



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

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ACTIVITIES OF THE KURDISH BUREAU

DECEMBER 2009

CONFERENCE



20.12.2009 : History of Kurdistan (continuation) – 19th century

The historian Wezîrê Eşo continued the series on Kurdish uprisings during the 19th century. After the falling of the uprising of Prince Bedir Xan Beg in 1847, there were even more reasons to rebel against the Ottoman Turkey. The state imposed its Kurdish inhabitants severe taxes and collected the strong men in order to incorporate them in the Ottoman army.

The increase of repression against the Kurdish civilians was reason enough for a new uprising, this one organised by the cousin of Prince Bedir Xan, Yezdan Şêr. It lasted from end 1854 until April 1855. It coincided with the war called «the war of Orient» between Russia and Turkey from 1853 until 1856. England and France were Turkey-allied in this war. The Russians conquered the Turkish on the front of the Caucasus and occupied the regions of Kars, Beyazid, Serhed and others. Yezdan Şêr hoped on the support of the Russians that was finely not attributed for several reasons. He made of the Botan and Hakkari regions the centre of his uprising; he broadened the borders to the actual Iraqi Kurdistan and Syrian Kurdistan and intended to liberate Van and Erzurum. After the withdrawal of the Russians, the Ottoman army concentrated its forces on this uprising. The English consul in Mossoul sent some Kurdish tribes from Turkey and set them against Yezdan Şêr. The only possibility for him was to hide in the citadel of the Palace of Gêlî south of the Van Lake. The English consul made him believe that he would mediate between him and the Turks. But he handed him to them. The Turks put him in prison in Istanbul.

The mean reasons for his defeat were the inequality between the uprising forces and the Ottoman forces, the fact that he could not count on any external support and particularly the absence of unity between the Kurds.

ACTIVITY BALANCE OF THE KURDISH BUREAU IN 2009

1- Daily service from Monday till Friday, from 9 a.m. until 17 p.m.:

- social service
- language courses
- library and media resources centre
- Intergenerational and Intercultural Dialogue
- Secretariat
- Editing and translation of the monthly newsletter
- contacts and meetings with persons, organizations and institutions interested in the Kurds and immigration.

2- Monthly activities :

- Newsletter : 10 editions : N° 47 (quarterly) and 48–56 (monthly) in four languages : Kurdish, French, Dutch and English.
- Conferences : 12 (10 organized by the Kurdish Bureau and two by Belgian associations).

3- Annual activity :

- Newroz, Kurdish New Year : reception in the offices of the Kurdish Bureau
- Film on immigration, followed by a discussion.

4- Activities organised in collaboration with other associations :

- Translation by phone or sometimes on site in collaboration with Bruxelles-Accueil for the Kurds, the Afghans and Iranian people : 695 times
The majority of these translations is done by Zarali Nikrawesh, a Kurd from Iran.
- Intercultural Breakfast organized by Citizenne.
- Table of Dialogue organised by Foyer.
- Interlitratur, day of literature organised by four Flemish foundations.
- Pastries Festival organised by Masereelfonds and De Markten.

5- Interviews et articles in magazines : 6

6- Participation in activities organized by associations and institutions : 34 (Conferences, study days, colloquiums, cultural evenings ...)

NEWS FROM KURDISTAN

DECEMBER 2009

KURDISTAN OF TURKEY

INSTITUTE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES IN MARDIN

The 1st of December 2009, The Council of Ministers accepted the decision made by the university of Artuklu in Mardin in Turkish Kurdistan to open an « Institute for Modern Languages » where Kurdish, Persian, Arabic and Aramaic will be taught.

Before, this university asked the permission to open a « Kurdish Institute » but the Council for Higher Education « YOK » preferred to use the name " Institute for Modern Languages".

(netkurd.com, peyamner.com, pukmedia.com, kurdistan-news.net, rudaw.net, 01.12.2009)

BOMBING ON IRAQI KURDISTAN

The 02nd of December 2009, Turkish artillery forces bombed the border region of Nihêl and Nêrwe Rêkan in the district of Amedî in Iraqî Kurdistan.

Huseyn Temer, leader of the border security forces in the province of Duhok in Iraqî Kurdistan, , announced to the PNA that the villages of Sêrî and Reşave in the region of Nihêl and the villages of Zêwe, Sernî and Bêbû in the region of Nêrwe Rêkan had been bombed.

(peyamner.com, 02.12.2009)

The 27th of December, the same artillery unit bombed the region of Nêrwe and Rêkan next to Amedî in the province of Duhok. They also bombed the villages of Reşave, Zilyê, Sêrî and the valley of Reşave in the region of Dêrelukê.

(pukmedia.com, peyamner.com, 27.12.2009)

KURDISH KEYBOARD

At the beginning of December 2009, the first computer keyboards containing only Kurdish letters appeared on the market of Diyarbekir in Turkish Kurdistan. This keyboard is produced by a Hong Kong electronic company with the support of a Turkish company.

