

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR VISITS TUR-ABDIN



(ZNDA: Tur-Abdin) The American Ambassador to Turkey, Mark Parris, visited Mor Gabriel Monastery near Midyat, Turkey on the first day of June. A large Turkish press was present when several participants inquired about the return of the Syriac-Assyrian people to Tur-Abdin.

The issue of the emigration of this small Christian community in south-east Turkey has become a serious concern as the government of Turkey continues to move its Kurdish citizens into Christian villages. There has been no compensation nor plan to move out what locals often refer to as the "squatters". Mr. Parris was also asked about the educational needs of the Christians in Turkey. His Eminence Mor Timotheos Samuel Aktas, Patriarch of the Syrian Christian Church, told the Ambassador that unless the Syriac language can officially be taught the Church will disappear in Turkey.

Report compiled by Fr. Dale A. Johnson (Bar Yohanon) in Tur-Abdin

ANCIENT ISRAELI ROYALTY REMAINS FOUND IN BET-NAHRAIN

Article by David Keys of the Independent Newspaper, London (30 May 2000)

(ZNIN: London) Two skeletons of two princesses from Jerusalem who married the Assyrian monarchs have been identified by Dr Stephanie Dalley, an Oxford historian, as the only human remains of the ancient Israelite royal family. The bones are believed to be in storage in Baghdad Museum in Iraq. The skeletons probably belonged to the daughters of the Biblical kings Uzziah and Jotham.

They were rulers in the 8th century BC of the more southerly of the two ancient Israelite states, the Kingdom of Judah, which was ruled from Jerusalem. Although the skeletons were unearthed in Iraq 12 years ago, the full academic publication of them – and the spectacular gold treasures found with them – took place only last year. It is only in recent weeks that research by Dr Dalley – a leading authority on the ancient Middle East and the author of a recent book on the region, *The Legacy of Mesopotamia* – has begun to reveal the Israelite identities of the two individuals.

The key pieces of evidence are the names of the

International and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Ms. Halo will appear Friday evening, June 30th, at 7:30 PM in the upstairs lounge of the 4 Astor Place Barnes & Noble Bookstore. At age ten, Sano "Themia" Halo, Thea's Mother, was exiled from her mountainous home near the Black Sea and sent on a death march that led to the extermination of her family.

Stripped of everyone and everything she had ever held dear: family, home and country, even her name, Sano was then sold into marriage to an [Assyrian] man three times her age who brought her to America. Thea will also discuss how she felt as she retraced her mother's footsteps, 70 years later, when she and her mother made a pilgrimage to Turkey in search of Sano's lost home.

As part of the program, Amnesty International will briefly highlight their world-wide effort to stop children

from being forced to serve as soldiers by more than a dozen governments around the globe. Many nations recruit, induct & arm children as young as ten-years old to fight their guerilla wars.

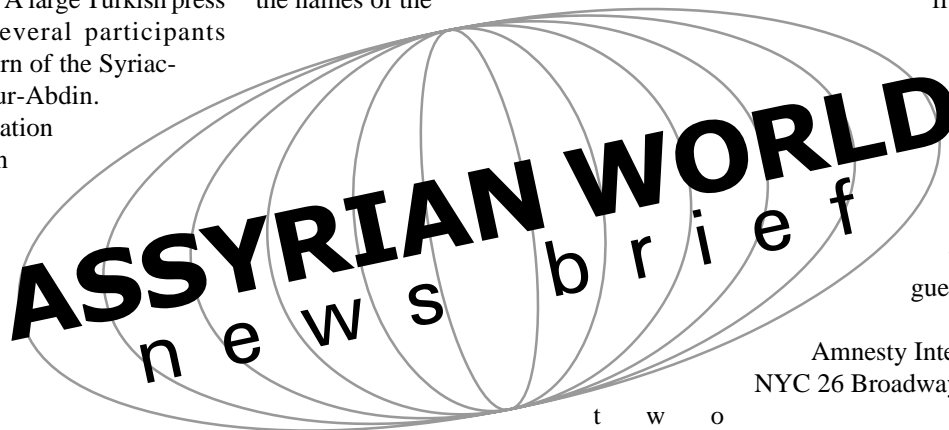
Amnesty International
NYC 26 Broadway

IRAQI FORCES DEPLOYED IN NORTHERN BET-NAHRAIN

Reprinted from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague, Czech Republic
Report by David Nissman, 16 June 2000

