

>>>>> **BINXET=UNDERLINE** <<<<<

Western Kurdistan Association

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21st March 2010 = 1st Newroz 2710 Kurdish

Happy Newroz, the Kurdish New Year



New Project

Daily exhibition and a monthly workshop

Western Kurdistan Association is running daily exhibition and a monthly workshop on Kurdish Music, Kurdish History, Kurdish Literature, Kurdish traditions, Kurdish Film evening at 3pm on the first Tuesday each month for refugees and asylum seekers.

To attend and to get more information please contacts the WKA.

FREE COURSE FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Western Kurdistan Association is running computer course from April to September 2009, for refugees and asylum seekers in Hammersmith and Fulham. For refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking employment or higher education.

For more information please contact the WKA

**Supplementary School for Kurdish Children
“Osman Sabri Academy”**

Western Kurdistan Association is running Supplementary School for Kurdish Children “Osman Sabri Academy” to learn Kurdish language “Kurmanji dialect” on Sundays from April 2009.

For more information please contact the WKA



The Syrian machine-guns against the Kurdish celebrators Syrian security forces shoot three Kurds at Nowruz celebrations around 50 injured in 21 March 2010

Syrian security forces shot three Kurds, 14-year old Muhamad Umer Haydar and 15-year-old girl called Sherin M. Othman and injured at least 70 Kurds and more arrested at the beginning of the Kurdish New Year celebrations on 21st March in the town of al-Raqqa on the north bank of the Euphrates east of Aleppo.

A Syrian doctor in the state hospital in al-Raqqa, who did not wish to be named, reported to a human rights activist whom he knew that the hospital was told on 21st March by the state security service to keep free as many beds as possible. "This is an indication that the attacks on peaceful Kurdish celebrators had been long since planned",. There were also reports of attacks on celebrating Kurds from the cities of Damascus, Aleppo, Qamishli and Afrin.

"The suppression of the Kurds has increased steadily since the takeover of power of the young Bashar al-Assad in the year 2000 and after the Western Kurdistan uprising in 2004

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/boy-killed-and-dozens-injured-detained-after-kurds-clash-security-forces-syria-2010>

Boy killed and dozens of injured detained after Kurds clash with security forces in Syria

Amnesty International has urged the Syrian authorities to investigate the killing of a 14-year-old boy and the wounding of dozens of other people, after security officials opened fire on a Kurdish New Year celebration on 21 March.

The organization has received reports that many of those injured in clashes with law enforcement officials, are being held under tight security in hospital and are being denied access to their relatives.

The incident happened in the north-eastern city of Ar Raqqah on Sunday, as an estimated 5,000 Syrian Kurds gathered to celebrate Nawrouz, the Kurdish New Year.

The gathering was organized by the Democratic Union Party (PYD), a Kurdish minority political party unrecognized by the Syrian authorities.

Violence broke out when law enforcement officials objected to people holding up PYD flags and pictures of 'Abdullah Öcalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey (PKK), who is imprisoned in Turkey.

Police used tear gas and pumped water at the crowds then opened fire with live ammunition when some of the demonstrators threw stones at them.

Fourteen-year-old Mohammed Haider Iben 'Omar, was killed. Syrian-Kurdish human rights organizations claim that he may have died due to excessive use of force.

On Tuesday, Political Security officers delivered his body to his family and supervised the burial. It is reported that the family was not permitted to hold a funeral.

Many of those injured during the clashes were taken to Ar Raqqah National Hospital, which has since been surrounded and placed under guard by the security forces.

To date, only two of the injured have been permitted to receive visits from their families, prompting concern that the rest may be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

The Syrian authorities have not commented on the events in Ar Raqqah and no investigation is known to have been opened into allegations that law enforcement officials used excessive force.

Amnesty International urged the Syrian authorities to conduct an immediate independent investigation into the use of lethal force by law enforcement officials and whether this constituted excessive use of force in breach of recognized international standards.

The organization said that any officials responsible for using excessive force should be held to account.

It also urged the authorities to allow all those injured or detained in connection with the 21 March events to have immediate access to their families, to legal counsel of their choice and to any medical care that they require.

The Kurds comprise up to 10 per cent of the population of Syria and live mostly around the city of Aleppo in the north of the country and the al-Jazeera region in the north-east.