The representative of these keyboards said that he also presented one to the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

(mediakurd.com, 03.12.2009)

A SCOTTISH DEPUTY DEFENDS KURDISH LANGUAGE

The 04th of December 2009, the Scottish deputy Dr. Bill Wilson stated that he made a motion calling Turkey for respect of the rights of the persecuted Kurds because of the use of their language in public places.

(rudaw.net, 04.12.2009)

STUDENT KILLED IN A DEMONSTRATION

The 06th of December 2009, Aydın Erdem, a 23 year old Kurdish student died in a hospital of Diyarbekir after clashes with the police. This happened in a demonstration against the bad imprisonment conditions of PKK-leader Abdullah Öcalan, who had been transferred to a new prison together with 5 other prisoners (see previous bulletin).

Similar demonstrations took place in other Kurdish towns and in Istanbul because Öcalan complained to his lawyers concerning the new cell smaller and less comfortable than the former one !

(CNNTürk, Kurdish sites, 07.12.2009)

OBAMA SUPPORTS "KURDISH OPENING"

The 07th of December 2009, during a meeting of the American President Barak Obama with the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the White House, Obama supported the policy of "Kurdish opening" conducted by the Turkish government. He added that the military measures against the PKK are not sufficient but that a political solution should be found.

(netkurd.com, Hürriyet, Milliyet, 07.12.2009 ; nefel.com, rizgari.org, peyamner.com, 08.12.2009)

EXCLUSION OF THE CHP-PARTY FROM THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

The 08th of December 2009, seven Kurdish and Alevi organisations in Europe wrote a letter to the President of the Socialist International and to its member parties to ask to exclude the Turkish Republican People's Party from this International.

The signatories said that on 10 November 2009, during a discussion in the Turkish Parliament on the Kurdish issue and on democracy, the spokesman of the CHP, Onur Öymen, said that the policy that erased the Kurdish uprisings of Şêx Seîd, Dersîm, Agirî et Zilan should be continued.

In this letter, the associations said that 28 Kurdish uprisings took place during the CHP-government and that all of them have been brutally smothered causing a million killed.

These are the names of the signatories : Confederation of Kurdish Associations in Europe (KOMKAR-EU), Federation of Associations of Kurdistan in Sweden, The People's House in Geneva, the Cultural Centre of the Alevi in Göteborg, Union of Women from Kurdistan (KOMJIN), Union of Kurdish Youth (KOMCIWAN), Kurdistan Worker' Association in Hamburg (HEVKARÎ)

(netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, 08.12.2009)

INQUIRY: DTP DOESN'T REPRESENT MAJORITY OF KURDS

An inquiry has been held by the Centre of Strategic Research of the Turkish university of Bahçeşehir, directed by Prof. Dr. Ercan Çitloğlu. 28.000 persons have been interviewed in Turkish Kurdistan on the fact if the unofficial Kurdish party DTP really represents them. 23.5% among them said that the party represents the Kurds, 29% had no meaning and 47% answered that they didn't consider the DTP as representative for the Kurds of Turkey and thought that the party could not represent them.

(mediakurd.com, 10.12.2009)

DTP BANNED: KURDISH DEPUTIES RESIGN

The 11th of December 2009, Haşim Kılıç President of the Turkish Constitutional Court announced during a press conference that the Court decided to ban the Kurdish unofficial party DTP and to remove 37 of its members, including the chairman of the party, Ahmet Türk and cochairwoman Aysel Tuğluk from politics for a period of five years based on their alleged links with the terrorist organisation PKK and that this is considered as contrary to the integrity of the state.

This decision was taken one week after the murder of 7 Turkish soldiers by the PKK in Tokat. The DTP reacted in an announcement that it would appeal the court's decision and bring it to the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg. Hundreds of Kurds demonstrated in the streets in several towns and the decision has sparked clashes with the police. Certain people have been exposed to armed attacks by young Turkish fascists. In Mûş in Turkish Kurdistan, 2 persons got killed and 6 others injured in clashes with the police.

Turkey's dissolution of the DTP has sparked discontent among the Kurds in Turkey and the government and the parliament in Iraqi Kurdistan. In Iraqi Kurdistan, there were also demonstrations. The European Union and the United States decline the dissolution.

The 14th of December, EU Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn declared during a press conference that he regrets that the DTP didn't take any distance from the PKK.

The 15th of December, the 20 DTP-parliamentarians declared that they will withdraw from parliamentary business. The same day, the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip declared that he's against the dissolution of this party and said that Turkey has become the cemetery of parties : « *Today, a party is closing, tomorrow another one replaces it. That's why the problem cannot be solved by banning a party ...* ».

