



KURDISH BUREAU ***for Liaison and Information***

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ACTIVITIES OF THE KURDISH BUREAU

May 2009

CONFERENCE

18.05.2009 : « Framework decision on combating racism » by the Council of the European Union

François Sant'Angelo, lawyer at the Centre for Equality of Chances and Combating Racism, synthesized the framework decision on combating racism taken by the Council of the European Union on 28 November 2008.



He said the aim is to approximate criminal law provisions on racism and that the countries have two years left to adapt their legislation otherwise

they will be sanctioned : « *Because there are certain difficulties left concerning legal cooperation ; that's why it's necessary to approach criminal legislation of the State Members in order to ensure the application of a clear and comprehensive legislation in order to combat racism and xenophobia* ».

Fr. Sant'Angelo gave an example of the law on negationism in Belgium : only the genocide of the Jews and the Gypsies by Hitler has been recognized. The Armenian genocide, the one of the Tutsi and the Kurds by Saddam Hussein... have not been recognized.



NEWS FROM KURDISTAN

May 2009

KURDISTAN OF TURKEY

TRIAL OF ERGENEKON (CONTINUATION):

(see previous newsletters)

REPORT UNITED STATES ON ERGENEKON

In May 2009, the United States included ERGENEKON in their report on terrorism (see previous newsletters). The report states that this organization is composed of former Turkish militaries, bureaucrats, journalists, politicians and some indecent persons. The report states also that an inquiry was held from 2007 until end 2008 and that the suspects were accused of terrorism.

(netkurd.com, 01.05.2009)

THE VALLEY OF THE DEATH

The 06th of May 2009, pieces of shoes and human bones were found in an area situated next to the office of the Turkish security service MIT. They were sent to the forensic medicine service to be analyzed.

(netkurd.com, rizgari.org, serwext.com, 07.05.2009)

On the 11th of May, human bones, clothes and footwear were found on 6 different places according to a declaration by the bar of Batman.

(netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, rizgari.org, 12.05.2009)

HIDDEN WEAPONS

On 10th of May 2009, weapons were found in the sea in the region of Beykoz in Istanbul ! The police will continue its investigations.

(netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, serwext.com, 11.05.2009)

HUNGER STRIKE OF THE DTP PARTY

On the 02nd and the 03rd of May 2009, the leaders, the parliamentarians and the mayors of the unofficial Kurdish party DTP held a hunger strike in the Koşuyolu park in Diyarbakir in Kurdistan of Turkey to protest against the mass arrests of their members (see previous newsletter). Thousands of people supported this protest action.

(nekutd.com, avestakurd.net, rizgari.org, nefel.com, 03.05.2009 ; Milliyet, rudaw.com, 04.05.2009)

OLLI REHN AND THE TURKISH PRESIDENT WELCOME AHMET TÜRK

On the 05th of May 2009, Olli Rehn, Commissioner responsible for the enlargement of the EU, welcomed the president of the Kurdish party DTP, Mr Ahmet Türk. The latter also participated in a reunion of the European United Left at the European Parliament.

On the 06th of May, Ahmet Türk was received by the Turkish President Abdullah Gül.

(netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, rizgari.org, 07.05.2009)

A KURDISH MAYOR CONDEMNED

On the 05th of May 2009, the 5th Penalty Court condemned Abdullah Demirbaş, Mayor of Sur, a municipality that belongs to Diyarbakir, to 2 years and 6 months in prison because he said « *Mister Öcalan* » in an interview of 7 July 2008 on the Kurdish channel Roj TV.

(avestakurd.net, 06.05.2009)

ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE KURDISH PARTY DTP (CONTINUATION)

On the 12th of May 2009, the police of Konya arrested Ayfer Yılmaz. As chairwoman of the unofficial Kurdish party DTP of the department of Konya, she was arrested in Konya together with 12 other Kurdish students of the university of Selçuk. They were accused of PKK-membership and of making propaganda for the PKK. These arrests are part of a big operation against this party (see previous newsletter).

