

new pesh merga

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After an interruption of almost 3 years Pesh Merga resumes publication with a slight change in the name.

This change reflects, and is due to, political development organizational changes that had led to the establishment of a new political party, namely "The Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party" (K.P.D.P.).

The new Pesh Merga is simultaneously both a continuation of the Pesh Merga and a rupture with it. The New Pesh Merga is the historical continuation of the Pesh Merga and its political continuance. But it will strive more and more to cover the most important developments in all the four parts of our homeland Kurdistan rather than restrict itself to one part, i.e. Kurdistan-Iraq. It will also endeavour to present general, concise studies of certain specific issues and problems related to the Kurdish nation,

whether in Iran, Iraq, Syria or Turkey, and to the Kurdish national minorities in Lebanon and the Soviet Union and to the Kurds living or forced into exile in the Middle East, Europe and North America.

The New Pesh Merga welcomes articles and studies on any aspect of Kurdish society, history, economy and culture, by Kurdish and non-Kurdish contributors. The articles are to be relevant, objective and non-divisive to Kurdish ranks.

Kurdish and non-Kurdish scholars and writers and friends of the Kurdish people and cause are invited to send their contribution to the New Pesh Merga for publication. Kurdish national political, professional, popular and immigrant organizations to send their news and a brief account of their activities for publication in the New Pesh Merga.



DEPORTATION

THE CHAUVINIST IRAQI REGIME CONTINUE THE DEPORTATION OF IRAQI-KURDS.

One of the main features of the present Iraqi leadership is its ultra-nationalist mentality, ideology and policies. However, this ultra-nationalism began showing its true chauvinist and even racist phase as early as 1969-70 but especially after the collapse of the Kurdish armed movement in 1975 when Saddam al-Tikriti, Iraq's strong man, embraced the former Shah of Iran and signed with him an agreement in Algiers against the Kurds.

In the winter of 1969-70, the Iraqi regime deported from Iraq 100,000 people to Iran, the overwhelming majority of them were Kurds, on the pretext that they were Iranians, since April 1980, the same regime has been forcibly deporting Iraqi Kurds to Iran. Up to the end of 1981, about 65,000 have already been deported

and the number is getting bigger and bigger every month. In Jan. 1982, about 1500 people were deported. The overwhelming majority of these people are Kurds.

These people are Iraqis, born in Iraq and hold Iraqi Census Books (Daftar Nofous) and Certificates of Citizenship (Shahadat al-Tinsiyah al-Iraq'iyah).

Most of the young men have done their compulsory military service and have certificates to that effect. The young sons of many of the deported families are still in the Iraqi army. Others have been detained in the Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad; about a thousand of them 'rioted' in the summer 1980, and were deported to Iran thereafter. Thousands are still held without changes in the said prison, as well as the Kirkuk and Mosul Prisons. However, thousands of young girls and old women have also been detained. Detention camps have been so crowded that the Iraqi authorities

detained hundreds of them in sportstadiums, such as 'Mal'ab al-Sha-ab' in Baghdad for periods of a few months to a year.

Sanitary conditions are so appalling that lice have infested most of the detainees; as a result of these detention camps authorities have shaven the heads of most detainees, especially the girls and women.

The deportees (the overwhelming majority of them are Kurds) lose their Iraqi citizenship, their movable and immovable property, cash deposits, jewelry (the common form of saving) etc, i.e. all the fruits of their work and labour. They are insulted, terrorized and the maximum degree of hardship is inflicted upon them during the process of deportation.

The deportees have contributed to Iraq's national struggle and to the progress of the Iraqi society, whether as politicians, physicians, teachers, artists, journalists, merchants, offici-



A bomb-damaged house at Galala.

Lord Kilbracken. Camera Press.

als, soldiers etc. Their only 'fault' is that they are Kurds and have been, and still are, active within the Kurdish national liberation movement.

