

The Forgotten Nation: Turkmen in Iraq



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The conference was jointly organized by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), Minority Rights Group International (MRG) and the Nonviolent Radical Party (NRP).

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The Forgotten Nation: Turkmens in Iraq

Side Event Report

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FOREWORD: GIVING A VOICE TO THE FORGOTTEN

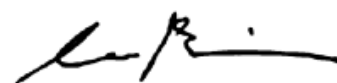
Iraq has been a center of global attention for more than two decades, starting from the 1990s war and humanitarian intervention, followed by the more recent war of 2003 and the post-war reconstruction phases. However, the abundance of attention has escaped the situation of the ethnic communities in the country, more specifically the Iraqi Turkmen. Once allowed, Turkish language and culture have gradually been forcefully replaced by Arabic, schools closed and towns/villages renamed. The Iraqi Turkmen, although constituting around 13% of the population, have been thus far severely discriminated and majorly neglected.

Not only are the Iraqi Turkmen constantly neglected on the national and international level, but they have been suffering from violent attacks from other ethnic groups on a practically systemic basis. Such attacks include the one on 23 January, 2013 in Tuz Khurmato at the funeral of an Iraqi Turkmen civil servant, in which at least 42 people were killed and 117 seriously wounded.

Attacks on the Turkmen have been increasing at an alarming rate in recent months - including the burning alive of two teachers - as tensions between the Arab and Kurdish populations in the disputed territories rise. Police investigations have proven to be insufficient to determine the true nature of the attacks and those behind them. All the evidence points to the fact that terrorists who commit these horrendous acts specifically target the Iraqi Turkmen population. There are escalating tensions between Kurdish population and Turkmen, who are also pressured by the Iraqi government for their aspirations for greater autonomy, so in all likelihood these attacks stem from these problematic relationships.

All too often, the Turkmen community has been caught up in the collateral damage of this conflict and many Turkmen feel both marginalised and victimised by their fellow Iraqis. Another issue the Iraqi Turkmen community faces on the day-to-day basis is the land confiscations, frequently referred to in the literature as 'land grabbing', by the State without any compensation. Land confiscation has been a part of a greater set of assimilation policies, joined by the bans on education in Turkish language and resettlement of the Arab population into the wealthy territory, which had historically been a Turkish region.

The Iraqi government has repeatedly pledged greater protection for the Turkmen community, but any action on the issue has not been forthcoming. In the aftermath of the side event, UNPO will continue to support the recognition of the Iraqi Turkmen as an important ethnic group and spread awareness about the issues the community is currently facing.



Marino Busdachin,
UNPO Secretary General

EVENT PROGRAMME

Room IX



- 11.00** **Welcome, introductions**
Mr. Antonio Stango, Nonviolent Radical Party

PANEL DISCUSSION:

- 11.15** **Security risks for minorities in Iraq and the state's failure to safeguard their rights**
Mr. Chris Chapman, Minority Rights Group
- 11.30** **Human Rights situation in Iraq since 2003**
Ms. Sundus Abbas, Iraqi Turkmen Front
- 11.45** **Media and the Iraqi Turkmen Case**
Mr. Ahmed Al-Hurmezi, Iraqi Turkmen Academic Assosication
- 12.00** **Arabization and Kurdization policies in Iraq**
Mr. Najati Kelenchy, Iraqi Turkmen Rights Committee (ITRC) on behalf of Mr. Mofak Salman, author of various publications on Iraqi Turkmen
- 12.15** **Confiscation of land and the demographic change of the Iraqi Turkmen territory**
Dr. Sheith Jerjis, Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation
- 12.30** **Q&A, open floor debate**
- 12.55** **Closing remarks**
Mr. Antonio Stango, Nonviolent Radical Party

**“SECURITY RISKS FOR
MINORITIES IN IRAQ AND THE
STATE'S FAILURE TO
SAFEGUARD THEIR RIGHTS”**



Mr. Chris Chapman
Minority Rights Group Int.



Ms. Sundus Abbas
Iraqi Turkmen Front

“HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN IRAQ SINCE 2003”

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of my people I would like to express our appreciation for having a chance to address the human rights situation of Iraqi Turkmen since 2003.

GEOGRAPHY

According to the adjusted statistics of the Iraqi census of 1957, the Turkmen constituted 9% of the total Iraqi population, which would now approximate to 3 million out of 32 million - the total Iraqi population. Turkmen live mainly in the north and middle of Iraq: Kerkuk, Mosul, Erbil, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Kut and Baghdad. The largest Turkmen population concentration is found in Kerkuk whose linguistic, cultural and ethnic identity is distinctly colored by their presence.

AFTER THE FALL OF THE BA'ATH REGIME

On April 10, 2003, after occupation, the Iraqi army and security units dissolved, the State's archives were sacked, and life and property security disappeared. With the support of the occupation force, Kurdish armed forces entered almost all the Turkmen regions, including Kerkuk, seizing the administration and establishing their own order.

In the absence of law and security, Turkmens started to be subjected to intimidations, killings, arbitrary detentions, assassinations and kidnappings. These incidents happened in almost all Turkmen regions from Telafer to Khanaqin, particularly in the oil-rich province of Kerkuk.

TERROR AGAINST TURKMEN

As with other Iraqi communities, the Turkmen of Iraq are also targeted by the terrorists, whilst the Turkmen started early in 2003 to be exposed to extensive attacks. For example:

- 24 August 2003: attack on a Turkmen protesting group in Tuz Hurmatu killing 8 and injuring several others.
- 31 December 2003: attack on a Turkmen protesting group in Kerkuk killing 3 and injuring several.
- 9 September 2004 and in 5 September 2005: Telafer district has been attacked twice by helicopters, tanks and tens of thousands of Soldiers.

Some of the casualties in Telafer include; 1350 dead, 2650 wounded, including a large number of children, women and elders. About seven thousand were arrested; one thousand are still in prison. 3658 houses have been under attack. About 500 houses were completely demolished. 1468 houses were robbed. During these catastrophes about 48.000 families were displaced from Telafer, of which about 13.000 families have still not returned.

The Turkmen of Tuz Hurmatu are suffering for two reasons: firstly, being Turkmen and secondly being of Shiite sect. For these reasons they have been under attack which continues today.

For example,

- Massive bombing in the village of Amirli leaving more than 50 dead and 110 wounded Turkmen.
- Attacks on 23 January 2013 against the Turkmen funeral in Tuz Khurmatu of a civil servant assassinated the previous day, leaving at least 43 people dead and a further 117 injured.
- On 16 December 2012 two Turkmen teachers were abducted, tortured and burnt alive.

«We, the Turkmen of Iraq, support a united democratic Iraq and expected to see justice, equality, fairness, an end to discrimination, the right to self-determination and an end to violence. Unfortunately, these expectations are far away from reality.»

The attacks on this areas continue on a daily basis, and most of the Turkmen in this area were either threatened or kidnapped and paid a ransom.

Turkmens of Mosul city had suffered almost the same, even in recent years many Turkmen have been assassinated. The inhabitants of Kaz Koyu, which was demolished by the Ba'ath regime, established themselves in the Hadbaa neighborhood and were exposed to repeated bombings, which made the Turkmen leave the region. Other bombings took place in the villages of Kara, Bazwaya, and Sherihan leaving hundreds dead or injured.

Although every major group in Iraq has a strong militia power, Turkmen are still not allowed to form their own defense militia power, making them vulnerable to terrorist and ethnic attacks. Every Turkmen city has been the target of explosions that have killed thousands of Turkmen so far.

The ongoing dispute between the central government of Iraq and the regional government of Kurdistan has recently escalated and negatively affects the security situation in the region of what is called the disputed areas, which are dominated by Turkmen. As a result Turkmen paid a heavy price from their lives and properties, these area are subjected to attacks on daily bases despite the heavy presence of military forces from both Iraq and regional Kurdish government.

Political factors, blackmail, and shakedowns are the possible reasons for exposure of Turkmen to terrorist attacks. Hundreds of bomb attacks and kidnappings have taken place in Turkmen regions. Turkmen are severely exposed to intimidations. Large numbers of Turkmen are arrested, many are lost.

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ATTACKS ON TURKMENS ARE:

- Assassination of the Mosul province representative of the ITF on 22 November 2009
- Assassination of Colonel Sabah Kara Altun on 3 June 2005
- On 20 June 2009, a massive explosion in Taze Hurmatu killed 82 and injured 228 Turkmen, destroyed 65 houses.
- Assassination of Dr. Amir Said Selbi, academic staff in Mosul University on 8 March 2011
- The offices of the ITF were attacked occasionally.
- Assassination of Neurosurgeon Yıldırım Abbas Demirci and his brother on 5 September 2011
- Shooting of Abdul Emir, a guard of the president of Kerkuk province council on 11 September 2011
- Kidnapping of two Turkmen academic staff of the faculty of technology, Kerkuk University; Sami Aslan Riza and Musa Mustafa Veyis, on 5 November 2011
- Bombing of the house of the Kerkuk province council member and the speaker of the ITF Ali Mehdi on 28 November 2011 which killed a neighbor and injured 15 people.
- Assassination Maj. Gen. Adnan Abdul Razzaq al-Bayyati, director general of internal affairs in Kerkuk province on 4th September 2012.
- Assassination of Dr. Reza Hamza Al Bayati in Kerkuk on 19th September 2012

All the Turkmen medical staff in Kerkuk received a threat letter asking them to leave or pay a ransom—the total amount of the ransom which has been paid by Turkmen is estimated to be more than 50 million US dollar up to today.

