

PESH MERGA

NEWS FROM KURDISTAN-IRAQ

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In this Issue:

- ★ THE WAR IN OCTOBER: RAWANDIZ AND RANYA FRONTS
- ★ SAKHAROV CONDEMNS THE WAR
- ★ THE PUPPET SHOW IN ARBIL
- ★ THE KURDISH QUESTION AT THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE
- ★ BAATHIST KILLINGS
- ★ CHRISTIANS APPEAL TO THE POPE

+ other items

PESH MERGA

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THE WAR IN OCTOBER

'In retrospect, all the other campaigns between Baghdad and the Kurds look like playing at arms beside the intensity of the present war.'

That is how the Financial Times correspondent described the scale of the fighting raging in the Kurdistan area since March of this year. On the human level, already over 100,000 refugees are in camps on the Iranian border and there are potentially 300,000 to 400,000 displaced persons, some of whom could face near starvation in the more remote regions of Kurdistan. The Iraqi rulers, backed by the Russians, are putting the bulk of the Iraqi Army into the battles to extinguish the resistance of the Kurdish people against their tyranny.

Iraqi military efforts have concentrated on two major fronts, Rawandiz and Ranya, both of which are of strategic importance to the Pesh Merga. Saddam Tikriti had calculated to arrive at the 'final solution' for the question before the onset of the severe winter in Kurdistan. Hence his desperate attempts to use Iraqi soldiers as cannon fodder for his vainglorious

ends. But, although certain regions are important for the resistance, from supply and strategic points of view, nevertheless, the Pesh Merga tactics, lacking in sophisticated weaponry, are ultimately in tune with Mao's advice about tactics in guerilla warfare:

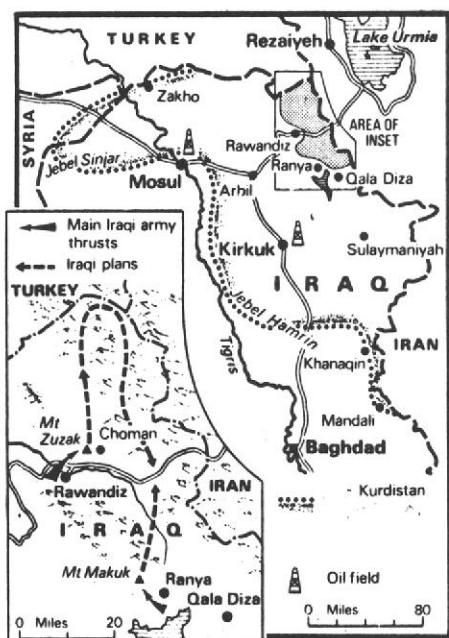
'Territory has been given up in order to preserve our military forces and indeed to preserve territory, because if we do not abandon part of our territory when conditions are unfavourable but blindly fight decisive engagements without the least assurance of winning, we shall lose our military forces and then be unable to avoid loss of all our territory, to say nothing of recovering territory already lost.'

Rawandiz and Ranya Fronts:

On the Rawandiz front, as the events during October show, the main battle has been concentrated at the Zozik mountain range and Garu Omar Agha pass. Zozik is important strategically as it provides useful vantage points for shelling the Balak and Galala areas, and is near to another strategic mountain range i.e. Handreen. Garu Omar Agha provides a possible gateway towards Galala along the Hamilton Road, and is of significance because of its proximity to the route towards the Badinan sector of the war.

At the Ranya front, the Iraqi troop concentrations have been badly damaged by Pesh Merga shelling and counter-attacks. Also their advance at Betwata and Makok mountain has been halted. The Iraqis have been aiming at penetrating Doly Shahidan (Valley of the Martyrs) from Qala Diza, in an attempt to advance towards Galala from another direction but so far they have been unsuccessful giving heavy casualties.

The Iraqis have assembled a formidable military machine on both Rawandiz and Ranya fronts: 85% of the Iraqi Armed Forces are lined up on both fronts. There are more than three divisions on each front, reinforced by units of special forces, Al-Maghaweer and special armoured and artillery units, and 250 tanks operating on each front in Rawandiz and Ranya.



