

NEW PESH-MERGA

A MAGAZINE OF KURDISH AFFAIRS

No. 20, November 1986



A KURDISH VILLAGE DEMOLISHED BY ENEMY BOMBING

Published by:

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SWEDEN

FIVE YEARS OF SWEETNESS AND BITTERNESS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF KPDP

On July 26-30, 1986, THE KURDISTAN POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (KPDP) celebrated the fifth anniversary of its establishment.

The party has passed through a number of phases, each with its own characteristics and features. These phases have experienced sweet days and bitter times. These five years have witnessed days of hope and high expectations and days of progress and healthy build-up. They also witnessed times of bitter setbacks, times of enormous losses, times of tragic events and heavy tolls, and times of approaching crisis. However, the party has been able to pull itself together despite the heavy losses and tragic events it suffered and has proved to be solid enough to withstand them, though young and somehow weakened. It has also proved to have well dug in roots in the Kurdish body politics.

The beginnings were marked by high hopes and expectations based on the background of the party founders and their good reputation in Kurdish society and the qualitative, though incomplete, changes the party programme introduced into Kurdish politics on crucial issues. The progressive ideological framework of the party was made clear and has been the basis of its policies in various fields. Its alliances and contacts, both with Kurdish and non-Kurdish political forces, were guided by this framework. The party has made clear that the struggle for Kurdish rights is closely intertwined with the struggle for economic, social and cultural progress and development of Kurdish society. Kurdish nationalism is a combination of aspirations for the attainment of Kurdish self-determination and of development and progress in all aspects of life.

The party questioned, analysed and rejected the motto of "autonomy" as inadequate as well as impossible to implement in the states controlling the Kurds due to currently prevailing conditions and because of the historical backgrounds of these states. "Oriental Despotism", which describes the historical roots of present day systems of government in, among others, the Middle East, tolerates no secondary centres of power besides its own central, and highly centralised, power. The centre of power has, historically, rejected the idea of power delegation which constitutes the foundation of autonomy. Therefore, the party has advocated the slogan of "the right of self-determination" of the Kurdish nation. And, therefore, it has always emphasized the importance of its good relations and ties with other progressive political forces from all over Kurdistan. The KPDP considers the Kurdish problem in all regions of Kurdistan as indivisible and as being basically one and the same problem although it may take on certain distinguishing features here or there due to the historical and current fact of Kurdistan being divided among different states.

Moreover, the party sees the Kurdish struggle for self-determination and development as part of the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America, both by its contents and its historical experience.

The party embarked on the process of building itself, both at home and among Kurds in exile, on the basis of the principles of its programme. It did attract a good following among the Kurds wherever it could reach them. However, the KPDP has functioned and still functions in very difficult circumstances and a harsh political climate, both in Kurdistan (inter-Kurdish) and its immediate and global environments.

THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

Bishop Zeiya Bobo Dobato, representative of the Patriarch in the Northern Area and the Guardian of the Assyrian Eastern Church in the Province of Nineva, Iraq, has despatched an appeal to several humanitarian organizations all over the world in which he exposes the persecution of Assyrians in particular and Iraqis of all religions, sects and ethnic origins in general.

The appeal lists the names of 40 Assyrian villages destroyed, 17 churches and other Christian institutions demolished and the names of Assyrian priests and nationalists murdered by the Iraqi regime.

NAMES OF SOME PRIESTS "LIQUIDATED"

Father Ishaya Shamoun, Patriarch of the World Eastern Church, was murdered at his home in California in the summer of 1975; father Elmario Alaha, Bishop of the Eastern Church in the provinces of Nineva and Dahok tortured to death at the General Security headquarters in 1972; the Assyrian nationalist leader Malik Yaqo Malik Ishmail killed at the Medical City hospital for refusing to join in the war against the Kurdish people; Bishop Younan Kina, Guardian of the Eastern Church of the city of Kirkuk killed by poisoning for administering a church sermon for a dead Assyrian soldier named Gorgis Yokhanin Gorgis who had been executed by the regime; and Yousif Toma Hermiz, Yubert Benyamin Slaimoun and Yukhanna Ysho Hajo executed.

NAMES OF SOME CHURCHES DEMOLISHED

Below are the names and locations and year of demolition of some of the churches destroyed by the Iraqi regime.

- 1- Mar Zia Cathedral, Baghdad, the biggest Eastern Church, demolished in 1985.
- 2- Mar Moshi Chapel, Barwari Bala, built 1300 years ago and demolished in 1977.
- 3- Mar Gorgis Church, Dori Village, built 1300 years ago and demolished in 197.
- 4- Mar Qayuma Chapel, Dori Village, built 1400 years ago and demolished in 1977.
- 5- Virgin Merry Church, Ma'i Village, recently built and demolished in 1977.
- 6- Mar Yunan Church, Aqri Village, recently built and demolished in 1977.
- 7- Virgin Merry Church, Sard'at Village, built 50 years ago and demolished in 1977.
- 8- Mar Khinana Chapel, Qaro Village, built 1300 years ago and demolished in 1977.
- 9- Mar Qiryagos Church, Qaro Village, built 1300 years ago and demolished in 1977.
- 10- Mar Zeka Church, Bash Village, built 1300 years ago and demolished in 1977.
- 11- Virgin Merry Church, Wela Village, built recently and demolished in 1977.

12- Sainte Shamoni Church, Wela Village, built 1300 years ago and demolished in 1977.

13- Eba Serafioun Church, Zakho, recently built and demolished in 1984.

14- Virgin Merry Church, Dahok, closed because it is located near the Security Directorate building.

15- The Orphanage of the Chaldian Catholic Church, Dahok, turned into a camp for the so-called Popular Army.

NAMES OF SOME CHRISTIAN VILLAGES DESTROYED

A- Barwari Bala Area: (name and year of destruction)

- 1- Dori, 1977. 2- Ayet, 1977. 3- Ma'i, 1977.
- 4- Beshima'i, 1977. 5- Bi Tenouri, 1977. 6- Halwi, 1977. 7- Khuwari, 1977. 8- Sardasht, 1977. 9- Aqri, 1977. 10- Hosark, 1977. 11- Bit Balok, 1977. 12- Zewah, 1977. 13- Melikhtha, 1977. 14- Meghribiyah, 1977. 15- Upper Jelki, 1977. 16- Lower Jelki, 1977. 17- Bi Qolka, 1977. 18- Jaqla, 1977.

B- Nerway Rekan Area:

- 19- Qaro, 1977. 20- Bash, 1977. 21- Wela, 1977. 22- Hish, 1977. 23- Astab, 1977. 24- Meidani, 1977. 25- Lower Nerway, 1977. 26- Rekan, 1977.

C- Zakho and Dahok Area:

- 27- Diraboun, 1978. 28- Fiya Khbour, 1978. 29- Mulla Arab, 1984. 30- Sinat, 1978. 31- Lifou, 1984. 32- Afkni, 1978. 33- Birkah, 1984. 34- Badliyah, 1984. 35- Muwaneh, 1984. 36- Merouneh, 1984. 37- Soriyeh (*), 1969. 38- Keraneh, 1969. 39- Mar Yaqo, 1976.