The systematic assassinations, threats and kidnappings against the Turkmen people is designed to terrorize them and to force them to leave their cities and towns.

Our appeal to the Iraqi parliament to send a commission to investigate these events failed because of the ignorance of major political groups.

DIFFERENT ISSUES

Turkmen are deprived from their share of ordinary and high governmental positions and given some symbolic posts and positions in the governing councils and parliament.

The lack of appointment for Turkmen in governmental and municipality is clearly observed. While Turkmen appointments for higher governmental posts; for example, ministries and embassies is severe.

In most of the Turkmen regions, one group dominates the security and police forces.

All recent Iraqi elections have been organized while the this group is dominating the administration, police and security in most of Turkmen regions. All the election stages have been violated and exposed to fraud.

The shortage of governmental and municipality utilities in Turkmen areas can be clearly observed.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the reference in the Constitution to the rights of Turkmen, they continue to be plagued by ethnic and sectarian violence and discrimination.

In view of the above stated facts, it becomes clear that the Turkmen of Iraq are suffering from genocide and ethnic cleansing; they are exposed to daily violations of human rights, their security is absent, their economic situation deteriorates and they flee from their land.

The Turkmen welcome the statement by the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, where she highlights the needs to use the many tools at the EU's disposal to put pressure on the Iraqi government to put measures into place that guarantee the safety and security of all Iraqi people and particularly those who are vulnerable to targeted violence; such as the Turkmen.

The Turkmen welcome the European Parliament Resolution to condemn the attacks on Iraqi Turkmen and it calls on the Iraqi and Kurdish authorities to provide protection for them.

We the Turkmen of Iraq support a united democratic Iraq and expected to see justice, equality, fairness, an end to discrimination, the right to self-determination and an end to violence. Unfortunately, these expectations are far away from reality.

Turkmen request to obtain rights equal to those obtained by other groups and save whatever is left of our unique culture and population. This will bring peace, stability and cooperation between all ethnic groups in the region which will make it a good model for the rest of the Middle East.





Mr. Ahmed Al-Hurmezi
Iraqi Turkmen Academic
Association

“MEDIA AND THE IRAQI TURKMEN CASE”



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN in this session,

Iraq is currently facing a challenging chapter in its history. Establishing and enforcing rule of law, maintaining security and stability and ensuring the fundamental rights of its people. Media is a key player in this matter and analysis of its effect into Iraq is an important insight when assessing the effectiveness of external media support efforts over the last decade and prospects for the future particularly into the non-ruling communities(minorities). I will try in this paper to briefly explain the role of media concerning the Iraqi Turkmens.

IRAQI MEDIA UNDER BA'ATH PERIOD

Media under ba'ath party (1968-2003) was severely limited and strictly controlled by the State. There was one news network called Iraqi news agency which functioned solely as a mouthpiece for the regime. Any media other than that under the purview of the government was barred. Satellite dishes were illegal. The ministry of information was charged with control of the media during Saddam's rule. At this time, there were only five State-owned daily newspapers, one government tv channel, and four radio stations. Legislation was in place to assist in the control of the media by the State, and digressions were not tolerated. Expression was widely restricted, and there were no laws to protect journalists or media professionals.

During this period, the Turkmen community suffered from serious problems in order to deliver their suffering, especially the government media refuses to recognize them as part of the Iraqi people and ignored the right of Turkmens. However Iraqi Turkmens have established their own ethnic media in the neighbor countries like Turkey and have enjoyed relative autonomy in the north of Iraq since the end of the 1991 gulf war to the beginning of 2003.

IRAQI MEDIA AFTER US INVASION (LIBERATION) AND ITS AFTERMATH

After the end of full State control in 2003, a period of considerable growth occurred in Iraq's broadcast media. Hundreds of new publications, television and radio stations sprang up across the country, and Iraqis gained access to satellite dishes and the internet. Significantly, many of these newspapers emerged in disproportionate numbers to the population of their locations. The media of Iraqi Turkmen after 2003 describes the print, radio, and television ,in 2012 about 8 local radio stations and 3

local television stations were broadcasting in Turkmen and arabic language and one satellite tv channel in Turkmen language.

Overall, the Iraqi media are split into three main camps - Shia, Sunni and Kurdish, each of which leans towards its own community instead of reporting on inclusive terms.

WE CAN DIVIDE IRAQI MEDIA TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Media Owned By The Iraqi State
2. Media Owned By Political Islamist Groups (Religious/Sectarian Factions)
3. Media Owned By Ethnic Political Parties
4. Media Owned By Entities Calling For Violence
5. Media Owned By Independent entities

The media in Iraq has been accused of exacerbating the sectarian tensions that already exist between Sunnis, Shia and Kurdish groups. Both factions own and operate many of the newspapers and radio and tv stations in Iraq, converting the

media in their propaganda tool to spread their message.

«I am proud to be a turkmen. I didn't choose to be turkmen; i did choose to be an Iraqi. I wish to live in a country where there are neither women nor men rights, only human rights.»

Many organization inside and outside Iraqi have pointed the negative role that media is playing in the sectarian confrontation. There has been an increase of Sunni and Shia attacks across the country and especially in Baghdad in the last months.

The Turkmen community has been affected by these sectarian tensions and in the absence of international media coverage of the areas inhabited by the Turkmen which it most of them (disputed area); and as a result of that the Turkmen became the forgotten nation in Iraq.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Create an international media loan fund to support turkmen projects.**

International donors and ngos have aided with Iraqi media development projects and this trend should continue and extend to cover Turkmen media. A loan fund should be established to develop support, capacity building and training for Turkmen journalists and staff in Iraq.

2. **Create a turkmen media development network**

International actors have made positive contributions to the Iraqi media. Various ministries of the governments of the UK, Germany and the Czech Republic have offered assistance to the developing media in Iraq, ex. Al-mirbad radio and tv in the south of Iraq was established with a grant from the UK department for international development, with the BBC world service trust providing training and infrastructure

needs. The German foreign ministry sponsored telephone fm, a youth program produced in Germany and then broadcast by fm stations in Iraq. The news agency aswat al-Iraq was established with aid from the Reuters foundation and the UNDP; other ngos have had experiences in training Iraqi practitioners in Jordan, while still others are seeking to develop Iraq's cultural, entertainment and film media. These various actors should extend to include Turkmen media.

3. Develop a peace media strategy

Workshops on dialogue facilitation and collaboration for Iraqi media practitioners including all Iraqi competent; training local journalists and students in conflict resolution skills using various media and materials and programming for children that deal with these themes.

Iraq's media now reflects the country's political and religious divisions rather than being a diverse and free media and a means to inform, educate and entertain people and act as an essential instrument of nation-building. The international community has moral and legal responsibilities to take measures and extend support to the Turkmen and other non-ruling communities in Iraq in the media field.

I am proud to be a Turkmen. I didn't choose to be Turkmen; I did choose to be an Iraqi. I wish to live in a country where there are neither women nor men rights, only human rights.

Thank you for listening.



“ ARABIZATION AND KURDIZATION POLICIES IN IRAQ”



THANK YOU MR. CHAIRPERSON,

Honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Mofak Salman Kerkuklu; I am honoured today to have been granted this opportunity to partake in the side event to the 23rd Human Rights Council Session focusing on the situation of Turkmen minority in Iraq.



Mr. Najati Kelenchy,
Iraqi Turkmen Rights Committee
(ITRC)

My objective is to draw your attention to the current situation of Turkmen. The key to understanding why the maintenance of Iraq's territorial integrity is viewed by many as critical is a knowledge of the country's enormous ethnic and religious diversity, the aspirations of these groups, and the problems they face now. One of these ethno- linguistic components is the Turkmen minority, which has made a major effort to define itself both internally and to the world community.

The area where the Turkmen predominantly live is called Turkmeneli which is a diagonal strip of land stretching from Telafer at the North Syrian border in the north of Iraq ending in Mendeli on the Iranian border in central Iraq.

The systematic forcible transfer of the Turkmen populations aimed at changing the demographic nature of northern Iraq is a policy that is commonly referred to as *Arabization* “ta’rib”. The Iraqi government program of resettling Arab families who were brought from southern Iraq to replace and dilute the Turkmen population accomplished this.

The forced and arbitrary transfer of populations is not permissible under international law and is a crime against humanity. Nevertheless the Iraqi government sought to alter the demographic makeup of northern Iraq in order to reduce the political power and presence of Turkmen and consolidate control over this oil-rich region.

