

Nenif Matran Hariri and His Never Ending Kurdish Propaganda

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An interview with Nenif Matran Hariri, the Christian Advisor to the Politburo of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Masoud Barazani, published in the October 10, 2006 issue of The Kurdish Globe was brought to our attention lately. In that interview, Nenif continues to mislead the readers and spreads misconceptions, being the Kurdish propagandist that he is. The interview has some significant, as I will explain later.

Assyrians (also known as Nestorians, Chaldeans, Jacobites, and ChaldoAssyrians) understand who Nenif Hariri is and what he represents. What amazes me is how Nenif has the audacity to be so public about his questionable involvement in the political life of our people and how he indirectly declares his imprudent priorities as a servant of the Kurds and Kurdish plans in northern Iraq.

Nenif declares publicly that he supports handing the last Assyrian stronghold in northern Iraq, i.e., the Nineveh Plains, as a gift to the Kurds on a golden platter and he lies foolishly about how Kurdish leadership treats the Assyrians, not as a Christian group, but as an ethnic group in northern Iraq. Nenif states, quote: "The [Kurdistan] constitution refers to Christians living in their dominated areas of the Plain of Nineveh—west of Kurdistan Region—as part of Kurdistan itself, granting them their minority rights." End quote.

Nenif knows well that the northern Iraq Kurdish constitution does not recognize the national and ethnic rights of the Assyrian people. He understands very well that many of Kurdish writers and politicians, including Diayako Xarib, Fadhil Mirani, Mehrdad Izady and others that are officials or advisors in the Kurdish northern Iraq cabinet question the Assyrians' rights as indigenous people of the region. Many Kurdish nationalists and politicians refer to the Assyrians as Christian Kurds. Therefore, the Kurdish leadership and Pan-Kurds would be very happy to show their generosity to Christians in any way they could, but would undermine the Assyrians' national aspiration and question. This is the same exact policy practiced by Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, Nenif Hariri understands that the only reason why the Kurds are playing the tunes of democracy these days is because the world is watching and they need the assistance and support of the West. The Kurds will play this game of the good guardians until they establish the elusive Kurdistan, a political and national region that never existed in history. What would happen to the Assyrians after that illusive Kurdish region is created? What guarantees do Assyrians have? We should learn lessons from our past experiences. The Late Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun pleaded with the Western powers and the League of Nations not to terminate the British mandate over Iraq and not admit Iraq into the League (planned for 1932) before receiving guarantees for the future security of the Assyrians. Such guarantees were not given. The League of Nations terminated its mandate over Iraq and Iraq became a sovereign state and a member in the League. Only months later, around 3,000 Assyrians were brutally massacred in August 1933 in northern Iraq by the Iraqi army led by Kurdish Bakir Sidqi and hundreds of Assyrian homes and villages were looted by Kurds and some Arab tribes. Assyrian villages, one after another, have been taken over by Kurds ever since.

Then Nenif Hariri states, quote: "I don't want to see Nineveh Plain an independent autonomy, nor do I want to see it being a part of the central [Iraqi] government." End quote.

Who is Nenif Hariri to decide for the Assyrian people of the Nineveh Plain? What is more significant here is this statement explains the reason why Iraqi Minister Fawzi Hariri, who was appointed by the KDP and Barazani to his Iraqi position, was directed to visit Congresswoman Anna Esho's office in Washington D.C. on January 17, 2007. We know that the congresswoman was planning to submit a resolution to U.S. Congress for the establishment of the Nineveh Plains administrative Area for the Assyrian (ChaldoAssyrian) Christians of Iraq and that the administrative region was to be linked to the Iraqi central government. Now, I hope that the significant of the interview is apparent to the readers. Minister Hariri asked from, or suggested to, the Congresswoman the same things Nenif has suggested or demanded in his interview. Remember, the visit of Minister Hariri came three months after the interview of Nenif. The two

Hariri Kurdish officials, Fawzi and Nenif, are on the same wavelength. Surprised? Not really, because the KDP policy is clear and everyone who works for the KDP must follow its central policy.

Nenif Hariri continues with his autocratic and foolish demands and states, quote: "The first thing is to make the Nineveh Plain part of Kurdistan, then through negotiations with the government here we can have some form of self-rule like having our own police force and local administrators in our towns and villages." End quote.

I wonder, on what basis does Nenif want to make the Nineveh Plains part of the Kurdish region and most importantly, why? The current Kurdish region is part of Iraq. Why should Assyrians be part of a part? Why should we have our affairs and rights, including all financial matters, go through the Kurds? Furthermore, does Nenif really think that once the Nineveh Plain is part of the Kurdish region the Assyrians will have a better future in northern Iraq? We know for a fact that the KDP since 1992 has undermined the elected Assyrian representatives, marginalized the Assyrian national and ethnic rights, interfered in the internal affairs of the Assyrians, used clergymen to sabotage and undermine Assyrian political groups and divided the Assyrian people among many other things. Why should we believe or trust the KDP now? Assyrians, as the indigenous people of northern Iraq, must be granted the same treatment the Kurds received from the United States and the allies since 1992, i.e., self-rule, protection, support and financial assistance.

Lastly, but not least, Nenif foolishly and repeatedly plays isolationism and division, which weakens the Syriac-speaking Christian Assyrians in the Middle East. This weakness, of course, benefits the Kurds mainly. He ridicules the term "Chaldean Assyrian Suryani", suggests that the word Suryani be completely ignored and dropped, then, most dangerously, he demands that the Assyrians be separated from the Chaldeans. Such behavior reflects vividly the twisted and dangerous mentality of this religiously oriented, church driven and money hungry KDP slave. The Kurdish leadership will be thrilled to see the Assyrians divided, because controlling a divided group is the easiest thing to do.

Nenif Matran Hariri's statements speak volumes about what he stands for and about his goals and mission in life. The damage he continues to inflict on the Assyrian case is not any less from those inflicted by his mentor and idle deacon Shlimon Matran Hariri.