

ASSYRIAN MARTYRS DAY

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TIMELINE OF GENOCIDE EVENTS

1832
ܠܡܚܝܕܢܐ ܚܘܪܐܢܐ
MIRA KORA

1843-1846
ܚܘܪܐܢܐ ܗܘܪܐ
BADER KHAN

1914-1925
ܫܘܦܘ
SEYFO

1933
ܫܘܡܠܐ
SIMELE

1969
ܚܘܪܐܢܐ
SORIYA

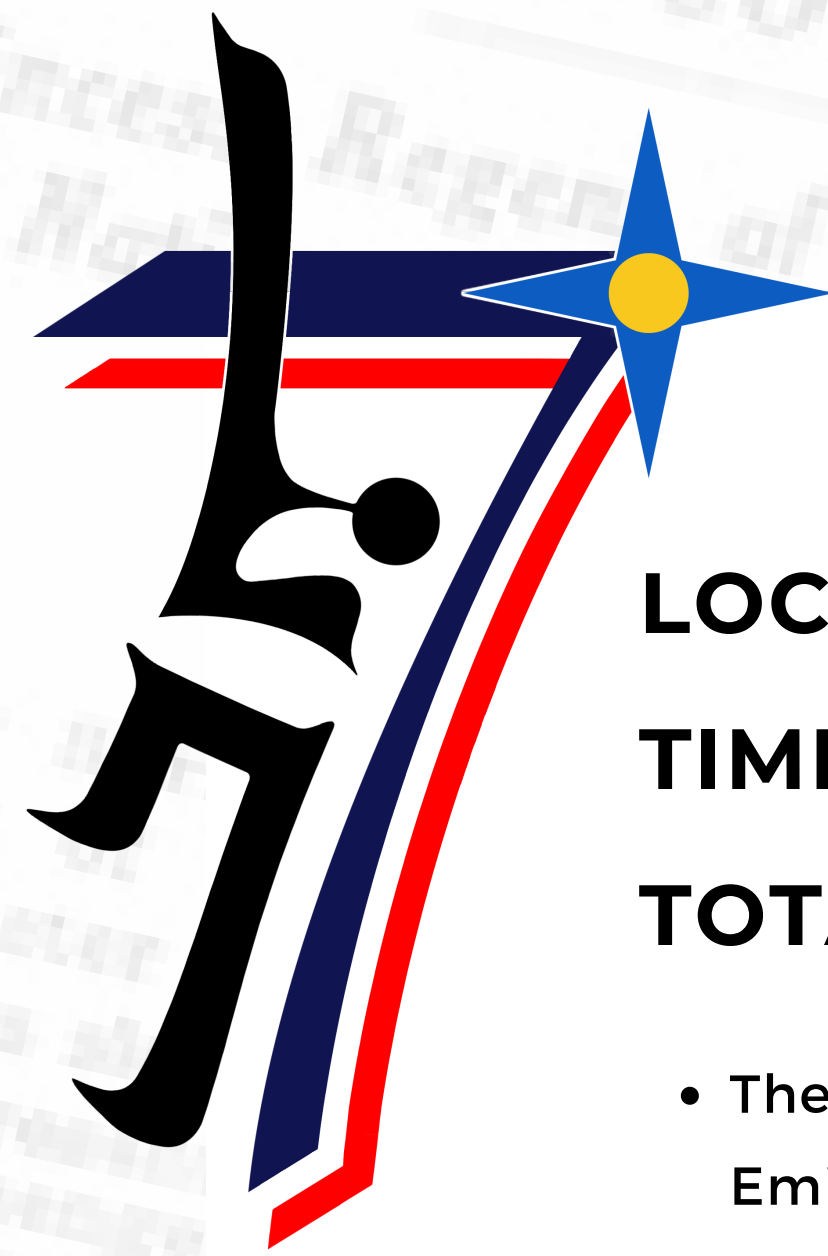
1986-1989
ܠܢܘܦܠ
ANFAL

2010
ܚܘܪܐܢܐ ܒܚܕܝܕܐ
BAKHDIDA

2010
ܚܘܪܐܢܐ ܒܒܗܓܕܐ
BAGHDAD

2014
ܚܘܪܐܢܐ ܒܢܝܒܝܢܐ
NINEVEH PLAINS

2015
ܚܘܪܐܢܐ ܒܚܘܪܐ
KHABOUR



1843-1846

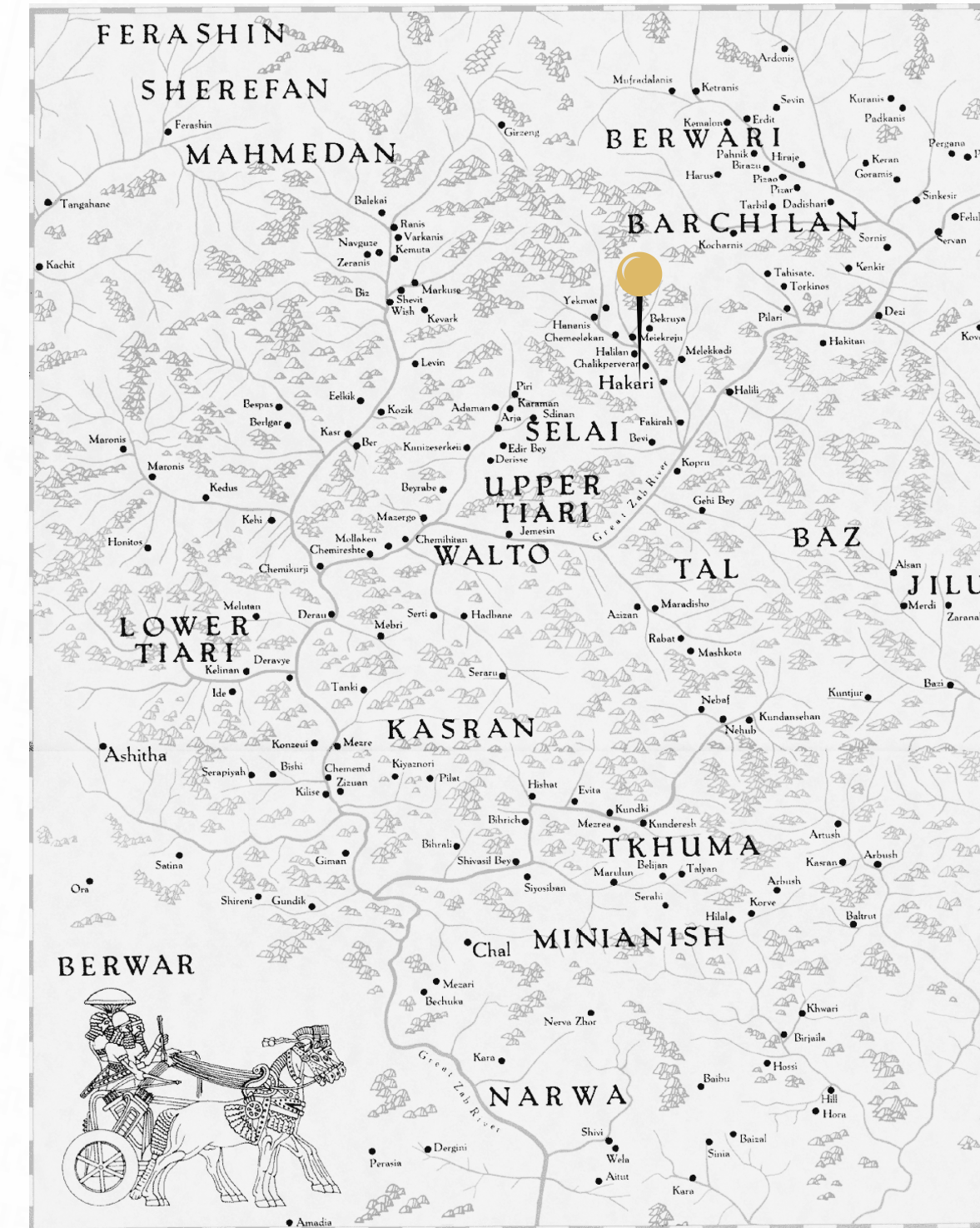
ܒܕܪ ܚܢ BADER KHAN

LOCATION: HAKKARI REGION, TURKEY

TIMELINE: 1843 - 1846

TOTAL MARTYRS: **10,000+**

- The Massacres of Bader Khan were a series of massacres carried out by the Kurdish Emirs of Bohtan and Hakkari, Badr Khan Bey, Nurallah, against the Assyrians of Hakkari in the 1840s.
- These massacres resulted in the killing of more than 10,000 Assyrians and the captivity of thousands of others.
- They also looted Assyrian villages and destroyed churches and livelihoods.
- The massacres were actioned by the Ottoman Turks due to their fear of Assyrian independence.
- While Assyrians tried to fight off the attacks, they were unsuccessful once the Turkish Army joined Bedr Khan Beg.



Map of the Assyrian Villages

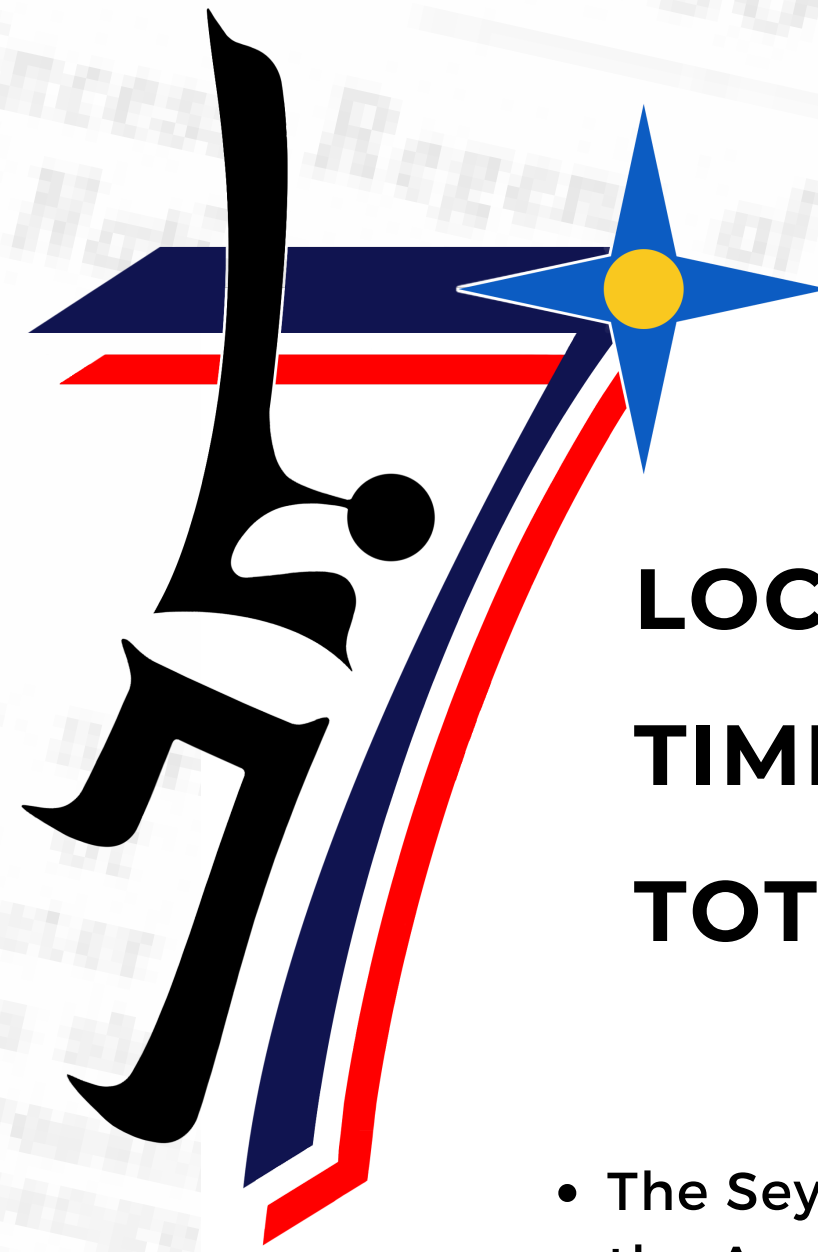
Source: Assyrian International News Agency (AINA)



The photo to the left captures the burning of the bodies of Assyrian Women by Kurdish women, to recover the Gold and precious stones they were supposed to have swallowed.

