



ASSYRIA COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Press Release

NEW ATTACKS ON ASSYRIANS IN NORTHERN IRAQ MUST BE CONDEMNED BY THE EU

On December 2, 2011, immediately after Friday prayers, hundreds of Kurds in Zakho (North Iraq) were mobilized by the preaching of an Imam to attack businesses and properties owned by Christian Assyrians (also known as Syriacs and Chaldeans). The attacks were directed against liquor stores and other places seen as non-islamic. At least 20 businesses in the predominantly Assyrian town of Zakho were attacked. The continuing violence against Assyrians spread to numerous places throughout Northern Iraq including the towns of Simele, Dohuk (Nohadra), Sheeuz, Amadiyah and Zaweeta.

The attacks sent shock waves among the non-Kurdish inhabitants who are often pressured and discriminated by the dominant and armed Kurdish political groups. Several human rights reports have concluded and shown comprehensive evidence of the oppression sanctioned by the two ruling Kurdish political parties in northern Iraq.

Refer to the Human Rights Watch report: Iraq: on vulnerable ground – violence against minority communities in Nineveh province’s disputed areas,

http://www.assyriacouncil.eu/resources/Human_Rights_Watch.pdf

Attacks such as these force the remaining minority communities in Iraq into exile and must therefore be condemned and stopped. The Assyria Council of Europe calls on the **European Union** to:

- **Condemn the latest attacks and hold the Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq responsible.**
- **Demand a transparent investigation into the attacks.**
- **Demand from Kurdish authorities in Northern Iraq to compensate every business owner and to issue an apology to the Assyrians in Northern Iraq.**