



## **Kurdish National Congress Of North America**

Robert M. Duncan, Chair  
Republican National Committee  
310 First Street  
Washington, DC 2003

October 7, 2008

Dear Mr. Duncan:

We are writing to vehemently protest the slander perpetrated upon the Kurdish people by one of your party's elected officials. Doug Grindstaff, chapter chairman of Williamson County GOP wrote in a blog that the 8,000 Kurds living in Nashville were "trying to repay our hospitality by robbing us and dealing drugs."

Almost every one of the 8,000 Kurdish émigrés and naturalized citizens of Nashville, TN are hard working people who have a deep love for the US because it was the US that rescued us from the persecution of Saddam Hussein's Iraqi Ba'athist regime. We are doctors, business owners, entrepreneurs, professors, -- in short, we are a community with a strong family-oriented culture and, most of all, we are law abiding citizens.

Unfortunately, a handful of our teenagers, like teens from other cultures have been caught up in gang activity at local high school. Upon learning of the involvement of some of our own youngsters in gang activity, our Kurdish community organized a community wide action at our local community center and invited police officers to come and speak to the community and to meet with young Kurdish teens who may have been tempted to participate in gang activity. Very tragically, four were involved in an act of terrible violence and they have been jailed to pay for the crimes they committed. However, this does not mean that the other 8,000 Kurds in the community should be painted with the same brush as these misguided young men.

Doug Grindstaff's blog entries demonstrate that he has used this one incident to whip up anti immigrant feelings against our community and indeed has slandered us.

After 9/11 the Kurds of this community lined up to donate blood for blood banks, and when the Iraqi invasion began, we sent members of our community into harms way in order to support the US military as translators and advisors. For Grindstaff to assert that we are all 'drug dealers' is immoral, unethical and completely misguided and vicious.

We trust that you will do all in your power to reign in the vitriol of this party member – he is a disgrace to your party and alienates a group that has been strongly allied with the Republican Party. We ask that you reprimand or dismiss Mr. Grindstaff from his position as chapter chairman.

Sincerely,  
*Kirmanj Gundi*  
Kirmanj Gundi,  
President

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