



UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation
Att: H.H. Reem Ebrahim Al-Hashimy
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Thursday, 10 February 2022

OPEN LETTER REGARDING EXPO 2020 DUBAI

[via. electronically: www.mofaic.gov.ae]

Your Excellency,

We, the Board of Directors of ACSYA Inc. write to highlight concerns about the misrepresentation of Indigenous Assyrian folk garments at Expo 2020 Dubai (hereinafter the “Expo”). According to the official Expo website—www.virtualexpodubai.com—and specifically under the Iraq Pavilion profile, two articles of clothing that are of Assyrian heritage (see annexures marked “A” and “B”) have been mislabelled as “Kurdish folklore”. For many Assyrians, these garments are not only a form of cultural expression, but valued carriers of Indigenous identity and continuity. The mislabelling of such garments diminishes this cultural significance and erodes this rich heritage.

Indeed, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) consists of multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-confessional societies— including First Nation peoples (Indigenous Assyrians). In fact, the constitution of the KRI, and that of the Federal Government, that is, the Republic of Iraq, embraces this multiculturalism. We, hereby, urge that you consider rephrasing the wording on the website so to reflect this reality. This shall, indeed, echo the Expo’s agenda which celebrates “diversity, inclusivity, and multiculturalism”. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to write to us.

Regards,

Ramy Jajo
President, ACSYA Inc.

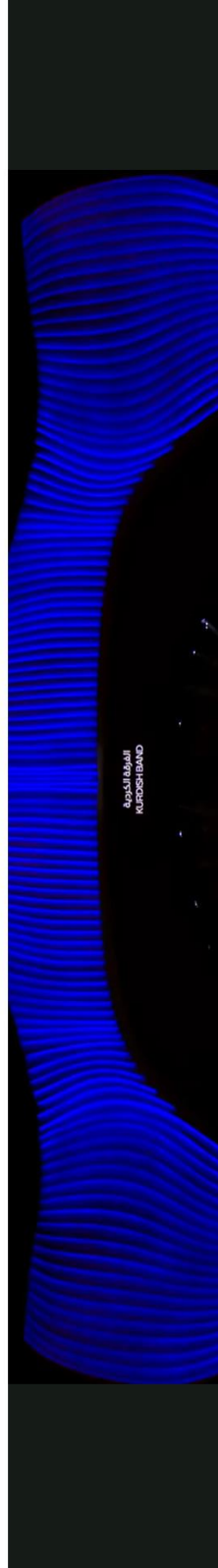


ON PERFORMANCE

Iraq: Kurdish Folklore Dance

In celebration of Iraq's national day at Expo 2020 Dubai, take in a performance that explores Kurdish folklore.

📅 Saturday, December 11th | 03:00 AM - 03:30 AM



ANNEXURE "B"