(*Agences de presse, presse turque, TV et sites kurdes, 11- 16.12.2009*)

The 16th of December, EU Presidency holder Sweden said that it was concerned about the court's decision that blocks the road to Kurdish elected politicians. He added that the EU calls on Turkey, as a negotiating country, to make the necessary constitutional amendments to bring its legislation on political parties in line with the recommendations by the European Council and the European Convention on Human Rights. He added that the Presidency will continue to closely monitor further developments in Turkey.

(Eurokurd.net, avestakurd.net, 17.12.2009)

The 17th of December, the Turkish Minister of Internal Affairs, Beşir Atalay, organised a press conference at his ministry and announced that the "Kurdish opening" and at the same time the struggle against violence will continue. He talked about the possibility to change the law on political parties and said that this will be discussed in parliament.

(nefel.com, 17.12.2009)

ON REQUEST OF ÖCALAN, PARLIAMENT WILL CONTINUE TO HOST KURDISH DEPUTIES

The 18th of December 2009, the DTP-President Ahmet Türk organised a press conference in Diyarbakir in Turkish Kurdistan. He said that on request of the Kurdish people, civil society organizations of this party, Turkish democratic friends, intellectuals and academicians and also on request of Abdullah Öcalan (PKK-leader living in prison since 1999), the DTP-deputies will stay in parliament.

(netkurd.com, Hürriyet, peymaner.com, pukme-dia.com, rudaw.net, aknews.com, 18.12.2009)

The American ambassador in Ankara, James Jeffrey and other ambassadors from different countries of the European Union congratulated Ahmet Türk for this decision.

(rizgari.org, 21.12.2009)

The 21st of December, the crime commission press started an inquiry on Ahmet Türk based on article 215 of the criminal law because he said that « Mister Öcalan » didn't agree with the resignation of the DTP-parliamentarians.

(Hürriyet, netkurd.com, 22.12.2009)

DTP CHANGES ITS NAME INTO « BDP »

In Diyarbekir and in Ankara, the DTP-leaders have replaced the sign of the outlawed party by the inscription « BDP » (Peace and Democracy Party).

(netkurd.com., Hürriyet, peymaner.com, pukmedia.com, rudaw.net, aknews.com, 18.12.2009)

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(Hürriyet, netkurd.com, 22.12.2009)

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(netkurd.com., Hürriyet, peymaner.com, pukmedia.com, rudaw.net, aknews.com, 18.12.2009)

1562 PERSONS ARRESTED BECAUSE OF ÖCALAN

According to the Turkish Minister for Interior, Beşir Ataly, 1562 persons have been arrested during protest actions against the bad imprisonment conditions of PKK-leader Abdullah Öcalan. 363 among them have later been liberated on court decision.

(netkurd.com, 18.12.2009)

FORMER ADVISOR OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

The 19th of December 2009, Mîr Mehmet Firat, former advisor of the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Kurdish deputy of the governmental party AKP, visited the President of Iraqi Kurdistan, Mesûd Berzanî, the Kurdish Minister of Internal Affairs Kerîm Sincarî and met also other politicians in order to discuss the "Kurdish opening" and to try to solve the PKK-problem.

(peyamner.com, 21.12.2009 ; Hürriyet, 22.12.2009)

KURDISH, ARMENIAN AND ARAMEAN NAMES FOR STREETS IN DIYARBEKIR

The 21st of December 2009, the municipality of Sur, part of the city of Diyarbekir in Turkish Kurdistan accepted Kurdish, Armenian and Aramaean names for 3 streets on its territory: Ahmed Arif (Kurdish poet), Migfirdîç Margosyan (Armenian author) and Naum Faik Palak (Aramaean). Abullah Demirbaş, mayor of Sur, said that the name Naum Faik Palak is still to be accepted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is checking his Turkish nationality.

(netkurd.com, rizgari.org, 22.12.2009)

80 BDP-MEMBERS ARRESTED

The 24th of December 2009, during a big police operation, 80 members of the new Kurdish party BDP (successor of the banned DTP) including 10 mayors have been arrested in 11 provinces. Among them, Abdullah Demirbaş the mayor of Sur, part of Diyarbekir. Demonstrations and mass protests by the Kurds took place everywhere.

(Kurdish TV, netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, aknews.com, nefel.com, rizgari.org, peymaner.com, azady.nl, pukmedia.com, 24.12.2009 ; Eu Turkey Civic Commission, 26.12.2009)

38 OTHER BDP-MEMBERS ARRESTED

From 25 until 27 December 2009, 38 other BDP-members have been arrested in 3 Kurdish provinces.

(netkurd.com, 27.12.2009)

THE BAN OF « DTP » PUBLISHED OFFICIALLY TESTIMONY BEFORE COURT

The 31st of December 2009, the ban of the « DTP » has been published in the Turkish official Gazette. It has been closed because of its connections to the terror organization and because it became a focal point of activities against the country's integrity.