Chronology of Military Events

Sept. 27th/28th

Fiercest Battle:

1. From 0600 hours to 1900 hours on Sept. 27th Iraqi troops used all their available fire power in concentrated shelling and bombing of Pesh Merga positions in the Rawandiz Front. At 1900 hours, their infantry's (an estimated division supported by tanks) advance on Pesh Merga positions began. A bloody battle ensued, which continued till dawn of the following day.

2. The Iraqi Army managed to capture some positions but in a heavy counter-attack commencing at 0500 hours Sept. 28th, the Pesh Merga forced the enemy back and recaptured these positions. Hundreds of dead government soldiers littered the battlefield. This battle has been the fiercest and the biggest setback for the Iraqis. As a result, enemy planes went berserk, bombing villages and the area indiscriminately.

3. In the morning of Sept. 28th Kurdish artillery shelled at Rawandiz and inflicted heavy losses upon them.

4. In the afternoon of the same day, Kurdish anti-tank guns destroyed five Iraqi tanks and a troop carrier in the Rawandiz plain.

5. Baathist troops launched two attacks, on Sept. 27th and 28th on Pesh Merga positions at the Ranya and Betwata Fronts. The Pesh Merga forces destroyed two tanks and badly mauled the attacking infantry, forcing them to retreat to their former positions.

6. On Sept. 28th Pesh Merga forces checked an Iraqi attack in the Aqra area.

7. Within 48 hours (i. e. Sept. 27th/28th), the Pesh Merga carried out 25 partisan operations on all fronts and behind Iraqi lines.

October 3rd

Further Encroachment upon Kurdistan. Mount Zozik:

1. The enemy has managed to wrest the southern side of Mount Zozik, Rawandiz Front. Pesh Merga attacks are continuing to dislodge the enemy from the position they had taken.

2. Units from the Pesh Merga Rizgari and Khabat Divisions carried out many partisan operations on the Dukan Road and Mount Azmir (about 5 km north of Suleimani) inflicting many losses on the Iraqis.

3. In the Ranya Front, Iraqi troops attacks on Pesh Merga positions along the whole front are continuing. However, all these attacks have been repulsed.

4. Iraqi Air Force shelling and air raids and bombing of civilian and military targets have greatly intensified in a ruthless manner.

October 4th

The Pesh Merga operate behind Enemy Lines:

1. The enemy attempted to advance on Garu Omar Agha, Rawandiz Front, but was repulsed after heavy fighting.

2. Iraqi troops managed to wrest another position on Mount Zozik.

3. In the Hamreen Div. Front, the enemy advanced north towards the Aqra-Dinarta road but failed to gain any ground.

4. Pesh Merga guns destroyed two tanks and shot down a helicopter in the Ranya Front.

5. During October 3rd and 4th the Pesh Merga carried out more than 24 operations on all fronts.

October 5th

1. The enemy twice attacked Pesh Merga positions on Mount Zozik but both attacks were foiled. Moreover, the Pesh Merga attacked enemy positions on Mount Zozik and dislodged the enemy from many positions. But heavy shelling by the enemy prevented the Pesh Merga from consolidating the newly gained positions. Kurdish losses were: 9 killed and 46 wounded. However, important positions in this front are still in Pesh Merga hands whose attacks are continuing. The Pesh Merga guns have also destroyed a tank in the Rawandiz plain.

2. Iraqi shelling in the Ranya Front has continued, but no major attack has taken place.

3. The Pesh Merga continued carrying out partisan operations behind enemy lines.

October 6th

Kurdish Casualties:

1. The Iraqis bombed and shelled Mount Zozik almost incessantly. On October 6th, the Pesh Merga suffered some losses. That night an enemy attack on Garu Omar Agha was repulsed. The centre of the Balak District is within the range of enemy artillery. Nawpirdan and the hospital area in its vicinity, Galala and Choman have also been shelled.