Source: Assyrian International News Agency (AINA)

ܒܕܪ ܚܢ AUGUST ASSYRIAN MARTYRS DAY



1914-1925

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SEYFO

LOCATION: HAKKARI REGION, TURKEY

TIMELINE: 1914-1925

TOTAL MARTYRS: 300,000+

- The Seyfo ("sword" in Western Assyrian) genocide was the mass slaughter and deportation of the Assyrian population living in the Ottoman Empire, committed by the Young Turks, as well as some Kurdish tribes during the First World War.
- The Assyrian population affected were those in Southern Anatolia, as well as Persia's Azerbaijan province. This being Tur Abdin, Hakkari, Van, Siirt regions of present-day southeastern Turkey and the Urmia region of northwestern Iran.
- It consisted of massacres, torture, abductions and deportations at the hands of the Ottoman Turks and allied Kurdish tribes.
- Over 300,000 Assyrians were killed during this genocide.
- The genocide took place in the same context and time-period as the Armenian and Greek genocides, however unlike these, an official national or international recognition has not been made.



The famous Tigris river rafts (kalaks) used by Turks to take over 700 Assyrians from Diyarbakir to mid-stream and drowned.



Assyrian digging mass graves for those perished during the exodus from Urmia.

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Personal eyewitness testimony from Yusuf (Aho) Aygur from Keferbe Tur-Abdin/Turkey from 1998 and his story regarding the massacre of the Assyrians of 1915:

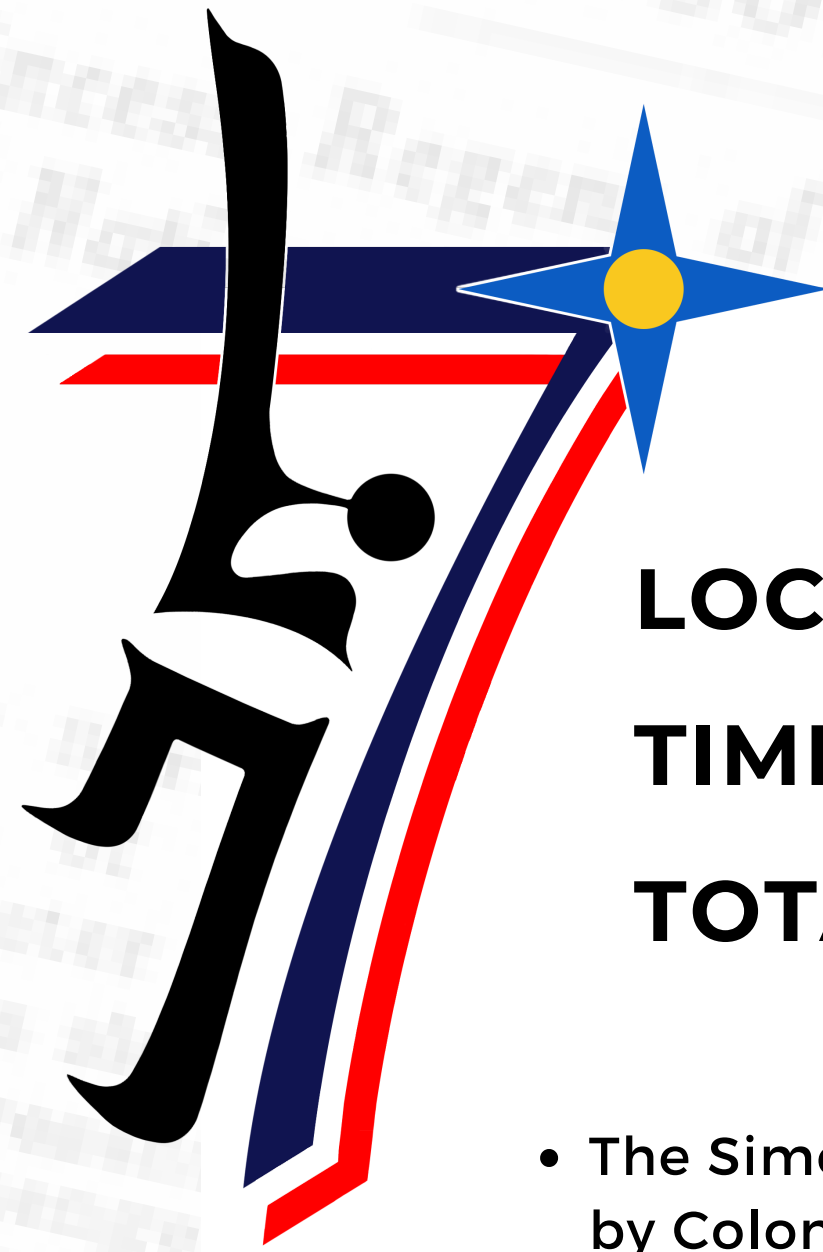
Soon after the massacre, we all had to break up because of the famine. At that time, the Kurdish clan Azam had also settled in the Mor Gabriel monastery. But there were still 3 Assyrian families there. The Azam clan, however, turned to the statesman who was in Kartmxn to be allowed to murder the Assyrians in Keferbe. The statesman in Kartmin replied: "Get me the leaders of Keferbe so that I can speak to them, and while they are on the road, set a trap for them and kill them."

They then came and told Gevriye Tuma and Gevriye Aamlan that the statesman wants to speak to them. Both Gevriye suspected that they were being murdered, but they saw no other way out than to leave. During the day they set off and took the son of Safar Komo with them. And I was cutting wood that day. Malke Hanne and his 30-40 men had come to the place of encounter. The Assyrians had realized that this encounter was a trap. Eventually, they were involved in a combat operation.

Source: <https://bethnahrin.de>

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MASSACRES KEPT UP

1933

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SIMELE

LOCATION: SIMELE, NORTHERN IRAQ

TIMELINE: AUGUST 1933

TOTAL MARTYRS: 6,000+

- The Simele Massacre took place in August 1933. It was committed by the Kingdom of Iraq, led by Colonel Baqr Sidiqi, and Kurdish tribesmen during a campaign that systematically targeted Assyrians in Simele and over 100 Assyrian villages in Dohuk and Nineveh.
- Prior to the massacre, speeches encouraging hatred against Assyrians were read in the Iraqi parliament in June 1933 and published in Iraqi newspapers.
- Assyrians resisted the attacks and many sought refuge in Simele.
- Assyrians in Simele were forcibly disarmed. On August 11, 1933, Iraqi troops and Kurdish tribesmen began to fire on the unarmed Assyrians.
- Up to 3,000 Assyrians were martyred in Simele alone.
- Some women began to dress their sons in girl's clothing to spare them from the attacks. However, reports surfaced revealing that even young girls were assaulted and burned alive.
- Violent attacks continued against Assyrians until the end of the month.
- The Iraqi troops were welcomed with parades in Mosul and Baghdad, celebrating their "victory".
- The Iraqi Government and the Kurdish Regional Government have refused to recognize the Simele Massacre.
- The gravesite is neglected by the Kurdistan Regional Government, and there is no monument nor cemetery. It is a large, neglected dirt hill surrounded by a fence in the middle of the bustling city. The exposed bones of Simele victims are accompanied by garbage, and the land is filled with discarded trash and unwanted junk, as well as a communications tower that was built on the unmarked gravesite.



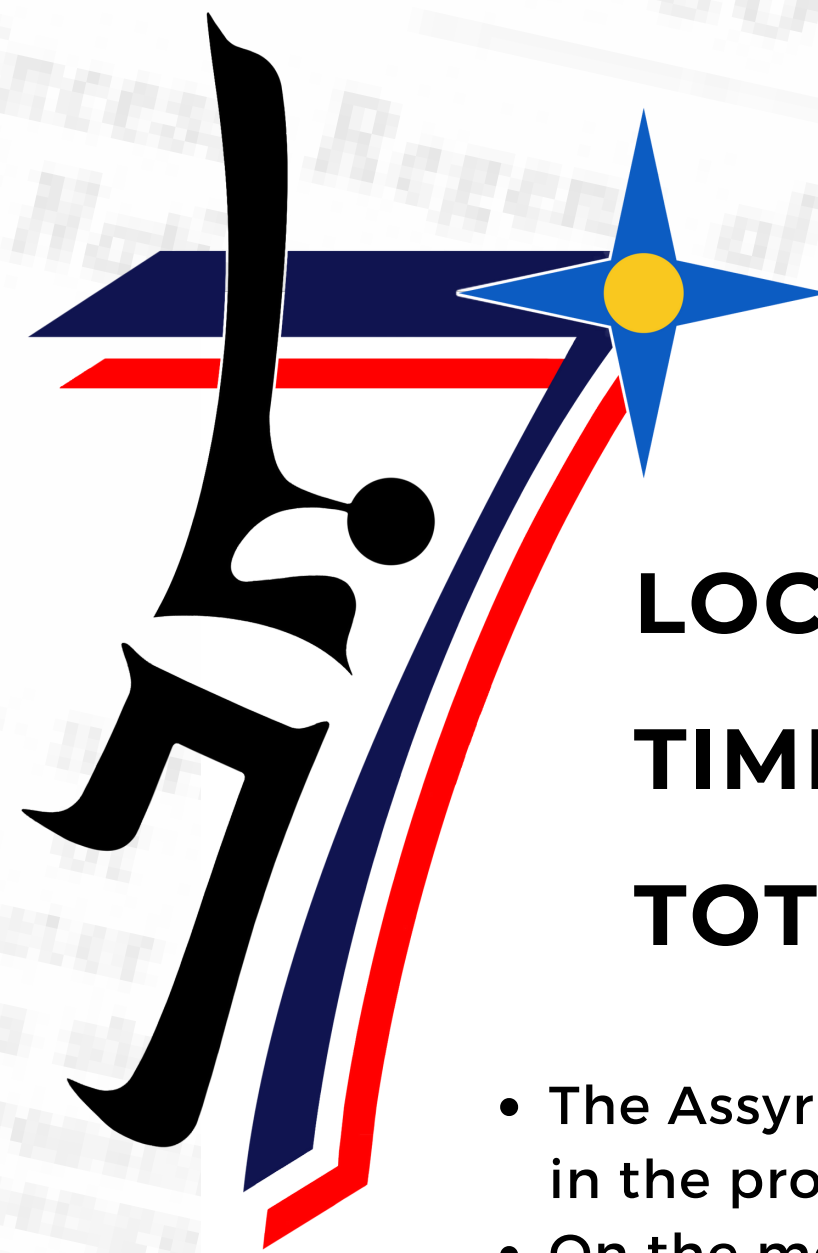
Aerial view of Batarshah in northern Iraq, an Assyrian village destroyed by Arabs and Kurds in August 1933