The Iraqi Regime's Legalisation of its Ethnic Cleansing Policies, on the 6th September 2001, in an unprecedented move, passed Resolution No.199 giving all Turkmen over 18 the right to change their ethnic identity to that of Arab. Such a decision is contrary to all the principles of human rights and is politically motivated. Its purpose is to compel all non-Arabs in Iraq to adopt an Arab ethnic identity.

For decades, the Iraqi regime has continued to deport tens of thousands of Turkmen families from that part of Turkmeneli to southern Iraq and has confiscated their properties and belongings, including their identity cards. The choice facing these people was deportation or the enforced change of ethnic identity.

This law, which legalises such acts, is in direct violation even of the Iraqi Provisional Constitution of 1970, Article 19/A of which states that all Iraqis are equal, regardless of ethnic language, religion or social class. Furthermore, Article 5/B of that Constitution states that the people of Iraq is composed of two main ethnic groups, Arabs and Kurds, and recognise the rights of the Kurds and other minorities.

However, after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, the Turkmen had high expectations from the interim administration. They expected to see democracy, fairness, an end to human right abuse, an end to discrimination, the right to self-determination and an end to violence. Unfortunately, the opposite has happened and the human rights situation in Iraq, in particular concerning the Iraqi Turkmen has been extremely deteriorated.

The continuation of the persecution and marginalization of the Turkmen is due to the fact that the American administration has allowed the Kurdish militias to extend their occupation beyond the Kurdish autonomous region and had allowed these militia to penetrate, control and rule the Turkmen region and the Turkmen cities, namely Talefer, Kirkuk, Altun Kopru, Tuz Khormatu, Khanaqin Kifri and Erbil.

«For decades, the Iraqi regime has continued to deport tens of thousands of Turkmen families from that part of Turkmeneli to southern Iraq and has confiscated their properties and belongings, including their identity cards. The choice facing these people was deportation or the enforced change of ethnic identity»

On the 10th of April 2003, Kurdish paramilitary occupied the city of Kirkuk and the municipality buildings, government offices, land registry office, military buildings; large hotels and a Turkish historical military barracks were set alight. The looting was a purposeful act meant to remove all official evidence proving Turkmen presence in the Kirkuk. The land deeds for the Turkmen have been taken from the registry office intentionally and this makes it difficult for the Turkmen to establish the original inhabitant of the province. In addition thousand of Turkmen were kidnapped, tortured and executed although the Turkmen families have paid ransom to secure their release. The Kurdish militias are not only marginalizing the Turkmen in Kirkuk and other historically Turkmen cities but that they are also applying all sorts of pressures and threats on the Turkmen in Kirkuk to make them leave their city.

I would like to present what is just the tip of the iceberg in relation to the sectarian violence against the Iraqi Turkmen. A horrific suicide bomb attack took place on the January 23rd of this year at the funeral of a Turkmen civil servant in the Turkmen

district of Tuz Khormatu who himself had been assassinated the previous day just for being a Turkmen.

This attack claimed the life of further 42 Turkmens and wounded another 117 Turkmens. Despite the findings of the Iraqi own high commission of human rights which acknowledges the Turkmens have been subjected to terrorism, bombing, kidnappings and assassinations, neither the federal government of Iraq nor the Kurdish regional government have done enough to provide security and protection to all citizens in general and in particular the Turkmens, because they have been numerously targeted on larger scale.

The Kurdish Paramilitary utilized various methods to marginalize the Turkmens and made several desperate attempts to stop the Turkmens' struggle for their rights in the new Iraq. Amongst these methods were threatening letters, kidnapping and assassinations.

TO ILLUSTRATE THIS POINT, ON 3 JUNE 2005, a prominent Turkmen military brigadier, Mr. *Sabah Bahlul Kara Altun*, was gunned down while he was leaving the *Husamadin Mosque* in *Jamahiriya Street*, Kerkuk after Friday prayers.

Brigadier Sabah Bahlul Kara Altun was a member of the Iraqi Turkmen Front and of the Kerkuk City Council, and a deputy for internal affairs for the Kerkuk Governorate. He was threatened by the Kurdish militia prior to his assassination.

ON SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 2007 Qasim Sari Kahya, the Turkmen writer and journalist, was abducted along with another three Turkmen citizens near the Kerkuk General Hospital by a Kurdish security force known as Asayish.

«The Human right organizations should work closely with the Iraqi government and use all the tools at their disposal to encourage the Iraqi government to provide adequate protection to the Turkmen and other minorities.»

Although several hours later three of the detainees were released, Mr. Qasim was kept for further interrogation. According to the information from the released captives, they were tortured physically, but they had no news about the fate of Mr. Sari Kahya. However, on 28 October 2007 Mr. Qasim Sari Kahya was transferred from the city of Kerkuk to a prison in

the city of Erbil for further investigation. Because of the public, political, and journalistic outrage and due to the public appeal on TV and radio, he was released on 29 October 2007.

ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 2007 MR. HASSAN TURAN, who is currently head of the governing council of Kerkuk, was arrested by the Kurdish Asayish at Erbil airport in northern Iraq following his return from participation in the international conference that was held in Istanbul in Turkey under the name of Kudus and International Conjunction. He was arrested under the pretext that there were irregularities with

his passport and interrogated at the airport by security forces and then badly treated during his ordeal by the Asayish terrorist group.

Mr. Hassan Turin's arrest was a clear message of intimidation to the Turkmen politicians and intellectuals who were struggling to have the same rights as the Kurds in northern Iraq. It was also one of the methods that have been used by the Asayish to scare and intimidate the Turkmen from demanding their political, cultural and economic right in the north of Iraq.

MR. LOKMAN NEJAM AHMED was arrested on 8 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. Mr. Lokman Nejam was working as a deputy of the Iraqi Turkmen Front in the city of Mosul. However, after months following his arrest, his family, with the help of Kurdish friends, has managed to find out that he has been imprisoned in the city of Duhok by the Kurdish authorities.

His family was allowed to visit him once every two months. Mr. Lokman Nejam was 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.

ON 20 OCTOBER 2009, two Turkmen students were kidnapped from the city of Kerkuk. Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Nuradin, the son of well-known ophthalmologists in the city of Kerkuk, and the other, Mr. Jawdat Sunan Alaqafili while they were going to their school in Kerkuk. They were stopped in broad daylight by the kidnappers who used a Nissan pick-up with a military license plate. The kidnappers then abducted the two students. They contacted the family of the hostages by using the mobile phone of the driver who was transporting the two students to their school.

On the Thursday of the 5/11/2009 a team fighting against terrorism managed to free the students from the abductees at a Kurdish farm near Omer Beg in a Sub-district of the Schwann.

Later on, the police managed to kill one of the perpetrators who were later found to be a Kurdish officer in Iraqi army, and arrested one of the officers who held the rank of captain in the Iraqi national army and the two associated with Kurdish officers in the same regiment.

ON THE 18 FEBRUARY 2010 Kurdish secret forces, known as *Asayish*, and the Kurdish militia stormed the house of the Turkmen candidate and member of the Political Reform Movement Amar Hidayat Kahya, and his family was beaten up, insulted and humiliated in their house by the Kurdish *Asayish*.

Kurdish *Asayish* searched the house of Amar Hidayat Kahya and they did not find anything but they ransacked the content of the house and they caused a lot of damage to the property and its content.

However, the Kurdish militia abuses did not stop there but went further by the kidnapping of his younger brother, raising a flag of Kurdistan Alliance on the roof of the house and posting a poster of a Kurdish Coalition candidate for the incoming election on their main door. On the evening of 24th February 2010, unidentified gunmen attacked the house of the candidate of the Iraqi National Coalition Amar Hidayat Kahya in Kirkuk using two unmarked car numbers type Nissan Pickup and Toyota Nissan, grey colour to terrify his family. The attackers fired a spray of bullets on his house after his family provided evidence and a formal complaint against the Kurdish Assayish on his house on 18 February 2010.

ON THE 16TH OF DECEMBER 2012 numerous Turkmen religious properties were blasted by the terrorist organization in Kerkuk and the objective of targeting of Turkmen properties is to displace them from their property and thus to control the oil hub of Kirkuk.

The terrorist targeted the Shiite shrine of Imam Ali and complex radio in the Musala neighborhood in central Kirkuk. This is a civilian area and there are no military and security present in the neighborhood and this was a clear indication for targeting the Turkmen.

Also on the 16th of December 2012, terrorists had targeted Hussein Zahra in the Dur Al_Sikik in the south of Kerkuk, and the Al_Hay Al_Askeri in the middle Taza Khurmatu using eight blasts by a car bomb and five improvised explosive devices and two Katyusha rockets.

I therefore urge you to take Turkmen sufferings and their critical conditions under the Kurdish occupation and domination of Turkmeneli into consideration when elaborating resolutions on the Iraqi people's miseries and tragedy.

Also I would like urge human right organisations to support the emergency adaptation of the minority rights in Iraq, in particularly the Iraqi Turkmen. Literally hundreds of men, women and children are dying each year in attacks targeting the Turkmen community and this tragedy must cease immediately. The Turkmens of Iraq have been targeted deliberately by both Arab and Kurdish groups.

