



Syrian security forces attack Kurdish children



Kurdish children gather to demonstrate in Damascus, Syria. The banner reads, 'Towards a happy childhood free of discrimination and persecution'. June 2003

Several Kurdish children were injured when Syrian security forces and police violently dispersed a demonstration for Kurdish children's rights in Damascus on 25 June 2003.

A second demonstration in the city of Aleppo on 20 June 2003 resulted in the arrests of dozens of protestors.

According to information received by KHRP, approximately 200 children gathered outside the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Damascus in order to commemorate the International Day of the Child.

The children held flowers and banners calling for the right to be educated in or to learn the Kurdish language. The demonstrators also intended to raise awareness of the estimated 250,000 Kurds, including 100,000 children, who have been denied the right to Syrian nationality and are consequently stateless, with concomitant restrictions on

their civil and political rights. Activists had prepared a statement to be publicly handed to UNICEF officials, detailing the difficulties created by Syrian authorities when registering Kurdish names and the existence of discriminatory practices against Kurdish school pupils.

An estimated 400 police officers forcibly dispersed the protestors. The children staged a sit-in protest in response, continuing chants for "peace and equality". Reportedly, police then beat both adults and children with truncheons and threatened children with imprisonment. Between seventeen and twenty children received injuries, including two with broken arms. Seven adults were also arrested.

The seven men were reportedly tortured for 23 days at the security branch of Mezze police station in Damascus, then moved to the political wing of 'Adra prison where they are

being held in solitary confinement and ill-treated. Earlier in August or September, the men were said to have appeared blindfolded and without legal representation in front of the Supreme State Security Court (SSSC). Decisions of the SSSC are not subject to appeal.

In 1962, the notorious Law No. 93 was passed, removing Syrian citizenship and accompanying rights from many people living on the border between Syria, Iraq and Turkey, rendering them stateless.

KHRP is concerned at the ongoing denial of freedom of expression, of association and of assembly to Kurds in Syria, in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Despite safeguards enshrined in the Syrian Constitution and Penal Code, police officers and security forces continue to act with impunity against the Kurdish minority. There is evidence of the widespread use of torture including beatings, electric shocks, suspension by the arms (Palestinian hanging) and the application of salt to bleeding wounds.



Director's Letter



Dear friends,

The human rights situation throughout the Kurdish regions remains volatile. A recent fact-finding mission to South Kurdistan assessed the human rights and security situation in the wake of the recent war, which continues to dominate daily life. The Syrian authorities have reacted brutally to demands for equal rights for its Kurdish population, even beating children at a peaceful demonstration. In Iran, the repression of journalists, students and scholars appears to be increasing, perhaps in advance of next year's elections.

The situation facing Turkish and Kurdish people is now critical. On 1 September 2003, KADEK ended its five-year unilateral ceasefire with Turkey, signalling a potential renewal of armed conflict which has already cost 30,000 lives in the past 15 years.

The problems the crisis will pose to the international community, particularly the United States and Europe, places them under a responsibility to address the situation immediately.

The international community must acknowledge the danger and assist both Turkish and Kurdish people to end the present conflict. A dialogue must be maintained in order to find a peaceful and democratic solution in the interests of both.

Despite recent reforms, there remains an ongoing and consistent pattern of violations of human rights in Turkey in which Kurds are the principle victims.

Turkey must continue its democratic reforms to bring peace and security to the

continued on page 2

A State of Injustice: Our Case to the European Court of Human Rights

Interview with KHRP applicants in landmark *Akman v. Turkey* judgment. See page 12.

country. The security of all peoples in Turkey lies in acknowledging the Kurds as a distinct people who must be politically recognised as such. The Constitution must directly enshrine recognition of the Kurds as a distinct people. Moreover, both the Constitution and domestic laws of Turkey must guarantee the full and effective protection of the cultural, social and political rights of Kurdish people. A democratic dialogue requires, as a precondition, a bilateral ceasefire under international supervision and the lifting of all bans and restrictions against all Kurdish organisations in Turkey. The Kurdish people must be guaranteed the freedom to participate in the dialogue about the future through their own political organisations.

Turkey now faces a choice between two roads. One continues the present increasing militarisation of the state at the cost of its democratic traditions. Choice of this road will certainly lead to isolation, suspension from European institutions possibly including the Council of Europe, and ruin of its economy and democracy.

The other is a road which recognises that security for both its Turkish and Kurdish people can be achieved through equal recognition of the fundamental rights and freedoms of Turkish and Kurdish people as equal citizens of the country. KHRP believes this would form the basis for democratic dialogue.

KHRP also believes that the international community, particularly the United States and the European Union, should assist Turkey in choosing the path to a peaceful and secure future, in conformity with their obligations and commitments under the UN Charter and OSCE.

Turkey must seize the current opportunity for a new democratic solution to the Kurdish question. KHRP stresses that the international community must encourage Turkey to take this opportunity. If the opportunity is not positively and immediately pursued, the international community must act to protect the Kurdish people against violations of their fundamental cultural, social and political rights.

Kerim Yildiz
Executive Director
September 2003

Fear of torture and ill-treatment for Kurdish detainee in Syria

According to information received by KHRP, a Syrian Kurdish man, Khalil Mustapha, was arrested on 8 August 2003. The charges against him have not been released. He was found dead two days later. Medical reports attribute the cause of his death to injuries sustained on his body. His nose was broken, hands and legs were broken in several places, eye was gauged and genitals had been cut off. Medical reports attribute the cause of death to the injuries sustained.

His body was not released to his family for burial. He was buried in Aleppo under the supervision of Military Intelligence and the Assyrian Neighbourhood Security Branch.

Mr. Mustapha's death has raised concerns for

the safety of a second Syrian Kurdish man, Khalil Sulayman, arrested by military intelligence on 30 August 2003 in Aleppo.

Sulayman is known to be politically active and was nominated as an independent candidate in the 1994 parliamentary elections. Reportedly, he was then subject to harassment and forcibly relocated to a new place of employment 240km from home. It is believed he may be a prisoner of conscience detained for his political beliefs.

Officials have not confirmed Mr Sulayman's detention, where he is being held or if he has actually been charged. However KHRP understands from information received that he is being held at a Military detention centre in Damascus, where he is at risk of ill-treatment and torture.

Syrian authorities return refugees to potential execution in Iran

Syrian authorities have forcibly returned two men with recognised refugee status to Iran, where they now face possible execution.

Mr. Abraham Khodabandeh and Mr Jamil Bassam have held political refugee status in Britain for 25 years, but travelled to Syria to see family in April 2003. On 18 April, the men were arrested and detained for several weeks without charge. According to information received by KHRP, the men were subjected to ill-treatment and torture.

The men were active and prominent members of National Council of Resistance (NCRI), an exiled Iranian opposition group. In spite of their recognised refugee status and international protests, the two men were forcibly deported by Syrian authorities to Iran on 6 June 2003.

Iranian authorities have confirmed the men are in detention, but have not released information about their charges or dates of trial. It is believed the men are being held at Evin prison, notorious for its torture and ill-treatment, and face possible execution.

Syrian authorities return Kurds to Turkey

According to information received by KHRP, Syrian authorities returned nine Kurds to Turkey on 3 August 2003. The men had been detained and tortured for between one and three months by Syrian security forces. Upon their forced return to Turkey, the men were brought before the Public Prosecutor where six of them were sentenced to imprisonment. The trial is ongoing. According to information received by KHRP, the men are being subject to torture and ill-treatment.

In the last year, Syrian authorities have returned between 30 and 35 Kurds to Turkey. The number of returnees increased following a visit of the Syrian Prime Minister to Turkey in July 2002.

Iranian journalist dies in prison

Five intelligence and prison officials have been arrested in connection with the death in custody of Canadian-Iranian photo journalist Zahra Kazemi on 11 July 2003.

Ms Kazemi was arrested by plain-clothed Iranian security officials after photographing the Evin prison where many student protestors are being held. Iranian authorities first claimed her death was the result of a stroke; but later admitted that she had died of a cerebral haemorrhage after being beaten.

Reformist officials argue that the latest repression of journalists, commentators, students and activists is an attempt to silence dissent in advance of next year's elections.

KHRP sends Fact-Finding Mission to South Kurdistan/Iraq

A KHRP Fact-Finding Mission to South Kurdistan from 27 August to 4 September 2003 assessed the current human rights and security situation in the wake of the recent war.

The delegation researched the continuing legacy of Saddam Hussein's regime against Kurds and other inhabitants of the region. It also considered the ability of the oil-for-food program to meet the needs of the local population and institutions and the potential impacts of its coming to an end on 12 November 2003. The role and efficacy of non-governmental institutions, the co-operation between Kurdish and multinational authorities and issues related to the rights and wellbeing of women were also researched.

The impact of Ba'athism remains all too visible. Recent refugees from the Arabisation policy in and around the Kirkuk region are afforded little shelter in the camps that have been developed to accommodate them. There is little access to healthcare and education facilities and basic supplies are prohibitively expensive. Displaced people widely perceive that not enough has been done to assist them, fuelling discontent with both the regional authorities and the UN.

The mission met with a number of ministers of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in both the KDP-governed city of Arbil and the PUK's base of Suleymaniya; Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari and held meetings with international and local non-governmental organisations including the Mines Awareness Group (MAG), Save the Children UK, the Swedish charity Qandil and Kurdish Human Rights Watch. The delegation also visited a complex for housing refugees built by UN Habitat, a refugee camp for recent refugees from Kirkuk and other Kurdish areas below the "greenline", and a settlement established by the Saddam Hussein



A sign near to the mass grave site in Basra reads, "Here lie the graves of our Kurdish brothers and sisters", August 2003



Recent excavation of a mass grave in Basra, August 2003

Iranian Council rejects women's rights convention

On 12 August 2003, the conservative-controlled Guardian Council vetoed the parliament's decision to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in a further setback to reform in Iran. The parliament had ratified CEDAW on 23 July 2003.

The EU had insisted that Iran must ratify CEDAW in support of its human rights dialogue and trade and co-operation agreement negotiations. In anticipation of opposition from the Governing Council, the parliament had made two reservations to its ratification: that nothing in CEDAW that violated Islamic principles would be considered valid and that Iran would not accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in respect of any dispute. Nonetheless, the Guardian Council argued that CEDAW would contradict Shari'a law.

