



KURDISH HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT NEWSLINE

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The EU, Turkey and the Kurds



ABOVE LEFT: KHRP was one of the organisers of the Conference 'The EU, Turkey and the Kurds' held in the European Parliament in Brussels, 22 – 23 November. ABOVE RIGHT: KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz speaks as a panel member at the Conference

The European Union is to decide whether Turkey is to be granted a specific date to begin accession talks on 17 December. Conscious of the importance of NGOs and individuals with regional expertise exchanging views on Turkey's accession, KHRP and its partner organisations hosted a conference at the European Parliament on 22 and 23 November 2004. The

conference was convened in part in response to the failure of the October report of the European Commission to address the situation of the Kurds, including the resurgence of the conflict in the Kurdish regions in the South East, and was intended more broadly to exchange ideas and formulate a constructive and coherent response to Turkey's impending commencement of

EU accession negotiations.

The conference, jointly hosted by KHRP, Rafto Foundation (Norway) and Medico International (Germany), assessed human rights concerns in Turkey including judicial, democratic and parliamentary reform; culture and language rights; freedom of expression; and the rights of internally displaced persons to return to their villages and to compesa-

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KHRP appeals landmark ECHR judgment in *Issa*

The European Court of Human Rights delivered its eagerly-anticipated judgment in the landmark case of *Issa and Others v. Turkey* (31821/96) on 16 October 2004. The international community has observed the case's progression closely, expecting it to determine controversial areas of international law such as the human rights obligations

of British troops while serving in Iraq. KHRP has made submissions in the case over the past nine years since being contacted by the applicants, six Kurdish shepherdesses in northern Iraq, in 1995.

The case concerns seven Kurdish shepherds who were killed in the course of a military operation conducted by the Turkish army in northern

Iraq in April 1995. The shepherds' mutilated corpses were found, with ears, tongues and genitals missing, three days after they had been taken away by Turkish officers. The applicants - the widows of five of the shepherds and the mother of one - complained of violations of Articles 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 14 and 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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Director's Letter



Dear friends,

KHRP has been closely involved since the last edition of Newsline in events unfolding in Brussels. The release on October 6th of the European Commission's report on Turkey's progress towards accession, and the subsequent recommendation that accession negotiations be opened following the meeting of the EU Council on 17th December is of historic significance for the Kurds. KHRP is hopeful that the accession process will prove instrumental in bringing about real change in Turkey, securing democratic freedoms and respect for the rule of law and ultimately generating an enduring resolution to the conflict in the Kurdish regions.

As the year draws to a close, KHRP reflects upon the dramatic events of 2004 in the fortunes of the Kurds and the far-reaching

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Director's Letter

changes in their prospects, particularly in Iraq and Turkey. The Kurdish issue is now more integrated into European and international affairs than at any time in the recent past.

KHRP also recalls the appalling human rights abuses still occurring throughout the Kurdish regions which inform KHRP's continued commitment to utilising international human rights mechanisms to bring governments to account for violating their international obligations.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who have assisted KHRP in 2004, including our regional partners, board members, supporters, legal team, patrons, interns and staff, and particularly our funders, to all of whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

Kerim Yildiz
Executive Director
November 2004

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The EU, Turkey and the Kurds

tion.

The conference brought together leading human rights institutions, political parties, academics, writers, legal experts and prominent Turkish and Kurdish intellectuals from Europe, the United States, Africa and the Middle East. Speakers included KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz and Chairman Mark Muller, as well as Lord Russell-Johnston, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Akin Birdal, Vice-President of the International Federation of Human Rights, Jean Lambert MEP, Joost Lagendijk, Chair of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee in the European Parliament, and Yusuf Alatas, President of the Human Rights Association of Turkey. Further speakers included Celal Baslangic, a journalist from Turkey, Professor Michael Gunter and Peter Galbraith, leading experts on Kurdish issues, Philip Robins from the University of Oxford and Can Dundar of the Contemporary Journalists Association. The patron of the Conference was Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

The delegates of the Conference acknowledged the historic importance of the opening of accession negotiations for the Kurds and Turks, and welcomed accession as a rare opportunity to address the Kurdish issue within the wider global context and as a positive step in bringing democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a lasting peaceful solution to Turkey.

However, there remained concern that the underlying political desire to bring Turkey into the EU may undermine an objective analysis as to whether or not Turkey meets the Copenhagen Criteria, and that the accession process may be unduly accelerated at the expense of human rights and the achievement of an enduring solution to the Kurdish issue.

The Conference resulted in a series of declarations and calls for action which will be presented to the European Commission. The

delegates declared conditional support for the Commission's recommendation of 6 October 2004 to begin negotiations with Turkey to accede to the European Union, and for the three pillar approach of the European Commission to any future accession process.

It was further declared that the EU's approach to accession must include concrete proposals concerning domestic recognition and respect for Kurdish rights, including a constitutional resettlement in Turkey and the resolution of the Kurdish conflict based on an abandonment of ethnic nationalism. The Conference then called upon the Turkish Government to comply with its international obligations concerning minority rights and to ratify the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. It further appealed to the European Commission to publicly clarify its position on the conflict in Turkey and to use its good offices to develop a democratic platform for dialogue over an end to ethnic hostilities. All parties militarily engaged in the Kurdish conflict were called upon to commit themselves to peaceful forms of conflict resolution.

In addition, the Conference has called for the establishment of a standing Civic Commission on Turkish EU Accession, to consist of leading European, Turkish and Kurdish elected politicians, NGO's, academics, and human rights and environmental activists. Its purpose will be to monitor and regularly audit the Commission's performance in ensuring Turkey's full compliance with the accession criteria as defined within the meaning of the accession agreements. A further series of relevant standing committees may later be set up to deal with numerous thematic issues arising out of accession, and a series of yearly conferences are to be held to consider the annual audit reports of the Civic Commission on EU Turkish Accession.



ABOVE LEFT: Participants at the conference. ABOVE RIGHT: KHRP Chairman Mark Muller delivers a speech as part of a panel including Jean Lambert MEP

KHRP Presentation to OSCE: Kurds as a National Minority in Turkey

KHRP made a presentation to the OSCE Human Dimensions Implementation meeting in Warsaw from 4 to 15 October 2004. It addressed the failures of the Turkish Government to recognise Kurds as a significant minority group and therefore to accord them protection and promotion of their distinctive identity at the OSCE. The following is an abridged version of the presentation made:

Approximately 15 million individuals of Kurdish origin live within the Republic of Turkey. During the 15 years of armed conflict, 30,000 lives have been lost. An estimated 3 million Kurds have been forced from their homes since 1984 and the majority of these people now exist as internally displaced persons within Turkey. The security of all peoples in Turkey lies in acknowledging the Kurds as a distinct people who must be politically recognised as such.

