



**Denyse**  
**STONEBACK**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, ILLINOIS 16TH

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August 7, 2021

On August 7<sup>th</sup> we remember the innocent victims of the Simele genocide, which began on this day in 1933. The goal of these attacks was to eradicate Assyrian families, who have a long and treasured history in the Middle East. With a unique ethnic and religious background, Assyrians have been a target of persecution, forced relocation, and genocide throughout their history.

As a result of their suffering, there is a large Assyrian diaspora across the world, with over 600,000 living in the United States. I am proud to represent a large Assyrian population, and appreciate all it has to offer. The Assyrian community enriches the 16th District by offering generations of proud tradition and shared values.

Today, I reaffirm my commitment to stand up for the human rights of all Assyrians, both in the 16th District and beyond. I recognize their struggles and losses, and will continue to advocate for the Assyrian community in whatever capacity I can.

Sincerely,

Denyse Stoneback  
Representative, 16th District