



## Assyria Council of Europe

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010  
Press Release

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### DUTCH MP LOOKS INTO KURDISH AUTHORITIES' ABUSE OF ASSYRIANS IN IRAQ.

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Dutch MP Joel Voordewind of the Christian Union Party has put forward questions to the Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen about human rights abuses suffered by the Assyrians of Iraq at the hands of the Kurdish authorities.

The recent case concerning an Assyrian Christian man being tortured to confess to murdering his sister by the Kurdish *Asayish* was focused on as an immediate example of the barbaric methods these officials employ.

The questions posed were in writing and are as follows:

*“Are you familiar with the contents of the variety of reports [namely the Assyria Council of Europe’s [The Struggle to Exist](#) human rights report] which speak of unfair judicial processes and violence by Kurdish authorities against Assyrian Christians and other minorities in Iraq?”*

*“What are the Dutch government and the European Union doing to promote the right to a fair judicial process in the Kurdish region and to prevent torture?”*

*“Are you familiar with the [case of Robert Aowyamlik](#) who has been tortured and forced to sign documents in which he confirmed that he has killed his sister?”*

*“Are you prepared to insist to the Kurdish Authorities on a fair trial for Robert Aowyamlik, and if so, in what ways will you make this effort?”*

*“What opportunities do you see through the Dutch Embassy or Consulate in the Kurdish region to ensure a fair trial?”*



Joel Voordewind in north Iraq

The Assyria Council of Europe has been informed by sources in Nahla, a region in the KRG province which is populated largely by Assyrians, that the family of those involved in the case of Robert Aowyamluk and other inhabitants have been threatened by Kurdish secret police.

These threats were issued *because* of the questions posed by various MPs and EU organisations are asking about this case.

This way with dealing with searching questions from human rights organisations and members of international governments is common in the Kurdish region. The *Asayish* is often cited as a "[law onto themselves](#)" by organisations such as Amnesty International.

Overt intimidation techniques, threats of impoverishment, joblessness, and violence are employed against helpless people who depend on the very same people for security.