

CLARIFICATION

Regarding the preparations in the governorate of Dohuk for the Iraqi National Conference.

After the disappearance of the now extinct regime and the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi people, the population are looking towards establishing the longed for democracy in the country which has been absent throughout several decades of dictatorial rule. One of the important steps is preparing for the Iraqi National Congress due to be held at the end of July from which the National Assembly will emerge for the transitional period until the elections to be held in January 2005.

To achieve this honourable aim there must be a correct start. However, in the governorate of Dohuk, the preparations for the Iraqi National Congress and nominating the representatives to this congress, does not abode well. The preparations have not abided by the democratic methods and procedures which were agreed upon by the Higher Committee. Those procedures allocated a limited percentage of representation to political parties, civil organizations, religious, tribal, scientific and cultural figures. What happened in the governorate of Dohuk was far from these democratic procedures. Our Assyrian Democratic Movement has struggled against the dictatorship for over 25 years and has a position among other patriotic Iraqi movements with its struggle against the now extinct regime. It has sacrificed prisoners as well as martyrs executed by the dictatorship. In the past, it participated in opposition conferences as well as in the transitional government and parliament and in the Higher Committee for preparation for the Iraqi National Congress. It has also represented our people in the parliament and government of Iraqi Kurdistan since its election in 1992 to date. Our movement has been isolated from participation in the preparations for the congress and nominating representatives from the Dohuk governorate.

This is similar to other civil organizations such as the Student Union, ChaldoAssyrian youth, the Women's Union, cultural and social centres and several prominent figures who have a vital role and position among our people.

This removal of our movement was arranged between the local government in Dohuk ruled by the Kurdish Democratic Party and the committee assigned by the Higher Committee for the congress. This deliberate distancing from, and dismissive ness of our role and that of prominent members of our ChaldoAssyrian people is a continuation of old policies despite the democratic experiment established after the 1991 uprising under international protection for 12 years. Members of our ChaldoAssyrian people have been removed from governing positions despite our people being the second highest ethnicity in the governorate and despite calling for such positions such as deputy governor, mayor and other managerial positions in areas populated mainly by our ChaldoAssyrian people.

The rights of our people, the seizing of Christian ChaldoAssyrian villages from their rightful and historical owners, and repressive policies perpetrated against the simple people. Such activities perpetrated against our ChaldoAssyrian people during a period of

democracy may have deeper implications on the world scene. Such activities require a revision and correction of mistakes.

We ask the Higher Committee for preparation for the Iraqi National Congress to review the process of nomination of representatives from the Dohuk governorate to correct the mistakes which would undermine the congress itself.

Dohuk Branch
Assyrian Democratic Movement
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