At this time Kurds cannot possess personal names in their own language; the teaching of the Kurdish language remains banned from the state education system; and the expression and teaching of Kurdish culture is suppressed. This situation is in contravention of OSCE state commitments to protect the identity of national minorities within their territory, and create conditions for the promotion of that identity as laid out in the Copenhagen Document.

Under such conditions Kurdish children can also not be said to be receiving an education that fosters respect for their own cultural identity, language, and values as guaranteed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child; a treaty ratified by Turkey and fully endorsed by OSCE states.

Whilst recent legislative reforms have made steps towards granting Kurds the right to broadcast in and teach the Kurdish language, these gains are far from fully realised due to restrictive regulations. The Regulation on Broadcasting in Traditionally Used Languages and Dialects has discouraged minority language broadcasting due to the heavy restrictions on the nature and timing of programming.

There have been no attempts by the Government actively to develop incentives to promote broadcasting by Kurdish radio and television stations in their own language and on issues affecting the Kurdish people. Such initiatives have been presented by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities as representing the appropriate standards for participating states to meet in order to observe minority rights in broadcast media.

The reform that has allowed for the learning of different languages and dialects used by Turkish citizens in their daily lives, has also suffered difficulties in implementation. Regulations provide that courses may only be undertaken at existing private language teaching facilities, courses may only last for 10 weeks and no more than 18 hours per week and there are restrictions on the eligibility of both teachers and students. There is a wide gap between providing permission for private language



ABOVE: KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz at the OSCE Human Dimensions Implementation meeting in Warsaw

institutions to conduct Kurdish language courses and OSCE state commitments to provide adequate opportunities for minority groups to be educated of or in their “mother tongue”.

Discrimination against Kurds who seek to preserve or develop their identity continues. This year, for example, police and gendarmerie have harassed adults for applying to change their names to Kurdish ones. The singing of Kurdish songs at wedding celebrations has resulted in detentions. Widespread harassment of journalists, writers and publishers expressing oppositional political opinions, including pro-Kurdish views, continues.

Kurds are denied the opportunity to raise their concerns at a political level. The ECtHR has condemned the successive bans on pro-Kurdish political parties that have occurred. The electoral rules requiring a 10% threshold of the national vote disadvantages those parties whose support base is regional; almost by definition, pro-Kurdish parties.

KHRP urges OSCE member states to assist both the Kurds and the Turkish Government to develop policy and legal reforms to ensure that the Kurdish population is accorded minority group rights that meet OSCE and international standards. KHRP also wishes to emphasise the importance of protecting and promoting multiple cultural identities in Turkey and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens.

The full text of KHRP's submission to the OSCE Human Dimensions Implementation Meeting is available at www.khrp.org

European Commission Report released on Turkey's progress towards EU Accession

On 6 October 2004 the European Commission published its annual report on Turkey's progress towards accession, and later the same month issued a recommendation on the basis of this report that Turkey has fulfilled the Copenhagen Criteria for the commencement of formal accession negotiations. On 17 December, EU leaders will decide upon whether or not to accept the Commission's recommendation and endorse formal accession talks. It is virtually beyond doubt that Turkey will be given a green light, albeit with the attachment of significant qualifications, to proceed with accession negotiations.

KHRP is concerned that while Turkey's reforms are much to be welcomed, there remain serious question marks over whether Turkey has, in fact, adequately fulfilled the political elements of the Copenhagen Criteria – minimum criteria which states must meet before they can commence formal accession negotiations. It is widely alleged that the political imperative to bring Turkey into the EU will unduly accelerate

accession at the expense of human rights and the achievement of an enduring solution to the Kurdish issue.

The content of the October Commission report has done little to quell these concerns, and KHRP has strong reservations over the Commission's 'sanitised' representation of the situation in Turkey. Its wording and emphasis fail to reflect the depth and severity of the continued human rights violations there, putting a positive gloss on many of Turkey's failings. The issue of torture, in particular, is not adequately addressed, with the Commission concluding that despite the continued occurrence of "numerous" cases of ill treatment including torture, there was no 'systematic' torture and the situation was consistent with the political elements of the Copenhagen Criteria.

Perhaps the most glaring omission from the Commission Report, however, is the failure to address the Kurdish issue in any kind of substantive and coherent manner. The Commission's piecemeal approach makes reference to the occasional Kurdish

dimensions of a series of discrete human rights violations in the fields of language and cultural rights and the protracted problem of displacement. Turkey's denial of constitutional status to the Kurds is skirted over and is not presented in the context of long-standing Turkish antipathy towards the recognition of Kurdish identity.

Overall, no consideration is given to the political context within which violations of the human rights of the Kurds occur, and the report never intimates that state-sponsored violations of Kurdish rights and freedoms has any kind of ethnic dimension. In view of the complex and enduring difficulties in the Southeast, and the array of interlinked human rights violations and injustices the Kurds face, the Kurdish issue must be addressed fully and openly.

Moreover, virtually no consideration is given in the Report to the resurgence of the conflict in the Southeast. It is imperative that genuine and enduring security for the Kurds is sought before accession can be allowed to continue. Stability,

predicated on an absence of violence or armed conflict, is a touchstone of democracy, and it is simply not feasible that effective, participatory democracy and human rights can operate effectively while armed conflict continues. There is a grave need for constructive political dialogue between the parties, and Europe has a moral and political responsibility to facilitate the achievement of a politically negotiated solution.

The approach adopted in the Commission Report, based on a failure to substantially address human rights concerns and a fudging of the Kurdish issue, is something of a disappointment to Kurds and other victims of Turkish oppression. It is hoped that it will not be indicative of the EU's line on accession negotiations in the future; Turkey must be allowed to accede to the EU only when a truly objective and impartial assessment decides that she has fulfilled all the necessary conditions, of which the protection of human rights and the realisation of peace in the Southeast are key constituent parts.

Turkey and the EU speak "different languages" on minorities

Turkey's justice minister Cemil Cicek is reported to have claimed that Turkey and the EU speak "different languages" on minorities. Mr Cicek went on to say that "We must not engage in a debate which would call into question the unity of Turkey", and argued that each country had different methods for meeting EU criteria, particularly concerning the protection of the rights of minorities.

Currently, the Kurds in Turkey, who number over 15 million of Turkey's 63 million strong population, have no formal constitutional recognition. KHRP believes that a constitutional resettlement in Turkey in which the existence and rights of the Kurds is recognised within any new Turkish Constitution is a vital pre-requisite to Turkey's accession to the European Union.

British passport holders from Kurdistan denied entry to Turkey

A family originally from Kurdistan was reportedly turned away from Istanbul Airport by Turkish immigration officials despite carrying British passports. The family had recorded their place of birth as Kurdistan. In another incident, a minor whose place of birth was also listed on his British passport as Kurdistan was stopped by immigration officials, detained and sent

back to Britain.

