

COMMENTS SENT TO CNN on JANUARY 30, 2005:-

In September 2004 we (SOITM) sent the following letter to you (see below). Unfortunately, you have not taken our request into consideration. In your reports you continue to ignore and deliberately omit to mention the existence of the Iraqi Turkmen who represent 13% of the Iraqi population.

In your reports you classify the people of Iraq as Sunnis and Shias, as Arabs and Kurds.

The Sunnis are Arabs, Kurds, AND Turkmen.
The Shias are Arabs AND Turkmen.

How come you never mention the Turkmen?

When you report on Kerkuk you never mention the fact that the majority of Kerkuk's inhabitants are Turkmen. Kerkuk has always been and still is the Turkmen's cultural capital.

You do not mention that after the Kurdish occupation, 120.000 Kurdish immigrants have been brought from Duhok, Erbil, Sulaimanya, as well as Iran, Syria and Turkey and that these immigrants were settled in the houses of the 40.000 Arabs who were forced to evacuate after the Kurdish occupation. The rest of these immigrant Kurds are living on government properties and public lands and buildings.

The Kurds want to Kurdify the north of Iraq and include oil-rich Kerkuk in their dreamland "Greater Kurdistan".

With the support of the American occupying forces Kurds brought from Duhok, Erbil and Sulaimania are now occupying the majority of public offices and government services in Kerkuk. They are forcing the public to speak Kurdish. Anyone who can't speak Kurdish is not being served.

Currently there is a campaign by the Kurds to give Kerkuk a Kurdish atmosphere by filling the walls with Kurdish graffiti, filling the poles with Kurdish flags, filling the streets with Kurdish written banners, buying hundreds of commercial stores and putting Kurdish written displays. Most of the taxi cabs are from Duhok, Erbil or Sulaimania. Most of the policemen in Kerkuk are now Kurdish.

Kerkuk by origin is a Turkmen city. This fact is accepted by Arabs, Assyrians and even original Kerkuki Kurds. But because of its oil wealth and the hidden political agenda of the Kurdish political parties, they insist to include Kerkuk in their dreamland "Greater Kurdistan".

For further detailed information see the reports on website:

<http://www.turkmen.nl/SOITM.html>

It is clear that the U.S. intention is to split up Iraq "Divide et impera" and that they are utilizing the Kurds to achieve their goal and you CNN are contributing to the disinformation campaign of Bush's government by continuing to diffuse their lies and propaganda.

By deliberately omitting to mention the Turkmen in your reports you give your viewers a false picture of the Iraqi reality.

Yours truly,

Merry Fitzgerald
Committee for the Defence of the Rights of the Iraqi Turkmen

Letter from SOITM - IRAQI TURKMEN HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

OPEN LETTER TO WESTERN ACADEMICS, WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS

As prominent academics, writers and journalists in the West, your writings are read by millions and will be kept in the libraries for hundreds of years as reliable references. You are lecturing or talking in important conferences everywhere in the world and many times for the sake of the Kurdish people who distribute your publications widely in the Western community and launch them on many websites on the internet.

We are asking you to:

- Evaluate your knowledge carefully about the north of Iraq and please be particularly careful of what you hear from the Kurds.
- Make the Turkmen community's plight and long suffering in Iraq one of your research cases.

It is a fact that neither the Turkmen nor the Arabs of Iraq can reach your numerous publications which are all in favour of the Kurds and often biased to their cause because of their 45-year long propaganda. Even if they could reach your numerous publications, the Turkmen and Arabs of Iraq are not in position to correct or criticize most of them.

Economical and cultural suppression of the Turkmen of Iraq for several decades have destroyed almost all the centres of powers in their community, particularly the cultural and organizational abilities. Consignment of a sum from the oil revenues for the Kurds since 1991 (after the 2nd Gulf War), on one hand and deprivation of the Turkmen on the other hand was another blow to the already weakened political integration. Furthermore, it is important to note that the Turkmen did not receive any kind of support during this long period, not even from Turkey.

Reports and articles about the Turkmen of Iraq and Kerkuk, which were written depending on reliable references, are attached. Two important articles, written in Arabic, entitled: "When was Kerkuk your Jerusalem?"

Our teaching books are the reason for our poor knowledge of the Iraqi History" and "The terms Kurds and Kurdistan" which include very important reliable facts about the Kurds in northern Iraq are also attached.

Reports:

SOITM 1 <<http://members.lycos.nl/kirkukjournal/1%20SOITM%20Report1.pdf>>

<http://www.turkmen.nl/SOITM_1.html>
SOITM 2 <<http://members.lycos.nl/kirkukjournal/1%20SOITM%20Report2.pdf>>
<http://www.turkmen.nl/SOITM_2.html>

Articles:

The Ethnic Reality of the Kirkuk Area

<http://members.lycos.nl/kirkukjournal/Ethnic_Reality_%20Kirkuk.pdf>

Kerkuk City <<http://members.lycos.nl/Kerkuk/>>

Kerkuk is not Kurdish City <<http://members.lycos.nl/Kerkuk/ed6.html>>

Erbil City <http://members.lycos.nl/Kerkuk/erbil_city.html>

When was Kerkuk your Jerusalem? Our teaching books are the reason for our poor knowledge of the Iraqi History <<http://members.lycos.nl/Kerkuk/ed7.html>>

The term: Kurd and Kurdistan <http://www.turkmen.nl/1_journal5/3.html>