

## **The Syrian regime's solution for the Kurdish cause: after many years of silence treatment, is nothing but hot air**

From the style of his speech for his own parliament on 17-7-2007, the Syrian president Bachar Al-Asad showed that those who have written the speech in order to justify the mistakes and crimes committed against the Syrian people, Arabs and Kurds, were the same ones who planned and committed those mistakes and crimes. They chose their words from all kinds of rhetoric from classic literature to hide their crimes among them, that is why each paragraph is contradicting the next one, or even in the same paragraph you can find a lot of contradictions and empty sentences that have nothing to do with the previous text creating something old pre-Islamic prose in a Baathist way.

The speech starts this way:

(sentiments of thanks and gratefulness for a great homeland and proud people.. towards my big Syrian family that embraced me with a flux of noble emotions and provided me, in difficult times, with power and will..)

This talk is true hundred percent as Mr Bachar was educated in Europe and knows his etiquette, so he directs his speech to the Syrian people whom he describes as his family, this hungry people who work day and night just to survive and all the civil servants have to get an extra job by afternoons or nights, even judges, managers and teachers are seen after work hours driving a small Honda working as transporters because their wages are not enough for the living of their families. The majority of their wages goes towards the war effort and other priorities which are nothing but lies and deceiving this poor people as those cuts go straight to the accounts of the head figures of the Baath party who think of Syria as a piece of land inherited from their ancestors.

In another part he says:

The showing of love that you expressed to me.. on the occasion of the referendum for a new constitutional presidency.. and the expression of support that is shown in your various activities and mass actions in schools and universities.. in villages and cities.. in residential quarters and institutions..

I am confident that the Syrian regimes has not studied history at all, they have not seen millions of supporters of various dictatorships in the world that as soon as they have fallen the same supporters kicked them with their boots. We have seen when Saddam Hussein last appeared among his supporters on tv screens and those millions who were dancing for him within few weeks the same people were dancing on his fallen statues. I don't know which national unity is Mr Bachar talking about as imperishable and if it were stronger than the national unity of Hitler's Germany or Saddam's Iraq. Had Hitler did not attack Europe or Saddam Hussein did not kill millions of Iranians and Kuwaitis or Iraqi Arabs and Kurds, would it been possible to divide Germany, or the same with Iraq that is moving towards division and separation of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds. So, it is the Syrian regime that practically works for the division and partition of Syria while the speech implies that the regime is embracing the project of national unity and against any plans of separation and division. It is the silly and foolish actions of the Syrian regime that put the final nail in the coffin of one nation and encourages separatism exactly as Saddam Hussein, Hitler and other dictators did.

In another part he says:

For the stances to be right.. they have to base themselves on the people.. its thoughts and aspirations.. its principles and beliefs.. and they should express its problems and interests.. and this needs a right reading of this people because that is where the success is... and that is why I was keen on the respect of people...

It is true that the Syrian people with all its Arabs, Kurds and ethnic, religious and sectarian minorities has been read by impoverishing them and make them run day and night for survival shedding blood, sweat and tears, standing in queues to buy bread, sugar, rice or other supplies, all that and people is respected!! What kind of respect is there when a brother is afraid of his brother and neighbours are watching each other in order to make a living? The hunger is a kind of blasphemy, as Imam Ali Bin Abi Talib has said, so is it a respect to make people afraid and hungry to make them lower their heads and walk alongside the walls wearily, as the lowering of heads may look like showing respect, but I don't think that is what the speech means by it.

In another part he is talking about rising of wages:

When there were not enough currency.. we were giving one time bonuses even without occasions.. in order to help those citizens with low income, though partly.. especially if there were such occasions that require spending, such as the festivities and start of the academic year.,

Mr Bachar is trying to show the Baathist regime as very charitable that distributes goods and presents among the Syrian people using cheap demagogy as if he pays from his own pocket, while all the leaders of Baath and Intelligence Services in Syrian are now talking billions instead of millions of dollars (which are essentially from looted wealth of the Syrian people) that they put in banks under imaginary names and dormant committees; according to the socialist principles of Baath that concentrate only on one side, that is to participate in all the wealth and earnings of people and loot the homeland's resources!! So that if the Syrian people wake up and through them out they would have enough savings to get another milking farm like Syria. They do a favour to the Syrian people by increasing wages by few thousand Syrian liras but the increase in prices soon swallows all of it. An engineer in Syria who is among the most well paid people receives 4000 Syrian liras in a month while the rent for a simple flat is more than 8000 a month, so the rent is twice the wages. These are the miserable conditions in which people in Syria live and this is what the regime calls respect!!!

