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Assyrian Universal Alliance Americas Region

July 13, 2009

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lieberman,

I am writing to thank you and Senator Susan Collins for your joint letter, dated July 10, 2009, to the U.S. Secretary of the State, the Hon. Hillary Clinton, in which you have expressed deep concern over the plight of Iraq's minorities, including the Assyrians. You have very eloquently outlined the plight of an ancient nation, voiced the urgency of the matter which is their very survival as a people, and have provided a clear process to bring this tragic situation to a healing outcome.

Assyrians, who have also been identified by religious denominational names such as Chaldean and Syriac, are one people with a common goal: an autonomous region on our ancestral lands in North Iraq. The Assyria Region, as a part of the Federal Republic of Iraq, shall be administrated and protected by our people, who may freely elect their own officials, and will allow for their political, educational, linguistic, religious and cultural protection. This proposed autonomous region will also provide a solution to the resettlement of nearly 300,000 Assyrian refugees stranded in Iraq's neighbouring countries rescuing them from their dire situation. AUA representatives have discussed Assyrian autonomy rights with Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in New York, Baghdad, and most recently during his visit to Australia on March 14, 2009, where the AUA delegation presented to him a formal letter outlining the Assyrian demands in Iraq. The Prime Minister assured the AUA representatives that the government of Iraq will look into these long sought-after demands.

With continuing support from caring policy makers such as yourself and Sen. Collins, along with Senators Sam Brownback, Robert P. Casey Jr., Roger Wicker, Benjamin Cardin, and Carl Levin, who wrote a similar letter to Hon. Hillary Clinton in March 2009, Vice President Joseph Biden, who in the Biden-Brownback amendment to the Defense Authorization bill in 2007 supported the principles of federalism in Iraq, President Obama, who as a senator wrote a similar letter to the Honorable Condoleezza Rice in September 2007, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and others, we are confident the government of Iraq can be urged to take quick action on this matter and grant the Assyrians the autonomy rights that have been provisioned in Iraq's constitution and recently recognized by local policy makers in North Iraq.

Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to working with your offices to bring quick resolution to this silent ethnocide as evidenced by recent attacks, before an ancient and indigenous people, the salt of the land, pass the point of no return. Time is of the essence for our survival.

Respectfully,

Carlo K. Ganjeh
Secretary, Americas Region
Assyrian Universal Alliance

CC: Senator Susan M. Collins