(netkurd.com, 13.05.2009)

OIL FOUND IN KURDISTAN

On the 13th of May 2009, the management of the oil company TPAO of the Semsûr region (Adıyaman) announced that they found oil in Doğubaşpınar in the region of Adıyaman in Kurdistan of Turkey. The research activities started 3 months ago.

(rizgari.org, 14.05.2009)

KURDISH NAMES FOR 3 PARKS REJECTED

In May 2009, the chief commissioner of Kayapınar rejected the Kurdish names that the municipalities had chosen for 3 parks: Roşna, Şilan and Rojda. The municipality appealed the decision to the administrative Court of Diyarbakir but it rejected the request.

(Hürriyet, netkurd.com, 14.05.2009)

ATTACKS AGAINST THE KURDS

On the 19th of May 2009, one Kurd has been killed and two other injured by the Turkish fascists « Ülkücü » in Akyazi in the region of Sakarya in Turkey after an intense atmosphere that has been lasting 10 days.

Ten days earlier, Talip Aksoy, president of the fascist « Ülkücü » and a Kurd had been killed.

During the past four years, 6 cases of lynching of Kurds by these fascists have been discovered in Sakarya.

(netkurd.com, 20.05.2009)

KILLER OF KURDS CONDEMNED

On the 19th of May 2009, a court of Malatya in Kurdistan of Turkey has condemned a Turkish man called Tanju Çavuş to 8 years and 4 months in prison. In 2005, Çavuş has killed a Kurd and injured 5 others in Şemzînan. At first, he was sentenced to life imprisonment but later the sentence has been reviewed and reduced.

(serwext.com, 20.05.2009)

IRAQI TRADE FAIR IN KURDISTAN OF TURKEY

On the 23rd of May 2009, the 4th Iraqi Trade and Industrial Exhibition has opened its doors in Entab (Antep) in Kurdistan of Turkey. About 700 companies of different countries from the Near East, Europe, Asia have participated in this exhibition. For Iraqi Kurdistan, delegations of the chambers of commerce and industry of Duhok, Hewlêr (Erbil) and Suleymaniyeh and some trade companies have participated.

(netkurd.com, 24.05.2009)

700 KURDISH CHILDREN ARRESTED IN ONE YEAR

In May 2009, the Association for Human Rights in Turkey has published its report for 2008 and wrote that last year, 700 Kurdish children, among which 400 from Diyarbakir, have been put in custody and have been exposed to assault and torture. In certain cases, they were condemned to sentences of 25 years in prison for having thrown stones to policemen during demonstrations.

According to the same association, more than 1572 Kurdish children have been arrested and tortured in 2007.

(serwext.com, 26.05.2009)

REPORT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

In May 2009, Amnesty International has published its report of 2009. The report says that the aggressions, torturing and ill-treatment of the Kurds has increased in Turkey.

What concerns human rights, the report states that the changes of article 30 of the Turkish law are not sufficient and that there are other articles that suppress freedom of speech. It adds that there are no better conditions of detention in prisons of type F.

(peyamner.com, 28.05.2009)

ATTACKS AGAINST THE KURDS OF KYRGYZSTAN

DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL KURDISH GOVERNMENT OF IRAQI KURDISTAN

Following the attacks on the Kurds by hundreds of Kyrgyz racists (see previous newsletter), Mr. Fellah Mustafa, responsible of External Relations for the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraqi Kurdistan has written a letter to the Kyrgyz Minister Kadirbeg Srbaev,

in which he proposes collaboration between the two governments in order to solve this problem together.

(netkurd.com, ave

stakurd.net, 06.05.2009 ; kurdistan-news.net, 11.05.2009 ; (netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, rizgari.org, efrin.com, 12.05.2009)

KURDISTAN OF IRAQ

DELEGATION IN KURDISTAN OF IRAQ

On the 1st of May 2009, a delegation chaired by Tahir Abdullah Osman, the deputy-governor of Hewlêr (Erbil), went to Diyarbekir in Kurdistan of Turkey to congratulate the mayor of this town, Mr. Osman Baydemir with his victory in the municipal elections.
(avestakurd.net, rizgari.org, 01.05.2009)

1200 TURKISH COMPANIES WORKING IN IRAQ

Galib Ensari, chairman of the chamber of commerce of Diyarbekir, declared that there are 1200 companies working in Iraq and that 90% of them are established in Kurdistan. In 2008 the sales figures exceeded 6 milliards of dollars.

