



No.E240/08

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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Your Excellency,**

Greetings! We are writing this letter to bring to your kind attention the recent developments that is taking place in connection with our Mor Gabriel Monastery, also called Deyrulumur, in Midyat, Turkey. As Your Excellency might be aware of, the Mor Gabriel Monastery, established in 397.AD, is a very important historic monument and a holy place for the entire Christendom and particularly for the Syriac Christians all over the world. This has been a religious place of lofty regards and a centre of high reverence for the Syriac people all through out its history. It was owned and cherished by the Syriac church fathers, and the monastery enjoyed full freedom of ownership of its land and properties from the time of its inception. Even the people of other religions upheld in high esteem and respected this institution as a holy place for all. For most of the non-Turkish origin Syriac Christians, the first thing, that, the very name: Turkey, immediately bringing to their mind, with reverence to the esteemed land of Turkey, is about their holy monasteries in Turkey, like the Mor Gabriel Monastery of Midyat, Deir-ul-Zaafran of Mardin, the Holy place: Antioch etc.

But some of the disputes and false claims that have recently arisen regarding the territorial ownership of the monastery deserve serious attention of all. This very sensitive and touching issue is imparting much sorrow and anxiety to us and to the entire Syriac communities all over the world. As has been detailed in the attached report of the bishop of the Monastery, Metropolitan Mor Timotheos Samuel Aktas, the Cadastral Survey Department and some misguided people of the surrounding villages, is coming up with unjustifiable claims about the property rights of the monastery. It is a very sad as well as very serious matter, that, even after producing enough concrete proofs and solid supporting governmental documental evidences to prove the historic rights of ownership of the land and properties of the monastery, the present Cadstral Survey Department and other government departments are going ahead blindly with their false claims and proceedings regarding the boundaries of the land of the monastery. The claims of the department are absolutely against the prevailing rights of the minority communities, now prevalent in the esteemed country of Turkey and these are against the International treaties and agreements reached with Turkey.

