

# **Memories of the Kurdish patriot, Dr. Ahmad Uthman, by KNC founder Dr. Asad Khailany**

by Professor Asad Khailany

The well known Kurdish Patriot and scientist Dr. Ahmad Uthman passed away at 8:00 AM on December 14, 2005 in Buffalo New York. Dr. Uthman was born in 1931 in Sulaimani, Southern Kurdistan. He graduated from the high school with very high marks that qualified him to receive a scholarship from the Iraqi government to study dentistry in United Kingdom (UK). He attended Leeds University, and successfully completed his studies and received both DDS, and FRCS degrees. He returned back to Iraq and was appointed as an assistant professor at the College of Dentistry at Baghdad University. Dr. Ahmad continued his academic career at the College of Dentistry, and he was appointed as the dean of the college in 1970. In 1972 he immigrated to the US and became a professor at New York University at Buffalo, New York. During his academic years he attracted many good American and foreign students to New York University at Buffalo. He helped many Kurdish, Arab, Turkish, Indian and other foreign students to get admission at his university and he was a true mentor for all of his graduate and under graduate students. Dr. Ahmad practical, and theoretical knowledge and expertise's in his field were very much respected in the academic community, and he was a well known scientist in his field.

Dr. Ahmad was a strong defender of the human rights and a very active Kurdish patriot. He was among five of us when we went to the United Nation in 1974 to see the deputy president of the UN to protest against the Bath regime campaign against Kurdish nation. In 1976 Dr. Ahmad along with late Muhammad Doski participated in the meeting which we had in Ann Arbor about the possibility to create a non partisan organization to promote Kurdish interest in the US. In 1988 Dr. Ahmad was the first person I contacted and discussed with him the possibility of creating a Kurdustani organization in North America. He was very supportive and encouraged me to immediately invite Kurdish patriots and the friends of the Kurdish people for such a meeting. I called for the conference and 42 delegates responded to our call and attended the conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan on August 28, 1988. Dr. Ahmad participated significantly into the success of the conference where Kurdish National Congress of North America was founded. Dr. Ahmad has served KNC for many years as a member of the board of directors and as the secretary of KNC. As one of the founders of KNC he devoted significant time and energy to promote Kurdish interest in North America. He participated in all conferences, activities of KNC faithfully until his health prevented him from attending the last two conferences. KNC Board of Directors awarded him the certificate of recognition for his tireless efforts to defend Kurdish human and national rights and for his valuable services to KNC. Dr. Ahmad played a significant role to bring the plights of the Kurdish nation to the attention of the international community, and he will be missed by his family members, colleges and all Kurdish and peace loving people. Our condolences to Dr. Mahmood Othman who is one of the well known Kurdish

patriots, and leaders in southern Kurdistan and to his wife Barbara Ahmad, his daughters Joan, Vian, Suzan and his son Alan.

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