Turkish authorities return Kurds to Iran

According to information received by KHRP, on 8 September 2003, Turkish authorities returned sixteen Iranian Kurdish refugees to Iran, where they may face detention, torture and potential execution.

The Iranian Kurds had been living in a refugee camp in Van in the Kurdish Southeast of Turkey and were registered with the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Now, amid the apparent inability of the UNHCR to protect the refugees in Van, there is great concern regarding the fate of the remaining 1500 Iranian Kurds in Van.

regime to house victims of the Anfal regime.

The delegation found that there remain serious threats to security in South Kurdistan. The delegation heard reports of recent car bombs and the shooting of a bomb disposal expert of the Mines Awareness Group.

The report of the KHRP Fact-Finding Mission is forthcoming.



Children in Takeh refugee camp, August 2003. Most of its inhabitants were expelled from Kirkuk following the Arabisation campaign, or fled after the 1991 uprising and have recently returned from refugee camps in Iran. Their tents are generations-old and show signs of wear. The refugees are dreading the onset of Winter, as fuel and water are scarce.

Five Kurdish Members on Iraqi Provisional Council

On 13 July 2003 the appointment of a 25-member Iraqi interim governing council was announced. Formally entitled the Coalition Provisional Authority, the council's composition was decided on by the occupation authorities, in collaboration with the main opposition groups that worked with Washington prior to the war and the UN Special Representative in Iraq, the late Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Marking the first step towards the much lauded "democratisation" of Iraq, the Council is broadly representative of the religious and ethnic groups that comprise the Country's population. The Shiite majority has received proportionate representation for the first time, with thirteen representatives on the Council. Of the remaining 12 members, five are Kurdish, five are Sunni, one is Assyrian Christian and one

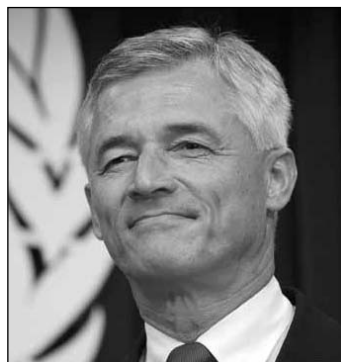
is a Turkomen. Three members are women. Concern has been raised regarding the exclusion of powerful Shiite religious leaders and Sunni Baathists and their ability to create problems for the new authority.

The Council has been granted a series of executive powers that will enable it to assume responsibility for Iraqi civil affairs until the inauguration of a democratically elected government. The UN has

recognised the Council as a transitional authority and has dispatched a delegation to assist the establishment of fair election procedures. It is envisaged this transfer to a democratically elected government could occur within two years. Until then, all decisions made by the Council can be vetoed by the occupying powers.

UN Human Rights Commissioner killed in Baghdad

Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN Special Representative to Iraq, was killed in a suicide bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. He had intended to remain in Iraq for only four months so that he could resume his role as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Kofi Annan has condemned the recent attack on the UN Headquarters in Baghdad as an "act of unprovoked and murderous violence". Approximately 23 people, including the UN's Special Representative to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello were killed in the blast which injured scores of others and reduced much of the building to rubble.



Turkish troops in South Kurdistan?

Turkish troops should not be deployed in Iraq, according to new Iraqi foreign minister Hoshiyar Zebari.

Reportedly, Ankara has indicated a willingness to contribute 10,000 troops to Al-Anbar, a vast province stretching west of Baghdad to the Syrian and Jordanian borders. Access would require the troops to travel through South Kurdistan. The United States is in support of the deployment

of Turkish troops and is in negotiation with Turkey.

If Turkish troops are to be used in Iraq, Mr. Zebari has proposed alternative Southern or Western routes via Kuwait or Jordan, bypassing South Kurdistan.

The threat of further Turkish troops deployed in South Kurdistan raises concerns of increased human rights violations against the Kurdish population.

Iraqi Council of Ministers Named

On 3 September 2003, the governing council of Iraq finally named its council of ministers. The announcement came weeks after political wrangling that first emerged with the council's inability to decide on who should be its president. In the end a nine-person rotating presidency was decided upon. The appointments have been welcomed by many who see it as a major step along the road to Iraqi self-government.

Iraqi Council members:

Communications Haider al-Ebadi, Shia
Sport and Youth Ali Faik al-Ghaban, Shia
Public Works Nisrin Barwari, Kurd, woman
Health Khudayer Abbas, Shia
Construction and Housing Bayan Baqir Solagh, Shia
Industry and Minerals Mohammed Tawfik Raheem, Kurd
Environment Abdul-Rahman Sidiq Kareem, Kurd

Justice Hashim Abdul-Rahman al-Shibli, Sunni
Trade Ali Adbul-Amir Allawi, Shia
Science and Technology Rashad Mandan Omar, Ethnic Turk
Education Alaudin Abdul-Shaheeb al-Alwan, Shia
Work and Social Affairs Sami Izara al-Majoun, Shia
Higher Education Zeyad Abdul-Razzaq Mohammed Aswad, Sunni
Electricity Ayham al-Samaraie, Sunni
Culture Mofeed Mohammed Jawad al-Jazaeri, Shia
Finance Kamil Mubdir al-Gailani, Sunni
Human Rights Abdul-Basit Turki, Sunni
Immigration and Refugees Mohammed Jassem Khudair, Shia
Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar al-Zebari, Kurd
Water Resources Abdul-Latif Rasheed, Kurd
Interior Nori al-Badran, Shia
Oil Ibrahim Mohammed Bahr al-Uloum, Shia
Agriculture Abdul-Ameer Rahima Al-Abboud, Shia
Transport Behnam Zayya Polis, Assyrian Christian

IHD celebrates anniversary amidst continuing intimidation

The Human Rights Association (IHD) of Turkey marked its 17th anniversary on 17 July 2003, amidst the continuing harassment of its members.

In early July 2003, Chair of the Bingöl branch of IHD Ridvan Kizgin participated in several press conferences to raise awareness of the publication of a report detailing increases in human rights violations in the first half of 2003. On 8 and 9 July 2003, Mr. Kizgin was telephoned by persons claiming to be from the Provincial Command of the Gendarmerie. He was ordered to report to the local Commander to retract his public statements and to issue a new statement denying an increase in human rights violations. Recalling that thirteen board members of IHD were victims of extrajudicial killings following similar telephone calls during the

1990s, Mr. Kizgin refused to comply. For his work with IHD, Mr. Kizgin has also been detained four times, tortured, subject to 47 indictments and is the subject of five pending investigations.

On IHD's anniversary itself, the Chair of the Muş branch, Sevim Yetkiner, was charged and detained for one month on charges of "aiding and assisting an illegal organisation" under Article 169 of the Turkish Penal Code. The charges were prompted by her attendance at the funeral of a man who had suffered a heart attack in prison. Following three weeks' imprisonment, Ms. Yetkiner was released. She expressed gratitude for an Amnesty International campaign which had alleviated her prison conditions and secured her swift release.

Founded in 1986, the IHD is



KHRP Fact-Finding delegation with Ridvan Kizgin, Chair of Bingöl branch of IHD, Bingöl, June 2003

the most prominent human rights organisation based in Turkey and has collaborated with KHRP on many cases to the European Court of Human

Rights. KHRP extends its warmest congratulations to IHD for its continuing success in the face of a climate of intimidation and impunity.

Turkish Authorities Block Kurdish Language Lessons

Turkish authorities have blocked an attempt to establish a centre to teach the Kurdish language.

Turkey's August 2002 package of reforms, aimed at harmonising legislation with EU standards, provided for the teaching of "different languages and dialects used traditionally by Turkish citizens in their daily lives".

Accordingly, on 20 December 2002, an application was made to the Urfa Education Directorship for the establishment of a Kurdish Language and Dialects Centre. The applicant, Mr. Kurt, was advised that he must obtain a copy of the regulations surrounding the establishment of Kurdish language education before the

application could be processed. Subsequently, he was advised to amend the Centre's name to "Private Urfa Local Language and Dialects Centre".

In March 2003, Mr. Kurt received a written rejection, objecting to the use of the title "Centre" for the establishment. He resubmitted an application on 21 April 2003 for permission to establish a "Private Urfa Local Language and Dialects Course". The application was rejected for the use of the word "language". On 28 May 2003, a further request was made for a "Kurdish and Dialects Teaching Course". To date, Mr. Kurt has not received a response.

Turkey passes controversial Amnesty Bill

On 29 July 2003, the Turkish Parliament passed the controversial "Winning Back to Society" law, also cited as a "Repentance law".

Although the law is mainly directed at members of KADEK (formerly PKK), although includes members of Islamist and ultra-nationalist groups. The law is valid for six months and specifically excludes leadership figures. The law provides that those who have been involved in armed attacks, surrender and submit information regarding their activities, are eligible for reduced sentences. Those who can prove no involvement in armed attacks are eligible for a complete pardon.

It is unclear how many people have opted to use the law – reported figures vary between 14 and 1000. Local human rights organisations argue that its effectiveness is undermined by restrictions on the eligibility for pardon.

Police officers on trial for torture and ill-treatment of woman

Two police officers from the Anti-Terror forces are due to stand trial on 16 October 2003 for the torture and ill-treatment of a woman in the Alsangak area of Izmir, Turkey.

The woman made a complaint to the Izmir state prosecutor after she was abducted on 5 November 2002 by men she believed to be members of the Anti-Terror branch of the local police force. She alleges she had been abducted, blindfolded, assaulted and threatened with death.

On the same day the woman made the complaint, she was again reportedly threatened by a man dressed in civilian clothes. He told her that she hadn't learned her lesson, that things could happen to her and that "nobody would be able to find your body".

continued on page 6

continued from page 5
Police officers on trial for torture



Gülbahar Gündüz, an executive member of DEHAP, states she was abducted, beaten, sexually tortured and threatened on 14 June 2003 in Istanbul. The abductors identified themselves as police officers. She reports that the men extinguished cigarettes against her face (above).



According to information received by KHRP, on 17 December 2002 the woman was abducted a second time. She was driven to an empty building and blindfolded, interrogated, sexually assaulted, stripped and again threatened with death.

The woman received ongoing hospital treatment as a result of the assault and medical reports support her allegations. When discharged, she was reportedly followed by persons in civilian clothing. That evening, she received an anonymous telephone threat, "We'll break your neck, did we make a mistake not killing you?"

The woman's identity has been withheld by KHRP at her request.

