

EUROPE LISTENS TO ASSYRIAN HUNGERSTRIKERS, DEMO'S A SUCCESS

(ZNA: Amsterdam) A series of political rallies and protests organized by the Patriotic Revolutionary Organization of BethNahrin (PROB) took place in central Europe last week on the remembrance of the Massacre of 1915 (Seyfo: the Year of the Sword). In Downtown Sodertelja and Stockholm, Sweden (the march from Norra Bann Torget to Mynttorget, Riksdagen "The Swedish Parliament") the hungerstrikes and the demonstrations began on 17 April and ended on 24 April. Several groups and individuals visited the 40 Assyrian hungerstrikers.

The hungerstrikers read a press-release and explained the "injustice being committed against the Assyrian-Suryoyo nation." They thanked the Swedish media and officials for their attention.

In Stockholm, approximately 2000 Assyrians demonstrated waving the Assyrian flags and banners reading: "The Martyrs will Never Die", "Long Live

the Solidarity among the Peoples/Nations", and "Stop Massacring the Assyrian-Suryoyo people". The demonstrations ended with speeches and Assyrian music and dances. A two-minute silence for the souls of the martyrs was declared at each demonstration.

In Switzerland the Hungerstrike began on 18 April and ended on the 24th. There were 35 Assyrian hungerstrikers in whose protests the Swiss media were extremely interested. The Swiss TV and radio covered the Hungerstrike, since similarly last year, the PROB members occupied a church to draw attention to their demands. Many individuals visited the hungerstrikers and the socialist organizations offered messages of support.

Elsewhere, forty Assyrian hungerstrikers, all members of the PROB, met at Rudolf-Platz in Koln, Germany and began their Hungerstrike on 18 April and ended on the 24th. German representatives of the Christian parties including the CDU visited and showed their solidarity and sympathy. The hungerstrikers read their press-releases and offered the German political parties a document about the Massacre of 1915. The representatives of the German political parties promised to discuss the situation of the Assyrian people in their assemblies.

Turkish socialists and representatives of the Kurdish organizations who spoke against the perpetrators of the massacre and the continued injustice committed against the minorities in the Middle East Serbian representatives who offered

"support and solidarity with [their] Orthodox and ancient true Christian brothers"

The Commission of Catholic Churches, representing 22 German Catholic churches; invited the PROB to present more information about the Assyrian Christian nation. The Armenian bishop and Reverent Miron also visited and blessed the hungerstrikers.

On Saturday, buses carrying well over one thousand Assyrians, including a ZENDA reporter, traveling from Holland, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Austria reached the city of Bonn in Germany and began demonstrating through the streets. They were led by the hungerstrikers dressed in white shirts. They walked over the Kennedy Bridge to the center of Bonn and assembled at the "Markt-

use its "right to hot pursuit against PKK elements penetrating from the area". Meanwhile, the Kurdish Parliament-in-Exile warned Turkey on Thursday that it could provoke a war similar to the conflict in Kosovo if it failed to accept a peace offer from jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. Turkey is a NATO member. The membership of the Kurdish Parliament-in-Exile, based in Brussels, includes five Assyrian representatives in Europe.

A HEADCOUNT IN THE KRG

(ZNR: Prague) A planned census on the territory of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) continues to spark debate precisely because so much rides on its outcome: the future

course of interethnic dialogue, water rights, property and grazing rights, and the political balance. Indeed, as its organizers have suggested, the purpose of this headcount is to determine who will be allowed to vote in elections for the KRG parliament. Only a professionally conducted census,

Assyrian World News in Brief

Platz und Rathaus". The Assyrian demonstrators gave speeches in Assyrian, German and Turkish. After a two-minute silence the crowd listened to the speeches given by Assyrians and non-Assyrians. A series of messages of support from ZENDA Magazine, the Assyrian associations from Iran, Europe, in particular Serbia were read. The German observers were then treated to the Assyrian folkloric dances and music until the demonstrations ended at 6:00 PM.

TURKISH TROOPS CROSS INTO NORTHERN IRAQ

(ZNRU: Ankara) Last week about 15,000 Turkish troops crossed into Iraq to hunt down Kurdish fighters, accompanied by 2,000 pro-government village guards. The 9-mile penetration resulted in the killing of 54 Kurdish fighters, 25 Turkish soldiers, and the capture of several PKK guerilla fighters, according to Turkish press. Rebels from Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, have been fighting for autonomy in the southeast of Turkey since 1984. Ocalan, captured in February, is awaiting trial on charges of treason and could face the death penalty if convicted. Fighters of Masud Barzani's KDP, a close ally of Ankara controlling the area along Turkey's border with Iraq, were providing support to Turkish soldiers. Baghdad denounced Turkish military operations in the area as a violation of its territorial integrity and called on Ankara to withdraw its troops, but Turkish officials maintain that the army is obliged to

under UN or some other internationally-recognized supervision, will satisfy the various factions concerned. Its findings may match those of Sternberg, but in the minds of many, such an internationally supervised count would be seen as more acceptable.

