

Communique on the situation
of the Kurdish people in Syria

January 18, 1967.

In reply to the request of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Syria, the Committee for the Defence of the Kurdish People's Rights begs to bring the attention of the international opinion on the tragic conditions of the Kurdish people in Syria:

- = The Kurds of Syria count more than 400,000 people, living compactly in their areas in the North of the country. Deprived of all their rights, they are subject to a vast campaign of national oppression, assimilation by force and mass deportation. Their means of living are being restricted, or totally confiscated by the Authorities.
- = More particularly in the region of Jazireh, the Syrian Authorities organised a "special census" of the population, after which more than 100,000 Kurds, mostly peasants, were arbitrarily declared "Non-Syrians" and lost all the rights attached to citizenship. According to a reactionary plan called "the Arab Belt" (Al-hizam al-arabi) the Kurdish population, essentially peasant, living on a strip of land 15 kilometers deep, along the Turkish and Iraqi borders, are to be deported to the South of Jazireh and established in the desert. Under the cover of the Land Reform, their rich agricultural lands are being given to Arab bedouines brought - very often against their will, from the South. This plan has received so far only a partial execution, but the Kurdish peasants refused to abandon their homes, where they continue to live practically without resources.
- = On December 25, 1966, the Government of Damascus refused to receive a Kurdish peasant delegation, arrived from Jazireh to submit them the peasantry complaints and ask for justice.
- = The Committee draws the attention of the Syrian Government on the fact that those reactionary measures are in contradiction with their socialist principles. We beg this Government to cancel them without delay, to recognize and to respect the national, economic, cultural and democratic rights of the Kurdish people, as a nationality and a part of the Syrian people.
- = The Committee begs the governments of all countries, particularly those of the socialist countries, to take those facts into consideration in their relations with the Government of Damascus, and to exert pressure on the latter, with the hope that those measures will be cancelled.
- = The Committee will diffuse more detailed information and contact the interested international organisations on the matter.

Communique

28 February 1967.

- = After their communique of 18 January 1967 and their declaration of 11 February 67, concerning the measures of mass deportation of the Kurdish population, the withdrawal of the Syrian nationality to more than 100,000 Kurds, the redistribution of the lands of the Kurdish peasantry to Arabs, and other oppressive measures taken by the Government of Damascus against the Kurdish people in Syria.
- = The Committee for the Defence of the Kurdish People's Rights have addressed notes, concerning this alarming situation, in reply to the request of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Syria, to Mr. Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the International Committee of the Red-Cross and to the International Commission of Jurists, kindly urging them to take all possible measures in order to stop this organized national oppression;
- = The Committee have also begged the Amnesty International movement to ask the Syrian Government to release the Kurdish political prisoners, chiefly M. Osman Sabri, Secretary-General of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Syria, Dr. Nouredine Zaza, former leader of the same party, Mr. Mohammed Hitto, peasant, and 10 other Kurds presently imprisoned at Mezza and Hasaka without any trial, and submitted to daily molestations.

The Committee for the Defence of the
Kurdish People's Rights.

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