



Assyrian American National Federation

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AANF Statement of Condemnation on the Removal of Alqosh Mayor

The Assyrian American National Federation condemns the unlawful removal of Alqosh Mayor Faiez Abed Jahwareh on July 16, 2017. This egregious act committed by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) violates the rights of the local inhabitants of Alqosh, and by extension, the residents of the Nineveh Plain. Mr. Jahwareh's shocking dismissal is part of a pattern of undemocratic behavior by the KDP, which dominates authority in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The decision to replace the elected leader of Alqosh with a KDP-loyalist is unacceptable and undermines the free will of Alqosh's people. Any individual appointed to replace Mr. Jahwareh is illegitimate. Such decisions must be made by the people of Alqosh to honor their freedom of choice and to ensure their interests are protected. We demand the reinstatement of Mr. Jahwareh, and call for a fair and unbiased investigation into the Nineveh Provincial Council which mandated his removal.

AANF and its affiliates stand with the people of Alqosh, and will work alongside its residents to reverse this decision. We believe that all people in Iraq have the right to live with dignity and without fear, and will not stand for the KDP's continued aggression against the Assyrian people in our ancestral homeland.

We regret that the people of Alqosh, after surviving ISIS genocide, are now denied the safety and stability they deserve. It is the awareness of Alqosh's courage and tenacity that has made it possible for me and many others not to be discouraged by this latest difficulty.

While the challenge before us remains vast and complex, our priorities have not changed: We will continue to advocate forcefully for the rights, aspirations and hopes of our people in the homeland.

Martin Youmaran
President
Assyrian American National Federation