6,000 CHILDREN DYING IN IRAQ EVERY MONTH

(ZNAF: Canberra) According to Dr. Sue Wareham, president of the Medical Association for Prevention of War, between 4,500 and 6,000 children are dying each month in Iraq from lack of food and medical care as a result of UN sanctions. Dr. Wareham spent eight days in Iraq and warned the human cost of NATO bombing in Yugoslavia would be just as high. "The sanctions represent a form of silent and ongoing warfare and are contrary to all medical and humanitarian principles," she said.

Wareham was part of a delegation which delivered medical supplies and shared its expertise with Iraqi doctors on the ground. Most deaths are from treatable or preventable illnesses such as gastrointestinal and respiratory infections resulting from malnutrition, Wareham said. Even though food and medicine are exempt under the sanctions imposed in 1990, the Iraqi people cannot afford to purchase any. Last week the Iraqi dinar to the dollar exchange rate broke through the 2,000 barrier. Wareham said the situation in Iraq held important lessons for the current NATO bombing of Serbia.

Syriac

The Assyria's Letters project has come full circle this month with the completion of the new West Assyrian font (Suryoyo/Syriac). Months in the making the West Assyrian font completes the collection of Assyrian fonts known as Assyria's Letters.

This project run by members of AYGV stands as a milestone in the history of the Assyrian language, as the complete set of Aramaic/Syriac scripts, that began around 800 B.C., are today published live on the internet, by the AYGV, for the first time in history. The three Assyria's Letters fonts consist of the Estrangelo font, the East Assyrian font and the West Assyrian font.

All fonts have been created using the standard True Type Font (TTF) format that represents the worldwide font standard. The TTF font standard is today used by the IBM's Windows 95/98/NT operating systems, as well as the operating systems of Macintosh computers. The characters have been strictly mapped to the ISO-8859-8 key-map, which is the Hebrew and Semitic languages standard. In this international standard the Assyrian consonants are arranged phonetically on the keyboard, except in cases where numeric keys have been assigned. The Assyrian vowels have been assigned the keys designated for Western vowels. Special Assyrian accents have been assigned the numeric portion of the keyboard.

The result of adopting these standards means that these fonts are very appealing for use on the Internet. The 'World Wide Web' is today on the brink of seeing the Aramaic/Syriac script published on other web pages, besides the AYGV's home page.

Previous web pages who have published Assyrian text have resorted to the scanning of the text and the inserting of a graphic picture into the page. This method is very inefficient as it takes up more memory for web browsers to view.

The advantages of using a standard font to publish on the internet are many. They include the ability to cut and paste Assyrian text from a page on the Internet into a Microsoft Word document at the click of a button. They also allow search engines, such as 'Alta Vista', to specifically search for an Assyrian word on the Internet and bring up the link to the page containing the specified Assyrian word.

Last, but not least, is electronic mail (e-mail). Using Netscape Communicator's e-mail program, provided you have installed the Assyrian fonts, it is now possible to send an electronic message down the telephone line written in the same language that King Sennacherib, himself, spoke over 2,700 years ago. ■

David Chibo

Syriac Font Release
12:00pm 23rd of May 1999
St. Aphrem Syrian Orthodox Church
Newcastle St. Thornbury

editor's note

It's every now and then that you can not help asking yourself, does the so-called 'Assyrian nation' have a future?

Looking at all the facts that lay before you, the future looks very bleak. The next question that comes to mind is, so what is the point of wasting time on something that will not materialise?

It is here where the other half of us goes wrong. Most of us are busy trying to keep the Assyrian nation alive, and many more of us are trying to keep themselves and their families alive. It is here where we have to put the 'omta atoreta' aside. It is here where we need to forget about the 'atorayae gabaree', or 'leshana deman ator', because all of these stale thoughts are meaningless for a hungry child, and I don't think that they would matter much for a wife who has lost her husband. What I have raised here, is an issue that has been on my mind for a while now, and is one which I feel very strongly about. Since I became involved with the AYGV, and I got to see more of our community, I realised that we have forgotten about that, which makes us humans. Which part of our humanity have we forgotten? First lets answer other questions: what is the difference between an Assyrian, and a Greek, or an Italian, and an Arab? The difference between these humans is their cultures. What do these humans have in common? Apart from having the two legs, two arms, torso, and a head. They have a beating heart, and they need to breathe. But further more, and the part that makes us what we are, we are all prone to sorrow, and joy. We all feel pain, and we all fall in love.

