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Tahsin Kahya resigns from commission of Article 140 (Kerkuk Commission)

Mr. Tahsin Kahya is one of the Turkmen members of the Kerkuk city council from the **Islamic Union of the Iraqi Turkmen**. He was appointed by the Iraqi Prime Minister in the commission of the article 140 of the Iraqi constitution which states the following three stages for Kerkuk region: Normalization, Census and Referendum.

- Normalization means that those who were brought into Kerkuk region for Arabification and Kurdification policies should be brought out of the region. This should be completed before the end of March 2007.
- The census should be organized for the Kerkuk inhabitants who were registered in Kerkuk in 1957 census.
- Then the referendum should be organized and accordingly the fate of the city should be decided: either annexed to the Kurdish region or to the central government.

Kahya presented resignation as member of article 104 commission to prime minister al-Maliki at 18 April 2007.

At 19 April 2007, the member of the article 140 commission, Tahsin Kahya revealed the reason behind his resignation saying: "The work in the commission is extremely difficult and the Kerkuk issue is severely complicated. The opinions about the reliability of commission are contradicting. Many other issues required my reassignment. The decision made after discussion of the Kerkuk Issue in a general conference of the Islamic Union of the Iraqi Turkmen"

He added: Huge Turkmen lands in Kerkuk are still not returned to their owners, namely In Hamzali, Tisin, Citadel, Bashir, Laylan, Yaychi Etc.

Worth noting, the Kurds are fighting for half a century to have Kerkuk in Kurdish region. Kerkuk has a considerable underground wealth being huge oil reserves, natural gas and sulfur. It is a Turkmen city whose linguistics, cultural and ethnic identity is distinctly colored by the Turkmen presence.

Kerkuk region was exposed to systematic Arabification by Ba'ath regime which led to the settlement of about 310000 Arabs, brought from south of Iraq.

Afer occupation, the USA supported Kurdish parties brought about 600 000 Kurds and settled in Kerkuk, the civil administration, police security and military system in Kerkuk region was greatly Kurdified.

By the influence of the strong Kurdish presence in the Iraqi government, USA support and the Kurdified administration, the commission failed to bring the Kurds back, therefore, the realization of the first normalization stage of the article 140 of the Iraqi constitution was failed. Using their authorities, the Kurds strongly insist on realizing the third referendum stage. If they succeed, the city will unfairly but certainly given to the Kurds.

Before several weeks the head of the article 140 commission and the Iraqi minister for Justice Hashim al-Shibli and member of the Kerkuk city council from the Arabic group and member of article 140 commission Mr. Mohammed Khalil have resigned.