



Aramese Beweging voor Mensenrechten (ABM)

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Press Release 9 January 2020

Three Aramean men falsely imprisoned by Turkish Government

Enschede, 9 January 2020 – Today three Aramean men from different villages in Tur Abdin (South East Turkey) were arrested by the military government of Turkey. They are most probably falsely accused of aiding the Kurdish terrorist organization PKK. The men are Monk Raban Aho Belican from the monastery Mor Yacoub d’Karné, Yusef Yar the mayor of Arkach and Musa Tastekin from Sederi all living in the area of Turo d’Izlo. They have been taken into custody in the police station of Arkach and later today they were transferred to the provincial capital of Mardin where they are still in prison. We ask the international community to demand from the authorities of Turkey the direct release of these three innocent man.

For decades Aramean Christians are persecuted and discriminated for they ethnicity and religion. Most of them have left their homeland despite the enormous historical value of this region to Arameans. Nowadays only three thousand Arameans are living in Tur Abdin whereas in the seventies there were hundreds of thousands of them.

In recent years the Aramaic inhabitants of Tur Abdin have been victims of harassments, threats and persecution by the Turkish government, Kurdish nationalists and Islamic fundamentalists.

Note for the press:

For questions you can contact xxx
Aziz Beth Aho – chairman ABM

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