(ZNRF: London) Citing Iraqi opposition sources, London's "Al-Hayat" said on 9 June that Baghdad "has deployed massive forces on Kurdistan's border in preparation for an imminent large-scale attack on and invasion of the area."

Baghdad has avoided crossing the red line and challenging the U.S., the chief protector of the northern no-fly zone, but now there are suggestions that the Iraqis may be preparing to move "on the pretext of liberating the water springs" near Sulaymaniyah, according to a newsletter published by the Iraq Broadcasting Company (an information-collecting branch of the Iraqi National Congress). The IBC says that "a state of alert has been declared in military units and the Baa'th Party centers in the region." Saddam Husseyn's son, Qusayy, reportedly is in charge of the operation. Current Baghdad planning supposedly is based on the growing importance of water given the drought afflicting the country.



Atal-ya. Dr Dalley realized that both names were almost certainly Hebrew. Language experts believe that Yabaa probably means "He [the Lord] brings forth," while Atal-ya almost certainly means "Yaweh [God] is exalted." The latter name, sometimes spelt "Atalia," occurs in the Bible as the name of a queen of Judah who had lived several generations before the lifetime of the Atal-ya unearthed in Iraq.

THEA HALO TO DISCUSS 20TH CENTURY'S FIRST HOLOCAUST

Special to The New York Times Public Lives

(ZNDA: New York) Almost three Million of Turkey's Christian population, Armenians, Pontic Greeks and Assyrians, were annihilated by Turkey during and after World War 1. Thea Halo, who recently authored *Not Even My Name*, joins with Amnesty International-NYC and Barnes & Noble Booksellers Friday evening, June 30th, to discuss her family's forced death march to exile 80 years ago.

This is the fifth in a series of Human Rights Forums co-sponsored by Amnesty

LETTERS

Shlama, dear Nakosha,

We would like to apply to with a request. As you may know economical situation in Ukraine and almost all former Soviet Republics is rather poor. As a public voluntary institution, we exist on the rich Assyrians' and people's donations, but this money is obviously not enough. Nowadays old and young Assyrians suffer mostly, because for old people cannot afford necessary medicines, as there exist a rather big indebtedness of the Government on pensions, though the amount of an average pension now reaches an equivalent of \$10. As for children, they need care too. Here, in Nizhyn, live approximately 80 Assyrian families, and many of them have little children.

These cities are situated in the region influenced by Chernobyl Atomic Power Station, and this very town, Nizhyn, is situated 85 kilometers from Chernobyl. And at the time of explosion on the station this town was also influenced, and not only at the time of explosion, but a long time after. There are different Associations here, Greek, Jewish and others, which take their children every year during their school holidays to Italy, USA, Cuba for prophylaxis of harmful radiation influence, as there are special prophylactic courses for children. Unfortunately, we cannot afford taking Assyrian children for prophylaxis abroad, still we are sure our children need that. We want to bring up healthy and strong generation of Assyrians, and that is why I ask you for help.

The program of social help worked out by our Association, presupposes taking a group of approximately 25 - 35 children and 4 attendants abroad for the period from July, 1 till August, 25 (during the period of their school holidays) for passing prophylactic course.

Please, help us to arrange this, because we cannot do it by ourselves, or please, forward this message to organizations or people who can help us arrange it. Or please notify us about the organizations or people who can help us. This is really very serious. If you have any suggestions or propositions, please, contact us as fast as possible.