Immediately after the official publication, the party's chairman and chairman of the DTP-group in Parliament Ahmet Türk and Mrs Aysel Tuğluk, cochairwoman and deputy testified before the Ankara 11th High Criminal Court accompanied by their lawyer Nuri Özmen.

(Hürriyet, netkurd.com, 31.12.2009)

ONE MORE HALABJA LOST YOUNG BOY FOUND

The 10th of November 2009, the Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs of the Kurdish government in Iraq, Çinar Seîd, announced during a press conference in Hewlêr (Erbil) that a 21 year old Kurd, Elî, escaped from the massacre of Halabca with chemical weapons in 1988 at the age of four months, is reunited with his family thank to a DNA test. The day of the bomb attack, his father and five brothers and sisters died. His mother was not at home. Elî (his real name is Zimanko Muhammed) was living with a Persian family in Meşhed in Iran.

The 03rd of December 2009, Elî reunited with his mother during a special ceremony held at the Halabca monument, in the presence of victims and politicians. The reunion with his mother, Fatma Muhammed Hama Salih, were very moving. Later, the young man and the two families, Persian and Kurdish were welcomed by the President of Kurdistan, Mesûd Berzanî.

(TV kurdes, pukmedia.com, netkurd.com, 03 et 04.12.2009)

FILM ON THE GENOCIDE OF HALABJA IN ITALY

The 1st of December 2009, a documentary film on Halabja Gas Attack in 1988 was projected during the Peace Congress for Eradicating Weapons of Mass Destruction in Italy. Which was organized for two days.

The presentation of a documentary film on the Gas Attack in Halabja “shocked the Italians”, Head of Halabja Gas Attack Victims Association announced. The Congress was attended by many worldwide mayors and political personalities, who were keen to help in renovating Halabja, the Head of Halabja Gas Attack Victims Association, Luqman Abdulqadir, told Kurdistan News Agency. Halabja Mayor, Kareem Khedir, had stated to Kurdistan News Agency, saying that it is an initial step towards the upcoming congress to be held in New York in 2010.

(aknews.com, 08.12.2009)

SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGRESS IN HEWLÊR

The 03rd of December 2009, the National Chaldean, Aramean and Assyrian Council held its second congress in Hewlêr (Erbil), in the presence of the US Consul in Baghdad, the assistant of the Russian consul in Hewlêr, the deputy for Kurdistan in the Federal Parliament, Sadî Berzencî, the governor of Hewlêr, Newzad Hadî and a lot of representatives of Christian associations and political personalities.

The slogan of the congress was « The autonomy is the national guaranty for our common life in our fatherland ». The chairman of the Council, Cemîl Zîtu, said in his speech that the role of the Kurdish political leaders is important for the acquisition of the rights of the Christians. Mr. Berzencî said that while the Christians are living in peace in Kurdistan, they are exposed to terrorist attacks and driven away from their homes in the other Iraqi regions.

The Congress was held for two days.

(pukmedia.com, 03.12.2009)

ATTACKS IN THE ARABIZED KURDISH REGIONS

Headless child in Sincar

The 04th of December 2009, the headless body of the 15 year old Nasir Reşîd Qasim has been discovered in the arabized region of Sincar, inhabited by Yezidi Kurds. He was one of the students missing the same day.

(rudaw.net, 06.12.2009)

Bomb in Kirkouk

The 14th of December 2009, a plastic bomb, put under a police car, exploded in the district of Rehîmawa in Kirkouk. A Kurdish soldier died and two civilians got injured.

(peyamner.com, 15.12.2009)

Two bodies in Kirkouk

The 19th of December 2009, the police of Kirkouk declared that two bodies of inhabitants of the Hecac district in Kirkouk had been discovered. The discovery happened two days after the kidnapping of the victims. Their bodies were riddled with bullets. They were taken to the hospital of Azadî.

(pukmedia.com, 19.12.2009)

Three persons injured in Kirkouk

The 22nd of December 2009, a leader of the security services of Kirkouk announced that a bomb exploded on the car of officer Ahmed Abdulxeffar near the police office in Reşad. He and two of his guardians have been wounded. Other cars have been seriously damaged.

(peyamner.com, 22.12.2009)

4 persons killed and 18 injured in Duz

The 27th of December 2009, a bomb exploded in the Duz district belonging to Kirkouk during a Shiite ceremony (aşûra). 4 persons got killed and 18 injured.

(pukmedia.com, 27.12.2009)

ATTACK NEAR MOSSOUL

The 25th of December 2009, a suicide attack aimed a caravan of peshmerga forces (Kurdish fighters converted into soldiers) in the Rebiye district near Mossoul. A soldier got killed and 15 others injured.

