

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo,

My name is Emil Soleyman and I am an Assyrian American from San Jose. It has been recently communicated that you were considering a proposed congressional resolution regarding the formation of an administrative area for Assyrians and other minorities. In response to this effort, Mr. Fawzi Hariri, a senior Assyrian member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the appointed Minister of Industry in Baghdad, and Mr. Praidoon Darmo, Deputy Secretary-General of the Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) met with you to discuss this issue on January 17. The result of the meeting was the temporary shelving of a critical congressional resolution that would support the creation of an administrative area for Assyrians and other minorities in northern Iraq.

I would like to state that I am deeply saddened to hear that this resolution was shelved after the meeting. I would like you to know that Amnesty International has a report detailing the involvement of Mssrs. Hariri and Darmo in the illegal trade of arms transportation to Iraq and to the Kurdish Regional Government. In addition, Zinda Magazine has a Special Investigative Report detailing the efforts of the above gentlemen to prevent the establishment of an administrative area for the Assyrians in Iraq and the growing refugee problem for Iraq's neighboring countries. I suggest that you re-consider the advice given by Mssrs. Hariri and Darmo based on the evidence presented in these reports.

As an Assyrian American, I recommend that you should lead a congressional fact-finding mission to Northern Iraq and specifically to the Nineveh Plains to better understand the need for an administrative region for the Assyrians. This trip will help you to gather the facts from the democratically elected Assyrian officials and hear the thoughts, fears, and hopes of the ordinary Assyrians living there.

This email contains links to Amnesty International's Report titled "Dead on Time – arms transportation, brokering and the threat to human rights" [1] and Zinda Magazine's Special Investigative Report titled "How Assyrian Representatives Shelved Nineveh Plains Discussions in Washington" [2]

[1] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGACTION300082006>

[2] http://zindamagazine.com/ThisWeek/01.27.07/index_sat.php#TheLighthouse