According to the prices and wages in Syria workers deserve not a little increase in wages but to make them tenfold. But they are kept starving for two reasons: first to be forced to look for extra work by evenings and then return home tired not able to meet anyone and complain about his situation and the tragic situation of all Syrian people, the second most important reason is that the difference in wages is pocketed by the officials, so those who are suppose to guard are the robbers. In order that their actions are not discovered they blame some of those who oppose their policies for the robbery diverting the blame from them. This also redirects the anger of the masses on the one hand and discredits the opponent on the other exactly as happened when the Intelligence Services burned the Kurdish prisoners in Al-Hasaka Prison in 1993 then just the morning after the Syrian regime executed the three survivors

among the prisoners accusing them of starting the fire!!! As those three were the only witnesses of the massacre the regime got rid of them for covering up and at the same time to satisfy the families of those burnt to death.

The speech also mentions poverty and unemployment!!

In the light of the continuous role of the state as the protector of the rights of popular masses.. including the fulfilment of social justice.. prevention of poverty and unemployment.. supporting social security networks.. there is also great talk and discussions regarding the so called social market.. the majority of discussions are based on what we are reading.. of course there are theories, thoughts and academic researches.. however, as far as we are concerned as a state.. we do not give in except to the popular interests.. this means that we do not allow anyone to impose any concept upon us.. or tell us which path we take.. we determine what concept we want or the form of that concept!!!

This speech is amazing, everyone knows that before Baath Party came to power, the Syrian people was taking a middle path in every thing, especially in economics. So there was no utter poverty or filthy rich, but thanks to the efforts of the Baath Party in fighting poverty and unemployment, the whole Syrian people became poor and a great majority of it even under the poverty line, according to international standards. In all parts of the speech there is a lot of empty rhetoric to cover mistakes and claiming that the regime is working for people and its interests. However, the speech ends by we (meaning the regime) determine what concept we want or the form of that concept!!!

The speech also mentions the question of reforms as if the people are destroying things and the state rebuilds them. The truth is the opposite, all the faults in Syria are of the dictatorial regime's making, because the oppressed Syrian people has no power to refuse any of the regime's decisions, especially that the movement of the Syrian opposition is paralysed or nonexistent because the regime has been putting them in prison and there are still a lot of them in prison such as Anwar Al-Bunni, Michel Kilo, Kamal Al-Labuani, Arif Dalila and Faiq Al-Meer in addition to thousands of Kurdish prisoners, especially those of the uprising, and others. Many of them were also assassinated by the regime or pushed into exile, so the destruction, evil and corruption in Syrian are all from the Baath Party, because Baath is the only power in Syria. So, the regime has to reform itself before anything and not make speeches directed at the Syrian people and its patriotic forces but at itself and only at itself.

It is funny that the speech also mentions law. Anyone listening may think that Syria is a country of law. In reality in Syria the law is nothing but a game in the hands of the party members and Intelligence Services. In order to mention all the violations in Syria one needs volumes, and the real criminals are those in the chairs of power in the Baath Party and Intelligence Services who are very well known and their time will come.

