

**This Document is  
presented to:**

**The EU presidency  
regarding to  
your dear friend  
Bashar Assad's  
crimes against the  
Kurdish people**

**The Western Kurdistan Coordinated Committee-UK (Hevkar)  
London 09-10-2008**

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France and,**

**To: The EU Presidency and other EU members**

**From:**

**The Western Kurdistan Coordinated Committee-UK (Hevkar)**

- On the Kurdish Question and human rights violations in Western Kurdistan (which is occupied by Syria),
- On the Syrian regime burning to death 380 Kurdish children in the town of Amouda on 13/11/1960,
- On the 400,000 Kurds deprived of their Syrian Nationality since 4/10/1962,
- On the Syrian authorities burning to death 72 Kurdish prisoners in the central prison of Al-Hasaka city in Western Kurdistan on 23/3/1993,
- On the killing of more than 70 Kurds on 12 March 2004 and in the prisons later on,
- On the killing of the Kurdish leader Sheikh Mashouq Al Khaznawi on 01/06/2005 and many others Kurdish political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.,
- On the killing of three Kurds on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008 during the Kurdish New Year celebrations,
- On the arrested and abduction of many Kurdish leaders as Mr. Mashal Tammo...
- On the eviction of thousands of Kurdish family from their homes and lands, and the bringing of Arabs to take their homes and lands in Western Kurdistan.

**Dear Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy,**

We are The Western Kurdistan Coordinated Committee-UK (Hevkar). Its members are many Kurdish organizations and representatives of Kurdish political parties in Western Kurdistan and many Kurdish personalities presenting this memorandum in the name of the Kurdish people in Western Kurdistan (Syrian Kurdistan).

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that your friend Bashar Assad, president of Syria, and his racist and fascist regime are continuing the policy of the last century to destroy the Kurdish identity, history, and culture and to deprive the Kurdish nation of every kind of civil and human rights in Western Kurdistan.

Therefore we demand Western Kurdistan to be separated from Syria by international forces as it was done to Iraqi Kurdistan since 1991. Likewise we want our national rights to be recognized by the international community, because the human and his security much more important than any thing else in the whole world.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the Kurds are now a stateless nation of about 40 million people, and more than three million of them live inside the Syrian political borders.

We would like to draw your attention to the situation in Western Kurdistan (Syrian Kurdistan), which faces, as it has always done, a political and media blackout by the Syrian regime.

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 constitute the fourth largest nation in the Middle East and the largest nation in the world without a national state. Like all the existing countries in the Middle East - except Iran -, Kurdistan used to be 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 for the creation of an independent Kurdish State, when Mustafa Kemal became the Turkish leader he refused to accept this. A second treaty, the Treaty of Lausanne, was signed in 1923 and Kurdistan was not mentioned in it. Then in a Franco-Turkish agreement the railway line between Mosul (a city in Iraqi Kurdistan) and Aleppo (a city in Syrian Kurdistan) became the border line between Turkey and Syria. The result of these agreements, in which the Kurds had no say 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. Since then, these governments have practiced the most repressive policies in the history of mankind against the Kurds.

For 80 years the Kurds have had no national rights and their country, Kurdistan, was divided and occupied as an international colony. The Kurds have been persecuted, massacred, forcibly assimilated and denied the very basic human rights.

In fact, the Kurds are now asking, especially after the Halabja disaster and the recent genocide which is still carrying on, to be separated from Iraq and all occupiers of Kurdistan. Whether the Kurds are demanding full independence; a more limited autonomy or; the extension of electricity to their villages in these states, the Kurdish people are facing severe restrictions and harsh oppression.

As we mentioned earlier, the Franco - Turkish agreement (Ankara Treaty 1921) set the boundary which separated Syrian 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 are in fact regarded as Turks by the Turkish government), and those on the southern side of the railway line came under Syrian occupation, whose population is now more than three million, (and are in fact regarded as Arabs by the Syrian government).

