

## The Kurds Must Be Mentioned as Perpetrators of Assyrian Genocide

Fred Aprim  
Mar 10, 2023

On Mar 9, 2023 Mr. Sam Darmo posted a video on his Facebook page in which he mentioned that on Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM a resolution on Assyrian genocide will be brought to the floor of the congress of the State of Arizona.<sup>1</sup>



I listened carefully to the 8+ minutes video announcement. Mr. Darmo referred to the thug who treacherously murdered the martyred Assyrian Patriarch Mar Benyamin Shimun as "LeeTta Simko" (the cursed Simko). Was Simko a Persian, Turk, Azeri, Arab or Assyrian? How would the viewers/readers know who Simko was if he is not clearly identified, considering that the overwhelming majority of the US population is unfamiliar with the Assyrian genocide or Assyrian history? In fact, many Assyrians are not aware of their own history. What prevents Mr. Darmo from saying that Simko was a "Kurdish LeeTta" so that the people would understand?

Then, Mr. Darmo spoke of the Assyrian genocide and pointed to the perpetrators of the genocide on two occasions, first as Ottoman Turks and later as Turks. However, for some reason, Mr. Darmo omitted to mention the Kurds along with the Turks as perpetrators of the Assyrian genocide. Did he simply forget to mention the Kurds in his video or was it intentional to omit mentioning the Kurds as perpetrators of genocide?

The important question is, are the Kurds mentioned as perpetrators of WWI Assyrian genocide in the resolution itself, which Mr. Darmo spoke about? We will find out on Mar 15. In general, Western

---

1 <https://www.facebook.com/sam.darmo/videos/1256268601966021>

politicians neither have all the details nor facts about the Assyrian genocide. In most cases, Assyrians are involved in drafting or adding details to already constructed texts. By the way, such resolutions in the US must be officially authored and presented by congresspersons and not common citizens.

A question now imposes itself, why are some Assyrian activists and leaders not mentioning the Kurds as perpetrators of WWI genocide? Some Assyrian activists are associated with certain church leaders who in turn are in good relations with the Barzani family. Therefore, these activists will provide all possible excuses so that the Kurds are not criticized or implicated. The exclusion of Kurds as perpetrators of genocide from speeches or other communications has been happening in recent years. In his speech last month at an event organized by the Association des Assyro-Chaldéens de France (AACF) on the occasion of the French Senate vote to recognize the WWI Assyrian Genocide, Patriarch Mar Awa III Royel omitted mentioning the Kurds as perpetrators. He implicated the Young Turks only.<sup>2</sup>

Certain Assyrian activists claim that the Kurds in Iraq could not be brought to justice for retribution and/or compensation since the Kurdish region in northern Iraq (KRI) is not a recognized state like Turkey. I would like to remind the readers that the Kurdish leaders are one step from establishing their independent state. We cannot afford to start supporting proclamations, resolutions or documents that are historically inaccurate. If we began this process by omitting the Kurds and placing all the guilt only on the Turks for committing WWI genocide, it will be very hard, if not impossible, to modify those documents or add the Kurds later on. These documents will become a dangerous precedence. Even today, the Assyrians are finding it almost impossible to add their name to many official WWI genocide documents alongside the Armenians who have been considered for decades as the only victims of that genocide. Furthermore, while few Kurdish writers have reflected regrets over WWI genocide, most of the Kurdish leaders of the KRI have not reflected genuinely and publicly true remorse for what their earlier leaders had committed against the Assyrians in Hakkari, Turkey, in Urmia, northwest Iran, and all the way to Baquba, Iraq during WWI.<sup>3</sup>

Assyrian activists must not politicize historical topics such as the Assyrian genocide. The Assyrians cannot corrupt their own history. Foreign and Assyrian historians, writers and diplomats have told us that the Kurds took a big part in committing World War I Assyrian genocide. In fact, since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Kurds have murdered more Assyrians compared to Turks, Persians or Arabs. Therefore, any official document on WWI Assyrian Genocide that does not mention the Kurds as perpetrators is untruthful and misleading. How could anyone claim that the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) could not be held responsible when it imposes on Assyrian students to read that the Kurdish thug Simko is a national hero and his name, image, pictures are all over the KRI?

I hope that Mr. Darmo made an honest mistake when he did not mention the Kurds as perpetrators of Assyrian genocide. I also hope that the Arizona State resolution, mentioned by Mr. Darmo, does implicate, and accurately, both Turks and Kurds for committing WWI genocide against the Assyrian people, history and culture, because that is the only truth. The whole truth must be told, because omitting parts of the truth is deceptive. The Assyrians cannot honor their martyrs by telling a half-truth account regarding the Assyrian genocide. Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Half a truth is often a great lie".

---

2 <https://www.fredaprim.com/pdfs/2023/Genocide%20Recognition%20by%20French%20Senate%20with%20hyperlinks.pdf>

3 Before and during WWI, Turkey and Iraq did not exist. There was the Ottoman Empire and the whole region of modern Turkey, Iraq, Syria and many other regions were one entity with different people living within that entity.