Although the forefathers of these Kurds may have long ago come from Iranian-Kurdistan (whose national rights the Iraqi regime falsely pretends to sympathize with, and even support), they are part of the Kurdish people in Iraq. They know Kurdish, their mother-tongue, and Arabic, the official language of Iraq. They do not know Persian at all. The claim that they are 'of Iranian origin' is nothing but a pretext well orchestrated by the Iraqi regime and its statecontrolled media to create hatred and intensify its level against the regime in Iran and the Iranians in general. By labeling the deportee Kurds of Iranian origin' it hopes to make these measures more palatable to the Iraqi population at large. However, this policy only reveals the Iraqi regime's true racism not only against the Kurds. It has displaced hundreds of thousands of Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan and continues to do so under various pretexts, now in the name of border security and now in the name of 'development' in the Kurdish rural areas, now in the name of 'decreasing the pressure in the overcrowded urban areas' (as has recently happened to the city of Suleimaniyah, where 18,000 families as a group only have been ordered to prepare themselves for deportation to other areas of Iraq, on the pretext that the government wants to open streets and roads in the city). While deporting and displacing Iraqi Kurdish citizens the Iraqi regime imports millions of farmers and others from Egypt and Morocco (and other places), giving them very lucrative incentives to move to and settle in the areas from which the Kurds are deported and/or displaced. The main goal of the Iraqi regime is a chauvinist/racist one, aiming at, first by the lowering of the proportion of the Kurds in the Iraqi total population (estimated as between 25% - 33%), secondly, the alteration of population settlement pattern in Kurdistan in order to weaken national coherence (this is at least what the regime hopes to achieve), thirdly to displaced Kurds from strategic and natural resource areas in Kurdistan (such as Kirkuk, Khanaqeen, Sinjar, the border areas, Ain Zala), and last but not least a long-term objective to

wipe-out the Kurds (within Iraq) as a people with a common language, a common culture, a contiguous land area, an intergrated economy, and a common social psychological feeling of belonging together and of being as part of the Kurdish nation. However, the regime's policy and measures are opposed by all the opposition groups in Iraq, regardless of their political colouring. This policy and measures is facing latent opposition by the Iraqi people and this is why the regime is resorting more and more to

ning on behalf of the deportees, their plight and the injustices inflicted upon them. They appealed to him to approach the Iraqi authorities and request them to respect the U.N. Human Rights Declaration and various Covenants, to do away with dividing Iraqi citizens into classes, release the heads of the families and youth of deported families, to send a factfinding mission to the deportee camps. The letter was also sent to all international, political and humanitarian organisations.



Kurdish infants: the sky is their roof. What future is the Iraqi regime letting them have?

secrecy in implementing these measures.

Footnote: I

One of the manifestations of the racist hysteria spread by the Iraqi regime against deportee Iraqi Kurds is that it offers large sums of money to any person who divorces his deported wife or husband; members of the 'armed forces' receive in such cases almost twice as much as civilians. It should be recalled that after the collapse of the Kurdish armed movement in Kurdistan-Iraq, the very same regime decree that any (Arab) Iraqi who married a Kurdish woman would receive a large sum of money. The aim then was assimilation of the Kurds by money-besides coercion and outright force. Now, it is 'assimilation' by deportation. The first is assimilation by inclusion and the other assimilation by exclusion.

Footnote: II

At the end of 1981 a delegation of the deportee Kurds sent a letter to the General Secretary of the U.N. explain-

WHILE DEPORTING IRAQI KURDS, THE IRAQI REGIME IMPORTS FOREIGN LABOUR.

One of the long-term aims of the Iraqi regime is the reduction of the proportion of the Kurds in the total population in Iraq as a first step in destroying the Kurdish culture and nation in the country.

A manifestation of this is the fact that while deporting tens of thousands of Iraqi regime imports foreign labour on a mass-scale. It has so far imported an estimated two million farmers from Egypt and Morocco (this is officially confirmed by the weekly magazine 'Alef-Ba', published by Dar-Al-Jamahir, Baghdad, No 655, 15/4/1981, pp 42-45), offering them very lucrative incentives and attractive conditions; land, houses, furniture, food, seeds, salaries, 'even cigarettes', and recently from Tunis (Alef-Ba, No 694, 13/1/1982). In August 1981, the Iraqi and Tunisian governments signed an agreement on the transfer of labour from Tunis to Iraq.

SUMMARY OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF KPDP

The founder congress of the Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party (KPDP) was held from 26th to 30th July 1981.

It was attended by delegates representing party organisations in Kurdistan, various countries in Europe, the U.S.A. and Canada.

Preparations for the congress took over a year which aimed at the foundation of a democratic and progressive political organization. Contacts among people who left the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) because of political, organizational and policy differences on essential matters of principle, started then.

The congress receives several messages of solidarity and support from various political organizations in Kurdistan, Iraq and the Middle East as well as from solidarity groups in Europe.

The congress also received a message of congratulation from party organizations among Kurdish refugees and Peshmerga.

The political report was then read, it lasted two whole days and included an introduction explaining the objective justifications for the foundation of a democratic, progressive party in Kurdistan; the eruption of the 26th May 1976 revolution and its deep effects on checking the breakdown of the Kurdish liberation movement as a result of the collapse of March 1975 upon the Iran-Iraq agreement against the Kurdish movement; and the deviation that the May revolution suffered at the hands of the reactionary-rightist tendency and the military-tribalist establishment (that control the centres of power in the party) which is the dominant force in that party.

