



The Last Generation?

The Situation of Assyrians in Northern Iraq

FACT-FINDING MISSION REPORT

APRIL 2011

About ACE

The Assyria Council of Europe (ACE) is an international advocacy group, established in 2007 and formed to take responsibility for raising awareness of the plight of Iraq's Assyrian people after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime within the institutions of the European Union (EU).

www.assyriacouncil.eu

About FAA

The Finland-Assyria Association (FAA) was founded in 2007 by academicians, politicians, and religious leaders to support the campaign for the national rights of Assyrians. It works to raise awareness of the Assyrian situation in Finland and abroad, informing policy-makers, and providing support to the Assyrian communities of the Middle East.

About UNPO

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organisation. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.

www.unpo.org



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“After Saturday comes Sunday”

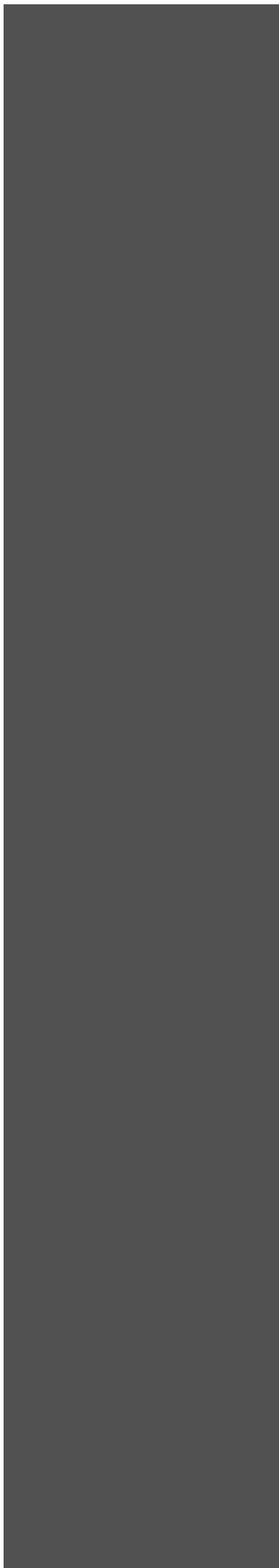
An anecdote alluding both to the holy days of Judaism and Christianity and the Jewish exodus from Iraq of the 1950s - and the belief that a Christian exodus would follow.

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ACE	Assyria Council of Europe
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
PCC	Property Claims Commission
UNPO	Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

ABBREVIATIONS



At a meeting of the Assyrian Universal Alliance world congress, held in Erbil, Northern Iraq on 2-4 December 2010 a new union was formed between Assyrian political parties in Iraq. The union represents a landmark in Assyrian and Iraqi politics and brings together political parties of all ideological backgrounds to advance and protect the rights of the Assyrian community in Iraq.

The union is a direct response to the attack on the Lady of Salvation church in Baghdad that claimed the lives of fifty-eight people on 31 October 2010 but also reflects a security situation that is deteriorating, ongoing discrimination in the workplace, and the steady emigration of thousands of Assyrians from Iraq.

A perceived failure in regional, national, and international policies is therefore seeing the tabling of new proposals. Chief among these are calls for the establishment of a Nineveh Governorate and for adoption of Article 35 of the draft constitution for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

It was against this backdrop and to gauge public and institutional support for the political union and its policies that from 27 March - 3 April 2011 the Assyrian Council of Europe (ACE), Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), and Finland-Assyria Association conducted a fact-finding mission to Northern Iraq.

This report sets out the conclusions of the fact-finding mission following meetings with civic, political, and religious leaders in Northern Iraq. It also builds on meetings held during the ACE-UNPO provincial election observation mission to Northern Iraq in 2010 and the UNPO's observation of the presidential and parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region in the same year.

For security reasons the names of interviewees have been omitted from the report. The findings of the mission represent the views of the report's authors only and should not be taken to represent the views of the Assyrian political union. For the purposes of consistency and clarity only, geographic and personal names have been spelled wherever possible in transliterated Assyrian.

The report's authors wish to extend their thanks and appreciation to all those who helped to facilitate the mission in Northern Iraq and to the families and representatives who took the authors into their confidence.

Background

Since the Mosul attacks of 2006 there has been a noted shift in the type of attacks faced by the Assyrian community of Northern Iraq. The fact-finding mission discussed with church leaders, community representatives, security personnel and victims the changing nature of these attacks and the responses that have been made to counter new and existing threats.

Changing Nature of Attacks

Targeted assassinations of political figures, religious leaders, and community leaders have been replaced by attacks that intend to kill, injure or intimidate large numbers of Assyrians, regardless of loss of life to other ethnic groups. Threats continue to be received by telephone or mail but these are less frequent as the Assyrian community coalesces in urban centers where security is easier to maintain. Beyond the KRI this security is typically provided by newly established, but unofficial, Assyrian protection forces. Such initiatives are a measured response to the attacks that some have interpreted as an attempt to provoke the Assyrian community into military responses.

From accounts heard in Karemles, it was the case that after 2003 insecurity came from outside village communities and were perpetrated by ‘mafia-like’ groups. After the establishment of local Assyrian defense forces these problems have been isolated to small cases but protection now extends to thorough police coverage of the town, often from street corner to street corner. The search for community safety may also be driving the change in tactics as assassinations become more difficult to orchestrate. An example of this changing typology was the attempted bombing of the Bagdede vegetable market using eighteen kilograms of C4 explosive in March 2011. Although defused, the bomb reflected the changed policy of those targeting Assyrians which as one interviewee observed was intended to “remove the roots” of the Assyrian community from Iraq.

Failures in Existing Security

The attempted Bagdede market bombing has shown both the threat faced by communities and the potential for successful combating of terrorist threats. However the fact-finding mission learned of serious shortcomings in government security. First and foremost, the lack of trust in national police and security bodies is pervasive among the community. Only in instances where state security is predominantly manned by local Assyrians, such as Alqosh, is there trust. Churches have long been visible and accessible targets for terrorist organizations but the current wave of violence has been described as the worst to date based on the experiences of the past decade.

Geography of Security

Security varies throughout Northern Iraq. Within the KRI the security apparatus of regional police, peshmerga, and party political militias and their respective intelligence agencies ensure coordinated and comprehensive information gathering, patrolling, and incident response. Within the Mosul Governorate a different situation exists whereby police forces are perceived to be either willfully or negligently ineffective. This

has come after instances in which government police have abandoned the protection of churches after attacks and police vehicles were seen to be used in acts intended to aggravate Assyrian communities (see Figure 1).

Situated between the KRI and Mosul Governorate, the so-called ‘disputed areas’ of Sinjar, Tal Afar, Tilkaef, Sheikhan, Hamdaniya, and Makhmour remain flashpoints for security and await settlement in accordance with Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution. Until that point many of these areas do not have security provided by central government security bodies. Security is provided instead by local protection forces either alone or with the support of KRG security agencies that guard the offices of political parties. However within the KRI Assyrians are deciding not to leave Iraq but it was noted that without Assyrian police forces many of the Assyrian communities in the Nineveh Plains would leave Iraq..

The physical geography of certain areas such as Alqosh also make security easier to maintain. Combined with greater trust in the local security forces, there is no Assyrian defense militia in Alqosh, ninety percent of whose security forces are Assyrian. Physical measures such as the construction of trenches around towns and villages, and their associated checkpoints, provide urban security but concede the difficulty of securing rural areas and communities. This contributes to the migration seen to large towns and feeds into wider emigration.

Overall, police forces are undermanned and by necessity must concentrate in urban areas. But the success of unofficial police forces have seen the concept replicated successfully in town and villages across the region of the Nineveh Plain. They have been able to provide this level of protection through local manpower and resources.



Figure 1: The flag of Hussein is carried through the streets of Bagdada by a police car before being placed upon church property in the town in December 2010. (Source: Assyrian Defence Force, Bagdada)

Assyrian Defense Forces

Manned by former officers of the Iraqi military, the Assyrian militias operate with an established chain of command. Composed of volunteers that work on a part-time rota basis, militia members typically receive \$300 per month for their work which remains a respectable subsistence wage for Iraq. This compares with government salaries of approximately \$700-800. Women also play a role in checkpoint and searching duties but play no part in patrolling. Nevertheless, militias repeatedly spoke of being undermanned with typical forces being composed of 1,200 personnel and needs estimated at 2,000.