These predominantly Kurdish areas lag behind the rest of the country in terms of social and economic development. Syrian Kurds are subject to identity-based discrimination, including restrictions on the use of their language in schools and the expression of their culture, such as bans on producing and circulating Kurdish music.

Nawrouz is one of the main events celebrated by members of the Kurdish minority in Syria, and Kurdish political parties usually hold public gatherings to deliver speeches and sing songs in the Kurdish language.

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SKS raises issues for UN and UK, EU and USA Governments in relation to Kurds in Syria

March 22, 2010 by [sks](#)

Filed under [Reports](#) , [Support Kurds](#) , [Syria](#) , [World](#)

Following the killing of three Kurds, and injuring of forty-one Newroz revellers in the Kurdish area in Syria on 21 March 2010:

SKS calls in the United Nations to

- conduct an enquiry into today's Newroz events .

On 23 February ,2010 the **United Nations** decided to include Newroz (new year) as an ' Intangible Heritage of Humanity' [\[1\]](#) ,and less than one month later, Kurds are killed while they celebrate that traditional festival.

SKS calls on the UK Government:

- to truly press for change in Syria so that Kurds can celebrate their culture freely, including Newroz, and without fear of being killed ;
- to work with others in EU to support those who are engaged in non-violent struggle for their basic rights in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights ;
- to support Kurdish human rights defenders, and show visible support for those who have been imprisoned for their non-violent activism. At this time we ask that the injustice of continued detention of Hassan Saleh and his fellow-prisoners be brought to the attention of the Syrian authorities wherever the opportunity for dialogue presents itself ;
- to press for the release of all prisoners of conscience ;
- to remain alert to the fact that the Syrian government does not demonstrate a responsible attitude towards its Kurdish population, and that whilst it has welcomed refugees from Iraq and Palestine, it has been increasing the oppression of its Kurdish population. The Syrian Government needs to make significant change in order to be able to engage with the elements required for partnership aid funding – participation ,inclusion, fulfilling obligations ;
- to remain alert to the slow ethnic cleansing of Kurds on Syria, and to be aware of the risk of genocide in the light of the basic disregard for Kurdish life that is regularly demonstrated towards civilians and military personnel ;
- freedom to celebrate Newroz is a right that we expect the UK Government to support . SKS calls on the Governments of European Union countries to take note of the above ,and:
- support Kurds in Syria, and to work together on the EU joint strategy to take account of the abuses of the basic rights of Kurds, and to work together for change ;
- make a public declaration of concern in relation to the continued killing of Kurds, and imprisonment of people who speak up for human rights ;
- heed the observations of Human Rights Watch and remedy the approach to the Syrian Government by raising human rights concerns with Syrian officials during every visit and to seek specific commitments from the Government to evidence improvement in their record . SKS calls on the US Government and President Obama to
- note the above ;
- and especially to contribute towards the international effort to put the Syrian Government in the corner until Kurds can celebrate their basic human rights without fear, including the celebration of Newroz on 20/21 March every year .

Background:

SKS welcomes the UK Government report launched by the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Report**[\[2\]](#) for 2009 on 17 March 2010. It is clear from the report that the UK Government recognises that the human rights record of the Government in Syria has deteriorated, and that there is a lack of respect for the rights of the Kurdish minority. The report states that ‘ *the UK is particularly concerned with the deterioration in the situation for opposition politicians and Syria’s Kurdish population.* ’

David Miliband in the introduction says:

‘human rights defenders from Belarus to Syria continued to protest against injustice and worldwide, individuals and groups continue to work to realise the rights of all. We have a responsibility to applaud these efforts ,and to support them by challenging the notion that human rights depend on culture and circumstance’.

It is recognised in the introduction of the report that ‘ *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the UN Charter make the human rights situation in any country the valid concern of all states* ’

SKS has been raising our concerns that the doors are now more open than they were a year ago for the Syrian Government to engage with the international community, whilst at the same time the same government is increasing pressure on the indigenous Kurdish population. The report touches on this issue:

*‘Though the world has made progress, we need to ensure it is not reversed by how we tackle the economic crisis, terrorism or conflict .’*It continues :*We must continue to support people who demand*

their human rights across the world.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “all human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights”. Ensuring the equality of all individuals, regardless of their race, gender or sexual orientation, is crucial to full realisation of human rights. The UK is one of most active countries in promoting this global agenda .’