Turkey alleged that the passports contained "discrepancies", thus entitling her under domestic law to deport the travellers. This has been disputed by the UK Foreign Office, which is to protest to Turkey about the incidents.

Advice has been sought from KHRP concerning the legal implications of Turkey's decision to deny entry.

New Ilisu Dam contract

Turkish authorities are reportedly about to sign a contract worth over one billion Euro with a consortium led by Austrian company Va Tech concerning the construction of the Ilisu dam. Concerns over the initial Ilisu Dam project, which KHRP was instrumental in highlighting, caused Balfour Beatty to withdraw in 2001, and the project was put on hold when the consortium of companies planning to construct the Dam subsequently collapsed. A new consortium is now being convened to implement the project.

Information received by KHRP indicates that construction work on the dam under new plans would be complete within seven years.

No joint list in Iraqi elections

Leading Iraqi politicians failed to agree on a joint list of parties to stand in the country's democratic elections, planned for the end of January 2005. Iraq's new parliament will consist of 275 members and be charged with selecting a cabinet and drawing up a new constitution to govern the country. More than 60 parties are reported to have signed up to contest the election.

Kurdish refugees from Iran caught up in fighting

KHRP is concerned over the fate of Iranian Kurdish refugees caught up in fighting in central Iraq. UNHCR has expressed concern that 1,400 of the 4,200 Iranian Kurds in the Al Tash camp near Ramadi had fled violence there

A recent fact-finding mission by KHRP and the University of Galway found that contrary to promises by current Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the historic Kurdish town and legally protected archaeological site of Hasankeyf will not be saved. The project would also displace thousands of local people and potentially generate instability over water supplies downstream in Syria and Iraq. The fact-finding mission also found that there was no free and fair consultation with local authorities and the local population regarding the new Ilisu Dam project.

The full report of the fact-finding mission will be published soon.

The elections are to be run on a proportional representation list system, with each party contesting the election offering a list of candidates to fill seats proportional to the share of the vote that party receives. The two main Kurdish parties and representatives of Shi'ite and Sunni groups have decided to enter the elections on individual lists, rather than reaching agreement on a joint list.

and are missing, and that for the remaining refugees no protection was being provided. UNHCR has no staff on the ground and no access to the camp due to the security situation in the region.

DISPATCHES

KHRP AT EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM



KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz (far right) delivered a speech at the European Social Forum in London on the subject of 'Turkey, Human Rights and the EU'

On 16 October 2004, KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz delivered a speech at a panel at the European Social Forum in London. Yildiz spoke about the implications of Turkey's impending accession to the EU for the Kurds, and ideas were exchanged as to the desirability of EU membership.

More than 20,000 people attended the forum from over 70 countries, and over 600 representatives of the international media were present.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

KHRP is delighted that the Feasibility Study, initiated in 2003 to provide an assessment of the current needs of the Kurdish community, will soon reach its conclusion, with potentially important implications for KHRP's future work. The study is intended to identify appropriate contributions KHRP could make to the alleviation of the problems faced by the Kurdish community as a whole. Currently, independent consultants are considering the implications of the conclusions reached by the study so far on KHRP's organisational capacity. KHRP is grateful for the financial support of Atlantic Philanthropies in undertaking this study.

KHRP EXPANDS ITS LEGAL TEAM

KHRP is expanding its current team of lawyers by developing new links with barristers' chambers in London. KHRP's legal team already consists of some of the foremost lawyers in the country, who play a key role in KHRP's litigation before the European Court of Human Rights and other international human rights mechanisms.

European Union lodges protests to Iran

KHRP welcomes a move by the European Union to lodge a formal protest to Iran over the general arrest and harassment of journalists, NGOs and religious minorities for expressing their views. The complaint listed the names of journalists arrested in a recent crackdown in the country, and expressed concern over the arrest of Mr Ensefali Hedayat, a Kurdish journalist who was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment in April 2004.

The protest was reportedly handed to the Iranian foreign ministry by ambassadors of the Netherlands and Britain as current and future holders of the EU presidency. The protest comes in the wake of a significant rise in human rights violations in Iran, particularly with regard to arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders, which are indicative of attempts by the judiciary not to uphold the rule of law but to curtail civil liberties. The recommendations of UN human rights representatives who have visited the country in 2003 and 2004 appear to have been largely ignored.

Internet crackdown in Iran

Iranian authorities are arresting civil society activists who use the Internet to advocate for human rights in an attempt to undermine independent NGOs in the country. The internet was one of the few remaining vehicles by which human rights defenders could put out their messages to the Iranian public. Several of those arrested are not prominent human rights activists, but include mid-level activists working within NGOs. None of the detainees is yet reported to have been charged.

KHRP calls upon the Iranian authorities to free unconditionally those arrested for exercising their legitimate right to free expression.

Asylum granted to over 200 Iranian Kurds

Sweden has granted asylum to 202 Iranian Kurds, who will be transferred to Stockholm after the UN High Commission for Refugees intervened to secure safe passage for them via a refugee camp on the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

Sweden has also accepted 183 refugees currently in Iraq who fled through the country to the Jordanian border during the US-led invasion. The refugees had been refused access to Jordanian territory, and were thus compelled to stay in poor conditions in a refugee camp.

Possible postponement of elections in Iraq?

A campaign to delay Iraq's elections, currently set for 30th January, has been signed up to by at least 15 political parties. The campaign, which supports a six-month delay, has expressed concern that insurgency will discourage voting.

It has been reported that both of Iraq's major Kurdish political parties signed up to the campaign. Kurdish regional elections are also due to be held at the end of January.

The calls for postponement are unlikely to be looked upon favourably by the British or American governments, who are keen to press forward with the January deadline. The petition will be sent to Iraq's Independent Election Commission, which has formal responsibility for organising the election.

Kurdish journalism student sentenced in Syria

KHRP is concerned at the fate of a Syrian Kurd sentenced to five years imprisonment for membership of a "secret organisation" and "attempting to sever part of Syrian territory and annex it to a foreign state" by the country's Supreme State Security Court. These charges are routinely used to harass Kurdish human rights defenders. Journalism student Mas'oud Hamid was reportedly arrested on 24 July 2003 after sending photographs he had taken of a pro-Kurdish demonstration to several Internet sites. It is thought that Mas'oud Hamid is in danger of being held incommunicado in solitary confinement, and thus possibly subject to torture.

Kurdish refugees from Syria threatened with deportation

A Kurdish family including a mother and her two teenage daughters have been threatened with deportation from the UK. The three fled Syria where, like many Syrian Kurds, they were reportedly refused official recognition as citizens and so potentially denied basic rights including marriage, education and public employment. The mother spent time in prison for protesting against her treatment. The family face imminent deportation unless a last-minute appeal is successful.