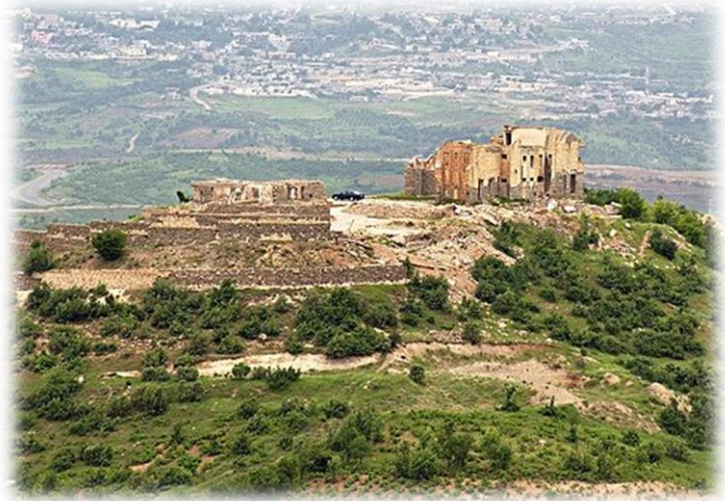
The Human right organizations should work closely with the Iraqi government and use all the tools at their disposal to encourage the Iraqi government to provide adequate protection to the Turkmens and other minorities.



“ CONFISCATION OF LAND AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE OF THE IRAQI TURKMEN TERRITORY”



**MR. CHAIRMAN,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,**



On behalf of the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation, I would like thank the Unrepresented Nations and

Dr. Sheith Jerjis,
**Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research
Foundation**

People Organization for organizing such an important event for the Iraqi Turkmen. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the authorities of the Nonviolent Radical Party who is sponsoring the conference. I would also thank Mrs. Sundus Abbas for her tireless work towards improving the situation of human rights among the Iraqi Turkmen.

Iraq is one of the best examples of a non-democratic, multi-ethnic, nationalistic community. As the Israeli threats strengthened and toughened Arab nationalism, the Kurdish nationalism paralleled the Arabic nationalism. Hence, the exposure of the smaller communities to serious assimilation policies, and sometimes to ethnic cleansing, was unavoidable.

Unfortunately, as the plight of the Iraqi Turkmen has been neglected by the international community, their territories, population size and their exposure to the atrocities remain unknown.

The confiscation of land and the alteration of the regional demography clearly characterize how the Iraqi Turkmen have been subjected to aggressive violations of human rights.

POPULATION

The absence of reliable data about the population size of non-ruling communities (minorities) is well known, moreover, due to the multi-ethnic nature and the nationalistic atmosphere of Iraq, the population of the Iraqi Turkmen has been extremely underestimated to 2% of the general Iraqi population. The large Turkmen regions easily falsify such an Iraqi statistic. The most reliable estimate which can be made for the size of the Iraqi Turkmen today should be more than two million people. The relatively reliable outcomes of the census 1957 which was announced in 1958 presented the population of the Turkmen of Iraq as 567,000, which made 9%, of

the total Iraqi population, while the same census showed that the Kurds constitute 13% of the total Iraqi population.^{1, 2}

GEOGRAPHY

The Turkmen of Iraq live mainly in the north and middle of Iraq. They are found principally in the provinces of Kerkuk, Mosul, Erbil, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Baghdad and Kut. (Map 1) Kerkuk is considered their capital city. Districts, sub-districts and tens of villages in the Kerkuk province are Turkmen. Erbil city was 90% Turkmen in the turn of the latter century. Telafer district is one of the largest regions of Turkmen in the Ninewa province. Other Turkmen regions in Ninewa province are the sub-districts of Iyadhiyya and Mahallabiyya with dozens of villages, for instanc, Qara Qoyunlu, Rashidiyya, Shirikhan and Sallamiyya. They also live inside Mosul city and Sinjar. The heavily inhabited Bayat districts in Salah al-Din province are Turkmen. Tuz Khurmatu district, Bestamli, Amirli and Sulayman Pak are Turkmen region of the Salah al-Din province. Largest Turkmen areas are found in Diyala province, for example, Kifri District, Kara Tepe, Kizil Rabat, Shahraban, Mandali, Kazaniya and Khanaqin. Turkmen speakers still constitute a considerable part of the population of Badra of Al-Kut province. Completely Arabified Turkmen are found in al-Aziziyya and al-Yusifiyya. There are tens of thousands of Turkmen families in the capital Baghdad.³

NATURAL RESOURCES

Geopolitically, the Turkmen regions located between the Arabic and Kurdish regions contain a huge wealth. (Map 1) It is part of the historical and fertile Mesopotamia, an agriculturally productive plain plateau with arable lands.

Turkmen regions store huge oil and gas deposits. The oil of Baba Gurgur in Kerkuk province is measured in billions of barrels. The Ain Zalla oil fields are located in Telafer district and the Naftkhana oil fields in Khanaqin districts. Kerkuk oil constituted about 70% of the Iraqi oil production until the 1970s. One hundred and fifty million cubic feet of gas is flared daily in Kerkuk.

Telafer is located in between the Kurdish regions of Iraq and Syria, which is considered an obstacle to the unification of the Kurdish regions. The Rabi'a border gate is also located in Telafer district. A new gate from Telafer to Turkey will severely diminish the huge incomes which the Kurdish regional government gets from the Khabur Gate. Construction of an irrigation project in the region will allow the income of agricultural crops to equal the region's oil revenues.

The subject of alteration of demography of the Iraqi Turkmen regions is very broad which requires hours to be presented completely. Therefore, I am going to present briefly the changes which were done in the Kerkuk province by both Ba'ath regime and by the Kurdish authorities.

CONFISCATION OF LAND

Baghdad's fear of losing a great source of national economic wealth in Turkmen regions, and the Kurdish need to have the economic source to realize their dream of an independent Kurdistan, were the basis for the systematic assimilation policies, the confiscation of lands and the alteration of the demographics of Turkmen regions by both the Baghdad regime and the Kurdish administration.

Alteration of demography of the Turkmen regions started early after establishment of the Iraqi Kingdom in 1921. Confiscation of lands became one of the major features of the systematic assimilation policies of the Ba'ath regime after 1968 and of the Kurdish authorities after the fall of Ba'ath regime in 2003.

In 1958, large areas of Turkmen lands had been confiscated by the government of Qasim, who issued the Agrarian Reform Law which limited the size of the lands people were permitted to own and confiscated any land which exceeded this allowance. The confiscated Turkmen lands in Erbil and Kerkuk provinces were parceled in to 50 to 100 acres and owned to the Kurdish farmers.

BA'ATH REGIME (1968 - 2003)

KERKUK PROVINCE

After the announcement of the Iraqi kingdom in 1921, the Arab tribes were granted lands and established in al-Hawija district at the western regions of the Kerkuk province. Thereafter, the newcomers were enabled to buy most of the Turkmen lands in that region.^{4, 5}

During this period the confiscation of lands was performed officially by the resolutions of the Revolutionary Command Council, North Affairs Commission, Ministries or the governorate. Two methods were used in this context, the direct and indirect methods.

DIRECT METHOD

The direct method confiscated mainly the agricultural lands, villages and neighborhoods. The public benefit was given as a reason. The owners were paid a ridiculously low prices or nothing. These lands either remained unused, or were granted or rented to the Arab farmers who were mainly brought from the other provinces, particularly from the south of Iraq.

Referring to the importance of the petroleum fields in Kerkuk province, the government confiscated hundreds of acres from the oil company in Kerkuk province and the lands around it. (Annex 1) Two thousands houses of the Kerkuk citadel were confiscated and demolished in 1988.

During the 35 years of Ba'ath regime from 1968 to 2003, the sum of the lands in the Kerkuk province which were confiscated is estimated to be more than half million acres, the majority of which were Turkmen lands. The number of complaint cases

which is presented to the Property Claim Commission in all Iraq is about 145,000 cases, of which 45,000 are in the Kerkuk province, the majority are of the complaints are of the Turkmen people. (Tables 1 - 3, Annexes 2 - 16)

INDIRECT METHOD

This method included the realization of social engineering projects in the Turkmen neighborhoods to demolish as many houses as possible. Wide streets were created in the middle of densely populated Turkmen neighborhoods inside Kerkuk city, which led to demolition of thousands of houses.⁵

KURDISH AUTHORITIES (2003 - UNTIL NOW)

KERKUK PROVINCE

The desires and needs of the Kurdish authorities to seize the wealthy Turkmen regions were not less than those of the Ba'ath regime. Kerkuk province has been exposed to fierce Kurdification policies after the fall of Ba'ath regime in 2003 when the Kurdish parties controlled the Turkmen regions. The land of Turkmen, municipality and government in Kerkuk province were seized by the Kurdish parties, militias and families.

