



ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE

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Member: Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization (UNPO)

31 October 2006

For Immediate Release

As part of its intensive campaign to promote the Assyrian cause on the international level, a delegation of the Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) attended the General Assembly of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) in Taipei, Taiwan from 27 to 29 October 2006. Assyria's delegates were Mary Younan (Canada), Hermiz Shahen (Australia), and Youra Tarverdi (United States).

During the 3-day meeting, the Assyrian Universal Alliance delegates presented the critical conditions of the Assyrian people in the Middle East, with particular focus on Iraq.

The Assyrian Universal Alliance introduced a resolution (included below) that calls the UNPO General Assembly to support an autonomous status (self-administered region) for the Assyrians in Iraq. The resolution triggered a comprehensive debate on the issues it was presenting and was adopted unanimously by the UNPO General Assembly.

Also, the General Assembly received overwhelmingly the World Peace Network (WPN) project as introduced by the delegation. Established in 1997, the WPN is a communication system enabling different ethnic and indigenous groups to share and preserve their culture and working as a social and economic platform to UNPO's 65 members.

The AUA would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous UNPO Steering Committee and to wish the newly elected Presidency all the success in its forthcoming mandate to foster the knowledge, cause and struggle of unrepresented and oppressed member nations.

Lastly, the AUA wishes to thank the Government of Taiwan for the hospitality and in particular the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy for supporting and sponsoring this successful UNPO VIII General Assembly.

Executive Board



VIII General Assembly

Taipei, Taiwan
27 - 29 October 2006

ASSYRIA - RESOLUTION

The UNPO General Assembly:

Recognizes the needs of the Assyrian people in their homeland (Assyria) and expresses its concern about the political, national, and human rights situation of the Assyrian people;

RECALLING the beheadings, kidnappings, assassinations, exodus, and internal displacement of the Assyrian people in Iraq;

RECALLING the bombings of Assyrian churches, kidnappings and killing of religious figures;

RECALLING that Assyrian national rights are not constitutionally recognized in Iraq;

EXPRESSING concern of Iraq's new constitution because of the absence of secularism, rights and freedom of the Assyrian people as per international declarations and covenants;

RECALLING that Iraq's constitution fails to assign a quota of seats in the national assembly for the Assyrian people nor the right and guarantee of having self-chosen representation in the government;

RECALLING the prevention to vote in recent elections in certain Assyrian populated cities,

REAFFIRMING the Assyrian people are the indigenous people of Iraq;

REAFFIRMING the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Iraq;

EXPRESSING our strong condemnation of acts of terrorism;

Therefore, we urge the UNPO General Assembly to:

1. Support an autonomous status (self-administrated region) to the Assyrians on the land of their ancestors "Assyria" in the north of Iraq (the territory located between the greater Zab and the Tigris River), under the jurisdiction of the central government of Iraq and the protection of the United Nations;
2. Call for specific attention to Assyrian human rights abuses, specifically in Iraq and generally in the Middle East.
3. Urge for the international community to monitor the upcoming census in Iraq by international and human rights organizations to safeguard the rights of the Assyrian people;

4. Call for specific measures to ensure the restoration of Assyrians villages and churches;
5. Demand the Assyrian rights to return to their homes and villages in Iraq.
6. Call for a guarantee to the right of autonomy and self-determination for the Assyrian people, as per international declarations and covenants;
7. Call for the establishment of a unified, democratic, secular, pluralistic and parliamentary government in Iraq that will guarantee human rights and equality for all citizens, which is multi-ethnic and based on the rule of law and free from all militias.
8. Demand the free practice and preservation of the Assyrian language, culture and customs, without any form of persecution.