

Christmas message from the Assyrian Confederation of Europe

The year 2016 was a very difficult year for Assyrians in all parts of Assyria. Assyrians of the Nineveh Plain who were made completely homeless in 2014 continued with the struggle of daily survival. Assyrians from Kamishli and Khabour continued to endure the persecution and discrimination of new dictators on a daily basis. All the while, the so-called Islamic State displaced our people, raped our women and killed our men and children. Some of us were forced to pay those devils just for a chance, or even a hope, of seeing family members again. But Syria and Iraq are not the only places where Assyrians are being oppressed. In Tur Abdin, the Assyrians felt the harm and targeting of Erdogan, the newest dictator in Turkey.

Yet, despite all of this hardship and oppression, hope remains. This is because throughout all Assyria there are fearless Assyrians fighting for a new life with equality, dignity and the chance for realizing all our Nation's fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Assyrian Confederation of Europe will work in 2017 to let the voice of the Assyrians in Assyria reach the highest levels of the EU. We are asking human rights organizations to work with us help the Assyrians in the Homeland establish their own region to secure the life, culture, history and future of our people.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We want you to enjoy the life you now have in Europe, where you can live our traditions which you brought with you from our Homeland. But we must never forget our people in the Assyria, who at this time are living through constant persecution and in fear. We hope for the best in the coming years, but we know we must work together, on a focused goal, to help make that happen

The Assyrian Confederation of Europe