

## WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE KIRKUK MASSACRE

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It was 52 years ago today that bloody handed criminals had committed a massacre against Iraqi Turks in Kirkuk with an intention of destroying the community. On 14<sup>th</sup> July 1959 it was the first anniversary of the Republic; Kirkuk was decorated with nearly 100 triumphal arches. Ahead of festivities and ceremonies that day the city had a true sense of a feast atmosphere. Children, women and men, the people of Kirkuk were dressed in their National clothes as they were waiting for the ceremony celebrations to start. From 18:00 o'clock onwards the public began to fill the street. They were singing, playing national games with the joy of a feast. At 19:00 o'clock the official parade began.



Kirkuk Massacre Protest March

Meanwhile according to a plan that KDP peshmerga had prepared with the Organization of the People's Resistance in which the majority were made up of Kurds were chanting various slogans against Turks.

The official parade cortege had just reached 14 July Coffee shop on the Atlas Street, when shots were fired. Immediately after this automatic weapons were released.

Desperate Kurdish thugs began firing their automatic weapons, inside the first five minutes the Turkmen owner of the coffee shop Osman Hıdır was brutally murdered. The killers then

tied one end of a rope to Osman Hıdır's feet and the other onto a motor vehicle, and started dragging his dead body. Unarmed Turkmens were only there to celebrate the first anniversary of declaration of the Republic that began to disintegrate with automatic weapons being fired.

As a result of this, the genocide began that lasted for 3 days and 3 nights and historically recorded as the "Kirkuk Massacre"

14 Temmuz 1959 tarihinde Irak Türkmenlerinin kalbi ve kültür merkezi olan Kerkük'te, üç gün üç gece süren bir katliam yaşandı. İnsanlık dışı vahşetlerin uygulandığı bu soykırımında barış sever, demokrat ve silahsız olan masum Türkmenler, silahlı canilerin kurbanı oldu. Irak'ta cumhuriyetin ilânının birinci yıldönümünde kutlama şenliklerine katılmak üzere çoluk-çocuk, genç-ihtiyar ve kadın-erkek bütün Türkmen halkı, milli kıyafetleri ile sokağa çıkmışlardı. O gün havanın kavurucu sıcaklığı yüzünden kutlama şenlikleri saat 19.30'da başlayacaktı. Ancak törenin başlaması ile birlikte, gözü dönmüş câniler, Kerkük'te Türkmenlere en vahşi biçimde saldırıya geçtiler. Saldırıları sonucu Türkmen ileri gelenleri hunharca şehit edildi. Bu soykırımında yüzlerce Türkmen de, çeşitli biçimde yaralandı. Türkmenlere ait işyerleri, dükkân ve mağazalar yağma edildi. Kerkük'e sokulan kamyonlar dolusu silahlı Kürt militanları, komünistlerle birlikte, tarihe kara bir leke hâlinde yazılan korkunç cinayetler işlediler.

Türkmen Lideri Ata Hayrullah

İttifak kuran şer kuvvetleri, masum insanlara saldırarak, Irak'ta Türkmenlerin varlığına son vermek istiyorlardı. Aynı zihniyet, kendi topraklarında insanca yaşamak isteyen Türkmenleri, bugün bile büyük baskı ve zulüm altında yaşamaya mahkum ederek yok etmeye çalışıyor.

Tabip Yarbay İhsan Hayrullah



Turkmen leaders Ata Hayrullah and Ihsan Hayrulah was excuted by Kurds



İbrahim Ramazan



Türkmen Kızı Emel Muhtar Fuat Henüz 13 Yaşlarında İdi



Cahit Fahrettin ve Şakir Zeynel



Mehmet Avcı



Kimileri Elektrik Direklerine Asıldı



Türkmen Çocukları Kutlama Törenlerine Geleneksel Kıyafetleri İle Katılmışlardı



Kimi Türkmenin Gözleri Oyuldu, Kimileri Diri Diri Toprağa Gömüldü

Turkmens that were murdered, hanged to poles and were dragged along the streets

Immediately a curfew was announced, so people were forced into their houses, however it was soon realised the ban was only directed at Turkmen. The assailants began firing mortars to the Castle of Kirkuk where the majority of Turkmen lived; however they had failed to enter into the castle. In the meantime raids had been issued on the houses that were pre-determined, so the plan that was to liquidate the Turkmen leadership had been processed. A large number of Turkmen leaders were taken to Kirkuk barracks from their homes on the grounds that they were wanted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Command. Here, in the so called peoples courts, the leaders were tried in five to ten minutes then were shot. Kurdish soldiers, officers, policemen, civil organizations with the Kurdish communists joining hands with the KDP peshmerga had sworn to destroy Turkmen.

These blood thirsty thugs had raided houses and arrested hundreds of Turkmen. Filling some of them inside the barracks and killing them with bayonets and gunstock. Some Turkmen leaders that were taken from their houses were machine gunned in front of their families. These rabid thugs killed families and their children in their homes.

