

**WESTERN KURDISTAN ASSOCIATION**  
**Komela Rojava Kurdistan**  
 Charity number: 1066236

Since 1995, Western Kurdistan Association is serving the community in Hammersmith, runs its projects by volunteers and every year provides services to numbers of people mentioned below:

- 1) Training sessions for 10 volunteers involved in our activities in media and culture.
- 2) Accommodation of 30 work experience students from different schools in London.
- 3) Accommodation of 500 visitors in our Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive. The official map of Hammersmith Council and the list of 100 important places in London which produced by the Mayor of London mentioned our name to attract tourists in order to bring cash to London and Hammersmith Borough.
- 4) Broadcasting Radio and TV online which conducted more than 120 thousands hits per minute, broadcasting one hour daily the problems and the needs of the Kurdish community and other communities in the areas of housing, welfare, immigration, health etc. in English, Kurdish, Arabic, Farsi and Turkish languages.
- 5) Provision of monthly workshops for 10 people, quarterly seminars for 70-80 people, three web sites and quarterly newsletters which we sent to our e-mail list of more than 1500 e-mail addresses.
- 6) Advice and information to 150 refugees to access mainstream provision where necessary in the areas of housing, welfare, health, immigration, etc.
- 7) Help 100 refugees in employment and education through one to one advice sessions, i.e. job search on the internet, interview skills and CV writing etc

- 8) Training sessions for 10 newly arrived refugees at our English language courses.
- 9) Training sessions for 10 refugees at our computer courses.
- 10) Supplementary School on Sundays to support children in Mathematics, English and Kurdish languages.
- 11) Football club for young people.
- 12) Participating in all meetings, seminars and conferences connected to our services.

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**Local residents visit the Kurdish Museum**



**Computer Course**



**TV & Radio**



**Supplementary School**



**Kurdistan Football Club**



**AGM 2010**



## WESTERN KURDISTAN (Syrian Kurdistan)

The situation in Western Kurdistan faces, as it has always done, a political and media blackout by the Syrian authorities. However, in order to clarify the situation in Western Kurdistan we would like to give you a brief account of the Kurdish question in general.

The Kurdish people is the fourth largest nation in the Middle East and the largest nation in the world without a national state. Kurdistan used to be, like all the existing countries in the Middle East, under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. In the aftermath of the First World War when the Ottoman Empire disintegrated (1918) it seemed the most reasonable solution that Kurdistan should be granted national independence. Although the **Treaty of Sevres (1920) did provide the creation of an independent Kurdish State**, when Mustafa Kamal became the Turkish leader he refused to accept this. **A second treaty of Lausanne was signed in 1923, and Kurdistan was not mentioned in it.** Then in a Franco-Turkish agreement the railway line between Mousel (a city in Southern Kurdistan) and Aleppo (a city in Western Kurdistan) became the border line between Turkey and Syria. The result of these agreements, in which the Kurds had no saying whatsoever, was the division of Kurdistan. The Kurds have never accepted this, so they started their continuous struggles against the regimes occupying Kurdistan, namely Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Iran, and the former Soviet Union. These governments since then have practised the most repressive policies in the history of mankind against the Kurds.

**Since the end of World War I, the Kurds have had no national rights, and their country Kurdistan was divided and occupied as an international colony**, and the Kurds have been prosecuted, massacred, assimilated and denied the very basic human rights. Whether the Kurds are demanding full independence or a more limited autonomy or extension of electricity to their villages in these States the Kurdish people face severe restrictions and harsh oppression.

As we mentioned earlier **the Franco-Turkish agreement (Ankara Treaty 1921) set the boundary which separated Western Kurdistan from the motherland Kurdistan.** As a result thousands of

families were divided. Those on the northern side of the railway line came under Turkish occupation (and in fact are regarded as Turks by the Turkish government), and those on the southern side of the railway line came under the Syrian occupation, whose population now is more than three millions, (and in fact are regarded as Arabs by the Syrian government).

The Kurds in Syria during the twenties and thirties enjoyed to some extent press and publishing freedom as **Hawar Newspaper**, and had their own centres as **Kurdistan Club** and organisations as **Khoiboun Party**, under the French colony. When Syria got independence in 1946 and Arabs took control of the government, the Kurds lost everything they had achieved. All Kurdish centres were closed, organisations were banned and all Kurdish publications, books, magazines and newspapers, new and old, were confiscated. The leaders of the Kurdish people in Syria were sent into exile or executed. Below are a few examples of these atrocities:

- 1- In 1930 the French colonials in Syria exiled the Kurdish leader **Apo Osman Sabri** to the Island of Madagascar. He was brought back as a result of heavy pressure by the Kurds on the authorities. Since then to 11/10/1993, this Kurdish hero **Apo Osman Sabri** has been arrested on more than 18 occasions and spent more than 12 years behind bars. He was not allowed to travel as well because he had been deprived of his Syrian nationality.
- 2- In 1951 the Syrian authorities assassinated **Prince Jaladat Badir Khan** and exiled many of Kurdish dignitaries such as **Prince Kamiran Badir Khan, Dr. Nouriddin Zaza, Dr. Ismet Sheriff Wanly and Dr. Jawad Mella.**
- 3- In 1958 the Syrian authorities dismissed hundreds of Kurdish officers from the Syrian army because just they were Kurds, among them were: The chief of staff in the Syrian Army **General Tawfik Nizamaddin, General Mahmoud Shawkat, Colonel Fuad Malatali, Colonel Bakri Qotresh...**
- 4- In 13/11/1960 the Syrian authorities **burnt to death 380 Kurdish children** in the town of Amouda while they were watching a film in the cinema.

- 5- In 1962 the Syrian authorities **deprived 150000 Kurds of the Syrian citizenship (become now 400000)** in the province of Al-Jazierah, one of them **the former General Tawfik Nizamaddin.**
- 6- In 1967 the Syrian authorities carried out a racial policy called **"the Arab Belt"** which aimed at the expulsion of the Kurdish population living along the borders of Iraq and Turkey "15 km wide and 375 km long" and replacing Arabs in their areas. The purpose was to separate these Kurdish areas of Kurdistan from other Kurdish areas in Iraq and Turkey.
- 7- A group of patriotic Kurds has been arrested in Syria and badly tortured such as **Mr. Mohamed Bakir, Mr. Hoshang Sabri** and **Mr. Jawad Mella** in the 1960s and others has been arrested in the 1970s for more than 15 years without any court decision, one of these **Mr. Daham Mero** was released, and that was because of his age, he was over eighty, and many other Kurdish political prisoners have been killed as **Dr. Hamid Sino**, or created a mental illness to them as **Mr. Bahjat Mohamed.**
- 8- On March 21, 1986 the Syrian authorities prevented the Kurds from celebrating their national day "Nawroz". The Kurds organized a peaceful demonstration in Damascus protesting against this action. The Syrian army then opened fire at the rally and as a result **a Kurdish youth was killed and tens injured.**
- 9- In 23/3/1993 the Syrian authorities **burnt to death 72 Kurdish prisoners** in the central prison of Al-Hasaka city.
- 10- In **12 March 2004** the Syrian authorities killed and injured hundreds and arrested thousands in all Kurdish areas during **The Great Uprising.**
- 11- In **10 May 2005** the Syrian authorities kidnapped the **Kurdish leader Mashouq Al-Khaznawi** and tortured him to death in 1-6-2005.
- 12- Now in Syria hundreds of schools are teaching English, French, German, Spanish, Armenian, Turkish, Farsi and Hebrew **but there is no one single school teaching the Kurdish language for more than 3 million Kurds in Western Kurdistan, which is occupied by Syria.**