(peyamner.com, 02.05.2009)

BOMBINGS BY TURKEY AND IRAN CONDEMNED

On the 1st of May 2009, Iraqi parliamentarians signed a declaration that sentences the bombings on Iraq by Turkey and Iran and in which financial help is asked from the Iraqi government for the affected families on base of article 525 of the Constitution.

(peyamner.com, 02.05.2009)

On the 03rd of May, the Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan Nêçîrvanî Berzanî condemned also these bombings in a written statement.

(peyamner.com, nefel.com, 03.05.2009)

ATTACKS ON THE ARABIZED KURDISH REGIONS

On the 1st of May 2009, a car bomb on a main road near Kirkouk has killed 3 persons and injured two others. The chief of police of this province, Mr. Turhan Yûsuf said that the actor was a Syrian terrorist.

(peyamner.com, 02.05.2009)

On the 05th of May, armed men exploded an oil pipeline near the oil centre Bayî Hesên in the Northwest of Kirkouk.

(peyamner.com, 06.05.2009)

On the 11th of May, a car bomb, that aimed a police car, killed 8 persons, among which 5 policemen and injured 11 other people. 3 cars were burnt and shops were destroyed.

(peyamner.com, netkurd.com, azady.nl, 12.05.2009)

On the 21st of May, a terrorist who self-exploded killed 5 people and injured 7 others in Kirkouk.

(peyamner.com, aknews.com, 21.05.2009)

On the 26th of May, 1 person was killed and three others injured in two explosions.

(azady.nl, 26.05.2009)

A DANISH DELEGATION IN KURDISTAN

On the 04th of May 2009, Mesûd Berzanî, President of Iraqi Kurdistan welcomed a Danish delegation, composed of the General Director of Foreign Trade and Trade Policy of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sived Rud Nilson, the ambassador of Denmark in Iraq, Mr. Mikayel Wetner and some experts in the fields of economics and trade.

The delegation confirmed willing to implement an active investment policy in Kurdistan. It also expressed its satisfaction with the security and investment situation in this region.

A RUSSIAN DELEGATION

On the 11th of May 2009, Mesûd Berzanî, President of Kurdistan and Nêçîrvan Berzanî, Prime Minister have each welcomed a Russian delegation. It was composed of Mr. Zalimkhan Mutchov, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Russian Parliament and the Russian consul in Iraqi Kurdistan, Mr. Vagev Garayev.

The delegation confirmed that the Russian government would provide the necessary facilities to Russian investors in the region of Iraqi Kurdistan. It added also that it is necessary to send a delegation of Russian journalists to Kurdistan to report publicly about the realized progress in this region.

30 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RUSSIA

On the 12th of May 2009, the Minister of Education of Iraqi Kurdistan announced that he will attribute scholarships to 30 students to study at a Russian university in the faculties of medicine, engineering, aviation and journalism.

(peyamner.com, 13.05.2009)

COMMUNAL GRAVE

In May 2009, the chairman of the organisation of human rights of Diwanniyee, Mr. Fadil Sahir announced that a communal grave has been discovered in Nehr Talit in the East of the province of Diwanniyee where bones wrapped in Kurdish clothes of about hundred people were found. He added that these victims had been executed in 1991.

(peyamner.com, avestakurd.net, azady.nl, 13.05.2009)

Also in May, three other communal graves concerning the human rests of hundreds of Kurds were found in the

South of Iraq in the region of El-Qadisiyyeh. Probably, it concerns victims of the genocide of Enfal (1987 – 1989).