October 8th

1. One of the Pesh Merga units entered the town of Suleimani at night and attacked a police patrol there.

2. In an ambush set by the Pesh Merga near Spilik, two mercenaries were killed.

3. Pesh Merga forces in Kifri area repulsed an attacking Iraqi unit and captured a mercenary.

October 15th

More Kurdish Villages Attacked:

1. Pesh Merga units attacked with mortars Iraqi posts round the Sarchinar cement factory at night.

2. Iraqi units attacked the villages of Harmorabel and Kani Kirman in the Khanaqin area.

October 16th

1. A Pesh Merga unit entered the town of Suleimani at night and shelled the army garrison. Eight policemen were killed in the attack.

October 17th

Sections of Baghdad-Mosul Railway Line Destroyed:

1. Pesh Merga forces repelled enemy attacks in the Mount Hareer and Betwata valley areas, inflicting heavy losses upon the attackers and destroying two tanks.

2. The Iraqis attempted once more to rescue two tanks in the Mount Hareer area. After a heavy battle they failed to achieve their objective and left the bodies of two soldiers on the battleground.

3. A mine laid by the Pesh Merga destroyed an Iraqi military truck in the Khanaqin area.

4. One of the Pesh Merga units destroyed part of the Baghdad-Mosul railway line last week.

October 18th

1. A military vehicle was destroyed by a mine laid by the Pesh Merga near Tasluja on the Kirkuk-Suleimani road.

2. On the night of Oct. 18th a Pesh Merga unit attacked the Tuwasuran army camp near Darbandi Sangasar in the Ranya Front.

3. During that night, a Pesh Merga unit entered the town of Suleimani and attacked army and police outposts and the governorate building.

October 19th

1. An Iraqi force attempted to advance from Qala Diza towards the village of Bara Pana but failed. Two Iraqi troop carriers were destroyed by mines laid by the Pesh Merga.

2. The Pesh Merga shelled the Aqra army garrison inflicting losses.

October 20th

1. Enemy shelling and bombing of the Rawandiz Front is still continuing.

October 24th

Two Pesh Mergas went inside the Suleimani garrison of the Iraqi Army and exploded 22 hand grenades, causing the death of one officer and three soldiers. The Pesh Mergas returned to their base safely.

October 25th

The Kirkuk-Suleimani electric lines were damaged by Pesh Merga raids.

October 27th

1. Pesh Merga attacked Iraqi posts at Jekner along the Kirkuk-Chamechamal Road.

2. Pesh Merga shelled Iraqi units at Bardenga, near Ranya.

3. The Iraqi Koy Sinjaq garrison was bombed by Pesh Merga artillery.

October 28th

Iraqi troops supported by artillery and tanks advance in the direction of Halsho towards Doly Shahidan (a strategic valley near Qala Diza). After a huge battle the Iraqis failed to make headway, thus retreating leaving behind high casualties estimated at 100 dead and wounded.

October 29th

Pesh Merga initiates intensive shelling of Iraqi positions at Papishtian, Diana, Rawandiz, Kani Qur and Miltakar. A major Iraqi ammunitions depot at Papishtian was destroyed.

THE WAR TOLL

The Iraqis

The Iraqi war casualties up to October 15th are estimated as: 5,260 soldiers and officers dead, and 9,393 wounded. Their losses were: 296 tanks and armoured vehicles; 39 aircraft; 96 artillery pieces; 577 vehicles of various types. The Pesh Merga captured: 879 light arms; 57 transmitters; 82 machine guns; 33 mortars; 35 anti-tank guns and considerable quantities of ammunition. The number of deserters from the Iraqi armed forces to Pesh Merga side was: 935.

The Kurds

Up to October 15th the Pesh Merga suffered 535 killed and 1,360 wounded. A number of light arms (785), mortars (7), R. P. G.'s (10), and machine guns (18), were lost or damaged in action and as a result of Iraqi shelling and bombing.

The number of civilian victims are 493 dead and 952 wounded.

The Iraqi Air Force made a total of 3399 sorties against Pesh Merga and civilian targets from March 11th to October 15th.

GENERAL NEWS

DR. SAKHAROV CONDEMNS THE WAR

Moscow, October 3rd

Soviet Human Rights campaigner Dr. Andrei Sakharov today appealed to the United Nations to send peace-keeping troops to Iraqi Kurdistan where he said the Iraqi Government was waging a 'cruel war' against the Kurdish people.

