Press Release

Fire damage offence to Turkmeneli bureau in Yahyavali, Kerkuk Iraqí <u>SOITM</u> Turkmen Human Rights Research foundation soitm@turkmen.nl, www.turkmen.nl www.turkmen.nl

> Date: April 22, 2017 No: PR.2-D2217

At the dawn of April 15th 2017, the Yahyava bureau of Turkmeneli party detected as Student and Youth Organization was stormed and set fire into the rooms. The building was completely burned down. Soon at the same day, seven party members were detained by security agents of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and forced to declare that the fire set was accidental and due to electric contact. Their release was conditional upon stop declarations the fact to the media.

Yahyava is a village annexed to Laylan sub-district, a few Km southeast Kerkuk province. Kerkuk is the richest Iraqi petroleum city.

The Kurdish parties dominate almost completely the administration, security and military forces in almost all Kerkuk province.

Lately, various daily events i.e. kidnappings, assassinations and raiding house of the non-Kurdish populations of Kerkuk city have dramatically been increased.

The Turkmeneli party is one of the major parties of the Iraqi Turkmen who refused recently illegal raise of the Kurdish flags on the governmental buildings of the Kerkuk province.

After the fall of Baath regime in 2003, the Kurdish parties pumped more than half million Kurdish civilian to settle down within Kerkuk province to achieve demographical dominance.

We appeal to the international community to intervene to prevent the repeated Kurdish attacks and offences against the non-Kurdish components of Kerkuk province.