KHRP delivers human rights training in Armenia



ABOVE LEFT: Participants at the training seminar in Armenia. ABOVE RIGHT: Barrister Stuart Kerr and KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz with Tigran Ter-Yesayan, President of the International Union of Armenian Lawyers, and Ara Ghazaryan delivering a training seminar in Armenia.

KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz, Junior Legal Officer Rebecca Greenhalgh and barrister and BHRC member Stuart Kerr visited Armenia on 5 – 8 November to provide training to Armenian lawyers on the European Convention on Human Rights.

A seminar on regulation of freedom of thought, con-

science and religion and of freedom of expression was held on 6 November 2004 in conjunction with the 'Forum' Law Centre, and was followed by a question and answer session.

The training was carried out in conjunction with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC),

and was delivered by Kerim Yildiz, Stuart Kerr and Tigran Ter-Yesayan, President of the International Union of Armenian Lawyers and President of the 'Forum' Law Centre.

During the visit the team met with members of the Kurdish community in Armenia, including the Chief Editor of the Réya Tazé Kurdish

newspaper and the 'Kurdish Committee in Armenia', a cultural organisation.

Back in London, KHRP welcomed representatives of the 'Forum' Law Centre to its office in October to exchange information, to work on cases and to help plan further trainings in the regions.



ABOVE LEFT: KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz and Junior Legal Officer Rebecca Greenhalgh in Armenia with the Editor of the Kurdish newspaper Réya Tazé. ABOVE RIGHT: KHRP with representatives of the 'Forum' Law Centre in London, October 2004

KHRP plans human rights training in Azerbaijan

KHRP in conjunction with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales is to deliver a training seminar in Baku in early December 2004. The training will focus on European

regulation of freedom of thought, conscience and religion and of freedom of expression.

KHRP meets with UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions

On 12 November 2004, KHRP attended a meeting in London with the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Professor Philip Alston. The meeting was convened to enable Professor Alston, who took up his appointment as Special Rapporteur earlier this year, to consult with London-based NGOs about his mandate and plans.

During the discussions KHRP highlighted three key areas of concern regarding human rights practices in Turkey that are relevant to the Special Rapporteur's mandate: continuing disappearances and deaths in detention, despite recent legal reform intended to end the practice of incommunicado detention, and the failure to investigate fully such cases; the Village Guard system and killings of returning

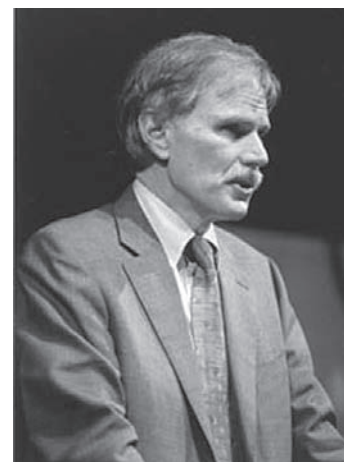
villagers in the Southeast region; and honour killings of Kurdish women.

With respect to his proposed working methods, the Special Rapporteur spoke of his desire to engage with governments more substantively and to move away from the practice of formulaic communications. He emphasised his reliance on NGOs as far as specific complaints to governments are concerned. The Special Rapporteur's budget allows only two country visits a year, and an invite from the government is required before he can carry out such a visit. An invitation has been requested from Iran (where KHRP is concerned, inter alia, about the imposition of the death penalty on members of the outlawed socialist political party Komala, which advocates rights for

the Kurdish minority), but the Special Rapporteur is not hopeful of receiving an invite from that government in the near future.

In response to a question from KHRP regarding reluctance by authorities to open an investigation or initiate criminal proceedings in the face of evidence of extrajudicial killings, the Special Rapporteur explained that he was able to call upon governments to investigate specific cases, provided that he possessed detailed evidence that he could present in his communication. He would rely on NGOs to provide him with such evidence.

The Special Rapporteur was particularly interested in obtaining information from KHRP on specific cases of honour killings, as he is eager to maintain a focus on this issue. KHRP therefore intends to collate



ABOVE: Professor Philip Alston is the recently appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions

its current information on these cases to send to the Special Rapporteur, as well as passing on future information on an ongoing basis.

The Special Rapporteur hopes to meet again with London-based NGOs during his mandate.

KHRP continues to provide legal assistance

KHRP is continuing to provide legal advice and assistance on the European Convention on Human Rights. KHRP's caseload against Armenia is expanding and a number of cases have been lodged relating to freedom of expression and assembly, as well as the right to liberty and fair trial, and an application was submitted on behalf of the independent television company Meltex Ltd against Armenia raising issues concerning

the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of expression and the prohibition of discrimination.

KHRP also continues work on its ongoing caseload of applications against Turkey, and to make submissions to UN mechanisms and other international human rights fora. KHRP has also provided assistance in a number of Kurdish asylum cases in recent weeks.

Articles of the European Convention on Human Rights

- Article 2 – Right to Life
 - Article 3 – Prohibition on Torture
 - Article 4 – Prohibition on Slavery and Forced Labour
 - Article 5 – Rights to Liberty and Security
 - Article 6 – Right to a Fair Trial
 - Article 7 – No Punishment Without Law
 - Article 8 – Right to Respect for Private Life and Family Life
 - Article 9 – Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion
 - Article 10 – Right to Freedom of Expression
 - Article 11 – Right to Freedom of Association
 - Article 12 – Right to Marry
 - Article 13 – Right to an Effective Remedy
 - Article 14 – Prohibition of Discrimination
- Article 1 of Protocol 1 – Right to Free Enjoyment of Possessions



ABOVE LEFT: KHRP Executive Director travelled to the mountainous borders of Iraq in 1996 to take witness statements from the applicants and others in *Issa v. Turkey* ABOVE RIGHT: A Turkish armed forces cap was found near the seven corpses of the shepherds

The Court declared all of the applicants' complaints admissible on 30 May 2000.

Alongside *Öcalan v. Turkey* and *Bankovic a.o. v. Belgium a.o.*, the case is the most important determinant to date of the Convention obligations of signatories while intervening in the territory of a third state not party to the Convention.

It was undisputed between the applicants and the Turkish Government that the Turkish armed forces carried out military operations in northern Iraq between 19 March and 16 April 1995. However, the fate of the applicants' complaints depended on their ability to establish that at the relevant time, Turkish troops conducted operations in the hills above the village of Azadi, where the killings took place.

In its judgment, the Court affirmed that the concept of "jurisdiction" within the meaning of ECHR signatories' obligation to respect human rights is not necessarily restricted to those parties' national territories or to the Council of Europe. KHRP welcomes the Court's clear indication that Article 1 of the Convention cannot be interpreted so as to allow a State party to perpetrate ECHR violations on the territory of another State which it could not perpetrate on its own territory; a decision of key importance in the current context of Iraq particularly.

