

To the kind attention of Mr. Ad Melkert
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)
Green Zone
Baghdad, Iraq

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Subject: Iraq's Turkmen and UNAMI Report (January-June 2009)

Dear Mr. Melkert,

The Human Rights Office of the UNAMI recently issued a report covering violations of human rights during the first six months of 2009. Regrettably, this report does not do justice to the situation facing Turkmen of Iraq, who make up the third largest component of the Iraqi population.

The report makes no note of serious violations of Turkmen human rights in Turkmen regions that took place in the period covered by the report. The report presents Turkmen issues on only two occasions: one is unfavourable and the other is inadequate.

Firstly, it prizes Kurdish authorities for including Turkmen in the quota system – a system that was refused by Turkmen politicians. If Kurdish authorities were to stop suppressing the more than 200,000 Turkmen of Erbil, they would very easily elect their own representatives. Furthermore, the quota system maintains the policies of Kurdish political parties that use Turkmen collaborators. Being a large community, the Turkmen refused to be included in the quota system in the Iraqi laws, too.

Secondly, the report details the gigantic truck-bombing in the Turkmen sub-district of Taza Khurmatu without noting that the Turkmen community were especially targeted by this terrorist act.

Turkmen hoped that the opening of a human rights office of UNAMI in Kerkuk, for which the Turkmen authorities struggled for long time, would monitor and report the violation of human rights in Turkmen regions and inform UNAMI's head office in Baghdad. Whilst the report mentions the killing of a number of Kurds and Arabs, it ignores the many Turkmen who were kidnapped, detained, assassinated and tortured.

The Iraqi Turkmen human rights research foundation considers the approach of UNAMI's human rights office as one promoting a marginalising attitude toward the Turkmen of Iraq. SOITM believes that this report has been researched and compiled in unprofessional and partial manner by staff who have overlooked human rights violations in vast Turkmen regions.

SOITM urges you to request a re-investigation into human rights violations in the Turkmen regions during the first half of this year. Meetings with SOITM representatives of different Turkmen regions and Turkmen politicians from city councils would permit them to present their respective views on the grief human rights situation faced by Turkmen in the period which covered by the UNAMI report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can offer any further information, and I very much look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Sheth Jerjis
Chairman
SOITM Foundation

Attached: SOITM statement on some of human rights violations in Turkmen region at the covered period presented to the OHCHR in Geneva.