The FCO encourages governments to see human rights defenders as legitimate actors working in the interests of their countries. Our Embassies and High Commissions reinforce this message through showing them visible support. This includes raising specific instances of abuse or detention with governments, encouraging dialogue between governments and human rights defenders, and through specific projects.

In 2000, the Government adopted a human rights-based approach to development. This means that our aid partnerships must be based on commitment to respect for human rights .The approach is based on three core principles :

- *Participation: enabling people to participate in decision-making processes, which affect their lives .*
- *Inclusion: building socially inclusive societies, based on the values of equality and nondiscrimination .*
- *Fulfilling obligations: strengthening institutions and policies to protect and promote human rights .*

The UK believes that the realisation of the protection of human rights underpins sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Under the guideline framework, the EU also makes public declarations on particular cases or areas of concern, calling upon governments to respect human rights or welcoming positive developments , initiating private demarche campaigns, and promoting wider discussion).p.68(

There is recognition of the lack of respect for Kurdish life ‘ :On 23 November, Kurdish conscript Sadik Hossein Mousa was reported to have died during military service .Nineteen such cases have been reported in the last five years: six deaths of Kurdish conscripts in 2004; one in 2006; eight in 2008; and four in 2009. The Syrian authorities say the deaths are suicides, but human rights defenders say autopsy evidence points to death by torture or shooting that could not have been self-inflicted.’

David Miliband said[3]:

‘I would like to send my best wishes to all those who are celebrating the ancient festival of Norouz ... Norouz is a festival which has been celebrated for more than 3000 years. It is a time when people mark the advent of spring and contemplate the changes in nature.

Human Rights Watch raised concerns that EU officials have failed to press the issue of human rights abuses in Syria[4]:

‘Catherine Ashton, the EU foreign relations chief ,should raise human rights concerns with Syrian officials during her visit next week and seek specific commitments to improve their record, Human Rights Watch said today. So far, the increased Western engagement with Syria has not resulted in any human rights gains because the US and Europe have failed to press the issue, Human Rights Watch said.’

“As the last few months have demonstrated, talking to Syria without putting its rights record on the table emboldens the government to believe that it can do whatever it wants to its people, without consequence ”,said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. “A message to Syria that says ‘We only care about your external affairs’ is a green light for repression’.

President Obama made a statement on 20 March 2010[5]:

‘Today, I want to extend my best wishes to all who are celebrating Nowruz in the United States and around the world. On this New Year’s celebration, friends and family have a unique opportunity to reflect on the year gone by; to celebrate their time together; and to share in their hopes for the future’.

Khalaf Dahowd and Sheila Mosley

Co-Chair :International Support Kurds in Syria Association – SKS

21March 2010

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Kurds in Iran and Syria continue to face oppression: Annual Report on Human Rights 2009

March 23, 2010

<http://ekurd.net/mismas/articles/misc2010/3/state3689.htm>

LONDON,— Last week the United Kingdom launched its annual report on Human Rights for 2009. The report says Kurds in Iran and Syria continue to face intimidation and discrimination, while it notes that Turkey is planning to lift bans on Kurdish.

Turkey to lift ban on Kurdish

According to the report, Turkey has yet to grant specific rights on ethnic, religious or linguistic grounds in order to help preserve citizens' identity, but the report suggests that Turkey plans reforms to address the problems of Turkey's minorities, including the Roma and Kurds. "There are indications that the remaining bans on the use of languages other than Turkish will be lifted, and the Turkish Broadcasting Regulator introduced legislation in September permitting 24-hour television and radio broadcasting in other languages."

Kurds face discrimination in Syria

While the report notes positive reforms in Turkey, it suggests that Syria's estimated 1.7 million Kurds continue to suffer from discrimination, lack of political representation, and tight restrictions on social and cultural expression. "In particular, there are a number of measures in place repressing Kurdish identity, [www.kurd](#) through restricting the use of the Kurdish language in public, in schools and in the workplace. Kurdish-language publications are banned and celebrations of Kurdish festivities, such as Nowruz, the traditional Kurdish New Year, are prohibited.

The report adds that 300,000 Kurds continue to be denied recognised citizenship, while Presidential Decree 49 questions the rights of Syrian citizens to hold property rights in the border areas of the country and particularly affects the Kurdish population. "Kurds in Syria claim that it effectively prohibits them from selling, buying or inheriting land."

