



## Assyria Council of Europe

6<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
Press Release

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### ACE MEET WITH DUTCH VVD PARTY ON ASSYRIAN POLICE ISSUE

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The Assyria Council of Europe has met with The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), a major Dutch party, in an effort to obtain support for Assyrians in Iraq.

ACE outlined their concern with the current status of Assyrians in Iraq, specifically the issue of discrimination within the official police force in the Nineveh Plains – an area where Assyrian Christians are the majority.

The VVD party has the most seats in the Dutch House of Representatives and also boasts the current Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, as their party leader.

Following on from this meeting, the VVD have promised to put the discrimination against the Assyrians in the Nineveh Plains police force on the agenda in their monthly meeting with the current Foreign Affairs Minister, Uri Rosenthal.

The Assyria Council of Europe feels strongly that this discrimination must end. Assyrian Christians are the majority group in the Nineveh Plains, yet make up as little as 12% of the local police force in some areas.

This represents a terrible imbalance between population numbers and representation in the police.

The Assyria Council of Europe wants this imbalance to be rectified by taking on more Assyrians and members of other ethnic minority backgrounds to stop the disproportionate representations minority Arabs and Kurds currently enjoy.

Without addressing this issue and improving the balance of representation, it is clear the Assyrians will collectively leave Iraq as refugees to neighbouring countries and the West.