



ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE

ܡܨܝܪܝܐ ܘܗܝܘܬܐ ܕܩܘܪܕܝܢܐ ܕܥܘܠܡܝܐ

Member, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

7/28/2021

RE: Assyrian Martyrs Day
For immediate release

Each year on August 7th (SHAVA B'DTABBAKH ܫܘܒܐ ܕܬܒܒܚܐ), Assyrians worldwide honor those who lost their lives in preservation of our culture and legacy; in Assyrian, we call this (YOMA D'SAHDE ܝܘܡܐ ܕܫܘܒܐ ܕܫܘܒܐ), Martyrs Day, in recognition of their sacrifice.

August 7th was originally established for this annual observance in 1970 by the Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) in memory of the 1933 massacre in Simele, Iraq. In the decades since, the observance and honor given on Assyrian Martyrs Day has expanded to encompass not only those who perished in Simele, but also the Assyrians who were martyred during the Ottoman genocide between 1915-1918 (SEYFO ܫܝܦܐ) and all those who have died defending the Assyrian heritage and identity, including the Assyrians who continue to be martyred today.

To call (SHAVA B'DTABBAKH ܫܘܒܐ ܕܬܒܒܚܐ) a day of mourning or a day of remembrance is incomplete; these characterizations do not fully express the anguish and weight of martyrdom nor the deep reverence in which these brave, selfless men and women are held by their descendants and cultural heirs.

In Assyrian, (SAHDA ܫܘܒܐ) means martyr and shares a root with the word for witness. Those who died in defense of the Assyrian right to existence were martyred for the sake of future generations, and their sacrifice bears witness to how dearly they held the Assyrian language, culture, ethnic identity, community, and way of life. In turn, we must bear witness to their martyrdom and not allow the gravity of their sacrifice to be diluted by calling (SHAVA B'DTABBAKH ܫܘܒܐ ܕܬܒܒܚܐ) anything other than what it is: Assyrian Martyrs Day, a day to honor our martyrs.

Therefore, on behalf of Assyrians globally, the AUA unequivocally states that any references, memorandums, documents, resolutions, or releases from any legislative, charitable, political, public, or private entities worldwide relating to the celebration and recognition of Assyrian martyrs on August 7th shall refer to this annual observance by none other than its official name: **Assyrian Martyrs Day**.

Executive Board
Assyrian Universal Alliance