Syria using bulldozers against Kurds

According to the report more than 150 Kurds were detained as political prisoners in 2009 in demonstrations and Kurdish New Year celebrations. On 20 March 2009, the police used a bulldozer to break the main stages at the celebrations in five Kurdish towns and villages. Apart from arrests, the report talks about nineteen cases of deaths of Kurds during military service, suggesting that evidence points to death by torture or shooting that could not have been self-inflicted.

Ethnic minorities face intimidation in Iran

The report is also not positive about the human rights conditions in Iran. "Members of Iran's ethnic minority groups from the Ahwaz, Kurdistan, Khuzestan, Baluchistan and Turkmenistan regions also face increasing intimidation." The report suggests that days after the election result saw a series of mass executions in Iran's border regions, viewed by many as a warning sign to the local populations. The majority of the people facing death penalty are Kurds.

“On 11 November, Ehsan Fattahian was executed after a ten-year sentence to be served in exile was increased to a death sentence by a higher court. We expressed concern at reports that Fattahian was tortured during detention, as well as irregularities during his trial. Many members of minority groups remain on death row accused of terrorism, treason, or acting against national security.”

UK supports media and women’s rights in Kurdistan

The UK is also active in monitoring the human rights situation in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan and supporting the Independent Media Centre in Kurdistan and the German NGO called WADI, which has been working to reduce the practice of female genital mutilation in the Kurdish region with the support of the Kurdish government, the UN and the Dutch foreign Ministry.

It’s known that Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP, Prime Minister’s Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq, has good relations with the Kurds. She told the Iraq inquiry that the Kurdish people believed the only way of ending human rights abuses, was by removing Saddam Hussein from power.

The report says that official visits to prisons in the Kurdish region of Iraq in November revealed the Kurdish Regional Government’s commitment to providing adequate facilities and focus on rehabilitation.

KRG acknowledges existence of FGM

While it notes that domestic violence and “honour” killing remain a problem in Iraq and that thousands of Iraqi women are beaten or killed each year, it says honour killings in the Kurdish region are now punished as harshly as other murders and are not viewed differently under the law. “Female genital mutilation [FGM] is also widespread. But the Kurdish Regional Government and a growing percentage of the population are increasingly acknowledging its existence and the need to address the issue.”

The United Kingdom launched its annual report on Human Rights for 2009: [Full text in PDF](#)

The fifth anniversary of the Western Kurdistan uprising

MEMORANDUM

**To: Mr. Bashar Al-Asad, President of the Republic of Syria,
From: Dr Jawad Mella organiser of the Kurdish demonstration**

**On the Kurdish Question in of
Western Kurdistan which is occupied by Syrian
And the continuing the killing of Kurdish people in Syria,
And in the third anniversary of the assassination of the Kurdish leader Dr Mashouq Al
Khaznawi on 1-6-2005 by your regime**

Mr. Bashar Al-Asad,

We are the Preparing Committee and many other organisations and Kurdish personalities presenting this memorandum in the name of Kurdish people in Western Kurdistan (Syrian Kurdistan) to recognize the rights of Kurdish nation in Syrian Kurdistan, before - Kurdistan - to be separated by the international forces as done to Iraqi Kurdistan since 1991. We would like you to recognize our rights, and to build a strategic relation between the Arabs and the Kurds. The Kurds who are now about 40 millions and more than three millions of them inside the

Syrian political borders and it is your decision to make the 40 million people to be friend to the Arabs or not.

We would like to draw your attention to some light on the situation in Western Kurdistan (Syrian Kurdistan).

The situation in Western Kurdistan faces, as it has always done, a political and media blackout by the Syrian Government.

However, in order to clarify the situation in Western Kurdistan we would like to give you a brief account of the Kurdish question in general.

The Kurdish people is the fourth largest nation in the Middle East and the largest nation in the world without a national state. Kurdistan used to be, like all the existing countries in the Middle East - except Iran -, under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. In the aftermath of the First World War when the Ottoman Empire disintegrated (1918) it seemed the most reasonable solution that Kurdistan should be granted national independence. Although the Treaty of Sevres (1920) did provide the creation of an independent Kurdish State, when Mustafa Kemal became the Turkish leader he refused to accept this. A second treaty of Lauzanne was signed in 1923, and Kurdistan was not mentioned in it. Then in a Franco-Turkish agreement the railway line between Mousel (a city in Iraqi Kurdistan) and Aleppo (a city in Syrian Kurdistan) became the border line between Turkey and Syria. The result of these agreements, in which the Kurds had no saying whatsoever, was the division of Kurdistan. The Kurds have never accepted this, so they started their continuous struggles against the regimes occupying Kurdistan, namely Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Iran, and the former Soviet Union. These governments since then have practised the most repressive policies in the history of mankind against the Kurds.

