

Reconciliation in Iraq Finding Solutions to the Disputes in the North

10 June 2010

10h00 – 14h00

Room ASP 3G2 , European Parliament, Brussels

The north of Iraq continues to face major problems that reflect the country's troubled history, its diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural make-up and the instability that followed the 2003 occupation. These problems cross borders and threaten the stability of the entire region. The solutions to these problems lie in dialogue and understanding.

In this spirit, the conference **'Reconciliation in Iraq: Finding Solutions to the Disputes in the North'** will bring together policymakers representing the communities of Northern Iraq in a discussion of the current situation, what could be expected from the newly elected Iraqi Parliament, and how the international community can help to bridge national and regional differences that will support lasting peace and democratization.

Northern Iraq is home to millions of people living across seven provinces under which there lies enormous mineral wealth. These resources are highly contested between the central and devolved authorities in Baghdad and Erbil.

Discussions will therefore focus on the need to uphold and amend the Iraqi Constitution, in particular those articles relating to the dispute over oil-rich Kerkuk, the marginalization of Iraq's minority communities from access to government services, and election malpractice that disenfranchises those caught in disputes between ruling parties.

Participants will include community representatives from local and central government, human rights activists, Members of the European Parliament, and regional commentators with an in-depth experience of Iraq.

Note to Editors:

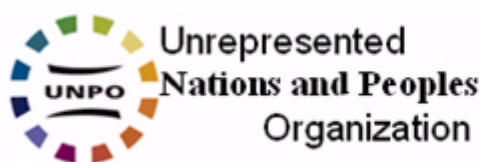
It is also with great sadness that the conference organizers learn of the assassination of Mr. Bashar Mohammed Hamed on 24 May 2010. Mr. Hamed was due to attend the conference as the elected representative of Mosul to the Iraqi Parliament. Our sympathies go out to Mr. Hamed's family at this time.

The conference is the third in a series organized by SOITM and UNPO in the European Parliament since 2007. Both organizations have been supporting the rights of minorities in Iraq with regular events and activities. The UNPO has also conducted two election observation missions to the minority community areas of Northern Iraq in 2009.

For media queries and registration please contact:

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Note: For registration, please include your full name, date of birth, and place of residence



With support from the  Turkmen Rights Association of Kerkuk