

Det Dansk folketinget, Udenrigsudvalget.

Brev om det irakiske kristne Souraie (Kaldaiær, Syrianer, Assyrer) situation i Irak i den sidste periode fra 01.10. 2008 og fortsat indtil nu.

In the aftermath of the last month's terrorist attacks against the Christian community in the City of Mosul, some 2351 (about 11, 755 people) families were forced to leave their homes in the city of Mosul.

They have taken refuge in the Christian villages, towns and cities in the Plain of Nineveh. Of these 1926 have received financial support from the Chaldean Syrian Assyrian Council(CSAPC) that has been demanding autonomy for the CSA people in Iraq as the only solution in putting an end to the plight of this deeply rooted ethnic minority.

The Christian community in Iraq has been subject to a series of organised terrorist acts that targeted their churches, clergymen, businessmen, academics and the general public through acts of killing in cold blood, kidnapping, ransoms, forced displacement culminating in the last forced displacement of some 2351 families from the city of Mosul.

As a result some 50,000 families have so far been forced out of their homes in Basrah in the south, Baghdad and Mosul in the north.

In a later development, this people has been denied the right to elect their representatives in the provincial council reducing the number of their representatives to only one per each council according to the recently endorsed quota system compared, for example, to 6 representatives of the Christian community on the province of Mosul only.

**The displaced families are distributed in the plain of Nineveh as follows:
The City of Qaraqush, the center of al-Hamdaniyah District: 714,
The Village of Karamlesh: 110,
The Sub-District of Bartillah: 256,
The Village of Mergi, Mar Matti Monastery, al-Faf Complex, Magarah village:
59 Baáshiqá and Bahzani: 136,
The Sub-District of Alqush: 123,
Telesquf: 274,
Batnaya: 47,
The district of Telkef : 207**

The other 425 displaced families have taken refuge in Kurdistan Region in the governorates of Erbil and Duhok.

The Displaced families live in dire conditions in the absence of any sustainable humanitarian aid. They are both stunned and shocked at what happened to them leaving behind their houses, jobs, schools, university study and homes that are subject to looting.

According to recent official reports from the Governorate of Nineveh, some 300 families have returned back to their homes. This figure, however, is put to between 450-500 families that have returned back based on information available to the CSA popular Council.

Panic stricken and scared to death, most of the families are hesitant to take the decision to go back despite calls from the local authority and church officials. Most of them are waiting for what the government is going to do on the ground in terms of providing security for them in the city and guarantees from the government that this will not happen to them again.

**Det Folkelige Råd for Kaldayer Syrianer Assyrere- Souraie I Århus, Danmark
v/ Therese Isho
06. 11. 2008**

To: Mr. Staffan de-Mistura,
Special Representative of
The UN Secretary General for Iraq.

Date: 2 October 2008

Subject: Note of Demands

Sir,

In the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 50 of the Provincial Councils Election Law, thousands of the Chaldean Syrian Assyria (CSA) people in Iraq held a series of demonstrations that culminated in the big and unprecedented demonstration in the city of Duhok in which tens of thousands of demonstrators took part demanding autonomy for this people in the ancestral areas currently inhabited by this deeply root ethnic minority in Iraq.

At the end of the demonstration, a Note of Demands was handed to the Chairman of Duhok Governorate Council, Dr. Fadhel Omar to be handed over to Kurdistan Region Government and the Federal Government in Baghdad.

Following is the translation of the Note of Demands:

Our masses have gathered today in large numbers in the city of Duhok to officially demand grating autonomy to our (CSA) people in its ancestral places where it currently lives and to provide for the autonomy in the constitution of Iraq as well as the constitution of Kurdistan Region Government (KRG).

Autonomy has now become a persistent popular demand by the majority of our people, political parities as well as our ethnic, religious and civil institutions both at home and in the Diaspora.

The marginalization of our people through the abolition of Article 50 will only make us more adamant in our demand for autonomy to secure and safeguard our ethnic existence in the democratic and federal Iraq as an original and genuine component of the Iraqi people with deep roots in the history of Iraq and that has contributed much in its civilization.

And in addition to reinstating Article 50, we also demand the allocation, through legislation, special seats for our (CSA) people in the National Council of Iraq as well as the parliament of (KRG).

We also appeal to the government of Iraq to pass a special legislation through which Iraqi citizenship is granted to the members of our people, the survivors of the "Massacre of Sumeil" in 1933, who were forced to immigrate during the massacre, and to regard them as Iraqi citizens who enjoy full rights and duties.

We also demand the Federal Government of Iraq to allocate a special fund to eliminate all the trespasses and transgressions against some of the cities, towns and villages belonging to our (CSA) people. This issue has to be resolved as per the manner in which article 140 handled the internal disputed areas.

The (CSA) that emanated following the convening of Ankawa Popular Conference in 12-13 March 2007 has shouldered the responsibility of fulfilling and following up the autonomy project in direct coordination with our political parties that have joined the council, as per the following political agenda:

1. The (CSA) people are entitled to form an autonomous area in the ancestral areas where it currently lives.
2. The borders of the autonomous area are to be drawn in the interrelated area in the Plain of Nineveh and the Governorate of Duhok where the (CSA) people form a majority so as to reflect its geographical unity.

3. The inhabitants of the villages, towns and cities that are interrelated in the ancestral areas, that are not an integral part of the autonomous area, are entitled to join the autonomous area should they so decide by majority vote.
4. The Syriac language shall be the official language of the autonomous area side by side with Kurdish and Arabic.
5. The autonomous area shall have a parliament elected by our CSA people. The elected parliament shall choose a prime minister responsible for the administration of the affairs of the autonomous area.
6. The prime minister shall form a government that is acknowledged by the parliament of the area accordingly.
7. The parliament of the autonomous area shall prepare a constitution for the area that is valid following the approval of the majority of the inhabitants of the area through a referendum.
8. The autonomous area shall enjoy full authorities with the exception of matters related to the sovereignty of Iraq.
9. The autonomous area shall have its own police and security forces with their own logo. This is to be organized by legislation.
10. The government of the autonomous area shall have its own judicial courts to arbitrate in matters pertinent to the (CSA) people including those related to personal status affairs such as marriage and divorce ..etc .
11. The parliament of the autonomous area shall endorse a flag and a logo that shall be flown on the public buildings in the area side by side with the other official flags and logos.
12. A special budget shall be allocated for the administration of the government of the area.
13. Non-CSA people shall be treated on equal footing with the inhabitants of the area with regard to freedom of doctrine, religion and participation in the parliament and government of the autonomous area.
14. Matters of nationalist and religious concern for our (CSA) people who live outside the autonomous area, shall

be linked directly to the central institutions of the of the autonomous area and they shall be entitled to full rights of voting, nominate and participation in the elections of the parliament of the area.

15. Members of our (CSA) people all over the world shall enjoy the full right of voting and nomination in the parliamentary elections of the autonomous area, as is the case with the National Council of Iraq and the Parliament of KRG.
16. Our (CSA) people living in areas that fall outside the borders of the autonomous area shall have the right to enjoy self-administration within the framework of the province where they live.

Sincerely,
The Chaldean Syrian Assyrian Popular Council
Duhok