



Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Organizations Assembly - Europe

No.: F2 - 2/Tr/05
Date: 15.06.2005

Meeting between the Turkmen members in the province council, Mrs. Ann Bodain, American consulate representative in Kerkuk and a representative of the Arab

Written by: Turkmeneli Party
Translated by: Mohammed A. KELENCHY, Member of the Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights
Organizations Assembly - Europe

In the name of God, the most Gracious, the most Compassionate

Place / presidency secretaryship of the province council of Kirkuk
Time / Date 7 / 6 / 2005

The people present from both parties

1. Mr. Hasan Turan - the chair
2. Ali Mahdi
3. Mrs. Jala Naftachi
4. Professor Majeed Izzat
5. Mr. Kasim al-Bayati
6. Mrs Turkan Shukur

Also was present Mr. Mohamed Khalil - member of the Arab group in the council

From the American side:

1. Mrs Ann Bodain - representative of the American consulate in Kirkuk
2. Mrs. Mik White - representative of the American consulate
3. Mrs Johanna - the American Consulate

At the beginning of the meeting welcome greetings and introductions were exchanged and the professor Hasan Turan opened the meeting by declaring: we welcome everyone and in particular Mrs. Mik White for her presence for the first time, for visiting us in our council and we hope that this visit will be beneficial in order to constitute the government of Kirkuk. Mr. Ali Mahdi has come to discuss the various conditions with supporting documents, the role of the Arab Turkmen groups and their desire to create the government of Kirkuk and helping the people of Kirkuk who voted as they have not benefited from the elections outcomes held on 30 January 2005.

Mr. Ali Mehdi intervened by saying:

After welcoming Mrs. Mik White ..he said: we will briefly explain the conditions of Kirkuk and our opinions regarding the following subjects and we have achieved in two years ...The federation and the transgressions on the properties, the security situation and the police dossier.

We have a memorandum on February 2004 which was handed to Paul Breimer; the summary of its contents is as follows:

- The federation that will benefit Kirkuk is the administrative federation only as anything else will cause a civil war and allows the neighbouring countries to interfere.
- The exiled. There is an invasion of the Kurds, in great numbers, from the provinces of the north and neighbouring countries particularly prior to the elections and we are for the return of the real exiled to Kirkuk as we consider this issue as a Humanitarian issue but we are against any political refugees coming to Kirkuk under the pretext of extradition and in the name of American democracy and Human rights. The town of Kirkuk has been "kurdanised" which was "arabised" by the fallen former regime in the time of Saddam. It was the beginning of the incline towards the advantage of the Kurds during the constitution of the council of the province of Kirkuk as 5 illegal members were added to the other members by the then American commander which caused a disruption and total leadership was given to the Bashmarka in Kirkuk whereas the allied forces have decided to nominate 14 general directors on the basis of the equal distribution of the departments to the nationalities however it was decided to nominate 12 directors for the Kurds, one for the Turkmen and one for the Arabs. These general directors nominated Kurds in big numbers who came from outside Kirkuk and with the help of the allied forces and before their eyes, police, the Press, the television and the secret services were under their control, and this is confirmed by an official document that we will provide for you after the meeting. He went on saying:-

On 3/1/2004, we asked Mr. Paul Breimer to demilitarise all the parties and the subsequent departments and various headquarters with different names, and review the police system and return the militias who came during the liberation, and later under the pretext of being exiled to Kirkuk. we highlighted and raised these issues during every occasion but until now the allied forces have not yet taken any measures or came up with any solutions. As within the security committee within the previous council of the province and its members (5) from the represented nationalities, Sheikh Wasfi and the intervenient Ali Mahdi and Mr. Razkar and Ali AL Salihi on 23/5/2004, the committee has taken the decision to remove all the transgressions of the properties, institutions, lands, governmental buildings by those coming from the north and check the identities of the police members (official and unofficial and confirm their documents) and today a year after we are still waiting for the application of all these decisions and Mrs Bodain has requested the numbers and was interrupted by Mr. Ali saying that those issues and documents were given to Mrs Imskay and amongst them were the nominations. all these offences were the subject of the report of the American IRI Organisation to confirm the situation of administrative and financial corruption of the provinces of Iraq and the ranking of Kirkuk second in the final evaluation..

Mrs Bodain added that she met the head of the IRI recently. Mr. Ali continued by saying: the report generalising the provinces was drawn up by a governmental ministry. On 16/5/2004, we mentioned in another document all the transgressions committed against the properties and lands by the force of weapons, and the operations of demolition of the

houses and Turkmen parties headquarters which are still carried out to this day, and the subject of the unfair nominations in the departments are still going on and the attention of the consulate and the authorities was brought up on this and we have not received a reply yet.