Source: Photo by Taiyo "Siraj" Davis, <https://truthout.org>

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1969

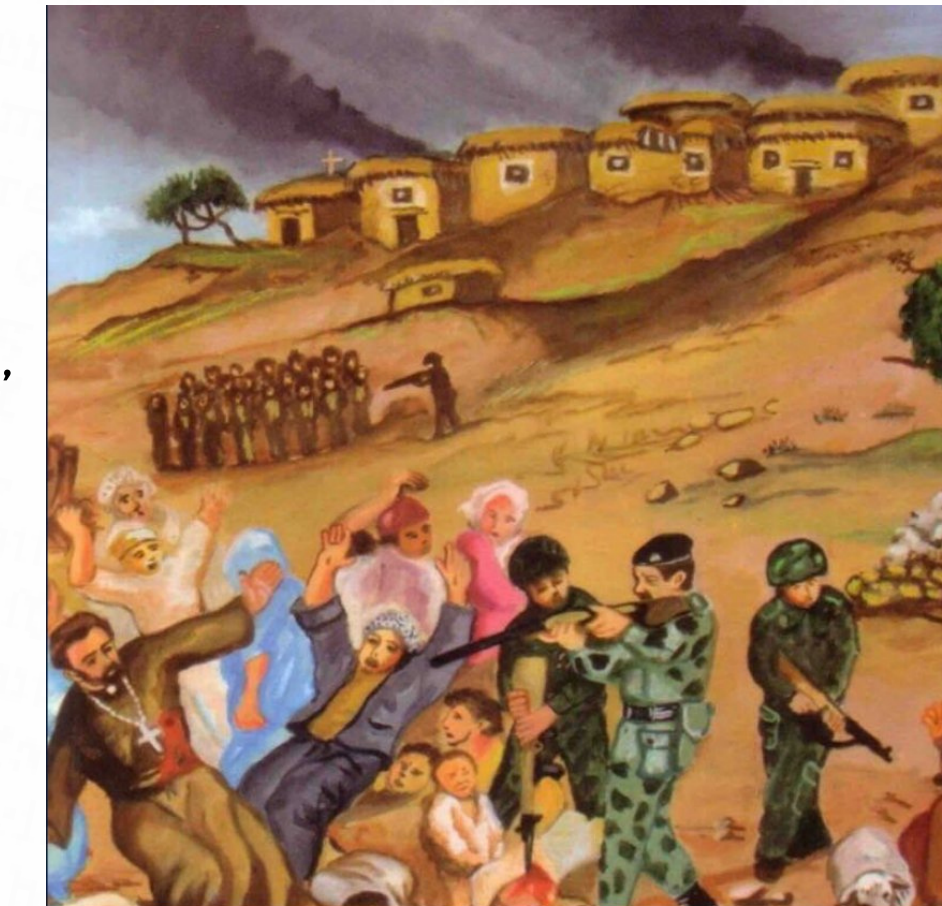
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SORIYA

LOCATION: SORIYA, NORTHERN IRAQ

TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER 16, 1969

TOTAL MARTYRS: 47

- The Assyrian village of Soriya is located on the banks of the Tigris River, within the sub-district of Bateel, in the province of Dohuk, Northern Iraq.
- On the morning of September 16, 1969, Iraqi forces, led by Lieutenant Abdul Karim al-Jahayshee, attacked Soriya. Allegedly, they were responding to a Kurdish peshmerga-planted mine that was detonated under a military vehicle near the village.
- The village had more than 100 Assyrian residents. The massacre resulted in 47 killed, including the village priest, and 22 wounded.
- The Government of Iraq has never recognized the Soriya Massacre.



Artwork depicting the Soriya Massacre by unknown artist.

ASSYRIAN MARTYRS OF THE SORIYA MASSACRE

Family of Khamo Maarogeh Shimun (village mayor): Khamo Marogeh, his wife Kathryn Sargis, and Laila Khamo.

Family of Mansour Ishaq: His wife Kathryn Shimun, and a three months old baby.

Family of Misso Maarogeh Shimun: Misso Marogeh.

Family of Hermiz Marogeh Shimun: Goro Hermiz, Antar Hermiz (a little boy 5 years old).

Family of Othman Suleiman: His wife Amina Rajab, Nahida Othman, Sabiha Othman, and a little baby 3 months old.

Family of Meho Hassan: Miran Meho, Ghariba Meho.

Family of Berro Husein: His wife Qamar Rasheed, Nadira Berro, and his mother Halima.

Family of Mounir Youusif: Firman Mounir, Talan Mounir.

Family of Eilo Youkhana: Yaqo Eilo.

Family of Yalda Raasho: Basima Yalda.

Family of Giwargis Qoryakus: Naji Giwargis.

Family of Shabo Baazna: His wife Shoneh, Samir Shawel and a little girl who died in the hospital.

Family of Boutros Toma: His wife Yono Sliwa, a little girl 5 years old, and a little boy 4 years old.

Family of Alo Youssif: His wife Shirin Samo, and Amina Alo 7 years old.

Family of Oraha Khamo: Oraha Khamo, Warina Oraha 5 years old.

The Family of Rasho Warda: Rasho Warda, and his wife Asmar Elias.

The Reverend Hanna; The driver Husni from Zakho; Guiliana Markus.

Source: *The Tragedy of Halabja: What They Don't Tell You* by Fred Aprim



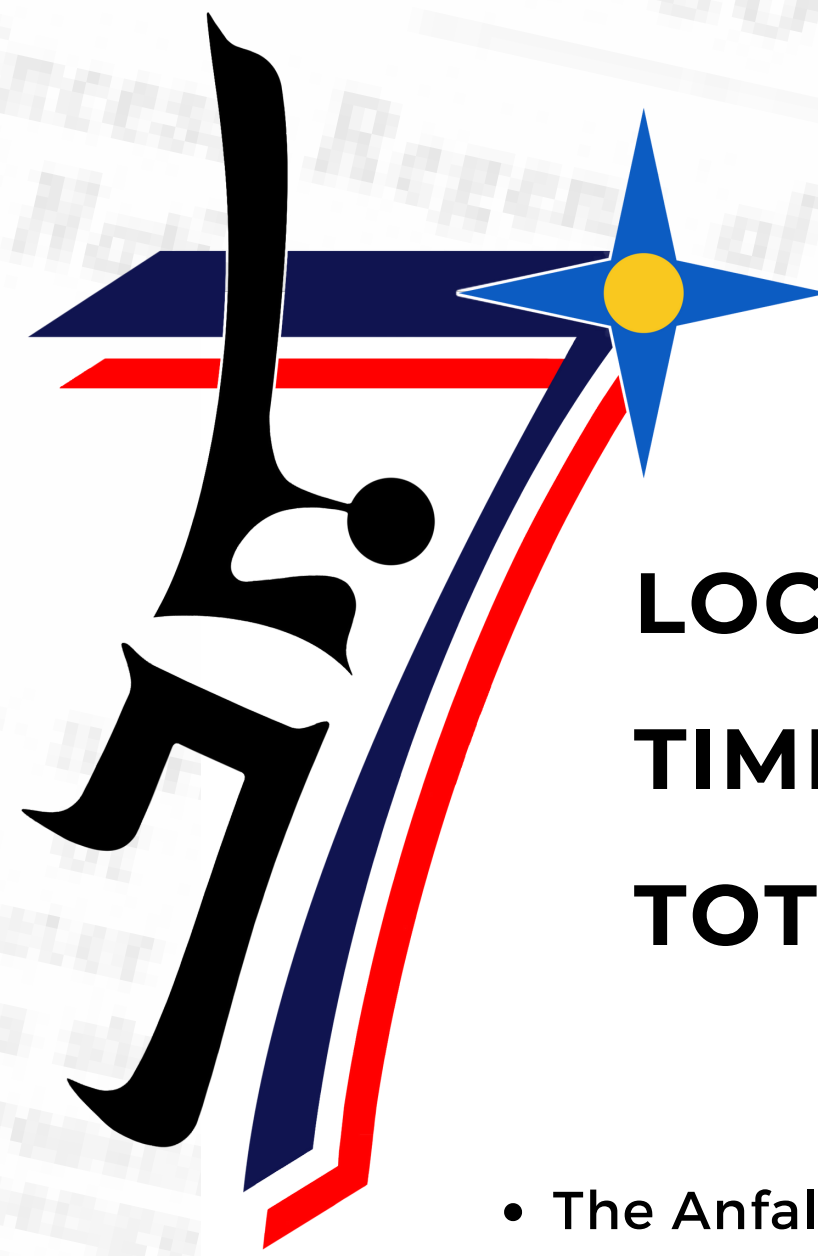
Personal eyewitness testimony from Noah Younan, a survivor of the Soriya Massacre:

I was ten years old and I fell on the ground. A woman fell over me and her blood covered me. Other children, too, were covered in blood and thought dead. At the same time, the Iraqi Army soldiers in our village began spreading out, shooting into houses and burning the houses... While we were running, wounded people escaping with us died of their gunshot wounds, bleeding to death. We were all running to the village of Bakhlogia, four kilometers away, to hide. We got to Bakhlogia, but the villagers couldn't give us refuge; it was too dangerous.

Source: *Reforging a Forgotten History* by Sargon Donated



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1986-1989

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ANFAL

LOCATION: NORTHERN IRAQ

TIMELINE: AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 6, 1988

TOTAL MARTYRS: 250+

- The Anfal campaign was a counterinsurgency operation carried out by the Ba'athist government of Iraq.
- Between August 25 and September 6, 1988, 150 Assyrians and Yazidis disappeared in 7 villages.
- In 1987, villages were destroyed using air raids and napalm attacks, more than 80 Assyrian villages were destroyed, and thousands were displaced.
- Some thought Assyrian villages were targeted due to their proximity to "Kurdish insurgent areas" but this does not account for Assyrian community leaders, such as Raphael Nano Esho, being targeted.
- Over 1000 Assyrians were abducted/disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE AFFECTED VILLAGES

"Village of Mosaka: It had 128 people as per the 1957 census, the first migration for its people was after 1961 and they returned once more when the situation calmed down relatively. The situation remained as such between leaving and returning until 1988 when the village was completely destroyed in the infamous Anfal operations."

"Village of Baz: According to the 1957 census its population was 130; 40 families inhabited the village in 20 homes before they began to migrate in the beginnings of the Kurdish movement in 1961, but a group of families remained attached to their land until 1988 when it was destroyed and burned down in the disgraceful Anfal operations when also five of the village's inhabitants disappeared and their fate is not known till today."

"Village of Mahuthe: One family used to live in it until 1988 when it was destroyed in the infamous Anfal operations and then it was completely kurdifed after 1991."

"Village of Attosh: One of the ancient Assyrian villages with a population of 75 as per the 1957 census. In 1965 it was burned down, looted, plundered and its occupancy depended on the political circumstances. A small group of families remained in the village until 1988 when it was demolished by the Iraqi authorities in the infamous Anfal operations."

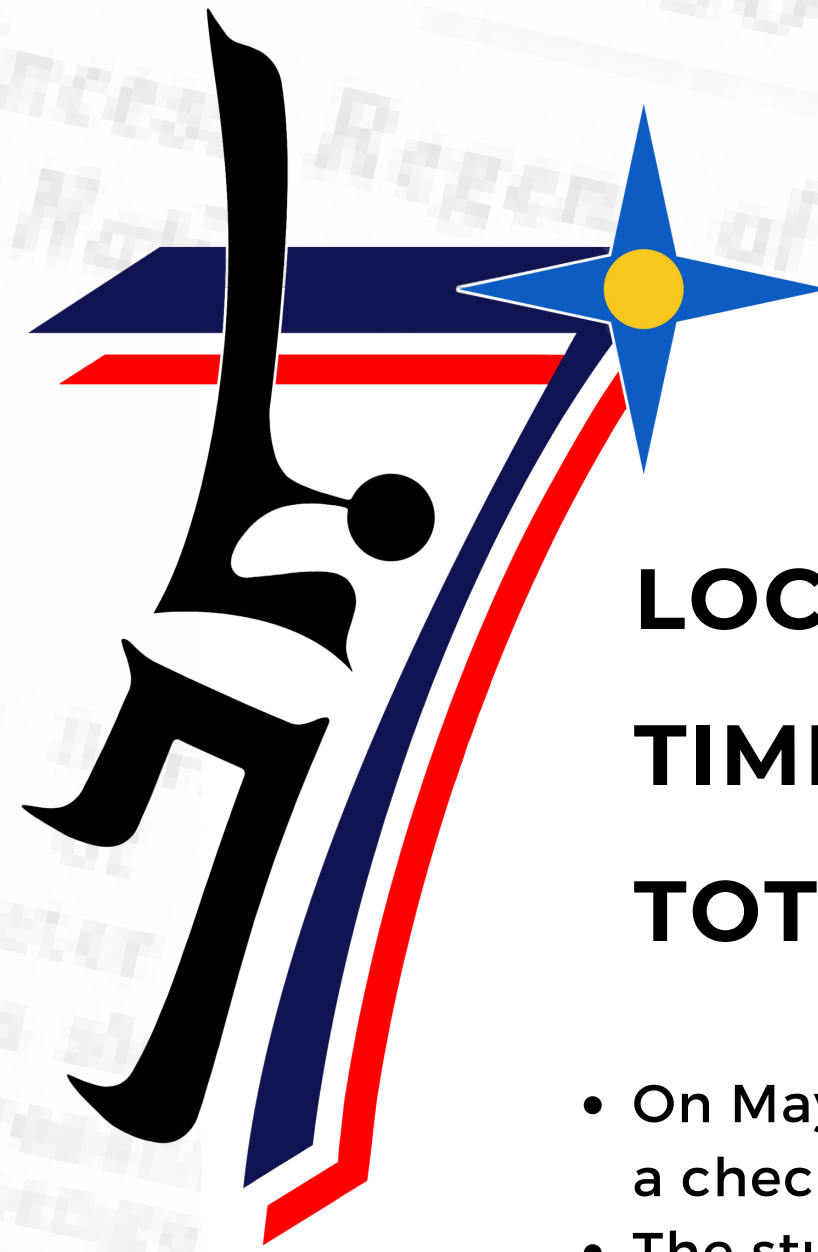
Source: Atour.com. Please visit site to review additional details.



April 05, 2023: A monument was unveiled in the village of Gonde Kosa in honour of the 41 inhabitants who were victims of the Anfal genocide.



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2010

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BAKHDIDA

LOCATION: BAKHDIDA, NINEVEH PLAINS / MOSUL, IRAQ

TIMELINE: MAY 02, 2010

TOTAL MARTYRS: 4; 171 INJURED

- On May 02, 2010, a double bus bombing that targeted Assyrian university students was carried out at a check point in Mosul, Northern Iraq.
- The students of were from Bakhdida, and were traveling to their university in Mosul, which is approximately one hour away.
- The bombing left four dead, and injured more than 171 students.
- A previous attempt at bombing school buses on April 19 of that year was thwarted with no casualties.
- No one has claimed responsibility for the bombings and the authorities have no suspects to date.



