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United Nations on Human Rights Sub-
 commission on the Promotion &
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AGENDA Item 3b

Dear Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Iraqi population is composed mainly of three ethno-linguistic components: Arabs (64%), Kurds (20%) and Turkmen (15%), plus some other minorities i.e. Kildo-Assyrian & Yazeeds (1%)(1-2). Turkmen have been living in the present Iraq for 14 centuries (3-5). According to the numerical definition of minorities, the Turkmen who represent over 3 millions out of 20 millions cannot therefore be considered a minority. However, we are categorized as minority while we should be a main ethnic component of the Iraqi nation.

Since the establishment of the state of Iraq in 1921, the Turkmen have never revolted, nor launched any armed struggle and have always sought their rights through peaceful, democratic and legal procedures and indigenously lived with other two ethno-linguistic groups. However, the Turkmen have continuously been subjected to inhumane repressions and their constitutional rights systematically been denied by the successive Iraqi governments and our civil rights are ignored, and most recently by the present interim Iraqi government. Ignoring our civil rights lead to gradually dropping our existence, as a nation from the constitution.

After so long suffer from Saddam's regime, all Iraqis, particularly, Iraqi Turkmen welcomed the USA and allied invasion to Iraq to change the dictatorial regime to the democracy. However, the USA administration had over-supported their local allies, the Kurds by providing them with a countless support as if they are retaliating from Turkey for its negative role prior invasion Iraq in April 2003. We unfortunately are being picked up by the USA to pay Turkey's bill without mercy.

Such an unlimited USA support to their local Kurd allies had lead Kurds to misuse their power and dominate on both central government and regional levels. Our Turkmen lands have been unlawfully occupied by half million Kurdish being brought from other Kurdish provinces and neighboring countries i.e. Syria, Turkey, and Iran and from Northern Iraq who have never seen or been in Kerkuk in their whole life nor can speak local Turkmen language, never mind preventing the Turkmen to speak their own language (5). The Kurdish leaderships claim these families were displaced from the Turkmen lands during Saddam's regime whereas they failed to prove their allegations. **We strongly believe that Kerkuk and the other Turkmen lands have been given to Kurds by the USA as a gift for their role as an ally to the USA.** The land registration office in Kerkuk was looted by Kurds in order to remove any trace of Turkmen ownerships of their own lands. The Kurdification procedure was soon implemented by the Kurdish leadership after toppling **Saddam** down in April 2003 up to date. They have appointed a Kurdish mayor (governor) who in turn appointed a Kurdish police chief who has done so many damages towards changing the demography of Turkmen regions (6). Turkmen are suffering a great deal of suppressions by the Kurdish leadership and their militia and by the present

Kurdish national policy towards assimilating us on daily basis. They unlawfully faked Iraqi election in January 2005 both inside and outside Iraq and abused the results in front of IOM eyes. I myself witnessed these irregularities and my life was being threatened within "Wembley stadium" in London when I complained about these irregularities. My complaint was not looked into it by the senior IOM officer I am afraid. The Kurds prevented the IOM authorities to raise the Iraqi flag in order to insult the whole Iraqi nation and instead they raised their unrecognized flag. Most recently, the offices of the Turkmen Front in Arbeel City have been raided and their contents were looted and damaged by a gang leader called "**Abdulkadir Bazirgan**" who is an allied to Mr **Barzani**. Yet, the Kurdish attempts are not stopped to glue the Kerkuk city to what is called Kurdistan as a capital and to divide Iraq into two small parts.

Turkmen leaders and activists have regularly been singled out and assassinated within Kerkuk and other Turkmen lands which are under control of Kurdish militia i.e. assassination of *Mr. Hussain Mali and Mr. Mehdi Bayatly* on 31st January 2004, and *Mr. Kamal Yaychili, Mr. Yashar Gengiz, Mr. Kupurly* in the year 2004 who were killed in suspicious car accidents. What is worst, no legal action against the new rulers or against the new Kurdish occupiers has yet been carried out nor is the justice to chase up the assassins done (7-9).

We the Iraqi Turkmen, unfortunately, have been and still are classified as a non-existing ethnic nation and that as if Iraq is composed only of two nations i.e. Arabs and Kurds.

The above are a few out of many serious inhumane offences being committed against the Turkmen civil rights and we are so concerned of further offences and violation to the Turkmen in the future if the present situation continues as it is. Accordingly, the Articles 1, 2 and 27 of the International Convention on the Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) have always been breached via the above inhumane action.

In any free and democratic country all the ethnic groups should be given representation, commensurate with their proportion in whole population, both in the central government and in the parliament, however, this is no the case in present Iraq.

These offences confirm that the Iraqi Turkmen human rights have chronically been marginalized, and degraded down to minority and discriminated against by several successive Iraqi rulers including the present interim.

We are anticipating a great influence of the WGM within the UN to play its influenced and efficient role to take on board our case which will absolutely be deteriorating otherwise.

We, in the **ITRAC** do strongly believe that the mission of the USA will still be incomplete if it continues ignoring the Turkmen issue from the Iraqi agenda, and if it continues its unlimited supports to Kurdish allies. The real democracy will only be meaningful when every national component obtains its rights within its own country.

Recommendations

We suggest to the UN respectful working bodies, to the USA administration and to the interim Iraqi administration the followings:

- 1). to investigate the above threats, assassinations and offences being committed to Turkmen people and their lands under the Kurdish control.

- 2). to disarm the Kurdish militia who control the Kerkuk city and other Turkmen regions.
- 3). to stop the forceful changing the demography of the Turkmen regions and to stop the Kurdish aggression against Turkmen. The city of Kerkuk should also be evicted from the 500,000 immigrant Kurds too.
- 4). to have our rights be recognized in the new Iraqi constitution; and finally.
- 5). to have a fair Turkmen representatives in the Iraqi Government and the parliament to reflect our real ration within Iraqi.

Reference:

- 1). **Kardaslik (1999)**, "Human Rights Violation against Turkmen", 3: 81- 85.
- 2). **Faruk Abdulrahman (2004)** "TV interview in ANN" 2nd March 2004.
- 3). **Hassan Ozmen (2002)** "The Turkmen of Iraqi and human rights". Ankara, Turkey.
- 4). **Aziz Samanchi (1999)** "Al-Tarikh Al-Syasi le Turkmen Al-Iraq"
- 5). <http://members.lycos.nl/soitum/criminalsP.pdf>.
- 6). <http://mmebers.lycos.nl/soitum/USA-madeKCP.pdf>
- 7). Annex of list of Turkmen leaders being assassinated since April 2003.
- 8). **Kerkukli, M.S.** (2004) "Brief history of Iraqi Turkmen", Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
- 9). several pictures and article could well be presented as a witness against the above offences.

30th May 2005