



Guest Editorial

Should People Be Forced to Terrorism?

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Södertälje, Sweden (AINA) -- This is an article that should give you some thought. The situation below is imaginary, but this is what happens when desperation forces people to become terrorists. Our adversaries do these things every day purely for provocation.

A group that calls itself "Stop the Ethnic Cleansing in Iraq" (STECI) has hijacked a packed plane flying between Dubai and Frankfurt and threatens to kill all the passengers. They are demanding that all Assyrians (also known as Syriacs and Chaldeans) in Iraq be given immediate protection. Otherwise, they will begin to execute the passengers on the plane.

The Imam who was kidnapped last week was found dead outside Mosul. STECI declares that it had tortured him, defiled his body and then murdered him.

Seven mosques have been bombed in three Iraqi cities inside two hours today. At least two hundred persons are feared to have been killed. STECI states that additional mosques will be bombed the following days if there isn't an assurance that Assyrians in Iraq will be protected.

A number of bombs have been found in Washington, Brussels and London. "Next time we will detonate them," STECI declares in a letter to the editors of the International Herald Tribune.

None of the above has happened and hopefully none of this will happen.

Thursday 13 March: I sat for two hours in a meeting with a Kurdish social anthropologist who needed background information for a new study he had just begun. Among other things he wanted to know how Assyrians aka Syriacs and Chaldeans, view the invitation that Turkey has made for some of them who reside in the Diaspora to demand occupied land in the south eastern part of the country.

When we had finished talking I switched on my cell phone and found three messages that informed me that the kidnapped Chaldean-Catholic Bishop was found dead.

"What do we have to do to make the world wake up? Do we have to hijack a plane, kidnap an American, become terrorists, or what?" a young man I met on a street in Södertälje yelled at me.

I opened my internet mailbox and found fourteen mails about the murdered bishop. Thirteen wanted to inform me of the murder, the fourteenth was from a young man who asked "Are the terrorists the only ones who are heard? Shall we also begin to kill?" He continued with several more basic questions, "Of what importance is it that the Pope condemns kidnapping? Not a damned thing! The murders don't give a damn what the Christian leader in the west says or believes. What's even worse, is that he appeals to the Iraqi government to protect Christians in Iraq. How? You and many others have stated that the government has no legitimacy in Iraq." I googled the murder and found an interesting statement by Staffan de Mistura at the UN News Centre: "It is horrible that attacks continue against communities who have lived together in peace for hundreds of years.

Statements like Mistura's frighten me. These are statements that are built of ignorance and naivety, and contribute to the ethnic cleansing that has continued uninterrupted through the centuries. When the bishop was kidnapped both the UN and the EU had rapidly condemned it. Condemned, condemned, what does that really mean? Not a damned thing! Who really cares what the UN and the EU condemns? No one. It's action that counts. The UN and the EU should have immediately (if they really meant the word "condemn") sent a military force to protect the non-Muslims in Iraq. In 1991 the Kurds in north Iraq needed protection and they received it. Now its non-Muslims who need protection.

I have produced and directed documentary films, reported on the radio, written articles in magazines and newspapers. I have interviewed hundreds of refugees in the Middle East, Europe and the United States. A number of my reports have been sent to the U.S. Congress and

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the European Parliament. Many of the reactions contained the same ignorance and naivety as shown by Mistura. American and European politicians have written that non-Muslims in Iraq need protection -- but nothing happens.

[Nuri Kino](#) is a journalist in Sweden specializing in investigative journalism, and is one of the most highly awarded journalists in Europe ([CV](#)). He is an Assyrian from Turkey. His documentary, *Assyriska: a National team without a Nation*, was awarded The Golden Palm at the 2006 Beverly Hills Film festival.

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