(* All the inhabitants -- numbering 70 men (including Father Hanna), women and children-- of the village of Soriyeh were killed and/or burned to death.

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A KPDP Pesh-Merga (guerrilla) unit.

IRAQ: BIRTH CONTROL, IN REVERSE
"BREED", DECREES THE DICTATOR

The dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein Tikriti, delivered a speech on May 3, 1986 to the leaders of the so-called "General Union of Iraqi Women". The speech was incomprehensible in some of its parts. He was somehow disappointed by his inability to make Iraqi women "breed" more human beings for the disastrous war he began against Iran about six years ago.

The main theme of the speech was the "national duty" of Iraqi women to reproduce more and more children; he even set a limit of five as the "nationally" accepted minimum number of children each family must have. Otherwise the dictator will feel "uncomfortable". And every Iraqi citizen knows the meaning of this "uncomfortable" feeling by the Tikriti President.

Below are short extracts from this rather extra-ordinary speech by a "head of state". However, should we recognized the corner he has pushed himself into by embarking on foreign expansionist adventures, the extra-ordinary nature of the speech becomes understandable. It reflects his desperation.

"Breeding (reproduction) is one of the fundamental factors in our strength. Our hopes are high that the women, men and families will take breeding as a matter of solidarity."

"If the family does not cooperate in making breeding a success, one of its partners cannot realize it alone."

"Your slogan must by necessity be: EVERY FAMILY MUST BREED FIVE CHILDREN. AND, ANYWAY, THE FAMILY THAT BREEDS LESS THAN FOUR CHILDREN MUST BE DEALT HARSH PUNISHMENT... WE MUST LOOK UPON IT UNCOMFORTABLE."

"The leadership <read Saddam> gives this matter special importance. And we hope that the woman's tendency towards work will not alienate her and the family from breeding according to the slogan we have just referred to."

"We are worried to notice that the expansion of education in Iraq has been at the expense of breeding as it must be... THE WOMAN MUST NOT FAIL HER BASIC DUTIES TOWARDS THE HOMELAND, NAMELY, BREEDING..."

"If an Iraqi woman aged 28 comes to me and says she wants to continue her studies to obtain a PhD, I would count the time she needs to obtain a PhD and conclude that

obtaining a PhD may render her outside the marriage age. I consider making a family more important than a PhD. And should there be a conflict between the two aims, we must tell the woman the above frankly and without any embarrassment... But if a man comes to me with the same request I will grant it."

"WHEN THE IRAQI WOMAN REALIZES THAT OBTAINING A DEGREE WILL HINDER HER FROM BREEDING A THIRD, A FOURTH AND A FIFTH CHILD, I SAY AS A BROTHER AND A FATHER, AND FROM THIS POSITION <as a ruler>, THAT SHE MUST PREFER BREEDING."

"THE MAN WHO DOES NOT ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE AT HOME WILL NOT FILL OUR EYES AND DOES NOT FULFIL HIS DUTIES CORRECTLY..."

Immediately after the speech, the above-mentioned "General-Union" organized celebrations all over Iraq to reward women who have been "outstanding" in breeding. At the end of each gathering "symbolic" gifts were given to women who have bred the largest number of children.

NEW PESH-MERGA: The tragedies brought upon the Iraqi people by Saddam the dictator have been enormous, especially his war against Iran. While he, his family, his relatives and his Tikriti clan continue their lavish lives, ordinary Iraqi men must die at the front, ordinary Iraqi women must breed more men for the front, and ordinary Iraqi men and women must suffer socially, psychologically and economically because of Saddam's war (which he calls "Saddam's Qadisiyeh" war) and the repression he has imposed on the country.



Ismail Besicki . . . sentenced for the fourth time

A UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMAT:

"SADDAM HUSSEIN RUNS ONE OF THE CRUELEST TORTURE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD TODAY"

SPOTLIGHT OF JUNE 2, 1986, PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON IRAQ.

"A LARGE COUNTRY FAMILY OF 56, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WHO VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE IN IRAQ DURING THE NIGHT OF LAST NOVEMBER 17, WILL REAPPEAR THIS MONTH --IN THE SPIRIT IF NOT THE FLESH-- AT A NEW YORK HEARING.

"WITNESSES TESTIFY BEFORE THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WILL REVEAL IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT ALL 56 MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTED AL-HAKIM FAMILY WERE KIDNAPPED, THROWN INTO SECRET DUNGEONS AND TORTURED TO DEATH BY THE SECURITY FORCES OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, IRAQ'S DICTATOR.

"IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS DISSENT AMONG THE ESTIMATED 13 MILLION INHABITANTS OF HIS OIL-RICH NATION, HUSSEIN HAS CONVERTED IRAQ INTO A BRUTAL POLICE STATE.

"THIS MONTH AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM WILL HEAR EVIDENCE ON THE ABUSES ALLEGED AGAINST THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHEN THE UN GROUP BEGINS TAKING SWORN TESTIMONY FROM WITNESSES WITH FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THESE ATROCITIES.

"SADDAM HUSSEIN RUNS ONE OF THE CRUELEST TORTURE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD TODAY,' SAID A SENIOR UN DIPLOMAT WHO HELPED ENABLE A SPOTLIGHT REPORTER TO REVIEW IN ADVANCE SOME OF THE EVIDENCE TO BE PRESENTED AT THE HEARINGS ON CONDITION THAT HIS IDENTITY REMAINS PROTECTED. 'BUT THE WORLD KNOWS LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT THESE HORRORS.'

"IN EARLY 1983 HUSSEIN, WHOSE REGIME WAS, UNTIL THEN, HIGH ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S 'PARIAS LIST' OF LAWLESS GOVERNMENTS, DECIDED TO APPOINT DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND HIS CHASE MANHATTAN CONSORTIUM AS THE LEAD BANKERS OF IRAQ. SOON AFTERWARD, ANY CRITICISM OF IRAQI HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEGAN TO VANISH FROM THE US ESTABLISHMENT MEDIA.

"PUBLICITY GIMMICKS DEVELOPED BY CHASE CONSULTANTS WERE REPORTEDLY USED TO MASK THE MASSIVE REPRESSION IMPOSED BY HUSSEIN ON MUSLIM RELIGIOUS DISSENTERS, AND ON ANY MINORITY THAT SHOWED SIGNS OF REBELLION.

"TO MAKE SURE IRAQ REMAINS A ONE-PARTY STATE, WITH ONLY THE OFFICIAL, ... BAATH PARTY ALLOWED TO FUNCTION, HUSSEIN'S RULING REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL RECENTLY REISSUED RESOLUTIONS No. 884 AND No. 1357.

"THESE DECREES PUNISH WITH SUMMARY EXECUTION

'ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL, ANY PRESENT OR FORMER MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OR ANY VOLUNTEER SERVICEMAN WHO HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE SERVICE, WHO ATTEMPTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OR CARRYING OUT ANY ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE BAATH PARTY.'