For 80 years the Kurds have had no national rights, and their country Kurdistan was divided and occupied as an international colony, and the Kurds have been prosecuted, massacred, assimilated and denied the very basic human rights.

In fact the Kurds are asking now, especially after the Halabja disaster and the recent genocide which is still carrying on, to be separated from Iraq and all occupiers of Kurdistan. Whether the Kurds are demanding full independence or a more limited autonomy or extension of electricity to their villages in these States the Kurdish people are face severe restrictions and harsh oppression.

As we mentioned earlier the Franco - Turkish agreement (Ankara Treaty 1921) set the boundary which separated the Syrian Kurdistan from the motherland Kurdistan. As a result thousands of families were divided.

Those on the northern side of the railway line came under Turkish occupation (and in fact regarded as Turks by the Turkish government), and those on the southern side of the railway line came under the Syrian occupation, whose population now is more than two millions, (and in fact regarded as Arabss by the Syrian government).

The Kurds in Syria during the twenties and thirties enjoyed to some extent press and publishing freedom, and had their own centres and organizations under the French colony. When Syria got independence in 1946 and Arabs took control of the government, the Kurds lost everything they achieved.

All Kurdish centres were closed, organisations were banned and all Kurdish publications, books, magazines and newspapers, new and old were confiscated.

The leaders of the Kurdish people in Syria were sent into exile or executed.

Below are a few examples of these atrocities:

- 1- In 1930 the French colonial in Syria exiled the Kurdish leader Osman Sabri to the Island of Madagascar. He was brought back as a result of a heavy pressure by the Kurds on the authority. Since then, this Kurdish hero had been arrested on more than 18 occasions and spent more than 12 years behind bars. He was not allowed to travel as well because he had been deprived of his Syrian nationality.
- 2- In 1951 the Syrian authorities assassinated Prince Jaladat Bader Khan and exiled his brother (Prince Kameran), and a number of Kurdish dignitaries such as Dr. Noraddin Zaza, Dr Ismet Shariff Vanly, Poet Jagir xwin and Dr Jawad Mella.

- 3- In 1958 the Syrian authorities dismissed hundreds of Kurdish officers from the Syrian army because just they are Kurds, among them were: The chief of staff in the Syrian Army General Tawfik Nizamaddin, General Mahmod Shewkat, Colonel Fuad Malatali, Colonel Bakri Qotresh...
- 4- In 31/11/1960 the Syrian authorities burnt to death 380 Kurdish children in the town of Amouda while they were watching a film in the cinema.
- 5- In 1962 the Syrian authorities deprived 150 000 Kurds of the Syrian citizenship in the province of Al-Jazierah.
- 6- In 1967 the Syrian authorities carried out a racial policy called "the Arab Belt" which aimed at the expulsion of the Kurdish population living along the borders of Iraq and Turkey "15 km wide and 375 km long" and replacing Arabs in their areas. The purpose was to separate these Kurdish areas of Kurdistan from other Kurdish areas in Iraq and Turkey.
- 7- A group of patriotic Kurds have been arrested in Syria for more than 15 years without any court decision, one of these Mr.Daham Mero was released recently, and that was because of his age, he was over eighty, and many other Kurdish political prisoners have been killed as Dr. Hamid Sino, or created a mental illness to them as Mr. Bahjat Mohamed.
- 8- On March 21, 1986 the Syrian authorities prevented the Kurds from celebrating their national day "Newroz". The Kurds organized a peaceful demonstration in Damascus protesting against this action. The Syrian army then opened fire at the rally and as a result a Kurdish youth was killed and tens injured.
- 9- In 23/3/1993 the Syrian authorities burnt to death 72 Kurdish prisoners in the central prison of Al-Hasaka city.
- 10-Now, in Syria hundreds of schools teaching English, French, German, Spanish, Armenian Turkish, Farsi and Hebrew but no one single school for teaching Kurdish language.
- 11-On 12-3-2004 the Syrian regime secret police and the nationalist Baathist incited and attacked the Kurdish civilians in Qamishly and in all Kurdish cities and areas. Hundreds of the Kurds were murdered and injured, thousands were jailed.