(netkurd.com, azady.nl, 16.05.2009; peyamner.com, 17.05.2009)

KURDISTAN REPRESENTED AT AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR IN CHINA

From the 24th of April until the 06th of May 2009, the International Trade Fair of Kinto was organized in the city of Kuandjo in China. The Kurdish delegations of the Trade Union of Anîn and of the Regional Government of Kurdistan of Iraq participated with their commercial stands.

The Kurdish delegation went also to the trade cities Chwanda and Êw and signed contracts with Chinese companies concerning electrical machines, cars, bicycles and construction materials.

(rudaw.com, 14.05.2009)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT

On the 13th of May 2009, a round table discussion about the actual situation in Iraqi Kurdistan was organized in the Dutch parliament. Members of the Committee for External Affairs of the 2nd Chamber, academics, journalists and students from different Dutch universities participated in this meeting.

Burhan Jaf, Kurdistan Government Representative to the EU in Brussels was one of the speakers. He insisted on the principle of federalism in Iraq and explained the problems of Kurdistan with the central government in Bagdad on oil legislation, the status of the peshmergas (Kurdish fighters), the budget to be shared and the fate of the arabized regions (article 140 of the Constitution). He thanked the Dutch parliamentarians that proposed to erect a monument in commemoration of the Kurdish genocide (Anfla/Halabca) in the Hague.

The socialist deputy Krista van Velzen promised to strive for the erection of this monument and said that the deputies will try to help the victims of the destroyed regions by sending medicines and other to destroyed regions.

Fred Teeven of the Liberal VVD, who persecuted the Dutch criminal Frans van Anraat (he sold chemical weapons to Saddam Hussein) said that his party was interested in Kurdistan and that next summer, he plans to visit it and will assist at a conference with judges and prosecutors on ways to combat fiscal evasion, terrorism and other offences.

Joel Voordewind of the social democrats said that his party is drawing a proposition of law concerning nega-

tionism of genocides. « *The Kurdish genocide is stated in this proposition. The law is ready* », he said but he admitted that there is a certain resistance because also the Armenian genocide is included in this proposition of law and Turkey is very sensible at this point. He added that his party proposed to increase the budget spent for medical help to Kurdistan and that last year, they sent 5-6 millions of euros to the UNCHR and the Red Cross.

Saadet Karabulut of the Socialist Party did a moving speech in which she said that « *The situation of the Kurds must be solved and this is very important to humanity* ». She also criticized the recent arrests of Kurdish politicians in Turkey.

(Krg.eu, 14.05.2009)

ROUND TABLE MEETING IN POLAND

On the 16th and the 17th of May 2009, Ziyad Raouf, Kurdistan Government Representative in Poland, participated in a Anglo-Polish round table meeting entitled « *Agendas for stormy times – EU Energy and Foreign Policy* » in Krakow. It was organized by Demos EU-ROPA – The European Strategy Centre, Unia & Polska Foundation, British Chatham House, European Studies Centre of the Oxford University and Villa Decius Association.

Politicians, business men, representatives of the government, non-governmental and economic leaders, Polish and British scientists and journalists participated in this meeting.

Mr. Raouf took the floor to explain the actual situation of Iraqi Kurdistan. He asked Europe to pay particular attention to this region and said that Kurdistan is one of the only nations of the Near East that is not anti-European and that the Europeans should remember that most of all, the Kurds have done efforts to make Iraq a laic, federal and democratic state, friend of all nations.

At one of the meetings, all participants have been invited by Mr. Raouf to taste Kurdish cooking specialties.

(Krg-Pologne, 22.05.2009; peyamner.com, 29.05.2009)

CONFERENCE OF THE NATO IN THE HAGUE

On the 27th and the 28th of May 2009, the Dutch Atlantic Treaty Organization organized a conference on the New Strategic Concept of the NATO in The Hague in the Netherlands in collaboration with the Atlantic Treaty Organization. Many politicians, diplomats and academics participated in this conference.