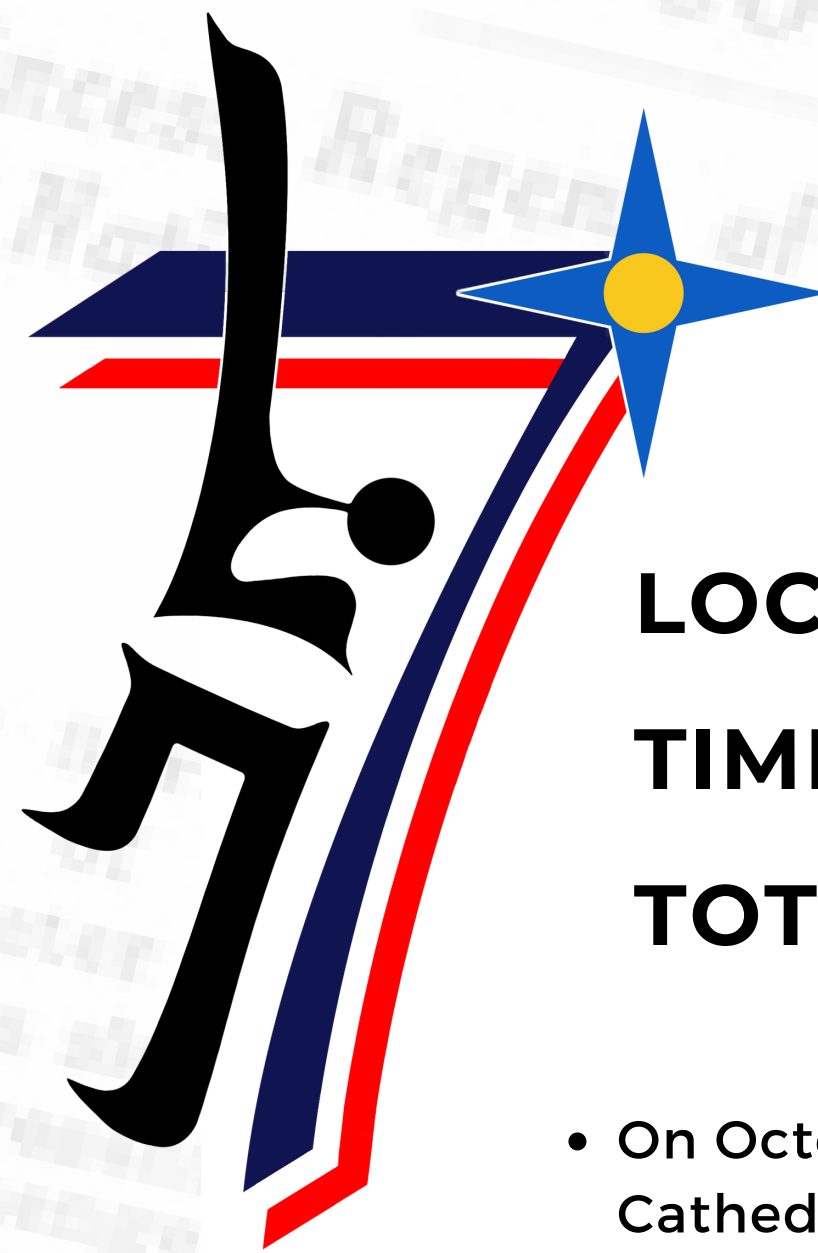
Radeef H. Al-Ahruk, bus bombing victim

IMAGES OF THE BOMING AFTERMATH



Sandy S. Zahrak, bus bombing victim

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2010

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BAGHDAD

LOCATION: SAYIDAT AL-NEJAT CATHEDRAL, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

TIMELINE: OCTOBER 31, 2010

TOTAL MARTYRS: 58

- On October 31, 2010, a commando of 6 al-Qaida-linked jihadists attacked the Sayidat al-Nejat Cathedral (Our lady of the Salvation) in Baghdad during mass.
- The church had over 100 worshippers inside at the time of the attack.
- They held the worshippers hostage while the militants attempted to negotiate.
- As security forces attempted to enter the church, one of the militants activated a suicide belt.
- The suicide event resulted in the killing of at least 58 people, including the worshippers, security forces and the priest.
- Total Deaths: 2 priests; 39-44 worshippers; 7-12 police/security; 5 bystanders; all jihadi attackers
- One victim, Adam Udai, was three years old.
- A total of 78 parishioners were also wounded.

"At sunset yesterday, Raghada al-Wafi walked excitedly to mass with news for the priest who married her a month ago. Tonight, exactly 24 hours later, she returned to the Our Lady of Salvation church – this time carried by her family in a coffin that also contained her unborn child.

Today the priest who blessed her marriage and pregnancy minutes before he was killed will also be buried, as will several dozen other members of his congregation – all of them slain by terrorists in an attack that has drawn condemnation from around the world and left the fate of Iraq's beleaguered Christian community evermore uncertain."

"Iraq is home to one of the Middle East's oldest Christian communities; the majority are Catholics belonging to the Chaldean, or Assyrian, churches. The Assyrians are thought to be the oldest Christian community, dating back to the first century. Armenian Christians moved to Iraq too, fleeing massacres in Turkey early last century.

There have been other violent campaigns against Iraq's Christians, such as a sustained attack by the Iraqi army in the 1930s, but the last 50 years had been largely benign for the various communities, which were thought to have numbered around 800,000 before the US invasion of 2003."