As an unofficial force, their evidence is not admissible in legal courts but militia commanders recounted the support they receive from court officials who consider them to be important peacemakers. Given their ambiguous status, they are also only in a position to respond to threats as a matter of defense.

Emerging Threats and Solutions

The measures that have been adopted by communities across Northern Iraq are not seen as long-term solutions. Real guarantees for security are seen to lie in the upholding of Assyrian rights through the devolution of powers associated with Article 35 of the draft KRG constitution for those communities within the KRI.

Beyond the borders of the KRI great emphasis has been placed on the formation of a Nineveh Province whose establishment is associated with the means to uphold the constitutional rights of Assyrians. Current governance structures are perceived to have shown themselves of little value in this regard. The failure of such reform is painted in stark terms by many of those interviewed who believed that locales such as Alqosh would be eliminated unless a province were established.

Iraq is situated on drug trade routes and the fact-finding mission also heard testimony that anecdotally indicates the presence of people-trafficking networks that exploit the precarious social and financial situation of many IDPs. Without a strengthening of local governance, faith in the security agencies, and economic development the risk is that the prevailing situation has the potential to be exploited by international criminal networks

Background

The Assyrian community in Iraq has been among the worst affected by emigration to neighboring countries such as Jordan, Syria, and Turkey and from there to Western Europe or North America. Within Iraq, Assyrians face continued dislocation and established Assyrian communities are contending with large government-organised population resettlements, typically without consultation.

At the personal level, the issue of larger Muslim families compared to Assyrian families also represents an undercurrent to discussions. This is particularly the case in those villages which have often been culturally homogenous and where the persistent insecurity has imbedded a mistrust of outsiders. However this situation reflects the long established and accepted patchwork of ethnic communities throughout the Nineveh Plains where Assyrian urban settlements has often been surrounded by more rural Yezidi communities for example.

Mosul

The deterioration in the security situation in Mosul means that many government workers can no longer go to their places of work. As a consequence, significant numbers have been forced to resign their positions and must live beyond the city without compensation. Similarly, pensioners can no longer travel to Mosul where the regional administration manages pensions and food rations, a fate shared by many taxi drivers no longer able to work in Mosul. The lack of economic alternatives however means that, as the fact-finding mission discovered, some taxi drivers still ply the route despite the dangers.



The Example of Alqosh

Alqosh is an Assyrian town surrounded by Yezidi villages with whom there have been good relations for years. In 2007 approximately 10,000 IDPs from Mosul and Baghdad arrived in Alqosh. Of these, almost 3,000 subsequently left Iraq. In 2006, approximately 5,000 people lived in the town but today this has been reduced to perhaps 2,000 people.

Emigration

Within the Bartallah area during the Saddam regime there were 15,000 Christians in the area but after 2003 this number has dwindled as almost 2,000 left the Bartallah area. The area has also received approximately 650 families from Mosul, Baghdad and Basra as refugees. The situation in Bartallah was replicated in Karamles where interviewees believed more needed to be done by Baghdad and Erbil to combat emigration, which was consistently considered to be the biggest problem facing local Assyrian communities. Local council members in Karamles recounted that in 2003 approximately 20% of the population of the town left and steady weekly exodus of families has brought fears for an influx of Shi'ite and Sunni families that will bring great changes to the very old Assyrian community.

Of the 650 that came to Bartallah as refugees, 250 people have left to continue their journey to Syria or Jordan. Many others do not know if they will return to Baghdad. Typically IDPs come to the town for 1-2 weeks before continuing to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, making monitoring and tracking of numbers difficult.

However the settlement of IDPs and others is also serving to raise land and property prices with dramatic increases reported. Plots of land that once sold for \$20,000 now fetch \$100,000 on the open market. The effect of this is two-fold. Firstly, it appears to give existing residents the material means to consider liquidating their assets and fleeing Iraq. Secondly, it effectively closes the property market to the large numbers of young people either without a job or living on wages that could not allow them to afford such an investment. In both cases, freed of the responsibility of property ownership, many families and individuals are more willing to contemplate emigration to North America, Europe, or Oceania where existing communities and better prospects seem to lie. The reticence to invest financially and socially is helping to perpetuate a cycle in which communities subsist almost on a day-to-day level and in which emigration becomes more and more attractive.

Regional resettlements

In Bartallah the fact-finding mission learned that village authorities feared that if 2,000 outsiders were to be resettled in the town tomorrow, the young Christian community would leave Iraq forever.

Assyrians interviewed by the mission reiterated their belief that the Arab resettlements represented a continuation of the policies pursued by the Ba'ath party of Saddam Hussein. It has been alleged that many resettlements are made possible through funding from outside sources. Interviewees believed that groups connected with Iran were supporting such resettlements with the aim of both introducing Shi'ite settlers and encouraging the emigration of Christians from Iraq. The planned construction of large numbers of homes for rent or purchase, often in the thousands, by the Government of Iraq is also interpreted as a continuation of Ba'ath Party policies by other means.

Assyrian communities have been attempting to maintain the integrity of their communities by buying land to sustain the *status quo* in a response supported by political parties in the area. In cases such as Alqosh this practice dates to 2003 when Arabs originally settled in Assyrian areas by Saddam Hussein were offered the opportunity to leave the area in a 'willing buyer-willing seller' arrangement that was peacefully and effectively implemented.

Interviewees recounted that in the Bagdede and Al-Hamdaniya area there are approximately 100 villages of which 95% are Christian. In the 1950s-70s these were 100% Christian but from the 1980s under Saddam Hussein moves were made to change the demography as Shi'as, veteran officers, and martyrs' families from the Iran-Iraq War were given land.

Social costs

Concerted attempts are being made by Assyrian communities to assert their history identity alongside others and to keep both the social fabric and a sense of normalcy intact. With local council support, folkloric troupes travel and compete in festivals that maintain old customs and traditions and demonstrate the proactive role taken by many local authorities, often with very few resources. But amid dislocation, joblessness, and the break-up of family units either through emigration or murders, prostitution and international trafficking rings are known to be taking advantage of often desperate individuals and families.

Introduction

During meetings it was clear that there was questioning over the distribution of Iraq's oil wealth and revenues which many believed could solve the basic financial problems of the region and Iraq if they could be addressed. In addition, unemployment was consistently ranked alongside security and emigration as the three most important elements that have to be addressed if the future of Assyrians are to assured in Iraq. All three elements are closely related. The need for infrastructure development, particularly in areas such as Bartallah that are strategic transit hubs for northern Iraq and the country as a whole.

Education

The Assyrian community has long been associated with both high levels of education and a comparatively large number of graduates. These skills were widely utilized by the 2003 forces conducting Operation Iraqi Freedom with the result that Assyrian communities became identified with the forces. However in areas such as Karemles the education infrastructure is reported to be poorly constructed and the curriculum insufficiently robust.

The city of Mosul has been for decades the centre for education in Northern Iraq but the attacks targeting Assyrians in 2006 and subsequently effectively closed the city to students. Relocated to other academies or schools, students have been forced to change their teachers and in many case their entire course of study. Schools typically teach in Arabic but tuition is also available in the Kurdish and Assyrian languages

It has not been possible to judge the value of these degrees as the high level of general unemployment and discriminatory actions make such an assessment very difficult to judge. But within towns such as Bagdede students recounted their experiences as victims of the bus attacks amid widely held belief that the coordinated attack was only possible with the support of actors with the authorities. Such feelings contribute to an atmosphere of entrenchment reflected also in calls for a regional university. But such calls also reflect a reality, namely that because of the insecurity in Mosul there has been a pooling of academic talent in the Nineveh Plains area which is unutilized.

Income generation

The north of Iraq yields tremendous potential in the agricultural, services, and transit industries but there remains a culture that expects job provision from large enterprises, well-connected individuals, or civil bureaucracies. Combined with ongoing insecurity and in spite of significant economic incentives and infrastructure development, commercial enterprises have been slow to make substantive investment in the area. There also remains a lack of visibility and knowledge at the local level of bodies such as the National Investment Commission or the Nineveh Investment Commission.

