



News Releases Articles Editorials Reports Books Maps Links Search Contact Permissions

Guest Editorial

Democracy and the Ethnic Groups of Iraq Dr. Khoshaba Jasim

Posted 08-04-2004 21:45:18 (GMT 8-5-2004 2:45:18)

 [Printer Friendly](#)

 [Email This Link](#)

 [Send to Printer](#)

(AINA) -- As a matter of principle it is necessary to speculate on the unpleasant verses conveyed in the [press release](#) dated July 21, 2004 issued by the Assyrian Democratic Movement - Arbel branch.

Democracy provides people through its functional philosophy and liberal conceptions equal opportunities and motivations to develop themselves in groups or as Individuals according to their qualifications and adherence to the basic principals by which all the groups in the society abide in a peaceful and mutually respectful atmosphere.

The new democratic Iraq that has emerged as an accomplice is not an exception. Likewise the ethnic groups: the Arabs, the Kurds, the Chaldo-Assyrians, the Turkomans and others are legitimate claimants and beneficiaries in their efforts to achieve their local objectives at least and in as much as the new Constitution allows under its democratic providence. None of these groups singles itself out, dictate, or impose on others undemocratic and unacceptable attitudes and actions that are illegal under the Constitution. Self-installed guardianship in exceptional circumstances that are under the process of democratic development is not necessarily democratic but a condemnation of the perpetrators. Such an intended behavior violation creates a sort of unpleasant perceptibility.

The present Constitution of Iraq explicitly allows each ethnic group to self-administer its affairs and attend to its people's needs -- a type of local self-rule. Actions that contravene or are contrary to such a procedure violate the spirit of the Constitution and ignore the basic human rights that are outlined in United Nations Charter. A united stand based on the fundamental principles of democracy and respect of the rights of the ethnic groups such as the Turkomans and Chaldo-Assyrians is a guarantee that makes the new democracy in Iraq function properly and on equal basis. In other words, the same rights the Arab majority has under the Constitution, the same rights the Kurds, the Chaldo-Assyrians, the Turkomans, and others have. I could not detect in the new Constitution any trend toward a superior or preferential privilege. What the Arabs rights are, what the Kurds rights are, what the Chaldo-Assyrians rights are, and what the Turkomans rights are. Political equality in a democratic system prevails in practice as it is in theory. Let us commit ourselves to these principals and let us be in favor of others so that we find favor with them. We are a unique population and we seek unison and consensus in a multi-national state: Iraq.

To act contrary to the provisions of the Constitution is an irresponsible exploitative act and a breach of faith and the ethics that have been set among Iraq multi groups to function in harmony towards a peaceful existence and under the patronage of the Central Government in Baghdad. The ethnic groups consist of separate entities and have different characteristics and elements of a national structure. Being so they have legal right to be masters of themselves within their territories; meantime, each group constitutes a separate but affiliated component of the Iraq whole population and is not component of a component. Iraq is a multilateral and not a homogenous or a bi-national state. In such a setting the Turkomans are not a part of the Chaldo-Assyrians, and the Chaldo-Assyrians are not a part of the Kurds, and the Kurds are not a part of the Arabs and so on.

The new Iraq is being integrated in the world economy under globalization. There are no loop holes or gaps in the thinking of the new world order other than free trade, investment, and technology. So it is to the advantage of the people of Iraq as a whole to adhere to the principles of democracy and join hand in hand the band-wagon as is today by adopting the principles of utilitarianism which are the key to economic welfare.

Dr. Khoshaba Jasim is an Assyrian from Iraq. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1974. He has a Ph.D. in political science from Western Pacific University.

Views and opinions expressed in guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of AINA. [Guest Editorial Policy](#)

© 2004, Assyrian International News Agency. All Rights Reserved. [Terms of Use.](#)