

## Is there an Assyrian cause in Iraqi Kurdistan?

Saturday, May 13, 2006

KurdishMedia.com - By Diayako Xarib

Since the collapse of Saddam, we are hearing more and more Assyrian claims of abuse, and other conducts done to them by Kurds. It is a small fanatic group that desperately fabricates all kinds of propaganda against Kurds and the recent inaugurated Kurdish government.

The Question here is: Is there really an Assyrian problem in Kurdistan or it is again another minority that desperately wants to grab a piece of Iraqi power cake? First an introduction who the Assyrians really are: There has been a nation living in Syria and Anatolia since thousands of years called The Arameans. These Arameans have many world heritages on their name, despite their anonymity in the west.

The Catholic Church was a very powerful institution in the 15th century, with many kingdoms under their influence and strong resources and armies under their command. In that time missionaries started to influx Middle East and especially Kurdistan. It was that time that many Arameans left their East-Nestorian church for the catholic stream. This happened under influence of money and support of the Vatican. Their church was named the Chaldean church (this name has nothing to do with the ancient Chaldeans).

As a counter-attack, the protestant church started to send missionaries to the rest of the Jacobite and Nestroian Arameans. We can definitely confirm that A.Grant, who was a protestant missionary, introduced the concept of the left Arameans being the descendants of ancient Assyrians, as an answer to the newly converted Arameans to Catholicism and adopting the Chaldean name.

We can conclude Grant's unprofessional and speculative theories, from his book "The Nestroians of lost tribes". In the book Grant refers to a group of Arameans as the descendants of ancient Assyrians and being one of the ten lost tribes of Israel. We all know the tribes of Israel suffered the most from Assyrian rule and they were fierce enemies of each other. Beside all the accounts that tell us the total destruction of Assyria by the Medes.

Another Protestant missionary who tried to emphasize the identity of this possible-Future -Protestant Arameans as the descendants of ancient Assyrians was W.A.Wigram.

There are piles of evidences that contradict these void claims. The "supposed to be Assyrians" of these days, claim and even scream it in every occasion to make the claim a reality. But we know their language is Aramean (Suriyani) which is totally different than ancient Assyrian language, beside the recent history of this term. But unfortunately many Kurds and Arabs know so little about history let alone the capitalist and commercially minded westerners.

A claim that many Assyrians make, that their name comes in historic accounts even by Kurdish accounts like the Sharafname. But this claim has been researched by historians, and concluded that people in middle East mostly refer to people to their region, like someone from Kirkuk, was named Kirkuki whether he was , Kurd, Turkmen or Aramean. So is the case with Assyrians or actually the "Athuris" that is how they are called in the region. That name is been used to label the Nestorian Arameans of Athur(Asur) region at the suburbs of Mosul. The term has no any relation with the ancient Assyrians and the modern Assyrians.

This claim of an existing Assyrian nation that is supposed to be the real heritor of what is

now Iraq is obviously void. But nevertheless that does not mean that the Arameans does not have any history and claim of Iraqi territory.

The case of supposed-Assyrians is just a political manoeuvre, and one of the last peps that this nation is using to survive being at the edge of extinction. There are many Assyrians and Chaldeans living in USA and Australia. These desperate and fanatic portion of these people is mobilising the Christian groups to save the Assyrians from alleged savagery of Muslim Kurds. While many of these two communities children are assimilating day after day in the Western society that they even forget where they come from. So you see only a small group that is trying from Diaspora to play the Robin Hood game and seek some popularity and attention to this marginalized and endangered group. Beside many Christians who Saddam called them Arab Christians, have never fought against such a terminology and even were active in Saddam's apparatus, that were enjoying their privileges and doing too enthusiastically their duty in massacring Kurdish villagers like many Turkmens did who were active and most atrocious Baathist members in Kirkuk.

I think that Kurds should really cherish these minorities and even protect them from any influences that cause any threat to them. But by examining claims by western officials and human right watch committees, you can see there is no real basis for these claims.

Still we have to acknowledge that there are some atrocities happening these days to Assyrians and happened in the last 15 years. But it never happened because they were Assyrian!

There are some Kurdish mobs and mafia tribal figures who confiscate lands and blackmail farmers and merchants. The same mobs and gangs did those acts against Kurdish farmers and merchants too. So it is not legitimate to claim it as a Christian or an Assyrian issue. There have always been criminal and blood thirsty Kurds like in a every nation that sell their soul and nation for money. There were even tribes that collaborated with Saddam to murder their fella Kurds and even helped in the infamous Anfal campaign. How can you explain this!

There are Christians in Kurdistan that are wealthier and powerful than many Kurds. And Christians who are high officials and very respected politicians in Kurdistan. And for the average and normal Kurdish citizens, there have never been any hatred and discrimination against Christian (Assyrian or Chaldeans). Many Kurds in Diaspora are just shocked by the hatred of Some Assyrians towards them. And but still the situation in Kurdistan is peaceful and they are even surprised when these claims are been claimed by some sensational media outlets.

I hope that this desperate group of Diaspora Christians return back and be available in the field and try to mean something to their community, instead of being cyber heroes from their comfortable chairs and life-style in the west. These people claim the most ridiculous assumptions and get easy away with it, due to the ignorance of many people on this planet.

They are not aware from the repercussion and the alienation that it will eventually affect their community in Kurdistan.