After the constitution of the new council through elections, and as we are aware they were not just because the American administration (the allied authority) has added to the old council 5 members and has added recently before the elections 150 thousand emigrants who participated in the elections in Kirkuk and as accredited voters without identity documents and this happened following the meeting of Armitage, John Kiri and the English and American embassies with Massoud Albarazani and Jalal Talabani, as it emerged before, the results were for the advantage of the Kurds. A memorandum was presented on 17/5/2005 on that the erroneous introductions will only generate erroneous results and this is what happened within the council of the province of Kirkuk and after the announcement of the results and the meeting of the council, the dialogue opened between the winning lists. Starting from 8/3/2005 a consultative meeting was held with the different fraternal parties of Kirkuk and they promised us the post of deputy governor for the Turkmen and a president of the council for the Arabs and our requests were registered officially and present the memorandum containing our requests with mention of the post of the assistant for the AldoAshureen sect. We receive the reply on 17/3/2005 from the representative of the party (Ali Alsalihi) the democrat the American way by saying (we refuse your requests categorically) and we will meet with the leading parties in the north to constitute the government of Kirkuk from the fraternal of Kirkuk no later than 19/3/2005 but the constitution of the government has not happened until this day and we are still waiting.

On 8/5/2005, the winning parties met (members of the new council) with Mrs. Ann Bodain, the American consular who registered the situation and we do stick to our initial requests but unfortunately no measures were taken and we issued as a result of this a statement on 29/5/05 and we clarified that the constitution should take place if they want as a second chance on 2/6/2005 and a copy of the statement was given to the consulate to explain that the government of Kirkuk does not relate to the north nor what is known as Kurdistan because the meeting of the Kurdistan parliament held on 4/6/2005 bore this statement and we are nice to everyone. they are burdens we have to carry for our country and again we are nice with everyone but not with the biased American policy. If we take you to a government department in Kirkuk, you will find that Human Rights are not at all respected even using one's mother tongue is not allowed as a result of fear and injustice, people are subjected to. Saddam has oppressed us for 35 years with a special gradual programme but the current oppression happens with violence and in front the American democracy and military forces. this is what I wanted to clarify to the lady. We do not enter any meetings before the election, a year and a half have gone by, projects and businesses took place and decisions were taken without our knowledge or our realistic involvement.

Mrs. Ann Bodain said that there was no Iraqi government in the past and you represent your people now.

Mr. Ali:- why were they not interested in constituting the government in the past, and they want us now to participate in the conference for the development of the town and

we understand the American policy towards the Kurds and this does not advantage us but benefits them as they move forward thanks to their support. They do not see how vulnerable the Turkmen people are, we have established empires and their vestiges are evident in history; it is possible to tolerate hunger and thirst but we do not bear being hostages of the Americans, being the most powerful force in the world, or any national power. The Turkmen people and myself are honoured to die with dignity and respect instead of being a hostage in the hands (?) who came from the north and I think that this point of view is shared by the Arabs and the role of Mr. Mohamed Khalil emerged from the Arabs. Declaring: as Mr. Ali Lamjamal said and his opinion is similar to ours, and there are the subject of the meeting of today on the development of the civilians and the decisions emanating from the development corporation are wrong and illegal and they tried to shuffle the cards to give legitimacy and validity to the projects. A letter came from D. Barham Salah on the management of affairs related to the governor and his deputy and not on issuing crucial decisions for Kirkuk and without consulting the council and the governor discusses with (Houri) only, this is dictatorship itself and the document is available.

They forgot that a decision was taken by the association that cancelled all the decisions of the Alawi government. and the authority of the deputy is illegal because he joined (the membership of the current national association with the position of the deputy governor). Mr. Ali intervened by saying any decision taken from the governor are not made without the agreement of the council of the province (development organization) this is what was mentioned in the administration act of the Iraqi temporary State. the governor has issued five decisions details of which are documented. Also there is no official or legal committee in the province of Kirkuk. I am in the construction committee and until now I do not have any information on what is going on in this committee and you can check all the documents.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

I do not want to stall your interventions and I thank you for your honesty in raising the issues and problems.

Mrs. Ann Bodain added that the American government says that the destiny of Kirkuk should be decided by the people of Iraq and there should not be a violation of human rights and we insist on writing the constitution and a participation and a fair representation with the agreement of the Iraqi people. the situation is very complex and I understand that the higher level is even more complex. I have not been able to give a clear number of the people living in Kirkuk.

Mr. Ali :-

It was the Americans who complicated the situation.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

I think it was the Baath party which complicated the situation.

Mr. Hasan Turan:-

Leave the biasing to a certain party and care about human rights in this town and all the problems will be resolved. Total favouritism is the source of the current complex situation.