"WHAT THESE RESOLUTIONS DON'T TELL YOU,' EXPLAINED THE UN OFFICIAL, 'IS THAT UNDER THE IRAQI CONSTITUTION, EVERY ABLE-BODIED CITIZEN OVER 18 IS SUBJECT TO TWO YEARS OF COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE, WHILE HE OR SHE IS IN THE ARMY, AND FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE AFTER HE HAS BEEN DISCHARGED, SUCH A PERSON LOSES ALL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

"EVEN ATTENDING AN UNAUTHORIZED POLITICAL MEETING MAY SUBJECT HIM TO THE DEATH PENALTY, IMPOSED BY MILITARY COURTS, WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY.'

"EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD REPRESSION HAS BEEN IMPOSED IN RECENT YEARS ON ISLAMIC SPOKESMEN WHO TAKE THEIR FAITH AND ITS OBLIGATIONS SERIOUSLY. AS PART OF THIS CRACKDOWN, THE AL-HAKIM FAMILY, WHOSE ELDERS INCLUDED A LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOLARS, INTELLECTUALS AND SEVERAL WRITERS, WAS ABDUCTED BY THE SECRET POLICE IN A SINGLE NIGHT AND KILLED.

"SUCH UNPRECEDENTED ATROCITIES HAVE FINALLY COMPELLED THE UN TO TAKE AN OFFICIAL LOOK AT THE IRAQI POLICE STATE."

* * * * *



The late Prof. Qanati Kurdo.

THE KURDISH QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Kurdish question was raised by many delegations to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights during its 42nd Session and under Items 8 and 9 of the agenda.

Because of the importance of the fact that the Kurdish question is raised by so many delegations (a fact which reflects increasing international interest in the just struggle of the Kurdish people) before an important international forum and because the contents of the statements presented reflect a better understanding of the question, New Pesh-Merga re-produces below most of the statements put before the afore-mentioned UN body.

Empasis (capital letters) added by New Pesh-Merga.

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS AND
LIBERATION OF PEOPLES (Athens)

Oral Statement by Mr. Michailis Charalambidis
submitted on Feb. 19, 1986.

"The International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples would like to refer once again to the systematic violations of economic, social and cultural rights of the Kurdish people, and, in particular, to the problems relating to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; we are referring to the right to development.

"ABSENCE OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, I.E., THE ABSENCE OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT KURDISH STATE, ALLOWS FOR THE UNEQUAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN ITS MOST SAVAGE FORM AND IS THE CAUSE OF A DRAMATIC SITUATION OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT IN HISTORICAL KURDISTAN. THIS SITUATION OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT IN ALL FIELDS --ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL-- PREVAILS IN THE MOST STRIKING MANNER IN THE NORTHWESTERN AREA OF KURDISTAN, OCCUPIED BY TURKEY.

"Although there are no official population figures on the Kurds in Turkey --given that in its census, Turkey does not indicate the nationality of the registered individuals-- it is estimated that a population of 14 million Kurds lives at present in Kurdistan (Turkey).

"The presence of 4 million Kurds in the industrial centers of Anatolia results from a policy of deportation --still applied today-- from violence, and from under-development.

"As a consequence, the majority of Kurdish workers and unemployed constitute a cheap labor force and a source of wealth for public and private Turkish monopolies.

"Two and a half million Kurds live as migrant workers in Western Europe.

"The territory of Kurdistan occupied by Turkey covers 230 thousands square kilometers and thus represent 30% of the territory of the Turkish State.

"This territory possesses many raw materials, such as phosphates, chrome, iron and coal. The occurrence of chrome in the Maden (area) is one of the world's largest and allows Turkey to be the second world producer of chrome after the Soviet Union. According to OECD, 2 million tons of chrome were exported to the United States in 1973.

"Turkey's only oil fields are located in Kurdistan where the consumption of oil as well as of its derivatives is, however, very low. The Turkish State controls all the oil fields and oil drills.

"Large hydro-electrical power plants were set up in the area; thus, Kurdistan covers most of Turkey's needs of electricity. Today, only 11% of the energy produced by the hydro-electrical plant of Keban is distributed in the area; the rest goes to the industrial centers: Adana, Ankara, Izmir, and Istanbul.

"The majority of Kurds are farmers; 72% are occupied in the agricultural sector while 5.5% work in industries. 38% of the Kurdish farmers are landless; this percentage rises to 53.7% in the Maden (area) and 40.8% in Urfa.

"More than 500 villages belong to one, two or three families.

"In Turkey, 21% of cultivated or arable soils are located in Kurdistan; they produce 15% of Turkey's global agricultural produce.

"This low productivity results from a State policy that does not develop the factors of production in Kurdistan.

"The farming techniques employed are backward and account for the development gap between Kurdistan and the rest of Turkey.

"39% of animal-driven vehicles used in Turkey are to be found in Kurdistan, while the latter only possesses 3% of the country's farming machinery.

"Animal husbandry, although a potential source of wealth, is of no recourse as it is totally controlled by State monopolies.

"Only a small number of industries are located in Kurdistan.

EXISTENCE.

"GEO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE COLONIAL POWERS --GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE-- THAT WERE THE CAUSE OF THE NON-RECOGNITION OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO POLITICAL SELF-DETERMINATION (TREATY OF LAUSANNE, 1923), A RIGHT THAT HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN RECOGNIZED THREE YEARS PREVIOUSLY BY THE TREATY OF SEVRES AND THE SOCIETY OF NATIONS, MUST NOWADAYS NOT BE EMPLOYED AS A CRITERION TO COUNTER THE DRAMATIC SITUATION EXPERIENCED AT THIS VERY MOMENT BY THE KURDISH PEOPLE."

CENTRE EUROPE TIERS MONDE

The Right to Self-Determination and its Application on Peoples Suffering from Colonial or Foreign Domination or Foreign Occupation

The Statement submitted by Mr. Ricardo Espinosa on behalf of the above-mentioned organization under Item 9 (dealing with the above theme) of the agenda of the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

"Since the adoption by the Commission of Human Rights of the right of peoples to self-determination in 1975 as a permanent article in its working agenda, it has dealt with many cases of violations of human rights and self-determination of many peoples and has taken a number of decisions and measures aiming at putting an end to these violations. However, THERE ARE UNFORTUNATELY PEOPLES LIKE THE KURDISH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN OR EVEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. DURING THE ELEVEN YEARS HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION THE KURDISH QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED EVEN FOR JUST AN HOUR. NEITHER HAS A SINGLE PAGE BEEN WRITTEN ON THIS QUESTION WITH THE AIM OF LOOKING INTO IT.

"THIS NEGLECT HAS OCCURED AT A TIME WHEN THE KURDISH PEOPLE HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION WHICH THREATENS ITS VERY EXISTENCE BY THE REPRESSIVE MEASURES EMPLOYED AGAINST IT.

"THE KURDISH PEOPLE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A NATIONAL MINORITY BECAUSE THEY CONSTITUTE 95% OF THE INHABITANTS OF THEIR HOMETLAND KURDISTAN. THE KURDS DO CONSTITUTE A GENUINE NATIONALITY IN THE SOCIAL SENSE. THEY NUMBER 22 MILLION PEOPLE. THIS MEANS THAT THEY ARE FROM THE POPULATION POINT OF VIEW LARGER THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THEREFORE, THE KURDISH PEOPLE HAS THE RIGHT TO HAVE ITS OWN LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES AMONG US BECAUSE WE ARE A UNITED NATIONS."

