

**Question for written answer E-009127/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Situation of Assyrian people in Syria and Iraq

Discrimination against Assyrian Christians has been increasing ever since the wars in Syria and Iraq began. Once the Kurdish militia had pushed back the IS troops in northern Syria and regained control over large parts of the country, the Assyrian Christians were not allowed to return home¹.

Another instance of discrimination against Assyrian Christians occurred in the region of Nahla. The Kurdish court with jurisdiction in northern Iraq ruled in favour of a Kurd who was living illegally on an Assyrian person's property.

The Kurdish authorities have passed a new law which seeks to prohibit Kurdish pupils from attending Assyrian schools, but some Kurds are continuing to send their children to those schools anyway. In response to an attempt by Kurdish troops to remove Kurdish pupils from an Assyrian school in Derik (Malikiyeh), two Kurdish and two Assyrian parents started a protest and were briefly detained as a result.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?
2. What can be done to help prevent discrimination against Assyrian Christians?
3. On 23 May 2016, the proposal to provide financial support for the Kurdish region of Iraq was approved. Does the Commission think it would be right to suspend financial support if the discrimination continues?

¹ <http://www.aina.org/news/20161029032139.htm>.
<http://christiantimes.com/article/kurdish-militia-in-syria-prevents-assyrian-christians-from-returning-home/64297.htm>.
<http://www.aina.org/news/20161013025904.htm>.
<http://rudaw.net/english/world/240520162>.