're going to have a beautiful sprig, beautiful summer beautiful tree in, in fall. So, I mean, I try to, to adapt to the weather. I it's hard. I don't like it, but I try to adapt myself with it. I mean, we have, we have to accept, this is the nature. It's the nature. And I love the nature, this natural

26:00

Interviewee: gift us something is the happiness. If I, some things we become happy and we food, we like, we eat natural things are. I mean, our cultural, we, me and my wife, we, we focused a lot about, uh, fruits and vegetables. So most of our food is vegetables. So, I mean, I just image beautiful things after the winter. Yeah.

Interviewee: Yes. Uh, uh, I had a lot in the beginning. So everything's in difference from that culture to this culture, the weather, people, uh, the, the main thing or things. It was the language when I came to the United States. It was hard to find a home because I wasn't working in that first two months. And, uh, then, uh, I found a job at

27:00

Interviewee: one of the, one of the factory. I am still not good at it. I barely in that type. I was working and my supervisor tells me a couple of times, till when are you going to learn English. Till when And that things make me very sad. I quit my job. I become broken ?? because I was crying sometimes because everything change it was so difficult. It was hard in the beginning to find a job. Then then I come to people. I try to I try to find another job. It was hard for me in the beginning. Yeah, the language barrier,

28:00

Interviewee: weather and uh. I mean we were were more social in our community ?? was hard. Even getting the license was hard So in the beginning I was more sensitive to things. But now I am. I mean I am good. I finding jobs for people now. In the beginning it

was hard to find a job for myself. But now I apply for people. It's a huge different from the beginning and two years and a half. Yeah.

Interviewee: Uh, that good question. I would like somebody to ask me this question. When I when I come to United States, uh 2017. After I come think two months, three months something like that they open the center.

29:00

Interviewee: When they open, I come here to friends of mine. He is a board member now, Sapa Pier. Maybe you know him. I was I was a volunteer at this center, just help people. Volunteer making hours. Then uh uh I was here just sitting in one these chair, making hour volunteering hour here. So the manager over the center, the supervisor over the center, posted the the community ?? Jobs. They were looking, they hiring job. She posted over there, like like she hang it over there. ?? So uh she told me we had another ?? over there at community ?? Like 8 hours. I uh told her what job, can you explain it a little bit for me.

30:00

Interviewee: So she said ok. Then Then I said I am biologist, I am I am the right person for that job. I wasn't good at English, but now I am not good. But uh I mean. I apply for job. I get job at Yazidi Culture Center. Then I was very happy. I am still working with that job. Then I Then I find a job here uh like uh become a teacher for refugee for couple of students and kurdistan. I apply for it and they give me a job so uh it help me a lot to ??

to the community. I mean I am very happy when I I help people, I teach our people. Uh
yeah

31:00

Interviewee: Its hard question. I mean when you say becoming back, I mean you its
hard to compare U.S. with Iraq. U.S. in the top, Iraq in the down. I would ?? I think most
of the people like their original country, or there is I don't know its called, original
country. I I love my home, I I love my friends over there. I had a job over there but if I.
Sometimes I say ok if I become citizenship, I will come back but I uh I otherwise I uh
sometimes I just think about my girl because her school. ??? Ok America is great
country. I stay here and uh 90% of my thoughts are ok Shahad You have to stay here.
You have to build your life. You have to plan. You have

32:00

Interviewee: You have to set a goals for your life. And America is great. So you have
freedom to go see your family sometimes in Europe and you can even go to Iraq. But if
you live in Iraq maybe you kill. And I am just thinking to myself, you kill for nothing. I I
mean my dreams my Yazidi comes to United States, not I go back to Iraq. My dream is
more Yazidi survive from that situation there. So yeah so um I don't think just visiting.
Just visiting is I will visit of course. I will visit Germany, my family is over there, I will visit
my home land Iraq. But to live my whole life in Iraq, no. I am not going back to Iraq but
maybe in a couple of years, in ten years I visit just visiting.

33:00

Interviewee: Ok, the Yazidi center is founded to help the yazidi. To to so they don't forget their culture. I mean we had a class of uh Kurmanji, our language. Um Uh I think the yazidi culture center is open to all type communities. So that the people that don't know language can come to us. We found a job for them, we we do a lot of the community that comes to us. I mean we are planning to to do more things for our community. Like more events, more thing to just keep our culture alive. So yeah, we we try to make yazidi

34:00

Interviewee: here. We have a beautiful beautiful complex community. I mean we want to be like keep this community and the yazidi culture center is point. We have to take care of it. To keep this community going and even the recent lif. The modern life, we want to, we would like to keep our culture alive. Our customs, our clothes, and yeah. I am trying to do something to keep our history alive. Yes.