(pukemdia.com, netkurd.com, 25.12.2009)

THREE COMMUNAL GRAVES : 185 BODIES



The 07th of December 2009, three communal graves have been opened near the village of Topzawa in the east of Kirkouk by a team of the Iraqi Ministry for Human Rights and Kurdish Ministry of Martyrs, in the presence of the president of the provincial council of Kirkouk, Rizgar Elî and other officials.

These graves have been dug at the time of Saddam Husseyn and contain principally the human remaining of Kurdish children. In the first sink 105 bodies were found, in the second 52 bodies, in the third 28 bodies.

The Kurdish Minister has called upon the UNO to visit the Kurdish communal grave. The bodies were brought to the hospital of Azadî.

(pukmedia.com, aknews.com, 08.12.2009 ; peyamner.com, pukmedia.com, 19.12.2009)

VISIT BY THE AMERICAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE



The 12nd of December 2009, after a visit to Baghdad, the American minister of Defence Robert Gates was welcomed in Kurdistan and met President Mesûd Berzanî.

From Kurdish side, the ministers of peshmerga (Kurdish fighters) and Internal Affairs, the chairman of the Security Agency for the Kurdistan Region and other political leaders participated. From American side, ambassador Christopher Heel, general Jacoby and leaders and officials of the Ministry of defence and the American embassy in Iraq.

Mr. Gates said that the purpose of the visit was to thank president Berzanî for his efforts concerning the vote on the electoral law in Iraq (see previous bulletin). He affirmed that the American President and Vice-president promised to offer their help in three fields :

- 1- solve the existing problems between the Iraqi government and the Kurdish one concerning the arabized regions, including Kirkouk in accordance with article 140 of the Iraqi constitution (see previous bulletins).
- 2- continue to help the peshmerga forces and the Iraqi army in the security field.
- 3- sustain the process of census in Iraq in 2010.

Robert Gates also transmitted an invitation from American President Barak Obama to invite Mesûd Berzanî to the United States.

(TV, Kurdish press and sites, 12.12.2009)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

The 13th of December 2009, the international trade fair for stone and ceramic industries was inaugurated in Hewlêr (Erbil), in the presence of the Kurdish Minister of Municipalities and Tourism, Semîr Abdullah and the governor of Hewlêr, Newzad Hadî.

262 companies from 14 countries, including 200 Turkish ones participated in this fair. It lasted six days. Since 2005, 25 international fairs were organized in this towns.

(pukmedia.com, 13.12.2009)

KURDISH BUSINESS MAN AWARDED IN AUSTRIA



The 13th of December 2009, the Socrates award handed over by the Association "Europe Business Assembly" was awarded to the Kurdish business man and owner of Korek Telekom, Sîrwan Berzanî during a ceremony in Vienna.

The main office of this old European Association is situated in London and directed by a number of European academics. Its role is to award high achievers in business from all over the globe. The distinction granted to Sîrwan Berzanî has been handed y Professor John W.A.

(KTV, rudaw.net, avestakurd.net, 14.12.2009)

THE PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT'S SON IN KURDISTAN

The 14th of December 2009, the Kurdish President Mesûd Berzanî welcomed the son of the Palestinian President Yasser Mahmoud Abbas, who was accompanied by a delegation. The guest said that he came on request of his father Mahmoud Abbas and that the purpose of his visit was to strengthen the relations between the two parties.

(KTV, peyamner.com, 14.12.2009)

DELEGATION OF THE KURDISH GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

The 19th of December 2009, a delegation of the Kurdistan regional government visited Washington, Detroit and Michigan. It was composed by the Kurdish President's head of cabinet Fuad Huseyn, the head of the presidential office for external relations Fellah Mustafa and the Kurdish Regional Government's USA representative Qubad Talabanî.

The delegation had several meetings with officials of the White House and members of the US Congress.

The discussions concerned the actual situation in Iraq and the instruments for construction of a federal and democratic Iraq. The Kurdish delegation insisted on the fact that collaboration between the American and Kurdish governments is crucial for progress in the political process and establishment of peace and security in Iraq.

(pukmedia.com, 20.12.2009)

M. Fuad Huseyn declared to the American Radio, Kurdish section that the policy of the Americans regarding Baghdad and the Kurdish region has become clearer and that they promised to help them to resolve their problems before 2011 (date of the withdrawal of the American forces) and to ensure the application of article 140 (concerning Kirkouk and the other arabized regions).

(rudaw.net, 21.12.2009)

The delegation met also the members of the business community, the « think tanks » and press. In Detroit

and Michigan, they met the members of the Chaldean, Assyrian and Aramaean community (Syriac).

(peyamner.com, 23.12.2009)

SADDAM HUSSEIN WANTED IRAQ AND TURKEY TO EXTERMINATE THE KURDS TOGETHER

In December 2009, the former Turkish ambassador in Iraq (period from 1986 until 1989) and the advisor of the former Turkish President Turgut Özal, Nuzhet Kandemir said during a television programme on TRT that the Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq Aziz at that time told him that Saddam Hussein was convinced that the Kurds were a plague for Iraq as for Turkey and that because of this, the two countries should collaborate in order to crash the Kurdish uprising.