The case of a possible poultry farm in the Bartallah area shows both the possibility for investment in the area but also the passivity of local communities acclimatizing to a different commercial environment compared to the one that had existed for several decades previously in a climate of international sanctions and a statist regime.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq remains a key economic entrepôt to Iraq but beyond its borders development is noticeably reduced. There is significant scope for the Assyrian diaspora to play a role in economic development but doubts over security and a lack of investment information again limit a potential economic driver – a point conceded by local political representatives. Requests have been made by authorities in centres such as Karemles to the government bodies in Mosul to encourage businesses to the area in an effort to address unemployment but these requests have come to nothing.

Interviewees did not express problems registering or forming businesses but start-up capital remained the key impediment to low-level business formation and income generation, even among IDPs. Nevertheless the dispersal of family members and support networks also limit the financial resources available to entrepreneurs. As an interim measure, Assyrian defense forces provide an important means of income for large numbers of young men, their families, and dependents.

Micro-credit is available in the area but is not widely known in the region and there remain fears that in the poor economic climate in Iraq debt would be a fresh risk. Intervention by external aid agencies is broadly welcomed but some interviewees believed that money was not being effectively dispersed, with the result that money was spent without tangible impacts or results.

The establishment of crèche facilities have proved important for providing jobs, elementary education, and freeing predominantly female workers to access the job market. There is also an identification of educational needs with requests being made by local Assyria authorities for volunteers to come to the area to teach European languages and transfer vocational skill such as nursing over three month courses for example.

The sentiment remained that without land or homes there is little to tie people to the land. Employment remains key, alongside security, to the stemming emigration and the 'brain-drain' afflicting Iraq and limiting its means for economic recovery. Meanwhile, as noted, increasing property prices give people the material means to leave as well as denying low-income and young families access to properties.

Unemployment

Interviewees from Karemles recounted that many had lost their jobs in Mosul as a result of the security situation and were forced to move to outlying villages and towns where there were no jobs. Representatives of political parties estimated unemployment to be approximately 20,000. Although supported by local people there is a pressing need to provide jobs and salaries to such people so that they can be in a position to support their families, and in some cases IDPs. Income generation typically being ranked second after security as the major concern of the Assyrian community.

Already initiatives have been taken to provide training in skills such as computing, hairdressing, cooking, sewing, nursing, and infant care. In some cases there is the equipment to support these activities but internet access, financing, and materials remain only intermittently available. The high levels of participation in such courses indicates their popularity with reports indicating that this is in turn limited only by facilities.

But these activities also take place in an environment where employment opportunities are few and the quality of applications and machinery may raise questions over the utility of such training as it is not closely tied to new and emerging employment opportunities, particularly in an area with great agricultural potential but lacking in services

Compensation

It is accepted practice that the state acts to provide compensation in cases where family member have been killed or injured as a result of terrorist attacks. Relatives are often caught in an economic downward spiral with the death of family members particularly breadwinners. One family recounted that following the death of a daughter in the Mosul school bus bombing of May 2010 the family received \$800 in compensation from the Ministry of Higher Education. Widows remains particularly vulnerable in such cases, just another example of the circumstances that contribute to the erosion of family and social values noted previously.

Introduction

Throughout the Nineveh Plains there is a very close interplay between the religious and civic realms. Many towns have been closely associated with religious figures or centres. Alqosh, by example, has been the source of generations of patriarchs and local church institutions continue to provide social support in the form of aid to orphans, widows, and the unemployed. Moreover the identification of Assyrians with their Christian faith is publicly and proudly displayed, often indelibly in the form of tattoos, and represents a key element to societal cohesion. Against these constants however, religious figures talked both of the age-old discrimination faced by the Christian Church but of a contemporary situation that is worse than anything previously experienced. In one instance a priest believed inter-faith dialogue was impossible given the rise in fanaticism and perceived religious 'brainwashing' of individuals.

Security

Almost all churches within the KRG and wider Nineveh Plain area are protected by Assyrian police forces with support from the community. But reference continued to be made to ongoing threats and the belief that within Iraq there could be no meaningful religious freedoms as long as the law, and in particular the constitution, is based on Islamic principles. There is the perception that non-Christians are willing to kill in their efforts to obtain property. The historical context has proved important to such exchanges, with interviewees looking to the 1920s and beyond when Christians were discriminated by the Iraqi government of the day.

One Karemles priest noted that he had not been in Mosul for seven years as a result of the security situation and he conceded that peaceful coexistence is no longer possible in Mosul, with the result that there is no longer any future for Christians in Mosul today. At the local level as well Mosul Governorate was perceived to be failing in its security duties to guard and protect churches, convents, and monasteries with KRG authorities filling the security vacuum in locales such as Karemles.

The case of an 25 December 2009 incident in Bartallah in which there were exchanges of gunfire, resulting in some injuries has shown growing religious polarization and intolerance. Such incidents had not been seen previously but now acts such as placing Islamic flags on churches during the Day of Ashura are being seen. These are seen by some interviewees to be perpetrated not by local individuals but by people coming from outside communities. Compounding the sense of injustice and marginalization are the lenient sentences handed down upon the perpetrators by the authorities.

Social support

Within Northern Iraq the Christian Church owns substantial tracts of land from which it is able to provide assistance to orphans, widows, the poor, and handicapped individuals in the area. The Church also

provides significant poor relief to its communities, chiefly without any central or regional government aid or assistance.

The capacity of the Church to meet the demands placed upon it has been declining as a lot of land has been lost forced appropriations and without compensation. Compounding this loss is the rise in rents for residential and commercial property that fuels suspicions that, as in the community at large, outside influences are intent on destroying the Christian community.

Christianity's Future in Iraq

Representatives of religious communities in the Nineveh Plain admitted to the fact-finding mission that many priests are leaving the troubled area, particularly as some religious leaders and organisation encourage their emigration. Some went further and conceded their belief that Christians should indeed leave Iraq as the foundation of the Church rested on the existence of the community and not the buildings themselves. An awareness of past emigrations, such as of the Jews in the 1950s, plays an important role in this reading of events.

Therefore, although the Church remains a point of reference for many interviewed it is be perceived to be steadily and reluctantly dragged into politics as other actors appear impotent or partial. In practical terms the Church provides key social supports, such as subsidized housing for unemployed families, thereby shouldering in effect state responsibilities that reflect at a basic level the close correlation between Church and community and the manner in future the future of both are inextricably linked.

Introduction

A number of villages supported the Kurdish uprising of the 1990s in Northern Iraq and lost citizens in the fighting that ensued. Following the military intervention in 2003 and the overthrow of the Ba'athist regime there was an urgent need to establish new and legitimate centers of authority. One such response was to support the establishment of local mejlises or councils of notables composed of local tribal representatives. This system reflects what is still a deferential society and continues to exist alongside more institutionalized bodies such as town councils, municipalities, and gubernatorial authorities.

The expedited nature in which some of these bodies were established has given rise to new and ongoing problems of representation and mandates. In one instance the balance of power in an equally divided township was decided by allied forces with the flipping of a coin. Corruption continues to be cited as a common complaint with central and regional bodies that claim their mandates from Baghdad, imbuing local informal bodies with additional moral authority.

Ownership and Responsibilities

Unofficial bodies such as the mejlises and councils of notables act as a liaison between citizens and regional governance structures, many of these bodies featuring committees tasked with social responsibilities. The relationship to these structures varies, with some mejlises enjoying ready access whilst others recount the lack of consultation and influence they can yield. At the local level, such as that reported in the town of Karemlis, mayors and church leaders are important interlocutors and mediators in societal disputes with courts remaining a last resort in conflict resolution. There is a desire, noted in many instances, that a new administrative law is required to consolidate the Assyrian communities in northern Iraq.

At the most basic level the '*Kurdification*' or '*Arabisation*' in the naming of towns, areas, and historical or cultural sites in northern Iraq is reinforcing prevailing beliefs that there is a concerted drive to remove the Assyrian culture and community from the area. This policy, which is applied informally, does not constitute a stated government or regional policy. But it is nevertheless disempowering local governance and leaving local leaders enervated. One instance of such a policy has been associated with reference to the town of Bagdede that is increasingly referred to by its Arab equivalent, Hamdaniyya.