The incidents are redolent of the abduction, sexual torture and threats of Gülbahar Gündüz, an executive member of Turkey's largest pro-Kurdish political party DEHAP, on 14 June 2003 in Istanbul (see *Newsline 22, Summer 2003*).

KHRP will monitor the case to ensure that there is an immediate impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, ill-treatment and death threats, and that the perpetrators are identified and brought to justice.

KHRP sends Fact-Finding Mission to Southeast Turkey

In November 2002, the Turkish Parliament voted to lift the state of emergency legislation (OHAL). From 1987 onwards, state of emergency legislation had governed the majority of provinces in the Kurdish regions of Southeast Turkey. It conferred broad administrative and legal powers upon specially-created Regional Governors, effectively rendering the Southeast region a police state. A Fact-Finding Mission in August 2002 sent to assess the impact of the earlier lifting of OHAL in two provinces concluded that there had been little effect on the human rights situation on the ground. In June 2003, KHRP, in conjunction with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) and Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakir branch, sent a second fact-finding mission to assess whether there are now concrete improvements, ten months after OHAL was lifted in its entirety.

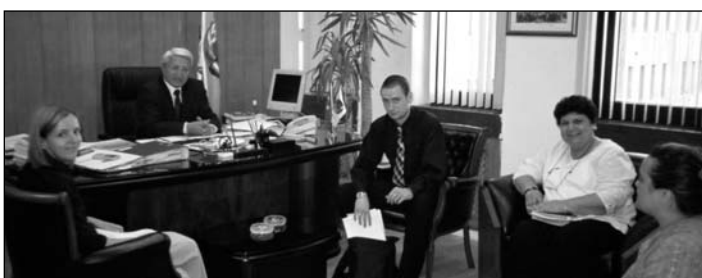
The delegation visited Bingöl, Diyarbakir, Ankara and Tunceli. Interviews were conducted with representatives of Turkey's main opposition party the Republican People Party (CHP); pro-Kurdish political party DEHAP; the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee; Ankara Bar Association; the European Commission representative of Turkey; representatives of human rights organisations the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), Human Rights Association (IHD), Association for Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed People (Mazlum Der) and Centre for Activities in Social Rehabilitation and Adaptation (SOHRAM); the mayor of Bingöl; representatives of the trade union representing public sector employees (KESK); prominent human rights activists and the legal representative of Leyla Zana and four other DEP parliamentarians (see page 7).

The delegation concluded that even where OHAL has been lifted for almost a year, an effective police state continues to dominate all aspects of daily life. Regional governors have retained the wide-ranging powers held during OHAL. In fact, there had been some indications of an increase in torture, and certainly in incidents of intimidation and arbitrary detentions, in recent months.

A Fact-Finding Mission report is available from KHRP (see page 17)



The building which houses the Mayor's office in Bingöl. There have been no repairs since the earthquake, June 2003



Members of the Fact-Finding delegation with President of the Ankara Bar Association, Semih Güner, June 2003



Members of the Fact-Finding delegation at the headquarters of DEHAP in Ankara, June 2003

Retrial of Leyla Zana and DEP Parliamentarians continues



Mahmut Alinak, Hatip Dicle, Sirri Sakik, Orhan Dogan, Leyla Zana and Ahmet Türk at Ankara State Security Court

On 15 September 2003, the retrial of the four former Kurdish parliamentarians of the Democracy People's Party (DEP), Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Selim Sadak and Orhan Dogan continued before the Ankara State Security Court. The imprisoned politicians said that they had been subjected to "humiliating" treatment by security forces on the way to court but did not elaborate. "Such humiliating treatment is

not acceptable," Dogan said. "If such behaviour continues we will not appear in court in future."

The court again refused a request for the release of the defendants, who were stripped of their parliamentary immunity and imprisoned in 1994.

KHRP is concerned by the continuing disregards of the principle of independence and impartiality of the court. Their retrial falls far short of

providing sufficient guarantees concerning the right to a fair trial. The court case has again been adjourned until 17 October 2003.

KHRP will continue to monitor the retrial to ensure that the DEP parliamentarians receive equality of arms and access to justice, and that the potentially beneficial mechanism of domestic retrial is not undermined. For further information, see KHRP Newline 22 Spring 2003.



KHRP delegation with Yusuf Alatas, lawyer of Leyla Zana and DEP Parliamentarians June 2003

Turkey passes sixth and seventh reform packages

Turkey has passed further legislative amendments aimed at bringing its domestic law up to EU accession standards.

The sixth Harmonisation Package, adopted by Parliament on 19 June 2003 amended laws relating to freedom of expression, of thought, discrimination, the right to life, personal security and provided for the possibility of a domestic retrial in the light of a judgment from the European Court. Among other reforms, it provides that both public and private radio and television stations are permitted to broadcast in languages and dialects used by Turkish citizens traditionally in their daily lives. Heavier sentences for instances of honour killings were imposed.

The seventh Harmonisation Package was adopted by Parliament on 8 August 2003. It

amended laws relating to freedom of thought, of expression, of association and of assembly, torture, the prosecution of civilians at military courts, public transparency and the rights of the child. The main amendments were to revise the duties and competencies of the National Security Council (MGK).

To date, the army's predominant role in Turkish political debate has been manifested by the MGK, a highly influential and non-democratic policy-making body. Under the Turkish Constitution, the MGK expresses opinions, makes recommendations and oversees the implementation of its recommendations. In the late 1990s, the MGK interfered increasingly with domestic and foreign politics on the basis that the military retains the

competence to determine the boundaries of "national security".

The August 2003 reforms limit the role of the MGK to an advisory body with no executive powers. Nonetheless, the reluctance of the military to relinquish its predominant role in Turkey's political fora has been reported. The government acquiesced to revise the reform package following the military's objections to earlier drafts.

While KHRP welcomes the reforms as a positive step towards meeting the requirements of the European Court of Human Rights, it has witnessed a widespread failure to implement the reforms in areas including torture, fair trials, freedom of expression, of assembly and of association.

KHRP observes censorship trial



Fikret Baskaya

In July 2003, a delegation from KHRP and the Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) observed the trial of Fikret Baskaya, a leftist writer who has been the subject of a series of domestic prosecutions and of a judgment from the European Court of Human Rights.

The European Court decided his case in 1999, holding that his right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the Convention had been denied following imprisonment for his book Bankruptcy of the Paradigm. He had been convicted of writing "separatist propaganda" under now-abolished Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Laws.

In September 2002 the Council of Europe stipulated that Turkey should amend Article 8 of the Anti-Terror law as its invocation had repeatedly been held to violate Article 10 of the European Convention.

Yet on 14 April 2003 and in spite of the previous European Court judgment, Turkish authorities initiated fresh criminal proceedings against Baskaya under Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Laws based on the eighth edition of the same book. This prosecution is one of several currently pending against the author for his writings.

The delegation from KHRP and BHRC observed the trial on 10 July 2003 and met with the defendant Fikret Baskaya and his lawyer Aydin Erdogan. Further meetings were held with representatives of non-governmental organisations Mazlum Der and the Human

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

Rights Association (IHD), the pro-Kurdish political party DEHAP, the Chair of Ankara Bar Association, representatives of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission, journalists and applicants in KHRP cases.

The sixth Harmonisation Package, adopted by Parliament on 19 June 2003, abolished Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law. In a subsequent hearing of the case in August 2003, Baskaya was acquitted.

However, there remain several statutes which continue to be used against writers and publishers that will provide ready replacements for Article 8. Fikret Baskaya will again be on trial on 6 November 2003 under Article 312 of the Turkish Penal Code for another book. A further case under Article 312 of Turkish Penal Code will begin in court against publisher Ragıp Zarakolu on 24 September 2003. A KHRP case concerning violations of Zarakolu's freedom of expression in an alternate prosecution is currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

Although the trial of Fikret Baskaya was subsequently adjourned, the KHRP and BHRC remain gravely concerned about the failure of Turkish authorities to implement judgments from the European Court of Human Rights.

The report of the trial observation delegation is available from KHRP (see page 16)

UPDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING AND INTERNSHIP PROJECT

Human rights training in Armenia

In continuation of its ongoing training programmes in Azerbaijan and Armenia, the KHRP legal team and its partners delivered training seminars about the European Court of Human Rights and UN human rights mechanisms in July 2003. With years of experience of human rights litigation, the training programmes provide lawyers and human rights activists in the Kurdish regions, the UK and other parts of Europe with

invaluable instruction on the use of the European Convention and UN human rights mechanisms.

Following the last training seminar in Armenia in October 2002, KHRP in conjunction with the BHRC and the International Union of Advocates delivered a further training in Yerevan from 24 to 28 July 2003. Once again, training materials were delivered in the Armenian language. KHRP legal team members and barristers Ajanta



Delivering human rights training about the ECHR and UN mechanisms in Yerevan, July 2003



Members of the KHRP legal team, BHRC and International Union of Advocates outside the IUA office, Yerevan: Narine Gasparyan, Declan O'Callaghan, Tigran Ter-Esayan of the IUA, barrister Ajanta Kaza, Kerim Yildiz, Dr. Anke Stock and Ara Ghazaryan, July 2003

Kaza and Declan O'Callaghan delivered training on the right to a fair trial (Article 6) and right to liberty and security (Article 5) of the European Convention while KHRP Legal Officer Dr Anke Stock delivered training about taking human rights complaints to UN mechanisms. Participants in the seminar returned evaluation forms. "I increased my knowledge about legal basis for defence of my rights," wrote one participant. Another wrote, "Making reference to Convention rights and principles is new to us, therefore I find it important to have such material."

KHRP legal team trains in Azerbaijan



Participants in the human rights training had the opportunity to participate in a 'mock trial', re-enacting a hearing of the European Court. Baku, July 2003

From 3 to 7 July 2003, KHRP in conjunction with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) and Helsinki Citizen's Assembly held a training seminar in Baku,

Azerbaijan. KHRP legal team member Christopher Jacobs, barrister, delivered a seminar on the right to a fair trial (Article 6) and right to privacy (Article 8) of the European Convention while



KHRP, BHRC and Helsinki Citizen's Assembly with Natig Talibob, Vice-Chair of the Chief, Department of Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan, July 2003

lawyer Isahan Ashirov delivered a seminar on freedom of expression (Article 10). KHRP Legal Officer Dr. Anke Stock focused on UN mechanisms. Training materials in the Azeri

language were also distributed. Approximately forty participants attended the seminar, over a quarter of which were women.

continued on page 9

UPDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING AND INTERNSHIP PROJECT

continued from page 8

Participants also had the opportunity to participate in a "mock trial", re-enacting a hearing of the European Court. Evaluation forms returned at this seminar indicated that the seminar was an enormous success, with many of the participants wishing to attend further training seminars in future. One participant responded, "The interests in the seminars are increasing day by

day... The participants were provided with opportunity to take part in the Symbolic Litigation Process other than theoretic discussions. This seminar has created a clear imagination about the UN mechanisms in protection of human rights. In general these seminars are of great importance and prevent sending of inadmissible cases from Azerbaijan to European Court."



