

June 6, 1983

Mr. Javier Perezdecuellard
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Perezdecuellard:

We, the representatives of the organizations indicated below, would like to draw your attention to the two recent outrageous and inhuman actions committed by the Turkish military regime against the Kurdish people.

The first action involved a recent decision by the Turkish military court which handed down death sentences to 35 Kurds in Diyar Bakir; 381 other people were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three years to life. The apparent motive for this unwarranted harrassment was Kurdish resistance to Turkish policies of assimilation and ethnic annihilation. The reality is that a nation is being destroyed because of its refusal to accept assimilation and cultural genocide. Kurdish leaders have been jailed and executed; Kurdish organizations have been outlawed; and Kurdish culture has been banned, in any form. The policy of the current Turkish regime is to subjugate the over ten million Kurdish people (who form one quarter of its population) to either accept assimilation, or to be forced out of the country, in the same way that Armenians were forced out.

The second action was the Turkish invasion of Iraqi Kurdistan on May 27, 1983. The Turkish Government initiated the attack against Iraqi Kurds on the pretext that they were "smugglers". The fact is, however, that the attack was a deliberate, vicious attempt by both the Governments of Iraq and Turkey to obliterate the Kurdish nation and their legitimate national movements, especially the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq (KDP) and the National Democratic Front of Iraq (N.D.F.I.)

Turkey mobilized one of its armed force divisions (20,000 - 30,000 soldiers) across the Iraqi region of Zakho Kani Massey on May 27. Helicopters were used in moving other forces into the Zakho region. This was confirmed by Turkish authorities (Reuter from Ankara) which claimed that "nobody had been hurt at all", and that there had been no resistance to the invasion. However, in an interview with the Turkish newspaper Gunes, (The Washington Post - May 31, 1983) Iraq's Ambassador in Ankara claimed that the Turkish-Iraqi offensive against Kurdish rebels resulted in 2,000 guerrillas being captured.

This information is false. The Iraqi Government has been at war with the Kurds since 1961, and it has never been able to capture even ten Pesh Merga (partisans) alive, let alone 2,000. The fact is that the Turkish-Iraqi joint venture into Kurdistan was directed against the bases of the Kurdistan Democratic Party/Iraq (KDP) which is the dominant liberating force in that region. Since KDP forces use guerrilla-style fighting tactics rather than a direct, frontal attack, no clashes could have resulted, as was erroneously reported by the Turks. However, since the area of invasion (which is a liberated area) is presently inhabited by more than 7,000 Kurdish refugee families who had returned from Iran and were mainly composed of elderly men, women and children, these people might

have been the ones captured, as reported by the Iraqi Ambassador to Ankara.

Your Excellency, it is a well-known fact that neither the Iraqi nor the Turkish dictatorial governments has any sympathy for the Kurdish people. Therefore, the fate of these 2,000 hapless people is in serious jeopardy.

As justice-loving people and organizations, we ask Your Excellency to intervene on behalf of the 35 Kurds who have been sentenced to death by the Turkish military courts, and also on behalf of the 2,000 Kurdish women, children and elderly who have been captured by the Turkish-Iraqi armed forces. We ask that these Kurdish citizens be released immediately.

We also wish to express our displeasure and disillusionment with the continued U.S. assistance to the dictatorial government of Turkey. Such assistance only enables the Turkish Government to commit such heinous crimes against the Kurdish nation.

Initiated by: Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq/U.S. and Canada Branch; Peoples Anti-War Mobilization; and Committee for Democratic Palestine.

Endorsed by: All Peoples Congress; Supporters of Democratic Progressive Front in Northern Yemen, in U.S.; Kurdistan Fine Arts Society in U.S.; Kurdistan Student Society in America and Canada; Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP); Organization of Arab Students in the U.S. (Ohio Conference); ISA in the U.S. - supporters of the Organization of Iranian Peoples Fedayeen Majority; Supporters of the Socialist Party of Yemen in the U.S.; Supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the U.S.; Workers World Party; Assyrian Student Organization in the U.S.; Bet Nahrain Democratic Party; Iraqi Democratic Union in U.S. and Canada; Union of Democratic Filipino (K.D.P.); and Supporters of the Arabic Socialist Labor Party of Lebanon in the U.S.