

# Kurdistan National Congress-KNC

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## STATEMENT FROM KURDISTAN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO THE KURDISH PEOPLE AND THEIR FRIENDS



**ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH, IT WILL BE THE HALABJA MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY, THE GREATEST TRAGEDY OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE, LET'S MAKE IT AN INTERNATIONAL DAY. WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE GENOCIDE OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE OF HALABJA CITY, THE HOLOCAUST OF KURDISTAN. WE WILL NEVER FORGIVE THE CRIMINALS OF WAR.**

The Kurds are the fourth largest nation in the Middle East. Their country Kurdistan, which used to be a part of the Ottoman Empire, was divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Soviet Union after the 1st World War as an international colony.

The Kurds have never accepted this, and it is due to their national struggle that the regimes dividing Kurdistan have practised most repressive policies against this nation which is the largest in the world without a state.

Between 1961 and 1999, the Iraqi government forcefully deported approximately 2.5 million Kurds to Iran, Turkey and to the south of Iraq, and killed half a million Kurds:

The Iraqi regime retained more than 5000 Fayli Kurds in 1980 as hostages in Baghdad to keep the mouths of the deported shut.

On July 30th 1983, Iraqi security and military forces surrounded the Qushtapa and Diyana camps near Hawler and rounded up some 8000 Barzani Kurds between the ages of 12 and 80. They were forced into large convoys of military trucks and taken to Baghdad. Have they been deported, imprisoned, tortured, murdered or massacred? No one knows.

Bombing Kurdistan by the Iraqi's chemical weapons have injured and killed more than 60,000 civilian Kurds, most of them children and women from the Kurdish city of Halabja on the 16th of March 1988 and in Badinan and Balisan areas a few months later.

In 1988 another and larger Iraqi genocide took place against the Kurdish people called "The Anfal Operations" which cost the Kurds more than 182,000 victims.

In 1989 hundreds of thousands of Kurds were forcibly removed from their land, with their villages destroyed (more than 4000 villages have been completely destroyed).

In 1988-1989, more than 150,000 Kurdish refugees fled from chemical weapons.

In 1991, just after the great uprising, more than 2,000,000 Kurdish refugees, fled from chemical weapons and tens of thousands lost their lives, from the cold in the high mountains without any shelters, most of them were elderly and children.

The tragedy of the Kurdish people is the tragedy of mankind! If you don't stop this way of thinking you will have another Saddam and another Halabja somewhere else! If you don't care today nobody may care for you tomorrow, and one day no one may be left to care anymore.

Say no to the oppression of the Kurds in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria and the former Soviet Union. Help stop the depopulation of Kurdistan by these regimes today, by a free referendum in all parts of Kurdistan.

**Conclusion: The suffering of the Kurdish nation and the massacres by the colonial regimes of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria and the former Soviet Union, in front of the eyes of the whole world, make the Kurdish people believe that the only way to stop their suffering is to separate themselves and their homeland Kurdistan from these primitive colonial regimes and to establish their own independent Kurdish state.**

**Your support and participation is needed.**