

6 December 2015

To the Ambassador, Nabil Mohammed Al Saleh
Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Australia



Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of Kurdish Lobby Australia, a non-partisan group that disseminates issues concerning Kurds. We are very concerned that representatives of Kurdish organisations in Syria including the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and its Peoples Protection Units (PYG/PYJ) and other organisations such as the newly formed coalition of Kurds, Arabs and Assyrians, called the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which has recently defeated ISIS in 200 Arab villages and the city of Al-Hawl in Hasaka province, have not been invited to Riyadh for a meeting of Syrian Opposition groups scheduled for the 8-10 December, 2015, to allow representatives to discuss common ground and formulate a list of representatives to negotiate with the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in view of a political transition in Syria.

We understand that the Istanbul-based Syrian National Coalition opposed invitations being extended to Kurdish organisations, on the basis that PYG/PYJ fights the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and not the Assad Regime. In fact, factions within the FSA are allied to PYG/PYJ and fight alongside Kurds in the SDF. That the Kurds have avoided confrontations with the Assad regime in order to focus on fighting ISIS means they could play a vital role in negotiating ceasefires and political alternatives to the Assad Regime. Having established four multi-ethnic administrations in Northern Syria and being on the front line fighting ISIS, they have more knowledge of the realities on-the-ground than people living in Istanbul.

We request you ask the appropriate people in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to extend invitations to the co-chairs of PYD, Salih Muslim and Asya Abdullah, and to the most able representatives of the PYG/PYJ and SDF, in order for this meeting of about 85 opposition representatives, including 15 from armed factions, to achieve concrete outcomes for ending the war in Syria and providing real alternatives to the Assad Regime.

Yours Sincerely,

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