

## Fantasy or Reality: The Assyrian national Movement

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I do not think that being Assyrian could be manifested through raising slogans, reciting poetry, or singing national songs alone, although they are part of the efforts Assyrians and their organizations must undertake. The Assyrian national movement is a large colorful painting in which several factors beside the above must be fulfilled in order to have Assyria on the world map.

We rely on an organized body of dedicated Assyrians who create organizations to lead us in order to achieve our national objectives. Some of the people involved in the national affairs seem to think that they are participating in some popularity contest. Others simply like sheer power and fame; thus they gather few hooligans around them and act as nationalists. They carry their expensive brief cases with them around when all it contains are blank papers, photocopies of some articles they print from the Internet, a beautiful pen, and their lunch. Such organization set up local meetings or call for conferences, they issue very impressive declarations, and do a lot of talking. They travel to New York and Washington, take photos of themselves in front of government buildings and return to impress the poor people with the color photos they have taken. In 20 and 30 years of existence, a legitimate organization must be able to present some worthy and serious accomplishments besides the shiny and impressive titles and photos. Without discrimination, I would like to see what each Assyrian organization in the Diaspora had accomplished for the Assyrians as a whole!

Few of the pillars of a successful organization are having a strong, solid, and broad foundation, a vision, an agenda, a defined strategy to reach the ultimate goals set forth, and above all a record of accomplishment. Serious organizations that have been in existence for decades must after all this time show how they were successful in attracting people to be part of their ranks. An organization that has been operating for thirty years and has only 100 members is a failure lets face it; it must dissolve itself if those leading it had a drop of pride. Being unable to attract members and supporters is a reflection of lack of trust towards those running such organization and towards its working ethics. As if this is not embarrassing enough for them, they turn their malice behavior towards other organizations that have proven worthy through their accomplishments and try to discredit, smear, attack, and undermine them.

Consider family (A) that began to have financial problems due to lay offs and weak job market. Consider also that the unemployment benefits were not enough to cover the family's expenses. Now, imagine October 15 approaching, and the parents knew that they were not going to make the mortgage payment in time; it will be weird if they simply did nothing. Now, if the 15<sup>th</sup> passed already, and October 30 was nearing, they could be considered at default, and such default might appear on their credit report. If they still did nothing, it would be simply very strange. If they continued showing irresponsibility to make mortgage payments, they might lose their home on the third month. In a regular circumstance, this could be considered as a devastating thing for a family. They have to come up with a solution in order to save their home. The husband and wife cannot sit idle and expect some miracle out of nowhere to solve their problem. They cannot sit and be stubborn about who should sell the luxury items they have, the husband's BMW or the wife's jewelry. Any observer will consider the parents immature and irresponsible for acting as such since they might lose both the BMW and the jewelry after all.

Now consider family (B) in the same circumstances. The parents had realized that they would not be able to make the payment on October 15; however, they sat and reached a mutual agreement on what to sell first in order to make the payments. How would the observer evaluate the latter parents? Well, parents (B) did something to buy time and save their credit first and perhaps their home by giving up on certain things that might be important but cannot be as important as their home.

Certain insignificant Assyrian organizations that have no base at all are observing the very critical situation in Iraq today; still, they demand things that are simply out of reach in the present time. Achieving certain goals for Assyrians cannot be accomplished through dreams alone. The ADM has decided to seek unity between the various elements of the Syriac-speaking Christians in Iraq at this time. In a political step, the

ADM while living the unpredictable dangers in Iraq has adopted a compound title to unite the one million or so Syriac-speaking Christians in Iraq. In doing so, the ADM is buying time and keeping the brothers and sisters together, rather than separated and weak while fighting many fronts in a society that does not wish Syriac-speaking Christians well. Why cannot we give those who are risking their lives the time they need to organize and save the Assyrian home? We are Assyrians and nothing is going to change that. If organizations (N), (U), and (P) feel that ADM's strategy and path is incorrect, why not provide the alternative solution? Why not provide their solution and describe the ways and means to accomplish that alternative? An organization that tries to boost itself solely through attacking other organization is not worthy of our time. I need to remind the reader that those who work make mistakes unlike those oh perfect ones who take no risks in doing anything; they cannot make mistakes because they do nothing.

It seems that some people have hard time comprehending English or they simply forget quickly. I invite such people to read the last article I wrote in regards to the name issue and where I stood. I say to those people; read that article first, the link is provided below; read it carefully then come back and talk about where Fred Aprim stands and where Fred Aprim must be. I have decided long ago to ignore losers and anybody who associate with losers. We cannot learn from blind followers; we need to look for leaders who understand and who make decisions by looking at the bigger picture. In today's world, we cannot pretend that we are in isolation; Iraq is not Greenland with much space to dance freely. We need to find the right formula to solve our dilemma. Demanding Assyrian national rights on private TV while sitting in Chicago, Sydney, or Modesto is easy; anybody who knows the ABC can do it. Attacking Mr. Yonadam Kanna, Secretary General of the ADM, is attacking the ADM as a whole, and since the ADM the choice of the majority of the Assyrians in Iraq, attacking Mr. Kanna therefore is attacking the Assyrians of Iraq. Attacking Mr. Kanna will ultimately undermine the position of Assyrians in Iraq. A Kurd, who knows that Mr. Kanna is being attacked by his own people, is less inclined to abide by any demands by Mr. Kanna. This is not patriotism; this is

<http://www.atour.com/government/docs/20030611a.html>