While commending the stand of the progressive tendency within the Provisional Leadership (1976-1979)

, the report criticized them for abandoning the military-political arena after the 9th Congress of KDP. The report then discussed the prerequisites of an avant-garde party, its ideology and organisations elements structure and communications and relations between its levels. It

discussed the international scene, the situation in the Middle East, the relationships between the Kurdish liberation movement and the Arab, Iranian and Turkish liberation movements. The report emphasized the unity of struggle of all these movements.

The popular line of the party was underlined, and the report stressed the need to broaden and deepen this line, basing it on modern organizational principles. Ideas, stated the report, become a real force when they are accepted and adopted by the people and that these ideas must be concomitant with practice; there must be harmony between thought and practice in the functioning and life of the party.

Putting these theoretical convictions into actual realization depends on the structure of the party, the quality of its membership and especially its leadership cadres and organizations. The report then presented a study of the situation in Iraq, pointing out that the identification by the provisional leadership's report in 1976 of the Iraqi regime was correct. The parasitical-bureaucratic bourgeois nature of the regime has only become more pronounced and dominant, the re-alignment of its foreign policy and economy towards the conservative states of the Middle East and the West is now much clearer and its dictatorial and terroristic practices have reached unprecedented levels of viciousness and cruelty. At the same time the regime has lost its *raison d'être* and suffers from a deep crisis. The war by proxy on behalf of the U.S.A. and the pro-American conservative states of the Middle East launched by the Iraqi regime on Iran has made the regime's crisis more and more acute.

The report called on all Iraqi national and patriotic forces to speed up efforts to complete the all-embracing national front to include all the national forces regardless of their ideologies in order to overthrow the dictatorial Iraqi regime and replace it with a coalition, democratic government.

Discussing the situation in Kurdistan, the report analysed the forces moving the revolution as well as the counter-

forces. It summarized the dislocations suffered by Kurdish society as a result of mass deportation, run-away terrorism and the alteration of the national characteristics of Kurdistan and the suppression of Kurdish culture and folklore by the Iraqi regime.

The report called upon all concerned to stop the fratricidal war in Kurdistan and to establish a Kurdish national front to include all the national and progressive Kurdish forces.

Finally, the report mentioned the activities leading to the founder congress, especially the organizational efforts at home and abroad.

The Congress discussed and analysed the report introducing the necessary amendments and changes it was then adopted unanimously, considering it the program for the party until the next congress.

The Congress decided to name our party, "The Kurdistan Popular Democratic Party" and its central organ "People".

The Congress then adopted scores of resolutions and decisions on various matters.

During the last day of the congress and in an atmosphere of democracy and high sense of responsibility, the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the General Secretary of the party were elected.

We may add at the end that the congress was a success from all points of view.

1. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE DEPORTATION, DISPLACEMENT AND SETTLEMENT CAMPAIGNS.

The Congress condemns the campaigns of mass deportation and displacement and the racist settlement policy, the altering of the national characteristics and the fighting of the national culture in Kurdistan practised by Saddam Hussain's regime against our Kurdish people.

Our party pledges to struggle for putting an end to them and eradicating its consequences; the Party calls upon all Iraqi patriotic forces and parties to condemn these practices and to return

the situation to its normal origins.

2. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE DEPORTATION TO OUTSIDE IRAQ.

The Congress condemns the mass deportation of Kurds and others to outside Iraq by the racist regime and demands their return to their homeland Iraq, the return to them of their confiscated property and Iraqi citizenship which were taken away from them and all their rights.

3. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SADDAM'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN.

The Congress strongly condemns Saddam's war of aggression against the people of Iran and their revolution in a war of proxy that destroyed the economies of the two countries and caused the death and disablement of tens of thousands of both peoples. The Congress calls upon all Iraqi national forces of all shades of opinion and the armed forces to stand as one against the regime and to endeavour to topple it to end this destructive war and return relations between the two neighbouring countries to normality.

4. The Congress calls for the continuation of the struggle to overthrow the Iraqi racist, dictatorial regime of Baghdad replacing it for a democratic coalition government and the enjoyment by the Kurdish people of their legitimate national rights.

5. The Congress salutes the Peshmerga, the national guerrilla forces and expresses its readiness to pool all resources and efforts and put them in the service of armed struggle as a correct means of achieving our national, patriotic and democratic aims (besides the other peaceful of struggle), relying on our people and nation and the support and solidarity of the forces of liberation and progress and the world public opinion.

6. The Congress calls upon all the national parties and forces operating in Kurdistan not to resort to violence in solving differences, to reject wrangling and to strive for conciliation and coordination and then the establishment of a Kurdish national front.

7. The Congress authorized the Cen-

tral Committee to strive for the completion of the all-embracing Iraqi national front and to include all national forces as a practical and fundamental step to overthrow the terrorist Iraqi regime and replacing it by a democratic coalition government.

8. RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHT OF THE KURDISH NATION TO SELF DETERMINATION.

We believe in and struggle for the right to self-determination of our Kurdish nation in equality with all the nations of the world. Our party strives to increase consciousness and to

calls for protection and care for the Kurdish language, culture and heritage and the formation of student, youth, women and workers organizations in and outside Kurdistan.

10. RESOLUTION ON KURDISH REFUGEES.

The Congress appeals to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The Human Rights Commission, the International Red Cross, the humanitarian and charity organizations to care for and secure the livelihood and the social, health and educational aspects of Kurdish



propagate for this right on all levels. The Congress salutes the struggle of all national, progressive forces in all parts of Kurdistan and calls upon all the national forces in the region to support the struggle of our Kurdish nation against injustice and persecution and for their just national rights and its right to self-determination.

9. The Congress condemns the Iraqi dictatorial regime's abolition of the Kurdish cultural institutions and of the major part of Kurdish studies and

refugees where ever they may be.

11. The Congress declares its solidarity with and full support for the struggle of our people in Kurdistan-Turkey for the right of self-determination, condemning the policy of Turkifying the Kurds there. The Congress demands the release of all political prisoners. It calls upon all the national, progressive parties and forces to setablish a Kurdish national front in Kurdistan-Turkey and to coordinate with the Turkish progressive movement against the fascist mili-

tary regime and for a progressive democratic government and the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination.

The Congress protest against the executions, torture and mass arrest of Kurds, Turks and from the minorities by the dictatorial military regime of Ankara.

12. The Congress supports the struggle of the Kurdish people in Kurdistan-Iran for their legitimate national rights, and calls upon the Iranian Islamic Republic to meet the just national demands of the Kurdish people in order to put an end to the war in Kurdistan-Iran.

13. The Congress adopted a resolution supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, to return and to enjoy the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state in their homeland. The Congress condemns the establishment of Zionist settlement in the occupied Arab lands. The Congress saluted the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the National Front in the occupied Arab lands and condemns the attempts to liquidate Palestinian resistance. The Congress demands the withdrawing of Israel from all occupied Arab lands and condemns the repeated Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

14. The Congress supports the struggle of the Arab liberation movement for full liberation from imperialist influence, the achievement of economic independence, the liberation of Palestine and the achievement of Arab unity.

15. The Congress highly appreciated the recent resolution by the Arab Communist parties to support the right of the Kurdish nation to self-determination and appeals to them to offer more support and backing to this cause on all spheres.

16. The Congress supports the struggle of the national liberation movements in the three continents (Asia, Africa and Latin America) for the completion of their political and economic independence and social progress on the road of liquidating colonialism and neo-colonialism. The

Congress supports the movement of non-alignment and its anti-imperialist, anti-racist and anti-reaction content.

17. The Congress supports the policy of peaceful co-existence detente and disarmament and demands a ban on nuclear weapons. It condemns the manufacture, storing and use of bacteriological and chemical weapons and the neutron bomb.

18. The Congress supports the struggle of all the small nationalities and the national and ethnic minorities all over the world for justice and equality and against the policy of assimilation. We demand that they be given their legitimate national and democratic rights.

19. The Congress condemns physical and psychological torture wherever it may take place; it also condemns imprisonment and detention for on the ground of political reasons. It demands the release of all political prisoners and the adherence to the United Nations covenants and human rights.

20. The Congress condemns the Turkish occupation of Cyprus and demands the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the island, the safeguarding of the legitimate rights of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots and the independence and unity of the island.

21. The Congress salutes the victory of the Nicaraguan people over the Somoza dictatorship and American im-

perialism; supports the struggle of the people of Salvador against the military junta and condemns the U.S. intervention in that country and its support for the junta with arms, advisers and political and financial backing.

22. The Congress condemns racial discrimination everywhere, especially in South Africa, and declares its support for the struggle of the African People's Congress against the racist regime there and declares its support for the struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO for independence and national liberation.

The Congress salutes the victory of the people of Zimbabwe and the liquidation of the racist system there.

23. The Congress also adopted other resolutions, among them:

- the support of the national and democratic rights of the Kurdish people in Syria;
- the care for the families of the martyrs of the Kurdish national liberation movement;
- the appreciation for and encouragement of the role played by women in Kurdish politics and trade and popular movement;
- a salute to Quadafi for his historical stance in support of the right of the Kurdish nation to self-determination and the establishment of a Kurdish state;
- and other resolutions on Syria, Afghanistan, Latin America, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Arab/Persian Gulf, the Polisario, the Arab peoples Congress and Ireland.



The new Kurdish guerrilla fighters.