



Assyria Council of Europe

24th September 2008

Press Release

Report of Dutch MP discloses cleansing of Assyrians in Iraq

Dutch Member of Parliament Joël Voordewind took part in a fact finding mission to northern Iraq on March 31st - April 4th 2008. In his report titled "Religious Cleansing in Iraq" he discloses the policies that are forcing the minorities to flee the country.

Brussels -- When Joël Voordewind, member of parliament of Netherlands of the Christian Union Party, worked in Israel, Syria and Jordan, he met people who told him about the suffering of the Iraqi minorities. When opportunity presented itself in the spring of this year to visit Iraq, Voordewind wasted no time. Accompanied by the Dutch Assyria Foundation, he travelled to northern Iraq on a fact finding mission:

"I wanted to comprehend the situation of the Assyrian Christians in Iraq personally, in order to determine the best actions that can be taken by the Dutch government and the International Community for improving the situation of Assyrian Christians as well as other minority groups in Iraq.", he explains,

In his report "Religious Cleansing in Iraq", Voordewind discloses the circumstances the minorities find themselves in today. According to him the extent of violence and attacks targeting minority groups should be

seen as systematic cleansing and not as a result of the general violence that is affecting all Iraqis.

"The vast number and specificity of the violence that is taking place, to my belief, justifies the classification of these acts as religious cleansing"



Mr. Joël Voordewind

The report investigates the security, humanitarian aid, democracy and human rights situation of minorities. It ends with a list of eight recommendations to the Dutch government and the International community as well as an assessment of the humanitarian aid needs for displaced families in the Nineveh plain.

Visit www.assyriacouncil.eu to read the report.

For further information contact:
afram.yakoub@assyriacouncil.eu
Tel: +32 (0) 486 974 075

The Assyria Council of Europe (ACE) is a Brussels based non profit advocating rights of minorities in Iraq since 2007.

Homepage: www.assyriacouncil.eu

Telephone: +32 (0) 486 974 075

Email: info@assyriacouncil.eu