Service Provision

Poor provision of road infrastructure and basic services such as mains water, sanitation, and rubbish collection in towns such as Karemlis were identified as key elements that needed to be addressed by regional authorities. Often these issues had been voiced by mejlises with varying degrees of success and although there continued to be a working relationship of cooperation, they nevertheless proved to be points of contention between these bodies. Initiatives by aid agencies

also raised comment in some interviews, with concern at the way in which funds were dispersed and the lack of long-term results and impact.

The failure to provide services such as healthcare facilities has real and political impacts. The obligation to register of births in Mosul is part of what interviewees perceived as a demographic policy intended to disavow the Assyrian community of claims to their historic communities and influence future elections. The provision of healthcare infrastructure such as hospitals and clinics is also seen as discriminatory with Mosul perceived as receiving more advanced equipment while clinics in towns such as Bartallah remain equipped with technical equipment that is several decades old.

Land Rights

At the heart of local governance lies the question of land and property rights. Interviews across party and social lines revealed a feeling of encirclement and entrenchment as what are perceived as ‘outsiders’ move into minority areas with the support of actors from Iraq’s neighbours that wish to encourage the emigration of the country’s Christian community. Community representatives also speak of land being built upon without permission. In Bartallah, sixty pieces of land had been built upon without permission, peaceful demonstrations broken up and protestors imprisoned.

These changes are taking place against a historical background of urban Assyrian communities interacting with other long-established ethnic communities, and contemporary challenges arising from sudden and large-scale population movements. Beyond the predominantly Assyrian town of Bartallah lie sixteen centuries-old Shabak villages but both communities now face the ripple of population movements from Mosul as continuing violence displaces thousands of Shi’ites.

Some consolidation of Assyrian communities has taken place as a result of population movements and support given by communities and individuals in the rebuilding of churches and construction of houses for IDPs. This is being supported by policies in towns such as Alqosh in which communal committees collectively purchase the property of émigrés at mutually negotiated prices.

Shortcomings

The failure of mejlises and regional authorities to meet the needs of citizens in Northern Iraq led some interviewees to surmise that Assyrians had been consistently disadvantaged as a minority by democracy whenever it had emerged in Iraq. Moreover, formal town councils had shown themselves open to manipulation with additional members being added in instances of deadlock or insufficient support within the council for specific decisions. In this climate, some experienced council members have resigned their posts rather than be party to such decision-making.

Introduction

The issue of autonomy and the establishment of a Nineveh Province has been long, contentious, and in some cases fatal. On 30 October 2006 the issue of regional autonomy was raised by the president of the Syriac Independent Movement Assembly, Isoh Majeed Hadaya, and only weeks later, on 22 November 2006, he was assassinated in Bagdede. Under Article 119 of Iraq's constitution there is provision for governorates to reorganize themselves as regions based on a referendum promoted by a request from either one-third of council members for that governorate or one-tenth of voters in the governorate.

Shortcomings

In a combination of push and pull factors, the failure to provide security combined with the coalescing of the Assyrian community in northern Iraq has given new impetus and grounds for a call to establish a Nineveh Province. Interviewees repeatedly spoke of a lack of consultation from regional bodies, decisions taken without consideration for local concerns, and few, if any, opportunities to appeal decisions once they are taken.

Against this background are consistent allegations of corruption in regional governance and a bureaucracy in which applications for greater security or facilities such as health clinics are neglected or disregarded. Village leaders reported that despite presenting the needs of thousands of people, very little results from their appeals. The situation worsens in disputed areas that fall under the provisions of Article 140 of the Iraqi constitution where support is often only provided by the KRG authorities.

In one instance it was stated that \$2.5 million should have been received but in the event only \$1 million was made available by federal and gubernatorial authorities to local administrators. Total budget requirements for the governorate are estimated at \$20 million to provide infrastructure, healthcare, water, and social provisions after years of neglect. However, currently only \$5 million is available each year for such services.

Regional authorities have had to adopt innovative ways in which to reconcile needs with resources. As an example, the mission learned that a response to the lack of school facilities has been to operate two shifts of classes each day. Within each classroom it is estimated that fifty students participate in lessons in a system similar to that adopted elsewhere in Iraq. But such shortcoming compound real and imagined feelings of discrimination.

Insecurity in Mosul discourages petitioners from accessing services or raising complaints but despite this situation there has been a failure to devolve activities or responsibilities. This is seen by many of those interviewed at best to reflect an unwillingness of Mosul authorities to acknowledge realities on the ground, and at worst to represent a concerted policy of marginalization and discrimination.

Prospects for change

Without local tax raising powers regional authorities have very limited opportunities to avoid or circumvent the corruption associated with the Mosul Governorate and explore local income sources, however limited. Constrained in this manner, alternative solutions have been explored.

It has been conceded in interviews that the issue of a Nineveh governorate complicates political issues on many levels but the coalition of Assyrian political parties has been resoundingly welcomed. The coalition is perceived across Assyrian society as a demonstration that representatives are serious in their determination to obtain and protect Assyrian rights.

The Assyrian political coalition remains in its infancy but as stated in meetings with coalition representatives, the focus remains on long-term, common goals to which each political party can contribute without sacrificing or compromising their political stances. Negotiating a course to such goals may be problematic but during meetings there appeared common purpose behind a joint agenda of action that sees the establishment of a governorate not as a means to gather all Christians but rather to directly access to a share of the federal budget.

Beyond the Assyrian community continuing divisions within other minority communities in Iraq make engagement between minorities difficult and united stances difficult. However Assyrian representatives stated their readiness to cooperate and collaborate with other groups when this would be of benefit to all sides and when universally recognized points of contact had been established.

Introduction

During the Saddam Hussein era, the security situation was perceived as being better but interviewees nevertheless conceded that new freedoms of expression allowed views to be publicly expressed that previously would have resulted in arrest or detention. But along with decreased security has been the discrediting of central government which is associated with “liar democracy” and widespread corruption.

Representation and recognition

Elected representatives from the Mosul Governorate have twice taken calls for Assyrian defense militias to be officially recognised by Baghdad but this has not progressed in any meaningful way.

Growing disillusionment is also reflected in national elections. Although 2010 elections were regarded as the first truly democratic elections in Iraq, turnouts dropped in areas such as Alqosh from approximately 57% in 2005 to approximately 37% in 2010. Interviewees also expressed little trust in institutions such as the re-constituted Property Claims Commission (PCC) that are key to addressing elements contributing to the unemployment and emigration afflicting the Assyrian community.

Interviewees perceived a clear disconnect between politicians and debates at the national level and local issues and concerns. Local representatives felt that particularly at the national level there were too many overlapping interests to ensure their constituents’ concerns were addressed adequately. Competing land claims in northern Iraq were an example where common positions at the national level had to be reconciled with local realities between minorities and local actors.

Prospects for change

The new Assyrian political climate has not ushered in calls for increased demands such as independence but rather a reform of existing institutions that are seen to be inadequate to current demands or are not performing as expected or required.

This will entail debates over new policy directions and assessments. Reflected in this changed circumstance are debates over the merits of increased minority representation quotas at the national level in the Council of Representatives or their abandonment as they become seen as a constraint of Assyrian representation. The need for a shift from responsibilities resting on individuals and instead becoming identified with ministries and institutions was also highlighted during interviews.

Introduction

Allying a large and dispersed diaspora with the international actions and reactions to the 2003 intervention in Iraq it is inevitable that the situation of the Assyrian community should assume a powerful international dimension. This has raised expectations of international support that have sometimes been too great and on other occasions unrealistic.

International outreach

International media attention on the Assyrian issue and situation does not permeate to local levels, as was evidenced by the conversations held with the fact-finding mission. As a result that there is a feeling that issues are not covered being covered or addressed internationally. This can also be related the relatively light impact of such interventions on the ground in northern Iraq. The feeling of abandonment is exacerbated the many visits paid to northern Iraq by delegations from Europe and North America but which do not yield concrete result, adding to existing frustrations.

