



Dear readers,

Our Syriac people (Assyrians-Chaldeans-Arameans) is one of the ancient peoples of the Middle East. Since WW I, however the Syriacs have been brought to the brink of extinction by genocides and in conflicts of interest between different regional and international powers.

In and after the civil war broke out in Lebanon in 1975, hundreds of thousands of Syriac-Maronites were forced to leave their homeland behind. The war between Iran and Iraq in the 1980s unfortunately had the same result. After the military coup in 1980 in Turkey, intensive fascist repression and unsolved, extrajudicial killings forced the Syriacs of Turabdin (Southeast Turkey) to flee their homeland. After the removal, in the name of democratic transition, of the Saddam-Regime in 2003 our people in Iraq suffered from oppression. Hundreds of thousands Syriacs from Baghdad, Basra and the Nineveh Plain fled from oppression to the West. And it didn't stop there. After the people's uprising in Syria in 2011, the subsequent civil war turned Syria into a quagmire. Attacks against Syriacs by barbaric jihadist groups and ISIS atrocities, forced Syriac-Assyrians to leave their Khabur region in northeaster Syria and the Nineveh Plain – again Syriacs had to flee their ancient homeland of Bethnahrin (Mesopotamia).

Due to the racist, jihadist and ethnic-cleansing mindset of status-quo countries, millions of Syriacs have, since the 1980s, migrated from the Middle East to countries all over the world. Tens of thousands more have been sacrificed to other people's war of interest. Their properties and possessions have been confiscated. Their monasteries, churches and businesses burned to the ground. Syriacs were deprived of their ancient homeland by the politics of

demographic change. Syriacs who survived the 1915 genocide and the following wars in the Middle East, are now again in danger of extinction from their homeland with the Turkish invasion of NE Syria. As European Syriac Union (member of the Bethnahrin National Council) it is our national, moral and human duty to oppose attacks and massacres on our Syriac people.

As a Syriac movement, we oppose all politics of extermination from our homeland. When will international powers and institutions stop this conscious policy of extermination of our people and all Christians from the Middle East? The wounds of the Syriac people are still fresh and continue bleeding from 1915 to the present. Turkey's invasion into NE Syria accelerated this bleeding and puts the future of Syriacs in existential danger. Therefore, we urge and call upon our people to stand up and raise their voices. To stand together with our brothers and sisters in Syria to stop Turkey's war policies and to ensure future existence in our homeland. We trust that our people of the Gozarto (Jazeera) province of Syria will resist by not leaving. ESU stands with our people in all circumstances unconditionally.

It is of vital importance that our people all over the world mobilize themselves to defend their identity by coming together in national unity. It also requires international powers as the UN, EU, USA and Russia to take action to take away the clear and present dangers to the Syriac people and to ensure their survival in their ancient homeland. We demand that they stop and reverse the Turkish presence and push for a pluralistic and democratic Syria.

ESU Co-Chairs Hulya Gabriel & Tony Vergili





military operations and frequent attacks of its radical proxy factions on the region and attempts to capture strategically located Tel Tamr and the M4 Highway in the Khabur area have been rebuffed.

During the clashes between the Turkish army and its proxies and the MFS, seven MFS fighters were martyred and several injured. In the event ESU commemorated the brave MFS martyrs and informed the attendees about the latest military and humanitarian situation on the ground.

ESU co-chair Tony Vergili spoke about the battle of the MFS- and SDF-forces and the importance for the Syriac people and other indigenous minority groups of the self-governance project ongoing in the DAA and new communal method of living together: "During the civil war in Syria, Syriac people as all Syrian people have suffered greatly... Syriac people in different parts of Syria have been the target of killings, kidnappings, ransom payments, abductions of well-known personalities and the destruction of churches.

With the DAA and with the foundation of the MFS, we organized our forces to stand in front of any destruction and attacks on our peoples in Northern Syria. And our forces protected the region from the Islamist and jihadist forces from the beginning."

Syriac Orthodox priests Hanna Acar and Samuel Özdemir highlighted the notion of martyrdom and its place with the Christian tradition, noting that everyone should embrace and support this cause.



Syriac poets Habsuno Malke and Sabro Eliazar ended the commemoration by recited poems in memory of the martyrs. They also highlighted the place of martyrdom and struggle of our people in Bethnahrin (Mesopotamia).

ESU is organizing regular events, meetings, and gatherings across European countries to inform the public about the situation of Syriac people (Chaldeans-Arameans-Assyrians) in their homeland and provide insights and policies to ensure their protection.