Thank you beforehand.

Yours sincerely,
Leonid V. Israil

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tel/fax +38 046 314 3559
Ukrainian register code 21399236
16600 Ukraine
Chernigiv Region
Nizhyn, Gogol Str., 8

ARF

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Between the last issue, and this current one, we have covered two central holidays in the Assyrian calendar. Kalu Sulluqa, and Noosardel are festivals that have been with us for many years. With Kha B'Nessan, these three festivals, among a few other minor ones, make up the foundations of our culture.

So if we are to call for the preservation of our culture, we need to remember, and commemorate these days. Understanding their origins is a big step for us as a community. It is the beliefs behind these festivals that really bind us together. Some of these beliefs stretch as far back as ancient Mesopotamia. Noosardel, and Kha B'Nessan are based on myths from the ancient Mesopotamian religions.

Our ancient religion is a very colorful one, full of wonderful and magical stories that explain all aspects of natural phenomena. From the creation of the universe, to the making of the human, and the building of the first civilisation.

There are still parts of that primitive religion that echo through our modern day lives. 'Where from?', 'Where to?', and 'How?' are aspects of life that the ancient Mesopotamians tried to answer within their myths, and legends. Today, humanity is still trying to answer these questions. With the help of science we are a lot more confused about our place in the scheme of things. In the ancient days everything was explained, which made life a lot easier for the common person.

I do recommend a person to read into it, as it is part of what we are; it is something that contributes to our identity. Above all, it is a great way to understand the human race, because all of our philosophies on life started from the beliefs of the people of the Mesopotamian region.

Also in this issue we caught up with Katy Toma, the current Victorian Junior Champion in a class of *Karate Do* called *Go.Ju Ryu*. On behalf of the Nakosha team, I would like to wish her all the best for any future endeavors.

Again we are calling for people who are interested in journalism, and writing. We are looking at expanding our team of writers, and we are not necessarily looking for commitment from people. So we are launching the *Freelancer* scheme. We are seeking people that will become part of a team of freelance writers. These *Freelancers* will only report, and cover stories that are of particular interest to them. Their involvement, if they choose to, will stop at the submission of their article. If you would like to register as a *Freelancer*, or would like to receive further information, please contact me here at Nakosha.

As a final note I would like to sincerely thank Aziz Morad for his assistance with the *Learn Your Language* section.

I hope you enjoy July's Nakosha. ■

Sennacherib Warda

editor's note

SCHOLARSHIP

The Rabi Nimrod Simono Scholarship **2000**

As education becomes a crucial part of our modern society, the cost of education reaches levels that require students to make great sacrifices to be able to make their way through universities, and further studies. A friend once commented after finishing her three year degree, "...twelve thousand dollars latter..." As large as that sum sounds, there are other university courses that add up to sums many times greater than that.

The costs of university courses and the rising prices of books, and educational materials place a heavy weight on the youth of our community. It does place a great obstacle in the path of those who seek to further their education. The majority of our community is fairly new to this country, and many have not reached a level where they can support themselves while studying.

The Assyrian Australian Association (AAA) is a Sydney based community group that has been established since 1969. For the past thirty years, the AAA has been able to establish, and achieve a number of great goals they had set during their establishment. These included the Nineveh Club, a social welfare office, an Assyrian language school that has been running since 1974, the Ashurbanipal library, and many other achievements that have helped the Assyrian community gain greater recognition within Sydney.

The AAA recognised the importance of education, and also recognised the needs of many young Assyrians who were seeking tertiary education. In 1986, the AAA established the Rabi Nimrod Simono Scholarship. Its aims were to encourage, and assist student in their educational endeavors.