United States of America

The United States is the source of great disappointment over its disengagement from Iraq, particularly after the service many Assyrians provided to Operation Iraqi Freedom forces, often as highly visible translators and interpreters. Some interviewees took this sentiment as far as to suggest that it was as a result of American intervention that Assyrians lost their rights. This is seen in conjunction with the belief that parties representing other ethnic groups exploited weaknesses in the United States to undermine their situation and the United States Congress were acting solely in their own interests. Practical assistance in the form of police training has not been refused by American actors on the ground but nor has it been manifested in concrete action or support.

European Union

The European Union is similarly seen to take little interest in the situation of Assyrians and information exchange in minimal. As a result there is a deep seated desire for direct contact with the international community and not just in moments of crisis, which are often the least appropriate. Meetings with European religious authorities have also raised the issues behind calls for a Nineveh Governorate but this rationale has not been understood interviewees believed. In addition, attitudes towards the Vatican City proved variable with respect mixing with disappointment that not more has been done to protect the rights of Assyrians.

Assyrian unity

That 1 April 2011 represented the first time that the Assyrian Aketo new year celebration were held in unison with all political parties is

intended to send a message to the European Union, United Nations, United States and Iraq's neighbours, namely that Assyrians intend to work together for common goals and rights. There was no justification for the European Union and others not to support these goals. It would be necessary for the international community to apply pressure on the Iraqi government to ensure calls made by the Assyrian community would be taken seriously.

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of its meetings, discussions, and interpretation of the testimony heard the fact-finding mission concludes that there may be one generation remaining in which to safeguard the Assyrian community in Iraq.

Throughout its meetings, a feeling of abandonment and entrenchment was widely evident. The continued flow of Assyrian community to neighboring countries and further abroad has left its existence on a knife-edge. Without support and promotion for security and sustainable economic development in the region there can be no firm basis upon which the Assyrian community can remain rooted in Iraq.

However, the sense of entrenchment has also demonstrated the Assyrian community's belief that change is possible and that both Assyrian and Iraq have a mutual future. The fact-finding mission believes that the new political consensus between Assyrian parties, and increasingly between Iraq's minorities as a whole, must be supported with responsible international engagement, and by the European Union in particular.

Initiatives to raise and broaden debates on local and provincial governance reform should be promoted to improve the current levels of debate. In a similar way there is a need to encourage historical reassessments of Iraq's history in ways that can place proper emphasis on the role of minorities in shaping what was one of the Middle East's most culturally dynamic centers. Looking to the past will be key to promoting the country's past cultural heterogeneity and raising awareness locally and internationally of Iraq's history of pogrom, discrimination and emigration that is at risk of recurring and causing the country and its reconstruction great and irreparable damage.

Based on the meetings held, personal testimony and evidence received, and the conclusions detailed within this report, the fact-finding mission believes that the following recommendations represent the short- to long-term actions required to secure the future of the Assyrian community in particular, and minorities in general, within Iraq. The fact-finding mission also believes that without consultation and discussion of these recommendations Iraq's ancient cultural heterogeneity, current reconstruction, and future sustainability will be severely and negatively impacted.

The Iraqi government should:

- Support the establishment of a regional university within the Nineveh Plains area to stem the current brain-drain, permit continuity of study amongst IDPs, and support economic development;
- Promote the economic potential of northern Iraq through greater international outreach, including but not limited to, the websites of its embassies and ministries;
- Facilitate international exchanges of elected representatives and their staffs, to build capacity within local, regional, and national governance structures;
- Facilitate feasibility discussions into the application of Article 125 of the Iraqi Constitution in the context of establishing an autonomous regional administration in the Nineveh Plains;
- Take measures to restore, maintain, and safeguard urban fabric and monuments reflecting the country's Assyrian history and culture.

The Kurdistan Regional Government should

- Promote, without amendment, the adoption of Article 35 of the draft constitution of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and its provision for the formation of autonomous regions within the KRI;
- Work to ensure fair, transparent, and equitable hiring practices are observed, particularly in the education sector;
- Ensure the cultural and historical heterogeneity of the KRI is appropriately reflected in the use of Assyrian names for towns, and landmarks, and that Assyrian contribution to the history of the KRI is reflected in public collections and historical sites and discourse;
- Revise current land restitution procedures to allow faster and more equitable adjudication and compensation;
- Recognise the 1933 Simele Massacre and support construction of a monument as an important commemorative and educational initiative.

The Assyrian coalition should

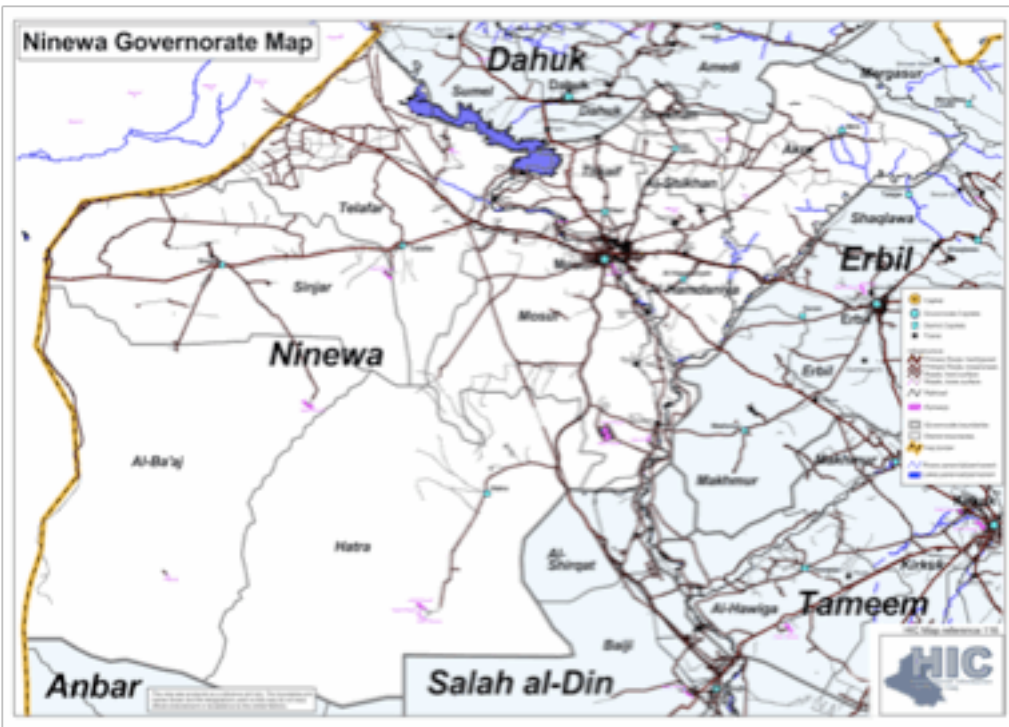
- Establish committees capable of working collaboratively to inform and support initiatives to address insecurity, unemployment, and human rights contraventions;
- Support local investment assessments to augment the existing but limited information available from the National Investment Commission and other governmental bodies;
- Provide and publicise confidence-building measures to discourage emigration and encourage long-term investment in Northern Iraq;
- Facilitate youth programmes that aim to strengthen civil society, promote active citizenship, support job creation and develop skills

