



all inhabited by Christians. The genocide of 1915, also known among Syriac people as "Sayfo", annihilated Christian components. Seyfo literally means the "sword".

Aftermath, Christian populations and Syriac people presence in the Anatolia dwindled and come to zero point. The long tradition, civilization and culture were the subject of horrible genocide and the consequences and trauma were colossal.

During the First World War, world powers did not take into consideration of the rights of Syriac people during different accords and treaties despite of some promises from Western powers. The new states that emerged in the Middle East region and in Turkey, Syriac people had been deprived from all constitutional, legal and political rights. Moreover, Syriac people had been constantly subject of harassments, conflicts and discriminative policies. Syriac people are still without any constitutional guarantees in the Middle East countries and in Turkey.

Today, Syriac people are present in different countries of Levant. There are important Syriacs present in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and little quantity in Iran. In all mentioned countries, Syriac people are deprived from democratic, modern and constitutional rights. In Iraq, Syriac people faced great extinction treats and they gave thousands victims from 2003 to now. Syriac people have the autonomy demand in Iraq at the Nineveh Plain. In Turkey, Syriac people also face constantly legal, juridical problems and they are without any political guarantees. The ongoing court case against Syriac Monastery of Mor Gabriel is at the top of concerns among Syriac in all over the world. Syria which is engulfed into the civil conflict, Christians and Syriac people face great dilemma.

Overall, Syriac people have to acquire modern, democratic rights in the Middle Eastern countries in order to continue to flourish their culture and civilization at the homeland of their forefathers and to help to the construction of better future as they did in the history.

European Syriac Union, ESU, is Syriac NGO based in Brussels working, promoting and demanding of Syriac people rights' in the diaspora countries, at the European level and at the countries of Middle East. ESU is internationally legalized, democratic and modern organization which consider as the methods of works. ESU is working for all Syriac people without any differences regarding any denomination, cultural background and belief. ESU as a NGO is nearly present at all European countries in order to help, advocate the problems of Syriac people and being their voices to create public opinion about Syriac people.

#### **Unofficial Syriac population in the Middle Eastern countries:**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Iraq:</b>    | 350 000 - 500 000 |
| <b>Syria:</b>   | 1 ½               |
| <b>Turkey:</b>  | 35 000 - 50 000   |
| <b>Iran:</b>    | 20 000            |
| <b>Lebanon:</b> | 2 million         |

#### **The rest of the world (Diaspora)**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Europe:</b>        | 1 million   |
| <b>U.S.A:</b>         | 3 million   |
| <b>Latin America:</b> | 6 million   |
| <b>Australia:</b>     | 600 000   |
| <b>India:</b>         | 1 million (Syriacs emigrated in the 14 th and 15 th century to India) |