

The new US administration practices an old policy toward the Kurds

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When President Obama announced his new vision for diplomacy and identified himself a "Citizen of the world," oppressed people from around the world welcomed the opportunity presented by the first US President who was perceived to have a deeper understanding of human suffering and the cruel policies of oppression still practiced in some parts of the world including Kurdistan under Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.

Under the heel of the nations of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey Kurds account for more than forty million people. The misery experienced by Kurds could not have happened without the callous policies of the Western powers. Since the Western powers divided Kurdistan after the WWI, they have contributed to policies that have kept our people in dire living conditions. Therefore, the West has a moral duty to help us to find a means to live in peace and coexistence with the nations that occupy our land.

It is ironic then that just when the EU has reviewed its policy vis-à-vis the Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (Iranian opposition based in Iraq) and decided to remove it from its terrorist list, that the new US administration has decided to add the PJAK, a Kurdish Party, whose struggle has been directed against the Iranian regime, to America's terrorist list. This administration, like its predecessors, is willing to turn America's most loyal friends in the Middle East into scapegoats in order to mollify the Iranian theocratic regime. Since its inception, the Iranian mono-theocratic regime has acted in word and deed against every international norm. It has been sponsoring terrorism in the Middle East, encouraging the destruction of Israel, and thwarting every America's interest in the region.

It is astonishing to see such a policy from an administration that has been proclaiming to the world its new desire to create a more peaceful world. One could ask, will it be possible to create a new world peace on an old political culture and adhering to the failed policies of the past?

We believe this policy is a continuation of the failed policies of the previous administrations and won't be productive. America's new approach with the rest of the world including the Kurds should be premised on democratic principles and mutual respect.

The new administration needs a broader new vision for the world peace where no citizens of the world are discriminated against. Hence, we encourage America's new administration not to use as scapegoats the Kurdish parties such as PJAK whose main goals have been to achieve peace for the people of Kurdistan-Iran.

If Iran and other nations are supported by the US in their attempt to eliminate PJAK and other Kurdish parties, it would be naive to think that the inherently just Kurdish cause will disappear. We as a people deserve the right of self determination. Therefore, we ask the US administration to refrain from demonizing the human rights struggle of Kurdish parties. It is time for the US to stop its cynical and hypocritical policy of using the Kurds in one arena when it suits their goals and then abandoning them in another for US geopolitical gains.

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