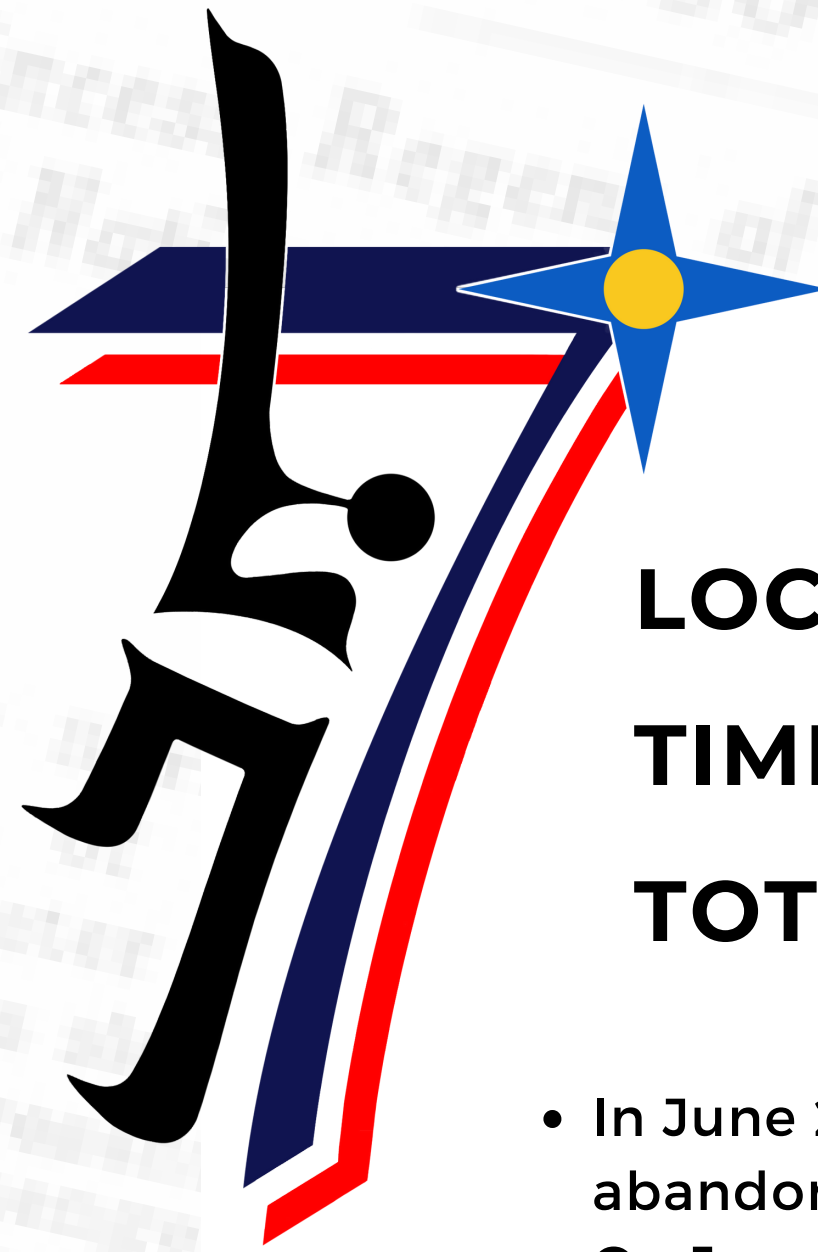
Source: The Guardian



Martyrs of the Our Lady of Salvation Cathedral Massacre

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2014

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NINEVEH PLAINS

LOCATION: NINEVEH PLAINS, IRAQ

TIMELINE: JUNE 2014 - 2016

TOTAL MARTYRS: HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DISPLACED

- In June 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) attacked Mosul. Iraqi and Kurdish forces abandoned their posts, leaving the city defenceless. They quickly took over Mosul
- On June 29, 2014, ISIL abducted two nuns along with three orphans and held them hostage for 15 days.
- On July 14, 2014, ISIL placed the noon symbol (ܢ) on Christian homes.
- By July 17, 2014, they sent out a decree giving Christians in Mosul three options: convert to Islam; pay “jizya” (a tax for non-Muslims), or leave by noon on July 19.
- Some Assyrians tried to flee Mosul on July 17 and 18, 2014 and had their valuables stolen at ISIL checkpoints.
- While Mosul was occupied, the Peshmerga and other KRG security forces disarmed nearby residents and pledged to protect them from any attacks.
- Two weeks later, ISIL forces advanced and the Peshmerga preemptively retreated without informing the local population. Assyrians from the Nineveh Plains began to organize local defence forces but had their weapons confiscated by Kurdish officials in mid-July.
- Hundreds of thousands were displaced, some casualties and women were taken captive as sex slaves.
- Assyrians also suffered greatly from cultural genocide as a result of the destruction and theft of cultural heritage by ISIL



Noon (ܢ) symbol on homes of Assyrian Christians



Ancient Mashki Gate was demolished



Thousands of Assyrians fled Mosul and were internally displaced across Northern Iraq.



“Our future is a mystery,” said Akram Mansour, 67, a security guard at the historic Mar Korkeis church in Bashiqa. “We’re between the hammer of the Kurdish government and the hammer of the federal government...”

...The peshmerga withdrew from the town of Sinjar one night in summer 2014, leading to a massacre of Yazidis and the enslavement of thousands of women by the Islamic State. Days later, the peshmerga left Bashiqa, and Yazidi and Christian families were forced to flee on their own.”

Source: The Washington Post

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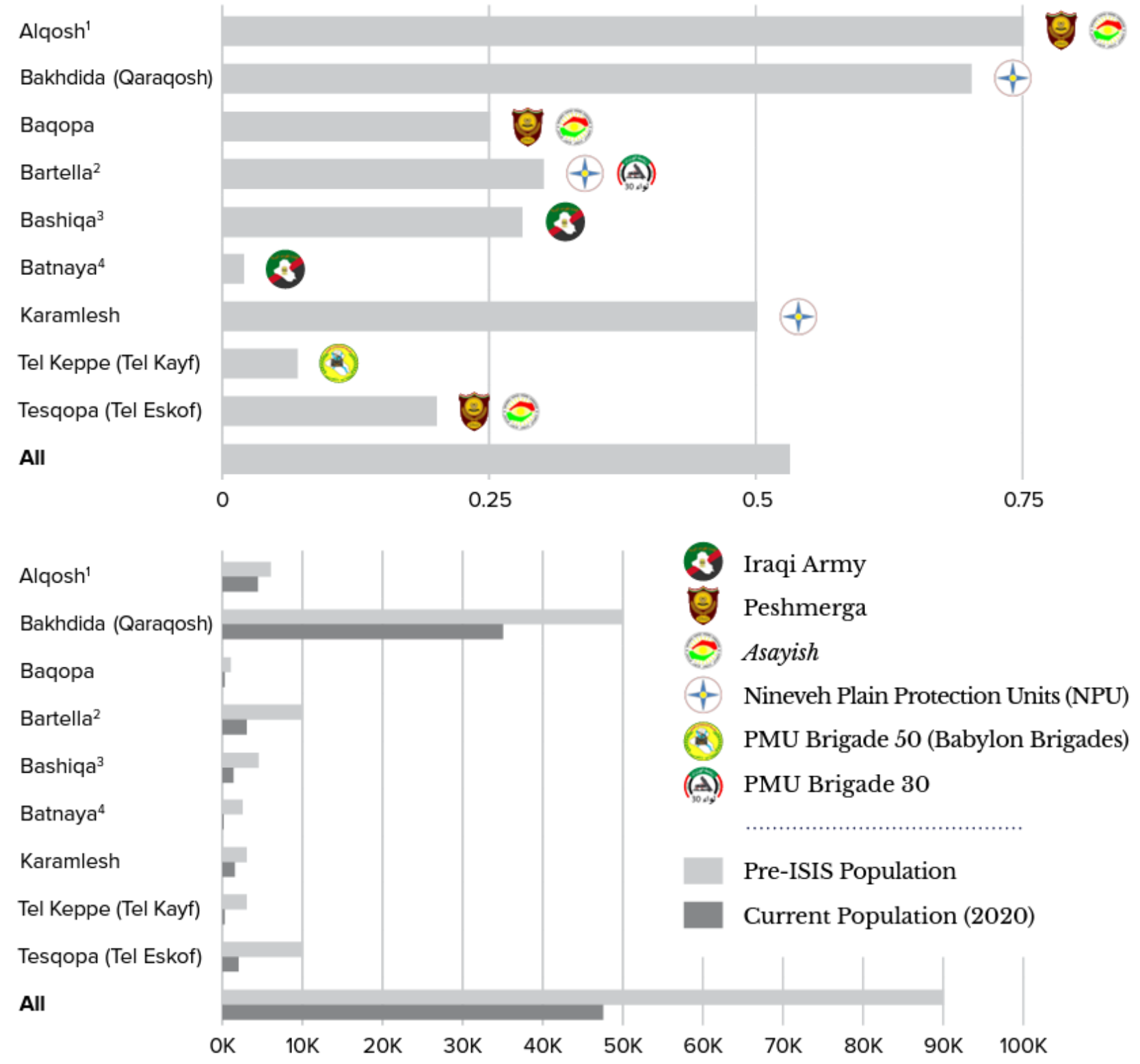
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2014

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Figure 4: Rate of Assyrian Return to the Nineveh Plain



¹The ISIS never assumed territorial control of Alqosh despite the fact that it was abandoned by the Peshmerga on August 6, 2014. Therefore, it was left fully intact. The Peshmerga reasserted its authority in Alqosh on August 9, 2014. However, in some cases returns were protracted due to lack of necessary confidence in KRG-affiliated security forces. Twenty-five percent of Alqosh's pre-ISIS population remains externally-displaced.