35:00

Interviewee: I uh uh the hardest thing is when the center. I think is get fund. Of um um I mean every center like this our people need support. So I mean we have people want to work here, I mean they want to become teacher for languages. I mean we need a ?? Place, we need fund for the um like like language classes, we need more big events. Of course something like that support. Um personally I think we we are facing problem with that, not a problem I mean we are facing getting a fund, getting support. Yeah I Yeah

36:00

Interviewee: Um uh for if you compared lincoln to other city, so we don't have many yazidi families in Houston, texas, in Virginia, in Washington and in Arizona I think. So if you compare lincoln with them, Lincoln is much more better then that city. And um ok. We have a couple ?? Working with the lincoln public schools, so um they make very easier for the family and uh and uh the school. Also we have the uh we have some programs that come after school programs. So uh so we go to oh uh for the culture center,??? we talked to the students and uh I think they respect us a lot. Uh I hope

37:00

Interviewee: we we will have stuff in the future, like studying our language, like half an hour maybe forty minutes A week. Just to take care of our language. We don't want to lose this beautiful language. Culture the main thing in culture is the language. Customs Customs is. Language is every important. We are We are losing our beautiful Kurmanji, our language now. We are facing this problem now. Hopefully one day we will have some teachers in public school. Its its hard to collect people, to get people together in other places. School is easier place to find the new generation. We know we are losing our language, not for the old generation but the new generation. They are losing language. I see I see in lincoln,

38:00

Interviewee: Nebraska is there. It's a problem we are losing our, we want something more to take care of our languages. I don't know what exactly maybe classes.

Interviewee: So um I mean for me I am not a religion man so it's a hard question to answer. Every person uh has his own idea but the subject. So uh um its very complicated um our community too close like tight close. Um this thing is not ??, me or other person its from long time ago. It go to the subject is complicated. Its one of our our ?? Exist in north Iraq

39:00

Interviewee: with millions, millions of Muslims, we are still the yazidi. So I think, its hard to change. Change is state by state Not a year. I think we should be more open. Because there are many rules in religion that don't fit with the modern life. You know um I am I am not a religion person but that's my idea. Religion should be changed, rule in religion to fit with that modern life. So that life is changing its the this huge huge revolution of un technology. So um we gonna change, we gonna be more open but we need more time. I mean ya its now dating for girls, the generation with other community, dating and marrying them,

40:00

Interviewee: it create so problem in family. But uh I think we got to try and fix it. Our Its to complicated subject. I need time to to face it. We are we are open community but not

about marriage. We are closed here. Yeah maybe with another things we are open but not about the marriage.

Interviewee: So um before 2014, 2011 to 2014. I so I graduate in 2010 in in from biology department so uh I become a teacher in elementary teacher close to my home in northern Iraq. Sinjar Exactly village you can say village or compound, village couple thousand people.

41:00

Interviewee: Um so I was in um in the morning, teaching. I was a teacher, in the even I was uh lab technician. Then um 2014 happen. Not a lot to tell the genocide happened. We fled to another city, so uh many families, you can thousand families, I don't know exactly how many family stayed in the mountains. They were fighting ISIS and terrorist. They said no we are dying, but we won't leave the mountain. So uh after 2000 in 2015 they by the help of the U.S. air forces and the Kurdish Military they they retake or they take all The area from ISIS the north side of Sinjar. The north side. They just open Sinjar Area the north side of Sinjar.

42:00

Interviewee: So um 2014, 2015, 2016 nobody went to open a school for the families reminding in the mountain. So there are some villages, the people from the mountains come to the villages and the people in mountains no nobody open a school for them. So uh I get a couple phone calls telling me if you could come up a school . I told them I am

not a principle of school, I am a teacher. They told me we can make you uh uh some people some normal people of there. I would I will ?? To the build the ?? . I reopen the first school after genocide. So from nothing, everything was broken, I rebuild by myself everything to ?? For students. Students come from the whole mountain,

43:00

Interviewee: all villages. It wasn't safe, ISIS was too close. Was like ten miles are close to us. And we were standing, teaching. I mean it was too hard to rebuild that school for 700 hundred Students. I have pictures and some video. So so the school was success. Many people come in, they come in all parts of mountain to my school. I was happy help the students for one year. After one year, a friend of mine, he was a teacher come to help me. Then I get a visa to come to united states. I came to united states, it was hard to the students. It was winter break when I leave them. I decided to bye.