RECOMMENDATIONS

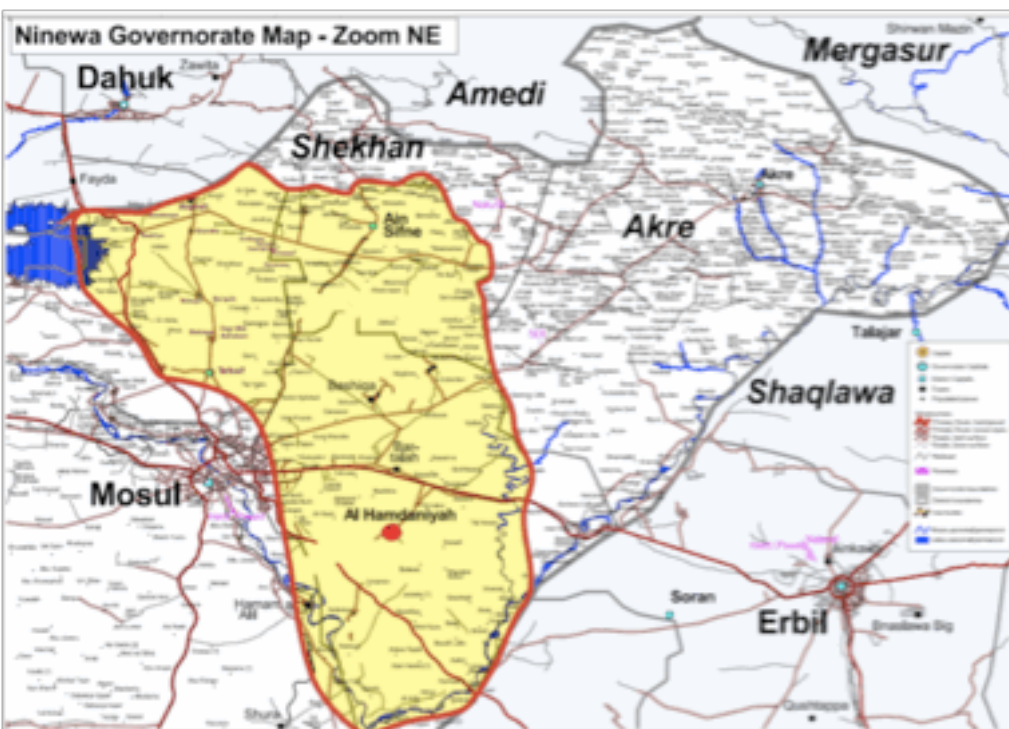
The international community, and in particular the European Union and its member states should

- Act immediately to halt the ethno-religiously motivated discrimination, intimidation and violence against the Assyrian community of Iraq
- Re-evaluate asylum policies that facilitate the large-scale exodus of Assyrians from Iraq without addressing the root causes of emigration that also prevent many Assyrians from returning to their homeland
- Promote investment by local and international companies and raise awareness of economic opportunities, such as micro-credit schemes, among both established communities and IDPs within Northern Iraq as a means of stemming the flows of asylum seekers to the EU
- Manifest their support for local sustainable income generation and reconstruction by extending financial, academic, and moral support for the construction of a Nineveh Plains University
- Support initiatives to safeguard, preserve, and protect for the future ancient Assyrian archaeological, historic, and cultural sites, particularly those that are thousands of years old.

APPENDICES
Nineveh Governorate Map
(Current)



Source: Humanitarian Information Centre for Iraq (HIC)



Nineveh Plain Area
(Proposed Province)

Source: Zinda Magazine

(Arabic Original)

فخامة رئيس جمهورية العراق
الاستاذ جلال طالباني المحترم

تحية طيبة

في البداية لا بد لنا أن نتوجه لكم بالتقدير لمواقفكم المساندة للمكونات القومية والدينية سواء بالدفاع عنها أو نيل كامل حقوقها كجزء أصيل من الشعب العراقي. إن مذبحه كنيسة سيدة النجاة في بغداد والتي راح ضحيتها ٥٣ شهيدا وعشرات الجرحى، وتواصل الاستهدافات في الاحياء والدور السكنية في بغداد يؤكد بما لا يدع مجالا للشك، أن هناك مخططا سياسيا هدفه الأول والأخير اراغ العراق من شعبنا (الكلداني السرياني الآشوري) وبقيّة المكونات الصغيرة من أرضها التاريخية وسلب هويتها الوطنية.

مما أدى الى ازدياد عدد المهجرين من أبناء شعبنا الذين تركوا الوطن نتيجة للعمليات الإرهابية منذ ٢٠٠٢ ولحد الآن، في ظاهرة غير مسبوقة، إن الظروف الذاتية والموضوعية التي أحاطت بنا كجزء أصيل من الشعب العراقي، تجعلنا كاتصال سياسية ممثلة لهذا الشعب نطالب الحكومة العراقية بتحمل مسؤولياتها التاريخية والوطنية واتخاذ الاجراءات المناسبة من أجل الحفاظ على وجودنا على أرضنا وضمان حقوقنا.

ومن هنا فإن معالجة هذه الحالة تتطلب من كافة القوى الديمقراطية المؤمنة بالعمالية السياسي والمسير المشترك في العراق الجديد، وضع الحلول السياسية تحت سقف الدستور العراقي للإيقاع على التسبب بآبى صورها.

وانطلاقا من تلك الصلت الاتصال السياسية لشعبنا الكلداني السرياني الآشوري عدة اجتماعات مشتركة واجمعت على تقديم هذه المذكرة بخصوص مطالبنا السياسية في العراق الجديد والمتعلقة بما يلي:-

أولاً: - استحداث محافظة في مناطق من اقلية ونواحي الضمائية وتكليف وبعثية والقوى وبرطة لشعبنا وبمشاركة من بقية المكونات القومية والدينية والتي تتعايش فيها هذه المكونات العراقية الاصلية التي تعرضت للتهميش بسبب التمييز على خلفية انتماءاتها وخصوصياتها، وبكفله الدستور العراقي الدائم.

ثانياً: تفعل التوصيات التي توصلت إليها لجنة متابعة ملف استهداف المسيحيين في مجلس النواب العراقي بتاريخ ٢٤/١١/٢٠١٠، بكل ما ورد فيها، ونراقب طياً نسخة منها.

إن مطالبنا السياسية هذه تساعد أبناء شعبنا في البقاء في وطنهم العراق، وإن هذه الوثيقة موقعة من قبل جميع فصائلنا السياسية العاملة على الساحة الوطنية.

فخامة رئيس الجمهورية

إننا نأمل خيراً في الاستجابة لمطالبنا المشروعة هذه كونها استحقاقات دستورية تلي طيبة لمطالب جميع المكونات القومية والدينية في سهل نينوى.

٢٠

APPENDICES
Letter presented by
Assembly of the Chaldean
Syriac Assyrian Political
Organizations to
President Jalal Talabani

(Arabic Original)



APPENDICES
Letter presented by
Assembly of the Chaldean
Syriac Assyrian Political
Organizations to
President Jalal Talabani
(English Translation)

His Excellency The President of the Republic of Iraq

Mr. Jalal Talabani Esq.

Greetings,

First, we would like to express our appreciation of your supportive stance towards the religious and ethnic communities whether through defending them or regarding the attainment of their full rights as indigenous parts of the Iraqi people. The Our Lady of Salvation Church massacre in Baghdad, that claimed 53 martyrs and tens of wounded, and the continuous targeting of the Christian community neighbourhoods and homes in Baghdad proves beyond any doubt that there exists a political scheme whose first and foremost aim is to empty Iraq out of its Chaldean Syriac Assyrian (CSA) people and drive out the other remaining small ethnic communities from their ancestral homeland and rob them of their national identity.

This has caused an increase in the number of immigrants from our people who left their homeland due to unprecedented terrorist acts since 2003 until now. The objective and subjective circumstances surrounding us as a n integral part of the Iraqi people, call upon us as political parties that represent this people, to demand the Iraqi government to assume its historical and national responsibility and take the appropriate measures to protect our existence on our own homeland and guarantee our rights.

Resolving this situation, therefore, requires all democratic powers that believe in the political process and common destiny in the new Iraq and to put the political solutions under the umbrella of the Iraqi constitution so as to keep the Iraqi mosaic at its utmost magnificence.

Based on the afore-mentioned, the political entities of our CSA people held several joint meetings and reached a consensus to present this memorandum regarding our political demands in the new Iraq, as follows:

First: Establishment of a governorate that encompasses the district and sub-district areas of Hamdaniya, Telkef, Ba'ashiqa, Alqosh and Bartilla for our people in conjunction with the other ethnic and religious components that coexist with our people in the area and which have likewise been subject to marginalization due to discrimination along loyal and attribute lines, as provided for by the permanent constitution of Iraq.

Second: Implementation of the recommendations reached at by the Committee for the Follow up of the Christian Targeting File in the Iraqi Parliament dated November 24, 2010, in its entirety. Attached please find a copy.

Our present political demands will help our people remain in their country Iraq, and this document is signed by all of our political entities functioning on the national arena.

Your Excellency, we have high hopes that you will respond positively to our legal demands as they are lawful constitutional rights that meet the demands of all of the ethnic and religious components of the Plain of Nineveh.

