



# ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE

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**Date: April 14/2009**  
**No; 061**

President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) and its affiliates worldwide it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest appreciation on your recent trip to Iraq and Turkey. Taking such steps in the Middle East are very important in promoting understanding and harmony between nations with different religious beliefs.

We recognize the significance of your visit and take this opportunity to once again bring to your attention the woeful condition of Assyrians in Iraq. As we pointed out in our congratulatory letter to you through our U.S. office, the situation of Assyrians in Iraq is dire. With so many Assyrians having fled Iraq the very survival of our nation hangs in the balance. Should this continue, the world will undoubtedly witness the demise of one of its most ancient and historically significant nations.

We appeal to you to urge the Iraqi government to agree to the essential institution of an Assyrian Autonomous Region in the historical and ancestral Assyrian lands in Northern Iraq as part of modern day Iraq. This newly formalized Assyrian region which will be administrated and protected by Assyrians under the jurisdiction of Iraq's central government is crucial to the security and survival of our nation and will encourage Assyrian refugees, whether those internally displaced in Iraq or those scattered in Diaspora, to return. Please be advised that we have submitted through our Australian office a formal request in this regard to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki during his recent trip to Australia, and are in the planning phases of scheduling a follow-up meeting with him and other Iraqi government officials to further discuss this urgent matter.

We eagerly await your leadership in promoting the establishment of this Assyrian Autonomous Region and thank you again for your continuing campaign to ensure the survival of one of the world's most ancient nations. We look forward to meeting with you to further discuss our situation and implement strategies to secure the future of our people.

Sincerely yours,

Yonathan Betkolia  
Secretary General-Assyrian Universal Alliance