Mr. Espinosa then referred to the historical

circumstances leading to the division of Kurdistan and the subjugation of the Kurdish people to foreign control that is of a colonial nature. Kurdistan is now controlled by powers of occupation and spoliation --politically, economically, socially and culturally-- which are supported by armies of occupation. During the past sixty years of division the Kurds expressed their aspiration to attain independence; their uprisings have been brutally, barbarically and bloodily suppressed by the occupiers who resorted, by various means, to massacres, deportation, mass executions, the implementation of policies aiming at their forcible assimilation and the imposition of alien cultures upon them and the reinforcement of economic blockade upon them.

Mr. Espinosa then referred to the difficult situation of the Kurdish people in the state that rule over them and said, "THE DENIAL OF THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE IS A VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE TWO INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS WELL AS OF THE PRICIPLES OF THE DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1960 ON GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO ALL COLONIZED COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES."

HE ADDED THAT, "THE CONTINUATION OF THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE TO INDEPENDENCE IS A DANGEROUS THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AREA. THE KURDS DO NOT WISH TO CREATE ANIMOSITY WITH, NOR TO CONTROL TERRITORIES BELONGING TO, THE TURKISH, PERSIAN OR ARAB PEOPLES. ALL THAT THE KURDS WANT IS TO RULE THEMSELVES BY THEMSELVES AND LIVE IN FREEDOM AND COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER PEOPLES OF THE REGION.

Mr. Espinosa declared that, "THE 'CENTRE EUROPE TIERS MONDE' EMPHASIZES THAT THE KURDISH PEOPLE'S ENJOYMENT OF ITS BASIC RIGHTS IS A DUTY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS MEMBER STATES. THE CENTRE REQUESTS THE UN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS' MEMBER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS AND THE STATES ATTENDING AS OBSERVERS TO DISCUSS THE VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST THE RIGHTS OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE WITH THE AIM OF ARRIVING AT AN ACCEPTABLY WORDED DECISION.

"THE CENTRE CALLS UPON THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION.

"THE CENTRE ASKS THE STATES THAT HAVE

INTERNATIONAL HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF HUNDREDS OF EXECUTIONS IN IRAQ, BOTH JUDICIAL AND EXTRA-JUDICIAL. BUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL COULD NOT ASCERTAIN THE EXACT FIGURE SINCE THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MAKE PUBLIC, EXCEPT IN A SMALL NUMBER OF CASES, THE NUMBER OF THOSE EXECUTED IN A GIVEN YEAR. THE SITUATION IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT MANY EXECUTIONS, PARTICULARLY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ARMY DESERTERS, ARE REPORTED TO TAKE PLACE IN SECRET INSIDE PRISON WALLS. IN CASES IN WHICH THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES ARE NOTIFIED OF THE EXECUTIONS, THE BODIES ARE USUALLY RETURNED WITH STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO BURY THEM IMMEDIATELY AND NOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MOURNINGS.

"THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES REFERS TO ONE HUNDRED AND ONE UNRESOLVED "DISAPPEARANCES" IN IRAQ. THE REPORT OF THE REPPORTEUR ON SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS REFERS TO 28 SUCH EXECUTIONS. WHILE APPRECIATIVE OF THE EFFORTS MADE UNDER THESE TWO MECHANISMS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BELIEVES THAT THEY GIVE AN INCOMPLETE PICTURE OF THE REAL SITUATION.

"AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THEREFORE URGES THE COMMISSION TO INITIATE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAQ."

Attached to the Oral Statement by Amnesty International to the UN Commission on Human Rights is a report, in 15 pages, entitled "TORTURE AND EXECUTIONS IN IRAQ: SUMMARY OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CONCERNS", in which it maintains,

"AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS OVER SEVERAL YEARS REMAINED CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROUTINE TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN THE CUSTODY OF IRAQ'S SECURITY FORCES."

The report then refers to the cases of torture victims whom AI interviewed and medically examined by a panel of AI doctors. These investigations were published in an AI report, "IRAQ: EVIDENCE OF TORTURE", published in 1981. In April 1985, AI published another report on torture in Iraq, "TORTURE IN IRAQ 1982-1984" in which it listed 30 different methods of torture "said to be used in Iraq".

The March 1986 AI report then discusses at length executions in Iraq and lists "THE PERSONS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED BETWEEN JANUARY 1985 AND FEBRUARY 1986". The list includes 78 names, in addition to another 15 cases --names unknown.

Those executed belong to the following political organizations:

- 1- Assyrian Democratic Movement (Christian)
- 2- Kurdistan Democratic Party

- 3- Iraqi Communist Party
- 4- Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party
- 5- Kurdistan Socialist Party - Iraq
- 6- al-Da'wa Islamic (Party)
- 7- Iraqi Mujahidin Movement

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THE ASSASSINATION OF OLOF PALME, THE SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER

Over seven months ago, Olof Palme, the late Prime Minister of Sweden, was cruelly murdered by an assassin's single bullet on a street corner in Stockholm. His assassination during the last minutes of February 28 is a despicable crime, which has not yet been clarified. Why was he murdered? Who committed the crime? Who stands to win --or lose-- from his departure from the Swedish and international political scenes? These and many other questions have yet to be answered. These are matters for the Swedish authorities to tackle.

For Kurds concerned about their people and cause and its reputation, the late Palme was considered a friend, not so much because of what he said or did not say but more for what Sweden did under his premiership --and still does. Thousands of persecuted Kurds found refuge, freedom and understanding in Sweden, and they still do. This is in contrast to the so-called "fair-weather friends of the Kurds" who exploited the Kurds for their own political ends and then "dropped" them so brutally when they achieved these ends of theirs, such the USA, Iran during the Shah's regime and many Western countries.

Palme was respected and admired by the Kurds and many other peoples the world over for his contributions to peace and understanding, his support for small nations and liberation movements, his fight against injustice, brutality and aggression, and, last but not least, his solidarity with the underprivileged and the weak in facing up to the mighty and the privileged both at home and internationally.

Our party, as well as many other Kurdish organisations, has strongly condemned the murder of Olof Palme and has seen the assassination as a cowardly crime against humanity, the Swedish people and Government and his family and person. The KPDP has sent letters of condolences to the late Palme's family, the Swedish Government and the Social Democratic Workers Party.

The KPDP hopes that this crime will soon be cleared and the culprits, whoever they may be, are brought to justice and meted the punishment they deserve.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE WILL WIN, RACISM IS
DOOMED

The South African white minority regime and its racist establishment is doomed regardless of all the might it may be able to muster by itself alone or in co-operation and co-ordination, whether overt or covert, with its Western allies in general and the US Establishment in particular.

The very existence of the racist regime is an insult to humanity. It is the negation of all the ideals this regime and its allies claim to believe in, such as democracy, human rights, Christianity and so on. The racist system represents the most savage and despicable form of exploitation of man by man on the basis of race and colour. The exploitation of the indigenous people by an immigrant minority is nothing new. The history of many conquered peoples in the world bears witness to this fact. The most striking example is what happened to the Red Indians in America at the hands of European immigrants. However, such "events" are now considered to be contrary to international law and acceptable norms of international conduct as well as to human rights and dignity. Therefore, racism is universally condemned, in words only by some and in words and deeds by others.