Signatories

Younadam Kanna – Assyrian Democratic Movement
Salim Youna Awfi – The Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council
Ablahad Afram Sawa – The Chaldean Democratic Party
Nimrud Baitou Youkjhana – The Assyrian National Party
Romeo Huzairan Nisan – Beth Nahrain Democratic Party
Younatan Bet Qoulia – The Assyrian Universal Alliance
Saeed Yaqou Hirmiz – The Chaldean Democratic Forum
Thiya'a Putrus – The Chaldean National Congress
Polous Shimoun – The Chaldean Culture Society
Babil Gewargis – Beth Nahrain National Union
Anwar Hadaya – The Syriac Independent Assembly
Eshaya Eshu – The Assyrian General Conference
Goriel Eshu Khamlis – The Chaldo-Ashur Organization of the Communist Party of Kurdistan
Nonous Eshu – The Assyrian American National Federation
Gabi Moushi – The Assyrian Democratic Organization

APPENDICES
Letter presented by
Assembly of the Chaldean
Syriac Assyrian Political
Organizations to
President Jalal Talabani
(English Translation)

فخامة الرئيس مسعود بارزاني رئيس إقليم كردستان المحترم

الموضوع / مذكرة

تحية طيبة

في البداية لا بد لنا ان نتوجه لفخامتكم بالتقدير لمواقفكم المساندة للمكونات القومية والدينية وخاصة شعبنا (الكرداني السرياني الآشوري) سواء بالدفاع عنها أو دعمها ومساندتها لتبيل كامل حقوقها كجزء أصيل من الشعب العراقي ، ونقدر عاليا جهودكم ومبادراتكم التي أطلقتموها من أجل تخفيف معاناة شعبنا بفتح ابواب الاقليم على مصراعيه لاستقبال واحتضان الناجون من أيادي الأراهابين والتكفيرين والتفصل بالإيعاز الى الجهات ذات العلاقة بالإسراع لإنجاز المعاملات التي تخص الطلبة والموظفين وإيداء المساعدة بتوفير السكن وإحتياجاتهم الضرورية، أن مذبحه كنيسة سيدة النجاة في بغداد التي راح ضحيتها ٥٣ شهيدا وعشرات الجرحى ، وتواصل الاستهداف في الأحياء والدور السكنية في بغداد يؤكد بما لا يدع مجالا للشك ان هناك مخططا سياسيا الهدف الأساسي منه إفراغ العراق من شعبنا وسلب هويته الوطنية ، مما زاد أعداد الذين تركوا الوطن نتيجة للعمليات الإرهابية منذ ٢٠٠٣ ولحد الآن ، في ظاهرة غير مسبوقة التي نعتبرها خطرا حقيقيا يهدد وجودنا ومستقبلنا ، تجعلنا نحن كفصائل سياسية ممثلة لهذا الشعب نطالب الحكومة العراقية بتحمل مسؤولياتها التاريخية والوطنية وإتخاذ كل الإجراءات من أجل الحفاظ على بقاينا وضمنا حقوقنا المشروعة.

سيادة الرئيس

نحن نرى بأن معالجة هذه الحالة تتطلب من القوى الديمقراطية المؤمنة بالعملية السياسية والمصير المشترك في العراق الجديد ، ايجاد الحلول السياسية وفق الدستور العراقي الدائم الذي يضمن حقوق كافة المكونات.

وإنطلاقا من ذلك عقدت الفصائل السياسية لشعبنا (الكرداني السرياني الآشوري) عدة اجتماعات مشتركة وأجمعت على تقديم هذه المذكرة الى سيادتكم طالبين الدعم والمساندة لتحقيق المطالب التي تخص الحكومة الاتحادية وتحقيق الأخرى في الإقليم والمتمثلة بما يأتي:

أولا : استحداث محافظة في مناطق من أفضية ونواحي الحمدانية وتكليف وبعثيفة والقوش وبرطلة لشعبنا وبمشاركة مع بقية المكونات القومية والدينية والتي تتعايش فيها هذه المكونات العراقية الأصيلة التي تعرضت للتهميش بسبب التمييز على خلفية انتماءاتها وخصوصياتها، وبما يكفله الدستور العراقي الدائم.

APPENDICES
Letter presented by
Assembly of the Chaldean
Syriac Assyrian Political
Organizations to
President Masoud Barzani

(Arabic Original)

ثانياً : تفعيل التوصيات التي توصلت اليها لجنة متابعة ملف أستهداف المسيحيين في مجلس النواب العراقي بتاريخ ٢٠١٠/١١/٢٤ ، بكل ما ورد فيها ، وترفق طياً نسخة منها.

ثالثاً : تفعيل المادة (٣٥) من مسودة دستور إقليم كردستان العراق والتي تنص على منح الحكم الذاتي لشعبنا بعد الأستفتاء على الدستور.

رابعاً : معالجة ما تبقى من ملفات التجاوزات على الأراضي والممتلكات من مناطق شعبنا المتجاوز عليها في الاقليم وذلك لتحقيق الشراكة الوطنية الكاملة.

إن تحقيق هذه المطالب تساعد أبناء شعبنا البقاء في وطنهم، وإن هذه الوثيقة موقعة من قبل جميع أحزاب ومؤسسات شعبنا ، ونأمل من سيادتكم الأستجابة بدعم هذه المطالب المشروعة كونها إستحقاقات دستورية.

تجمع المنظمات السياسية الكلدانية السريانية الأشورية

١٨/كانون الثاني / ٢٠١١

APPENDICES
 Letter presented by
 Assembly of the Chaldean
 Syriac Assyrian Political
 Organizations to
 President Masoud Barzani

(Arabic Original)



His Excellency President Masu'ud Barzani
President of the Kurdistan Region, Esq.
Subject/Memo

Greetings,

First, we would like to express our appreciation for your standpoint in supporting the ethnic and religious components in Kurdistan Region especially out Chaldean Syriac Assyrian People whether by defending them or supporting them to gain their full rights as indigenous parts of Iraqi people. And we highly appreciated your efforts and endeavors to alleviate the pains of our people by opening wide the Region's doors to welcome and embrace the survivors from the hands of the terrorists and fanatics and giving instructions to the local authorities concerned to expedite the procedures related to students and civil servants and initiating assistance by providing accommodation and other necessities for them. The massacre of Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad that claimed 35 martyrs and tens of wounded and the continued targeting of civilians and their homes in Baghdad confirmed without any doubt that there exists a political scheme aimed primarily to vacate our people from Iraq and deprive them from the national identity. This has increased the number of those leaving the country as a result of the terrorist acts since 2003 and until now, in an unprecedented manner which we consider as a real danger that threatens our existence and future. This makes us, as political entities representing these people, demand the Iraqi government to uphold its historical and national responsibilities and take all the necessary steps to preserve our population and secure our legal rights.

Mr. President,

We see that resolving this situation demands democratic powers that believe in the political process and common destiny in the new Iraq to find political solutions provided by the permanent constitution of Iraq that guarantees the rights of all the components of the Iraqi people.

Based on the above, the political parties of the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian people conducted several joint meetings and have collectively presented this memo to your Excellency requesting support and backing to realize the demands pertinent to the federal government and the realization of the other demands pertaining to the Kurdistan Region as presented below:

First: The establishment of a governorate in the district and sub-district areas of Hamdaniya, Telkef, Ba'ashiqa, Alqosh and Bartella for our people in conjunction with the rest of the other ethnic and religious components residing within the area that were likewise exposed to marginalization along discriminatory, loyalty and special attributes as provided for by the permanent Iraqi constitution.

Second: Implementation of the recommendations made by The Committee for Following Up the File of the Targeted Christians in the Iraqi Parliament dated November 24, 2010 in its entirety. Reference copy attached.

Third: Implementation of Article (35) of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region draft constitution that provides granting an autonomous region to our people follow a referendum on the constitution.

Fourth: Address the remaining issues pertinent to land and property abuse in the areas of our people in the region to achieve full national partnership.

Resolving these demands will assist our people to remain in their country, and this document is endorsed by all our people's parties and institutions. We hope that you will respond to these demands by supporting these legal demands being Constitutional entitlements.