Burhan Jaf, Kurdistan Government Representative to the EU in Brussels, took the floor and talked about the

military interventions of Turkey in Iraqi Kurdistan. He described them as violations of international law. He added that these attacks damage the international reputation of the NATO (Turkey is member of the NATO).
(Krg-Eu, 28.05.2009)

THE BELGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN KURDISTAN



On the 28th of May 2009, the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel De Gucht, accompanied by a delegation, visited Kurdistan after his visit to

Bagdad. He met the leader of the region, Mr. Mesûd Berzanî and next the Prime Minister, Mr. Nêçîrvan Berzanî. At the end of his visit, Mesûd Berzanî and Karel De Gucht held a common press conference.

During this press conference, Mr. De Gucht said that Belgium attaches importance to Iraqi Kurdistan because it is a federal state composed of two nations, the Kurds and the Arabs and that is the reason why he wanted to meet the leaders of Kurdistan. He added that the problems must be resolved according to the Iraqi Constitution and that Belgium could be interested in economic relations with Kurdistan.

(peyamner.com, netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, nefel.com, azady.nl, serwext.com, 29.05.2009)

KURDISTAN OF IRAN

HUNDREDS OF KURDS ARRESTED

At the beginning of May 2009, hundreds of Kurds have been arrested in the Kurdish towns of Sine (Sanandaj), Merîwan, Kamyaran, Kermanshah, Pîranşa and Ilam. They were accused of collaboration with the PJAK, the Iranian wing of the PKK, who conducts armed operations in Kurdistan of Iran.

(netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, 12.05.2009)

BOMBINGS ON IRAQI KURDISTAN

On the 03rd of May 2009, the Kurdish villages of Kanî Masî, Jomaraşî and Kara Sozî in Iraqi Kurdistan were bombed by Iranian artillery forces and helicopters.

(azady.nl, 3.05.2009 ; Milliyet, 04.05.2009)

BOMBINGS ON TURKISH KURDISTAN

On the 11th of May 2009, the surroundings of the village of Kopek near Çolemêrg (Hakkari) in Kurdistan of Turkey were bombed by Iranian artillery.

(netkurd.com, peyamner.com, 11.05.2009)

THE KURDISH LANGUAGE AT IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES

On the 27th of May 2009, the High Council of Cultural Revolution, chaired by the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedi Nejad decided to include language literature and study of regional dialects to the branches of study at universities, according to the Iranian press agency Mehr News

(netkurd.com, 27.05.2009 ; avestakurd.net, peyamner.com, serwext.com, 28.05.2009)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

In May 2009, Amnesty International criticized Iran firmly in its report of 2009. It stated that the Kurds in Iran are exposed to big injustice in the social and cultural field and that the Kurds are often accused of being member of PJAK (the Iranian wing of the PKK) and imprisoned and even condemned to death.

(serwext.com, 28.05.2009)

KURDISTAN OF SYRIA

BUS COMPANY PUNISHED

On the 1st of May 2009, according to the MAF, the Kurdish Association for Human Rights in Syria, Syrian security services made the Kurdish bus company CI-WAN pay a fine of 1 month for transporting people who wanted to celebrate the Kurdish New Year Newroz.

Previously, several other bus companies such as Medya, Ciwan, Newroz, Roj, Dicle ...had already been forced to pay a fine because of their Kurdish names !

(avestakurd.net, 01.05.2009)

9 KURDS ARRESTED

At the beginning of May 2009, the security forces searched 4 Kurdish villages in the region of Afrin and arrested 9 persons. Nobody knows the reason for this search!

(avestakurd.net, 09.05.2009)

LEADER OF A PARTY CONDEMNED

On the 11th of May 2009, the Penalty Court of Damascus condemned Meş'el El-Temo, leader of the Kurdish party Teyyar El-Musteqbel (wave of the future) to 3 years and a half in prison. He was accused of «*depreciation of the state, weakening of the national feeling and disturbance of the psychology of the nation*» based on articles 285 and 286 of the Syrian law.

(amude.com, peyamner.com, 11.05.2009)

THREE STUDENTS EXPELLED FROM UNIVERSITY

On the 28th of April 2009 the direction of the university of Aleppo decided to expel three Kurdish students from university : Alan Huseynî, Kawa Dîko and Ebdê Remê for participation on the 12th of March 2009 in a commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the Kurdish uprising of 12 March 2004 by keeping 5 minutes of silence in university !

