

Bomb explosion in Taza District of Kerkuk

20th June 2009



A truck bomb exploded near a mosque in **Taza Khormato (Iraqi Turkmen town)** 10 miles south of the city **Kerkuk**, following noon prayers killing at least 80 people and wounding nearly 200 people, most of them seriously.

At least over 100 nearby mud-brick houses were destroyed, and hundreds were buried under the rubble according to the police and witnesses. Meanwhile insufficient ambulances and civilian buses rushed victims to the overwhelmed hospital in Kerkuk.

According to Mr Ehsan Mushir Shuker, whose sister was seriously wounded and taken to the nearby City Hospital "the truck was parked near our house when it exploded, most of the victims were found beneath the debris of the houses, mostly women and children."

Mr Yellman Zain –Abiden, who was wounded in his hands and face from shrapnel, cried for his missing son who had been leaving the mosque with him when the blast occurred. He blamed local authorities for not providing sufficient security in the mainly Turkmen area.

Turkmeneli TV (local Turkmen TV) news showed desperate men using their bare hands to dig for hundreds of victims who were buried alive under piles of destroyed mud houses, and it also showed carnage of the overstretched local Kirkuk Hospital which was trying to cope with seriously wounded victims.

Turkmeneli TV was also calling for people to donate blood and give support and assistance.

A member of the local Tuz District Council Mr Nathum Kehiyah, described the targeted area as "inhabited by simple people, 100 percent civilians; there are no headquarters, civilian or military political parties, and there are no governmental departments, that is why we are all shocked at this action that was aimed at civilians with such ferocity and which killed indiscriminately; men, women, and children."

As the Iraqi Turkmen Front in the UK, we condemn such an act and we urge the Iraqi government to replace the illegal "Peshmerga and Asaish Intelligence" militia forces with government security forces formed by the local Turkmen community and to declare Taza as a disaster area as well as to urgently send help to the area.

We call on the world community to stop the atrocities which are happening daily in Iraqi Turkmen-populated areas and to protect them against inhumanity.

21 June 2009