

The Latest Events in Northern Iraq: Thoughts and Looking Forward  
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The Kurdish Regional Government in northern Iraq (KRG) finally announced its new united government today (Sunday), which unified the Arbil and Sulaimaniya separate governments of Barazani and Talabani. The Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM) for the first time since 1992 was excluded from joining the government. In 1992, the ADM and other Assyrian groups participated in the elections in northern Iraq. The ADM won four of the five seats assigned to the Assyrians Christians (ChaldoAssyrians) in northern Iraq (the fifth seat was manipulated by the KDP and Barazani to get its puppets in). Those elections became the status quo until the fall of Saddam and the new Iraqi national elections took place in 2005.

Today, we are witnessing a turning point in northern Iraq future as it is becoming obvious that the Kurds are on their way to establish their own state after many preparations since 1992 as the USA and its allies created the NO-Fly-Zone. The KRG is working towards usurping the last strong Assyrian stand, i.e. Nineveh Plain. This will be accomplished in the next year-planned referendum in northern Iraq. With all the money that the Kurds are pouring in the Assyrian regions and with the support of the churches, the plan seems to be almost guaranteed. Any previous influence or power of the Assyrian political groups in northern Iraq seems to be almost neutralized. The influence of the KRG is reaching the Kurds inside Syria and the final hurdle is the Yezidis of Sinjar and the Turkomans of Tella'far of northwestern Iraq. With similar policy applied on the Assyrians, the support of Yezidis and certain important factions of the Turkomans have been gained.

Few thoughts to consider before we proceed: If the ADM was a Kurdistan party that was working for the Kurds and Kurdish state, as few claim, why was the ADM excluded from participating in the latest very inclusive and crucial northern Iraqi regional government? We ask this question considering that the ADM is still the most popular and supported party by our people (the 2005 elections proved it). Wasn't it not in the best interest of the Kurds to have a popular Assyrian party in government rather than individuals who represent themselves only (Mr. Sargis Aghajan for Finance Ministry and Mr. George Mansour for the Regional Ministry) or the representative of the Assyrian Patriotic Party (APP), Mr. Nimrod Baito Youkhanna for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquity. Of course, Mr. Nimrod's APP party is not supported by our people, is very small and insignificant, and most importantly failed to gain any votes in any elections.

Doesn't this prove that the ADM was not working for the Kurdish goals, although it cooperated with the Kurdish parties as partners, each working for its own people's interests? Doesn't this prove that now that when it really counts, the Kurdish parties could no longer allow the ADM to get more powerful so it was necessary to marginalize it by bringing those three Kurdish puppets in government?

Now to the more important questions:

1. What does the future holds for the Assyrians of the Nineveh Plain with all the money that the KRG is pouring into the region (from the Iraq Reconstruction Funds of course by distributed by the KRG) and considering the economic conditions of Assyrians there?
2. If the Iraqi Constitution stresses a federal system as one of its articles, how should Assyrians push this federal system to their benefit?
3. If this is not working because of the Kurdish political parties involvement and interferences, is it time to rekindle the Assyrians' ever dream "Assyria Parliament in Exile".

Please weight these crucial moments and circumstances and express your opinion with your favorite group and demand actions. Lets for once do the right thing and save Assyria before it is too late. Now is the time when the situation is unsettled to get things done. It would be much harder to change things when they settle and become another reality.