

## Press Release

### **Kurdish Ad Hoc Committee against Repression in Syria to Hold Demonstration against Political Violence**

**June 15, 2011 (Los Angeles)-** Since March 2011, The Kurds of Syria like other Syrians have taken to the streets, demanding democratic reforms and fundamental human and civil rights. Instead the response of the government has been massive and merciless suppression of their legitimate demands and total disregard for human life. We, members of the Kurdish Ad Hoc Committee against Repression in Syria, alarmed by the gruesome news of the violence, express our deep concern and outrage over these bloody repressions. Human rights activists and like-minded people are encouraged to come to a peaceful demonstration in front of Syrian Consulate on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM to participate in a rally to send a clear and forceful message of condemnation to the Syrian authorities to put an end to these atrocities.

The world has witnessed a growing political crisis in Syria. The situation is growing worse day by day. Despite the total blockade of the international media, reports sent out, are alarming as the reign of terror continues. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "non-governmental organizations and others are now reporting that the number of men, women and children killed since the protests began in March has exceeded 1,100, with up to 10,000 or more detained." Human Rights Watch's independent investigation inside Syria has revealed that Syrian security forces have killed hundreds of protesters and arbitrarily arrested thousands, many of whom, including children, have been beaten and tortured." Human Rights Watch in one of its latest reports chronicles open violence against families of prisoners who demonstrated for the release of political prisoners "...security officers dressed in civilian clothes attacked with batons, dispersing the demonstrators. Security services detained at least 34 people..." According to Reuter "In the east, thousands of ethnic Kurds demonstrated for reform despite the president's offer this week to ease rules which bar many [Kurds] from citizenship. Kurds constituting 10% of the Syrian population have been living under a repressive rule called "state of emergency"; they are taking part in this movement for democracy and recognition of their distinct cultural identity and to put an end to their statelessness, despondency, and despair. It is troubling that the international community has not paid any attention to this inherent and prolonged violence against Kurds in Syria, most of whom are labeled as foreigners and many are euphemistically classified as second class Arab citizens. This brutal reality of life under which Kurds have suffered, is now unleashing the savagery of its security forces against defenseless Syrians, young and old everywhere.



### *Kurdish Demonstrations in Syria*

Our political protest in solidarity with Syrian people in general, and Kurds in particular, will offer us an opportunity to voice our protest and gather support to denounce the use of force against peaceful demonstrations. We express our heartfelt sympathies to the Syrian people, particularly Kurds whose anguish remind us of the heinous acts and a long history of political violence perpetrated against Kurds by the Baath Party in Iraq and Islamic Republic in Iran. We condemn the violent suppression of peaceful protests, arbitrary detentions, and torture of prisoners. We call upon the Security Council to aggressively pursue the passage of a resolution to condemn and halt the Syrian government's violent behavior. In the wake of these flagrant violations, we remind Russia and China that their efforts to veto such measures defy all moral responsibilities and principles of humanity. We call on the United States' government to play a more active role in actions and sanctions against the Syrian government. We urge the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon to use the power of his office to designate independent experts on minority issues to investigate the magnitude of human rights abuses and institutionalized racism and aggression against the very core of Kurdish culture and being. Finally we reecho recommendations by Human Rights Watch (Group Denial, Repression of Kurdish Political and Cultural Rights in Syria) that a UN committee be set up "to identify and remove discriminatory laws and policies on Kurds and ensure that they have the right to enjoy their own culture and use their own language ..."

**Where:** Consulate General of Syria

3 San Joaquin Hills Rd, Newport Beach, California 92660

**Time:** June 22, 11:00 Am to 1:00 PM



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**Kurdish Ad Hoc Committee against Repression in Syria** is a broad based ad hoc committee, composed of various Kurdish organizations and individuals in Southern California, working together to raise consciousness about the plight and aspirations of Kurds in Syria and protest the suppression of their cultural and civil rights.