

Why the Turkmen should have an armed Militia?

By Salman Mofak

A key to understanding why the maintenance of Iraq's territorial integrity is viewed by many as critical is a knowledge of the country's enormous ethnic and religious diversity, the aspirations of these groups, and the problems they face now. One of these ethnolinguistic components is the Turkmen minority, which has made a major effort to define itself both internally and to the world community.

Over the centuries, Turkmen played a constructive role in Iraq, either by defending the country against foreign invaders or bringing civilization. Their great monuments, architectural remains and cultural wealth exist all over Iraq.

They lived in harmony with all ethnic groups around them. They administered the people with justice and tolerance.

After the invasion of Iraq, the Turkmen had high expectations of the interim administration established after April 9, 2003. They expected to see democracy, fairness, and an end to discrimination, the right to self-determination and an end to violence. Unfortunately, the opposite has occurred regarding the human rights situation in Iraq, in particular concerning the Iraqi Turkmen. The Turkmen began to experience a different situation. Branded unjustly as loyal to Turkey, they were removed from the administration, pushed into isolation and ignored. Then, the changing of the demography of Northern Iraq violated their fundamental human rights in culture and education.

- The number of Kurds brought by both the Kurdish Parties into the Turkmen City of Kirkuk after the occupation of Iraq has reached triple the number of Arabs brought in by Saddam Hussein within 35 years. The Kurds are building houses on empty lands in slum areas with funds provided by the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of \$5,000 each.
- The Turkmen and Arabs men have been transferred secretly and in violation of Iraqi law to prisons in the Kurdish controlled cities of Irbil and Sulymaniyah, sometimes with the knowledge of U.S. forces.
- Changing the demography of the Turkmeneli in general and especially Kerkuk City transferred over 300 thousand Kurds from North Iraq to Kerkuk, forgery of 86 for the last election.
- Transfer's of teacher and Kurds reclaiming prized territory in Northern Iraq, the names of many streets, buildings, schools and villages have been changed from Arabic to Kurdish.
- Many Turkmen members and Shi'aa politicians who were against the Kurds have been assassinated in North of Iraq since the new government was established and these were conducted by police officials in uniform.
- Kurds from other provinces, such as Iran, Turkey, Syria and north of Iraq, are flocking to Kirkuk city with the help of both the Kurdish parties and have been squatting in the governmental and the high-ranking Ba'ath party members' houses that have been deserted also the squatters have been given original Iraqi identity cards, passport and registered identity showing them as residents of Kirkuk.
- The Turkmen martyrs' names on the commemorating panel in Altunkoperi were vandalised by the Kurdish paramilitary militia by spraying paint on it on the 1st of March, 2005, the implemented action carried out by the paramilitary militia was designed in order to terrorise and provoke the Turkmen population, and this clearly shows the hostility and the hatred of the Kurdish Paramilitary militia

towards the Turkmen of Iraq. These acts reminded the Turkmen of the suffering of the Jews at the hands of the Germans.

- The municipality buildings, government offices, military buildings, big hotels and historical military barracks in the city (now used as a museum, it was built in the Ottoman era) were set alight by Kurdish Paramilitary in addition to Turkmen shops and houses, including the land registry office.
- The looting was a purposeful act meant to remove all official evidence proving the Turkmen presence in Kirkuk, the land deeds for the Turkmen have been taken from the registry office intentionally and this makes it difficult for the Turkmen to establish the original inhabitant of the province.
- The Kurdish Paramilitary has brought their own Kurdish committee members to run Kirkuk. These were brought from outside of Kirkuk City (i.e., Erbil and Suleymaniya, which is under Kurdish control).
- They have appointed an illegal governor for the town. Moreover, Kurdish Paramilitary from outside of Kirkuk city are telling Arab families living in their former homes for more than a decade that they must leave or be removed permanently. This is a very dangerous move and would lead to instability and civil war.
- Preventing Turkmen's language from being used by the illegitimate Kurdish governor. In order to suppress the Turkmen voice in northern Iraq, the Kurdish militias have established several cartoon Turkmen parties to serve their own purpose. Financial Support to the Kurds to Move to Kirkuk. Kurdish parties have been encouraging and offering financial support to all Kurdish families from outside Kirkuk to move to Kirkuk.
- After the occupation of Kirkuk by the U.S. forces, the Kurdish militia flocked to Kirkuk, destroying and looting everything. One of the atrocities committed by the Kurdish militia was the raid of the Kirkuk TV station and Destruction of the Turkmen National Heritage, the main entrance of all government offices, Kurdish Paramilitary is being used as personal security in order to cause provocation from the Turkmen Citizen's, monitoring the Turkmen and the Arab Employees, and Intimidation on the Border, The Kurdish Paramilitary has appointed a secret agent, called an 'Asayish', at each government office. They are used to spy on the activities of employee's, to provoke the Turkmen and Arab employees, to monitor their activities and to impose Kurdish parties' ideas.
- Transfer of the Kurds to Kirkuk. In order to change the demography of Kirkuk, the Kurdish parties are using a new policy to control all the positions in the governmental offices. Kurdish parties had successfully transferred a large number of employees and police officer from the north of Iraq, to be appointed in Kirkuk.
- British Special Forces have been training the Kurdish militia in Erbil on the military compact, providing military advice on combating terrorism. Israeli Training of the Kurdish Commandoes in Iraq and the Israeli presence is widely known in the U.S. intelligence community and members of Israel's 'Mossad' secret service are among the agents working in Iraq, some posing as businessmen. One of Israel's main objectives is to increase Kurdish military strength to balance that of the Shiite militia.
- During the fall of Kirkuk City, anti-Arab slogans appeared on Arab homes. The Arab and Turkmen residents in some neighborhoods of Kirkuk were forced by the Kurdish armed gangs to leave their homes.
- Kurdish militia has attacked the newly established Shifa hospital that is located adjacent to the Kirkuk mosque on the night of March 24, 2004. The Shifa hospital was established with the help of a Turkmen charity called the Turkmeneli Foundation. The main objective of this hospital is to provide free medical services for all Iraqi communities.