While the South African black population has been suffering, economically, politically, socially, culturally, physically and psychologically and in every other aspect of their life, the powers with vested interests in South Africa, i.e., Western Europe and North America, continue to pay lip service to anti-racism but at the same time do everything in their power --military hardware, intelligence information, trade, investment and so forth-- to prop up this very system of racism. And when the majority of the population increased their action and pressure to overthrow the racist regime, some of the Western powers and media began talking about the "moderation" of that regime, as though racism is divisible. And when pressure from within South Africa and from the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as the Socialist countries and progressive political forces and governments in Western Europe for the imposition of total blockade on the racist regime began to gain momentum, the USA and West European governments with substantial vested interests in South Africa began talking about "unemployment" among the blacks that might result from such blockade. It is remarkable how absurd and insolent hypocrisy can become. It adds insult to --chronic-- injury.

We the Kurds, who have had and still have a taste of racism --though not as bitter as the South African "model"-- and of its near kin, chauvinism, fully support the South African people's and the ANC's struggle for liberation and progress and condemn very strongly the racist regime there. For historical reasons and on the basis of the experience of the Kurdish and other peoples, we are not surprised by the real stand taken by the USA and some Western countries' establishments on the racist system and the mounting demands for the imposition of economic and total blockade on the South African regime.

* * * * *

THE KURDISH STUDENTS ORGANIZATION IN ASIA

A students organization has recently been formed in Pakistan to safeguard and improve the rights of Kurdish students in Pakistan and India and to acquaint the peoples of these two countries as well as other Asian countries with the history, culture and present harsh situation of the Kurdish nation. Its method of work is the publication of statements and later on pamphlets in which it explains the circumstances surrounding the oppression our people are subjected to and the news of their struggle for human, social, cultural, economic and political rights.

New Pesh-Merga has received two statements issued by KSOA. Below are excerpts from one of these statements.

"The Kurdish nation in the Middle East is one of the oppressed nations in the world and has lost its rights as a result of the redivision of the world among the imperialist countries after the First World War. This nation has been divided between four countries... Since that time, the Kurds have been deprived of all rights, have not been recognized as a separate people having their own culture and language. After the success of the national liberation movement in the Middle East, the Kurds again were subjected to all kinds of savage methods of national and class oppression...

"Under these circumstances, the Kurds have repeatedly risen against oppression and fought for self-determination, but due to socio-economic backwardness in Kurdistan these movements were led by tribal chiefs ...<and failed>.

"In conformity with the goals of the Kurdish revolution, we the Kurdish students, the adherents of the equality of the rights of nations ...continue our struggle ... till we achieve our rights and defeat imperialism."

THE KURDISH QUESTION BEFORE THE SWEDISH
PARLIAMENT

Two motions have been presented to the Swedish parliament at the beginning of this year. The first, dated January 1, 1986, by the Left Party Communists, signed by six members of parliament, among them the Chairman of the party, Mr. Lars Werner. The other signatories were Mr. Bertil Maabrink, Mr. Joern Svensson, Mr. Oswald Soederqvist, Mr. Nils Berndtson and Mrs. Inga Lantz. The second motion, dated January 27, 1986, was tabled by Gullan Lindbland, Esq, from the conservative Moderate Coalition Party.

New Pesh-Merga publishes below important excerpts from both motions.

1- Motion by six MPs from the Left Party
Communists (VPK):

"The situation of the Kurdish people has not improved since January last year when the VPK last brought attention to the Kurdish question. Therefore, there are all the reasons to request anew that the Swedish political parties and, thus, the parliament and Government really seriously take an interest in and adopt concrete measures to improve the conditions of the Kurdish people. The issue has two aspects. Partly, what can be done internationally to support the struggle of the Kurds for recognition as an independent ethnic group with its own language, its own culture and its right to live accordingly in the countries among which Kurdistan is divided. This includes protesting against the flagrant violations of human rights which these states commit against the Kurdish people. And, partly, what we here in Sweden must make clear for ourselves, namely, the special situation of Kurdish refugees and immigrants that cannot be compared with other immigrant groups and which must be the target of special contributions.

"Concerning the first aspect, Sweden ought to take initiatives in order that the Kurdish question is taken up in all international contexts where this is possible. It has been said on earlier occasions that it is not meaningful, for example, to take up the question before the United Nations because that may even do harm to the Kurdish question. The Kurds themselves are not of this opinion despite their big division into different groups, political party affiliations and so on; they are all agreed on this matter. What all Kurdish groups wish is that an action is taken within the framework of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

"Another initiative on the international plane, where Sweden is more closely concerned, is Turkey's treatment of the large Kurdish population in the country. Here, Sweden, as a member of the Council of Europe, has the possibility to raise the situation of the Kurds in connection with discussions concerning Turkey's representation at that assembly. VPK raises the Turkish question in a separate motion but would like to specially put forward, in this context, the exposed situation of the Kurdish inhabitants in Turkey.

"Large sections of the Kurdish people find themselves fleeing or live as refugees in different parts of their own homeland. There are both ordinary refugee camps, such as in Iran for example for Kurds from Iraq, and camps, that approach concentration camps' conditions, for Kurds forcibly displaced, such as in Iraq. Sweden ought to be able to make humanitarian contributions in these cases. Specially in the camps in Iran, there are many people who are stateless and are not recognized as citizens by either Iraq or Iran because they have, years upon years, been shovelled and driven back and forth over the borders between these two countries.

"The Kurds have no influential friends or protectors on the international level. In contrast to many other peoples and states, their existence and rights are not recognized by any of the two big powers. Neither the USA nor the Soviet Union is interested that the Kurdish question should come up and disturb their interests in West Asia. The USA does not want any separatist movements in Turkey, an important NATO ally in the area. Neither does the Soviet Union wish to see any changes within the states concerned, whether it is Turkey or some other state. Therefore, the appeals by the Kurds for support and help have not been met with sympathy by any big power. This fact should make it easier for all Swedish political parties and even the Swedish Government to take up the case of the Kurds.

"Concerning the other question, namely, the large and growing group of Kurdish immigrants and refugees in Sweden, we cannot put the blame on others, creep behind diplomatic complications or use other excuses. We are, in this respect, still sovereign and ought to bear the entire responsibility ourselves for what will be done or not done. There is need for increased information to the Swedish people on the special situation of the Kurds. There is need for special measures within the fields of language and culture."

The motion then deals with the particular

ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN IRAQ
CLOSED UNTIL NEXT YEAR

The Iraqi dictator, Saddam H. Tikriti, has ordered all institutions of higher education to remain closed after the summer vacation and until the middle of February 1987. This decision affects over 250.000 students and staff. He also ordered all students and teaching and administrative staff (up to the age of 45) of these institutions to join the so-called "Popular Army" during the autumn term of the academic year, i.e., from September 1986 until, at least, February 1987. Joining the Popular Army is supposed to be "voluntary". They are being "trained" in five camps in different parts of Iraq. The government has not announced this drastic step.

