



AN

URGENT APPEAL

OUR GREAT AND ANCIENT NATION
OUGHT NOT BE DESTROYED

December 20th, 2023.

In 2005, a conference was held to give the minorities of Iraq, including us Assyrians, autonomy and self-determination. The project was proposed in line with Iraq's 2005 Constitution, which gives minorities the right to autonomy or self-administration in sub-units of territory (Chapter 1; Sections 5, 112, 115 and 116). This was forgotten due to the instability within Iraq at the time.

In 2014, there were rumors that christians will see more freedom in Iraq, and so, Assyrian parties sought to get a chance at autonomy within the region. Unfortunately, when ISIS took the Nineveh Plains, our Assyrian population declined greatly and such efforts towards autonomy were thus forgotten.

In 2016, the idea of Assyrian autonomy in Iraq was reintroduced to the Iraqi parliament, and in 2017, foreign governments and entities along with domestic political parties in Iraq (Assyrian and non-Assyrian) proposed an autonomous region for Assyrians in the Nineveh Plains. However, it was boycotted and blocked by the Sunni Arabs of Mosul, only to be forgotten like every other proposal before it.

In 2023, the Athra Alliance was formed in anticipation of the Iraqi provincial elections which were held only a few days ago. In these elections, it was critical to our beloved Assyrian nation that the candidate under the Athra Alliance list in Nineveh, Ma'rib Imad Elias Hanno, won the christian quota seat in Nineveh. However the christian seat was stolen from us, and bought by the Babylon Movement under Hashd. This valiant effort, yet ultimate failure, to secure and build up the Nineveh Plains into a fully developed governorate, in accordance with Iraqi Constitutional Article 119, will soon be forgotten.

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It has been proven, time and time again, that the political approach to our Assyrian question in Iraq is insoluble. It has been admitted multiple times, by Zowaa itself among others, that the elections in Iraq are plagued with shortcomings that uniquely affect the “christian component” which represents us. In the deceitful and snake-like political world, the only trustworthy and absolute principle that exists is the principle of rational egoism; that you can trust your opposition to serve their own interests first and above all.

It is due time that our national parties, that seek to serve our interests in Iraq, reevaluate their political strategies at the behest of the future of our existence. This urgent appeal towards our politicians is in fact a desperate plea for an end to this insanity that paralyzes our nation:

It is clear that Baghdad will never greenlight an autonomous Assyrian region.

It is clear that Erbil will never cooperate for an autonomous Assyrian region.

It is clear that Tehran will never aid our fight for an autonomous Assyrian region

It is clear that non-Assyrians put their non-Assyrian interests first above our own.

The idea of leveraging your enemies against one another for your benefit is only practical in an environment that you aren't universally hated in and trampled on.

Erbil does not ultimately want a federal Iraq, it truly seeks greater authority for its own regional government. Baghdad won't ultimately desire a buffer zone between Erbil and itself, it truly seeks a unitary Iraq to secure its own interests in a heavily volatile and contested region of the world.

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Your Assyrian nation is dying, your people are being displaced, your morale is being lost, and if there isn't a change of course you will no longer have a nation to live for. It's not uncommon for those of us in the homeland to feel abandoned and uncared for by our diaspora. In the diaspora, it's not uncommon for those of us who do care to feel frustrated and disheartened by these humiliating failures.

It's time to put an end to this ceaseless posturing in Iraq and to march forwards towards your scattered Assyrian nation. It's time to centralize your mighty nation. With a centralized international diaspora, united under a renewed collective ethos, it will be possible to harness the untold power of our nation for an Assyrian future, which is preferable to these current attempts of harnessing the powers of your enemies who work against you.

Assyrian blood is gold, every individual Assyrian is invaluable to our movement. If you truly want to serve the interests of the Assyrian people, you will want success. Failures have gotten us nowhere but closer to death, to achieve success for your nation you will need to utilize the entirety of the limited yet courageous Assyrian international population no matter how scattered or divided we may seem.

The Athra Alliance shows that Assyrians of different political backgrounds are willing to work together and unify for the sake of a secured future in our homeland. Assyrians are ready to unify and fight for Assyria, it is up to you to enable them. The Assyrian international has been waiting on you to centralize and organize it. Will you do your patriotic duty and permit your international diaspora to fight in the political theater for your people?

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A CALL TO ACTION

For the convenience of the reader, below is a simplistic yet pragmatic approach towards the status of statehood for our Assyria. It demonstrates an effort to transfer political powers from our churches to our people via a world congress, which would serve as the diplomatic arm of the Assyrian people.

1. Internationalize Gishru, targeting the international youth for birthright trips.
2. Integrate SeyfoCenter into Gishru.
3. Establish a diaspora outreach program under Zowaa.
4. Further internationalize Zowaa (ADM Rostov, ADM Paris).
5. Establish an international council for Zowaa's international branches.
6. Invest in local initiatives to integrate Assyrian organizations into Zowaa.
7. Grant local organizations the ability to present in the international council.
8. Under the international council, establish an annual world congress program.
9. Enforce the resolutions of the world congresses via the international council, which would ensure collaboration on the local level of each specific branch.
10. The heart of this international network must lay in the intent of creating an Assyrian State, thus an office of continuous improvement must be established to ensure annual world congress resolutions are in compliance with this intent.

Khaya Ashur.