When Kandemir did this proposition to President Özal, he got angry.

(netkurd.com, 20.12.2009)

President Turgut Özal was half Kurdish and wanted to resolve the Kurdish problem in Turkey. But he was assassinated mysteriously.

(Kurdish Bureau, 20.12.2009)

ARABIC KURDISH CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The 22nd of December 2009, the first conference concerning the foundation of the Arabic Kurdish Institution for Civil Rights started in Hewlêr (Erbil), in the presence of the chairman of the Kurdish Parliament of Iraq, Dr. Kemal Kerkûkî.

Leaders of more than 60 organizations coming from all over Iraq participated in this conference.

(peyamner.com, 22.12.2009)

THE BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE IN KURDISTAN

The 23rd of December 2009, after having visited Baghdad and Bassorah, the British Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, Ivan Lewis, met the President of Iraqi Kurdistan Mesûd Berzanî, the Prime Minister Behrem Salih and other politicians. He was accompanied by the American ambassador in Iran, John Jenkins. The purpose of his visit was to support the democratic process and to discuss the bilateral relations.

(pukmedia.com, peyamner.com, 23.12.2009)

PROHIBITION OF CARRYING WEAPONS

The 29th of December 2009, the director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the province of Suleymanieh stated that the government of Iraqi Kurdistan prohibited carrying any kind of weapon with or without licence and that the security forces only have the right to carry them.

(pukmedia.com, netkurd.com, 30.12.2009)

KURDISTAN OF IRAN

14 PERSONS ARRESTED IN SINE

The 05th of December 2009, 14 activists and members of the Workers Movement Coordination Committee have been arrested during a meeting in a suburb of Sine (Sanandaj) in Kurdistan of Iran. Later, 3 of them were liberated, but the judge ordered to liberate the others against payment of 100.000 Dollars each.

TWO SENTENCED TO DEATH

In December 2009, according to the military court of Urmiye, the Kurdish Mohammad Amîn Agûşî, living in Pîranşahr and the Azeri Irec Mohammadî living in Mi-yanduwwaw have been condemned to death after their arrest in 2009. They were accused of having threatened security. Two years before, Agûşî has already been arrested together with two other persons Ahmad Pûladxanî and Iraj Mohammadî but he was liberated again. (hra-iran.org, 06.12.2009; rizgari.org, 07.12.2009)

EXECUTION OF A 17 YEAR OLD KURD

The 17th of December 2009, the 17 year old Kurdish Muslih Zeman has been executed on court's decision in Sine because he should have had a relationship with a girl! (peyamner.com, 16 et 17.12.2009)

THREE KURDS CONDEMNED

In December 2009, according to the military court of Urmiye, three Kurds have been condemned : Resûlpûr, known as Resûl Şele, to six years imprisonment. Xalid Ahmediyan from Pîranşar to seven years imprisonment and the author Hasan Serdarî from Kirmanşah to 3 years.

(rizgari.org, 07.12.2009)

TWO KURDS KIDNAPPED

The 07th of December 2009, the active Kurdish student Suhrab Karîmî has been arrested by the Iranian security forces. The correspondent of the Human Rights Observatory in Kurdistan announced that he was brought to an unknown place. Karîmî had been arrested in 2007 at the University of Teheran. After 76 days of imprisonment, he was liberated against payment of 150 millions of tumans.

Ferzad Kelb Alî, another Kurdish student at this university, has also been kidnapped by the security forces. He's a brilliant student. He prepared to become a doctor in social and political sciences. (avestakurd.net, 09.12.2009)

PROHIBITION OF KURDISH NAMES

The Iranian authorities prohibited parents of Kurdish children to give them Kurdish first names. It's why they have often double names, one unofficial Kurdish and one official Shiite or Persian name such as Muhammad, Ali, Mahdi, Fatima, Zahra, Miryam ..). Kurdish intellectuals say that also Sunnite names such as Omar, Abu-Bakr, Usman... are prohibited.

An official at the population register of Mahabad in Kurdistan of Iran, confirmed this message and said that it is not only prohibited for Kurds but also for Baloch people, Turkmen and Arabs (Sunnites). (rudaw.net, 24.12.2009)

KURDISTAN OF SYRIA

JOURNALIST ARRESTED

The 22nd of November 2009, the Kurdish journalist Ma'an Aqil has been arrested in his office at the official newspaper « Al-Watan » in Damascus. Two days later, he has been licensed.