²Following the liberation of the Nineveh Plain, the NPU was the dominant force in Bartella, however, its authority has become increasingly constrained as Brigade 30 has expanded in size and influence with the support, financial and otherwise, of the Badr Organization and nonlocal PMF forces.

³From late October 2016 to October 2017, security in Bashiqa was controlled by Peshmerga forces until their withdrawal from the area when Iraqi forces led a campaign to restore federal authority in the region, enabling Brigade 50 to develop a temporary presence in Bashiqa. Most returnees of Assyrian background returned to Bashiqa between August and October 2017. Brigade 50's presence hindered additional returns. Bashiqa is now controlled by Iraqi Army forces, but many displaced persons continue to lack the necessary confidence in current security arrangements.

⁴Following its liberation from ISIS, Brigade 50 controlled Batnaya until Iraqi Army forces replaced them in the early months of 2019.

Source: Contested Control: The Future of Security in Iraq's Nineveh Plain, Assyrian Policy Institute

- In November 2014, the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM) supported the creation of the Nineveh Plains Protection Units (NPU) - an Assyrian security force that was to operate under the federal government.
- The NPU was able to register over 2,000 recruits initially. However, the federal government would only fund 500 of these recruits.
- On September 1, 2016, the NPU conducted an operation to liberate the town of Badana from ISIL with U.S. support.
- Post-ISIL, Nineveh Plains Protection Units (NPU) administered areas have seen the highest rate of return amongst Assyrians.
- Although they were under-resourced, the soldiers' connection to the local community encouraged residents to return to their towns and villages.



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2015

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KHABOUR

LOCATION: ASSYRIAN VILLAGES OF KHABOUR, SYRIA

TIMELINE: FEBRUARY - MAY, 2015 | HOSTAGES HELD UNTIL 2016

TOTAL MARTYRS: 10+; 253 HOSTAGES; THOUSANDS DISPLACED

- The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) launched a systematic attack on 35 Assyrian villages in the Khabour region.
- The attack killed dozens and resulted in over 253 Assyrian hostages - including women and children.
- Three of the hostages, Dr. Abdulmasih Enwiya, Ashur Piro Abraham, and Bassam Isa Mishael, were killed on camera by ISIL militants on September 23, 2015.
- The attacks resulted with the expulsion of most Assyrians from the region.
- On April 5, 2015 (Easter Sunday), ISIL destroyed the St. Mary's Church in Walto, Syria.



The destruction of St. Mary's Church in Walto, Syria by ISIL.



2016-03-28: The release of Miriam David Talya, an Assyrian girl who was held hostage by ISIL for one year. One girl was not released. ISIL stated that she has been married off to a high ranking ISIL official and will never be released.

Source: Assyrian International News Agency



Image of Dr. Abdulmasih Enwiya (left), Ashur Piro Abraham (middle), and Bassam Isa Mishael (right) who were executed by ISIL on September 23, 2015

ISIS filmed a video footage of the execution of the 3 Assyrians:

"I am Assyrian Christian Ashur Abraham, from the village of Tel Tamar, Jazira."

"I am Assyrian Christian Basam Essa Michael, born in 1976, from the village of Tel Shamiram, Tel Tamar."

"I am Assyrian Christian Abdulmasih Enwiya, born in 1997, from the village of Jazira district of Tel Tamar."

Source: The National Review

Prior to the start of the conflict in Syria, it is estimated that as many as 20,000 Assyrians lived in the Khabour Region, spread across its 35 villages. The Islamic State assault effectively ended the Assyrian presence in the region, as less than 1,000 returned following its liberation from Islamic State control.

Source: Assyrian International News Agency

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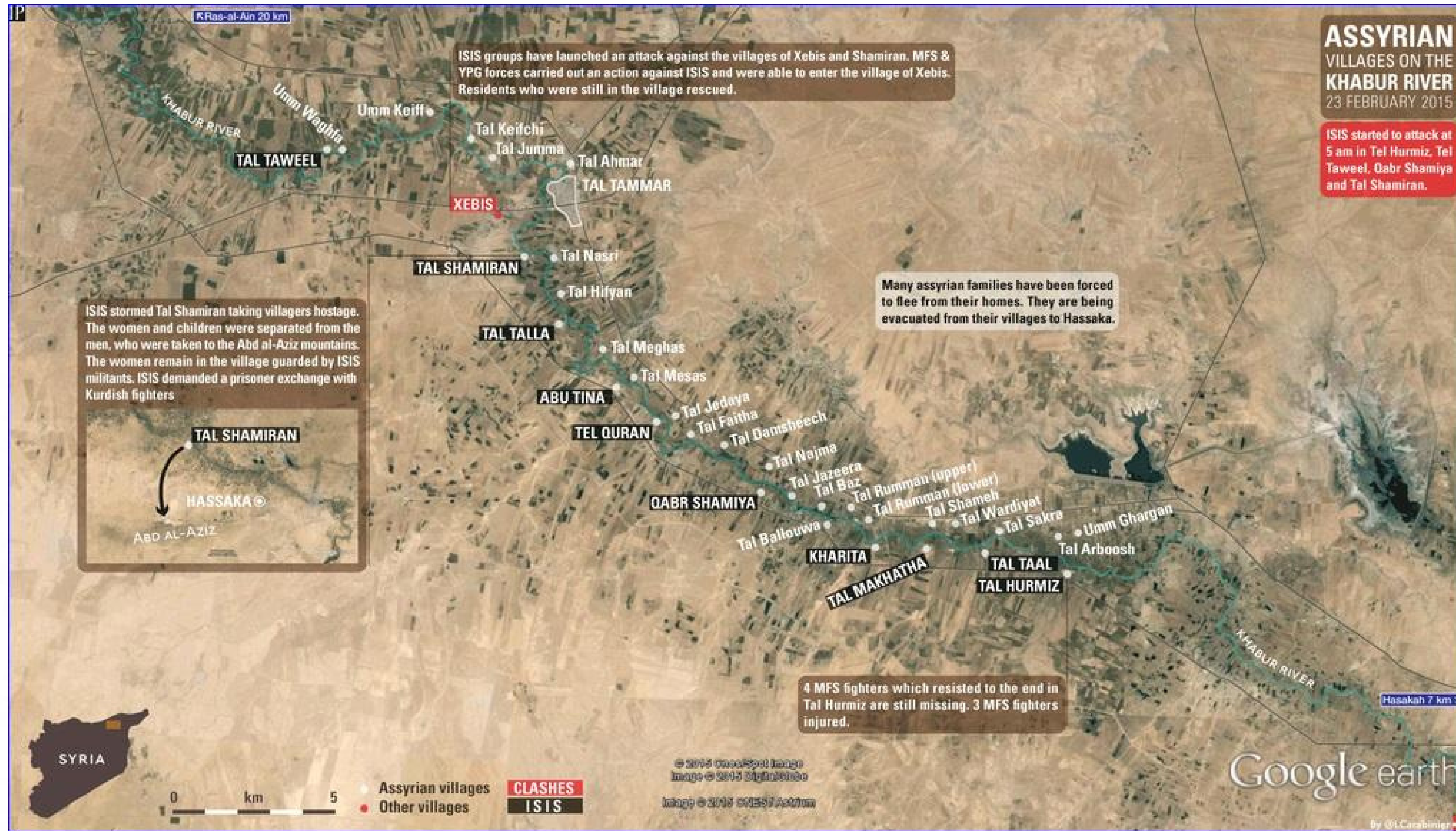


2015

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KHABOUR

MAP OF THE ISIS ATTACK ON THE ASSYRIAN VILLAGES OF KHABOUR



Source: Assyrian International News Agency



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