



KNC-NA history and accomplishments from 1st to 22nd Annual Conference

Compiled by the founder of the organization the current board of directors at the 23rd Annual Conference, April 29-30, 2011 in Calgary, Canada

After the chemical bombing of Halbja in spring of 1988, the Kurds in the United States found it necessary to coordinate their efforts against their oppressors in the Middle East. In the middle of July, 1988 a preparatory committee was formed to arrange and organize a Kurdish National Meeting to study the possibility of creating a Kurdish umbrella organization. The committee saw a need for an effective organization to speak on behalf of all Kurds in the U.S. and Canada, that has no specific ideology, and whose goal is to defend and promote Kurdish interests in the United States and Canada.

KNC was formed and the committee organized the agenda for the first KNC conference which was held on August 27-28, 1988 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Fifty-five delegates came from many parts of the U.S. and Canada and attended the conference. KNC was able to explain Kurdish issues to news media, to members of the US senate, US congress, and the US government employees. The goals of KNC included:

- To defend and promote Kurdish interests
- To make itself known to the U.S. Government, U.S. Congress, United Nations, Canadian Government, Canadian Parliament, and the news media
- Work to establish an immigration quota for Kurdish people and help newly arrived Kurdish immigrants
- Encourage Kurdish young people to study and help find admission for Kurdish students at colleges and universities and help them complete their studies
- Establish grants to universities for master's theses and Ph.D. dissertations on the Kurdish problem, Kurdish human rights, Kurdish history, Kurdish language, art, and music, etc.
- Publish a Kurdish journal, scientifically respected, whose articles are refereed.
- Publish a Kurdish newsletter
- Support social functions, such as a yearly campout and Newroz party.
- Support the Kurdish Library
- Help find jobs and business opportunities for Kurdish people

Since its founding KNC has been very active. The most important achievement of KNC was establishing an organization where Kurds from all parts of Kurdistan and with all different ideologies, religions, and political inclinations can join and participate in its activities.

Throughout its history, KNC has played a leading role in promoting the Kurdish cause within the United States and Canada. Some of KNC's accomplishments include:

1. Organized memorial for Halabja massacre and Anfal mass exodus at the U.S. Senate Office Building and other cities in the United States and Canada
2. Established a database for all villages destroyed and vacated in Iraqi Kurdistan by the Iraqi Regime
3. Compiled a list of Iraqi Kurdish Refugees who have relatives in the U.S. and desire to immigrate to the USA and sent it to the US State Department
4. Spoken about and written letters many times to the US state department to bring Kurdish Refugees to the USA
5. Participated in the First International Conference on Kurdish Human Rights and Culture sponsored by France Liberty and the Kurdish Institute in Paris
6. Hosted a special reception for Madame Mitterand at Capital Hilton in Washington D.C. on October 23, 1989
7. Worked with State Department and Congress to help establish Voice of America Kurdish Service
8. Represented KNC at the Senate Foreign Relation Committee hearing on U.S. relations with Iraq
9. Participated in several conferences of Amnesty International which led to Amnesty International adopting Kurdish human rights case as an example of gross human rights abuses in 1990
10. Introduced Kurdish delegations from Southern Kurdistan for the first time to the state department in 1991
11. Gave testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Genocide against the Kurds in Iraq in 1992
12. Participated in a Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference in Toronto
13. Participated in a campaign which was organized by the Kurdish Medical Association and other Kurdish organizations to raise funds for Kurdish refugees in Turkey
14. A committee of KNC established a Kurdish radio program in Windsor, Canada
15. The Smithsonian Institute invited KNC to participate in their international week long event in Washington D.C. and to have a member to speak on the Kurds every day for one hour. The Institute introduced the Kurds to the public via posting a KNC Newrooz Picture near the Washington Monument
16. Conducted a joint meeting with the Kurdish Community in Toronto, Canada, for Dr. Ismat Sharif Vanley to discuss the Kurdish plight
17. Participated in the First Kurdish Academy Conference in England
18. Was invited to attend the Second International Conference on Kurdish Human Rights in Stockholm, Sweden
19. Supported and encouraged Kurdish Schools in San Diego, London, Ontario, and Washington D.C.
20. Visited Southern Kurdistan to build a closer relationship with Kurdish leaderships, 2001
21. Invited to the White House and Pentagon for a meeting with Mr. Dick Cheney Vice President, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice then and Defiance Secretary Mr. Donald Ramsfield, March 6, 2003

22. Organized a Conference on Kurdish Independence at University of Salahaddin and Suleiymania University, November 2005
23. Delivered Medical supplies worth \$530,000 to Ministry of Health (KRG) in Southern Kurdistan, November 2006
24. Organized a meeting for delegations from Eastern Kurdistan to the United State officials, April 2006
25. Organized the first conference for the Kurds from Western Kurdistan in Washington (Syria), March 2006
26. Organized an International Conference on Kurdish Women for Peace and Equality in Hawler, March 8th, 2007
27. Arranged Contact Air quality test in the city of Hawler in coordination with Ministry of Environment, Higher Education and Hawler Government and the University of Southern California, Irvine, USA
28. A delegation under the leadership of KNC founder was invited for round table discussion with President George W. Bush, August 2007
29. KNC representatives were part of Kurdish delegations to deliver the referendum votes in Southern Kurdistan to the United Nation, emphasizing on the right of the Kurdish people for self-determination based on of the charter of the UN
30. Organized various cultural events in local Communities through U.S. and Canada including a Newrooz party in Washington D.C. with guest of honor Jim Bates, U.S. Representative
31. Published Kurdistan magazine and various KNC newsletters
32. Organized numerous demonstrations throughout the U.S. and Canada
33. Sent numerous letters, cables, faxes, and telexes to different governments and international organizations regarding Kurdish problems
34. Had numerous appearances on Kurdistan TV, Kurd Sat, Zagroz TV and Radios in Southern Kurdistan by representatives of KNC
35. Had numerous appearances on NPR, Talk of the Nation, CBS, ABC, PBS (News Hour), NBC, FOX CNN, and other U.S. media sources by representatives of KNC
36. Written a number of letters on behalf of Kurds who have applied for political asylum in USA and Canada
37. Invited many leading Kurdish non-Kurdish scholars and politicians to various annual conferences
38. File a law suit against Republic of Iraq and Alcoloc firm that had supplied Iraq with materials that had been used in Halabja's chemical bombing, April 7, 2009
39. Participated in various seminars and conferences to inform the public about the plight of the Kurds
40. Issued various press releases for raising awareness on key issues affecting the Kurds in all parts of Kurdistan
41. Remained non-partisan, secular, and democratic to promote the plight of the Kurds with peaceful means