The scholarship was established in

honor of Rabi Nimrod Simono, who is an Assyrian scholar. He was born in 1908, in Iran, where he still resides. Rabi Simono has studied theology, and philosophy in various parts of the world, including Urmia, Paris, and Rome. He is considered an authority on the Assyrian language. He has published a number of books about the Assyrians, which were written in the Assyrian language. His books discussed the grammatical fundamentals of the Assyrian language, and have helped many Assyrian teachers with their work. Rabi Simono has also written many textbooks that are used by many Assyrian schools in their curriculums.

Over the past fourteen years, the scholarship has been awarded to forty one students. A panel sorts through scholarship applications. The students are judged on their UAI mark, and their eligibility is dependent on their involvement, and grasp of the Assyrian language.

Every year the scholarship is granted to the top three applicants. They receive sums of \$500, \$300, and \$200 for each year of study, up to four years. A conciliation prize is given to the fourth place holder.

During May, a presentation function was held where the three top students were presented with the scholarships. This year the honors went to Ramina Omran, Addison Younan, and Raman David.

Miss Omran, who is 18 years old, is attending the University of Technology in Sydney, where she is undertaking a



Ramina Omran, 18, after receiving her scholarship

Bachelor of Law. Miss Omran said, "I chased up an application form through family and friends, and submitted it in hope of gaining some assistance with the costs of my course."

In addition to the financial support that the scholarship offers, students are drawn closer to their community, as Miss Omran noted, "...financially, it was a great help with obtaining all the text books required for the course. It also gave me a sense of belonging to my community... now I have increased my involvement within it."

The other recipients of the scholarship are also planning to expand their involvement within the Assyrian community.

The scholarship is a great way of increasing community involvement. In addition to that, it assists many young Assyrians in reaching the goals that they have set for themselves. In turn we will have a community that is supportive of itself, and is advancing itself to a better future. ■

Sennacherib Warda

Carriage @ n?!

Has gambling affected you, or anyone close to you?

F/19/Melbourne

▶▶ Yes, I know some of our family members who has had problems with gambling. It's a real shame for people to waste their money on gambling because it won't get people anywhere. I know people who have nearly ended or have had a divorce due to gambling. It's sad to see many people who claim they don't have money to buy houses or cars but yet they have money to spend at the casino's and poker machines, I really don't understand.

M/17/San Jose, CA, - U.S.A

▶▶ No, not at all.

M/16/Sydney

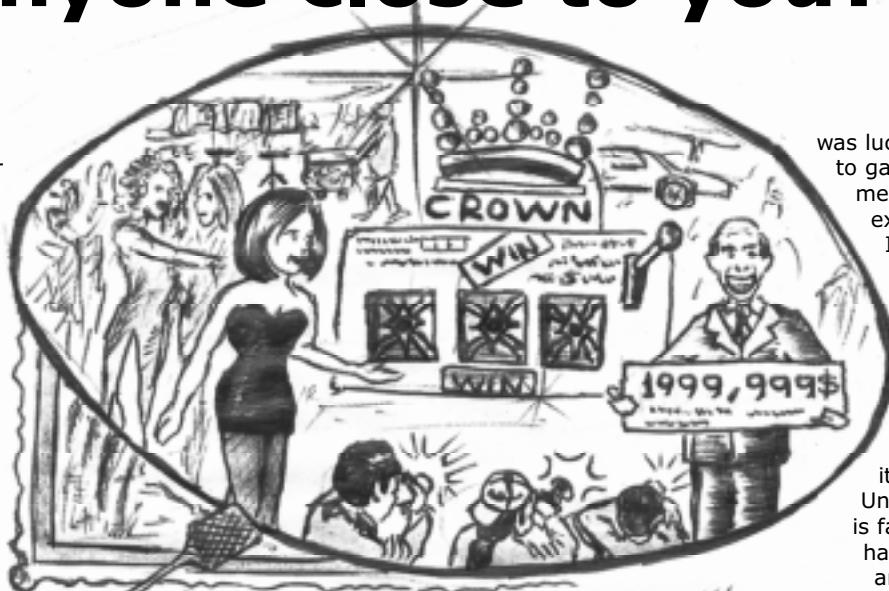
▶▶ Never. Neither I nor my parents see gambling as a fun thing to do as most people see it as "KHUMLANA". These people seem sick and in dire need of help for their addiction!