KHRP, BHRC and Helsinki Citizen's Assembly provide training in ECHR mechanisms, July 2003

Update on Turkey training

In addition to training seminars in Armenia and Azerbaijan, KHRP is often requested to provide advice and training to lawyers, law students and activists in Turkey. Often, lawyers seek advice about the compliance of domestic law with the European Convention on Human Right, or recommendations about taking

cases to the European Court or complaints to UN mechanisms. Awareness of the remedies provided by the European Court and UN mechanisms has multiplied in Turkey since KHRP was founded in 1992, at which time not a single complaint against Turkey had been submitted to the Court.



European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg

Enhancing capacity of human rights lawyers

KHRP's international legal internship programme continued unabated in Summer 2003. Interns spend between 3 and 6 months at KHRP's London office working with the KHRP team in all areas. During this time they are encouraged to participate fully in the case-work to the European Court and are provided with the opportunity to attend European Court hearings in Strasbourg. Through these means, the interns gain not only intensive training in utilising international human rights mechanisms, but also an opportunity to improve their English, an official language of the Court, and the opportunity to experience the operation of a human rights organisation.

From July onwards, KHRP has welcomed several new interns including three lawyers from the Kurdish regions: Narine Gasparyan, a lawyer with the Armenian Bar Association; Farhad Sattarov, a lawyer with the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly from Azerbaijan; and Saniye Karakaş, a human rights and criminal lawyer in Diyarbakir, Turkey. The objective is to prepare them to return to their own country where they will be in a position to directly use the international human rights mechanisms available to them.



KHRP staff provide human rights training to lawyers from Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia at its London office, August 2003

Political prisoners in Azerbaijan

The Council of Europe hosted a debate on political prisoners in Azerbaijan on 26 June 2003.

The release of political prisoners was initially a precondition for Azerbaijan's accession to the Council of Europe, but later became a commitment to be met after Azerbaijan's accession. The failure of the Council of Europe to establish a fixed deadline has resulted in inaction from the Azerbaijani authorities in releasing political prisoners.

In April 2003, a working group compiled a list of 212 political prisoners whose cases required attention. Since then, new cases of alleged political prisoners have become known; providing an estimated total of over 300 prisoners. The working group's report

also detailed the prevalence of forced confessions, torture and ill-treatment in custody, provision of false testimony and a non-independent judiciary. The retrial of three former ministers, identified as political prisoners, was being mishandled. The Assembly called for adherence to accepted standards in respect of access to legal advice and reliable witness testimonies.

On 18 June 2003, the President of Azerbaijan signed a decree pardoning 106 convicts. Of these, 38 were convicted of crimes against the "independent statehood and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic".

Discussions between the Council of Europe and Azerbaijan are continuing.

Death Penalty abolished in Armenia

After long deliberations, the National Assembly of Armenia on 9 September 2003 officially abolished the death penalty and ratified the Sixth Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights.

However, the death penalty will still be permissible during war time or in the event of threat of war when martial law is declared.

This positive step followed the decision by Armenian President Robert Kocharyan on 2 August 2003 to commute 42 death sentences to life imprisonment. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Walter Schwimmer praised the decision as indicative of Armenia's wish to become "fully integrated with the European family of nations" as "the death penalty... has no place in the Europe of today."

The situation of the Kurdish media in the first half of 2003

According to information received by KHRP, the first half of 2003 has seen new innovations for the Kurdish media as well as continuing oppression.

After decades of oppression in the region, diversity is populating the media markets. Online media has created new channels of expression for the Kurds; but the majority of online media can only provide information from abroad. Even access to foreign online media is frequently blocked in Turkey, Syria and Iran. In each of the Kurdish regions, there remain severe restrictions on the freedom of expression of Kurds.



Online media has created new channels of expression for the Kurds.

Photo: Edward Galagan

DISPATCHES

AWARDS FOR KHRP WEBSITE

KHRP's website has been awarded the 2003-2004 Golden Web Award by the International Association of Webmasters and Designers for excellence in web design, content and creativity. "You and your staff at the Kurdish Human Rights Project have obviously worked very hard," the organisation was told.



It is the second award for the website so far in 2003, since an earlier award from the Medaille d'Or, one of the world's top awards for websites.

KHRP is continuing its efforts to ensure that the website is fully updated and easily accessible. This latest award confirms the importance of such efforts in assisting the global dissemination of information about the Kurdish situation.

Iran

Independent media in Iran is prohibited, making it impossible to publish independent press or operate in independent broadcasting services. While the national broadcasting corporation (IRIB) does permit the broadcast of Kurdish TV and radio programmes, this is only permitted where the media is perceived to support the clerical line. Any media perceived to be dissident, including Kurdish media, is strictly illegal and subject to repression.

Syria

In Syria, Kurds are barred from operating public media. In 2000, the Government undertook to ease restrictions; but this has not been fulfilled. Demands made in support of Kurdish media continue to be suppressed forcibly.

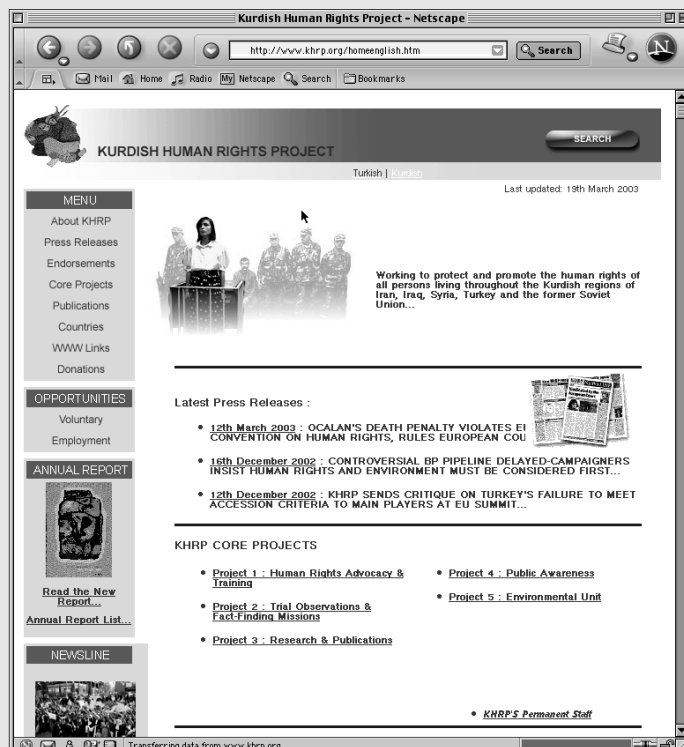
Iraq

The sale and distribution of the Kurdish weekly *Serder Hal* that appears in Baghdad has reportedly been obstructed since May 2003. Distributors, sales men and shopkeepers have been threatened against bringing the newspaper into Kirkuk. Even in South Kurdistan, independent media is not fully tolerated. Asos Hardi, editor-in-chief of liberal Kurdish weekly *Hawlati*, received a suspended sentence of one year by a PUK/KDP court following publication of a critical report.

Turkey

The only pro-Kurdish daily, *Yeniden Ozgur Gundem*, faces a variety of punitive measures that threaten to destroy its financial viability. The only Kurdish-language weekly, *Azadiya Welat*, is subject to continuing pressure by the authorities. Its publisher, M. Nuri Karakoyun, has been sentenced with 3 years 9 months' imprisonment and a fine in early 2003.

In spite of reforms permitting the broadcast of non-Turkish languages, regulations from the national supervisory authority (RTÜK) have imposed severe restrictions which have in practice prevented the establishment of a single Kurdish-language broadcast medium. On 10 July 2003, the radio station *Radyo Dunya*, based in Adana, received a one-month broadcasting ban by RTÜK for broadcasting Kurdish songs. A local TV station in Diyarbakir, Gun TV, also received a one-month broadcasting ban because its programme structure allegedly resembled that of Medya TV, the Kurdish satellite station. Security forces continue to intimidate families whose satellite dishes are aimed in order to receive Medya TV. In Southeast areas, the dishes are often removed and house-owners threatened by security forces.



The KHRP website: www.KHRP.org

KHRP undertakes feasibility study

Following its tenth anniversary in 2002, KHRP board members and staff considered it would be worthwhile to assess the organisation's achievements over the past decade and to examine new opportunities by which to fulfil the organisation's objectives.

Due to widespread human rights abuses throughout the Kurdish regions, Kurds represent one of the largest and most vibrant communities of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers across the world. For several years, KHRP has been exploring ways in which the organisation could

contribute to reframing the debate about Kurdish migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and the situation in the Kurdish regions.

With the support of Atlantic Philanthropies, in September 2003 KHRP initiated a feasibility study to provide an assessment of the current needs of the Kurdish community. It will also identify appropriate contributions that KHRP could make to the alleviation of the problems faced by the Kurdish community as a whole.

One of the proposals to be considered during the feasibility study is the establishment of a

Feeney Policy and Research Centre, named for Michael Feeney, a founder and former Chair of the Board of KHRP who passed away in 2001.

As one who helped to first establish KHRP in December 1992 and who constantly played a leading role in its steady growth, Michael Feeney's contribution to KHRP is inestimable. His passing in 2001 left KHRP and the hundreds of people in the wider Kurdish and refugee communities of Britain with the loss of a great campaigner and tireless ally in the struggle for human rights.



Photo: Umit Ozatik

Michael Feeney (1949 – 2001). Diocese of Westminster and Advisor on refugees to the late Cardinal Hume (Archbishop of Westminster), was KHRP Founder, former Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the KHRP International Board of Patrons.

UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

KHRP takes first step in potential legal challenge to controversial BP pipeline

On 3 July 2003, KHRP initiated a legal challenge against the controversial Baku-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline in conjunction with Friends of the Earth (England Wales & Northern Ireland), the Ilisu Dam Campaign, Corner House, PLATFORM and a number of affected Kurdish villagers.