"AFTER THE END OF YEAR EXAMS," SAID A RECENT VISITOR TO IRAQ, "THE AUTHORITIES TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THEY WOULD NOT GET THEIR RESULTS UNTIL THEY HAD DONE A COURSE OF MILITARY TRAINING. THEY WERE ALL PACKED OFF TO FIVE CAMPS AROUND THE COUNTRY. NOW THEY HAVE LEARNED THAT THE UNIVERSITIES WILL ONLY REOPEN ON FEBRUARY 16, 1987." ALL THEIR TEACHERS UP TO THE AGE OF 45 HAVE GONE WITH THEM.

"YOU HEAR ALMOST NOTHING OFFICIAL ABOUT THIS --ONLY VAGUE REFERENCES TO STUDENTS TAKING UP ARMS TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY, AND OCCASIONAL INTERVIEWS WITH A TEACHER AT ONE OF THE CAMPS DECLARING, ENTHUSIASTICALLY, THAT THIS WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN IRAQ AND THE ENTIRE THIRD WORLD --RUBBISH LIKE THAT. YOU HAVE TO LIE TO SURVIVE IN IRAQ: I DID IT MYSELF BEFORE I LEFT." (The Guardian, September 21, 1986, by Mr. David Hirst in Beirut).

The reason behind these orders, as well as his orders to Iraqi women to breed more children --referred to in this number of New Pesh-Merga, is the desperate situation of his highly stretched and somehow depleted man-power resources and reserves which he can lean on in his war with Iran.

The Kurdish Pesh-Merga carry out their political and military tasks regardless of the snow that covers much of Kurdistan and when temperatures drop to below zero degrees centigrades in winter.



FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE UNION OF KURDISTAN
STUDENTS AND YOUTH IN EUROPE (UKSY)

Under the slogan: "THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE RANKS OF THE KURDISTAN STUDENTS AND YOUTH MOVEMENT IN EUROPE IN A UNIFIED DEMOCRATIC AND INDEPENDENT STUDENTS AND YOUTH ORGANIZATION THAT STEADILY PARTICIPATES IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE KURDISH NATION TO ATTAIN ITS NATIONAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING SELF-DETERMINATION BY ESTABLISHING A UNITED KURDISAN STATE", the fourth congress of the Union of Kurdistan Students and Youth in Europe was held during the period from 15 to 17 August 1986. Delegates representing all branches in Europe of the Union attended the congress.

The congress received guests and messages of support and solidarity from many friendly Kurdish and non-Kurdish parties and democratic organizations, which all emphasized the importance of the unity of the Kurdistan students and youth movement in Europe and expressed the solidarity of their peoples and organizations with the oppressed Kurdish nation and supported its right to self-determination like all other peoples in the world.

The congress listened to the political, organizational and financial reports of the Union's Secretariat. After lengthy and constructive discussions, changes were introduced and then the reports were approved. All branches then presented their own reports; they were discussed and some criticized. The programme and statute of the Union were analyzed and then some amendments were introduced into them.

The congress approved a number of resolutions and recommendations on various political, social and union affairs. The congress recommended increased efforts to be made to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation with progressive Kurdistan students and youth organizations in Europe.

The congress finally elected the new Executive Committee and concluded its work.

TURKISH WAR PLANES ATTACK KURDISH VILLAGES INSIDE IRAQ

The Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front (JUD) issued a statement on August 17, 1986 on "the Turkish aggression".

The statement reads, "Turkish planes carried out raids on the border areas of Kurdistan inside Iraqi territories on August 15, 1986 and dropped their bombs on the peaceful Kurdish villages in the areas liberated from the authority of the Baghdad dictatorial regime. The raids were carried out on the pretext that groups of Kurds from Kurdistan-Turkey, starting from inside Iraqi territories, set ambushes for Turkish troops.

"The Turkish authorities have made it clear that its violation of Iraqi air space and its bombing of Iraqi territories have been made with the approval and co-ordination of the Iraqi government in accordance with an agreement between the two dictatorial and chauvinist regimes.

"JUD declares its strong condemnation of this flagrant aggression against the national sovereignty of our country and denounces the treasonous stand taken by the Iraqi regime which has compromised and now compromises national sovereignty and the sacred Iraqi air space and territories and puts them under the boots of the Turkish fascist troops.

"JUD views this aggression as a threat to the struggle of the Iraqi people, Arabs, Kurds and national minorities, for peace, freedom and the just national rights of the Kurdish people. It calls upon the United Nations, Arab and international public opinions, including political, trade union and social organisations and legal and humanitarian establishments to protest against the flagrant Turkish aggression and demand that it should not be repeated and condemn the treasonous attitude of the Iraqi regime."

The Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front sent on August 20 a memorandum to several Heads of State, political parties and other organisations in the Middle East and elsewhere explaining the dire consequences of the Turkish regime's attacks against Kurdistan and Iraq and requesting their support in condemning this act of aggression.

Many states and political forces denounce the attack

Many Governments and Heads of state and political parties and organisations deplored the Turkish attacks declaring that it is contrary to international law and an unfriendly act against the Kurds in

particular and the Iraqi people in general. Among those protesting the Turkish attack were the Libyan leader, Col. Moammar Qaddafi, and 16 Middle Eastern political organisations and patriotic movements.

These political organisations and patriotic movements issued a declaration denouncing the Turkish aggression and the Iraqi regime's connivance and expressing their complete solidarity with and support for the struggle of the Iraqi patriotic forces.

COL. M. QADDAFI CONDEMNS THE RAIDS

Col. Qaddafi has sent a message to the Turkish President and Prime Minister expressing Libyan denunciation of the Turkish raids. Below are excerpts from this important message (emphasis added):

"The operation carried out by the Turkish air force to kill the Kurds and pursue them inside Iraqi territories is an act unacceptable by us. All the peoples of the world condemn and reject it because it constitutes a kind of genocide. Further, the operation has caused the demolition of their houses and villages and the death of their children and women in a manner similar to what is done by Zionism and the racist regime of South Africa to the Arab and African peoples.

The Kurds are, on the one hand, members of the National Command of the Revolutionary Forces. And, on the other hand, THE KURDISH NATION IS A NATION THAT MUST BE RESPECTED AND HAS THE RIGHT TO UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE. IT IS A FRATERNAL NATION TO THE TURKISH NATION, THE ARAB NATION AND THE IRANIAN NATION. THE DENIAL OF ITS NATIONAL RIGHT DEPRIVES US OF OUR RIGHT TO DEFEND OUR NATIONALISM; THE DENIAL OF ITS FREEDOM DEPRIVES US OF OUR RIGHT TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM.

I am very angered by this act which I hope will not be repeated.

And should there be common crimes committed by ordinary individuals, it is not logical that the answer should be in this manner.

I am sorry that the Turkish government is entangled in a conspiracy hatched by the Iraqi government to suppress our brothers the Kurds. It is a shameful connivance which is unprecedented on the part of the Iraqi government."

JUD sent on August 20 a message thanking Brother Qaddafi for his "courageous and revolutionary stand in denouncing and condemning the treacherous Turkish attack on the liberated Iraqi territories in Kurdistan". The Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front (JUD) thanked Col. Qaddafi and saluted him for this stand of his.