We request from the Syrian government to grant our people the civil and political rights, by taking legal and official actions to:

- 1- Officially recognise the national existence of the Kurds both as a nation in the Syrian constitution.
- 2- Taking official steps towards teaching our children the Kurdish language in primary schools and making it possible to our people to use their language in business, press and media.
- 3- Taking legal and official steps towards granting our people the right to practice our believes freely.
- 4- Granting the nationality certificate to all our people who have been deprived of one since 1962, and canceling all legislations opposing that.
- 5- Release of all political prisoners, including who arrested during the Kurdish demonstrations in Damascus in 25/6/2003, in Aleppo in 30/6/2003 and in the great uprising in all parts of Western Kurdistan in 12 March 2004 and send the Syrian secret police officers who were responsible of the killing of our people to a fair court, and to pay for the families of our victims, you should send now a personal apologies to the Kurdish families who lost their members during the massacre of 12 March 2004, 20 March 2008, the family of Al-Khaznawi and all other Kurdish victims who been deprived of their rights, killed, injured and tortured by security forces of your regime, **otherwise we are going to ask a help from our friends world wide.**

On 12-3-2009, a peaceful demonstration holds by the Kurdish community in London and their friends, in front of the Syrian Embassy at 2.00 to 3.30pm, to support the rights of Kurdish people in Western Kurdistan (Syrian Kurdistan). During the demonstration the above Memorandum presented to the Syrian Embassy.

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The Kurdish people

I agree all kind of rights to given to the minorities but the Kurdish nation in the Middle East is not minority, the Kurds are more than 40 million their country Kurdistan stolen by Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey and the former Soviet Union, I say stolen not occupied because occupation as Egypt and India occupied by Great Britain which kept Egypt and India as it is, its names languages cultures etc... but the regimes occupied Kurdistan no one admit that they are occupying Kurdistan.

The only solution for the Kurdish people is to be united and liberated with international and UN help and supervision, to have a general referendum for the Kurds in all parts of Kurdistan; recently the world saw many occupied nations become free with just a referendum as East Taymour in Indonesia, Kosovo and Montenegro in former Yugoslavia. (Montenegro population around a half million, but separated from Belgrade even their language, ethnic, and religion are the same of the people of Belgrade!!!!). The Kurds are minority who live in Damascus 200 thousands, the Kurds of Tehran one million, the Kurds of Baghdad one million, the Kurds of Istanbul 4 million and three million in Europe but the Kurds in Kurdistan are a nation stateless should be free one day in their own home land Kurdistan, and the artificial borders should be demolished and new order with a new and fair border and geographic map should be stored instead unfair one which cut Kurdistan into five pieces after the World War I.

Western Kurdistan Linked to the Syrian State

As to the Western Kurdistan, it has been linked forcefully to the newly established Syrian State in the aftermath of the World War I. Its situation is not better than that of the other parts of Kurdistan. At the beginning the French had a project to create in Syria a state in Damascus, a state for the Alawis on the Shore, a state for the Durzis in the South and a Kurdish state in the North. The French authorities even asked the Prince Jaladat Baderkhan to carry out the project of the Kurdish state in the Kurdish areas of Jazeera, Kobani and Afrin.

During the French rule the Kurds enjoyed some social and cultural rights, such as establishing literature associations and social and cultural clubs, as well as publishing Kurdish magazines and newspapers, for example the magazines Hawar and Ronahi and Kurdistan Club. The great activist Osman Sabri and Prince Jaladat Baderkhan were among the first who carried out such activities.

When the French left Syria and the Syrians took the power in 1946, they hurried to close all the Kurdish associations, clubs and newspapers, and even confiscated all the Kurdish publications in the markets and homes.

Then they started to practice the policy of ignoring the existence of the Kurdish people and denying their ethnic rights.

One of the horrific racist crimes committed by the Syrian Intelligence against the Kurdish people in Syria was the massacre in a cinema house in the town of *Amuda*) where 380 innocent Kurdish children became victims and burned to death while watching a movie on 13/11/1960.

In addition to dismissing the Kurdish military officers and not admitting Kurdish students into teaching and military colleges, the Syrian government deprived 400 thousand Kurds from the Syrian nationality. The objective of the Syrian government is clear and it is to satisfy the evil desires of the chauvinist and racist Arabs.

