



Turkmen Right Association

Kerkuk, 9 July 2010

Press Release on the Upcoming Iraq census

Censuses are generally considered one of the most important sources of information at a government's disposal, they enable countries to plan for the future by providing the tools to learn the realities, evaluate the progress and development of a set region.

When the requirements to realize a fair census are absent, organization of census will provide unrealistic data which disturb the governmental projects and encumber the developments.

In today's Iraq, the so-called disputed regions and particularly Kerkuk region have been exposed to political, economic and aggressive demographical alterations. Hundreds of thousands of people were brought into Kerkuk. This will unfairly influence the situation of different components of the Iraqi community. The census will fix the unfair distribution of lands, finance and administration.

The administration which is dominated by an Iraqi component, which claims vast lands, could potentially manipulate the results of census, as has been done in former elections.

The following factors render any census at the present time unreliable:

1. The population figures of the Ministry of Planning are significantly different from the real numbers:

Province	Ministry of Planning Estimates	Regional Administration Estimates
Duhok	520,000	978,000
Kerkuk	950,000	950,000
Basra	2.000,000	2.500,000

2. Large numbers of marriage contracts and births have been registered deliberately in some provinces to increase the number of a specific population components.
3. Article 140 has been used to introduce demographic changes in some provinces by:
 - a. Bringing hundreds of thousands of Kurds into so-called disputed area, particularly, Kerkuk province
 - b. Confiscations of huge numbers of public and private lands by newcomers.
4. Unofficial procedures have been used when registering internally displaced people (IDPs).
5. The ineffective functioning of the Property Claim Commission will negatively influence the organization of a census. From about 40.000 complaint cases only 10% have been completed.
6. Presence of large numbers of non-Iraqis who were provided by the Iraqi population registration documents, [as in the case of Sweden](#).
7. The difficulties of forming of the Iraqi government will influence such large and important operation.
8. Presence of large numbers of IDPs which need to be registered in their regions of origin in any census.
9. Failure of the authorities to implement the decisions of the Council of Ministers on the confiscations of lands. Several orders from the Iraqi government to evacuate the governmental complexes occupied by Kurdish newcomers in Kerkuk were refused by the Kurdish dominated Kerkuk province council.
10. Lack of census forms in mother tongue languages for relevant areas.
11. Failure to apply Articles 16 and 23 of the laws of the Councils of Provinces and Iraqi parliamentary elections, which refers to equal distribution of the administration in Kerkuk and to review the voters lists.
12. Failure to realize Article 142 of the Iraqi constitution which requests the amendment of the Iraqi constitution.

Consequently, we strongly demand that the aforementioned obstacles should be addressed before the organization of the census, which necessitates the postponement of the census to a future date. This will protect Iraq and the Iraqi community from unconstructive outcomes.

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