THE LATE YILMAZ GUNEY, PIONEER OF KURDISH CINEMA

Yilmaz Guney was born in a peasant family in the village of Yenice, Adana, in 1937. His childhood was difficult. The family was destitute. His father was murdered while Yilmaz was still 7 years of age. His hardworking mother took care of the son and sent him to the town of Adana to attend intermediate and secondary schools. He had to work in order to survive and to continue his schooling. He became acquainted with the following authors while in Adana: Orhan Kemal, Bakir Yeldiz, Yasher Kemal, D. Cayxon and others. As soon as he finished his secondary schooling he moved to Istanbul. He attended the College of Economics, The University of Technology, in that big city. But he always longed to his village and its simple people.

Poverty followed him to that city. He had to work to live and study. He began writing and worked as a machine operator at a cinema. He loved the cinema and contacted many studios. He appeared in some shots in a number of films. He and some of his friends published two magazines, Dorok and Bodan. They were, however, short lived because of financial difficulties. His short stories and some of his poems found their way to the Turkish press. His love for the cinema compelled him to write a scenario called A FLOWER IN THE DESERT. The Turkish authorities did not like his writings. He was accused of "making subversive propoganda" in one of his novels and was, therefore, sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment followed by six months internal exile. In 1974, Guney said, "I did not even know the meaning of communism at that time". While still in prison, he wrote the first chapter of his novel THEY DIED WITH THEIR NECKS TWISTED which was later translated into Russian and published under the title "ROTTEN LIFE" in 1976.

After being discharged from prison and exile, he could not find work for two years. "I was hungry...I searched for work... any work", he recalled in 1972. He finally went to the film studios and acted in a number of films. The prominent Kurdish writer Yeshar Kemal wrote later and after Guney's death that, "Yilmaz Guney has proved to be of high talent in literature as well as the cinema".

The first film directed by Guney alone (he had earlier worked as an assistant director), called the WOMAN DOWRY AND A GUN was shown in 1966. In 1967 another film was shown, I KARIM and in 1968 two more films, THE UGLY and SAID KHAN. SAID KHAN was awarded the third prize in the film festival in Adana and Guney himself the prize for the best male actor.

SAID KHAN brought fame and repute to Guney. He had been, from then on, considered a pioneer director and film maker in Turkey. Therefore, the film "establishment" fought Guney constantly. He had to establish his own film studio, "STUDIO GUNEY-FILM". And because of his progressive views, national <Kurdish> consciousness and the subject matters his films dealt with, Guney was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in 1972. When he was discharged from prison in 1974, he told newsmen, "My being in prison is part of my social struggle. Now that I am out of prison, my duty is to produce another film." He did start working on new films. In 1975 and subsequently, he published a number of novels among them "MY PRISON CELL". In the same year, his film "THE COMRADE" was shown on the screen.

In his film "THE HERD", Yilmaz Guney portrayed the life of the oppressed Kurdish people in Turkey, exposing both the suppression they are subjected to by the Turkish authorities and the power of underdevelopment over their lives.

Many of Guney's films have won prizes at film festivals both in Turkey, despite various forms of pressure and persecution, and abroad. In 1982, his film "THE ROAD" shared the First Prize at the Cannes Film Festival with "THE DISAPPEARED". Both films deal with the aftermaths of the military coups in Turkey and in Chile and how the terror they imposed affected the lives of the peoples of these two countries.

"In all the films I have directed, and although they have shortcomings, I tried to strive for freedom. I believe my film THE ROAD has achieved that. I am a Kurd and we are 12 million <in Turkey> out of 45 million. This means we are a quarter of the Turkish society. But the Kurds are not allowed to work in certain fields. They are displaced and forcibly resettled away from Kurdistan in order that they will not be able to revolt. Moreover, a Kurd doing his compulsory military service is not given a weapon..."

On August 9, 1984, Yilmaz Guney's big heart stopped beating for ever. He was only 47 years old.

His death is a tremendous loss to Kurdish arts in general and Kurdish cinema in particular. His departure at such an early age represents, furthermore, a loss of a Kurdish humanist and progressive patriot. But it will also be a stimulus to other Kurdish artists and film directors to carry on his work and improve upon it.

IRAQ STOPS PAYMENT TO DANISH EXPORTERS

(Boersen, Copenhagen, August 20, 1986)

Translated by: Lis K. Nielsen

Negotiations begun on a 6 years postponement

The oil producing country of Iraq is now seeking up to 6 years postponement of its payments for goods exported from Danish companies. The Iraqi Rafidain Bank has contacted banks in the USA, Japan and many European countries to delay payments for delivered goods.

Danish exporters and credit institutions have approximately DKK 150 million due to them from Iraq. The Export Credit Council maintains that there are debts of about DKK 100 million due to them for goods already exported to Iraq.

There are today only about 3 firms operating in war-torn Iraq, according to Bureau Chief O. Woehlers, from the Department of Trade at the Foreign Ministry of Denmark. We have no further information indicating that there are other than these Danish companies operating in Iraq now.

Postponement

The Commercial Bank of Copenhagen confirms that the Rafidain Bank in Baghdad has asked it to negotiate with a number of Danish companies to defer payment of debts on Iraq.

This move by Iraq can mean that we may have to stop all exports to it. A repayment proposal, that can mean a moratorium of 3 years and an additional 3 years to complete payment, does not sound good enough, says Chief of Exports, E. Fram Rasmussen, of the Struers Chemical Laboratories Ltd.

We have just had one of our salesmen in the country but it is only now that we are told that we cannot get our money.

Granzow

We only have a small debt due to us but I think that the Iraqi banks have not behaved properly, says Director Peter Granzow of Granzow Ltd. They have released goods even though we have Letters of Credit stating that goods must not be released until payment is made. Now we have noted that we cannot do business in this area unless a Danish bank can guarantee credit agreements.

One could already notice at the international market in mid-July that Iraq has mounting problems with its foreign debts.

Foreign banks began at that time to notice that payments were not coming in from Iraq.

Debt crisis

Payments through Letters of Credit (L/C) have almost always been late. On the other hand, we have experienced that government-guaranteed credits have very often been renegotiated. Only medium term credits have not been affected by the Iraqi debt crisis.

The war with Iran has totally swallowed up Iraq's foreign exchange assets. However, and to the surprise of European banks, the European financing system, Eurocredit, has not been involved in the rescue measures and negotiations.

Iraq has given rise to unrest at the international market, not least because the country has begun acting against its normal practice. Iraq does not treat all its creditors alike. Instead, they favour suppliers to the oil industry as well as those delivering goods significant to its war with Iran. Iraq continues to meet repayment of its huge international loans. It has recently borrowed US Dollar 500 million in the international market to repay other debts. However, there are increasing signs that small creditors will have to wait. There is no official word on the payment crisis. But it is commonly known and accepted, says an Arab bank director to Reuters.

Niro

Niro Atomizer has had business dealings with Iraq but it is now out of that market and has no outstanding debts on the country, says Director Ole Andersen.