The buildings of the Second Army Corps and Khalid Army center inside Kerkuk city, which is estimated to be about 4,322,500 sqm, are occupied by the Kurdish families and Kurdish Peshmerga militias. Hundreds of luxury houses were built by the Kurdish families inside these two large military complexes. A piece of land in between Musalla and al-Shorja neighborhoods, which is estimated to 305,700 sqm was built upon by the Kurdish families. Another piece of land in the Arasa region which was built by the Kurds was estimated at 165,000 sqm. They occupied about 2000 government houses. The Kurdish militia controlled about 215 government buildings. Hundreds of houses were built on sporadic regions on Turkmen and government lands. Several new neighborhoods constructed in Kerkuk city.⁶ (Table 4, satellite Map 1-5) The surface area of the Kerkuk city increased about 20 sqkm. (Satellite Map No. 5) The building areas of the Kurdish villages and sub-districts of Kerkuk province increased several folds.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Almost all the methods were used for long periods to change the demography of the Turkmen regions by both the Iraqi government before 2003 then by the Kurdish authorities. Changing the administrative boundaries, confiscating the lands, resettling Arabs or Kurds, demolishing Turkmen villages and deporting their inhabitants, correcting the nationality to Arab, and changing the Turkmen names of towns, streets, schools and businesses are but some of the policies enacted by the authorities. This has significantly altered the population distribution and demography of Turkmen regions and exposed the Iraqi Turkmen to serious atrocities.

BA'ATH REGIME (1968 - 2003)

KERKUK PROVINCE

In 1976, the boundaries of Kerkuk province were largely distorted. Turkmen districts of Tuz Khurmatu and Kifri were detached from the province. (Map 2, Annex 24) In 1989, the sub-district of Altun Kopru was attached to Erbil province. (Annex 25)

Whilst the Arabification processes began with the housing of the Arabic tribes in the al-Hawija district of Kerkuk province in the early decades of the foundation of the Iraqi Kingdom, the systematic settlement of the Arabs was started by the Ba'ath regime after 1970. According to the Directorate of citizenship of the Kerkuk governorate on 22 January 2002, the number of the Arabs settled in Kerkuk province by the Ba'ath regime was 363,307. (Annex 16) About 20 new neighbourhoods appeared in Kerkuk city and tens of new villages were built for the newcomer Arabs. (Table 5)

Different methods were used to deport the Turkmen from Kerkuk province. Not appointing and transferring Turkmen staff, (Annex 26) hampering the open of businesses, not allowing the purchase of lands and worsening the municipal services. By a resolution of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) in 1987, several Turkmen villages were demolished in Kerkuk province. (Annex 15) Resolution number 1391 of the RCC decided to deport Turkmen from Kirkuk province to southern provinces. (Annex 27) thereafter, several other resolutions were made in the same context. (Annex 28)

The nationality correction law started in the 1990s, which allowed the Turkmen of Kerkuk to avoid deportation and to remain in possession of their property and land in return of changing their nationality to Arab. (Annex 29) The process of changing the Turkmen names of streets, neighborhoods, businesses and cities to Arabic in Turkmen regions also occurred.⁶ (Annex 30)

KURDISH AUTHORITIES (1968 - 2003)

KERKUK PROVINCE

Immigration of the Kurds into the Turkmen regions for socio-economic reasons continued for more than two centuries, whilst the geopolitical factors directed the aggressive Kurdification of the Turkmen regions, particularly Kerkuk province, since 1950. Over a period of only a several years, the Kurds have changed the demography of the Kerkuk region more than the Ba'ath regime did in thirty five years.

During the Kurdish uprising (1961 - 1991) the Kurdish population increased in the villages and towns in the eastern part of Kerkuk province, and three Kurdish neighborhoods were appeared inside Kerkuk city: Shorja, Iskan and Rahim Awa neighborhoods. On the other side, the Kerkuk massacre of 14 July 1959, led to emigration of hundreds of Turkmen families from Kerkuk.

The systematic Kurdification of Kerkuk province started after the fall of Ba'ath regime in 2003. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds were brought to, and established in, Kerkuk province. Several neighborhoods appeared in Kerkuk city, the population of the Kurdish villages and sub-districts increased several-fold. For example, the population of Kara Injir and Shiwan sub-districts were several thousands and became about 70,000 in the late 2000s.

The population of Kerkuk province was around 870,000 on the day of occupation, but in 2007 it was estimated to be 1,368,860.⁷ Approximately 150,000 Arabs have fled or left the city since that point.

The administration of Kerkuk province, particularly the police and security forces, is seriously Kurdified. The Turkmen names of villages were changed to Kurdish names.

OTHER TURKMEN REGIONS

As in the other provinces, Turkmen regions in the Diyala province suffered from the Kurdification policies. Khanaqin district is known for its important oil production, and the Kurdish authorities have built several residential complexes for the newcomer Kurds. Marsko complex was built for the Iranian Kurds. Three quarters were named Bakhtiyari No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 appeared. Other quarters were constructed in the Imam Abbas region, and around the villages of Kahriz, Argiwazi, Banmil and Malik Shah.

When the Kifri district was seized by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in 1991, tens of Kurdish families were settled in many governmental and Turkmen houses inside the city. After occupation, several new neighborhoods were constructed. For example, a new neighborhood called Imam Mohammed including several hundred of houses appeared. After the fall of the Ba'ath regime Kifri city was rapidly enlarged. The following Kurdish neighborhoods were constructed either on the municipality or Turkmen lands: Obri, Alan, Eighty Houses and Anfal neighborhoods. Tens of acres of lands of Turkmen owners were confiscated without compensation.

After the occupation, the higher administration of Kara Tepe sub-district was completely Kurdified. The police and security forces are controlled by the Kurdish Peshmerga. Several hundreds of Kurdish families have settled in the region.

The Kurdish parties and Peshmergas seized the historical Turkmen district of Tuz Khurmatu after the occupation. As in the Kerkuk city, the administration of the city has been dominated by the Kurds. Tens of thousands of Kurds were resettled in the district and new neighborhoods appeared. Deteriorating security had forced large number of Turkmen families to leave the district. Paying fictional sums of money, the Kurds bought Turkmen houses, complexes and business in the city and dominated the trade and city market.

The Kurdish attempts to occupy the Telafer district after occupation of 2003 failed. Despite non-existence of Kurds in Telafer region and never having been a Kurdish region, the Kurdish authorities include it inside Kurdistan boundaries. The two brutal

attacks on Telafer city, which were stimulated by the Kurdish authorities, deported thousands of the Turkmen families, of which more than one thousand families have still not returned to their homes.

The surface area and the population of the Erbil city have increased more than two-fold. The number of neighborhoods which appeared after 1991 is about 52 neighborhoods, all of which are inhabited by the Kurds. The citadel and the historical Turkmen neighborhoods of Khanaqa, Tajil and Arab, which are located in the heart of the Erbil city and hold the characteristics of Turkmen architecture, have almost been completely evacuated by the Kurdish authorities and are now reflected as Kurdish heritage.

Almost all the Turkmen regions which are controlled by the Kurdish authorities and the Kurdish Peshmerga suffer from:

- Kurdification of the administration, often completely
- Change of the Turkmen names to Kurdish names, for example, villages, schools, bridges and streets
- Assassinations, kidnappings, arbitrary detentions and unemployment forcing a large number of Turkmen families to leave their regions
- Removal of the Turkmen characteristics and launching them as Kurdish heritage

Thank you very much!

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ANNEXES

- | | |
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| Annex 1 | Resolution number 974 issued in 1978 by Revolutionary Command Council |
| Annex 2 | Resolution number 31 issued in 1975 by Revolutionary Command Council |
| Annex 3 | Resolution number 369 issued in 1975 by Revolutionary Command Council |
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| Annex 15 | Demolition of Turkmen villages in 1987 |
| Annex 16 | the number of complaints which were made to the Property Claim Commission in all Iraq and in Kerkuk province, 2007 |
| Annex 17 | Resolution number 1469 issued in 1981 by Revolutionary Command Council |
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| Annex 21 | Resolution number 722 issued in 1978 by Revolutionary Command Council |
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Annex 23	Resolution number 687 issued in 1985 by Revolutionary Command Council
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Annex 25	Resolution number 434 issued in 1989 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 26	Resolution number 9407 issued in 1999 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 27	Resolution number 1391 issued in 1981 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 28	Resolution number 7245 issued in 2000 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 29	Resolution number 199 issued in 2001 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 30	No. 199 issued at 2000 by Kerkuk Governorate
Annex 29	Resolution number 459 issued in 1987 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 30	No. 8/11/812 issued in 1998 by Kerkuk Governorate
Annex 31	Resolution number 409 issued in 1987 by Revolutionary Command Council
Annex 32	No. --- issued at 1998 by Kerkuk Governorate

TABLES

Table 1, the lands were confiscated in Kerkuk province by the resolutions number 369, dated 1975

Dibis Sub-district		Central Kerkuk district and Kara Hassan Sub-district		Yaychi Sub-district	
Name and Piece No.	Acres	Name and Piece No.	Acres	Name and Piece No.	Acres
Kara Dere / 16	6,546	Khasa Tumari 53/54	12,134	Yaychi / 18	400
Maraa / 8	1,072	Khasa Tumari / 64	4,418	Jadida / 14	4,606
Kush Kaya / 10	2,223	Rajibat / 2	2,414	Sharifiya / 13	1,859
Qotan 2/3	2,909	Tarjil / 2	6,278	Hindiya / 22	7,323
Chakmaga / 11	3,864	Tirkeshkan / 4	3,207	Molla Abdullah / 16	1,964
Kara dere / 5	816	Yahyawa / 5	2,603		