The speech mentions the Kurdish cause in Syria but dwarves it and limits it to the question of the Syrian nationality certificate:

Mr Bachar must know that the Kurdish cause in Syria is not a question of only nationality certificate because the Kurdish people in Syria resides in Western

Kurdistan since thousands of years and centuries before even Arabs arrived in Syria. The Kurdish homeland was annexed to the Syrian state according to colonial treaties at the end of World War I. The Kurds have the same right as the Arab people to determine their own fate and expel any occupiers of Kurdistan. If the Syrian regime wants now or in the future to keep the unity of Syria and preserve it from division and partition, it has to recognise these facts and know that the Kurdish people inside their Kurdistan region has the right of gaining authorities similar to those of the Syrian authority in Damascus. As for the violated human rights and lost civil rights as well as the rights of ethnic, religious and sectarian minorities in Syria you can talk forever. However, the speech of Mr Bachar forgot all that and mentioned awarding nationality certificate to the Kurds in a vague way and on conditions that are similar to those of the occupiers in the Middle Ages. He differentiated between those Kurds whose nationality was withdrawn and those oppressed as if distinguishing between tall and short or those with dark eyes and others of different colour. This is all to vulgarise the issue of giving back the nationality certificate, withdrawn in 1962, to the Kurds. That is about half a century ago, while in any other country around the world; any resident would acquire nationality within 5 years. However, the Syrian Nazi Baathist regime, after half a century of suffering, puts drastic conditions for giving back certificates to their legal owners. Incidentally, the great Kurdish leader uncle Osman Sabri was one of those Kurds whose certificate was withdrawn, he was contacted by Syrian officials and asked to sign a petition to regain his Syrian nationality, but he refused saying that I don't appreciate any nationality certificate that can be arbitrarily withdrawn at any time, a nationality that has no respect for itself and the holder. It is in this view that anyone who heard the speech know that it is nothing but lies and demagogy as in the same day of the speech the Syrian regime continued its Arabisation policy by arranging the settlement of 150 Arab families in the region of Derik, which name is Arabised into Al-Malikia. This clearly shows that the Syrian regime has no regrets about its action towards the Kurdish people in Syria and instead of rectifying what was committed; it continues its racist policy of changing the demography of the Kurdish areas of Al-Hasaka in Western Kurdistan. The speech also shows that only the things that are in the interest of the regime gain priority both in theory and in practice, while those in the interest of the people are faced with ignorance. So, I would like to uncover those who made Mr Bachar think that the problem of half a million Kurds and their descendants in Al-Hasaka whose nationality was withdrawn half a century ago is not an urgent problem and has no priority. This case according to the International Refugee organisation in Washington is as if those whose nationality is withdrawn are buried alive, because though they can still live and breath, they do not have right of possession, education and work. They cannot even register in a hotel or mend a wall in their homes because that requires permission from the municipality which in turn requires a Syrian identity. This is the situation of half million humans for a half century now and as they are no Arabs or members of the Baath Party then according to the racist Baath ideology they have no priority.

The Baathist regime in Syria talks about loyalty to the state and homeland!! What kind of homeland is this? A homeland should be like a mother to its sons, even animals try to find food and place for their young. So, the Syrian regime's policy of

oppression, marginalization, deprivatation and assassination towards the Kurdish people cannot ever lead to respect and loyalty to the state. On the contrary the Syrian regime is creating a people in Syria that despises the country and loathes Arabism. For such a homeland that takes and never gives, and the aggressive Arabism that detests any thing non Arabic leads to militant and insane policies that push towards separatism and building barriers. Actually psychological separations and barriers are stronger and more stable than political borders because the latter can be demolished at any time but the psychological gap created by the Syrian Baath between the Arabs and the Kurds in Syria may require generations to rectify, exactly as it is the case in Iraq.