(amude.com, 13.05.2009)

A DOCUMENTARY FILM IN GERMANY

In May 2009 the Association for Threatened Peoples « GfbV », situated in Gutingen in Germany diffused a documentary film on Meş'el Temo, president of the Kurdish party of Syria The Kurdish Current of the Future, imprisoned since 11.08.2008 and condemned to 3 years and a half on youtube. The film is in Kurdish and directed by Dr. Kemal Sîdo.

(avestakurd.net, kurdistan-news.net, 21.05.2009)

TWO KURDISH SOLDIERS KILLED

In May 2009, two Kurdish soldiers have been killed during their military duty in the region of Afrin in Kurdistan of Syria, according to the Kurdish Association for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedom in Syria « DAD ». The first, called Xebat Şêxmûs, has been buried at the cemetery of his village, Qidde. The other one, called Ehmed Se'dûn, originated from the village of Kobra has been tortured to death.

Since the Kurdish uprising of 12 March 2004, 18 Kurdish soldiers have been killed.

(peyamner.com, 23.05.2009 ; amude.com, 25.05.2009)

KURDISH CULTURAL NEWS

AMERICAN AWARD FOR A BOOK

The Jewish-Kurdish immigrant and American citizen Ariel Sabar wrote a book in English entitled «The paradise of my father» after his visit with his father to Iraqi Kurdistan, his country of birth. The book has been awarded with the "National Book Critics Circle Award". Ariel's father, Yona Sabar is an Aramaic lecturer of the Californian university in Los Angeles.

(azady.nl, 01.05.2009)

CHANGES OF THE CURRICULUM IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

At the beginning of May 2009, the Minister of Education of the Regional Government of Kurdistan of Iraq, Mr. Dilşad Abdul-Rahman declared that the Ministry decided to change the primary and the secondary curriculum.

He also declared that the new programmes focus on developing the student's capacity of analysis and is not based anymore on learning facts by heart.

(peyamner.com, 06.05.2009)

KURDISH ROCK GROUP IN THE NETHERLANDS

On the 05th of May 2009, the Kurdish rock group Çar Newa from Cologne participated to the festivities in honour of the Dutch Queens day in Wegeningen.

(azady.nl, 07.05.2009)

CONFERENCE ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IN HEWLÊR

On the 07th of May 2009, a conference entitled «from totalitarianism to democracy» started in Hewlêr (Erbil) in Iraqi Kurdistan in the presence of Mesûd Berzanî, President of Iraqi Kurdistan, the President of the Kurdish Parliament, Iraqi and Kurdish parliamentarians ...

The aim of the conference was to guarantee internal peace in Iraq.

(peyamner.com, netkurd.com, 07.05.2009)

KURDISH MEDICAL EXPERT AT SWEDISH COURT

On the 07th of May 2009, the Social Control Service of the Swedish Tribunal of Kammarrätten appointed the Kurdish Cuwan Heqî as medical expert at the Tribunal of the State in Länsrätten ».

Dr. Ciwan Heqî is a Kurd from Turkey. He studied medicine in Bulgaria and obtained a doctorate in psychiatry in Sweden. In 1994 he did research in the field of dementia. He's at the same time also a member of the Union of Kurdish Writers in Sweden and wrote since 2000 several fables.

(serwext.com, 07.05.2009)

A GERMAN AWARD FOR A SHORT FILM

On the 07th of May 2009, a short film about Kurdish kids, entitled « Şoreş û Şêrîn » has won an important press award « European Young CIVIS Media Prize » in Berlin. The writer of the film is the Kurdish Serkal Kuş and the script writer is the German Katrin Gebbe. The ceremony took place in the German Parliament and was broadcasted by the German channel ARD. The award was 5.000 €.

(amude.com, 08.05.2009)

EXPOSITION IN THE NETHERLANDS



On the 08th of May 2009, Burhan Jaf, the Kurdistan Government Representative to the EU in Brussels opened a photography exposition of the Dutch journalist Michael Hegener in Amsterdam in the presence of Kurdish leaders, the Iraqi ambassador in the Netherlands, diplomats and journalists.

