

European Parliament Urged To Hold Hearing On The Situation Of The Iraqi Turkmen In Northern Iraq

Brussels, 8 July 2013

Further to the previous appeal of February 2013, following a series of attacks against ethnic Turkmen in Iraq, including the suicide attack of 24 January 2013 in Tuz Khurmato, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and The Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) urge the European Parliament to take action against the violent terrorist activities which continue to target the Turkmen and other ethnic communities in the northern region of Iraq.

On 25 June 2013, two suicide bombers carrying explosives entered a tent where numerous Turkmen protesters had gathered in the town of Tuz Khurmatu. The incident resulted in the death 13 civilians and wounded over 60 innocent victims. Among the dead were the Deputy Head of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, Ali Haşim Muhtaroglu, former Deputy Provincial Governor Ahmet Koca and his son, as well as a former provincial councillor. The protesters had gathered to demand better protection for the Turkmen community from the Iraqi government as a result of an earlier fatal bombing in the town. According to the most recent report of the Iraqi Turkmen Front Human Rights Office in Kirkuk, this is only the most recent of 68 targeted attacks that have been aimed at Turkmen individuals and assemblies in the last 6 months. These attacks have resulted in the death of 91 Turkmen and have left an additional 609 civilians injured.

In light of the resolution of the 12th March 2013 on the plight of Iraqi minorities, and in particular the Iraqi Turkmen, UNPO calls on the European Parliament to exert further pressure on the Iraqi Government. The Iraqi government must ascertain the implementation of the country's Constitution, and in accordance ensure that a degree of protection be provided to the Iraqi Turkmen and other communities. The Iraqi Turkmen are recurrently threatened by the eventuality of the potential disintegration of their ethnicity, a factor which would irrevocably further alter the already precarious balance characterising Iraq's multifaceted demographic landscape. Most relevantly however, violence continues to escalate dangerously, and there is a looming threat that if no action is taken, these vicious attacks might trigger an even greater civil conflict. There is therefore an urgent need for interventions, in order to avoid the situation intensifying beyond repair.



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