In a detailed legal submission

drawn to the Host Government Agreement (HGA) signed between Turkey and the BTC Consortium, which exempts the Consortium from all Turkish laws, bar the constitution, that may affect the project. This "stabilisation clause" gives primacy to the "Economic Equilibrium" of the project, by

obliging Turkey to compensate the Consortium, if new laws are introduced that adversely affect the profitability of the pipeline. Accordingly, not only is the project exempted from current and future laws that may affect it,

Turkey would be obliged to change or indeed repeal such laws altogether. Such entrenchment is unknown in any European country and serves to place the project above EU law, thereby placing Turkey in potential breach of its EU law obligations. Furthermore, this financial liability decreases the likelihood of Turkey closing down the pipeline, except in response to

an "imminent" threat which rules out any preventative action that may be taken against potential threats. This is a grave cause for concern, not least because the majority of threats are cumulative. With no clear distinction between a cumulative and imminent threat, it is likely that damaging incidents will occur as preventative action will not be taken against potential threats, in order to preclude any financial penalty.

In addition to the legal implications of the HGA agreements, Turkey is also required to implement EU laws on environmental impact assessments (EIAs). However the pipeline project violates these laws on at least nine counts including the failure to ensure effective consultation or sufficient compensation. Indeed in Turkey, the right of freedom of expression is so suppressed that effective consultation is impossible. This complaint is supported by statements, from villagers *directly* affected by the

project and represents only a small proportion of those intending to bring similar action.

Turkey's signing of the HGA not only calls into question its commitment to EU accession, but also should provide the catalyst for European Commission engagement. Indeed the European



The NGP pipeline passes through Pirede village on the same route as the proposed BTC

to the European Commission, KHRP and its partners highlighted how the legal agreements that underpin the pipeline are in potential and/or actual breach of EU, human rights and international law and undermine Turkey's EU Accession Partnership, by constituting a clear move away from the *acquis* of Community law and the Copenhagen Criteria.

Attention in particular was



Scar caused by the NGP pipeline.

Commission is empowered and even obliged to act in the event of Turkey acting contrary to its accession obligations. Under Accession Partnership legislation, the European Commission is able to recommending to the European Council that all pre-accession assistance to Turkey be frozen, until such time as the

continued on page 12

provisions of the HGA/IGA are brought into line with EC Law or until after the pipeline project. In addition, it can also recommend the suspension of accession negotiations with Turkey until all potentially unlawful aspects of the HGA/IGA have been rectified or pipeline project is concluded.

KHRP and its partner organisations have requested that the European Commission view this matter with the utmost urgency and take all measures available to them, especially as the project is already underway. The European Commission has promised that the developments of the project will be followed and the human rights situation examined in their regular report in November 2003.

Letter to the European Commission, Legal Opinion, anonymised witness statements of affected villagers and explanatory notes are available from KHRP or www.khrp.org



The Turkish coast west of Ceyhan/Yumurtalik marine export terminal, where the BTC pipeline would end

Iraqi oil pipeline sabotaged

On 16 August 2003 the key Iraqi pipeline running from Kirkuk in South Kurdistan to Ceyhan in Turkey was sabotaged in Baiji, an area north of Tikrit, the former stronghold of Saddam Hussein. It was the second attack within three days of the resumption in oil exports through the pipeline and was clearly aimed at halting the restoration of the oil industry, deemed vital to Iraqi reconstruction. Oil exportation

suffered a further blow, when around the same time power shortages shut down Iraq's other main export route, the Mina al-Bakr pipeline.

Repairs to the line are expected to take between two weeks and a month to complete. However, fears remain that despite the reported 5000 Iraqis hired to guard the line, further attacks will be attempted.

The attacks on the Kirkuk-

Ceyhan pipeline, whilst indicative of the severe security problems faced by the country, are at the same time a cause for concern across the border in Turkey. The vulnerability of large-scale installations has been clearly demonstrated, for in addition to the oil sabotage, 300,000 people in Baghdad were left without water when an explosion damaged a water pipeline and sewage treatment centres were sabotaged.

UN Human Rights Body Takes First Step Towards Regulation of Transnational Corporations

On 13 August 2003 the Sub-Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution containing the "Draft Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights." The resolution has been widely received as indicating for the first time that international companies will now need to demonstrate the same accountability to and respect for international human rights standards as currently expected of states.

The resolution incorporates guidelines to ensure that international companies comply with existing international human rights, labour and environmental standards. It will be sent to the UN Commission on Human Rights, for consideration and adoption at its next annual meeting in March 2004.

If successful this resolution paves the way for these companies and their activities to be monitored by the UN in order to ascertain their compliance with international standards. The move is however expected to face a concerted battle by affected companies, especially as the commentary accompanying the resolution suggests that it be supported by some form of overseeing committee empowered to take action in incidents of non-compliance. This initiative contrasts sharply with the current voluntary nature of corporate social responsibility.

UPDATE ON KHRP LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY PROJECT

A State of Injustice: Our Case to the European Court of Human Rights

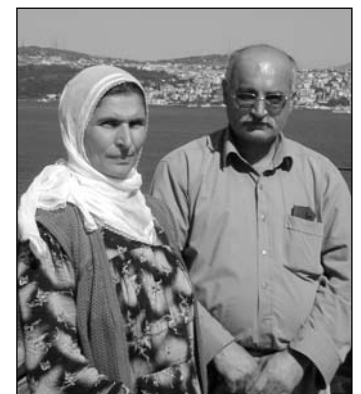
In July 2003, a KHRP delegation met with applicants in two of its cases, Aksoy v. Turkey and Akman v. Turkey, in order to monitor Turkey's progress in meeting its undertakings and implementing the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. Decided in 1996 and 2001 respectively, both cases became legal landmarks throughout Europe.

The case Aksoy v. Torture concerns the torture in 1992 of Mehmet Zeki Aksoy, a 31-year-old Kurdish metal worker. KHRP took a case to the European Court on his

behalf maintaining that he had been blindfolded, stripped naked, beaten, subject to "Palestinian hanging" and electrocuted during police custody. On 16 April 1994, the applicant was shot dead. He had been threatened with death in order to make him withdraw his application to Strasbourg. The case was continued by his father, Mehmet Serif Aksoy. In 1996, the European Court found Turkey responsible for the torture of his son. It was the first time the European Court found it established that an individual had been tortured anywhere in Europe. In spite of this, the KHRP delegation in July 2003 found that Mehmet Serif Aksoy

continues to be subjected to heavy torture and prosecutions to this day.

The case Akman v. Turkey concerns the fatal shooting of the applicant's 22-year-old son by Turkish security forces on 19 January 1997. In June 2001, the case became a legal landmark when, following unsuccessful attempts to reach a friendly settlement, the European Court agreed to "strike out" the case without the applicant's consent on the basis of a declaration from the Turkish Government and an ex gratia payment. KHRP's appeal to the



KHRP Applicants Nuriye and Faysal Akman, Istanbul, July 2003

continued on page 12

Grand Chamber that the decision deprived the applicant of a legal remedy was rejected. KHRP was instrumental in bringing together NGOs across Europe to lobby on proposed reforms to the European Court which had impacted on its decision to strike out the Akman case.

The applicant Faysal Akman and his wife Nuriye met the KHRP delegation in July 2003 to give their account of the Court's decision and of the events surrounding the killing of their son:

"On the night of the terrible event there was a conflict in the town. There were PKK guerrillas nearby. Personally I didn't meet any of them, but we heard that they were coming sometimes. We heard later that the guerrillas had killed policemen. The conflict started at about 10pm. We heard gun sounds until morning. It was quiet for 1½ hours before the attack on our house.

I did not sleep that night at all because of fear. Because our sons and daughters were taken into custody before that time, I was not expecting the killing but I was waiting for them to come and take some of the children into custody again. Before that night three of our sons had been taken into custody several times. Ali was the most tortured between them. Murat was also in custody for three days and tortured but not that much. One time his older brothers were making fun of him: "You cried most when you were under torture! You're not strong!" Because he was a shepherd and would go to the mountains to take the sheep, he was being asked in custody, "What do you see when you go to the mountains?"

It was early morning when they came to our house and took their vengeance on us. They had no reason to come and kill him. The reason why the state killed him was because of

language, it was just because we were Kurdish.

We heard there was a knock at the door. I didn't want to open the door; but I understood that they would open it by force if I didn't allow them to enter. They asked, "In which room are your children staying?" They didn't ask Murat's name specifically but they knew him because he had just come out of military service and it was a small place. I was going in front of them, they pulled me back, and then we heard gunfire.

After the gunfire they collected us all in one room. They cut off the telephone lines and asked us to wait. Two of the police told us not to leave.

[Murat's wife] Semse came and waited for a time. The only thing from her mouth was, "They killed Murat." She said it a few times and was also very upset. Most of them were crying. Semse said after that, "I wish they had also killed me." We were not strong enough to hug, we were crying.

Because it was dark, they made us wait until the prosecutor could come to our house. I waited more than an hour, maybe 1½ hours...

... We heard the noise of a typewriter. We said we wanted to go and they accepted. So I went and looked. All of us came. Halime was carrying the smaller girl. The smaller one was crying.

Murat was lying on the ground. They had put a gun on the right hand side of him. There was a cartridge on the left hand side. There were four bullets in his body – in the right of his waist and three in his head. The bullets came from behind – his face was good. I touched his face. I understood his jaw bone was broken.

At the funeral there was very heavy repression. We partly received permission to bury our

son, but relatives were not allowed to come with the coffin to the grave. In our culture this is important. People were scared and threatened, so the majority did not come. All the people who dared to come were arrested. Three or four of them were held in custody for 20 days and heavily tortured.

After that event, not only was our son killed, but there was a problem about property rights and we could not make use of our property. We were forced out. We applied to return but we were told we could only if we signed documents saying that we had been evacuated by the PKK. We know who evacuated us: it was directly the security forces. We didn't sign such documents so we had property problems.

Just 15 days after that event we first made an application in the Turkish courts. There was a decision of non-jurisdiction.

We went to the European Court of Human Rights. We were very happy with the help of our human rights lawyers, they helped us very much. We wanted justice certainly. We wanted general justice because we had been punished for many years. We wanted to win the case and for our counterpart to be punished. We also expected compensation. If we hadn't got that compensation we would be hungry now. We are very unhappy to live on such a resource but it is going to quite improve us. But you can never compare material things with a life.