In the beginning of 1967 the Syrian authorities started the second stage of their racist project by carrying out armed raids against the Kurdish villages to terrorize the

Kurdish population into leaving the Kurdish border areas and replace them with Arab subjects. tragedy!! Thus since 1967 the Kurdish people on the Kurdish border areas were left without lands and Nationality and continued their arabisation of western Kurdistan the killing of the Kurdish people as the Prince Jaladat Baderkhan, Dr Hamid Sino and Mr Kamal Ahmed before 12 March 2004 was secretly and appeared as accidents, but on 12 March 2004 alone the Syrian regime killed tens of young Kurds in the streets front of the eyes of the families, and more lost their lives in the Syrian prisons as Dr Mohamed Mashouq Khaznawi in 1-6-2005 or during the military services as Rifaat Ibrahim Jawish born in Efrin 1990 and been killed in 27-12-2008.

The Kurdish National Anthem

Ay Raqib

Hey enemy, the Kurdish nation is alive with its language
Can not be defeated by the weapons of any time
Let no one say Kurds are dead
Kurds are living
Kurds are living, their flag will never fall

We, the youth are the red colour of the revolution
Watch our blood that we shed on this way
Let no one say Kurds are dead
Kurds are living
Kurds are living, our flag will never fall

We are the children of Media and Cyrus
Both our faith and religion are our homeland
Both our faith and religion are Kurd and Kurdistan
Let no one say Kurds are dead
Kurds are living
Kurds are living, our flag will never fall

The Kurdish youth have risen like lions
To adorn the crown of life with blood
Let no one say Kurds are dead
Kurds are living
Kurds are living, our flag will never fall

The Kurdish youth are ever present and
Forever will be ready to sacrifice their lives
Sacrifice each life they have, each life they have!!!...

Translated by: Brusk Chiwir Reshvan

Who am I?

By the Kurdish Poet: Jagrakhuin

Who am I, you ask?
The Kurd of Kurdistan,
A lively volcano,
Fire and dynamite
In the face of the enemy.
When furious,
I shake the mountains;
The sparks of my anger
Are death to my foes.
Who am I?

I am in the east,
Forts and castles

Towns and hamlets,
Rocks and boulders,
What irony, what a shameful day!
A slave I am now for blood suckers
Yet I saved the Middle East
From the Romans and the crusaders.
Who am I?

Ask the near east,
Ask the Middle East,
Villages and towns,
Plains and deserts.
They were once all mine
When by war and knowledge
I defeated rivals
To become crowned over an empire
Stretching to the borders of India.
Who am I?

I am the proud Kurd, the enemies' enemy,
The friend of peace-loving ones.
I am the noble race,
Not wild as the claim.
My mighty ancestors
Were free people.

I shall free my land
From tyrants;
From the corrupts shah
The Turkish juntas
So we live free
Like other nations,
So my gardens and meadows
Are mine again
Who am I?
It was who defeated
Richard the lionheart
My own blood I shed
To defend these regions.
A thorn I was in my enemies' side;
In my shadow lived the Turk and the Persian;
Many a king held my horse's head.
Yes I am a warrior
I am Saladin,
The king of Egypt, Syria and Palestine.
Who am I?

I am Ardashir,
I am Nowshi Rawan
In the ancient days
Rivals feared my wrath;
Even mighty Caesars
Regretted my animosity.
I knew no fright;

In love with adventure;
From India to Greece
They paid me tribute.
Who am I?

Yes I am the Kurd,
The Kurd of Kurdistan
Who is poor and oppressed today.
My castle and forts are now demolished;
My name and my fame
Swindled by my assailants,
To paralyze my existence
Making a nameless soul of me;
A nation with no friends.
Who am I?

I am the one who despite it all
Remains the unyielding Kurd;
Still formidable to the enemy.
The smell of dynamite is again in my nostrils
And in my heart the strong desire to erupt.
I am fighting valiant of the mountains
Who is not love with death
But for the sake of life and freedom
He sacrifices himself
So his land of his ancestors,
The invincible Medes,
His beloved Kurdistan, may become unchained.
Who am I?

