

NEWSLETTER

ESU

European Syriac Union

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Following long absence of our newsletter, we are again glad to reach our dear readers across the globe and members of our people in different parts of the world.

We are living in tremendously difficult times and especially Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian people passing perilous process in the Middle East.

During this period, many important and vital events took place and liberation of Nineveh Plain had been achieved.

There have been many important developments in the last 3 months regarding the Syriac-Assyrian people. For example, the recognition of the genocide by Germany, committed by the Ottomans on the Syriac-Assyrian people,

Establishment of the CSA-FRIENDSGROUP



European Parliament hosted unprecedented event with the inauguration of Chaldeans-Syriacs-Assyrians Friends Group, CSA-FG, with the presence of MEPs, guests and responsible of institutions from different countries.

Rima Tüzün, Co-Secretary of the group with Dalia Lahdo, moderated the event in the EP and she stressed the satisfaction and honour to the event and described it as historical.

MEP members of the CSA-FG expressed their views regarding the establishment and necessity of the group.

MEP Lars Adaktusson highlighted the importance of the current situation and crucial role for the continued work and fundamental rights of ethnic-religious groups to continue their existence and survival in Middle East.

MEP Javier Nart mentioned ongoing

also known as Sayfo. This was an important moment for Syriac-Assyrian people, this gives us hope for the recognition of the Syriac-Assyrian identity in Germany.

We as ESU pitched an idea to organise a conference regarding the genocide Sayfo in the European Parliament in Brussels. The CSA-Friends group (Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian Friends group) took on this idea, they received many delegations from Armenia, Turkey and other countries. They also received many priests and messages from patriarchs of different churches. In other countries like the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Switzerland we organised hunger strikes and other activities for the recognition of the genocide.

The youth department of the European Syriac Union ESU-YOUTH organised its yearly summer teaching camp. The camp had a duration of 6 days, many boys and girls from around Europe gathered and took classes regarding the integration of our people in the diaspora in Europe. We were very pleased by the evaluation of the attendees of the camp, we are convinced that these camps are very important and that they will bear their fruits. This is why we put a lot of focus on our youth, as for they are our future.

We always try to support our people who is in need in the Middle-East, especially the children. We spend the income of the food stand we organised in Locarno to the Syriac Cross in Syria and to other humanitarian aid organisations in Iraq.

ing passivity of European Parliament regarding the fate of Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrians and Ezidis and other vulnerable groups in Middle East. He said that it is vital to send full support of minorities in the region in order to support themselves.

On the other hand MEP Bodil Valero showed her satisfaction with the ongoing Mosul operation and possible liberation of Qaraqosh.

MEP Jozef Weidenholzer stressed that there are several meetings and conferences in the EP and abroad and it is fundamental to continue to work for the people in the Middle East. MEP Weidenholzer is also initiator for Ezidi Friends Group in the EP.

On the other hand, Mr. Yusuf Yacoub Matti President of HBA in Iraq, Mr. Isho Gawriye President of Syriac Union Party in Syria and Tuma Çelik Editor in Chief of Sabro newspaper from Turkey presented speeches

regarding latest situation of Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian people and their demands from Europeans. All intervenant stressed the importance of Europe as a major player to be active in the current process and support vulnerable groups in the region and also call made to the EU to open office in Gozarto canton.

On the other hand, a common declaration signed by the representative of Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian people and Shingal Ezidi Council for deepening cooperation and work.

Newly established Chaldean-Syriacs-Assyrians Friends Group in the EP aim is to bring close coordination with the EP and bring first hand information from the ground to the European public opinion by organising events, conferences and other activities.Ω



The past few months have been very important, there have been many developments in the Middle East, most of them were positive except for the fact that Turkey trespassed the Syrian borders near Jarablous and ignored the Syrian sovereignty. Once again Turkey is trying to oppress and intimidate other people. Turkey trespassing the borders could lead to a big war between the locals and on a greater scale between Syria and Turkey and their allies. We as European Syriac Union – ESU condemn the Turkish politics and this potential initiation of another great war in the Middle East. We should realise that another great war in the Middle East will have many negative effects on the Western Countries and the Middle East. We believe that Turkey has played and still plays a big roll in bringing jihadists to Europe. Turkey is functioning as a bridge between the East and West, sending jihadists and supporting the racist ideology of IS is the reality we live in. This is why we should wake up and make a statement against Turkey, because if we don't, we will probably see an increase in suicide bombers and other terrorist acts from jihadists who got in to Europe because of Turkey. For the sake of the safety and peace in Europe and the Middle-East we should make a statement against these oppressive acts.



SAYFO CONFERENCE FOR THE 101TH ANNIVERSARY IN EU PARLIAMENT

The Sayfo Conference for the 101th anniversary took place in the European Parliament in Brussels, where Syriac and foreign representatives talked about the Sayfo.

