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SUCCESS ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT **GREATNESS. IT'S ABOUT CON-**SISTENCY. CONSISTENT HARD **WORK LEADS TO SUCCESS. GREATNESS WILL COME.** DWAYNE JOHNSON

# The dark legacy of ISIS lives on

In the northern Iraqi city, women and girls still suffer from the stigma of sexual abuse

#### **LIZZIE PORTER**

t Tal Afar General Hospital in northwestern Iraq, dozens of women squeeze onto waiting room chairs. They all want to see the small team of gynaecologists, who appear stressed and overworked.

Since the other hospital in the area was blown up by ISIS, Tal Afar General Hospital has been overburdened and under-resourced, serving the city as well as towns and villages far and wide.

But even if services were sufficient, one group of the neediest would-be patients would still stay away.

They are the 22 Shia Turkmen women and girls who have returned from being raped, beaten and forced into marriage to ISIS members. Some were just 12 years old when they were kidnapped as they tried to escape the terror group's assault on northern Iraq five years ago.

Since their return, community stigma - mainly from their tribes and nosy neighbours – has prolonged their suffering. Some are atives, who associate a rape sur- it's another kind of captivity. vivor with shame. They prevent having any kind of financial in- is majority Turkmen - Iraqi citdependence or repairing their izens of Turkic origin. Some are friendships.

regular check-ups for any phys- violence. ical or mental health effects of ISIS's abuse. As researchers and by Al Qaeda in Iraq and once ISIS



Women and children being evacuated from a Turkmen region of Iraq in 2014.

forced to stay at home by their rel- humanitarian workers have said, took over, many of its command- be vocational training for those Tal Afar, 60 kilometres west of Retaken by Iraqi security forces schooling. the girls from going to school, Mosul in Nineveh governorate, in August 2017, it was one of the terror group's last strongholds. Sunni, others Shia. They haven't about half of its 200,000-strong kidnapped them. They might not Instead, their families make always lived peacefully side by overall population, both Sunni be able to sit in a normal classthem do menial chores at home. side: post-2003, the Sunnis were and Shia, have returned, includ- room for a while but they urgently Even if healthcare services wer- marginalised by newly dominant ing the few who have been re- need alternatives to help them en't overstretched, the girls Shia politicians and were subject- leased from ISIS captivity. But the learn to be children again. couldn't leave the house to get ed to pernicious harassment and stigma facing those survivors is

Later, Tal Afar was controlled government services in the city. state needs to provide much more

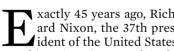
ers based themselves in the city. who cannot return to normal

That could help the boys and girls who witnessed unspeakable Since Tal Afar's liberation, violence and suffering after ISIS

The sexual violence survivors made all the worse by a dearth of need special attention. The Iraqi Researchers say there needs to in terms of proper healthcare,

## 45 years on from Nixon, America ne

#### **JANINE DI GIOVANNI**



served and there is no longer a need for the process to be proxactly 45 years ago, Rich- longed." By evening, a helicopter ard Nixon, the 37th pres- had landed on the White House ident of the United States, lawn and whisked away Nixon gave his resignation speech in the and his family to their home in Oval Office of the White House. California. Gerald Ford was in-Nixon's role in the Watergate cov- stalled as the new president. "Our er-up had been made clear to the national nightmare is over," he One president left; another began. It was that swift. Nixon was the only US presiout a doubt that Nixon had been dent to resign from office and it had a tangible effect on political life in Washington. Because of Watergate, more than 69 governbroken into the Democratic Na- ment officials were charged and tional Committee headquarters 48 were found guilty but the real in Washington DC, leading to the cost was that trust in the execudiscovery of multiple abuses of tive branch had taken a plummet. power by the Nixon administra- That trust did not rebound again tion. This led to a constitutional until the Clinton administration. Nixon's resignation came just after one of the most volatile times Nixon did the right thing by in US history. The war in Vietnam standing down on August 9, 1974. had raged for more than a dec-His involvement in the Watergate ade, an unpopular, ugly conflict scandal had grown too large for that divided the country and left him to manipulate and hide. He societal wounds that would take was deeply unpopular through- decades to heal. Racial violence out the country and had earned was spiralling out of control, culthe dubious moniker Tricky minating in riots in urban flash- campuses staged moratoriums. effect on the country. It became Post had doggedly tracked and "With the disappearance of that stream American ideals, foregobase," Nixon told the American ing the materialism and suburban subsided, the long-term effect the Ethics in Government Act; everyone was accountable. public, "I now believe that the life that had been the hallmark of of Watergate and Nixon's resig- the Freedom of Information Act. The comparison between Nix-

Nixon's resignation 45 years ago was followed by greater accountability. We need a new reckoning, writes Janine di Giovanni public a few days earlier when told a traumatised country. taped Oval Office conversations - including one known as "the smoking gun" - revealed withaware of the White House connection to the Watergate burglary. Two years earlier, five men had crisis. The country was in deep pain and Nixon had to go.

Dicky. His political support had collapsed.



President Richard Nixon is seen in the Oval Office of the White House.

points in 1968. A counterculture Underground radical movements, an era of legal reform. Laws were broken the Watergate story so hippie movement rejected main- many of them militant, were born. passed to ensure what had hap- investigative journalism was at After the initial shockwaves pened would not happen again: an all-time high. Post-Watergate, constitutional purpose has been 1950s post-war America. College nation, however, had a positive Reporters from the Washington on's administration and our pres-

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