Last year, the Syrian secret services bothered him because he had criticized the government. Before, in 1987, he had been condemned to nine years imprisonment for being member of the League for Communist Action, a outlawed party at that time. (azady.nl, 15.12.2009)

AUTHOR ARRESTED

The 12th of December 2009, the Syrian secret services arrested the Kurdish writer Mustafa Ismaîl because he published on internet and participated in Kurdish television programmes.

Ismaîl lives in Kobanî (Eyn El-Arab) in Kurdistan of Syria. He's a lawyer, activist and writer. Some days before his arrest, he published an article in which he said that in occasion of the International Day for Human Rights, the Aleppo section of the secret satellite ser-

vices summoned him for questioning. The Kurdish associations inside and outside Syria conducted a campaign for his liberation.

(rudaw.net, avestakurd.net, 14.12.2009)

STUDENT ARRESTED

The 14th of December 2009, a Kurdish student called Hivraz Muhammed Amîn Hesen has been arrested by the security services of Ramela without any explanation and after having taken some personal stuff.

The Kurdish Association for Human Rights in Syria, DAD, condemned this act and reminded that the Syrian government violated the Syrian legislation on fundamental rights adopted in 1973 and also the international treaty legislation on civil and political rights adopted in 1976. According to a report of Amnesty International, more than 1500 people have been arrested in 2007 and hundreds of others during the following years.

(azady.nl, Eukurd, 18.12.2009 ; rudaw.net, 24.12.2009)

ANOTHER KURDISH SOLDIER KILLED

The 19th of December 2009, Izzeddîn Moro, a young Kurd from the region of Kobanî (arabized name : Eyn El-Arab) in Syrian Kurdistan, was killed during his military service. It's the 34th Kurdish soldier killed since the Kurdish uprising of March 2004.

(DAD, rudaw.net, 24.12.2009)

4 KURDISH POLITICIANS ARRESTED

The 26th of December 2009, three members of the Political Committee of the Kurdish party « Yekîti », Hesen Salih, Mumammed Mustafa, Marûf Melle Ehmed and the activist and artist Dijwar Naso have been arrested in Kamichli in Kurdistan of Syria. After having announced that he asked "autonomy for the Kurds of Syria at the 6th Congress of the party.

(avestakurd.net, 27.12.2009)

CREATION OF A KURDISH POLITICAL MOVEMENT

The 30th of December 2009, eight Kurdish political parties created a movement entitled « Civata Siyasî ya Kurdî li Sûriyê » (Kurdish Political Movement in Syria). The parties are : Kurdish Democratic Party in Syria (El-Partî), Kurdish Left Party of Syria (Partiya Çep a Kurdî), Kurdish Popular Union Party in Syria (Yekîti), Kurdish Future Movement (Şêpela Pêşerojê), Kurdish Patriotic Democratic Party (Partiya Demokrat a Niştimanî ya Kurdî), Kurdish Freedom Party (Partiya Azadî), Kurdistan Democratic Party of Syria (Partiya Demokratî ya Kurdî li Sûriyê), Party of Kurdish Democratic Equality (Partiya Yeksanî ya Demokratîk a Kurdî).

(pukmedia.com, avestakurd.net, 31.12.2009)

KURDISH CULTURAL NEWS

RUSSIAN ONGs VISIT KURDISH INFORMATION CENTER IN POLAND

The 26th of November 2009, Russian ONGs visited the Kurdish Information and Documentation Centre in Krakow in Poland.

First on the programme was a documentary film on this centre that was created in 2003 on the initiative of Ziyad Raûf, actual representative of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in Poland and by Polish university professors and by the longest living Kurd in Poland Ali Ghafûr. The centre is the successor of the Kurdish Polish Friendship Association, founded in 1992 in Krakow.

This visit has to be linked to a long term project entitled « The activation of transborder youth initiatives from countries of Central and East Europe ».

(Krg-Pologne, 04.12.2009)

DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT TOMB IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

A foreign team of archaeologists discovered a tomb dating from the first millennium A.D. near the centre of

Hewlêr (Erbil), capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. Hewlêr is known as the most ancient city on the globe that was constantly inhabited.

(azady.nl, pukmedia.com, 01.12.2009)

KURDISH ASSOCIATION OF KAZAKHSTAN IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

The 08th of December 2009, the Minister of Culture of Iraqi Kurdistan, Mehmûd Şakir received a delegation of the Kurdish Association of Kazakhstan and the Kazakh Students and Youth Federation.

The delegation said that the actual situation in Kurdistan reminded them of the independence of Kazakhstan in 1991. The two parties discussed about strengthening the bilateral relations and at the end of the meeting, the delegation offered the minister a Kazakh flag and the Kazakh emblem and a national costume.