When the Court made its settlement, I was unhappy. We were expecting they [the criminals] would be punished. Instead they went for that [friendly settlement] and it upsets us very much. But despite everything we are grateful to the European Court of Human Rights. If it was in Turkish courts we still would not

have received this result.

Murat and Semse stayed married only 55 days. Semse was pregnant when that event happened. Now we have a grandson, also called Murat. Little Murat has a very strong resemblance to Murat. Their personalities resemble each other. He calls us "father" and "small mother". When he comes and calls me "father", it reminds me of my son.

If I had the opportunity I would love to explain our story to the European Court of Human Rights the way I have told you today. I am not sure about how this would have affected the conclusion. But I would say that this is a state where there is injustice and I would require there to be justice in this state.

We want all of these events to be over now. We want a general amnesty and to live in peace. I think war is never a good method. Things are going to get worse if you don't forgive each other."

The delegation's interview with Mehmet Serif Aksoy will be published in Newline 24, Winter 2003.

Nuriye Akman, July 2003



Displaced Villagers Obtain Justice: ECHR Condemns Turkey for Village Destruction

*Yöyler v Turkey (26973/95)
Village destruction*

On 24 July 2003, the European Court held that Turkish security forces deliberately destroyed a man's house and possessions, thus forcing his family to leave the village, in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The applicant, Celatettin Yöyler, was the imam (religious leader) of Dirimpinar, attached to the Malazgirt district in the province of Muş. Gendarmes raided his village and burned down his house on 18 September 1994, prompting Mr Yöyler to leave the village with his wife and children. The house and possessions of a further six

villagers around him were also destroyed. KHRP submitted an application on the applicant's behalf on 11 March 1995.

The Court noted that his home had been burned down in front of members of his family, depriving them of shelter and support and obliging them to leave their home and family friends. This

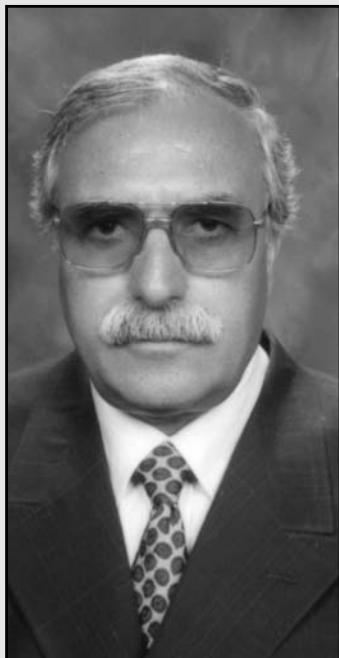
was held to have constituted a violation of the prohibition on inhuman and degrading treatment (Article 3).

The Court also held that there was no doubt that the acts also constituted grave and unjustified interference with the applicant's rights to respect for his private and family life and home, and to

the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions, in violation of Article 8 and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 of the Convention.

The Court concluded that the authorities had failed to conduct a thorough and effective investigation into the applicant's allegations. Furthermore, access to any other available remedy, including a claim for compensation, had also been denied to him, in violation of the right to an effective remedy (Article 13).

KHRP will continue to monitor the case to ensure that the Turkish Government complies with the Court's ruling.



“You have been successful in my case against the cruellest of cruelties. I don't see this case as only my individual problem. This case is part of the justified struggle of a nation against cruelties. I would like to thank all the people at KHRP who spent their efforts on this case. I have witnessed their devotion to law and human rights and the principle of equality. I wish you success in your work.”

Celalettin Yöyler, KHRP applicant,
5 August 2003

ECHR rules 11-day detention in Turkish police custody unlawful

Nuray Şen v Turkey (41478/98)
Right to liberty and security

On 17 June 2003, the European Court ruled that Turkey violated Article 5 (right to liberty and security) of the European Convention by detaining a woman for eleven days before bringing her before a judge. The KHRP applicant Nuray Şen was the director of the Mesopotamia Cultural Centre, based in Istanbul, which researches, examines, collates and exhibits, with a view to their preservation, the culture and art of the peoples who have lived and are living in Mesopotamia, mainly Kurds.

On 10 November 1995, Mrs Şen was arrested on suspicion of being a member of the

Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK, now KADEK), and taken to the Gendarme Intelligence and Anti-terrorism Headquarters in Diyarbakir. She was brought before the prosecutor at the Diyarbakir State Security Court on 21 November 1995. With the assistance of KHRP, the applicant submitted her complaints to the Court on 15 April 1996.

She complained, under Article 5(3) (right to be brought promptly before a judge) of the Convention, that she had been held in police custody for 11 days before being brought before a judge. The Turkish Government maintained that 11 days' detention was justified on account of the scale of PKK violence in Southeast Turkey at

the time and relied on a notice of derogation from certain rights protected by the Convention which it had sent to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 6 August 1990. That derogation was revoked on 29 January 2001.

The Court noted that the Government had not given any reasons why the situation in Southeast Turkey had been such as to make it impossible to bring the applicant before a judge earlier. Consequently, it considered that the crisis in the region could not justify the period of detention in question. The Court held unanimously that there had been a violation of Article 5(3).

In a further application to the Court assisted by KHRP, the

applicant also complains that her husband Mehmet Şen was killed in circumstances engaging the responsibility of the State.



Nuray Şen

Grand Chamber to consider Öcalan's landmark ECHR judgment

On 9 July 2003 the Grand Chamber agreed to consider the landmark ECHR judgment of *Abdullah Öcalan v. Turkey* upon the request of both Öcalan's representatives and the Turkish Government.

On 9 June 2003, the applicant's representatives requested the case to be referred to the Grand Chamber pursuant to Article 43 of the Convention on the basis that it raises a number of serious questions affecting the interpretation of the Convention and a number of serious issues of general importance. Likewise, the Turkish Government submitted its request for a referral to the Grand Chamber on 12 June 2003.

In one of the most significant cases to be decided for many years, the Court held on 18 March 2003 that capital punishment has now

come to be regarded “as an unacceptable form of punishment” which “can no longer be seen as having any legitimate place in a democratic society”. It was held that the capital sentence imposed on Mr Öcalan must be considered, in itself, to amount to inhuman treatment. The Court also found that Mr Öcalan's rights under Article 6 (right to a fair trial) of the Convention had been violated in several respects. Finally the Court held that Mr Öcalan's rights under Article 5 (right to liberty and security) had been violated, stating that the length of his detention before being brought to a judge and the inability to challenge his detention at the domestic level violated both Article 5(3) and 5(4).

Öcalan brings second ECHR application

Following on from the landmark European Court judgment of 18 March 2003, Abdullah Öcalan is submitting a second case to the European Court concerning the conditions of his detention, the imposition of a mandatory life sentence without parole and the pursuit of further criminal proceedings against him in Turkey.

The applicant argues that he is held in effective social isolation and has only very sporadic visits from his family and legal representatives as a result of the restrictions on access to Imrali island. It is his contention that these conditions of detention violate Articles 3 (prohibition of torture and ill-treatment), Article 8 (right to privacy) and Article 11 (right to freedom of assembly) of the Convention.

He complains that the imposition of the mandatory life sentence without parole violates Article 3 (prohibition of torture and ill-treatment).

In respect of the domestic proceedings against him, he complains that the restrictions on his access to lawyers disclose ongoing violations of Article 6 (right to a fair trial) of the Convention.

He submits that he has no available domestic remedies in respect of any of his complaints.

Village destruction and torture case declared admissible

Halis Aksakal v Turkey (37850/97)
(Village destruction, prohibition of torture)

On 1 July 2003, the European Court declared admissible a case concerning the village destruction of Gorbeyli and torture and inhuman and degrading treatment of villagers by security forces.

On 5 May 1995, an explosion came out from a military controlled area in the village of Şêxan (Gorbeyli) in Diyarbakir province. The security forces took care of the wounded before coming into the village to destroy the houses. They also subjected the inhabitants of the village to beatings and threaten to kill them if they did not leave the village before the military force returned again in three days. On 12 May 1995, the security forces returned to burn down the village and subjected the inhabitants to inhuman treatment. The applicant subsequently lodged a complaint with the authorities but no legal remedies were made available. KHRP submitted an application on behalf of Halis Aksakal on 3 November 1995.

On 1 July 2003, the Court unanimously declared admissible the Applicant's complaints under Articles 3 (prohibition of torture), Article 6 (right to a fair trial), Article 8 (right to privacy) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention.



The village of Şêxan (Gorbeyli) in Diyarbakir province was destroyed

Update on the International Criminal Court

The Assembly of State Parties (ASP) met from 8 to 12 September 2003 in order to consider the election of key officials of the International Criminal Court, the 2004 ICC budget and important decisions concerning the ASP secretariat.

On 4 July, the ICC reached its first year of existence with the solemn undertaking of its Registrar Mr. Bruno Cathala during an open session of the Court, having been appointed to a five-year term on 24 June 2003.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims are expected to be elected at this session. One seat has been assigned to each UN regional grouping. The establishment of the Trust Fund for Victims is viewed as a milestone in fulfilling the ICC's vision of justice for victims and its commitment to reparative justice.

A further 2 countries have ratified the Rome Statute, the most recent being Georgia on 16 July 2003, bringing the total to 92 countries. However, as of 5 September 2003, still only 2 states have ratified the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC), which requires ratification by 10 states to come into force. KHRP urges member states to ratify the agreement in order to guarantee the effective and independent functioning of the Court. KHRP is a member of the network of NGOs advocating for an effective, just and independent International Criminal Court.

New fair trial application lodged

Sami Gören v. Turkey (21591/03)
(fair trial/ lack of effective remedy)

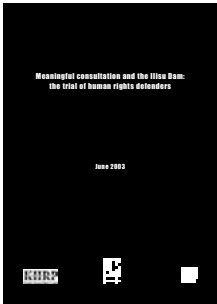
On 3 September 2003, KHRP lodged a new application concerning the dismissal of the Applicant from his position as public prosecutor in Posof/ Ardahan by the Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors. The Applicant alleges that he was dismissed on grounds of his religious belief. Furthermore, he submits that he was denied access to a court and he rebukes the lack of an effective remedy against decisions taken by the Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors. The case raises issues concerning Articles 6 (1), 9, 13, 14 and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention.

Update on proposals to reform the European Court

KHRP is continuing to meet actively with the NGO coalition it initiated working on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights and lobbying to preserve the rights of the Convention.