Michael Hegener exposes 50 photographs taken during the September Revolution of the Kurdish leader Mustafa Berzanî. He wrote also a book in English, entitled « The Kurds of Iraq ».

(azady.nl, 09.05.2009 ; krg.org, 10.05.2009 ; peyamner.com, 11.05.2009)

A FILM AT THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS OF SPAIN AND ITALY

In May 2009, the documentary « The cat and the mouse » from the Kurdish film maker Bijen Zeman Pîra from Iraqi Kurdistan was projected at the international festivals of Spain and Italy. The film tells the story about two children who work in the suburbs of Sine in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The film has also been projected in October 2008 in Ireland at the International Film Festival.

(peyamner.com, 11.05.2009)

AN ANIMATED FILM ON THE FESTIVAL OF CANNES

In May 2009, an animated film for children entitled "The Utopia" from the Kurdish film maker Sait Ferat Okçuoğlu from Kurdistan of Turkey has been projected at the 62th International Film Festival of Cannes in France. The film tells the story about a caveman who discovers the modern world.

Also the three Kurdish film makers Behmen Qobadî, Sehran Adilî and Nazire Turan participated at the Festival of Cannes.

(netkurd.com, rizgari.org, 11.05.2009)

CRAFTS EXHIBITION IN SWEDEN

On the 09th of May 2009, a crafts exhibition has been inaugurated in the museum of Siktona near Stockholm.

It has been organized by the Kurdish Crafts Centre with the support of the local tv of Suleymaniye, Xak TV. The exhibition has been inaugurated in the presence of the mayor of Siktona, the representative of the Iraqi embassy, the director of the museum, the singer Ezîzî Weysî and some Swedes.

(avestakurd.net, 12.05.2009)

TALES IN 17 LANGUAGES

Deniz Özgür Nergiz, a Kurdish teacher from Turkey realised a project financed by the European Commission. He published a book of tales containing 98 pages in 17 languages, also in Kurdish : Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, German, English, French, Croatian, Kurdish, Lingala, Macedonian, Lezgi, Roman, Romanian, Serbian, Spanish, Czech, Turkish. It has been distributed free.

(serwext.com, 13.05.2009)

DOCTORAL DEGREE IN POLAND



At the beginning of the month of May 2009, the Iraqi Kurd Salah R. Seîd obtained a doctorate at the faculty of physics, astronomy and computer sciences at the university of Jagiellonian in Krakow in Poland. Thanked to an agreement signed by the universities of Iraqi Kurdistan and Jagiellonian, he could study there since 2004. The Kurdistan Government Representative in Poland, Mr. Ziyad Raûf assisted the defence of his thesis.

(Krg-Pologne, 15.05.2009)

THE PRICE OF PEACE FOR A KURDISH JOURNALIST IN LONDON

On the 11th of May 2009, during a congress of the World Information Council in London, the Price of Peace offered by Club Ethinom Westminster has been awarded to Dr. Bedir Xan El-Sindî, chief editor of a Kurdish newspaper edited in Arabic in Iraq.

32 countries participated in this congress. 7 journalists have been awarded.

(efrin.com, 26.05.2009 ; peyamner.com, 28.05.2009)

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THREE UNIVERSITIES IN KURDISTAN OF TURKEY AND IRAQ

The 13th of May 2009, the rectors of the universities of Artuklu in Mardin in Kurdistan of Turkey and the universities of Duhok and Kirkouk in Iraqi Kurdistan have signed an agreement that enables Kurdish academics from Iraq to teach Kurdish at the university of Mardin. It also enables 25 students from Mardin to study Kurdish at the university of Duhok. There will also be a collaboration between these universities on the field of curricula, personnel and knowledge.