Some prisoners had ropes attached to two of their feet in which two jeeps headed in the opposite directions tore them apart. After the corpses that were dragged street after street were left exposed and was passed over with trucks and tractors. Turkmen intellectuals, artisans that had the soul of the country beating in their heart also the youth were being killed in unbelievable methods, they were stuck behind motor vehicles and hung onto the electricity poles and were left under the fierce hot sun, some had been buried alive. Others had their eyes gouged, apart from the dead there were also thousands of wounded Turkmen. The people who saw this brutality went mad and lost their minds. Hospitals were filled with casualties; a lot of schools were used as prisons because there were no more spaces left in other detention centres and prisons. While these atrocities were being committed, the stores, commercial centres and houses that belonged to Turkmen were being looted by brigands. In addition to their own safety, Turkmen had also lost their goods when they were plundered by looters and transported by trucks to the northern regions. In the middle of the prevailing uncertainties it was the rise of fires everywhere in Kirkuk.

On July 19, 1959 Britain's ambassador to Baghdad had sent the following report to Foreign Ministry in London; Iraqi Army's II. Division's Kurdish personnel had also joined the attack and the control completely disappeared during 15 July. Although some Turkmen tried to seek asylum in the Castle of Kirkuk, Kurds the creator of the incidents tried to bring them down by firing mortars.

On July 30, 1959 UK Embassy in Baghdad sent a telegram to the Foreign Ministry described the reaction of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kassim, he had provided statement to the journalists on the grounds it would not be released, that the number of killed could reach 120 and injured to 140 and all of them were Turkmen.

On July 31, 1959, UK Embassy in Baghdad sent a telegram to the Foreign Ministry announcing their views on the press conference and its reflections on newspapers. Telegraph was exactly the following:

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kassim said;

"Show me one person (Kurd) that was killed from the opposite group, peoples enemies were those who dragged citizens out on the streets" (Meanwhile the photos of Turkmen women and children were shown).

Alâ Beşir, someone who was close to the centre where decisions were made in Baghdad, written the following in his book called "The Insider":

"In 1959 there was a massacre had taken place in the petrol rich city of Kirkuk, in the anniversary of the military coup and the fall of the monarchy attacks began against Turkmen who were holding commercial and business life in their hands also constructed the majority of the people. Turkmen houses and businesses were destroyed and looted, fathers and their children were attacked and shot. "

We have not forgotten those who committed this massacre and wanted to destroy the Turkmen in Kirkuk, in 1959 Kurdish communists, Kurdish soldiers and the KDP peshmerga brutally massacred innocent Turkmen for 3 days and 3 nights. This event has found an echo in the American press. America's well-known newspapers, The New York Times has reported on this issue. "Kirkuk is located 150 miles north of Baghdad and the majority of which consists of a prosperous Turkmen. The People's Resistance Group mainly made up of the communists (most of them were Kurds) had joined with the army."

Yesterday, those who wanted to destroy the Turkmen are on stage today.

Initially, the Arabization policy and removal efforts of the Turkish identity today with the U.S. invasion of Iraq turned into a "Kurdish" policy. The Kurds began to migrate to the region (Kirkuk). In fact, in a sense, this migration was encouraged. Kurds, were building houses on the empty plots of land that they have found, in fact the immigration was so irregular and hasty the city couldn't take it under the Saddam Hussein regime, so Kurds were placed into houses that were made for oil company employees, also into military headquarters government offices, social facilities and even Kirkuk Stadium's dressing rooms. 700 thousand Kurds were introduced in a planned and programmed manner and was brought up with tents into Kirkuk. Kurds that came with their tents are now the owners of housing. Kurdish groups, were benefited from the government help as they were so called immigrants, they were provided with food, jobs, monthly salaries and housing.

Kurds have made everything they possibly could to connect Kirkuk to the so-called Kurdish region, could they manage to do that? No, they could not, and will not from now.

Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq Turkmens were kidnapped and were asked for ransoms and most of their goods were seized. Kirkuk's security is controlled by U.S and Kurds however kidnapped are only Turkmens, this must have a meaning.

In addition to this Turkmens are prevented from taking part in serious decision making process to decide the fate of Kirkuk, they intimidate and threaten also arrest Turkmens to suppress them, Turkmens are left unemployed and prevented from working in the public sector.

Illegal shifting in population numbers are done before the eyes of the world, demographic structure of Kirkuk is changed by the force of arms, city's original claimants are forced to migrate by being suppressed. This is happening before the eyes of all human rights organisations and the modern world.

The injustice, massacre, oppression, persecutions and election frauds are just been watched, or are we wrong? Why are they behaving like this? Would you respond?

To those who threaten, murder and persecute Turkmens also who are uncomfortable with the existence of us, whether you like it or not we will always be here and forever!!!!

These are the land of our ancestors where we were all born.

We have not forgotten and will not forget our martyrs may their soul rest in peace.

Ali Kerküklü

## RESOURCES

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