

Iranian Regime is Incapable of Reform

While the rest of Iran was enjoying a few superficial reforms implemented by the former president, Khatami, Kurdistan stayed under constant attack by the government forces, which resulted in many deaths and arrests up to the 2005 change that ousted Khatami. The mock candidacy of Rafsanjani and Ahmadi-Nejad and the sham Iranian presidential elections all but demolished even the pretence of reforms and have proven that the current regime is incapable of change.

During the past two weeks, peaceful demonstrators have been arrested and tortured, many have died and newspapers have been shut down in the Kurdish cities of Saqiz, Sine, Mahabad, Serdesht, Piranshar, Meriwan, Shino, Baneh, Divan and Dareh and many smaller towns. In one instance a human rights activist was dragged through the city of Mahabad after being shot first by the security forces at close range. Civilians including children have been arrested and are jailed since the beginning of the demonstrations without seeing their family or attorneys. Iranian military has attacked the Kurdish cities with helicopters and is firing into the streets indiscriminately while 100,000 ground troops have been sent to confront un-armed civilians.

Kurds did not expect positive changes from Ahmadi-Nejad's new government but they also did not expect to be so brutally treated without international outrage. Kurds constitute 15% of the Iranian population. They are deprived of the most basic human rights including the right to teach their own language. Most Kurdish parties in Iran are seeking to establish a federal state in which their rights could be protected by a local government. Ahmadi-Nejad is wanted in Europe on charges of terrorism and murder against Kurdish leaders who were trying to negotiate with the Iranian government in 1989. To negotiate with such a regime is not only impossible but also very dangerous. Ahmadi-Nejad's history and current treatment of the Kurdish issue leaves only one choice for Kurds in Iran and that is to strive for total breach and separation from the central Iranian government as long as this regime is in power.

The Kurdish National Congress strongly condemns the barbaric treatment of Kurds in Iran and calls on the Iranian government to immediately cease its attack on Kurdistan and its population. We call on the United Nations and the international community to step in and to put an end to the brutal oppression of Kurdish nation in Iran.

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