44:00

Interviewee: I came. Uh I was focusing in my mind to teach people our uh I love to teaching people. So I apply to job here at the Yazidi center. There a couple students, five, six students who were refugee ?? So I uh taught them English, basic English. I was happy with them but unfortunately we had grant at the end of the grant here. So we lose our class, uh I mean the students went to other places. It was. I I still dream to become a teacher here in Lincoln Nebraska because I love teaching. Now I am uh preparing of the practice test to become a teacher. Maybe you know

45:00

Interviewer: is the school still in existence? Is it

Interviewee: Yes, I visit that school a couple of days ago. There are still students

Interviewer: How many students are there?

Interviewee: Uh For now there are thousand student school year. Just one school. It

hard to imagine forty or fifty student in one classroom. Not to big. Like 5 by 4 meters.

Just like that. Each person to to close to each others. There is no entertainments

Things. There is no garden, its cold in the winter and hot in the spring and fall. They did

a lot of, there's just, this is a Blackboard whiteboards and marker

46:00

Interviewee: and teachers, teachers, just one teacher. He is a principal with just a

couple of volunteers. They come volunteering, nobody pay for them. Anything is. It's

hard. When you look at their, their shoes, they don't have socks on, I don't have good

shoes or they don't have bad. Even if they have a little bag with the small bag, they

don't have teachers, just one teacher. It's hard because I couldn't imagine,

Interviewer: are you trying to help get the word out about that school? For example, are

you, uh, are you. Because that's, that seems to be something

Interviewee: of course I have. Of course, of course, this that's cool. That's cool. Is, uh, I, one of my dream to have then, I mean, I think most of the people, they take care for the, they want to do some, some good in their lives. I mean, if you help an orphan, you become happy and you make him happy.

47:00

Interviewee: It makes him happy. So, ah, If I get, like, I I love, I love to, to, to help that students in the future. I don't know if I, if I become successful.

Interviewer:What's the name of the school at work?

Interviewee: ?? school year ??. I don't know. In English, you know, Uh, in Arabic, or I know in Kurdish I know. That's the name of the school, but uh, the name of school in that ?? for boys and girls, they are together so like mixing. And some schools Iraq, you know, they are just boy or they are just girl. This, this school is mixing and the first is, could exist at the same school. I graduated from it when I was, uh, when I was like 10 years, I went even through school, the same school.

48:00

Interviewee: Uh, yeah. For, for that, for this thing, this Yazidi are more opened in that muslim in Iraq. Yes. So, uh, yeah, the girls and the boys, they are more mixed and they have the same as the United States. But let me tell you some, but. I think it's because we are, I mean, we are minority we are in Iraq ??? Arabic, Arabic. So the decision is

made by the principal of school. If you would like to separate the girls from the boys, if you have many teachers, it has many teachers, you could do that. But in our.

Community, see most of the school, almost all of them, they are mixing, but we, we go to the ?? or out of the city. You can see many school. They are just boys or girls.

49:00

Interviewee: Some things I don't encourage it separate to be together together I was living to let us study together. Yeah, I, yeah. I have many pictures for school that the school is separated and uh, so after genocide. They built some, some school in the mountains. So I have some pictures. I will show you the pictures. I take it for two days, four days. I can show the day I was in Iraq. Is it's heartbroken. When you see that the ?? is under the mud and everywhere, uh, I mean, The major, the main things they need is, is no teacher. And some building, but there's not one teacher

Interviewee: no, there's no dangerous.

50:00

Interviewee: I mean its uh Iraq, that area is not safe not very safe if you compare it to the U.S. but if you compare it to other cities in Iraq that's ok. Its dangerous because we are ?? Minority. We are afraid of Turkey. So ?? Is dangerous. All the people know he is supporting supports the terrorist over there. That's most thing people all people know. Now he is killing people just for living in their home land, he is going to kill them. We are

close to ?? In the prison of Turkey. Uh another thing is we have teacher in that area. We have teachers in the area who graduated from school from university.

51:00

Interviewee: But we just some people to give them 200 dollar a month. Not that too many 200 not 1,000 dollar a month, not 2,000, not 4,000 there. So here the teacher get 4,000. Over they need 200 dollar to teach that student. 200 dollar to make a good generation. I mean the students over there are kids. They don't understand things, they try to learn, live normal life. So if YAZADA was support ????. They support volunteer in the school. They are supported by the money, they get a fund.

52:00

Interviewee: But many school just one teacher from two teachers from ten teachers. So the school for example the school has 1,000 students have have one teacher, who is the principal, who is the guard, who is the cleaner, who is everything and he has couple volunteers. But not many. They normal pay for them ah ah one dollar or any money. I recently went Sinjar last week, so that school needs needs just just supporting the volunteers. That school just needs teacher to to raise these beautiful kids to become stronger. To become become like all other kids. Yeah