		Laylan / 28	10,479		
		Sari Tepe Sagir / 9	2,124		
		Sari Tepe Kabir / 10	2,588		
		Karali / 6	4,568		
		Tukmakli / 8	3,389		
		Yarimca / 11	4,958		
Total	17,430		59,160		16,152
Taze Hurmatu Sub-district			Tuz Hurmatu district		
Name and Piece No.	Acres		Name and Piece No.	Acres	
Shirinca Bulak / 38	365		Shahwan / 4	3,182	
Zindana / 12	7,267		Tuz / 5	11,889	
Matara / 39	3,005		Guksen / 9	3,117	
Yengice / 38	1,073		Khasa Tumari / 10	2,264	
Kilise / 37	699		Ozawa / 240	9,419	
Total	12,409			29,871	
Grand Total			135,022		

* = Acre is 920 m²

Table 2, the lands were confiscated in Daquq district of Kerkuk province by the resolutions number 824, dated 1976

Daquq district		
Name and Piece No.	Region No.	Acres
Shaflah / 55	1/4	1997/15
Dalas Sagir / 48	1/2	3680
Tal Rabiaa / 59	1/2	5577
Sikani and Banshag / 49	3/5	13,850

Musa Koy / 40	3	810
Musa Koy / 40	5/2	3,389
Tal Magar / 44	1/2	5,144
Tal Magar / 44	4/2	289
Jadida / 42	2/2	699
Tawila / 43	2/2	1,490
Yengice / 38	9/2	370
Musa Koy / 40	2/2	281
Musa Koy / 40	4/2	398
Yengice / 38	5/2	245
Total		38,418

Table 3, the lands were confiscated in Dibis and Altun Kopru Sub-districts in Kerkuk province by the resolutions number 949, dated 1977

Daquq district		
Name of region / Region No	Sub-district	Surface area / Acre
Shannaga / 2	Dibis	
Jarad / 7	Dibis	
Kisuma / 8	Dibis	
Tal Hilala / 9	Dibis	
Kazushan / 10	Dibis	
Sarishag / 20	Dibis	
Balkana / 17	Dibis	
Darband Sarlu / 2	Dibis	
Darband Kumi / 21	Dibis	
Mama and Ali al-Gayr / 3	Dibis	
Jastan / 27	Dibis	
Karga Tu / 38	Altun Kopru	

Kuzayi / 42	Altun Kopru	
Total		123,391

Table 4, Estimated Turkmen, municipality and government lands which were appropriated by Kurdish authorities and families after the fall of the Ba'ath regime in the province of Kerkuk

Region / address	Surface area / sqm.
2nd Army Corps Complexes and Khalid Army center	4.322,500
East and North of Musalla Graveyard	305,700
Arasa Region	156,000
Total	4.793.200
Region / address	No. Houses
Houses of Army Corps / al-Hurriyya Airport	154
Officers Houses / Army Corps	63
Officers Houses / Hay al-Wasiti	122
Noncommissioned Officer Houses / Army Corps	204
Army Flats / Army Corps	48
The Houses of Military Bases / al-Hurriyya Airport	54
Houses of Store of foodstuffs	120
Houses facing Sahat al-Tayaran	700
Houses near al-Shamal Garage / Suq al-Hasir	200
Houses / Gas al-Shamal	250
Total	1915
Type of buildings	No. Buildings
Buildings of the Ba'ath party centers	21
Government Buildings	15
Government complexes	12
Shops	215

Total	263
Others houses either seized or built	Houses
Luxury houses of Domis - citadel side	200
Luxury houses of Domis - Korya side	20
In front of al-Amal al-Shaabi	110
Near the mosque Ashra al-Mubashshara and military account headquarters	59
Behind the old industry school in Musalla neighborhoods	60
Seyyid Kizi stadium in Musalla neighborhoods	50
Behind the Festival Stadium	±100
Northern boundary of the city is extended about 10 km	?
Hundreds of houses on both sides of Leylan Road	?
In Hay al-Qadisiyya, Hay al-Askeri Neighborhoods and along both sides of the road (± 5Km) between Shorja and al-Qadaiyya neighborhoods	?

Table 5, the neighborhoods were built inside Kirkuk City for the resettled Arabs during the Ba'ath period

Quarter Name	No houses	Region
Sulphur Houses	1200	Dibis Road
Refinery Houses	500	Dibis Road
Officers Houses	1500	along the military camp
al-Wasiti	±2000	Next to the TV station
al-Ba'ath	±2000	New Tisin
al-Siqaq & al-Ishtrakiyya	700	Near Train Station
al-Garnata	700	Next to al-Idare al-Mahaliye
al-Hajaj	±1000	Along the Kirkuk-Leylan road
al-Uruba	±800	Next to Kasab Hane quarter
Al-Qutayba	±500	
al-Shurta	±500	
al-Shuqaq al-Saqaniyya	±1500	Over the old Seyyid Kizi football stadium
2000 Houses	2000	New Kirkuk
4000 Houses	4000	New Kirkuk
al-Wahda	±500	Kirkuk Karali road
al-Hurriya	±500	Kirkuk Karali road
Dur al-amn	±500	South eastern al-Shorja
al-Andalus	>1000	Entrance from Altun Kopri
al-Qarame	>500	Entrance from Suleymanian
al-Muthanna	>500	Entrance from Yarveli
al-Qadisiyya	>1000	At the other side of Baghdad Road against al-Wasiti neighborhood

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

MR. CHRIS CHAPMAN (UK)

Mr. Chris Chapman is Head of Conflict Prevention at Minority Rights Group International. He manages a research, advocacy and capacity-building programme, which examines the root causes of ethnic and religious conflicts and proposes policy recommendations on the implementation of minority rights as a conflict prevention tool. Mr Chapman has published a number of articles and reports on minority rights, conflict prevention and transitional justice. From 1995-2000 he worked in conflict resolution, human rights monitoring and journalism in Haiti and Guatemala. He has a Master's Degree in Armed Conflict and Crisis Management from the Open University of Catalonia.



MS. SUNDUS ABBAS (UK)

Ms. Sundus Abbas Saqi worked as a director for a London-based advocacy organization for women with a focus on women's rights. Originally from Kerkuk, Iraq, she is very active in the Iraqi Turkmen community and is currently the Iraq Turkmen Front representative to the United Kingdom. She has a Bsc in Civil Engineering degree from Salahaddin University in Iraq, followed by a degree in computer science from Greenwich University, London.

MR. AHMED AL-HURMEZI (SWEDEN)

Originally from Iraq, Mr. Ahmed Al-Hurmezi is an activist in the Iraqi Turkmen Community. With a Master's degree in International Law from Iraq, and another one in European Law from Sweden, Mr. Al-Hurmezi eagerly participates in various legal conferences on international law, media and human rights inside and outside Iraq. He is currently a member of the Iraqi Human Rights organization, adviser in Public Service (Sweden) and the secretary of the Iraqi Turkmen Academic Association. His past experiences



SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

include teaching at Al-Mustansiryha University (Bagdad, Iraq). Mr. Al-Hurmezi is a member of the Iraqi Bar Association and has a certificate of Economic and General Administration.

MR. MOFAK SALMAN (IRELAND)

Mr. Salman was born in the Iraqi Turkmen community of Kerkuk, Iraq. He has a BSc degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Oxford Brookes University and completed an MSc programme in Medical Electronics and Physics at London University, followed by an MSc in Computing Science and Information Technology at South Bank University. Mofak Slaman is the author of various publications in Iraqi Turkmen, including the “Brief History of Iraqi Türkmen”, “Türkmen of Iraq,” “Türkmen city of Tuz Khormatu”, reports into Kurdish Abuse in Türkmeneli, “The forgotten Turkmen in Erbil and Kurdish Obliteration”. Being an activist, Mr. Salman has participated in a number of conferences, meetings with ambassadors and government officials and other events on Iraqi Turkmen in around the world. He was the Turkmeneli Party representative for both of Republic of Ireland and United Kingdom up until 2012.

DR. SHEITH JERJIS (NETHERLANDS)

Born in Kerkuk, on June 1954, Dr. Jerjis completed primary and secondary education in Iraq. He received M.B.Ch.B. degree from the medical college, Mosul University in 1980. Dr, Jerjis was an active member of the Iraqi Turkmen Qardashliq Club (Mosul office), between 1973 and 1980. Between 1993 and 1994, he was member of the Steering Council of the Iraqi Turks cultural and Solidarity Association (Izmir office). Additionally, he served as a secretary of the Iraqi Turkmen Cultural Foundation in The Netherlands, between 1997 and 2000. Dr. Sheith Jerjis’s current affiliations include the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation (SOITM, Netherlands), daily electronic newspaper Turkmen Tribune, and the Iraqi Turkmen delegation to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).