Dr. Sakharov's appeal was made available to Western Newsmen and addressed to U. N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, to delegates attending the 29th General Assembly Session in New York, and to Soviet Party Leader, Leonid Brezhnev.

The Soviet nuclear physicist also urged the Security Council to pass a resolution 'on the speedy ending of military actions of Iraqi Government troops against the Kurds' and to condemn these actions.

A third demand called on the U. N. to enjoin countries which he said were supplying military aid to Iraq to withdraw pilots and other military specialists allegedly assisting Iraqi troops.

Dr. Sakharov charged that Iraqi troops now possessed 'the latest military equipment supplied from abroad - planes, bombs, tanks, napalm' and made use of foreign pilots and data from foreign reconnaissance satellites.

Dr. Sakharov also said the United Nations had so far done nothing about what he called 'the threat of extermination by weaponry and hunger' facing the Kurdish population of Iraq. He said he was fully aware of the 'unusual, unprocedural character' of his appeal, but went on: 'there must be no repetition of the tragedy of Biafra, which began and took place in similar circumstances.'

Dr. Sakharov, 53, is expected to be discharged tomorrow from a Moscow hospital where he had just had an appendicitis operation. He composed the appeal in hospital and it was distributed to newsmen by his wife, Yelena.

'SUCCESSFUL AND BRIGHT EXPERIMENT IN THE DEAR NORTH':
THE PUPPET SHOW IN ARBIL

The Iraqi Government departing from its hitherto strict ban on foreign press, invited many journalists to go to Iraq in order to witness the opening of the so-called Legislative Assembly for Kurdistan on October 5th. They were taken in an Antonov plane to the Kirkuk air base, and from there to Arbil, in Russian-made helicopters. (The original schedule was based on a car drive, but was changed at the last moment).

Soon after the journalists landed in Arbil an American photographer's camera was seized by the military security, as he was accused of taking shots of the military installations in Kirkuk, and of the battle-scarred Kirkuk-Arbil route.

There were something like 4,000 Iraqi soldiers in full battle kit, most inside open trucks with mounted machine guns, and hundreds of white helmeted policemen on guard behind hedges, on roofs and the streets of Arbil, as the journalists were ushered into the school building where the 'historic' meeting of the Legislative Assembly for the 'Dear North' was being held. There was no crowd to be seen anywhere.

Only 68 members out of 72 were present. The oath is taken in Arabic: some Kurdish members have difficulty in reading it and one member asked the presiding chairman to read it for him. Some refused to take the oath on the Koran. Not a single member speaks in Kurdish, and the name 'Kurdistan' is not mentioned in any of the speeches. Taha Maruf (Mr. Tashrifati), the quisling vice-President delivers the opening speech in Arabic with little enthusiasm. Many armed guards are filling the empty seats in the hall.

After the ceremony, the journalists were whisked on a quick tour of the Arbil castle, where one photographer edges down into a side street to snap some Kurdish women. He is ordered to return to the main road by an Iraqi official. In a matter of three hours the journalists were flown back in daylight to Kirkuk base, where they caught the plane for Baghdad.

It is of interest that during their whole stay in the country not a single press conference was held to brief the journalists on any topic. Also, no one in authority granted them interviews.

The majority of the journalists had requested formally to be taken to the war fronts, but were flatly turned down. Only when they were preparing to leave Iraq, some officials hinted that, 'if they stayed another two or three weeks, they might be able to arrange a visit to the Dear North.' One journalist was specifically told that he will be able to 'enjoy' a quiet holiday in the summer resorts.

It is reported that all the members of the Assembly quickly moved back to Baghdad the following day, as 'the building for its deliberations is not quite ready yet.'

PLEASE MR.SPY, DECLARE YOURSELF

The Iraqi Government enacted a new law concerning foreign intelligence agents on October 13th, according to which their activities will be punishable by death sentence.

Article 2 of the law provides for exempting from punishment anyone 'who gives himself up to the General Intelligence Directorate within 30 days of the issue of the law, and confesses his connections; the tasks he has performed on behalf of the body concerned; the elements he was co-operating with and all the information and documents in his possession'.