Mr. Majeed Dundan:-

I think that the next constitution will be to the temporary act of the state's administration which responds to articles and decisions we do not approve of and the people have not taken part in its drawing up and we feel that the allied forces have forced the parties and composed the constitution as they pleased.

Mrs. Ann Bodain

But it has been signed by the council.

Mr. Majeed:-

The Turkmen and other groups have not participated in the drawing up of the mentioned law but there are restrictions on not changing its articles easily.

Mrs Turkan:-

What is your view on what we have discussed?

Mrs. Ann Bodain

I would like to come back to the subject of human rights brought up by Ali Mahdi.. the Arab brothers understand that there are offences against them after the 35 years of oppression they have inherited against all in the North and the South. You have to present solutions for these problems as the feeling of anger has been generated by the former regime which has complicated the situation. We started with the appeals organization and the article (58); people did not like that we are present to study any problem and find a solution for it, and regarding the detainees we found solutions and we are continuing releasing some of them and stop arresting. We have to find a dialogue between the nationalities in Kirkuk on a higher level and I am prepared to receive the leaders and groups to come to an agreement and we hope that this will be through the council..

Work is hard as the tyrant oppressed his people for 35 years. It is necessary to start the dialogue with all the parties as well on the article 58.

Mr. Hasan:-

We are not saying that we are able to solve the problems which have accumulated over (35 years) but there is an administrative rule that states that solving problems by other problems complicates the situation even further. We can not after 20 years solve the problem of Kirkuk. The problem with Saddam was not recognising the others and marginalising their role and their exclusion and now with the same mentality the other party dominates the situation now and more than before.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

The easiest approach is to find a dialogue between the parties and listen to everyone.

Mr. Hasan:-

How do you want to open a dialogue that wants to execute its program with force?

Mr. Mohamed Khalil:-

To clarify the paragraph about the brotherhood candidates of Kirkuk want to recognise that Kirkuk is part of Kurdistan and should be returned to it. The members represented by the candidates are under the hegemony of the big parties warn and everyone has to

work without arguments.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

I suggest sending a letter of invitation to everyone to attend a meeting of discussions and dialogue.

Mr. Mohamed Khalil:-

The other parties in the list do not act single-handedly.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

There is also more than one Turkmen party.

Mr. Mohamed Khalil:-

The Turkmen parties are able to meet and agree on a viewpoint whereas the Kurdish parties do not agree on a viewpoint and they did they would come to take part in the dialogue.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

Do you agree on the meeting for discussion?

Mr. Mohamed:-

We will make the first move but this should happen after 5 months, this is what we are hoping to achieve.

Mr. Ali:-

We are holding discussions with everybody but we are not with those who want to control the city by force.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

With this spirit we want to continue working in Iraq and we need to study every little thing.

Mr. Mohamed:-

The committee was stillborn and I think that it was cancelled as part of Alawi's decisions.

Mr. Hasan:-

The man is not accepted by the people of Kirkuk and we want a committee formed by all the parties in Kirkuk because it is their cause and they are the most aware of the details of the problem.

Mrs. Jala:-

We request Mrs. Ann Bodain to hold a meeting with the candidates of Kirkuk Botherhood and in particular the ninth members outside the main parties.

Mrs Turkan:-

The Governor, the General and the Police Chief Constable and most of the highly ranked in the police are from the same ethnic group and we are afraid that a slaughter frenzy might happen in Kirkuk as it did on the 14 August 1958 killings, we can't just sit

and wait for this to happen to our children, and will you then come to help us in case it happens.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

No slaughter can occur and our forces outnumbering four thousands American soldiers are present on Kirkuk soil.

Mrs Turkan:-

What's the guarantee. as you always like to link most of the events after occurring to internal affairs.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

It is important to respect and work by the rules.

Mr. Majeed:-

You mention dialogue , though the earth was shaken and still is because of the word "must" mistakenly used in our initial statement requesting the distribution of the seats and this mistake is still mentioned with great anger as if we were expert in Arabic grammar and they have replied that Kirkuk's candidates is a big list and such should not be said to us, how do you want dialogue when they were not able to cope with the use of one word.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

We want to meet with the other parties represented in Kirkuk.

Mr. Mohamed:-

We asked you to lift control over Kirkuk (two days were enough) and then you come back and find the original inhabitant only, which will satisfy you.

Mr. Ali:-

Mrs. Ann Bodain what do you have to say for the Turkman TV.

Mrs. Ann Bodain:-

Sorry I am short of time and I have an other commitment.

The interview is finished now in the same way the other interviews finished hoping that this last interview will be beneficial for the political cause and may everyone attain their rights.