I guess you can say that I am against racism. But more importantly, and what I am trying to say is that what makes me 'me', is not my nationality. It is actually my emotions, and feelings that I have. These emotions and feelings are felt by every being on this earth. During the month of April there were a number of hunger strikes conducted in central Europe. The organisers and participants were Assyrian. These events were conducted in remembrance of the 1915 massacre. We have included the full report from Zenda on the world news page. I mentioned it here because I was moved by the courage and determination of the participants, and I believe that they have realised that you don't need a really big gun to be recognised in today's world.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue. ■

Sennacherib Warda



strength to strength; and of-course Sankho, and Nayel whom where it not for their technical expertise the radio would not be able to broadcast.

The station's establishment stemmed from a common idea of preserving the "spirit" of Assyrianism, while utilising the power of radio, and its accessibility to all. It was agreed that this should be done in the spirit of "fun", and "laughter"; after all, this so called fun, and laughter is the nucleus, and the binding thread of Assyrian youth.

If there has been one message that the radio has tried to convey most vehemently is that being Assyrian, and preserving everything it entails does not necessarily mean being serious all the time.

The station has sometimes been unconventional in its content, in discussing, and raising issues that we as Assyrians, in domestic settings, have not been able to, or are unwilling to discuss; for fear of condemnation, due to what may be labeled a 'taboo'. The sometimes stiff binding fabric of our Assyrian community, places restrictions, and boundaries upon its own.

High on the station's agenda has always been, to impress upon Assyrian youth; that it is 'O.K' to stand up for what you believe is just and true; to raise issues you believe are worthy of raising, even though, you may face difficulty in

your immediate domestic environment. And to face the problems you encounter, bravely breaking them down into their individual components, and finally finding success.

The station has a modest loyal fellowship, which tunes in regularly, and a high percentage of those are females.

Some of our most loyal listeners are as mentioned, females, and having just read the above passages may ask, what gives us the authority to be preaching the breaking down of social boundaries, when something as simple as having a female voice on the radio is non-existent. The answer is, the radio, and its representatives feel very strongly about gender equality, especially for Assyrian females, who generally face greater social restrictions than their male counterparts. In the past, females have tried to make a greater contribution to the running of the radio, but are always hesitant, especially of what others in the community may have to say. We do concede that gender equality for females in our Assyrian community is a problem, and we are trying in our limited capacity to alleviate it.

Central to the ideals of the radio has always been, and still is, to 'have fun'. Only when one has learnt to have fun and enjoy life, can they then seriously make an attempt at addressing the serious issues relating to our community, such as gender equality, ignorance and the like. ■

SCHOOL



Simon - 14, Milad - 15, Amel - 18, Rani - 13, Frydon - 15

When I decided to do a report on Assyrian language schools within Melbourne, I underestimated the size of the project I was undertaking. Unaware of the number of

schools run on weekends, and many of the students are not so keen on another early start, and another school day. All the teachers at these schools are working

“catching up with friends”

form of socialising. Most of them don't have the freedom to go out, due to their age. So school gives them the opportunity to catch-up with friends, and interact with other teenagers.

“learning a variety of subjects”



Maye - 14, Rasha - 15, Jwan - 14

The schools I was able to attend were the Victorian Assyrian Community Language School, Our lady guardian of plants Catholicism and Language School, and the St. George Assyrian Language

schools running, I mis-managed my time, and I was only able to visit three of the schools. I would like to extend my apologies to the schools I was unable to visit. I will be working on another report which will include those schools.

Our struggle to maintain our language hangs on a thread as all the schools complain of the lack of support from parents. Other problems were, the lack of staff, and also financial difficulties. There is also the student factor, or to be more precise, dealing with the question of how to convince teenagers that they are not wasting their time. The

voluntarily. Some have attended short teacher-training courses, but most of them depend on a number of years of experience. I personally admire their initiative to take on such responsibilities. All the pressures, and problems I mentioned earlier, and I am sure there are many more that I am unaware of that fall on the shoulders of the teachers. I also had the chance to speak to a few of the students attending these schools. All were very enthusiastic about their studies, and appreciated the Assyrian language. They also saw their attendance to the school as a



Andrew - 8



مکلفه ہفتہ کیلئے عینے؟



تعمیرات کے لئے ایک نئے منصوبہ کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ میں ایک نیا راستہ ہے، جو ایک نئے منصوبہ کے تحت ہے۔

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INSCRIPTION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR ON THE ISHTAR GATE OF BABYLON

The two entrances having become too low because of the heightening of the street, I dug out the soil for this gate, I strengthened the foundations, on the river's side with bitumen and with baked bricks. I covered the gate with bricks of blue enamel on which were represented savage bulls and dragons. I had placed above some beams of cedar in order to cover it. I placed in the gateway doors of cedar covered with copper and some hinges and supports in bronze. I placed in the entranceway some proud bulls in bronze and angry dragons. I embellished this gate in this manner to gain the admiration of all peoples.