The utter tragedy is that the Baath Party is educating its members and the masses that this militant and insane policy is a source of pride, national dignity and true patriotism!! They do not pay attention to what happened to their twin Baath Party in Iraq and Hitler in Germany. Of course, their brother Saddam Hussein went to the gallows still in denial that is because those kinds of people have lost every bit of their humanity and as it is said the indications were there for all to see. From the beginning Saddam Hussein refused to give the Kurds autonomy in 1975 and in order to suppress their voice he conceded to the Shah of Iran every bit of “Arab honour and dignity” by handing over the leadership of the Arabistan Liberation Movement and surrendered Shat Al-Arab, strategic highlands and the Gulf islands to Iran. When the Iranian regime of Shah was brought down, Saddam wanted to gain back what he had surrendered but Iran refused and Saddam initiated a war that lasted 8 years in which millions of lives were lost and honours violated. Had Saddam Hussein given the Kurds their rights that war would not have occurred and neither the Kuwait war nor the liberation of Iraq from his despotism later on, as the American would not have found any Iraqis supporting them. That is how Saddam sacrificed lives and violated honours; he killed the trust between the Iraqis themselves as well as between them and his neighbours such as the Kuwaitis and others. He managed to divide the Arabs in a way that Israel couldn't. All this in order to prevent the Kurds from living their own natural life and this insane policy led him to the gallows while the Kurds gained more than autonomy. I think the Syrian regime is on the same path. The Syrian regime is calling Israel for negotiations forgetting his own Syrian people, Kurds, Arabs or ethnic, religious and sectarian minorities that are even more diverse than those in Iraq. So, the scene is set and the Syrian regime should not take the same path of Iraq because it only leads to the violation of Syria's dignity and gallows, while at the end the Kurdish people would gain their rights no matter. I would not like to see this but rather for the Syrian people including Kurds and Arabs to gain their rights through dialogue among themselves instead of forcing it from outside and before the regime negotiates with Israel and others.

After writing my book (The Colonial Policy of the Baath Party in Western Kurdistan) I received a lot of criticism for describing the policy of the Baath Party as colonial because this was regarded as an insult to colonialism, for colonial powers occupying any country did not try to change the name of that country or deny the existence of its people, language and heritage as it happened to the Kurdish people in Syria. The more appropriate word would be enslavement or enchainment, which

goes with situation of Kurdish people. People are nostalgic for the times of colonialism because the Kurds, who do not have nationality certificates have no right to work, study or acquire food and other supplies with official prices. This never happened even to slaves of America as they were not allowed to work or study in particular factories or universities or they were not allowed into certain hotels or restaurants but not at all like the Kurds in Syria.

The Syrian regime strongly criticises those who ask for support from abroad, but the situation in Syria is like a person drowning in a huge sea with no shores or light in horizon. For this drowning person it makes no difference what kind of ship or whose ship would rescue him. He would even hang on to a twig and does not mind even a ship from hell. So, anything is more merciful than the situation of the Kurds in Syria, which is worse than death once and for ever, as the death accompanies the people every hour and minute. How long this should continue and what is all this oppression and suffering for? It is ironic that those full from the food of the hungry and enslaving the Syrians and residing in palaces and comfortable offices should talk about the nation's dignity and loyalty to the homeland!! It is a farce of destiny but this farce shall not last and new times are surely coming to through this lot into the sewage of history as it happened to their likes; Hitler and Saddam.

Then the speech mentions the massive Kurdish uprising on 12 March 2004 and describes it as disobedient events. We would like to ask Mr Bachar, had this being just disobedient event, how come it spread within few hours to all the towns of Al-Hasaka province and the towns of Al-Raqa, Kobani, Aleppo, Afrin and Damascus? So, it was not just a disobedience but an uprising against the insane policies of your regime, Mr Bachar, it was a reaction to the policies of census and Arabisation and other racist projects of the Syrian regime such as the Arabian Belt and the mass murder such as the burning of 380 Kurdish children to death in Amuda Cinema in 1960 and burning 75 Kurdish prisoners to death in Al-Hasaka Central Prison in 1993, as well as killing people under torture in the cells of Intelligence Services and even the Kurdish conscripts who were murdered during their compulsory military service, in addition to the assassination of dozens of the leaders of the Kurdish liberation movement such as the prince Jaladat Baderkhan who was murdered by an arranged explosion of a water tank in 1951, and the abduction and murdering under torture of Sheikh Muhammad Ma'ashuq Al-Khaznawi in 2005, poisoning Dr Hamid Sino, murdering Kamal Ahmad and his comrades in an arranged car accident and many others. The day will surely come when the murderers of all those heroes will be tried and get their just punishment.

Finally I would say to Mr Bachar that today is not like yesterday and there are many options open for the Kurds and a wise man would see the signals.

Greetings to those on the right path.

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President

Western Kurdistan Government in Exile

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