Following the meeting of the Committee of Ministers from 14 to 15 May 2003 during which decisions on the key areas of the reform were taken (see the Declaration "Guaranteeing the long-term effectiveness of the European Court of Human Rights" of 15 May 2003) the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) met in Strasbourg from 17 to 20 June 2003. A main part of the agenda was the follow-up to the Declaration which includes the drafting of the amending protocol. The work is due to be completed by April 2004. Until then, KHRP and the NGO coalition intends to lobby national Governments to share information with civil society in order to allow a broad discussion regarding the consequences of the forthcoming changes.

New and Upcoming KHRP Reports

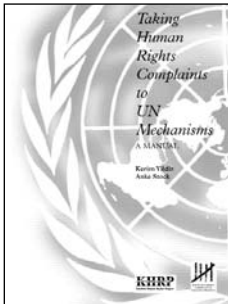


Meaningful Consultation and the Ilisu Dam: the Trial of Human Rights Defenders

This trial observation report, published jointly by KHRP, BHRC and the Corner House, concerns the trial of human rights defender and lawyer Mahmut Vefa, former General Secretary and current board member of the Diyarbakir Bar Association. In July 2001, the UK Government requested public comment on aspects of the proposed Ilisu dam in order to inform its decision

whether to provide £160 million backing for the project. The Ilisu Dam Campaign, a group of organisations and individuals concerned about the environmental, human rights and cultural impacts that would follow from the construction of the dam, responded by organising a formal submission from a number of experts including Mahmut Vefa. He gave voice to the concerns expressed by numerous project-affected people and organisations in his submission. Following reproduction of this article in a legal journal, Mr. Vefa was charged under Article 159 for "overtly insulting the moral integrity of the Government". The KHRP in conjunction with BHRC and the Corner House sent a delegation to observe the first hearing of the trial on 18 March 2003. This report provides the findings and recommendations of the delegation. It concludes that despite legal reforms, Turkish authorities continue to suppress "dissident" voices, calling into question its claimed adherence to EU standards. The report was written and edited by Peter Lowrie, barrister at 10-11 Grey's Inn Square and KHRP PR Officer Rochelle Harris.

ISBN 1 900175 60 6



Taking Human Rights Complaints to UN Mechanisms – A Manual

KHRP started its litigation programme in 1992. In conjunction with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC), KHRP initiated a new human rights training and internship programme in 2000 focusing on Armenia and Azerbaijan. A core component of the project is the provision of expert training about international human rights mechanisms, including the European

Court of Human Rights and UN mechanisms. The objective is to ensure that members of the legal and human rights community are sufficiently informed about the legal obligations determined by international instruments, up-to-date jurisprudence of the courts, and how to use the mechanisms available. As part of this programme, this manual is intended to provide a guide to taking human rights complaints to UN mechanisms. The UN aims to achieve the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights through three categories of human rights bodies: the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, those established by the UN Charter (Charter-based bodies) and those established by provisions in specific legal instruments (treaty-based bodies). This Manual provides an overview of the different mechanisms and guides to their use. In addition, the Manual also includes key texts, such as texts of the reservations and declarations entered into by member states in the Kurdish regions, model complaint forms and guidelines for the submission of complaints. The report was written and edited by KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz and Legal Officer Dr. Anke Stock.

ISBN 1 900175 61 4



Taking Cases to the European Court of Human Rights – A Manual – Armenian language

Intended to inform practitioners and interested individuals on the practical usage of the Strasbourg mechanisms, KHRP has published an Armenian language edition of its manual, *Taking Cases to the European Court of Human Rights*. The manual provides commentaries on the practice and procedure of the European Court, in addition to key texts such as the

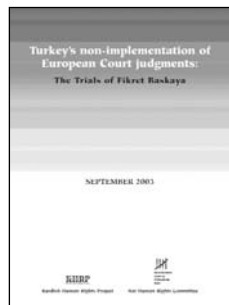
European Convention, the Court's application form and details of the legal aid available from the Court. The Manual was also distributed to human rights lawyers and individuals at KHRP's training sessions in Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to aid them in utilising the European Court of Human Rights to improve respect for human rights on the ground.



Taking Cases to the European Court of Human Rights – A Manual – Turkish Language

Intended to inform practitioners and interested individuals on the practical usage of the Strasbourg mechanisms, KHRP has published a Turkish language edition of its manual, *Taking Cases to the European Court of Human Rights*. The manual provides commentaries on the practice and procedure of the European Court, in addition to key texts such as the European

Convention, the Court's application form and details of the legal aid available from the Court. The Manual was also distributed to human rights lawyers and individuals at KHRP's training sessions in Turkey in order to aid them in utilising the European Court of Human Rights to improve respect for human rights on the ground.



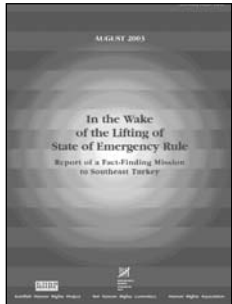
Turkey's non-implementation of European Court judgments: the trials of Fikret Baskaya

This trial observation report comprises three case studies on freedom of expression, torture and proposed reforms of the European Court of Human Rights. In July 2003, a KHRP and BHRC delegation observed the trial of Fikret Baskaya, a leftist writer who was jailed for his dissident writings. In 1999, the European Court condemned Turkey for

violating freedom of expression in Baskaya's case. Nevertheless, in 2003 Mr. Baskaya faced a fresh prosecution for the eighth edition of the same book as well as a further retrial. Placing *Baskaya* in context, this report catalogues Turkey's free speech reforms and evidence of their inadequacy. The torture case study focuses on Serif Aksoy. The name Aksoy is synonymous with Europe's ban on torture, because of the case filed by KHRP on behalf of Serif's son Zeki in 1993. But in a gruesome irony, this mission discovered that Serif Aksoy continues to receive torture to this date. The report catalogues Turkey's torture reforms and evidence of their inadequacy. Finally, the delegation interviewed Mr. Akman, applicant in the landmark *Akman v. Turkey* case where the European

Court agreed to strike out the case, without the applicant's consent, on the basis of a declaration from the Turkish Government that did not precisely affirm the details of the killing and makes vague promises of implementation. The report concludes that, if the European Court is to continue to strike out cases on the basis of such undertakings, Turkey must first demonstrate its ability to implement the existing judgments of the European Court and its own domestic reforms. The report was written and edited by Michael Goldhaber, *American Lawyer* European correspondent and KHRP PR Officer Rochelle Harris.

ISBN 1 900175 63 0



In the Wake of the Lifting of State of Emergency Rule – Report of a Fact-Finding Mission to Southeast Turkey

In November 2002, the Turkish Parliament voted to lift the state of emergency legislation (OHAL). From 1987 onwards, state of emergency legislation had governed the majority of provinces in the Kurdish regions of Southeast Turkey. The Southeast region was effectively rendered a police state. A Fact-Finding Mission in August 2002 sent to assess the impact of

the earlier lifting of OHAL in two provinces concluded that there had been little effect on the human rights situation on the ground. In June 2003, KHRP, in conjunction with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) and Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakir branch, sent a second fact-finding mission to assess whether there are now concrete improvements, ten months after OHAL was lifted in its entirety. The delegation visited Bingöl, Diyarbakir, Ankara and Tunceli. The delegation concluded that even where OHAL has been lifted for almost a year, an effective police state continues to dominate all aspects of daily life. There has been an almost complete failure to secure the safe return of millions of displaced villagers who were forcibly evacuated from their homes by Turkish security forces, most in the 1990s. In fact, there had been some indications of an increase in torture, and certainly in incidents of intimidation and arbitrary detentions, in recent months.

ISBN 1 900175 62 2



Fact-Finding Mission to Iran

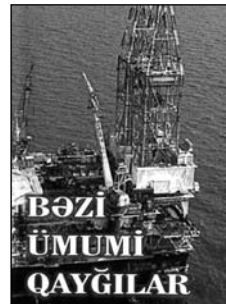
In May 2003, KHRP and the Kurdish Women's Charter sent a fact-finding mission to Iran to investigate human rights and women's rights. The mission observed that there are widespread abuses of human rights in the region. These notably relate to freedom of expression, freedom of religion and belief and discrimination against women. The mission found that Iranian Kurds suffer from a lack of political representation and

regional development. The delegation was informed of the Iranian government's prohibition of pro-Kurdish political parties and the lack of constitutional recognition for equal rights for women. The mission was particularly concerned at the absence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) focusing on human rights. Furthermore, the delegation was concerned at the discrimination against women in respect of "honour killings" and family rights including matters of inheritance, divorce and child custody.

ISBN 1 900175 64 9



Some Common Concerns: Imagining BP's Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey Pipelines System – Russian language



Some Common Concerns: Imagining BP's Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey Pipelines System – Azeri language

This is a study of an oil and gas pipeline system that has not yet been constructed. The pipelines systems' backers intend to build the pipelines through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey between early 2003 and late 2005. The project comprises two pipelines, one oil (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan or BTC) and one gas (South Caucasus Pipeline or SCP), both starting near Baku in Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea and passing through Tbilisi in Georgia. The complete system is referred to as the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey pipelines system-AGT.

This study asks and answers some of the most pressing questions related to the project such as: How safe would the AGT pipeline system be for the environment? Would the pipelines system exacerbate conflict? Would the people living along the AGT pipelines system actually benefit?

The report has been published jointly by KHRP, PLATFORM, the Corner House, Friends of the Earth International, Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale and CEE Bankwatch. Its publication in the Russian and Azeri languages will help inform communities affected by the pipeline of its social and environmental costs.

Forthcoming Reports

- Internally Displaced Persons in the Kurdish regions
- Fact-Finding Mission report on Iraq
- Report on Iraqi Kurds
- The Kurds in Syria
- Kurdish language rights throughout the Kurdish regions
- Torture in Turkey

Human Rights and Humanitarian NGOs Liaise over Iraq

On 8 July 2003, KHRP was invited to attend an NGO meeting to discuss constructive engagement for the rehabilitation of Iraq alongside representatives of British Red Cross, Care International UK, Helpage International and Save the Children UK. The meeting highlighted the need for NGO engagement, as they bring impartiality to reconstruction.

