

Kurdish National Congress of North America 22nd Annual Conference



Division of Kurdistan: Its Impact on the Unity of Kurdish National Psyche

**San Diego State University, San Diego CA
June 4-6, 2010**

Friday, June 4th

**Introduction ~ Flag Raising Ceremony ~ Singing of the Kurdish
National Anthem: Ay Raqib**

Panel: Youth Panel

Moderator: Mr. Luqman Barwari

Mr. Sarouj Aprahami - Armenian Youth Organization

Mr. Aprahami provided an overview of the activities of Armenian organizations in North America, including youth organizations. He discussed importance of retaining the language. A lively Q&A included focus on the similarities and differences between the Armenian and Kurdish cultures in No. America as well as on Armenian organizations in Diaspora and their relationship with the Armenian government.

**Ms. Nuha Sarraj – Kurdish American Youth Organization (KAYO)
and KYC**

**Ms. Sana Ameen - Kurdish American Youth Organization (KAYO)
and KYC**

Speaker: Mr. Nyma Ardalan

Mr. Ardalan discussed the recent Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) Conference in Brussels. Mr. Ardalan presented a statement from Judge Ralph Fertig of Los Angeles, a human rights honoree at the Conference who was unable to attend the Brussels event... (need to expand on this, incl “Human Rights Law Project”)

KNC Affairs / Open Session

Moderator: Mr. Tom Ver Ploeg

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Azad Moradian, KNC Treasurer

Q&A Panel – KNC Board of Directors

**Please join us at 7:30PM for the Banquet & Awards Presentation
Reservations required**

Saturday, June 5th

Registration/MC - Mrs. Soraya Fallah & Mr. Luqman Barwari

**Welcome and Opening Remarks - Conference Committee Chair:
Mr. Tom Ver Ploeg**

Letters from Kurdish Organizations

Speaker: Mr. Azad Moradian – “Strategies and Tactics for a New Era”

Panel: Halabja/Anfal Committee

Moderator: Dr. Kirmanj Gundi, Committee Chair

Mr. Ken McCallion, Attorney

Dr. Saman Shali, member

Mr. Mar’an Abdullah, member

Mr. Mohammad Aziz, member

Panel: Challenges before the Kurdish national struggle

Moderator: Mr. Issa Mossa

Mr. Nazmi Gur, Washington BDP Representative

A total of 6 Kurdish parties have been closed down by Turkish Government in the past 20 years and DTP was the last party that was closed down earlier in 2010, and BDP is the current active Kurdish party and it is under tremendous pressure from Turkish authorities and not without its share of legal troubles

Dr. Faraydon Rahmani, Greater Kurdish House of Toronto, Canada

Kurdish House of Toronto has a diverse Board of Directors which includes 4 individual from Northern Kurdistan, 4 from Southern Kurdistan and 3 from Eastern Kurdistan.

Mr. Norman Leonard, SDSU: “The factors that contribute to a sense of nation - linguistic and cultural and political unity (preservation), and personal identity as a Kurd”

Presentation

Has started 9 community-based language schools. Preservation of language is critical. Need greater Internet access throughout Kurdistan, including and especially the universities.

Dr. Faraydon Karim, “Past and emerging problems in Kurdistan”

Presentation

Speaker: Dr. Kamal Artin

“The Impact of Partition, Behavior, Culture, and Trauma on Kurdistan”

Presentation

**Presidential Address - Dr. Kirmanj Gundi, KNC President
“Division of Kurdistan: Its Impact on the Unity of Kurdish National Psyche”**

Speech

Panel: Kurdish Human Rights

Moderator: Ms. Soraya Fallah

Dr. Kajal Rahmani, “That was then, and This is now: A comparative study of systematic treatment of Kurds as second class citizens, and denials of their basic human rights during 5 decades”

Mr. Ihsan Mostafa, Syrian occupied Kurdistan

Mr. Jaff Ghafoor, Iraqi occupied Kurdistan

Ms. Soraya Fallah, “Kurdish Human Rights in Iran”

Mr. Luqman Barwari, “Human rights violations and Kurdish initiative in Turkey”

Special Guest: Honourable Jim Kirgyannis—Member, Canadian Parliament

Halabja motion before the Canadian Parliament

Panel: Former KNC Presidents

Moderator: Dr. Kirmanj Gundi

**Dr. Asad Khailani
Dr. Najmaldin Karim
Dr. Fouad Darwesh
Dr. Hikmat Fikrat
Dr. Saman Shali**

Please join us to Please join us to watch a new documentary film:

“More than the Mountains”

Sunday, June 6th

**Election Committee: proposed changes to the Constitution
Moderator: Mr. Tom Ver Ploeg
Mr. Gavan Azboy
Kirmanj Gundi**

**Election Committee:
Counting the votes and announcement of the election of the new
Board of Directors
Moderator: Mr. Tom Ver Ploeg
Mr. Gavan Azboy
Dr. Kirmanj Gundi**

Closing of the conference with “Ay Raqeeb”