BAATHIST MEIN KAMPF

The ruling Revolution Command Council in Baghdad passed an edict on October 14th, which decrees that 'ministers and all state departments, institutions, and organisations should use the political report issued by the Baath Party's eighth congress, held in Baghdad, 8th-12th January 1974 as a programme and guide in discharging their functions'. This decree was published as a Law in the official Gazette.

KURDISTAN CALLING

Radio Kurdistan announced on the 15th October that the Chairman of the Relief Committee of the International Red Cross has declared in a letter to General Barzani, that the Baathist Government had rejected the Committee's proposal to help the victims of the war in Kurdistan.

The Radio expressed its appreciation for the humanitarian proposals of the I. C. R. C. Relief Committee, and condemned the Baathist regime's disregard for any human standards and tenets of international law, which amounted to an open challenge to human justice.

RUMOURS ON THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

Rumours are ripe in Baghdad about the health of the 65 year old President, Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr. For the last three years there were reports about his suffering from diabetes mellitus and heart problems. But the latest news from Baghdad indicate that he might have chronic leukemia.

Al-Bakr's absence in the Arab summit conference at Rabat, and news of several visits to Baghdad by a top Harley Street Specialist, lend support to these rumours, which if accurate, will have serious repercussions on the ruling group in Baghdad.

TOVARICH, GO HOME

Contrary to recent reports, mainly inspired by Soviet diplomats in Baghdad and Beirut, Russian military support for the Iraq regime is increasing. Shiploads of war equipment and supplies have been arriving in Basra recently from Russia. Part of the load had to be diverted to Syrian ports to be transported by land to Baghdad, as the Basra docks were damaged for a period. The provision by the Russians of a technical mission has much improved aircraft maintenance so that the Iraqi Air Force has been able to double the number of sorties to 30 a day on a given front, using combinations of two, four and six planes. Russian pilots are flying the supersonic Tupolev 22 bomber, and the Sukhoi 20, in operational missions. Colonels, Dividenko, Cravinchko and Yuri are three of those involved. A Russian Brigadier-General, Vladimir Nikolayev is now in charge of co-ordinating ground and air attacks at the air base in Kirkuk. The depth of Russian complicity in the war was indicated by the events on August 20th, on the Rawandiz front, when Brigadier Alexander Vasilev was seen directing, with General Ismail Al-Niemi, the Iraqi Assistant Chief of Staff, the advancing Iraqi troops along the newly opened route on the northern side of Mount Korak.

THE KURDISH QUESTION AT THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE

Gen. Barzani sent personal messages to the Arab Kings and Presidents assembled for the Summit Conference at Rabat, October 26th to 19th, in which he emphasised the political crisis in Iraq and the war of aggression in Kurdistan, which he attributed to 'the arrogance of the ruling group and its extreme oppressive and unrealistic policies, its desire to monopolise power, and the crushing of patriotic forces without any justification and its preference for its narrow and selfish interests over the country's national interest.'

Barzani went on to say that the present war is the continuation of the regime's policies against the Arab patriotic elements in Iraq, which 'are likely to be extended to neighbouring Arab and Islamic countries'.

Barzani proposed that the Arab Kings and Presidents should form a fact-finding mission to investigate the situation in Iraq in order 'to save the country all the tragedies and bloodshed'.

ARABIZATION: CONTINUATION OF THE WAR BY RACIALIST MEANS

Concurrently with the colonial war of aggression, the Iraqi authorities are continuing to evict the indigenous inhabitants of certain areas of Kurdistan. So far they have coerced 2066 families to leave their villages and homes in the Zimar area, near Kirkuk. Mercenaries of the Arab tribe leader, Hawas Isdaid, who carried out the evictions, looted and plundered the villages concerned. On October 28th, 300 Arab families were moved into four Kurdish villages in Zimar: Qara Dara, Kashkia, Amsha, Mara.