Assembly of the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Political Organizations
January 18, 2011

APPENDICES
Letter presented by
Assembly of the Chaldean
Syriac Assyrian Political
Organizations to
President Masoud Barzani

(English Translation)

(Arabic Original)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

جمهورية العراق
وزارة البلديات والأشغال العامة
مديرية بلديات محافظة نينوى
القسم : الاملاك

عدد : ٢٩٧٤
التاريخ : ٢٠١١/٢/٢٠

وزارة
البلديات
والأشغال
العامة
MMPW

(من رأى منكم منكراً فليغيره بيده فإن لم يستطع فليستهن فإن لم يستطع فليقلبه وإنه خلقه ليخشى الإيمان) حديث شريف

الى / البلديات كافة / الاملاك

الموضوع / توزيع قطع اراضي سكنية

العاقبة بكتابتنا ذي العدد ٢٣٦٧ فـ ٢٠١١/٢/٢٠

تسبب قيامكم بتزويدنا بجزء مفصل ومكتمل يتضمن عدد الاراضي المتوفرة لديكم والمهيأة للتوزيع وفق جدول العنوان كندا على ان نعتدنا بمعاملات الهيأة وتجاهزه للتوزيع المراد توزيعها للشرائح المشمولة بالتوزيع وخلال فترة قصاها اسبوع حتما من تاريخ كتابنا اعلاه وبمكسبه سئمتكم مسؤولية التقصير والتأخير في الاجابه مع توخي الدقه في الاجابه وبكتاب حديث وعدم التأخر في الاجابه لسابقه رجاء

ت	القطع المنهية وتجاهزه للتوزيع	عدد الطلبات			ملاحظات
		شهداء	موقوفين	سجناء مهجرين	

رئيس المهندسين الاقليم
خز علي قاسم سلطان القسو
مدير بلديات محافظة نينوى/وكالة
٢٠١١/٢/٢٠

صورة
وزارة البلديات والأشغال العامة - مديرية بلديات العامة - الاملاك / للتعمير والأشغال والتعمير
رئاسة مجلس محافظة نينوى / ارجين التميمي بالاطلاع والإعمال الى مجالس الاقليمية والقرى كقائمة الموضوح
وتقرير الموافقة في الهيأة الاراضي تجاهزه للتوزيع ولتضمن توزيعها على الشرائح المشمولة بالتوزيع مع التقرير
محافظة نينوى - مكتب الفنية المحافظ / للتعمير بالاطلاع مع التقرير
محافظة نينوى - مكتب الفنية التي ارجع لجنة توزيع الاراضي / للتعمير بالأشغال والاملاك التي توحيدها الاقليمية
الاقليمية والقرى لتسوية الشرائح والهيأة المطلوب مع التقرير

الاملاك
الاضماره ١/٨ شهداء

توزع ٢/٢٠

(Arabic Original)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
جمهورية العراق

وزارة البلديات والأشغال
مديرية بلدتيات نينوى
مديرية بلدية الحمدانية
القسم / الأقسام
العدد /
التاريخ : / / ٢٠١١

نس / مديرية بلدتيات محافظة نينوى / الأقسام
م / توزيع قطع اراضي سكنية

كتيبكم المرقم ٣٩٧٢ في ٢٠ / ٣ / ٢٠١١
١. توافقكم اثناء جردنا مفصلا و متكتملا يتضمن عدد الاراضي المشورة لبلدية نينوى كتوزيع
واقف الجدول المبين اثناء :

ات	القطع المهبلة	عدد الطيات		الملاحظات
		مهاجرين	مسيحيين	
	تجاهرة	شهداء موقلين مهاجرين و سجناء		
	توزيع			
١	٢٦٧	١١٥٩	٢	٢٦
١. تم سحب ٧ معاملات من قبل اصحابها. ٢. تم استبعاد عدد من القطع التي توجد عليها مملكات و تطبقها على خرائط (مخصصة للغير او محجوزة او مسماة غير منسوبة او سوى ذلك).				

٢- توجد عدد من الأخرى امتلاك مقمنة من قبل فصايين اعضاء مجلس القضاء والقلمانية قضاء الحمدانية ولذعر شعبي من مسألة توزيع قطع الاراضي السكنية في المنطقة ملعا للتغيير الديمغرافي ، وكذلك شملت كوسيتات لجنة متابعة ملف الشهداء المسيحيين في هذا الموضوع في القرية .
٣- يرجى التفضل بمطالعة القلمانية قضاء الحمدانية و مجلس قضاء الحمدانية للوقوف على رأيهم بالموضوع ليتسنى لنا اتخاذ اللازم مع التغيير .

نسخة منه لهما

١- قلمانية قضاء الحمدانية / للتفضل بالأطلاع مع نسخة من كتاب الطيات اعلام مع التغيير.
٢- مجلس قضاء الحمدانية / للتفضل بالأطلاع مع نسخة من كتاب الطيات اعلام مع التغيير.

المهندس
سعد بهنام عبد الله
مدير بلدية الحمدانية / وكالة
٢٠١١ / /

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Republic Iraq

Ministry of
Municipalities and
Public Works
MMPW

Ministry for Municipalities and Public Works
Administration of the Municipalities of Nineveh
Administration of the Municipality of Al-Hamdaniye
Section / Real Estate
Number /
Date: / / 2011

To the administration of the Municipalities in the Nineveh Region

Subject: Distribution of lots for private settlement

With reference to your letter with the number 3972 of 20th March 2011,

1. Find below the detailed and complete inventory, that contains the number of applications based on their facts:

T	Lots, available for distribution	Number of applications				Remarks
		Martyrs	Civil servants	Refugees and Immigrants	Political prisoners	
1	278	167	1159	2	26	1. 7 applications were withdrawn by their applicants 2. Some of the lots were excluded for diverse reasons and their use on cards (are specified or reserved for other persons, or the size of their areas is unsuited, or other reasons)

2. There are objections by members of the district administration and of the board of the district Al-Hamdaniye about the distribution of lots for private settlement in that region, as to prevent a demographic transition.

3. Please turn to the district board of the district Al-Hamdaniye, as to obtain their opinions on this subject, so that we can do and assess the most due.

Engineer Saad Behnam Abdallah
on behalf of
the Mayor of Al-Hamdaniye
/ / 2011

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Republic Iraq

Ministry of Municipalities
and Public Works

Administration of the Municipalities of Nineveh

Section: Real Estate

**Ministry of
Municipalities and
Public Works**

MMPW

Nr.: 2972

Date: 20.03.2011

(Those amongst you, who see evil, shall change it with their hands, if they can't then with their tongues,
and if they can't then with their hearts, that is the least) Proverb

To all municipalities / Real Estate
Subject: Distribution of lots for private settlement

With reference to our letter with number 2367 of 20th February 2011,

we received from you a complete and detailed inventory, that contains the number of lots for private settlement, that you have available and are prepared to distribute, according to the table below and under the premises according to the correspondingly prepared and complete applications, which contain the distribution to the corresponding groups; and this within a timeframe of not longer than a week, inevitably from the date of the letter above. Otherwise we see ourselves forced to charge you with the guiltiness for the negligence and the delay of your response. We plead for a factual reply in a new letter and without reference to the last reply.

T	Lots, available for distribution	Number of Applications				Remarks
		Martyrs	Civil servants	Refugees and Immigrants	Political prisoners	

Managing Engineer
Khazaal Qasem Sultan Al-Hisso
on behalf of the
Board of the administration of the municipalities of Nineveh

20.03.2011

As copies to:

Ministry of Municipalities and Public Work - General Administration of the Municipalities - Real estate / Request for review
Board of district administration of Nineveh / We plead for a review and to inform all district's councilmen and all city
administrations, as to support the issue, and to decide about the lots, available for distribution and are to be distributed to the
corresponding groups.

Province Nineveh - Office of the Governor / Request for review

Province Nineveh - Office of the second deputy and the chair of the committee for the distribution of the lots / Request for
review and to inform the administrations of the districts and city administrations, as to support the municipality and to do
what is due.

Real Estate

Record 8/1 Martyrs

Norz 20/03

APPENDICES
Resettlement Order
Ministry of Municipalities
& Public Works - Mosul

(English Translation)