(netkurd.com, azady.nl, 28.05.2009)

SEMINAR ON IRAN AT THE FINNISH PARLIAMENT

The 14th of May 2009, a seminar entitled "Executions and torturing in Iran" was organized at the Finnish parliament in Helsinki. The lawyer of the Kurdish political prisoners in Iran, Mr. Xelîl Bahramyan held a long speech about executions and the situation in Iranian prisons.

Finnish parliamentarians, human rights activists, representatives of Kurdish and Finnish political parties and lawyers participated in this seminar. The situation of human rights in general and the one of the Kurds and women in particular were largely discussed.

(avestakurd.net, 15.05.2009)

KURDISH LANGUAGE COURSES AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

In May 2009, after Aachen and Dortmund, also the university of Siegen in Germany has started to organize Kurdish language courses. It was a student initiative to try to get these courses accredited by the universities.

(netkurd.com, 16.05.2009)

LANGUAGE FESTIVAL ORGANIZED BY INALCO IN PARIS

The 16th of May 2009, the section of Kurdology of the INALCO (Institut de Langues et Civilisations Orientales) of the Sorbonne university in Paris participated at the language festival 'O Show.

Students of different countries as New Caledonia, India, Burma, China, Paraguay, Thailand, Cambodia, Brazil, Mali, Russia, Korea, Iran and Kurdistan had a stand and promoted their culture. The Kurds organized a parade of their costumes and danced Kurdish dances. A map of Kurdistan, photographs, cooking specialties,... were exposed at their stand.

(netkurd.com, 19.05.2009)

FLUTE PLAYER DIED

The 21st of May 2009, the famous flute player Qele Mere died at the age of 84 years in Bokeran in Kurdistan of Iran. Since his early childhood, he played the « şîşal » (flute). Some months ago, during an interview, he said he wanted to offer his instrument to the music museum of Iraqi Kurdistan.

(peyamner.com, rudaw.net, avestakurd.net, azady.nl, 22.05.2009)

LITERATURE CONFERENCE IN KURDISTAN OF IRAN

The 25th of May 2009, the Centre of Ehmedê Xanî in Ourmeh in Kurdistan of Iran organized a conference on literature and philosophy in Kurdistan of Iran. Among the participants : students, teachers and Kurdish poets. The centre exists since 2003. It edits a women magazine, organizes Kurdish language courses (dialect kurmandji) and theatre plays, conferences, etc ...

(Kawe Dehpuyad, 29.05.2009)

DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN KURDISTAN

In May 2009, the English company Wist Production produced a documentary film entitled « Kurdistan Mission » on the activities of the Christian missionaries of the Luther organization. It consists of 12 parts. The first part can be viewed on the internet site : www.scola.org/eonecommerce/portal. The Kurdish site Ruwange from Iran published also several articles on the activities of the missionaries in Kurdistan of Iran during the past centuries.

(avestakurd.net, 22.05.2009)

DICTIONNAIRE KURDISH-FRENCH IN THE NETHERLANDS



In May 2009, Nahid Rashidian, a Kurdish woman from Iran living in the Netherlands, published a dictionary Kurdish-French and French-Kurdish, consisting of more than 20.000 words. In 2005, she already published a dictionary Kurdish-Dutch and Dutch-Kurdish. Her interest for languages is due to the fact that she

believes in their role in reconciliation of different people.

(Nahid Rashidian, Bureau Kurde, 29.05.2009)

MEDAL OF HONOUR IN GERMANY

The 28th of May 2009, during a ceremony, the mayor of the municipality of Kreuzberg in Berlin, Dr Franz Schulz has attributed a medal of honour to Riza Baran, a Kurdish activist from Turkey, for his social activities in favour of the immigrants.

The engineer Riza Baran arrived in Germany in 1963. He studied at the universities of Hannover and Berlin. Instead of working in his branch, he preferred to teach young immigrants. He's been a member of the German Green party since 1978. He was deputy in the parliament of Berlin from 1995 until 1999 and chairman of the municipality council of Kreuzberg from 2001 until 2006.

(netkurd.com, 30.05.2009)

BRUSSELS HOOFDSTEDELIJK GEWEST
VLAAMSE GEMEENSCHAPSCOMMISSIE



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