ABOUT UNPO

The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organization. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognized or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.

Although the aspirations of UNPO Members differ greatly, they are all united by one shared condition: they are not adequately represented at major international fora, such as the United Nations. As a consequence, their opportunity to participate on the international stage is significantly limited, as is their ability to access and draw upon the support of the global bodies mandated to defend their rights, protect their environments, and mitigate the effects of conflict.

In a world where over 90 per cent of conflicts are intra-state, the UNPO has been established to fill this gap by providing an international forum through which its Members can become effective participants and contributors to the international community. In an increasingly interdependent world, it is ever more important that those who continue to be denied their rights or remain excluded be given an opportunity to present their cases. The UNPO therefore works to address the consequences of marginalization, working with its Members to promote their democratic causes, to provide information, and to articulate creative and nonviolent strategies for progress. Above all, the UNPO works to ensure that the voices of its members are heard.

Founded in 1991 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the UNPO is unique as an international organization in that it is built entirely by its Members. Through this strong connection to those suffering the consequences of exclusion that the organization seeks to address, the UNPO has since grown into a prominent and respected international organization.

The UNPO's membership has also grown steadily from its original fifteen founders, and now represents almost 50 Members worldwide. The work of the UNPO adapts continually to meet the challenges of its Members and the nature of the international political climate. Members remain committed to respecting the five principles enshrined in the UNPO Covenant: nonviolence, human rights, democracy and self-determination, environmental protection, and tolerance.

The UNPO remains committed to offering an increasing number of nations and peoples an entry point into the international community, enabling its Members to learn from one another, lending support where setbacks are encountered, and sharing successful experiences.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1:

PRESS RELEASE

06 March 2013

<http://www.unpo.org/article/15600>

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Successful UNHRC Side Event attracts the attention of Independent Commissioners for Human Rights and the Adviser to the Prime Minister in Iraq

Geneva, 6 June 2013

UNPO, Minority Rights Group International and the Nonviolent Radical Party brought together scholars, politicians and activists for a side event to the 23rd Human Rights Council Session. The event entitled **"The Forgotten Nation: Turkmen in Iraq"**, held at the United Nations (UN), provided a platform for discussion of the key issues the Iraqi Turkmen population is facing at the moment: land grabbing, media control and extreme human rights violations.

The event was moderated by Antonio Stango of the General Council of the Nonviolent Radical Party. The discussion started with a general introduction to the human rights situation of the Iraqi Turkmen community since 2003 by Ms. Sundus Abbas Saqi, the representative of the Iraqi Turkmen Front. The violations discussed included intimidations of the Iraqi Turkmen, killings, arbitrary detentions, assassinations and kidnappings, as well as the lack of political opportunities despite the inclusion of the Iraqi Turkmen as a community in the Iraqi constitution. The introduction was followed by a call for tolerance and respect of human rights in Iraq by Mr. Chris Chapman, head of conflict prevention at Minority Rights Group International. He went on to discuss security risks and the state's failure to implement human rights to protect the Iraqi Turkmen against discrimination and hate-motivated attacks.

The next speaker, Mr. Ahmed Al Hurmezi, a lawyer and an activist in the Iraqi Turkmen Community, shed light on the issue of the previously state-controlled media in Iraq and its failure to recognize Iraqi Turkmen as a part of a more general Iraqi community. He went on to describe how the liberalization of media has led to increased violence between Sunnis, Shias and Kurds, and how such clashes have become a major focus of international media coverage. Such a situation has affected the Iraqi Turkmen population by occupying the media time with the religious violence religious instead of allocating time for the Turkmen to advocate their cause.

Mr. Mofak Salman, a well-known Iraqi Turkmen writer, was unfortunately unable to attend the event himself. However Mr. Salman managed to forward his speech to Mr. Najati Kelenchy, the representative of Iraqi Turkmen Rights Committee (ITRC), who delivered it in his absence. In his speech Mr. Salman elaborated on the issues of Kurdisation and Arabization policies directed towards the Iraqi Turkmen community. The concluding speaker, Mr. Sheth Jerjis from the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation, focused on the topic of land confiscation, the current inadequate compensation policies, and demographic change in the Iraqi Turkmen region in the north of Iraq.

The side-event was attended by various groups, including Mr. Srur Aswad and Dr. Selama Alkafaji, Independent Commissioners for Human Rights in Iraq, and well as the adviser to the prime minister in Iraq, Shiek Fateh Kashed Algeta, other Iraqi representatives in Geneva and the UN staff.

APPENDIX 2:

FLYER



**THE FORGOTTEN NATION:
Turkmens in Iraq**

June 6 | 2013
11.00-13.00. Room IX
Palais des Nations | Geneva

minority rights group international

UNPO

SPEAKERS

Dr. SHETH JERJIS – Chair of the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation and the editor and web master of the daily electronic newspaper Turkmen Tribune;

Mr. SALMAN MOFAK – the author of “Brief History of Iraqi Türkmen”, “Türkmen of Iraq”, “Türkmen city of Tuz Khomatu” and a report on Kurdish Abuse in Türkmeneli;

Mr. CHRIS CHAPMAN – Head of Conflict Prevention at Minority Rights Group International;

Ms. SUNDUS ABBAS - Iraqi Turkmen Front Representative to the United Kingdom;

Mr. AHMED AL HURMIZI - Iraqi Turkmen Academic association member; Turkmen Aspect website manager.

A representative of the **Nonviolent Radical Party** will moderate the event.

GIVING A VOICE TO THE FORGOTTEN

The event will serve as a platform for raising awareness about the current human rights situation in Iraq and the marginalization of the Iraqi Turkmen as a forgotten nation. The Iraqi Turkmen are the third largest community in the country, yet discrimination and oppression continue to prevail. The 23rd Human Rights Council session, a Human Rights Review is the natural forum to raise the issue and put it on the agenda for further discussion.

Historically prominent administrators and politicians, Turkmen in Iraq have lost access to the political arena and consequently the decisions directly affecting their community. Cultural and land ownership rights were also gradually taken away ever since the British rule, followed by the “Arabization” campaign under Saddam Hussein’s regime. This policy of assimilation followed by massacres directed at the Turkmen community has led to the decay of Turkmen civil society. This event is designed to inform the public of the current Turkmen’s rights predicament in Iraq, and open a discussion about the pressing issues and the importance of recognition.

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APPENDIX 3:

BANNER



APPENDIX 4:

FACT SHEET



Briefing Note

May 2013

The Turkmen Reality in Iraq

Introduction

The Iraqi Turkmen are a community of just under 3 million, predominantly present in the Iraqi provinces of Mosul, Erbil, Kerkuk, Salahaddin and Diyala, Baghdad and Wasit. They represent the third largest ethnic group in Iraq (13% of the population). Kerkuk is considered by the Turkmen as their capital city. This area, within the 'Turkmen' region of Iraq, produces nearly 70% of the Iraqi petroleum and 2.2% of the world's. The Turkmen are primarily politically represented by The Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF).

Historical Background

Originating from Central Asia, the Turkmen are descendants of the Oghuz tribes. Throughout the 1920's both Turkmen and Kurdish minorities resisted British authority and the Hejazi Hashemite monarchy, and as a result the cultural rights of Turkmen communities were gradually eroded. In the 1930's a rapid demographic change produced ethnic tension, and Turkmen communities began to feel the effects of marginalisation. Violence continued to escalate until 1959, when communist and separatist militias massacred Turkmen leaders along with hundreds of Turkmen in the city of Kerkuk. Tensions were later exasperated even further with the establishment of Ba'ath Party rule in 1968. The 1970s were in fact characterised by other breaches of Turkmen human rights such as the 'Arabisation of Kerkuk' in 1971, and by their discrimination through employment opportunities, unfair dismissals, deliberate measures to exacerbate their living conditions, forced displacement and deportation, and interference with right of ownership.² After seizing power in 1979, Saddam Hussein's regime instigated a campaign of intensive "Arabisation", systematically expelling the Turkmen, instead promoting the resettlement of the Arab population. This period of persecution effectively destroyed Turkmen civil society, forcing many of its political institutions underground or into exile abroad.

Unfortunately, despite the regime change in Iraq in 2003, the Turkmen tragedy continues. Many Iraqi Turkmen communities believe that their historical presence and influence has remained marginalised during the process of reconstructing the Iraqi state, and that more has to be done to correct the past injustices they have suffered.



Land Grabbing

The confiscation of land ('land grabbing'), was one of the major features of the assimilation policies of the Ba'ath regime. The village of Beshir, situated South West of Kerkuk, presents a perfect case study of the consequences of such policies. The inhabitants of Beshir were landowners and farmers, whose ancestors had settled in the area several centuries ago. During the Ottoman rule, Beshir's inhabitants officially registered their lands in their names, and were issued official land property certificates, which they renewed in 1921. In the early 1980s, after the start of the Iraq-Iran war, Iraqi security forces arrested and executed hundreds of intellectuals from the village, accusing them of being activists in the outlawed Islamic Da'wa Party. In 1986, while the young men of Beshir were fighting in the war against Iran, their families were given 48 hours to pack their personal effects and leave their homes. Houses were razed to the ground and agricultural lands were confiscated, to be later given to Arabs brought by the Ba'ath regime. Each Arab family was given 10,000 Iraqi Dinars in cash as an incentive to build their house on Turkmen lands, while the Turkmen families received no compensation. Meanwhile the former regime had arabised the name of the village calling it "*Al-Bashir*" instead of Beshir.

