

NINEVEH PLAIN DEFENSE FUND

Supporting the Nineveh Plain Protection Units

Request for Meeting with Member of Congress

Political and Military Leaders of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units to Give First Hand Account of the Liberation of Nineveh Plain and Mosul from ISIL and the Status of Christian Assyrians in Iraq

Availability: April 25 to 27, 2017

Purpose of the Meeting

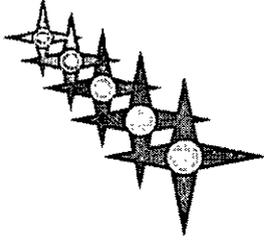
The delegation, including leaders of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units (NPU), an independent force of Assyrians operating under the authority of the Nineveh Liberation Operation Command, the campaign being led by the Government of Iraq and joined by the United States and its allies to defeat the Islamic State and liberate the Nineveh Plain and other occupied territories, will provide a briefing on the success in liberating and protecting the Christian Assyrian towns in the Nineveh Plain and also liberating Mosul.

These leaders of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units (NPU), an independent force of Assyrians operating under the authority of the Nineveh Liberation Operation Command, will explain the value of current United States support. The NPU has received training from US Special Forces, and on Sept. 1, 2016 a historic first occurred when the US military ran an operation to liberate a Nineveh Plain town coordinating exclusively with the Christian Assyrian soldiers of the NPU. Currently, the NPU is providing security, patrolling, and operating checkpoints in three villages in the Nineveh Plain: Qaraqosh (Bakhdeda), Karamlesh, and Bartella.

Nevertheless, these leaders aim to emphasize that ongoing support by the United States is required to bring into fruition the Government of Iraq's Jan. 21, 2014 Executive/Cabinet decision to create a Nineveh Plain Province, which can serve as a safe zone in the near-term, to keep Christians and other minorities in their homeland for the future.

The U.S. Government's direct intervention on the following matters is essential to any potential survival of indigenous Assyrians in Iraq:

- The local fighting forces of the minorities, such as the NPU, that are tied to the central government are the only forces to be authorized to secure the Nineveh Plain (to reassure returnees of security as they do not trust anyone else);
- The NPU, and similar forces from the Yezidis and Shabak peoples of the Nineveh Plain, should not be dissolved and demobilized after ISIL is destroyed; the U.S. Government should work with the Government of Iraq to have these forces become part of the permanent security forces of the Nineveh Plain (i.e. through Iraq's National Guard legislation);



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- The current occupation of the northern districts of the Nineveh Plain by the Peshmerga has cut the Nineveh Plain territory in half and will destroy the chance to create a Nineveh Plain Province which requires direct USG diplomatic intervention with the Government of Iraq (GoI) and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to allow the people of the Nineveh Plain to assume responsibility for the political future of that land per the standing GoI decision to create a Nineveh Plain Province;
- Nineveh Liberation Operations Command has authorized an additional 1000 NPU soldiers in the mission to secure the Nineveh Plain, but the KRG is vetoing this decision through the Joint Operations Command coordinating structure, where the U.S. Government also operates and can intervene to undo the KRG veto;
- In the near-term, the US Government could work with the international community to make Nineveh Plain a safe zone whereby international "peace monitoring forces" play an observer role while local forces like the NPU provide actual security which would elevate the Nineveh Plain above the current Kurdish-Arab conflict;
- The Nineveh Plain has been almost entirely destroyed by ISIL and also in part through the war effort to liberate the area resulting in the Council of Representatives of Iraq declaring it a disaster area on January 26, 2017, which requires U.S. Government and international efforts to focus on aid/relief but also reconstruction and rehabilitation of the area to facilitate return.

Each of the above issues is critical to the survival of Christians Assyrians in Iraq.

CONTACT FOR SCHEDULING:

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The Delegation includes:

1. **Brigadier General Bahnam Abboosh**, Commander of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units.
2. **Mr. Yacoob Yaco**, Chair of the NPU's Political Committee.
3. **Dr. Peadar Ó Scolaí**, an advisor from Ireland who guides the NPU on policy and can provide a number of first-hand accounts of the work of the NPU and the practical problems faced by them and the Christian community in Mosul and the surrounding Christian towns.
4. **Dr. Elmer Abbo, Mr. Alex David, and Mr. Michael Youash**, board members of the Nineveh Plain Defense Fund (NPDF) and registered with the Department of Justice under the Foreign Agents Registration Act to represent the NPU.