However, it fell to the applicants to prove 'beyond reasonable doubt' that the Turkish armed forces had conducted operations in the area in question. The Court held unanimously that, on

the basis of all the material in its possession, the applicants had not established to the required standard of proof that this was the case and, accordingly, that the complaints fell within the jurisdiction of Turkey. That finding made it unnecessary to examine the applicants' substantive complaints under the Convention. The Court noted among other things that, although news reports and official records confirmed the presence of the Turkish army in northern Iraq at the material time, these materials did not make it possible to conclude with any degree of certainty that Turkish troops were near Azadi. Moreover, there was no independent eyewitness account of the presence of Turkish soldiers in the area in question or of the detention of the shepherds.

KHRP is concerned at the disproportionately heavy burden placed on the applicants. Proof of allegations is a formidable task given the nature of the conduct which is in issue and, if their allegations are correct, applicants are also unlikely to be given access to the resources of the State which would ordinarily be available to investigate murders. KHRP is appealing the decision to the Grand Chamber, arguing that it is disproportionate to require applicants to provide direct or independent evidence in such circumstances.

The Chamber judgment of *Issa and Others v. Turkey* 16 October 2004, is available from the European Court of Human Rights: <http://www.echr.coe.int/>

ECHR judgment highlights censorship in Turkey

The European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case of *Kalin v. Turkey* (31236/96) on 10 November 2004. The case is one of a series of cases concerning freedom of expression brought to the Court by KHRP.

As editor of the weekly publication *Yeni Ülke* (New Country), the applicant was prosecuted for publishing two articles, one composed of a press release put out by the European information service of the PKK. On conviction of

spreading separatist propaganda he was sentenced to two years imprisonment and a fine for the first article and a fine for the second article.

He complained that the convictions had infringed his right to freedom of expression, contrary to Article 10. Relying on Article 6 (right to a fair trial), he further complained that the proceedings which had led to his convictions had not been fair. In addition he complained of violations of Article 7 (no

punishment without law) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention together with Articles 6 and 10.

In its judgment the Court considered that the reasons given by the Turkish courts could not in themselves be considered sufficient to justify the interference with the applicants' right to freedom of expression. It accordingly held unanimously that there had been violations of Article 10. It likewise held unani-

mously that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 as regards the complaint that national security courts were not independent and impartial, and that it was not necessary to examine the other complaints under Article 6.

It was held unanimously that there had been no violation of Article 7 and that it was not necessary to examine the complaint under Article 14 taken together with Articles 6 and 10.

DISPATCHES

KHRP AT GREEN/ EGA GROUP MEETING IN ISTANBUL



KHRP Chairman Mark Muller

From 19 to 22 October 2004, KHRP Chairman Mark Muller participated in 'Turkey in the EU: A Common Future', the group meeting in Istanbul of the Green/ EFA Group in the European Parliament. Other participants in the group meeting included Layla Zana, Cüneyt Zapsu (Advisor to the Turkish Prime Minister), Yasar Kemal and Orhan Pamuk. Representatives of the Green/ EFA Group in the European Parliament participated, including Joost Lagendijk, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Johannes Voggelhuber, Cem Özdemir, Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Cloude Turmes, Monica Frassoni, Angelika Beer, Jean Lambert, Hélène Flautre and Rebecca Harms.

KHRP SHORTLISTED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD 2004

KHRP has been shortlisted for the Human Rights Award 2004. The Awards, organised by Liberty and JUSTICE, are intended to honour dedication and commitment to human rights shown over the past year. The independent judging panel will consist of a prestigious group of individuals including the Lord Chief Justice, Heads of the Bar Council and Law Society and Directors of Liberty and JUSTICE.

KHRP Chairman Mark Muller and Executive Director Kerim Yildiz will attend the awards ceremony in Chancery Lane on 9 December.

KHRP HOLDS MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS ON TURKEY'S EU ACCESSION BID

During a recent visit to Brussels, KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz and Chairman Mark Muller held meetings with a number of MEPs and other leading figures including Cem Ozdemir MEP, Lord Russell-Johnston, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and staff of the European Commission. Fruitful discussions were held concerning Turkey's impending commencement of formal negotiations for accession to the European Union.

ECHR condemns torture of HADEP leader in KHRP case

The European Court of Human Rights held on 2 November 2004 that Turkish authorities had violated the prohibition of torture, in a case brought to the Court by KHRP (*Yaman v. Turkey*, 32446/96).

Abdülşamet Yaman was the provincial leader of HADEP (People's Democracy Party) in Adana, Turkey. On 3 July 1995 Mr. Yaman was taken into custody by police officers and was blindfolded, put into a car, beaten and threatened. He was taken to Adana Security Directorate where he was detained for nine days, during which time he was interrogated about his work and his alleged connection with the PKK (Kurdistan Worker's Party) and tortured. Five independent medical reports conducted between July 1995 and January 2002 concluded that Mr. Yaman had sustained serious physical and mental injuries during this period of detention.

In March 1999 Adana State Security Court convicted the applicant under Article 169 of the Criminal Code on the grounds of aiding and abetting the PKK, and sentenced him to three years and six months imprisonment. On 20 October 1995 the applicant filed a complaint with the Adana Public Prosecutor alleging that he had been ill-treated whilst in detention. After undertaking a preliminary investigation against two officers from Adana Security Directorate, the Public Prosecutor declined to take

criminal proceedings against the two men, citing a lack of evidence against them. The Court held unanimously that the ill-treatment involved very serious and cruel suffering that could only be characterized as torture. The Court therefore concluded that there had been a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture and ill-treatment). The Court noted that, despite the applicant's serious allegations, the public prosecutor's office in Adana remained totally passive and failed to bring any criminal charges against the perpetrators of the ill-treatment. Finding that the criminal proceedings against the police officers could not properly be described as thorough and effective, the Court held, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 13. The Court could not accept that it was necessary to detain the applicant for nine days without judicial intervention. Finding that he had not been brought promptly before a judge, the Court held that there had been a violation of Article 5(3). Further, finding that the lawfulness of the detention was not decided 'speedily', the Court held that there had been a violation of Article 5(4). There had been a further violation of Article 5(5) as the applicant had not had the right to compensation under domestic law. It found that no violations of Article 14 or 18 could be established on the basis of the evidence before it.

Human rights defender reaches settlement with Turkey

A friendly settlement has been reached between an applicant and the Turkish Government in the case of *Binbay v. Turkey* (24922/94). The applicant Yavuz Binbay is a former president of the Van Branch of the Human Rights Association and a member of the National Management Committee of the Association. He complained that, between March 1992 and February 1994, he was beaten up and intimidated, that his family were threatened, his shop raided and car damaged by the Turkish authorities or with their connivance on account of his activities in the Human Rights Association and his Kurdish origin.

