



Iraqi Turkmen Human Rights Research Foundation

The Netherlands

Tel: 0031 (0)-----
Email: soitm@chello.nl

Report

Our reference: H/12-04/R/7

Subject: power abuses by Kurdish politicians in Iraq continue to marginalize the Turkmen and to deny their rights.

August 12, 2004

High-ranking Kurdish officials appointed in the new Iraqi administration continue and intensify their efforts to marginalize the Turkmen in Iraq. Below are two recent examples of such efforts and abuse of power, this time by Mr. Fuad Masum, a Kurdish politician, who was appointed as the head of the committee for the selection of the members of the next provisional parliament:

In effect, in order to select the 1000 members of the Iraqi Transitional Congress, a committee (Baghdad Committee) was appointed in Baghdad by the governmental authorities and Mr. Fuad Masum was chosen as Chairman of this committee.

1. The above committee has agreed to a procedure for the selection of the 1000 members from the 18 provinces of Iraq on the basis of proportionality with respect to the population of each province. However, in order to increase the number of Kurds in the Iraqi Transitional Congress, the committee, under pressure from its Kurdish Chairman, Mr. Fuad Masum, agreed to increase the number of representatives of Kurdish provinces, in glaring contradiction with the basic principles of democracy. In effect, it is a well known fact that for decades Kirkuk has been and is the fourth most populated province in Iraq, after Baghdad, Basra and Mosul and it is far more densely populated than the province of Suleymaniyya. **Despite this fact, Mr. Fuad Masum managed to attribute 34 seats for members representing Suleymaniyya and only 18 for Kirkuk. For no other reason than the fact that Kirkuk is a province with a Turkmen majority.**
2. The committee has also agreed to a procedure for the selection of a smaller committee composed of 7 members from each province in order to supervise the process of selection of the other delegates representing their province. This procedure consisted in the following:
 - Two members from the council of each province to be included in the committee: the youngest woman and the eldest man.
 - Two members from the court of each province to be included in the committee: the first and the second judges.
 - Three members to be appointed centrally from Baghdad to complete the committee.

Following this procedure, five of the seven selected members of the committee for Kirkuk province happened to be Turkmen!

This committee started to deal with the forms of candidates on 19th July 2004. After four days and without any written correspondence, **the Kirkuk province committee was cancelled by a simple telephone call from Mr. Fuad Masum, without any logical explanation or justification**, other than that the composition of the Kirkuk committee did not suit Mr. Fuad Masum because 5 out of 7 of its members were Turkmen!

The above mentioned facts are vivid examples of power abuses by Kurdish politicians to deny the rights of Turkmen in Iraq and to prevent them from getting a fair representation and power sharing in this country, in contradiction with the basic principles of democracy and human rights.

Therefore, we, the Organizations for the Defence of the Iraqi Turkmen Rights, once again, call on all democrats in the world, on all international institutions and human rights organizations to condemn such abuses and to get involved and supervise the upcoming selection of the Iraqi Transitional Congress and Parliament to ensure a fair and adequate representation of the Turkmen.

Dr. Sheth JERJIS
Chairman of SOITM
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Dr. Ayoub BAZZAZ
The deputy Chairman of Iraqi Turkmen
Rights Advocating Committee (ITRAC) –
London, UK

Dr. Hassan AYDENLY
President of CDITR
(Committee for the Defence of the
Iraqi Turkmen Rights), Belgium

Salman MOFAK
Chairman of Turkmen National Action
Front, Ireland

Merry FITZGERALD
Human Rights Activist
Committee for the Defence of the
Iraqi Turkmen Rights, Belgium.

Orhan KETENE
Iraqi Turkmen Front U.S. Representative
Washington D.C., USA