

ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA CHAPTER

Member: Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization (UNPO)

PRESS RELEASE

Sydney - 31 August 2009

Dr. Sharman Stone MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship received a warm welcome by representatives from the Assyrian Community during her arrival to the Assyrian Universal Alliance office at, Wetherill Park in Fairfield on Monday 31 August 2009. The Assyrian representatives were Mr. Hermiz Shahen, the Deputy Secretary General of the Assyrian Universal Alliance and regional Secretary for Australia and New Zealand, Mr. Paul Azzo a Liberal member, an adviser to the Assyrian Universal Alliance on governmental affairs, Mr. Simon Essavian, president of the Assyrian Charity & Educational Community, representing the Assyrian Australian National Federation and other prominent Assyrians.

Mr. Shahen welcomed Dr. Stone on behalf of the Assyrian representatives and briefed her with the latest development in Iraq and the neglect of the Assyrian issue after the liberation. He presented the Shadow Minister with a detailed letter about the current situation in Iraq, the wages of sectarian violence, the systematic abuses by Islamic extremists against the entire Christian population and the major and growing refugee crisis in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. As a matter of urgency and importance, the Assyrian representatives requested the Australian Government to provide more humanitarian assistance to the Assyrian refugees and support the Assyrian demands in establishment of an autonomous Assyrian region in the historical Assyrian land in Northern Iraq, in which Assyrians can administer themselves and live in peace as proud Iraqi citizens in the land of their forefathers.

The Assyrian Universal Alliance wishes to thank Dr. Stone for attending this meeting and hoped that it would achieve a positive outcome for the interest and needs of our Assyrian people in Iraq.

Assyrian Universal Alliance - Australian Chapter

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From Left Mr. Simon Essavian, Mr. Paul Azzo, Dr. Sharman Stone MP and Mr. Hermiz Shahen