At the beginning of October, 30 families were forced to seek refuge in the liberated area of Kurdistan: Salib Ali Habib, Ismail Sayid Husein, Omer Ali Bergo, Mahmud Ibrahim, Ahmad Arif Muhammad, Salih Ahmad Muhammad, Ahmad Haji Murad, Suleiman Hajo Yousif, Salih Yousif, and Salih Ali Abraham from the village of Chiftek; Ahmad Malla Haji, Muhammad Haji Farman, Ali Grank, Ali Ahmad Rosho, Yousif Sidiq, Rashid Abdi Husein, Ali Haji Omer, Salim Haji Omer, and Mrs Harta Muhammed from the village of Sufian; Ibrahim Muhammad Ali, and Muhammad Khosti Murad from the village of Omer Khalid; Suleiman Othman and Haji Romo Murad from the village of Hamad Agha, and Ibrahim Taimur Khalaf from the village of Garbeer.

BAATHIST KILLINGS: INDISCRIMINATE AND WIDESPREAD

The number of mass executions and persons tortured to death is being daily intensified by the Baathist Authorities, including members of its own Armed Forces:

- 27 members of the Iraqi Armed Forces have been executed on the pretext that they were members of other political parties than the ruling Baath party - the only political party by law allowed to operate within the Armed Forces.
- 11 members of various opposition underground political parties have been hanged.
- 168 Kurds from Kirkuk have been sentenced to death for possessing a quantity of tea in excess of the 1 kilogram permitted by the regulations of the economic blockade imposed on the Kurdish areas of Iraq by the Baghdad Government.
- 4 citizens from Sinjar area, Abid Rasho Abdi, Haji Musa Ibrahim, Majid Salim and Piro Shoshki, were executed by the Iraq authorities in Mosul on October 2nd.

DOCUMENTED HANGING AND TORTURE OF CIVILIANS

In addition to the list of 65 people hanged or tortured to death by the Iraqi Baath authorities, which was attached to the Press Release No. 6, a further list has been compiled containing the names of another 28 people.

NB. DE - Date of execution DDB - Date of delivery of the body
all dates refer to this year: 1974

1. Husein Bromis Abdu from Khan Asfiya, Zimar, DE 17th June, Mosul, DDB 19th June.
2. Mulla Ali Umer al-Shimzani from Zakho, DE 27th May, Mosul, DDB 28th June.
3. Jakul Abdul Allah (Mrs) from Kirkuk, DE 27th May Mosul, DDB 27th June.
4. Abdul Muhammad Aziz from Kirkuk, DE 23rd July, Kirkuk, DDB 23rd July.
5. Ahmad Sofi from Zakho, DE 23rd July, DDB 23rd July.
6. Husein Ali Mawlud from Shaqlawa, DE 12th May, Baghdad, DDB 13th May.
7. Haji Hamad Said from Suleimani, DE 10th August, DDB 10th August.
8. Muhammad Sawsan from al-Walid, Rabiaa, DE and DDB August.
9. Talib Sheikh Baba from Dibis, DE 10th August, Abu Ghreb, Baghdad, DDB 11th August.
10. Izzat Rashid, Teacher from Suleimani, DE 18th August, Kirkuk, DDB 20th August.
11. Hama Salih Faraj, Teacher from Suleimani, DE 18th August, Kirkuk, DDB 20th August.
12. Hajji Hama Jan from Suleimani, DE 18th August, Kirkuk, DDB 20th August.
13. Hajji Ahmad Qadir Qassab from Suleimani, DE 18th August, Kirkuk, DDB 20th August.
14. Rahman Muhammad Arif (Arebi) from Qara Hasan, Kirkuk, DE 17th August, Mosul, DDB 3rd September.
15. Othman Mahmud from Qara Hasan, Kirkuk, DE 17th August, Mosul, DDB 3rd Sept.
16. Sayid Murad Bazu, from Sinjar, DE 25th August, Mosul, DDB 27th August.
17. Jamal Hajji Muhammad from Kirkuk, DE 26th August, Mosul, DDB 28th August.
18. Jamal Zaydan Zurab from Kirkuk, DE 26th August, Mosul, DDB 28th August.
19. Hanna Jabu from Zakho, DE 18th August, Mosul, DDB 20th August.
20. Salah Muhammad Othman from Zakho, DE 18th August, Mosul, DDB 20th August.
21. Sheikh Hasan from Zakho, DE 18th August, Mosul, DDB 20th August.
22. Niaman Abbas Kaka Khan from Jalawla, DE 20th May, Baghdad, DDB 28th May.
23. Mullar Haydar from Duz, DE 15th May, Mosul, DDB 16th May.
24. Muhammad Ali, DE 22nd July, Kirkuk Prison.
25. A'shur Muhammad Sherif, Hanged 22nd July.
26. Abdul Abdullah, DE 1st August, Kirkuk Prison.
27. Kareem Said Heme Ameen, DE 11th September, Kirkuk Prison.
28. Haji Abdul-Kareem Haji Saleh, 11th September. DE.