- The attempted assassination of the member of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, Mr. Ali Mahdi, on the 2nd June, 2000, in the city of Kirkuk, showed the desperation of the Kurdish Paramilitary to marginalise the Turkmen.
- A prominent Turkmen military brigadier Mr. Sabah Bahlul Kara Altun was a member of the Iraqi Turkmen Front and also a member of the Kirkuk City Council, a deputy for the internal affair for Kerkuk Governate. He was assassinated on the 3rd June 2005 while he was leaving the Husamadin Mosque at the Jumhuriya Street in Kerkuk. He was gunned down while leaving a mosque in Kirkuk, after Friday prayers. The perpetrators escaped using a getaway car.
- On Tuesday, 31st August 2004, the general director of education, Dr. Ibrahim Ismail, an ethnic Turkmen, was shot several times in the head by Kurdish attackers who sprayed his vehicle with gunfire. Dr. Ibrahim Ismail was an active member of the Iraqi Turkmen Front. He was one of the organizers that staged organised protests condemning what The Iraqi Turkmen Front describe as attempts by the city's Kurdish community to seize Turkmen and Arab land, and to distribute them to the Kurdish people. He was strongly opposed to the Kurdish language to being used as an official.
- On the 22nd June 2005 a Turkmen party chief Mr. Saad al-Din Arkaj's has escaped an assassination attempt in Kerkuk when a car bomb exploded in the path of Saad al-Din Arkaj's convoy in the city of Kirkuk, wounding four guards, but he escaped and this was reported by the police Colonel Adil Zain al-Abidin in Kerkuk.
- The police and security units, forces led by Kurdish political parties and backed by the U.S. military, have abducted hundreds of Turkmen and Arabs and spirited them to prisons in Kurdish-held northern Iraq. Retired Israeli soldiers have been training Kurdish militias (Peshmerga) in northern Iraq. Several of these selected Israeli soldiers have gone to the region to pursue activities under name of businessman, agriculture expert and engineer. These people enter the region with Israeli passports via Turkey.

The two main Kurdish parties in North of Iraq have implemented adaptation for the new Iraq and are attempting to demographically change it. In order for the survival of the Turkmen nation, The Iraqi Turkmen Front, Turkmen Parties and Turkmen Civil Organisation have to expedite in taking final decision in implementation of the following: -

Establish a Turkmen Militia as matter of urgency

The Turkmen nation is entitled to have the same political, economic and cultural rights as Arabs and Kurds in Iraq. The Kurds and Arabs have been granted their own militia, thus the Turkmen should not be denied this right or - since they live side by side autonomy should be granted jointly to Kurds and Turkmen.

In a free and democratic Iraq all ethnic groups should be given a true representation, commensurate with their proportion in the population, in the central government and parliament and this is not happening but unfortunately armed Kurdish militia are terrorizing the Turkmen population and are imposing their racist strategies on the Turkmen people. Therefore, the only option and hope left for the Turkmen to protect their identity from being eliminated and assimilated is having their own **Turkmen Militia** as soon as possible and the later shall be utilised as a counter measure to the other Kurdish militias whom are terrorizing the Turkmen nation.

The Turkmen of Iraq do not see any obstacle from having such an active militia in north of Iraq and to be positioned adjacent to 5000 PKK Kurdish terrorists whom have been living in north of Iraq and being supported and equipped by both Kurdish parties.