KHRP Addresses Investors in BTC Pipeline

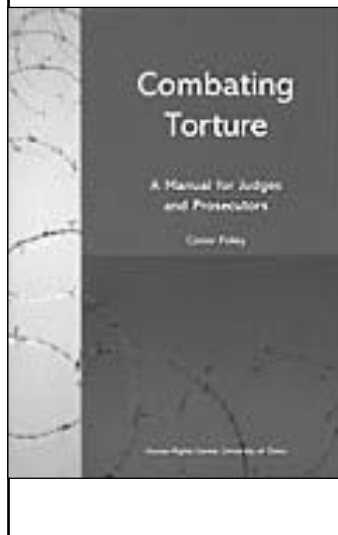
On 11 August 2003, KHRP attended the Responsible Investors Network's meeting with investors and other NGOs to discuss concerns over the BTC pipeline project. The meeting provided the opportunity for NGOs to raise their concerns over the project and to answer the investors' questions.

KHRP at Iranian Women's Conference

On 27 June 2003, KHRP was invited to make a presentation at the 14th Annual Conference of the Iranian Women's Studies Foundation (IWSF), which focused on Globalisation and its Impact on Women. The conference considered the competing definitions of globalisation, and testimonies of women's personal experiences of the impacts of globalisation.

KHRP Attends UK Foreign Office Launch of Handbook to Combat Torture

On 26 June 2003, KHRP was invited to attend the UK Foreign Commonwealth Office launch of the handbook "Combating Torture – A New Manual for Judges and Prosecutors", published by the University of Essex. The handbook outlines the duties and responsibilities of judges and prosecutors to prevent and investigate acts of torture, to ensure that those who perpetrate such acts are brought to justice and that their victims receive redress. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, addressing the reception, stated that the handbook counted on the "indisputable and indispensable expertise and experience of relevant NGOs, many of which are represented here today".



Legal Seminar on Implications of BP Pipeline for EU

On 14 July 2003, KHRP organised and made a presentation at a legal seminar on the implications of the BTC pipeline for EU accession in conjunction with the Corner House, Friends of the Earth and Philip Moser, a barrister and widely acknowledged specialist in EU law. The seminar provided a platform to present and discuss the implications of the legal Submission made to the European Commission, arguing that the controversial pipeline compromises human rights and environmental protection, and violations Turkey's accession agreements for entry into the EU. The seminar was attended by Members of the European Parliament, BP representatives, journalists, members of the legal profession and interested individuals. (See page 11)

KHRP undertakes research on Iraq

With the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust, KHRP is undertaking research into the situation of the Kurds in South Kurdistan and Iraq, evaluating both the continuing legacy of Saddam Hussein's regime and making recommendations for the future. Among other topics, the research considers the Iraqi Constitution, the humanitarian situation, the infrastructure and natural resources. In recent months, KHRP has held meetings with representatives of the Kurdish administration in South Kurdistan (including PUK and KDP), figures within the Kurdish and exile community and civil society organisations. KHRP has also participated in various conferences and consultations. A report reflecting the findings of the research is forthcoming.

KHRP Legal Review reaches wider audience

The KHRP Legal Review is to be added to the Legal Journal Index, a resource widely used by the legal profession, students and libraries throughout the UK, Europe and elsewhere. Known as the most authoritative online legal information service, it appears on a variety of platforms including Current Legal Information and Westlaw. Inclusion of the journal's case summaries, analysis and articles in the Legal Journals Index will enable access to a wider audience of libraries, law students and lawyers globally.



Action Against Honour Killings

In August 2003, Dr. Nazand Bezighani of the Paris-based organisation Kurdish Women's Action Against Honour Killings (KWAANK) visited KHRP's London office as part of ongoing work in relation to women's rights in the Kurdish regions. KWAANK is currently organising an art exhibition about Kurdish women's lives.



Nazand Begikhani of Kurdish Women's Action Against Honour Killings at KHRP's London office, August 2003

Kurdish Director wins Venice Film Festival award

A Kurdish film director, Hiner Saleem, has won the San Marco Prize at the Venice Film Festival for his film 'Vodka Lemon'. Mr Saleem fled from Iraqi Kurdistan in the 1980s, first to Syria and later to Italy and France. Kurdish issues have been brought to the attention of an international audience through his films, including 'The Liberation of Kurdistan' (1997) and 'Beyond our Dreams' (2000).

Pakistan former Prime Minister has Kurdish heritage



Benazir Bhutto

Benazir Bhutto's Kurdish origins were recently revealed when she announced for the first time that her mother was Kurdish. Bhutto continued that this made her feel like a Kurd and paid tribute to Kurdish culture, saying that it played a "big role in my becoming Prime Minister". She emphasised her interest in the welfare of Kurdish people and stressed, "A solution of democracy and peace absolutely has to be found."

Kurdish Women's Rights and Charter

KHRP is continuing its meetings with the organisation Kurdish Women's Charter in order to prepare a charter outlining the minimum human rights and fundamental freedoms to which all women in the Kurdish regions should be entitled. The Charter will be distributed in order to promote women's rights and raise awareness.

Office news



On 5 September 2003, KHRP staff and interns bid a fond farewell to our friend Pinar Ceyhanlilar (front row, far right), who was Projects Secretary/Administrator since 2001. All at KHRP would like to wish her a speedy recovery from her operation and all the best in future.

Update on KHRP Media Relations

A vital part of KHRP's public awareness strategy is the provision of interviews to press and broadcast media. Since Spring 2003, KHRP has provided information and interviews to, among others, Reuters (USA), Dow Jones (USA), CBS News (USA), BBC Radio London, BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Scotland (Newsnight), Justabout Productions (UK), Radio Free Europe (Prague), the Sun newspaper (UK), the Herald newspaper (UK), the New Scientist (UK), the Environmental Business magazine and freelance journalists.

KHRP Information Sheets

In 2003, KHRP has continued to update the wide range of KHRP information sheets which offer information about significant international human rights and legal issues relevant to the Kurds. These include specifics about KHRP's work and extensive information on the Kurdish regions, including contact details for key NGOs and human rights groups working both in the Kurdish regions and internationally. KHRP's information sheets were originally created in response to the overwhelming number of requests for assistance received by KHRP. Information sheets available include:

- Decisions against Turkey before the European Court of Human Rights
- Decisions on Admissibility in KHRP cases
- United Nations: Overview of the UN Human Rights

mechanisms and how to use them

- An Overview of Kurdish History
- Iraq Statistics
- Situation of Kurdish women in Southern Kurdistan
- Iran Statistics
- Syria Statistics
- A History of the Kurds of Turkey
- Background to the state of emergency in Turkey
- Environmental issues affecting people living in the Kurdish regions of Turkey
- Turkey Statistics
- Turkey's Political Prisoners
- Language Rights in Turkey
- State Security Courts in Turkey
- Turkey's Death Penalty
- Turkey's Arms Trade
- Turkey's application for EU membership
- Turkish Legal System
- Website contacts
- NGOs in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Azerbaijan and Armenia
- Organisations working on the Kurdish Issue (UK)
- Refugees/Displaced Persons
- Forced Evacuations

Calendar of Events

21 September 2003	International Day of Peace
24-26 September 2003	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Pre-Executive Committee Consultations with NGOs, Geneva
24-26 September 2003	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-The Hague
26 September 2003	Baku-Ceyhan Campaign public awareness event about the BP pipeline. 12pm. EBRD, Exchange Square, London.
29 September – 3 October	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Executive Committee, 54th Session
29 September- 2 October	Negotiating Peace in the Middle East - conference organised by an Executive Agency of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Wilton Park, West Sussex UK
1 October 2003	KHRP attends book launch investigating Italian oil company ENI and BTC pipeline at the Italian Senate in Rome
6-17 October 2003	OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, Poland. KHRP attending sessions on fundamental freedoms, tolerance, discrimination and rule of law.
5-6 November 2003	113th Session of the Committee of Ministers, Moldova.
25 February 2004	NGO Consultation Meeting regarding the proposed reforms to the European Court of Human Rights.

YES I/We would like to support the work of KHRP
Please find enclosed a donation for

£500 _____ £250 _____ £100 _____ £50 _____
£20 _____ £10 _____ £ _____ Other _____

NB Please note that certain gifts may be eligible for tax relief
ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Cheques should be made payable to:
Kurdish Human Rights Project

WE ACCEPT CAF Charity Card
I wish to donate by CAF Charity Card
Please debit my Charity Card for the sum of £

My card number is:

Expiry Date:

Date ___/___/___ Signature

Please send me a deed of covenant / gift aid form so I can make
my donation more effective by enabling KHRP to claim the tax
paid.

Name

Address

.....Postcode

TelFax

Please return to:
KHRP
2 New Burlington Place Tel: 020 7287 2772
(off Regent Street) Fax: 020 7734 4927
LONDON W1S 3HP Email: khrp@khrp.demon.co.uk

Newsline is published every three months by the KHRP. Materials in *Newsline* can be reproduced without prior permission.

However, please credit *Newsline*, and send us a copy of the publication.

KHRP
2 New Burlington Place
(off Regent Street)
London
W1S 2HP
Tel: +44 020 287 2772
Fax: +44 020 7734 4927
Email: khrp@khrp.demon.co.uk
<http://www.khrp.org>

Designed by Jude Keen

Project Information

The organisation

The KHRP is a non-political, independent human rights organisation, founded in December 1992 and based in London. Its founding members include human rights lawyers, barristers, academics and doctors.

The Project is registered as a company limited by guarantee (company number 2922108) and is also a registered charity (charity number 1037236).

The KHRP is committed to the protection of the human rights of all persons within the Kurdish regions of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Caucasus, irrespective of race, religion, sex, political persuasion or other belief or opinion.

Aims

- To promote awareness of the situation of Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Caucasus.

- To bring an end to the violation of the rights of the Kurds in these countries.
- To promote the protection of the human rights of the Kurdish people everywhere.
- Using the reports to promote awareness of the plight of the Kurds on the part of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the national parliamentary bodies and inter-governmental organisations including the United Nations.
- Liaising with other independent human rights organisations working in the same field, and co-operating with lawyers, journalists and others concerned with human rights.
- Offering assistance to indigenous human rights groups and lawyers in the form of advice, training and seminars in international human rights mechanisms.
- Assisting individuals in the bringing of human rights cases before the European Commission of Human Rights.

Methods

- Monitoring legislation, including emergency legislation, and its application.
- Conducting investigations and producing reports on the human rights situation of the Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Caucasus by sending trial observers and fact-finding missions.
- Using reports to promote awareness of the plight of the Kurds on the part of the committees established under human rights treaties to monitor the compliance of states.