

There is no Such Thing as Kurdish Jew – It is a Big Mistake

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There is a very unforgiving historical blunder when it comes to the Jews of Assyria who immigrated or better yet were forced to leave Iraq for example to Israel. Most historians agree and assert that the Jews of northern Iraq and northwest Iran spoke Aramit (Aramaic) or used the Assyrian term Lishan Didan (our language). If so, why are those Jews or their descendants known as Kurdish Jews today in Israel.

The problem occurred because of actions by the Israeli immigration officers as Jews from various states began to arrive to the newly created country of Israel in 1948 and afterwards. These officials were born with the reality on the ground that Kurds were dominating the bordering regions of Iran, Iraq, and Turkiye. During the last few centuries, the virtual name of Kurdistan has been already superimposed on the Middle East maps. The Assyrian Empire (Assyria) had fallen since 612 BC and these officials have not been educated appropriately, so they assumed that since the name Kurdistan was being used, then the people arriving from that region could be referred to as Kurdish, thus the term Kurdish Jews was born at the Israeli immigration offices.

Here are a few testimonies from scholars, historians and eyewitnesses explaining what and how that happened.

[Prof. Yona Mordechai](#) explains, Kurdish Jews is a mistake.

The Israeli officials called the Jews who came from northern Iraq as Kurdish because Assyria is not used anymore and because northern Iraq has been called Kurdistan for the last few decades.

[Dr. Yaacov Maoz](#) says:

Why are the Jews of Ashur-land called Kurds in Israel? In a small talk with Professor Ariel Picard I create an analogy between the Romans who committed genocide on the Jewish people and referred to the land of Israel as Palestine, so did the Turks and Kurds who committed genocide against the Assyrian people and called the land of Ashur as Kurdistan. Since then, Jews have been called Kurdish.

[Rachel Noah](#) lived in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq until she was twenty and moved to Israel. She talks about her experiences in the land of Ashur, about the bad attitude by the Kurds contrary to the friendly relations with the Christians Suraye [Assyrians].

[Liran Levi](#) and Yaacov Maoz dialogue.

In the last few centuries, the Kurdish tribes controlled Assyria. When we immigrated to Israel, we were linked with Kurdish because in Israel the officials did not know Assyria, but knew today's used term of Kurdistan. We are not Kurds. We were persecuted, enslaved, raped and robbed by Turks, Kurds and Persians, but mostly by Kurdish tribes rulers.

A conversation between [Dr. Hani Zubeida](#) and Dr. Yaacov Maoz about the Aramit of the Assyrian Jews, 2019.

There are no Kurdish ... It is Assyrian Aramaic

[Yehuda David](#), Arbil, We aren't Kurds. We were oppressed in northern Iraq. We have to bribe the Kurdish leaders to survive. Many Jewish girls were kidnapped by Kurds and forced into marriage and Islam.

[Sasson Naim](#) says, the problem occurred by the immigration officials at the borders who called different Jews coming from different regions by wrong names. For example, they called us Kurdish and called the Jews from Morocco as Knives, the Jews from Romania were called Thieves, etc. We speak Aramit (Aramaic) and not Kurdish.

Therefore, we can state with confidence that the term Kurdish Jew is a big mistake, a blunder created by some uneducated customs officials of the Israeli immigration department. The accurate term to use here is Jews of Assyria.