M/40/Arizona U.S.A

▶▶ Gambling is an evil, dirty trend. And thanks God and our national spirit among our family that none in my household, or even among all our family have been a victim to such malice disease. I believe that the losers only tend to be weak, were their intuitions mislead them, and corrupt their minds. There is no such thing ever as to say "somebody is rich by means of gambling". We can fight gambling...be more realistic, and objective.

F/34/North American Continent

▶▶ Indeed a very important question, just like always. May be I



was lucky not to be a victim to gambling but that doesn't mean that I haven't experienced it firsthand. I have known people, relatives and friends who were and some still are victims to this disease, and it's very sad to see the extent and toll that such a problem takes over a society from all its aspects.

Unfortunately, our society is falling a victim to the hallucinations of gambling and it's not something new. I remember since

I was a youth, how I used to see people sitting at the local cafes playing cards and we being young would not be allowed in, but how those older people would allow themselves to be seen gambling, it was something strange! I have seen the kind of disasters that gambling brings about. I am not going to go on and on about this as

I'm sure you have a good idea of what goes on. And now it's getting

worse since especially countries which were against gambling before, their governments for the past few years have allowed Casinos to be opened when before they didn't even have one Casino, and in this way the governments have found another easy way to collect indirect taxes, and those who are falling victims no one cares about them. A gambler is an ill person and should be treated because gambling is a disease and an addiction just like any other. I hope that we can succeed in preventing the next generation of ours from falling into this trap.



U Say

...join the discussions, and...

▶▶ Have your say ▶▶

- ▶ Have you, or anyone else you know, ever contemplated suicide?
- ▶ Have you ever experienced depression? If so, why?
- ▶ Have you ever experimented, or contemplated experimenting with Drugs?

Forward all responses to: nakosha@hotmail.com - Nakosha, P.O.Box 948 Merlynston, Victoria, 3058. Australia

ملف لغوي

لغوي كشمي

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| قَنْدَا | qento | danger | qenta | قَنْدَا |
| شُو أَتَا | shoo-to-oso | organisation | shoo-ta-sa | شُو أَتَا |
| أَمَحْشَا | tesh-boh-to | anthem | tesh-bokh-ta | أَمَحْشَا |
| شَبْرُو | shabro | child | shawra | شَبْرُو |
| شَا بَرُو ثُو | sha-bro-tho | childhood | shaw-roo-ta | شَا بَرُو ثُو |
| دُشْنُو | doshno | present | dashna | دُشْنُو |
| شُوكُونُو | shokono | award | shokana | شُوكُونُو |
| قُومُو | quomo | deputy | qayoma | قُومُو |
| تَاغُورْتُو | tagoorto | goods | teghorta | تَاغُورْتُو |
| رُوزَاوُو | rowazo | joy | rowaza | رُوزَاوُو |

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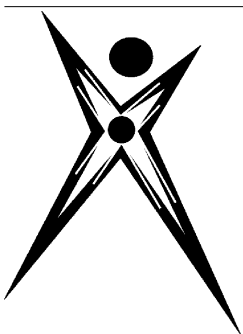
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The Assyrian Youth Group of Victoria is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organisation. It seeks to promote the Assyrian culture, history and language, as well as the Assyrian name and community, bringing it to the world stage.

AYGV

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Paul's HAIRPort



LADIES & MEN

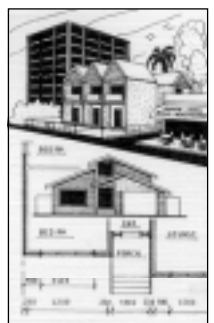
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