

Turkmens: Failure to solve our problems pushed us to internationalise & our minister will stay in the government



On Monday evening 20130318, Iraqi Turkmen Front in Kirkuk(224Km to the North of the Capital Baghdad) confirmed that recurrent targeting of Turkmens and failure of the government, Parliament and local governments in the governorates led them to internationalise their case, with expectation of holding lawsuits in international bodies against security leaders, Iraqi officials and governors, refused Turkmen areas protection by Kurdistan district, called for Kirkuk to be directed equally by all its

components, confirmed that solving Iraqi crisis is in eccentricity and giving Baghdad and Kirkuk special situation.

The head of the Front, Deputy Arshad Alsalihi said in a press conference held at the Front headquarter which was attended by (Almada press) that Turkmens were not willing to convey their complaints outside Iraq and they tried all methods to deliver their voice to specific sides, as everyone knows that targeting against all Iraqi people sectors, however it is different from one place to another and one component to another.

Alsalihi held the governorates' councils and the deputy council responsible as they failed to issue necessary laws including the lands case that till now were not returned to their original owners, as well as the parliament and the ministers' council failed to issue instructions to ensure protection to Turkmens that forced them to go to international bodies. Head of Turkmen Front added ( The Front does not take responsibility to internationalise Turkmen case but the central and local government procedures led to this, mentioning that the European Parliament held two sessions to discuss Turkmen situation during 8 months, we worked hard to deliver our voice after we lost hope in the internal solutions and we were exposed to pressure from Turkmen & civilian community organisations in Europe and America that were pointing that we were unable to deliver Turkmen voice to outside. Alsalihi anticipated that Turkmen & civilian community organisations outside to raise lawsuits in international bodies against security leaders, governors, and officials as they failed in solving Turkmen case and their targeting.

Head of Turkmen Front (The political crisis cannot be solved by extremist media announcements or Iraqi marketing of a sectarian war especially that fire started in Syria and everyone is speaking about Iraqi unity, mentioning that the law of the state administration to transitional stage considered Baghdad and Kirkuk outside the situation and all disputed areas or mixed or disagreed upon, therefore it is necessary today to reconsider it. Head of ITF, Arshad Alsalihi refused that Kurdistan district forces to undertake protection of

Turkmen areas repeating that it is impossible because we disagree with them in views regarding Kirkuk, Diyala, Toz and Mousel' s future.

Alsalihi clarifies that the solution to the disputed areas is by security forces that is represented in an equal way by all the national components, confirming that Kirkuk was not part of Kurdistan district and any initiation made by politicians or leaders including the head of Kurdistan district Masood Albarazani and the Republic president Jalal Altalabani are welcomed as long as they make the views closer and solve the existing problems.

Regarding the local elections in Kirkuk, head of Turkmen Front added: (Many of the demographic changes occurred in Kirkuk, we will not accept that the election to be carried out until after deporting those who are not from Kirkuk and keeping those included by substance 140 despite that the typical solution to carry out the elections is represented by giving equal seats to each component in the governorate.

It has to be mentioned that on 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2013, human rights committee in European parliament discussed the project of a decision about situation of Turkmen in Iraq under the title the ordeal of the minorities especially Iraqi Turkmen.

European institutes & United Nations demanded to put pressure on Iraqi government and Kurdistan district government to ensure protection of Turkmen component in Nainowa, Kirkuk, Salahaldin and Diyala, confirmed that Turkmen the third major component in Iraq and condemned the violence that Turkmen are exposed to, demanded to give Turkmen their rights and called Iraqis for inclusive dialogue to ensure a democratic effective reign and respect individual rights.

Spokesman in the name of Turkmen Front Ali Mehdi Sadiq, said in a conversation to (Almada press) on 28/2/2013 that the strategy of the Front towards administrative future of Kirkuk governorate represented by making it a special district directed by its major components, confirming the Front demand is in accordance with substance 119 of the constitution. He added this demand is agreed by all Turkmen parties in their conference that was held in Baghdad during 2008.

Substance 119 of the constitution that dictated the right of governorate or more to form a district according to referendum presented by two ways when one third of the members in each council of governorates councils claim to form a district or one tenth of the nominees in each governorate claim formation of district.

The violence wave escalated against Turkmen after a wave of disputes between the district and the centre, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2012 and on the background of events of clashes between Iraqi army forces and common Iraqi forces from army and police and the force of Esaish( Kurdish security) in Toz Kharmato district (90 Km east of Tikreet) and they are Turkmen deputies, Beshmerga forces that are concentrated in Kirkuk targeted Turkmen citizen homes in Elton Kobri area in Kirkuk by mortar missiles whereas ministry of Beshmerga denied that attack.

Kirkuk governorate that is dwelled by mixture of Arabs, Kurds, Turkmens and others is considered one of the most important disputed areas and included substance 140 of Iraqi constitution and it witnessed continuous disagreements among its components in addition to violence on almost daily basis that targets civilians and security forces equally.