



ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE

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Date:10/13/2008
No;022

Hon. Jalal Talabani
President, Federal Republic of Iraq

Re: Your Intervention Urgently Required to Stop Bloodshed against Assyrians of Iraq

Dear President Talabani,

On behalf of the Assyrian Nation, the Assyrian Universal Alliance is appealing for your urgent intervention to immediately halt the atrocities and injustices perpetrated against innocent Assyrians in Iraq.

Unfortunately it seems that the human, civil and political rights of minorities are continuing to disintegrate; we receive reports daily from relatives and friends of the most heinous crimes: threats of violence and oppression, and acts of murder, kidnapping and rape. We have received news from Mosul of organized and deliberate killings which target Assyrian citizens. Families across Iraq are being forced to flee from this terrible situation with absolutely nothing, forsaking possessions and their very livelihoods to barely escape with their lives.

A large number of Christians, including Assyrians, have long called Iraq home. Now, because of the attacks, these Christians are being forced to close their shops and flee the city for fear of being targeted by armed radical Islamic groups. These appalling crimes take place frequently, despite the Iraqi government's claims of control over the national security system. Thus far the latest waves of displacements and murders perpetrated against the Christians of Mosul have all been ignored by the Iraqi government, ruling political groups, parties and organisations, as well as by the media.

Accordingly, we call upon your leadership to take urgent measures to stop these vicious attacks against the Assyrians and to deal with this enormous humanitarian crisis that threatens the most ancient and indigenous nation of Iraq. We ask for your attention and support of the following:

1 - To demand severe and immediate action from the Iraqi and United States governments to stop the bloodshed against both Assyrians and Christians, and to provide emergency protection for them.



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2 – To provide economic and financial assistance addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of the forcibly displaced Assyrian refugees in the northern cities of Iraq.

3 – To support the establishment of a national Assyrian security and police force and provide them with the arms and training necessary to secure and safeguard the Assyrian towns and villages from terrorist attacks and harassment by militias.

4 – We call upon your wise leadership's intervention and influence on the Iraqi government to agree to the critical demand of Assyrians for an Assyrian Autonomous Region in the historical and ancestral Assyrian lands in Northern Iraq as part of the modern day Federal Republic of Iraq. This newly formalized Assyrian region shall be administrated and protected by the Assyrians under the jurisdiction of the central government of Iraq. The establishment of such a region is most crucial to the security and survival of the Assyrians in Iraq by allowing greater local Assyrian control within the context of their sovereign state as an integral part of Iraq. This action will also encourage the Assyrian refugees, whether those internally displaced in the homeland or those scattered in Diaspora, to return to Iraq.

On behalf of the Assyrians worldwide, I thank you for your support. We eagerly await your positive response and plan of action detailing the support for the rights of our people and strategy for halting their bloodshed.

Yours faithfully,

Yonathan Betkolia
Secretary General-Assyrian Universal Alliance