Over 170 people were present, and lot of them coming from all over Europe.

The conference has been supported by Branislav Škripek, the Slovenian member of the European Parliament, and by the other member of the parliamentary group “Friends of Assyrian, Syriac and Chaldeans” that is composed by several EU politicians. They supported the European Syriac Union ESU for the organisation of this event in the EU parliament.

The conference started with a minute of silence for the martyrs. Afterwards, for the 101th anniversary of the Genocide, 101 Syriacs people symbolically said the name of the 101 different villages from which they come from. Father Samuel Özdemir and the priest Musa Yaramis said a prayer.

It continued with the talks of several politicians, such as Ragip Zarakolu; Arsen Mikhaylov, which is the president of the Armenian Assyrian Cultural Association (ATUR); Tuma Celik, director of the Sabro journal and also Father Samuel Özdemir.

The conference went very well, and the people present were satisfied.



“EUROPE SHOULD SUPPORTS SDF FORCES”

EP hosted press conference under the auspices of MEP Branislav Skripek regarding the latest invasion of Turkish forces in Syria and fueling already complex fight against ISIS.

MEP Branislav Skripek opened the conference and welcomed guests and journalists by underlying urgent situation in Syria.

There is urgent need to support Self Administration and Syrian Democratic Forces, SDF which most trustable force to defeat ISIS, said Skripek.

“The Syrian Democratic Forces are the defence force of the Democratic Self Administration that I have visited myself. It’s the Middle East we all hope to see developing. Kurds, Arabs and Syriac Christians work together to create a new society in which women are free and there is democracy and freedom of religion. It’s true, I have seen it myself and so have many others. So they do not only defeat ISIS but also replace it with real governance and a real alternative society. Also they are prepared to take in the refugees that are now flowing from Syria to Turkey. This means that Tur-

key will in time no longer be able to use refugees as pawns against Europe.” added Skripek.

On the other hand, Saleh Muslim, Co-President of PYD said that Turkish invasion in Syria is not justified and that they are giving free hands to ISIS.

“The federal project in Northern Syria established by Kurds, Syriacs and Arabs create a great malaise with the neighboring countries. Turkey is acting against this project and we see it since the beginning of Syrian crisis and latest with Jaraboulous operation. Since six years, we are defending our lands and people, our forces do not attack anyone. We are defending ourselves. And we do not accept red lines to be put in front of our forces.” highlighted Muslim.

David Vergili from European Syriac Union, ESU pointed the post failed coup d’etat atmosphere in Turkey and in this way creating new discourse, reality and mytos for the

re-organizing country under the authoritarian one man rule of R. T. Erdogan.

“There is new discourse in Turkey following the failed coup which hostile to west, anti Christian, and against Kurds and minorities in Turkey. By playing the card of victimization, Turkey tries to divert attention from the ingoing crackdown and witch hunt on opposition figures in Turkey and avoiding critics and mobilize their masses. Related to this, Turkey entered Syria and complicated the fight against ISIS. If Turkey wants to fight ISIS then best way is to have full cooperation with Coalition.” highlighted Vergili.

Beside, call made regarding the opening border with KRG and Europe can play central role and expectations announced to EU officials to stand with SDF and Self Administration which can ease the refugees crisis and ISIS threat in Europe.



TURKISH STATES CONTINUES TO HARM SYRIAC CHRISTIAN EXISTENCE

The ongoing conflict in the region of Turabdin (Southeast Turkey) and Nahla region (North Iraq) harm and damage the Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian people and their livelihoods in their respective regions.

On 22nd September, Turkish war planes conducted airstrikes against Kurdish forces in the region of Tur Izlo, also known as Bagok Mountain. During the operation, airstrikes targeted lands of Syriac villages by damaging lands, yards and firing forests, which constitute essential livelihood of the local people. Syriac people of the region tried to stop the fire in the forest with their own means, which resulted with the total damage of the village Kharabemishka (Daḏiḏi) and partial damage of other villages.

On the other hand, Turkish airstrikes also target the region of Nahla (North Iraq), which constitutes place of authentic Assyrian villages and damage the forests and villages, which cause temporary de-

localisation of the population.

Turkey has obligation to respect international law, humanitarian law and human rights criteria and protecting historical monuments in the region. The treatment of civilians in the conflict has to be a priority for Turkey and ease the ways for ameliorate their life conditions.

Retro respectively, Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian people paid heavy price from the conflict and it was one of the major causes of the migration from the Turabdin region.

As European Syriac Union we call the international community and civil society organisations to negotiate an end of this conflict and engage in the constructive solutions for the end of the conflict which causing humanitarian disaster, destruction of homes, cities and residential areas and most important the possibility of living together and co-existence.