

## **Kurdish Governor of Dohuk Denies the ADM Permission to Demonstrate**

By Fred Aprim

On October 1, 2008, and according to a statement by the ADM - Dohuk branch, the governor of Dohuk refused to grant the ADM permission to hold a demonstration in central Dohuk. The ADM planned the demonstration in Dohuk in reaction to the Iraqi parliament vote to remove article 50 from the Iraqi Provincial Elections Law. However, the governor later granted permission to the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Council of Ankawa of Sargis Aghajan, which is promoted and initiated by the Kurds, to hold a similar demonstration.

Initially, the governor's office rejected the original September 29, 2008 date requested officially by the ADM to hold the demonstration. The office of the governor stated that September 29 coincided with the Muslim Day of 'Arafat, therefore, it was not appropriate to hold a demonstration on that day and suggested to hold the demonstration on Thursday, October 2, 2008. The ADM agreed. Two days later, the governor's office contacted ADM's officials and informed them that another group (referring to Aghajan's Ankawa Council) was holding a demonstration at the same date and place, and that this other group's request to hold its demonstration was submitted one week before the request of the ADM. How could that be? The ADM submitted the request to hold a demonstration on September 29. If Aghajan's Ankawa Council applied for a demonstration request a week before the ADM, then that would mean that the Ankawa Council submitted its request on September 22. However, we know that the Iraqi Provincial Elections Law passed on September 24, 2008. Was the Ankawa Council aware two days before the voting in Iraqi Parliament that article 50 was going to be removed? If so, who did that? Does this mean that the Kurds knew about the planned removal of article 50 ahead of time and informed Aghajan and his council?

The governor's office returned and asked the ADM to hold the demonstration a different day than October 2. The ADM protested and decided to cancel the planned demonstration.