In 2003 when the U.S. military occupied northern Iraq, they did not take control of the area around Beshir and the Arabs which had been installed there by the previous regime, remained in the village. The original Turkmen inhabitants of Beshir started to return demanding their lands. U.S. occupation authorities intervened, leading a

² And also suppression and intensive assimilation policies, forced cultural erosion that ranged from political persecution and exile, to terror, massacres and ethnic cleansing. (Large numbers of Turkmen intellectuals were accused of political activities and disappeared after their arrest during the Baathist regime; nothing has been heard of them since.)



Briefing Note

May 2013

controlled “mediation”, however the latter did not settle the property dispute. Nearly a decade has passed since this attempt to mediation, but little has changed since. The original Turkmen families of Beshir who were victims of deportation, in 2005 handed their complaints together with copies of their deeds, going back to Ottoman times, to the Property Claims Commission in order to retrieve their confiscated lands and be compensated for the destruction of their houses and for their loss of earnings since 1986. In spite of property legislation demanding the return of seized lands, there are currently still 41,874 complaints registered with the local Property Claims Commission. Of these complaints, only 3,236 cases have been decided. Since 2005 therefore, approximately only 2.000 out of 45.000 files belonging to Turkmens have been processed.

Security Challenges

It remains challenging to illustrate the extent to which the Turkmen community in Iraq has been exposed to ethnic cleansing for decades without having been attended to by the international community. Permanently lurking fears of explosive power struggles particularly over the control of the ‘powder-keg’ city of Kerkuk, and the deepened sectarian divides after the U.S. invasion only serve to further place the Turkmen in a precarious position. The Tal Afer district of Iraq (Ninevah governorate) was attacked twice by helicopters, tanks and tens of thousands of soldiers in 2004 and a year later, in 2005: 1,350 were left dead and 2,650 were wounded. In December 2007, a suicide bombing in Kerkuk shook its residents and stoked security fears, killing at least 55, and injuring another 120. On 17th of December 2012, the bodies of two abducted teachers were found near the Humera village, located 35km south of Kerkuk, both carrying signs of torture and being burnt alive. In January 2013, a crowded tent full of Turkmen mourners in Tuz Khurmato was transformed into a mass killing ground by a suicide bombing with genocidal intent, that left at least 35 people dead and 117 wounded.

On the 14th of March 2013, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution (welcomed by UNPO) on the plight of minority groups in Iraq, and specifically the Iraqi Turkmen. The resolution states that the European Parliament condemns the recent attacks on the Turkmen community and affirms that ‘despite the reference in the Constitution to the rights of Turkmen and other minorities, these minorities continue to be plagued by ethnic sectarian violence and discrimination’.

Human Rights Concerns

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy aspects characterising Iraq constitutionally, is the fact that to date it possesses no comprehensive minority rights or anti-discrimination law at the level of ordinary legislation. What is furthermore notable about the international standards is that Iraq is not a signatory to the ILO Convention, No. 169 on the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries. The unfortunate consequences of this lack of implementations are evident in the UNAMI report on Human Rights concerns of January to June 2012, which documents a countless number of violations in regards to the Turkmen minority, including the afore mentioned imminent threat to civilian's security, arising from frequent terrorist attacks. Other noteworthy bearings include the mistreatment of Turkmen detainees in Iraqi prisons, the unregulated enforcement of capital punishment, several recorded incidents of children victimised by human rights abuses, and the recurrent disappearances and suspected executions of Turkmen intellectuals and health practitioners.³ Additionally the poor living conditions of the Turkmen population in heavily neglected areas, the challenges faced by the barely surviving Turkmen education in local schools, and the frequent bombing of religious sites (in the last 12 years over 65 churches were destroyed in the region), remain constant sources of a growing preoccupation.

About UNPO

The UNPO is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organisation established in 1991. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and territories who have joined to protect and promote their human rights through nonviolent solutions.

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³ There is evidence that at least 46 Turkmen health practitioners in the province of Kirkuk alone were threatened, kidnapped or killed since April 2003. The accounted number of missing persons in Iraq (which includes Turkmens) between 2003 and 2010 hovers around 137,520. 14 mass graves were recently discovered in the Kerkuk Region.

APPENDIX 5:

PROGRAM HANDOUT - BACK AND FRONT

PROGRAMME

“THE FORGOTTEN NATION: TURKMENSIN IRAQ”

Thursday, June 6, 2013
11.00-13.00 | Room IX

11.00 **Moderator, NRP:** Welcome, introductions

PANEL DISCUSSION:

11.15 **Mr. Chris Chapman:** Security risks for minorities in Iraq and the state's failure to safeguard their rights

11.30 **Ms. Sundus Abbas:** Human Rights situation in Iraq since 2003

11.45 **Mr. Ahmed Al-Hurmezi:** Media and the Iraqi Turkmen Case

12.00 **Mr. Mofak Salman:** Arabization and Kurdization policies in Iraq

12.15 **Dr. Sheith Jerjis:** Confiscation of land and the demographic change of the Iraqi Turkmen territory

12.30 **Q&A, open floor debate**

12.55 **Moderator, NRP:** Closing remarks



**THE FORGOTTEN NATION:
Turkmens in Iraq**

GIVING A VOICE TO THE FORGOTTEN

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SPEAKERS

MR. CHRIS CHAPMAN (UK)

Chris Chapman is Head of Conflict Prevention at Minority Rights Group International. He manages a research, advocacy and capacity-building programme, which examines the root causes of ethnic and religious conflicts and proposes policy recommendations on the implementation of minority rights as a conflict prevention tool. Chris has published a number of articles and reports on minority rights, conflict prevention and transitional justice. From 1995-2000 Chris worked in conflict resolution, human rights monitoring and journalism in Haiti and Guatemala. He has a Master's Degree in Armed Conflict and Crisis Management from the Open University of Catalonia.

MS. SUNDUSABBAS(UK)

Sundus Abbas Saqi worked as a director for a London-based advocacy organization for women with a focus on women's rights. Originally from Kerkuk, Iraq, she is very active in the Iraqi Turkmen community and is currently the Iraq Turkmen Front representative to the United Kingdom. She has a Bsc in Civil Engineering degree from Salahaddin University in Iraq, followed by a degree in computer science from Greenwich University, London.

MR. AHMED AL-HURMEZI (Sweden)

Originally from Iraq, Mr. Ahmed Al-Hurmezi is an activist in the Iraqi Turkmen Community. With a Master's degree in International Law from Iraq, and another one in European Law from Sweden, Mr. Al-Hurmezi eagerly participates in various legal conferences on international law, media and human rights inside and outside Iraq. He is currently a member of the Iraqi Human Rights organization, adviser in Public Service (Sweden) and the secretary of the Iraqi Turkmen Academic Association. His past experiences include teaching at Al-Mustansiriyha University (Bagdad, Iraq). Mr. Al-Hurmezi is a member of the Iraqi Bar Association and has a certificate of Economic and General Administration.

SPEAKERS

MR. MOFAK SALMAN (Ireland)

Mr. Salman was born in the Iraqi Turkmen community of Kerkuk, Iraq. He has a BSc degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Oxford Brookes University and completed an MSc programme in Medical Electronics and Physics at London University, followed by an MSc in Computing Science and Information Technology at South Bank University. Mofak Slaman is the author of various publications in Iraqi Turkmen, including the "Brief History of Iraqi Turkmen", "Turkmen of Iraq," "Turkmen city of Tuz Khormatu", reports into Kurdish Abuse in Turkmeneli, "The forgotten Turkmen in Erbil and Kurdish Obliteration". Being an activist, Mr. Salman has participated a number of conferences, meetings with ambassadors and government officials and other events on Iraqi Turkmen in around the world. He was the Turkmeneli Party representative for both of Republic of Ireland and United Kingdom up until 2012.

DR. SHEITH JERJIS (Netherlands)

Born in Kerkuk, on June 1954, Dr. Jerjis completed primary and secondary education in Iraq. He received M.B.Ch.B. degree from the medical college, Mosul University in 1980. Dr. Jerjis was an active member of the Iraqi Turkmen Qardashliq Club (Mosul office), between 1973 and 1980. Between 1993 and 1994, he was member of the Steering Council of the Iraqi Turks cultural and Solidarity Association (Izmir office). Additionally, he served as a secretary of the Iraqi Turkmen Cultural Foundation in The Netherlands, between 1997 and 2000. Dr. Sheith Jerjis's current affiliations include the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation (SOTIM, Netherlands), daily electronic newspaper Turkmen Tribune, and the Iraqi Turkmen delegation to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).



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