As the matter of fact the only political organisation in the world that has not got a military wing is ITF "Iraqi Turkmen Front". Thus the Turkmen nation are calling upon the ITF to establish this militia as soon as possible and the ITF fail in doing so, the ITF will face the responsibility of the elimination of the three million Turkmen.

Establish Turkmen Security Directorate

Establishing a Turkmen Secret Service is extremely necessary for the protection and the survival of the 3 million Turkmen in Iraq. As the matter of fact, the success of any organisation in the world is completely depended on its secret service organisation. It is utterly unacceptable to see that a large number of the Iraqi Turkmen politicians, intellectuals and members of parties were assassinated by the Kurdish militia and all the assassinated were in large numbers and no single Kurdish militia members have been arrested, although the only militia is allowed to carry weapon in North of Iraq is the Kurdish militia.

Therefore Turkmen nation urgently needs to establish the Secret Service Directorate. The main object of this organisation would be to gather and to provide information about the perpetrator whom are terrorizing the Turkmen nation and punish them without impunity.

The Arab and Kurdish militia has both established an organisation named Bader and Asayish respectively, thus the Turkmen nation is also entitled to have the same. As a matter of fact every political organisation in the world has got a Secret Service Directorate except the Iraqi Turkmen Front. Since the absence of law and security the seeds of Turkmen Security Directorate should be planted sooner in order to serve and to protect the Turkmen nation from being eliminated. The Turkmen should learn from the history behind any powerful country is an organised and well-established Security Directorate

Establish a Turkmen National Intelligent Organization

It is unfair to see the Arabs and Kurds having their own National Intelligent Organization whereas as the Turkmen are totally denied from having such organization. The Turkmen of Iraq strongly believes that it is totally and utterly unacceptable from being denied from such an organisation.

I strongly believe in that the freedom and right of nation are not given but are gained by an armed struggle. However, after the toppling the Saddam Hussein regime, the absence of security and stability, the appearance of lawless, and the rule of the gun. The Turkmen of Iraq will require the establishment of Turkmen National Intelligent Organization as matter of urgency in their agenda. The Turkmen National Intelligent organisation would be an important factor and essential tool for the Turkmen of Iraq to obtain their political, cultural and economical right. As the matter of fact the Turkmen without such organisation is like a growing plant without supplied water.

Establish a Turkmen International Advocate Organisation

The Turkmen of Iraq needs to establish an international committee that would consist of a number of lawyers and human rights activists. Their main objective would be to advocate the right of the Turkmen people and bring those individuals whom carried out atrocities against the Turkmen nation to justice or to bring them to the international court.

Moreover, Turkmen International Advocate Organisation objective would be bring the perpetrators that carried out atrocities against of the Turkmen during the Saddam Hussein regime and the atrocities were carried out by the Massud Barzani party, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in 1996 to the justice.

Moreover to bring the Kurdish perpetrator whom opened a fire on unarmed Turkmen demonstrators in both of Kerkuk and Tuzkhormatu in year 2003.

Demand Telafer and Tuzkhormatu to be officially recognised as two new Governates in Iraq

It is extremely important for the Turkmen Iraqi to demand Telafer and Tuzkhormatu to be officially recognised as two new Governates in Iraq and officially establish its border. The Turkmen nation should establish the border of the Turkmeneli and the three Governate Kerkuk, Tuzkhormatu, Telafer and its capital is Kerkuk and its border commenced from Telafer in the Northwest to the Mendeli in the Southeast.

The Kurds have managed to bring hundred of thousands of Kurds from outside to Kirkuk before the election to show that they are overwhelming majority in Kirkuk and force the established government under the occupation to have referendum in the year 2007, the date of the referendum was cleverly calculated to make sure that both Kurdish parties have enough time to transfer an adequate number of Kurds to the city of kerkuk. The Kurdish plan is very obvious to win the referendum and annexed Kirkuk city to autonomous region which is currently under Kurdish control and then the Kurds are ready and prepared to declare the independent. It is very obvious for the Kurds, a Kurdish State without oil is like human without air.

The Kurds sooner or later would declare their independence, so it is very vital for the Turkmen nation to be prepared for the worse scenario. Therefore the Turkmen would have a sufficient right to oppose to any plan that might be used by the Kurds for confiscating and occupying the Turkmen land and also the Turkmen nation would has the legitimate right to declare their independence in parallel too.

The intentions of Kurdish parties and their atrocities against the Turkmen nation have proven to eliminate the other non-Kurdish ethnics in North of Iraq. Therefore, the Turkmen should work extremely hard for the implementation of the above request as matter of urgency

I call upon all Turkmen institutions and organizations in the homeland and abroad to work together in appealing to the Turkmen people to ask Turkmen to say YES to the Turkmen militia unless the new constitution is amended to guarantee the rights, unity and the identity of the Turkmen.