



Kurdish National Congress of North America

P.O.Box 50216, Irvine, CA 92619, www.kncna.org

Honorable Joe Chow Mayor of Addison	Honorable Carl Sherman <i>Mayor of DeSoto</i>	Honorable Brian Loughmiller <i>Mayor of McKinney</i>
Honorable Stephen Terrell <i>Mayor of Allen</i>	Honorable David Green <i>Mayor of Duncanville</i>	Honorable Bill Porter <i>Mayor Pro Tem of Mesquite</i>
Jay Burress <i>CVB of Arlington</i>	Honorable Michelle Holmes <i>Deputy Mayor Pro Tem of Farmers Branch</i>	Honorable Ken Sapo <i>Mayor Pro Tem of North Richland Hills</i>
Honorable Carrie Gordon <i>Mayor of Balch Springs</i>	Honorable Maher Maso <i>Mayor of Frisco</i>	Honorable Bob Townsend <i>Mayor Pro Tem of Richardson</i>
Honorable Ronald Branson <i>Mayor of Carrollton</i>	Honorable Ron Jones <i>Mayor of Garland</i>	Honorable Patrick Jackson <i>Mayor Pro Tem of Rowlett</i>
Honorable Rob Frankie <i>Mayor Pro Tem of Cedar Hill</i>	Honorable Artis Johnson <i>Mayor of Hutchins</i>	Honorable Brandon Bledsoe <i>Deputy Mayor Pro Tem of Southlake</i>
Honorable Robert Mahalik <i>Mayor Pro Tem of Coppell</i>	Honorable Herb Gears <i>Mayor of Irving</i>	Honorable Eric Hogue <i>Mayor of Wylie</i>
Honorable Tom Leppert <i>Mayor of Dallas</i>	Honorable Marcus Knight <i>Mayor of Lancaster</i>	

August, 26, 2010

Honorable Mayors,

I had the pleasure of attending the DFW international dinner on August 26, 2010 where you were among the honorable guests. My impression was that the community members from various nations had gathered to thank the mayors of the Greater Dallas for promoting American values summarized in 3-Ds: democracy, diversity, and devotion. I did not have the chance to meet all the mayors in person and share my concern about another group of mayors in a different part of the world. However, I promised the organizers of the event that I will send this letter to you.

Since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after the WWI, and the re-division of Kurdistan among Iran, Turkey and two newly established states, Iraq and Syria, the people of Kurdistan have been struggling for their national identity and dreaming for a change in the Middle East, where they could have the same linguistic, cultural, and national rights as other ethnic groups. They have persevered and dedicated their lives to fulfill this dream. However, the controlling states have

been using every means available to them to prevent the people of Kurdistan from achieving their dream.

In response to state terror, and as a result of the imposed internal wars, displacements, bombings, assassinations, imprisonments, and tortures, the Kurdish resistance was born. The Kurdish people have defended their land and sought a peaceful political dialogue with the central governments to arrive at a peaceful solution. In return, the governments in Ankara, Tehran, Damascus, and Baghdad have labeled them as bandits, terrorists and foreign agents. They even convinced Washington at times to use such labels against them unjustly. These governments have used the same tactics that the British Empire used against the American Colonies or against the members of Indian National Congress. The Apartheid government of South Africa used the same methods against the members of the African National Congress. Fortunately those labels did not stop the Americans, nor the Indians, or the South Africans from fighting for their just goal, and finally the world accepted the fact that they deserve freedom.

Unfortunately, due to the division of Kurdistan, the Kurds have not been able to unite in a Kurdish National Congress in their homeland and together fight for their rights. Fortunately, the Kurdish citizens in the North America have taken some steps in that direction. In 1988 in the aftermath of the genocide in Iraqi Kurdistan, a group of intellectuals created the Kurdish National Congress of North America (KNCNA). For the past 22 years KNCNA has done everything in its capacity to promote a peaceful and just solution to the Kurdish conflict in the Middle East. However, it still has not been able to fulfill its dream because of the lack of genuine support by the free world.

We understand that it is a difficult task to solve the Kurdish issue in all parts of Kurdistan, but it has to start somewhere. We appeal to you as Mayors to cooperate with the Mayor of Diarbakir, Mr. Osman Baydemir, and see what challenges he and his people are facing. In a letter to EUTCC in February 2010 Mayor Baydemir, reported: "Since April 2009, 4475 people have been detained and 1444 people have been arrested in our region, all of whom are mayors, municipal council members, party officials responsible for local governments and NGO representatives". Mayor Baydemir added that "it is possible to live in peace, that peace will eventually prevail, I would like to call for justice, justice and justice for everyone".

We appeal to you to support Mr. Baydemir's call and to encourage Turkey to accept the reality in which they live, which is, that Anatolia is a multi-ethnic society. Thus, they cannot talk about democracy while denying the national rights of those who carry a different national badge. We hope you encourage the Turkish authorities to use peaceful methods to solve the Kurdish conflict in Anatolia. Such an undertaking is consistent with American moral principles and with promoting human rights.

Sincerely,

Kamal Artin, President
Kurdish National Congress of North America