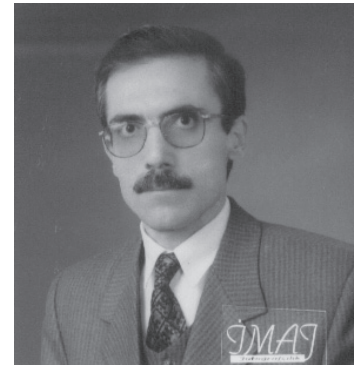
He relied on Articles 2 (right to life), 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or de-

grading treatment), 5 (right to liberty and security), 6 (right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time), 8 (right to respect for private and family life), 10 (freedom of expression), 13 (right to an effective remedy) and 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) of the Convention and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property).

The Turkish Government also made the following declaration: "The Government regret the occurrence of individual cases of assaults against individuals, including at the time of and during their detention, as well as threats to their person and property, and the failure of the authorities to carry out effective investigations into allegations of this nature, as

in the case of the applicant, Mr Yavuz Binbay, notwithstanding existing Turkish legislation and the resolve of the Government to prevent such failures.

"It is accepted that acts of serious assault, intimidation or harassment, including by means of arbitrary detention and damage to property, and the authorities' failure to investigate these matters, as claimed in the instant case, constitute a violation of Articles 3, 5 and 13 of the Convention and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention. The Government undertake to issue appropriate instructions and adopt all necessary measures to ensure that the rights guaranteed by these Articles - including the obligation to carry out



ABOVE: KHRP applicant Yavuz Binbay

effective investigations - are respected in the future. It is noted in this connection that new legal and administrative measures have been adopted which have resulted in a reduction in the occurrence of assaults in circumstances similar to those set out in the instant application as well as more effective investigations."

KHRP submits new torture case

KHRP submitted a new application to the European Court of Human Rights, *Ilhan v. Turkey* (33658/04), on 3rd November 2004. The application concerns the unlawful detention and torture of the applicant and the failure of the Government to provide any effective or accessible domestic remedy. On 11

February 2004 the applicant, Mustafa Ilhan, was forced into a car by four policemen in a district of Istanbul. Upon arrival at their destination, the applicant was questioned about his and his brother's detention two months previously in relation to terrorist attacks. He was questioned for approximately

12 hours. Among other forms of ill-treatment, he was blindfolded, beaten with a truncheon, forced to kneel and beaten on the soles of his feet, threatened with rape and forced to listen to the cries of other detainees being tortured. He made several attempts to report the incident to authorities

and to the public prosecutor, but the authorities took no action whatsoever save for the referral of the applicant for a medical examination, to investigate his complaints of torture. The applicant therefore submits that there have been violations of his rights under Articles 3, 5, 6 and 13.

KHRP case against Armenia declared partially admissible

On 11 November 2004 KHRP received a partial admissibility decision in the case of *Noyan Tapan Ltd v. Armenia*, concerning a television company that had been closed in circumstances engaging the responsibility of the state. As the applicant, an independent Armenian news agency and television company, had never itself

been awarded a broadcasting licence, it reached a broadcasting agreement with the Lotus television company in 1997. The applicant relied on Article 10 (freedom of expression) to complain that the agreement was terminated unilaterally by Lotus as a result of government pressure, resulting in the closure of the applicant television station.

The applicant complained that it is common practice for the State to attempt to suppress independent and dissenting voices, constituting discrimination on political grounds in violation of Article 14. Under Article 6, the applicant complained its right to a fair trial was breached when the court dismissed its legal representative. The ap-

plicant also relied on Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property). The Court adjourned its examination of the case under Articles 6(1) and 10 and declared the remainder of the application inadmissible.

DISPATCHES

MEETINGS HELD IN BERLIN



KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz with Claire Brigham, a consultant working on the Feasibility Study, outside the Foreign Office in Berlin, October 2004

KHRP Executive Director Kerim Yildiz visited Berlin on 18 – 19 October with Claire Brigham, a consultant working on the Feasibility Study. Meetings were held with government officials from the German Foreign Office, as well as the Heinrich Böll Foundation, a political foundation affiliated to the German Green Party, and Kurdish organisations. Ideas and information were exchanged concerning the current situation of the Kurdish diaspora in Europe and the questions now facing the Kurds in Iraq and Turkey.

KHRP HOLDS ANNUAL STRATEGY MEETING

November 4th saw KHRP hold its annual strategy meeting, aimed at allowing staff to discuss successes and challenges experienced in 2004 and formulate strategies on how KHRP can best move forward in 2005. The meeting proved very fruitful, and a further staff action day will be held in December. KHRP is very grateful to 10 – 11 Gray's Inn Square for generously hosting the meeting.

WORK CONTINUES ON KURDISH WOMEN'S CHARTER

KHRP is continuing to work to promote the Kurdish Women's Charter, a document produced by KHRP and the Kurdish Women's Project in order to advance the human rights of Kurdish women. Ongoing meetings have been held between KHRP and the Kurdish Women's Group both in the diaspora and the regions concerning the use of the Charter to further the enforcement of Kurdish women's rights everywhere, and KHRP is assisting in the organisation of a conference to be held next year in Sweden concerning women in south Kurdistan and the establishment of civil society.

The Kurdish Women's Charter, which was launched in the House of Lords in June, gives voice to the specific problems faced by women in Kurdish society. It is available in English, Kurmanji, Sorani and Arabic.

Village destruction case reaches settlement



ABOVE: A mother and her son outside the home that was destroyed in October 1994. Following a KHRP challenge to the European Court of Human Rights, the applicant and the Turkish Government have reached friendly settlement

A KHRP case, *Karakoc v. Turkey* (28294/95), reached friendly settlement on 2 November 2004. The case concerns the destruction of the applicant's village, Kozluca, in October 1994. On 4 October 1994, military operations began in the region of Tunceli. Ten days later, military units arrived in the applicant's village and rounded residents up in the village square where they were given orders to leave Kozluca. It took villagers two days to make the move, after which time, the soldiers burnt their houses.

The government maintains that the applicant left his vil-

lage due to terrorist activities in the region.

The applicants complained that the actions of the security forces were in violation of Articles 3 (prohibition of torture and ill-treatment), 8 (right to respect for family life), 13 (right to an effective remedy) and Article 1 of Protocol 1 (respect for property) to the Convention. All of the applicants' complaints were declared admissible.

The judgment became final when the parties reached a friendly settlement.

KHRP applicant has case declared admissible

The European Court has made a partial admissibility decision in *Duzgoren v. Turkey* (56827/00), one of a series of cases about freedom of expression brought to the Court by KHRP.

The applicant, Koray Duzgoren, is a highly respected journalist and writer who was charged in 1998 under Article 55 of the Military Penal Code and Article 155 of the Turkish Penal Code for publishing material which allegedly discouraged citizens from performing their military service. The proceedings brought against him related to the publication of a leaflet in March/April 1998 concerning Osman Murat Ulke who had exercised his rights of conscientious objection in refusing to do his military service and who had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment by the General Staff Military Court.

