



ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE

ܡܢ ܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܢܝܘܢ ܕܝܘܢܝܘܢ ܕܝܘܢܝܘܢ

Member: Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization (UNPO)



Press Release

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Secretary General
Yonathan Betkolia (Iran)

Deputy Secretary General
Hermiz Shahan (Australia)

Executive Secretary
Ninoos Benjamin (USA)

Treasurer
Joseph Jingo Sarkis (USA)

Regional Secretaries
Carlo Ganjeh (Americas)
Hermiz Shahan (Australia)
Shimon Haddad (Europe)
Yonatan Edwin Babele (Asia)

Executive Committee
Arsen Mikhaillov (Armenia)
Baito M. Chikko (USA)
David David (Australia)
William Piroyan, PhD (Iran)

Main Office
Yonathan Betkolia
No.10. Mokhaberat – Kanoon St.
Shahre Ziba
Ayatolah Kashani St.
Tehran - Iran
Tel: 9821 4432-5050
Fax: 9821 4431-2755
Yonathan.Betkolia@AUA.net

Americas
Carlo Ganjeh
2559 S. Bascom Ave., #100
Campbell, CA 95008
Cel: (408) 892-5914
Fax: (408) 369-0186
CarloGanjeh@AUA.net

Homeland
Yonatan Edwin Babela
No.39, 42nd Alley, Beheshti Ave.
Uremia - Iran
Tel: 98441 345 9762
Fax: 98 441 222 7054
Edwin.Babeleh@AUA.net

Australia
Hermiz Shahan
PO Box 34, Fairfield NSW 1860
Sydney - Australia
Tel: 61 2 9823 5340
Fax: 61 2 9610 2499
Hermiz.Shahan@AUA.net

Europe
Shimon Haddad
Treilerstraat 132
1503 JL
Zaandam - Holland
Tel: 31-756123440
Mobile: 31-653566409
Shimon.Haddad@AUA.net

www.AUA.net

For Immediate Release

On Wednesday, 24 Sept. 2008 by voting to abolish Article 50 of the Iraqi Provincial Election Law of councils for governorates, districts and sub-districts in order to remove the minority rights of the Electoral Act. This is a deliberate violation of the constitution of Iraq, which recognizes and guarantees the civil and political rights and freedoms of all citizens of Iraq regardless of gender, race, nationality, origin or religious belief. The justification provided for this action is under the pretext of the absence of accurate statistics about the Assyrians (also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs), the Yezidis and the Shabaks.

The systematic and forced displacement and subsequent exodus of Assyrians from our homeland, particularly after the liberation of Iraq, and the failure of the new Iraqi government to provide security and protection has reduced our numbers, thus causing us to be categorized as a minority in our own ancestral lands, rather than being rightfully recognized as the original and indigenous people of the region. Assyrians, once constituting 50% of the population, are now estimated to be about 3% of the total population.

Assyrians embrace democracy, but until democracy matures in a country such as Iraq, dominated by Islamic extremists, radical insurgents and fundamental anti-Assyrians, the inherent friction and tensions therein will exact a heavy toll on Assyrians. What hope do Assyrians have in a democracy that deprives them of effectively participating in the election process? What hope do Assyrians have in a democracy where the major Iraqi political parties have banded together and voted to eliminate the Assyrian representation in the government?

We deplore the action of the Iraqi Parliament and demand that the Iraqi government respect the international conventions and charters when making such unjust decisions. We ask that the Iraqi government take immediate action to reverse this decision and defend those whose essential rights are violated. The Assyrian plea to the Iraqi government to uphold human rights is that the cry for an Assyrian autonomous region in Northern Iraq, the ancestral land of the Assyrians, will be heeded and that this autonomous region will be granted as an integrated state within the modern Federal Republic of Iraq. The establishment of such a region is crucial to the security and survival of the Assyrian nation and would be a testament to the commitment of the new Iraqi government to upholding democracy and human rights in Iraq and would serve as a story of freedom, democracy, rule of law and economic prosperity in the Middle East.

Executive Board
Assyrian Universal Alliance