

Assyrian Universal Conference
July 24 – 26, 2007
Tehran, Iran

Declaration

The Assyrian Universal Conference was splendidly held in Tehran, Iran from 24th till 26th of July 2007, with the presence of Assyrian political parties, federations, and organizations from around the world. The following are the approved items of this conference's declaration:

1. We call for a free and pluralistic Iraq, comprised of different ethnic groups. We expressly condemn all types of terrorist operations carried out by any group.
2. We demand the recognition of the historical name of our nation, "Assyrian", in all its linguistic, cultural and national dimensions. In that regard, we emphasize such recognition in the Constitution of Iraq.
3. We ask that the Constitution of Iraq clearly assert that the Assyrian people, regardless of their current residency or citizenship status, are the indigenous people of Iraq and as such have the right to obtain Iraqi citizenship and to be compensated for all damages and losses incurred due to their displacement from their historical territories.
4. We demand the acceptance of the categorical national right of Assyrians to have a self-governed region in the Northern part of Iraq, and the recognition of this region within the Central Government of Iraq based on Chapter 125 of the Constitutional Law of Iraq concerning the future of Assyrians.
5. Based on the fact that Assyrians are an ancient people as old as history itself, with distinct culture, alphabet, spoken and written language, we demand vociferously from the international community to intervene and stop the violent ethnic cleansing and racial killings that are presently taking place against them in their ancestral lands in Iraq.
6. The Assyrian nation, as an indigenous and original people of Iraq, has the right to be recognized within the new constitution of the current federal government of Iraq, benefiting from all political, cultural, religious and linguistic rights. After World War I, in 1926 the League of Nations made decisions that were followed by the United Nations in regards to protecting the rights of minorities and safeguarding the ancient history of Assyrians by taking steps toward explicit rights of Assyrians, which could benefit regional countries and world peace.

7. The Assyrian nation has the right to protect its existence, to settle in its ancestral and historical land, to benefit from the regional friendships within a sovereign Iraq and to manage its cultural, religious, nationalistic, historical, political, economical and social affairs through governing its historical territories.
8. With an expressive voice, we remind all members of the United Nations of the promises of the Charter of the Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which all nations are obliged to protect and safeguard. In that regard, we are obliged to and shall inform all countries and governments of any discrimination and injustice against the oppressed Assyrian people.
9. To meet our goals, the conference attendees agreed that it is necessary to establish a committee to build and oversee the continuous relations and coordination among different Assyrian associations, parties and foundations worldwide. Furthermore, an 11 member committee was established from among the participating organizations to assemble a national charter and to manage the due rights of the nation, its security, working capacities, healthcare systems, education, and welfare ensuring the future of Assyrians in the world.
10. We request of all nations and governments to settle their historical debt to the Assyrian nation averting the demise of the surviving remnant of the greatest civilization and contributors to humanity.
11. The Islamic Republic of Iran should be viewed as a model for other regional countries and governments in regards to its relations with minorities, particularly Assyrians. This country has given freedom for cultural, religious, political, social and individual activities. The presence of minority representatives in the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran "Majles," based on their merits and qualifications for assuming responsibility and position, is a testimony to such a pretext.