

Kurdistan National Congress - KNC

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**Yours Excellency Gordon Brown
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA**

London 23rd October 2007

Dear Mr. Brown

On behalf the Kurdish community in Britain and Kurdistan, I wish you every success. Today the Turkish Prime Minister is visiting Your Excellency; so, I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

The Kurds are a non-Arab and non-Turks, mainly Sunni Moslem people and have Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians as well, speaking a language related to Persian. With no state of their own, they inhabit their country Kurdistan for many thousand of years, Kurdistan which is today occupied by Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria.

In modern times Iran, Iraq and Turkey have resisted an independent Kurdish state and Western powers have seen no reason to help establish one.

Kurdish people stirred in the 1800s during the Ottoman Empire. The 1920 Treaty of Sevres, which would have imposed a settlement and colonial carve-up of Turkey after World War One, promised them independence.

Three years later Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk tore up the treaty of Sevres and wiped Kurdistan from the map. Kurdish revolts in the 1920s and 1930s were put down by Turkish forces and the armed Kurdish struggle in Turkey was stopped until 1984. Ankara did not recognize the Kurds as a separate people and they suffered heavy restrictions on their basic human and civil rights and their language and culture completely forbidden.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in Kurdistan under Turkey. Since then more than 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan was captured and tried in 1999. After very high pressures on Turkey by European Union his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in October 2002.

The Kurds fared no better in northern Iraq where, under a British mandate, revolts were put down in 1919, 1923 and 1932.

Under leader Mustafa Barzani, the Iraqi Kurds waged an intermittent struggle against Baghdad after World War Two. Kurdish northern Iraq finally won autonomy from Saddam Hussein in 1970 and with U.S. and Britain help in 1991, and has benefited from more than a decade of economic development.

As the Turkish threat of invading Kurdistan comes closer to reality, all Kurds and supporters of the Kurdish cause must speak out and stand together against this unjust propaganda from Ankara's government.

Throughout history Turkey has deprived the Europeans from their right to an independent Kurdistan. The Europeans can not stand by silently as their forefathers did in the 1920s and have history repeat itself.

What do you think?

Does Turkey have the Right to invade Kurdistan? What should the British government do in response to a Turkish invasion? What is a peaceful solution to the PKK issue? Is Turkey going after the PKK as they claim or is there a hidden agenda behind their propaganda to make Iraqi Kurdistan a second Cyprus?

Should Turkey sit down with the Kurds and talk to them, without guns, because today no more Ottoman Empire, and we are in new world the 21st century.

Please speak up, so our voices will continue to be heard.

You may also comment on this important subject, so, I am looking forward to hear your voice today during your meeting with the Turkish Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Jawad Mella

President

Kurdistan National Congress