Hani Benjamen

the other

M

U

Moreland
United

In their third year, and Moreland United have reached the provisional league.

The start to the season has been very promising. With five games played, the seniors have won three, and drawn two. This puts them second on the league ladder, with eleven points.

The reserves have won three, lost one, and drawn one. Their record puts them third on the league ladder, with ten points, the top scorer for the seniors is Ather. He has scored seven goals in the five rounds played. Three of the goals came in the second round match. His total also makes him the league's top scorer. The top scorer for the reserves is Remon, who has four goals to his credit.

The new club home ground is Moomba Park, in Fawkner. It has all the requirements of the club, including additional facilities, such as a children's playground, and a clubhouse. There is also a fully equipped kiosk, which is put to good use, as the club caters lunch on days that matches are played.

This year the club is competing in the Third Division (South-East), which is a step closer to the National League. But to be able to reach that point they will need a lot of sponsorship. That in turn depends on the size of crowds that attend the club's matches.

On a final note, you can follow the teams weekly progress in the daily papers. ■

Sennacherib Warda

Next four rounds

Morland United Vs.

Round 7 - Sunday, 23rd May 1999

- Collingwood City 1:00/3:00pm Coulson Reserve, Clifton Hill (Mel. Ref. 44 E-1)

Round 8 - Sunday, 30th May 1999

- Noble Park United 1:00/3:00pm Moomba Park Reserve, Fawkner (Mel. Ref. 8 A-12)

Round 9 - Sunday, 6th June 1999

- Rowville Eagles 1:00/3:00pm Parkridge Reserve, Rowville (Mel. Ref. 73 F-12)

Round 10 - Sunday, 13th June 1999

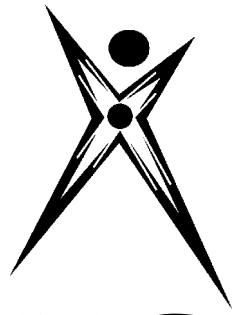
- Thornbury United 1:00/3:00pm Moomba Park Reserve, Fawkner (Mel. Ref. 8 A-12)



Faiz (Helu)

next month:

Tower of Babylon



AYGV

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.

It does this by supporting all artistic and social activities run by the youth of the Assyrian community.

Nakosha
- P.O. BOX 948 Merlynston,
Victoria, 3058. Australia.
nakosha@hotmail.com

Computer Basic Skills

Free Course - 10am-1pm
every Saturday

Microsoft Excel:
May 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Internet & Design:
June 5th, 12th, 19th & July 3rd

235/237 Sussex St.,
Nth. Coburg

Further Information :
Kamiran on 9408 4269



ܠܟܡ ܠܟܡܗܘܢ learn your language

until.....	haal.....	ܗܘܠܐ	mission.....	shlekhota.....	ܫܠܝܚܘܬܐ
brave.....	lebana.....	ܠܝܒܢܐ	faith.....	haemanota.....	ܗܘܡܢܘܬܐ
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silver.....	semma.....	ܫܡܡܐ	wide.....	petea.....	ܦܝܬܐ
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show-off.....	shoharana.....	ܫܘܗܪܢܐ	protect.....	ntdara.....	ܢܬܕܪܐ
shift.....	naoba.....	ܢܘܒܐ	body.....	paghra.....	ܦܓܪܐ

S p o n s o r s

•**Jacob Younan's Milk Bar**
9 Manana Rd. Glenroy, 3046

•**M.Y. Auto Electrician & Mechanical**
Michael & William Younan
74 Newlands Rd. Reservoir, 3073
ph: 9460 2809

•**Reblocking & Underpinning Specialists**
Michael Younan
13 Sargood St. Coburg, 3058
ph: 9383 7807

•**Cedar Jet Travel**
463 Lygon St. East Brunswick
ph: 9383 6999

•**North West Tyres**
Alan Amouche
62 Newlands Rd. Reservoir, 3073
ph: 9462 2692

•**Perfection Reblocking**
Youssef Elmaaraoui
2 / 72 Newlands Rd., Reservoir 3073
ph: 9462 4191

Dance Night

with

DJ William

Dave's Place

371 Settlement Rd. Thomastown

8pm till Late,
Saturday 12th of June

Cost - \$10 per person
Strictly: Over 18s party

Assyrian Youth Radio

Wednesday
Evenings
8 to 9pm

ayfm@hotmail.com



98.9 North West FM

Fun, Games,
Education and
lopleshanokh

9304 1244