



Next Step for Vandalised Assyrian Genocide Monument

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Organizers of the controversial Assyrian genocide monument have met with Fairfield Council to discuss ways they can protect their statue from vandalism.

The monument, put up by the Assyrian Universal Alliance, was graffitied by vandals early on August 30.

Members of the AUA last week met with Mayor Nick Lalich and deputy mayor Anwar Khoshaba to discuss ways to prevent further vandalism.

The group has requested permission to build a fence around the monument and install extra lighting in the area.

The organisation has also requested the installation of another plaque on the monument, that tells the history of the Assyrian people.

Spokesman Hermiz Shahan said the AUA had not yet decided exactly what would be on the second plaque, or whether they would request the Turkish community be named as the perpetrators of the genocide - a move that may increase acts of vandalism rather than prevent them.

When the council approved construction of the monument last year it stipulated that no reference be made to the Turkish community, which strongly denies it was responsible for the genocide.

The genocide monument was the second Assyrian cultural memorial to be vandalised last month.

In the same weekend, a plaque put up by the Assyrian Levies Association was covered in paint.

Amel Mouhtadi, who trains every day near the plaque in Fairfield Park, said the entire area was a hotspot for crime.

She's calling for CCTV cameras to be installed to detect all crime in the park.

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