

The Kurdish terror in north of Iraq



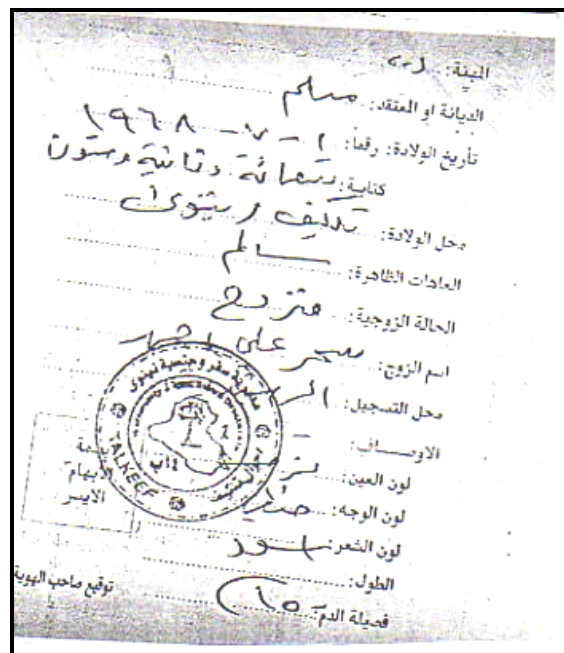
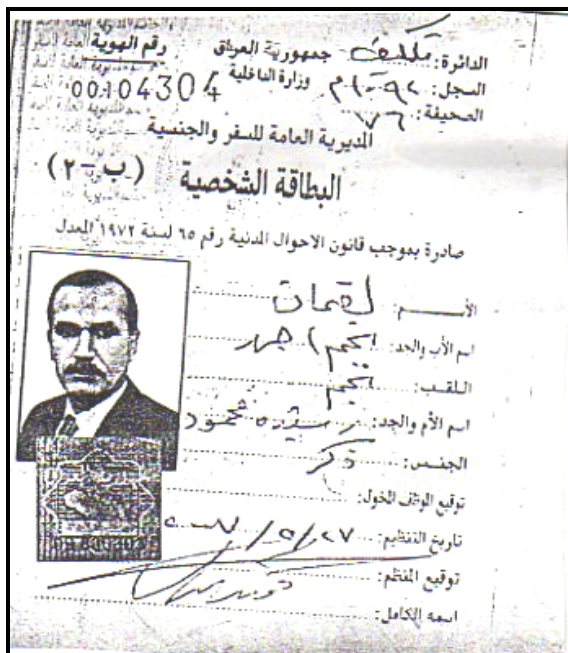
Mr. Lokman Nejam Ahmed was born in 1st July 1968 in the district of *Telkeef* that is linked to the city of *Mosul*. He was arrested on the 8th of July 2007 on the Iraqi/Turkish border *Ibrahim Alkhalil* by the Kurdish secret police that are known as *Asayish* while he was travelling from the city of *Mosul* to Turkey with a group of a *Turkmen* [1] from the city of *Erbil*.

Mr. Lokman Nejam Ahmed was working as a deputy of the ITF (Iraqi Turkmen Front) in the city of *Mosul* and according to the witnesses who were with him at the time. They have confirmed that Mr. Lokman Nejam was forced out of his car by the Kurdish police at the Iraqi Turkish border *Ibrahim Alkhalil* by the *Asayish*.

However, after months following his arrest his family with the help of Kurdish friends have managed to find out that he has been imprisoned in the city of *Duhok* by the Kurdish authorities.

Only his immediate family has been allowed to visit him in prison. His family is allowed visit him once every two months. Mr. Lokman Nejam has been accused of various unfounded accusations and nevertheless the Kurdish police have totally failed to produce any evidence or proof of his illegal involvement against the Kurdish authorities.

Thus Mr. Lokman Nejam Ahmed's family have approached the deputy governor of the city of *Mosul* for help and support but unfortunately no support was provided. In my personal opinion the Turkmen people in *Turkmeneli* [2] and especially the ITF members have been continuously arrested, imprisoned, tortured and treated inhumanely by the Kurdish police only for being Turkmen as this happened recently to a teacher called *Ganim Mahmud* who is 60 years old, he was tortured and insulted by the Kurdish authority in north of Iraq but later on Mr. Ganim Mahmud was released after a month of continuous torturing and was asked why his nephew is helping the Turkmen teachers in promoting Turkmen teaching.



National Identity certificate of Mr. Lokman Nejam Ahmed

Mr. Lokman Nejam Ahmed has been kept in the Kurdish prison without formal charges and his case has not been submitted to the court. Thus, the Turkmen's plight to all the human right organisations, government officials, intellectuals, Iraqi and Turkish government for immediate intervention to put pressure on the Kurdish police whom are terrorising the Turkmen people in Turkmeneli.

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[1] ***Turkmen:** The Iraqi Turkmen live in an area that they call "Turkmenia" in Latin or "Turkmeneli" which means, "Land of the Turkmen. It was referred to as "Turcomania" by the British geographer William Guthrie in 1785. The Turkmen are a Turkic group that has a unique heritage and culture as well as linguistic, historical and cultural links with the surrounding Turkic groups such as those in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Their spoken language is closer to Azeri but their official written language is like the Turkish spoken in present-day Turkey. Their real population has always been suppressed by the authorities in Iraq for political reasons and estimated at 2%, whereas in reality their numbers are more realistically between 2.5 to 3 million, i.e. 12% of the Iraqi population.*

[2] ***Turkmeneli** is a diagonal strip of land stretching from the Syrian and Turkish border areas from around Telafer in the north of Iraq, reaching down to the town of Mendeli on the Iranian border in Central Iraq. The Turkmen of Iraq settled in Turkmeneli in three successive and constant migrations from Central Asia, which increased their numbers and enabled them to establish six states in Iraq.*