

Oh Assyria, look What Your Own are Doing

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I read with both amusement and disgust the piece of Nenif Matran Hariri, aka Nenif d' Matran, in Zinda magazine issue dated October 8, 2005. It is not surprising to see the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) directing its agents in Northern Iraq to demoralize the Assyrians worldwide and ridicule their activities. Nenif's praise of the Kurds is not that strange, since he is employed by the KDP as the advisor for Christian affairs. I just cannot understand how people could come out with such audacity to praise the KDP knowing that Barzani's armed militias were killing their own Kurdish people who supported the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and terrorizing other Kurdish leaders in Northern Iraq in order to gain sole supremacy in the region less than 15 years ago. Additionally, Nenif praises the KDP even when it has not taken any steps to incriminate those who committed crimes against Assyrians in Northern Iraq. The KDP and Kurds worked against Assyrians inside the constitutional committee deliberations during the writing of the Iraqi constitution and in the past elections. Nevertheless, what could we expect from someone who arrogantly dresses like a Kurd, as his photo reflected, and pretends to be defending Assyrians.

What do we expect from a Kurdish employee who undermines the population of his own people and puts it at a mere 1.1% of Iraqi population? What do we expect from Nenif d' Matran who flatly lies when he claims that not even a single penny has reached the Assyrians in Iraq since 1991? Nenif blames the Assyrian politicians in the Diaspora for not visiting their lands; however, he does not point to the fact that the head of the Assyrian Church of the East, Patriarch Mar Dinkha, for whatever reason, has chosen not to travel to Iraq to be with his people. Nenif then ridicules the low turnout of the Diaspora Assyrians in the January 30, 2004 Iraqi elections. I agree with him here. I say to my fellow Assyrians, why do we allow a Kurdish employee to slap us in the face this way. Why not prove to such people who we are and what we really are made of, and come out and vote in greater numbers in the December 2005 elections.

Nenif claims that the Assyrians, as a minority, forgot that they needed to make friends with the Kurds; however, he ignored to mention that the Kurds are a minority as well when put next to their fellow Iraqi Arabs and that the Kurds needed to make friends with the Arabs instead of fighting with them for 40 years. Then Nenif puts the blame for the Assyrians' failures on their inability to unite under one national name; however, he fails to refer to the fact that the empowered Kurds, the KDP in particular, have been instrumental in promoting division among the various Assyrian denominations by using their agents, who are very familiar to Nenif. Last but not least, Assyrians are well aware of the oppression, harassment, rape, abduction, and murder of Assyrians by the Kurds with the blessing of the KDP, especially in the last 14 years and since the creation of the No-Fly-Zone. All this and Mr. Hariri praises the Kurds.

Few people criticize Zinda for publishing such material; however, I see it differently. Such posts, in fact, are good to publish because they expose those who are writing them. Now we see clearly what such people stand for. It is time that we care a bit; care and get involved for heaven's sake, and be part of the affairs of this small nation.

While Nenif d' Matran enjoy his comfortable office and position in Arbil near Barzani, he must understand that he is fooling nobody about what he stands for and what he represents.