A string of other firms have in the last 12 months also wound up their business with Iraq and therefore direct involvement is very small today. However, business has shown an upward tendency in the first quarter of 1986, says Bureau Chief O. Woehlers Olsen, from the Department of Trade at the Foreign Ministry. We exported in 1985 DKK 367 million (m.) whereas our imports were only DKK 31 m. During the first quarter of 1985 exports were DKK 108 m. whereas it increased to DKK 120 m. in the same period of this year. There has, in reality, been sharper payment conditions for L/C since February this year. The Rafidain Bank has not been able to cover L/C. It now offers to pay over a period of up to 6 years; there would be no payment during the first three years and the debt would be cleared during the following three years. The Rafidain Bank will, however, pay interest at a rate to be negotiated and agreed with major banks and creditors. The Danish Export Credit Council also is taking part in these negotiations.

A KURDISH LAWYER SUES "HIS COUNTRY'S"
AMBASSADOR TO HOLLAND

A new turn has recently taken place in the "relationship" between the Kurds and their oppressors outside the countries that rule over them. This turn is the seeking of justice, by bringing before the courts representatives of their oppressor regimes, albeit abroad.

Although the outcome of the following case is not yet known, it will, nevertheless, represent a precedence that can be followed in order for the Kurds to at least put up a legal fight against the "disinformation" spread by their oppressor regimes abroad. Needless to say, the Kurds have no such possibility in their own respective countries.

The Kurdish lawyer Yucel Yesilgoez has officially sued the Turkish ambassador to the Hague because the latter made specific allegations against the former in a letter he wrote to the University of Utricht where Yucel works.

Because of the rather uniqueness of the case, referred to elsewhere in this number of New Pesh-Merga, Mr. Yucel has been interviewed by our correspondent in Holland.

1- Will you introduce yourself to the readers of New Pesh-Merga?

My name is Yucel Yesilgoez and I am 35 years old. As a university student, I took part in political activities against the oppressor regime of Turkey and for democracy. After graduation, I defended before the courts cases of Kurdish youth in Diyarbakir under the martial law reign. I was also a lawyer of the workers trade union DISK and the teachers association TOP DAR until the military coup in 1980. I had to seek refuge in the Kurdish mountains after the coup in order to avoid the generals repression and stayed there for four years until I obtained political asylum in Holland in 1984. I have since concentrated my energies on Kurdish affairs; now and then I deliver lectures on these affairs at the University of Utricht and the University of Amsterdam.

2- Why do you want to bring the Turkish ambassador to Dutch justice?

The Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Utricht organized at the beginning of May this year a "Turkish Week" for students at the Turkology Department. All teaching staff of the

Dept. were asked to deliver a speech on a specific subject within their field of specialization. As a member of the staff, I prepared and delivered a lecture on the Kurds and another on the oppressive laws now in force in Turkey. During the first day of the Week, two "agents" of the Turkish embassy demanded from the Organizing Committee to cancel the Kurdish parts of the programme on the pretext that the Week was about Turkey and that I was a "criminal". However, the Committee turned down the demand and told these two men that Holland respects the freedom of speech and should they disagree with what Mr. Yucel says in his lecture they can freely express their points of view. These two men informed the Turkish ambassador of the contents of the lectures I delivered. The ambassador then wrote an "angry" letter to the University in which he made false statements and specific accusations against me. I have, therefore, sued him in Holland in order to expose these falsifications, allegations and accusations before the students, staff and public opinion. I believe that this is the appropriate course of action to follow.

3- What do you aim to achieve from this action of yours?

At the beginning, we demanded an apology from the ambassador in addition to the withdrawal of the statements he had made. He had 14 days to respond. Otherwise, we will pursue the case before the courts and demand compensation for damages of up to 400 000 Dfl. The ambassador has not yet replied and the courts will look into the case next month.

4- Does the Turkish embassy harass Kurds in the "propaganda" field only?

No. There are other methods of harassment which Turkish embassies pursue in their "fight" against the Kurds. There are special "squads" trained specifically for surveillance and assassination operations --this has recently been confirmed by the Turkish prime minister when he said, "We have in Europe a secret apparatus which is well organized and trained to protect our diplomatic missions". There are also the extreme right wing "Gray Wolves" organization which has actually carried out many criminal acts in Europe. There is, further, the Turkish secret service, MIT, which carries out covert operations, particularly assassinations; it is suspected of being behind many murders in Holland, among the victims being a Kurd and an Armenian.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1986 VOLUME XVI NUMBER 10

Turkish writer and sociologist
Ismail Besikci is serving a 10-year



Turkey: Ismail Besikci, serving 10
years for referring to persecution
of Kurds.

sentence under a similar law for
referring to the persecution of
Kurds in Turkey when he wrote
to the President of the Swiss
Writers' Union in 1980.

TURKEY CONTINUES ITS AGGRESSION ON KURDISTAN

The Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front (JUD) issued, in mid-September, another statement on the continuation of the Turkish aggression on Kurdisan Iraq. The statement says that, "In a dangerous escalation of the aggression, Turkish commando units crossed, on September 6 and 7, the international borders in the Amadiya area, Aura border point, and attacked JUD positions, who put up a gallant resistance and forced the aggressors to withdraw to the Turkish side of the borders. However, JUD positions and the routes used by the population of the area are subjected to artillery bombardment and ambushes, by Turkish troops, which have claimed many innocent lives. Turkish war planes and helicopters continue their violation of Iraqi air space in areas under the control of JUD forces. Iraqi military bases are used by these crafts for landing, take off and briefing.

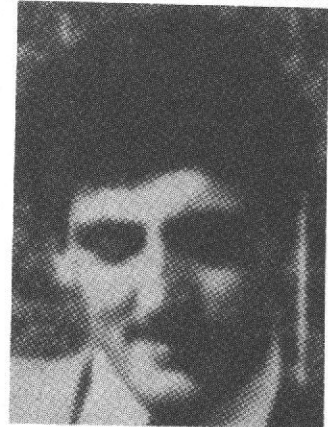
TURKEY

Recep Marasli: a publisher, aged 30, he is serving sentences of 36 years for publishing books about the Kurdish ethnic minority in Turkey and for alleged separatist activities.

Recep Marasli started work in Komal Publishing House in 1975 and bought it in 1979. He had previously been arrested in 1978 and was then detained for eight months for his publishing activities. Komal Publishing House was closed in 1980 after the imposition of martial law. It published books mainly about Kurdish history, culture and the situation of the Kurdish ethnic minority in Turkey.

In January 1982 Recep Marasli was detained again. He has since been convicted in a number of

trials by military courts in Istanbul and Diyarbakir on charges which included: "attempting to establish an independent state on territory under the sovereignty of the Turkish state". In one trial



he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for defence statements submitted during his previous trial. His prison sentences now total 36½ years, to be served consecutively. Some of these sentences have been ratified by the Military Court of Appeal. Others are pending appeal.

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority of six to eight million people, concentrated mainly in the eastern provinces, which is not officially recognized by the authorities. The right to a separate cultural identity has been denied by successive governments and the Kurdish language is prohibited.

In 1983 Recep Marasli was transferred from a military prison in Istanbul to Diyarbakir Military Prison where he participated in several hunger-strikes by inmates in protest against torture and inhuman prison conditions. During the last hunger-strike in January and February 1984 he was transferred to the prison hospital, reportedly in a critical condition. Although his condition has improved, his health continues to be very poor.