One of my ancestors was the blacksmith Kawa
Who slayed Dahak, the notorious tyrant
To break off chains from Kurdish shoulders,
And save many heads from the sword and death.
The day his vicious reign ended
We called NEWROZ, the new day.
When Newroz comes winter departs
Taking with it the dark harsh times
To make a place for light and warmth.
This is the time, as Zoroaster says,
The evil spirit Ahriman is defeated
At the hand of Omarzd, the god of wisdom and light.
Who am I?

I am the maker of Newroz;
Again I shall become my own master,
The ruler of my land
So I may enjoy the fruits of my orchards,
Relish the scented wines of my vineyards
By seeking salvation in knowledge and science,
I shall make another new day
And breathe the pure air of liberty.
Who am I?

I am Kordokh the good old Khaldeew;
I am Mitani; Nayri and Sobar;
The son of lo lo; Kordokh and Kodi
Yes, I have always been and remain the Kurd.
Despite centuries of suppression in
a country by force divided and torn.
Who am I?

I am son of LOR, kelhor and the kirmanc
Who have lost crown and reign
To become powerless,
Betrayed in the name of religion
To carry rosaries in their hands
Duped by the rulers,
Deprived of might and wealth,
Fighting each other, divided and torn
While my oppressed Kurdistan,
My wretched Kurdistan
Remains possessed.
Who am I?

The son of kurdish nation
Awaken from deep sleep,
Marching forward,
Proud as a lion
Wanting the whole word to know;
I shall struggle
That this nation of mine
Will remain vigorous, unyielding, stronger than death.
Let it be known;
I announce with no fear:
Liberty is my goal;
I shall advance in this path.
Who am I?

I am not bloody thirsty;
No, I adore peace.
Noble I adore peace.
Sincere are my leaders.
We don't ask for war but demand quality
But our enemies are the ones
Who betray and lie,
Friendship I seek and offer my hands
To all friendly nation;
Long live Kurdistan;
Death to the oppressor!
And continue the path to freedom;
I shall learn from great men
Like Marx and Lenin.
I make a vow to my ancestors,
To SALAR, SHERGO and DEYSEM.

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Below three lists of the Kurdish community who support WKA and the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive

Financial support

Since September 2007 the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive received financial support of £4000.- from our community members:

1. Dr Jemal Nebez
2. Engineer Bruska Ibrahim
3. Mr. Mohamed Salih
4. Mrs Kouch Hafid
5. Mr. Sardar Rahman
6. Mr. Suleman Mumtaz
7. Mr. Jan Osman
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35. Mr. Hakam Kharsa
36. Mr. Taha Fatah

Items Donated

Since September 2007 the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive received 500 items Kurdish hand made from our community members:

1. Louisa kak Hama Amin Attar
2. Dr Jemal Nebez
3. Engineer Bruska Ibrahim
4. Mr. Kamaran Sheikh Gharib
5. Mr. Ferhad Zen Aloush
6. Mr Dara Attar
7. Dr. Aziz Fazil Akrawi
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33. Mrs Layla Barzani
34. Tariq Amedi
35. Rebwar Saeed
36. Qamar Ali
37. Awat Namiq

Volunteers

Western Kurdistan Association has no paid staff for more than 12 years and runs its all projects by volunteers. Volunteers of the WKA and Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive are:

1. Dr. Mohamed Mustafa
2. Mr Goran Nawzad Ali
3. Mrs Rola Mannan
4. Mr. Shirwan Rashid
5. Dr. Sami Khafaf
6. Dr Ashti Horami
7. Miss Bana Amin
8. Mr. Jihad Baker
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18. Mr. Jan Osman
19. Mr Kahoon Mohamed
20. Mr. Yusuf Gilgil
21. Mrs. Mashkhal Sadiq
22. Mrs. Soma Melazade
23. Mr. Shero Lokman

The WKA and the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive attended many workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences, regarding the community and the refugees in general and regarding the cultures and heritage in London.

Activities of the WKA: serving the community, Radio and TV Broadcasting, different kind of courses as English, computer and Kurdish heritage, supplementary school, and Football Club



Free English and computer courses for refugees at Western Kurdistan Association



Kurdistan Football Club established by Western Kurdistan Association since 2004

Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive

The first Museum for the Kurdish heritage in the world is one of the main culture resources for the school-age children of Hammersmith and Fulham Borough and to the academics and researchers in the UK.

Let's make Hammersmith and Fulham Borough more colourful and tourist area for all nations and for the 3 million Kurds living in Europe for the coming London Olympics on 2012.