



Date: 1st May 2017

Shlama al lokhon

Peace be with you.

Thank you, Madam Chair, for allowing me to speak.

I'll deliver this statement on behalf Mr Ashur Eskrya Head of Assyrian Aid Society in Iraq.

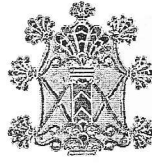
Assyrians indigenous peoples living in their homeland Iraq and Middle East are indeed in support to remain and to continue their way of life where the Assyrian language, culture and national identity will continue indefinite. This has proved to be extremely difficult in that, the Indigenous Peoples has faced genocide perpetrated by Daesh (ISIS) invasion in Mosul, and Nineveh plain hence; the migration out of Iraq has escalated escaping the atrocities, discriminations, lack of opportunities and basic human rights as indigenous peoples of Iraq.

After six months of liberation of Nineveh plain region Assyrian Christian are unable to return to their homes and properties as reconstructions process doesn't suffice the return of the indigenous peoples. Meanwhile, Nineveh plain region has been divided on the ground in two parts, north part mostly leaded by KRGs forces and south side controlled by Iraqi forces; this is causing instability and uncertainty to the future for the indigenous peoples.

Today, there are less than 300,000 Assyrian Christian people living in Iraq with hundred and thousands of Assyrian family units have been uprooted from their homeland and separated in different parts of the world, this is truly a crime against humanity and this has been the way of life for Assyrians over the last 100 years.

The following are our demands.

- 1: Neutralizing Nineveh Plain region from the political tensions between Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan regional government, by allowing the right of self-determination within Iraqis constitution.
- 2: Reduce the mass migration by creating jobs in Nineveh plain, and allocate special budget from ministry of migration for the return of indigenous people to their homes.



3: Support by funding the preservation and protection of the Assyrian historical sites and increase funding for teaching Assyrian language at all levels.

4: Remove radicalism and extremism material for Curriculum in education system, and adopting the culture of “accepting the others” policies between all ethnic and religious groups.

5: Establish a high commission committee to include government’s agencies from Baghdad and Erbil to research a study and recommend solutions for all the confiscated land grabs from the indigenous peoples in Iraq during different times.

Thank you for your attention