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Member: Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

For Immediate Press Release

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On September 1, 2007, the Assyrian American National Federation (AANF) at its annual national convention in San Diego, California; disassociated itself from the Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA).

In associating with the AUA, the historic and constitutional mission of the AANF had been to serve as the representative of the Assyrians residing in the United States of America in order to voice their ideas and opinions at the AUA, which is a worldwide political and civic Assyrian collective institution. It is regrettable that the AANF in the recent past had neglected to serve its constitutional mandates, as follows:

1. There has been an ever exacerbating alienation of the member associations from the AANF. This has resulted in the AANF leadership to either engage in matters that are unknown to some of its member associations or pursue activities that are against their expressed wishes. The AANF leadership in the recent past has ignored and remained irresponsible to the complaints and demands of its member associations.
2. AUA Americas has received numerous complaints from the AANF member associations stating that in blatant abusive measures the AANF rules and regulations in the election proceedings have been grossly manipulated by depriving the voices of dissent and votes of the member associations that express legitimate oppositions.
3. In spite of expressed protest from the member associations, the AANF has and continues to engage in activities that are political in nature and are both in direct conflict with the AANF constitutional By-laws, and breach the U.S. laws applicable to the not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.
4. In numerous instances, the leadership of the AANF has unduly engaged and entrenched itself in petty divisive positions stemming from unwarranted religious conflicts and impositions of a single-party dogma.
5. The AANF has demonstrated gross and material fiscal irresponsibility and has over-extended its activities beyond its constitutional mandates.
6. In the past years, the AANF (i) has not participated in the AUA Congresses and thereby depriving the Assyrians of America from having their legitimate representation, voice, opinions and ideas heard at the AUA, (ii) has failed to name delegates to the AUA, and (iii) has failed to pay its nominal membership fee to the AUA.

As a result, the disaffiliation of the AANF from the AUA is practically irrelevant for the following reasons: (i) the AANF has evolved itself into an illegitimate representative of the Assyrians in America and (ii) ulterior motives have long deviated the AANF in paths that make it unable to bring forward the voice and opinions of the Assyrians of America to the AUA.

In spite of the foregoing environment, the AUA showing restraint did not take action such as expelling the AANF from the AUA for its failure to serve its constitutional mandate as a representative in the AUA. This determination by the AUA was made for two reasons:

- A) For honoring the long history and some honorable traditions of the AANF in its past history; and
- B) For the sake of the Assyrian unity in the face of the ever-increasing attacks against Assyrian institutions by divisive forces.

For the record, at the end it was not the AUA that ceased the affiliation of the AANF, but rather the AANF using trickery on its own affiliates that formally voted to cease its long-standing constitutional mandate to serve as the legitimate representative of the Assyrians of America at the AUA.

The AUA Americas Chapter and its Board of Directors would like to make it abundantly clear that the entire occurrence at the AANF San Diego convention was fully expected by the AUA. In spite of this given knowledge, the AUA did respond positively to an invitation by the AANF proposing an AANF-mediated conference in the course of the convention. The AUA constitutional policy is to respond affirmatively to legitimate calls for the sake of the Assyrian Cause. Hence, the AUA delegates did participate in one closed-door session with a number of political parties and organizations, consisting of the Chaldean Democratic Forum, the Chaldean Chamber of Commerce, the Chaldean Federation of America, the Assyrian Council of Illinois, Zowaa'd Khorara and the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM). In the session, the AUA presented its comprehensive policy positions elaborately and openly, warning of the enormous dangers of accentuating our nation's Christian Identity during these turbulent and sensitive times of the rising Islamic Fundamentalism.

As a result of the stated developments, the AUA Americas Chapter is hereby informing all Assyrians of its new policy positions:

1. The recent failures of the AANF and its formal determination for not wanting to serve its mandated representative role at the AUA render the AANF an illegitimate representative of the Assyrians of America. Therefore, the AUA hereby formally severs its relationship with the AANF.
2. All Branches of the AUA Americas Chapter are directed to embark on establishing direct relationship with all the legitimate Assyrian associations, organizations, learned individuals and the Assyrian public at large to bring forward the voice and the opinions of the Assyrians of America to the AUA.

In conclusion, the Assyrian public is hereby assured of the eternal commitment of the AUA to remain representative of all Assyrians and to provide an open and democratic forum for participation of all ideas and opinions that advance the Assyrian Cause. The AUA open forum, however, shall never serve advocacy of any form of despotic and totalitarian impositions that restrict the Assyrian nation's personal and group freedoms.

**AUA Americas Chapter
Board of Directors**