Clashes in Eastern Kurdistan

The Kurdish National Congress of North America condemns the brutal suppression of recent demonstrations in the western cities of Iran. Kurdish youth took to the streets in Marivan, Mahabad, and a number of other cities and demonstrated against a regime that has stripped them of their most basic human rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers anti-government demonstrations a capital crime and responded with a level of force indicative of its vulnerability - to the point of murdering 13 year-olds on the street.

The regime in Iran is uneasy about the developments in Southern Kurdistan (Iraq) and has grown even more intolerant of calls for freedom and democracy. While assassination and imprisonment are the primary methods for dealing with the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and Komala (the two main Kurdish parties in Iran), Kurdish leaders in Iraq are taking important posts. The Iranian government is further agitated over the referendum that took place at the time of the elections in Iraq when 98% of Kurds voted for independence. Such freedom of expression is unthinkable for the Islamic regime's autocrats and reformers alike since preserving the integrity of the Iranian borders has often brought them together in suppressing the Kurds in the most inhumane ways. The integrity of the Kurdish borders, on the other hand, is being violated everyday by systematic demographical changes in the western cities of Iran such as payments to poor families to change their religious beliefs and thus lose their ethnic alliance.

The Kurdish National Congress calls on the Iranian government to immediately cease its attack on Kurdistan and release tens of thousands of Kurdish political prisoners. We call on the government of Iran to legalize the Kurdish parties and allow freedom of expression and the creation of a federal government recognizing the Kurdish people's right to govern their own affairs.

For more information please call: 408-834-5557

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