

Assyrian Democratic Movement

Declaration

The expanded meeting of the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM) Central Committee on September 19, 2005, addressed the final draft of the constitution presented to the United Nations. Presumably, Iraqis will vote on this draft in a referendum on the upcoming October 15. The meeting evaluated the devoted efforts that were spent generously in preparing and drafting of the constitution draft and the rapid efforts devoted towards the assembling of the most inclusive representation of Iraqi components, groups, and fabrics to participate in its drafting.

Furthermore, the meeting evaluated positively other articles in the draft, specifically those pertaining to humans' rights, their fundamental freedoms, including those that are connected to our people's rights. However, the draft stopped short at issues and points that do not reflect equality and conformity between all Iraqis in a manner that is fair and in which it strengthens national unity and promotes harmony that we seek for all Iraqi fabrics.

Regarding our ChaldoAssyrian Syriac people, the ADM struggled for more than twenty-six years to institutionalize our ethnic identity in the constitution. Since its establishment in 1979, the ADM considered the national unity of our people as sacred that could not be compromised. From this understanding, the meeting stopped at the followings:

1. The unjustified concealment of our Babylonian Assyrian civilization in the preamble. In addition, the preamble neglected unjustifiably to mention the oppression, mass murders especially in Simele and Sooriya, the destruction of hundreds of villages and tens of monasteries and churches by the past dictatorial regime against our people, especially when the preamble included similar examples committed against other components and fabrics of the Iraqi people.
2. Article 122 affected the unity of our people in its core when it divided our people into Chaldeans and Assyrians contrary to fact and history.

We hold the responsibility for what happened to interferences by authorities from both branches of the Church of the East (Chaldean and Assyrian). These interferences were in matters outside the framework of their duties and reflected a narrow and sectarian vision and adherence to personal interests. In addition, it was due to the stand of the two main groups to concord in this same direction. They did not resonate to the demands of our people and the efforts and objections of our ChaldoAssyrian representative in the constitution drafting committee in order to institutionalize our unity and presence in the preamble when pertaining to ethnic identity or oppression. Initiated by our absolute belief in the rooted and unity of our ChaldoAssyrian Syriac nation and in its historic struggle and because of our historic national and ethic obligations we must point to this great imbalance and flaw that is not accepted at all.

While we highly appreciate the keen stands regarding the unity of our people that were reflected by many institutions, activists, ChaldoAssyrian parties, and thousands of notables who demanded a commitment to the unity of our people, we stress to continue in the path of unity that the ADM struggled to accomplish through its combative history baptized with the blood of martyrs.

Since the constitution draft is now in front of the nation to judge, it is our duty to clarify our stand and to have our people understand the whole picture. Our people shall have the final judgment on it.

The expanded meeting of the Central Committee
Assyrian Democratic Movement
September 19, 2005