Mr Duzgoren was convicted by the General Staff Military Court on 9 March 1999 and he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. He appealed to the Military Supreme Court of Appeal which unanimously approved the first instance judgment on 25 May 1999.

Mr Duzgoren submitted that his prosecution and conviction violated his rights to freedom of thought and conscience, expression and association under Articles 9,



ABOVE: KHRP applicant Koray Duzgoren is a well-known and prominent journalist from Turkey

10 and 11 of the Convention. He further submitted that as a civilian tried by the military courts, he did not receive a fair hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in violation of Article 6.

The effect of the prosecution and conviction on the applicant has been devastating. He is now resident in the UK and so he has been split up from his family, in breach of Article 8 of the Convention. He has also effectively been deprived of his profession

and livelihood, in violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1.

In relation to the violations referred to above, the applicant submitted that there is no effective remedy (in violation of Article 13), and that he has suffered discrimination (in violation of Article 14) and that the restrictions permitted under the Convention to the rights referred to above have been applied for purposes other than those for which they have been prescribed, in violation of

Article 18.

The Court has adjourned the examination of the applicant's complaints concerning the independence and the impartiality of the military court and the alleged interference with his right to freedom of expression, as well as the alleged lack of an effective remedy in respect of these complaints. The Court declared the remainder of the application inadmissible.

KHRP Training Materials

Intended to enhance capacity within the Kurdish regions, KHRP prepares materials including manuals to provide practical guidance to indigenous lawyers, NGOs and human rights defenders. KHRP's existing manuals include:

Taking Human Rights Complaints to UN Mechanisms - A Manual

The manual includes an overview of the three categories of UN 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). In addition, the Manual 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 manual can be downloaded from www.khrp.org in Russian or Turkish, and an English version (ISBN 1 900175 61 4) is available from KHRP for £8.00 plus P & P.

Taking Cases to the European Court of Human Rights - A Manual

Intended to inform practitioners and interested individuals on the practical usage of the Strasbourg mechanisms, 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 is available in Turkish (in Turkey only), in Azeri (in Azerbaijan only) and in Armenian (in Armenia only), and an English version can be ordered from KHRP costing £5.00 plus P & P.

DISPATCHES

KHRP WELCOMES NEW INTERNS



KHRP intern Piril Akkus in Brussels with members of staff

KHRP has recently welcomed a number of new interns to its London offices. Two interns, Piril Akkus from Turkey and Subhan Mamma from Azerbaijan are working with us for a number of months as part of KHRP's programme of capacity building in the Kurdish regions. We are also hosting three new office interns, Anu Pekkonen, Shnow Shikhalis-lami and Mobin Iqbal, and two legal interns, Inga Freely and Rebecca Greenhalgh. KHRP is extremely grateful to its interns for their hard work and dedication.

Admissibility decision in case against Azerbaijan

The European Court has declared admissible the KHRP case of *Guiyev and Ramazanov v. Azerbaijan* (34553/02). The case concerns the applicants' arrest while attending a political meeting opposing the current government in Sumgayit. During the first 32 hours of arrest, both applicants were refused food and drink and were held in unhygienic conditions. They were denied the right to see a doctor or a lawyer, and none of their

relatives was informed of their whereabouts.

Criminal proceedings were brought against the applicants and they were indicted of resisting police and violating public order. They were again held in unhygienic conditions. They were not transferred to the detention centre where accused persons are typically held.

The Court declared the case admissible under Articles 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14 of the ECHR.

Admissibility decision in case against Turkey

On 5 October 2004 the European Court declared inadmissible the case of *Tanguner and Tanguner v. Turkey* (36218/97). The applicants complained that security forces had violated their rights under

Articles 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 18 and Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the Convention. The case was declared inadmissible for failure to comply with Article 35.

KHRP END-OF-YEAR APPEAL

It is imperative that the international community acts to protect and promote the human rights of all persons living within the Kurdish regions, bringing to account those responsible for ongoing atrocities against them. In supporting the Kurdish Human Rights Project's work, you act as ambassadors in this mission.

With your support, KHRP utilises, makes others aware of, and trains human rights advocates in the use of international human rights mechanisms, such as those available at the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations. By bringing human rights violators to justice, KHRP's precedent-setting case work prevents further abuse. Further its regional trainings and seminars have enabled, empowered and given a voice to an often otherwise forgotten community.

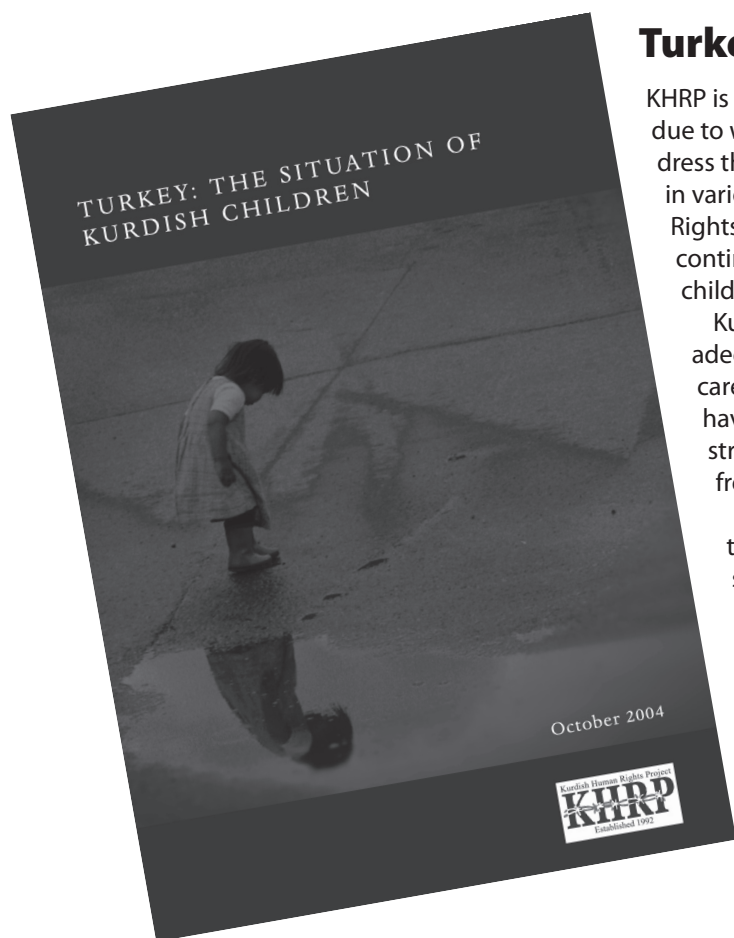
Since 1992, KHRP has witnessed dramatic changes both in the capacities of on-the-ground advocates to represent victims of human rights abuse, and of the overall social, economic and political situation for the Kurdish population. Rather than lead counsel, increasingly, the KHRP serves as secondary advisors. Victims of human rights

abuse have been awarded settlements and have been empowered to participate more actively in local and national governance.

