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Assyrians Meet with Dutch Parliamentarian to Discuss Human Rights Report

On Wednesday, April 17, the Assyrian Federation in the Netherlands and the Yezidi National Union Organisation visited the Dutch parliament to speak about the recent Assyrian Confederation of Europe Human Rights Report, "[Struggling to Breathe: the Systematic Repression of Assyrians.](#)" Copies of the report were presented to Mr. Raymond de Roon, MP and will also be received by Ms. Sadet Karabulut, MP, and Mr. Joël Voordewind, MP.

Mr. de Roon stated that he was pleased to have received the report, and indicated that he would inquire further about the treatment of Assyrians living in Assyria. The report will also be on the agenda of the Committee for Foreign Affairs in the Dutch Parliament.

In addition to the report, representatives from the organisations shared their personal perspectives and stories. Randa Malko from the Assyrian Federation in the Netherlands told Mr. de Roon that many Assyrians living in the Kurdish region are giving their children Kurdish names in order to avoid discrimination. She said that her own family, still living in Assyria, serves an example of this practice.

Another representative from the Dutch Federation, Robert Yaldiko, explained that the Assyrian city of Alqosh is being occupied by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). Assyrians there face everyday repression from a system designed by Kurdish lawmakers. The KRG has previously placed Kurdish symbols in the Assyrian-majority city and has also deposed its democratically-elected mayor, Faiez Abed Jahwareh.

Representatives from the Yezidi National Union explained that they experience many of the same hardships as Assyrians. They expressed their frustrations with often being referred to as "Kurdish Yezidi," as they feel that this term undermines their unique national identity. According to Imad Ezeddi, his people are proud to be Yezidi and feel disrespected by being classified as a subcategory, rather than as a distinct people group.

The Assyrian Confederation of Europe is encouraged by the reception of the report by these Dutch MPs. Assyrians will continue to advocate for recognition of minority issues until real changes are made to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights.

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