

To the Kind Attention of:

- **The United Nations**
- **The Iraqi National Assembly**
- **The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq**
- **To all those who care about human rights and minority protections**

Subject: Iraqi Election of 2005

February 21/2005

On February 17/ 2005, a group of 12 Iraqi community leaders and activists in social and civil society organizations in California held a meeting in San Diego, California where they discussed the recent Iraqi Election of January 30, 2005. On this historical day the Iraqis celebrated their freedom and right to vote for the first time in their recent history. This election was a breakthrough in the developmental process of Iraq as a free and democratic country. Thousands of candidates, hundreds of political parties and independent groups took part in it. We, the members of the Iraqi community outside of Iraq, participated in the election and followed the election news through the internet and other sources of news reports. However, on January 30, the vote was denied for hundred of thousands of Turkmen, Chaldo-Assyrians and Izdians in north of Iraq as well as outside of Iraq.

In the area of Mosul, the managers of many voting centers did not show up to their jobs, so the voting centers remained closed, and in other areas, voting boxes were not delivered at all - they were supposed to be delivered from the Kurdish controlled city of Arbil. In some areas, militant groups took the voting boxes by force, opened them, tampered with the contents, attempted to reseal and returned them to the voting centers. Unfortunately, many of the Iraqi Chaldo-Assyrian population were denied to vote.

Talafer is the biggest city around Mosul is populated with over 350,000 Turkmen had only two voting centers. The average per the country was - a center for 20,000 populations. In addition to that, the National Guards controlled by Kurdish leaders in the city has created fear prior to the elections. Their threats had turned people away from casting their votes. Other Turkmen areas around Mosul with an estimated 50,000 people did not have any voting centers.

Areas where Izdians - another Iraqi minority group resides (estimated over 100,000 people) -also did not have any voting center.

Please note that all the above violations and irregularities occurred in Chaldeo-Assyrians, Turkmen and Izdians areas in Mosul areas. Thousands residents went to the streets to protested the Kurdish lock-out of voters in North of Iraq.

Kirkuk area underwent the highest level of Election violations. For example unplanned 45 Election centers were suddenly erected on Election Day. These new centers were set up only in Kurdish areas. Ballot papers and supplies were drawn from centers in Turkmen areas and distributed to the newly opened centers which had created shortages in ballot papers in the original centers. Accordingly, the original residents returned to their homes without being able to cast a vote. Ten of thousands of Kurds were transported from Erbil and Sulaymaniya to Kirkuk. Witnesses testified that many people voted without proper identification and regular verification. Kurdish districts opened an hour before the official opening time of the centers. Many ballot boxes were stolen by members of the Kurdish National guards, who were in charge of the security of the voting centers. Most of the voting centers managers were threatened, and forced to accept illegal ballot papers.

Due to poor polling centers distributions inside Iraq and the lockouts that occurred within Mosul and Kerkuk - the Turkmen, Chaldeo-Assyrians, and Izdians voters had lost an estimated 49 seats out of 275 seats of the Iraqi National Assembly. Reliable resources estimate that the Turkmen are 12% of Iraqi population got only 3 seats they compared to 27 seats .The Chaldeo-Assyrians are estimated 7% of the Iraqi population got 1 seat while they must have 21 seats, the Izdians are 1% have no representation – their supposing 2 lost to other groups due to the above violation. In democratic Iraq, we expected these ethnic groups will be protected from the domination of larger groups.

Signed

1. Mr. Farouk Gowrges -Iraqi activist and leader in ChaldeoAssyrians Movements
2. Dr. Thair Al Bayati - Iraqi community leader and activist in Iraqi Civil society
3. Dr. Labib Sultan - Iraqi activist and leader in Iraqi civil society
4. Mr. Sabah Saddiq - a journalist and a community activist
5. Professor Hanna Kalabat - an Iraqi journalist and community leader
6. Mr. Saaed Hanna - a ChaldeoAssyrian community leader
7. Mr. Zaker Arem - a lawyer, journalist and a community activist
8. Mr. Habeb Hanina - ChaldeoAssyrians leader and historian
9. Mr. Jubran Hannani - Business man and Iraqi community leader
10. Mr. Jamal Jammel - Iraqi community leader and activist in the Iraqi Civil society
11. Mr. Abudala Al Abasse - Iraqi community leaders and Shiit's activist
12. Mr. Ahmad Al Abasse - Iraqi community activist and youth leader

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