Under the French mandate, during the twenties and thirties the Kurds in Syria enjoyed some freedom of press and publishing and they had their own centres and organisations. When Syria became independent in 1946 and Arabs took control of the government and 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- The Kurdish leader Osman Sabri was arrested on more than 18 occasions and spent more than 12 years behind bars. In addition, he was not allowed to travel because he had been deprived of his Syrian nationality.
- 2- In 1951 the Syrian authorities assassinated Prince Jaladat Badir Khan and exiled his brother (Prince Kameran Badir Khan, who settled in Paris. The French government granted him a great opportunity: to establish the Kurdish language section in the Sorbonne University), and a number of Kurdish dignitaries were forced to leave Western Kurdistan, such as Dr. Noraddin Zaza, Dr. Ismet Sheriff Vanly and Dr. Jawad Mella.
- 3- In 1958 the Syrian authorities dismissed hundreds of Kurdish officers from the Syrian army just because they were Kurds, among them were: The chief of staff in the Syrian Army, General Tawfik Nizamaddin; General Mahmud Shewkat; Colonel Fuad Malatali; Colonel Bakri Qotresh...
- 4- On 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- On 04/10/1962 the Syrian authorities deprived 150,000 Kurds of the Syrian citizenship in the province of Al-Jazeera, their number is now more than 400,000 with their children and grandchildren. The reason for our memorandum and our demonstration is to show the world that it is the 46th anniversary of these 400,000 Kurds who are buried alive (please see "Buried Alive" report). On 25/06/2003 the Kurdish children held a peaceful demonstration and carried flowers in front of the office of UNICEF in Damascus, but the Syrian forces attacked them with guns and injured 15 of them. Eight Kurds were arrested because they asked for Syrian Nationality to obtain the right to go to schools, which their grandfathers were deprived of since 1962. Even if these people were foreigners, as Syria says, they have been living in Syria for at least 46 years. Is this long time not enough to get the Syrian Nationality??!!! (Please see the children during the demonstration and the UNICEF letter regarding our complaint. It is very clear that the Syrian police attacked our children).
- 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 in an area "15 km wide and 375 km long" and at the settlement of Arabs in this area. The purpose was to separate these Kurdish areas of Kurdistan from other Kurdish areas in Iraq and Turkey.
- 7- A group of patriotic Kurds was arrested in Syria and detained for more than 15 years without any court decision, one of these, Mr. Daham Mero, was released earlier because of his age, he was over eighty. Many other Kurdish political prisoners have been killed, such as Dr. Hamid Sino, or have developed mental illnesses while in detention, such as Mr. Bahjat Mohamed.
- 8- On March 21, 1986 the Syrian authorities prevented the Kurds from celebrating their Kurdish New Year "Newroz". The Kurds organised 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- On 23/03/1993 the Syrian authorities burnt to death 72 Kurdish prisoners in the central prison of Al-Hasaka city in Western Kurdistan.

- 10- Today, in Syria, there are hundreds of schools teaching English, French, German, Spanish, Armenian, Turkish, Farsi and Hebrew, but there is not one single school for teaching the Kurdish language to teach our children their mother tongue.
- 11- On 12/03/2004 the Syrian regime's secret police incited nationalist Baathist's and attacked Kurdish civilians in Qamishly and in all Kurdish cities and areas. Hundreds of the Kurds were murdered and injured, thousands were jailed (please see a list of names of some of the martyrs, injured and arrested Kurds in this massacre).
- 12- On 10/05/2005 the Syrian secret forces kidnapped the Kurdish leader Sheikh Ma'ashouq Khaznawi in Damascus and tortured him to death. They handed his body to his family on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008. One million people marched behind his funeral in Qamishly city in Western Kurdistan.
- 13- On 20/03/2008 the Syrian regime's secret police attacked Kurdish civilians in Qamishly during Newroz, the Kurdish New Year celebration, and killed three Kurds and injured another five. Tens of Kurds were arrested.

We request from your Excellency to talk to the Syrian government to stop killing the Kurds and to grant our people their civil and political rights by taking legal and official actions to:

- 1- Recognise the national existence of the Kurds in the Syrian constitution.
- 2- Taking official steps towards teaching our children the Kurdish language in primary schools and making it possible for our people to use their language in business, the press and the media.
- 3- Taking legal and official steps towards granting our people the right to practice our beliefs freely.
- 4- Granting certificates of nationality to all our people who have been deprived of it since 1962 and their children and canceling all legislations opposing that.
- 5- Release the Kurdish political prisoners and prisoners of conscious including the prisoners of the great uprising of 12 March 2004.
- 6- Investigate and take to the international court the Syrian secret police officers who were responsible of the killing of Kurdish people.
- 7- Compensate the families of victims.
- 8- The Syrian regime should send an official apology to the Kurdish families who lost family members during the massacres shown above.
- 9- Stop supporting dictatorship, racist and terrorist regime of Syria.
- 10- Support the victims of the Syrian dictatorship, racist and terrorist.
- 11- **Otherwise we are going to ask for help from our friends world wide.**

**On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008, a peaceful demonstration will be held by the Kurdish community in the UK and their friends, in front of the French Embassy at 2.00pm to support the rights of Kurdish people in Western Kurdistan. During the demonstration the above Memorandum will be presented to the French President.**

**For more information contact the following numbers:  
020 8748 7874 or 0759 5224 5575**

Some pictures of the martyrs of the Syrian massacre against the Kurdish people on 12-3-2004, some of them women and children of 15 years old



The latest massacre  
Newroz Martyrs pictures in Qamishli city in Western Kurdistan on 20-3-2008

