

OUR VIEW: . . . THERE ARE STEPS OBAMA CAN TAKE

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So, what *can* President Obama do, short of dispatching drones or putting boots back on the ground, to recognize the suffering of Christians facing persecution, even genocide, in Iraq?

There are significant steps the president might take, says Mr. Wolf. These include:

Speak out, simply speak out, to make the world know he's fully aware of the horrific situation.

Publicly thank the Kurds for coming to the aid of the oppressed Christian and Yazidi communities in Iraq.

Urge the Kurdish government to continue their courageous assistance.

Encourage the al-Maliki government in Baghdad to support the Kurds in this battle against ISIS.

Access what Mr. Wolf calls "the foreign aid fund" to provide direct assistance to known humanitarian organizations — Catholic Relief Service, Save the Children et al — which are "already on the ground trying to help," but are in need of U.S. resources and leadership.

Inspire and organize other Western nations to follow suit — and America's lead — in this regard.

And, last but hardly least, give the Kurds the go-ahead to sell their oil on the world market — currently the revenue stream flows through Baghdad — so they can purchase the weaponry requisite to defending their lands (and these persecuted religious communities) against ISIS. At the moment, Mr. Wolf said, ISIS forces have the upper hand against the thoroughly professional and highly motivated *peshmerga*, due largely to their appropriation of American military armament and equipment — missiles, armored cars, Humvees, even Blackhawk helicopters — abandoned by the Iraqi armed forces.

To these suggestions, we will add one more: It would behoove Mr. Obama to remember that his administration created a genocide prevention board. How about putting it to good use? Or some use?

Friday: Mr. Wolf speaks to the crisis on the border.