A further 33 were executed but their names were not given by the authorities.

CHRISTIANS APPEAL TO THE POPE

To: His Holiness Pope Paul VI
c. c. to: The World Council of Churches
The Ecumenical Council
The Human Rights Committee of the U. N. O.
The International Red Cross Committee

In this age of the realization of nations their rights to self-determination, the Assyrian people of the various Christian denominations, together with their Kurdish brethren, are now subjected to annihilation by the Iraqi Government for demanding their basic human rights. The genocidal war waged against our people in Iraqi Kurdistan is a blatant violation of

internationally recognised human rights. The Ba'ath regime's motive in this unjust war is the annihilation of our people who yearn for a better life enjoyed by other nations of the World. The bulk of the Iraqi armed forces are currently deployed in the military aggression on Kurdistan. As a result of the indiscriminate artillery shelling and air bombardment of liberated Kurdistan towns and villages, the majority of the victims are women, children and old people. Farmers' crops are burnt and their livestock destroyed by the marauding army. Even churches, mosques, schools and hospitals are not spared destruction. In a mean attempt to starve the population and spread chaos, the Iraqi authorities have imposed an economic blockade on Kurdistan. This has forced thousands of Kurdish families to take to mountain caves as shelter from air raids, the rest have been made refugees living outside Iraq. As to those Kurds and Assyrians inside the government-held territory, their plight is even worse. They live under constant fear of being threatened, humiliated and persecuted. The terror methods used by the authorities resemble those used during the Middle Ages. One common measure is the raiding at night of homes. The families, consisting mainly of women and children, are awakened, transported in army lorries and finally abandoned in the woods. They are made to walk across mined tracks with fighter-bombers hovering over their heads, until they are finally picked up by our armed partisans. Some of them die during the ordeal from hunger, thirst or heat. Other families have their household property confiscated and left destitute in the city streets. Young men, women and children are arrested for being related to one of those who have joined our people's movement. These are but a few instances of violation of human rights, international codes and the United Nations Charter.

On behalf of all the Assyrian people of Iraqi Kurdistan whom we represent, we call upon you to intervene to save the lives of thousands of Kurdish and Assyrian families who are threatened by the Iraqi Baath regime in both liberated Kurdistan and government controlled territory. Below are listed a few random instances of Christian citizens being persecuted by the Iraqi authorities.

1. 'Toma Jejo', a school teacher from Baghdad, whose brother is a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, was kicked out of his home, humiliated and tortured to death in prison. His mutilated body showed the marks left by an electric iron, his hands were cut off and his eyes were gored. His grieved family were not allowed to hold a funeral.

2. Toma's other brother, Yousif Jejo a student was assaulted by Ba'ath gangsters and beaten until he lost his hearing and is now insane.

3. Mr. Israel Mrokel was taken to torture chambers. Two days later he was brought back insane.

4. The following people have been arrested and up to now their whereabouts are unknown: Orahim Putris, Hurmiz Daud, Yaqo Yousif, Sadi Yaqo and Mensur Memmo.

5. The home of Dinkha Toma, who has joined the Kurdish Movement, was raided in Baghdad. His daughter, Shemoni has been missing ever since.

6. Victoria Pauls, the widow of one of our martyrs, was arrested, her whereabouts is a mystery.

These were just a few names of the victims of the Baath terror. We shall provide you with further names and details in due course. Again we appeal to you all to give this call your kind considerations and act quickly before it is too late. Finally, thank you in anticipation.

Georgis Melek Checko
Chairman of
The High Committee of the Christian
Affairs in Iraqi Kurdistan
22nd August 1974.

www.arsivakurdi.org