However, we still face an upward battle. Torture, displacement, and suppression of basic freedoms are still common place. Recent changes to the European Court's protocol make it more difficult for individuals to submit cases. Regional conflict and instability is still a mainstay, particularly in Iraq. The diverse tribal groups and geographical span of the Kurdish people requires a concentrated flow of information about citizenship rights and the channels available to seek redress. KHRP remains at the forefront of this work. With three regional trainings to be carried out in December, and two more planned for January, we are committed to keeping our work current and directly linked to the regions.

However, KHRP can only continue in this endeavour through the generous support of funders. We thank you for your past support and ask that you continue to do so by responding to our End-of-the Year Appeal.

New and Upcoming KHRP Reports



Turkey – The Situation of Kurdish Children

KHRP is concerned for the welfare of many children in Turkey, who, largely due to widespread poverty and the authorities' failure adequately to address their situation, have not received adequate protection as enshrined in various international instruments including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the combination of armed conflict and continued discrimination has had an inevitably grave impact on Kurdish children.

Kurdish children in Turkey, especially displaced children, suffer inadequate provision of the most basic needs: suitable housing, health-care, basic nutrition and access to education. Many such children have been forced on the streets or elsewhere. Levels of emotional stress and depression are high; those subjected to detention have frequently faced torture or ill-treatment.

KHRP considers Kurdish girls to be exceptionally vulnerable due to other factors, including the frequency of domestic violence, sexual abuse and forced early marriage.

This report provides an overview of the socio-economic and historical factors which have brought about this situation. It assesses the implications of discrimination, housing, nutrition and health, education, child labour, street children and juvenile justice. Throughout, the report refers to Turkey's international legal obligations; urging the international community to recall these obligations when considering Turkey's eligibility for EU accession.

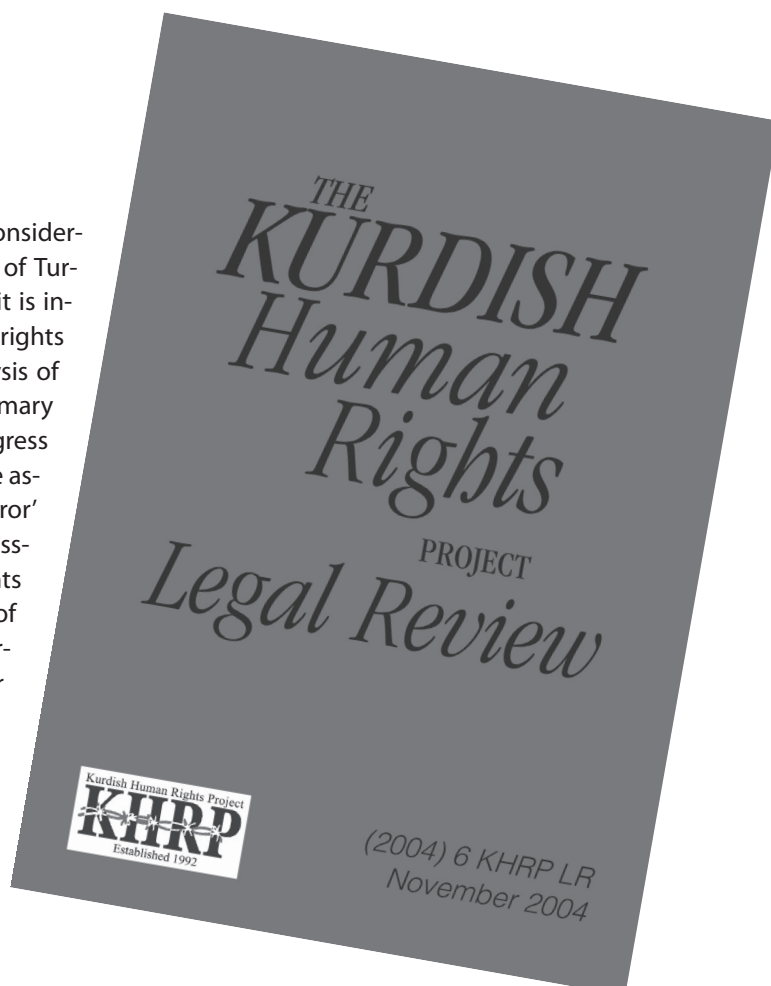
£5 plus £1 P&P ISBN 1 900175 77 0

KHRP Legal Review 6 (2004)

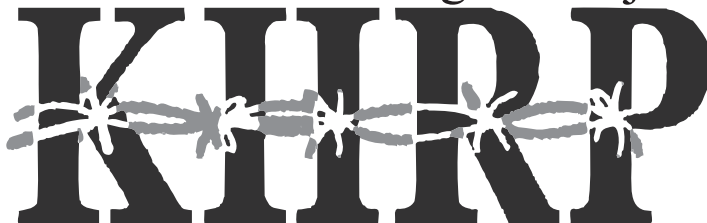
The *KHRP Legal Review* is the only existing legal journal considering significant legal developments in the Kurdish regions of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and elsewhere. Published biannually, it is intended to build capacity among NGOs, lawyers and human rights defenders by providing clear guidance, updates and analysis of issues relevant to the regions. This edition provides a summary of the European Commission's 2004 report on Turkey's progress towards accession. An article by Tim Otty and Ben Olbourne assesses the US Supreme Court's response to the 'War on Terror' in the Rasul and Hamdi cases. Further articles provide assessments of Turkey's implementation of European human rights standards (Jon Rud) and the establishment and protection of human rights under the ECHR (Declan O'Callaghan). A further article provides a detailed interpretation of the *Charter for the Rights and Freedoms of Women in the Kurdish Regions and Diaspora* published by KHRP and KWP.

£8 plus £2 P&P

ISBN 1 900175 78 9



Kurdish Human Rights Project



Established 1992

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 elsewhere, irrespective of race, religion, sex, political persuasion or other belief or opinion.

investigations and producing reports on the human rights situation of the Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere 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.
- 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 Court of Human Rights.

Aims

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

Methods

- Monitoring legislation, including emergency legislation, and its application.
- Conducting

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Tel: 020 7287 2772
Fax: 020 7734 4927
Email: khrp@khrp.demon.co.uk

Calendar of Events

5-7 December 2004 World Economic Forum, India Economic Summit

6 December 2004 Meeting of Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria

9 December 2004 KHRP Twelfth Anniversary

10 December 2004 International Human Rights Day / Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony, Oslo

31 January 2005 Parliamentary elections, Iraq

16 March 2005 OPEC Ordinary Meeting of the Conference, Tehran, Iran