(peyamner.com, 08.12.2009)

PRICE FOR TWO KURDISH FILM-MAKERS

Tokyo

In December 2009, Behmen Qobadî, famous Kurdish director from Iran, participated in the Film Festival in Tokyo in Japan with his film «No one knows about Persian Cats». He was awarded with the Special Price of the Jury. The film-maker had already received several international awards for his other films (see previous bulletins).

netkurd.com, pukmedia.com, 07.12.2009)

Dubai

In December 2009, the Kurdish director Şewket Emîn received the award of special honour at the Film festival of Dubai for his film «Şûnek bo Yari» (A place for Playing).

avestakurd.net, mediakurd.com, 17.12.2009)

A DOCUMENTARY IN STOCKHOLM

The 06th of December 2009, the Kurdish Student Academic Association (KSAF) in Sweden projected a documentary film on the genocide in Dersîm (Tuncelî in Kurdistan of Turkey) in 1938 at the university of Stockholm.

The vice-president of the association, Serhat Daran, first did a welcome speech on the history of this genocide ordered by Ata-Türk and his circle. Then, a one hour documentary film was projected by Cayan Demire. The discussions were mostly in Swedish.

netkurd.com, avestakurd.net, rizgari.org, 07.12.2009)

DANISH POETS IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

The 10th of December 2009, during a meeting organized by the Union of Kurdish Authors from Duhok in Iraqi Kurdistan, Danish poets presented Danish poems, chants and music. Kurdish and Iraqi Arabs read out of their works.

Fewzî El-Etrûşî (kurde), assistant to the Iraqi Minister of Culture stated that the evening was to be seen part of the cultural cooperation between the two Ministries of Culture of Baghdad and Hewlêr. He added that similar initiatives will also be held in Hewlêr and Suleymaniye. peyamner.com, 11.12.2009)

109 KURDISH MANUSCRIPTS 200 YEARS OLD FOUND IN MECCA AND MEDINA

In December 2009, the director of the centre «Jîn» (Life) in Iraqi Kurdistan, Refîq Salih, stated that he visited the Royal Libraries of Abdul-Aziz, Medjid Nebewî Şerîf and Muteherrem in Mecca and Medina during his pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. He discovered 109 Kurdish manuscripts written by Kurdish scientists 200 years ago and copied them on CD. He found Kurdish names (goranî, şarezûrî, dînewerî, amêdî, sincarî) and the manuscripts concerned the Kurdish brotherhood Newşbendî. He added that he couldn't do any more research be-

cause of lack of time and that he will return for further research.

pukmedia.com, 16.12.2009)

KURDISH CULTURE AT THE EL-EZHER UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

The Egyptian Mufti, Dr. Eli Cum'a, decided to incorporate the Kurdish culture in the study programmes offered by the El-Ezher University in Cairo. This decision was made because a religious delegation from Iraqi Kurdistan visited the Sheikh of El-Ezher, the Egyptian Mufti and university leaders.

The Kurdish delegation was composed of the Minister for Religious Foundations, the chairman of the Commission for Foundations and Religious Affairs in the Iraqi Parliament and some professors in theology. The delegation visited also the Kurds studying at this university.

rûdaw.net, 16.12.2009)

KURDISH MUSICIAN GRADUATED IN CHICAGO



The 19th of December 2009, Nebez Hama Reşîd, musician from Iraqi Kurdistan graduated with a «Master degree» for music at one of the Chicago universities in the United States.

pukmedia.com, 19.12.2009)

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

The 20th of December 2009, the 2nd Short film festival started in Suleymanieh. After a speech by the Minister of Culture, Kawe Mehmûdî and the general director of the festival, Azad Sewze, the film «A Place for Playing» from film-maker Şewket Emîn was projected. 28 films competed for the Golden Gazelle Award.

pukmedia.com, avestakurd.net, 21.12.2009)

THE WORLD CHAMPION FOR KARATE IS A YOUNG KURD

In November 2009, the 7th International Karate Competition was organised in Rome. The 16 year old Kurdish Şiyar Bagatarhan from Çewlik in Kurdistan of Turkey won the 1st Price. Şiyar lives with his parents in Neuchatel in Switzerland.

(avestakurd.net, 28.12.2009)

AGREEMENT BETWEEN KURDISH UNIVERSITY IN IRAQ AND FRENCH INSTITUTE

The 30th of December 2009, the Salaheddîn university in Hewlêr (Erbil) in Iraqi Kurdistan signed a coopera-

tion agreement with the French Near Eastern Languages and Culture Institute in the presence of the chairman of Parliament, Dr. Kemal Kerkûkî, the assistant of the French consul in Hewlêr, Murielle Poirot and the chairman and members of the Committee for Higher Education in Iraqi Kurdistan.

According to this agreement, French students preparing for a baccalaureate, a licence or a doctorate could do part of their research at the Salaheddîn university.

(peyamner.com, pukmedia.com, 31.12.2009)

BRUSSELS HOOFDSTEDELIJK GEWEST
VLAAMSE GEMEENSCHAPSCOMMISSIE



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