



Brief Historical Background

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF IRANIAN KURDISTAN

Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (KDPI) was founded in Mahabad, Iran, on August 16, 1945. PDKI replaced the " Komalay Ziyaway Kurd " (Council of Kurdish Resurrection) which had been formed three years earlier. Just 159 days after its foundation in January 22, 1946, the Party, availing itself of expedient circumstances in a section of Iranian Kurdistan, established the " Republic of Kurdistan ", usually referred to by historians as the " Republic of Mahabad ", the reason being its choice of Mahabad as the capital.

The "Republic of Mahabad " lasted not more than 11 months. Following a pact signed by the Iranian central government and the ex-Soviet Union, the Iranian army launched a vast offensive into the region, destroying the " Republic " December 17, 1946. The " Republic " having collapsed, a great number of KDPI leaders were imprisoned, of whom 20 people including Ghazi Mohammad, head of the Party and president of the Republic, M. Hossein Seyfi-Ghazi, minister of Defence, and Abulghassem Sadri-Ghazi, a member of the Iranian Parliament from Mahabad, were hanged in the capital of the Republic, and the others in Saqez and Buckan.

In less than two years after the collapse of the Republic, KDPI started its political and organizational activities anew, striking roots in most parts of Iranian Kurdistan, which was due mainly to the Kurdish people's desire to join the struggle aimed at fulfilling the Party's aspirations and reviving the honour of the Republic of Kurdistan.

Following the collapse of Dr. Mossadegh's government in 1953, when democratic rights and freedoms of the peoples throughout Iran were suppressed, KDPI's activities came almost to a standstill. A great number of Party activists were either imprisoned or went underground, though they resumed their activities after a very short time.

Two widespread police raids against the Party in 1959 and 1964 dealt heavy blows to its organization: some 300 Party activists were imprisoned, with an even greater number hiding away or fleeing Iran. Nevertheless, not having sunk into despair, the Party embarked on the task of reviving its organization. Its activities picked up such a speed that in 1967-68, a large number of its members and high-ranking cadres started an armed insurrection - lasting 18 months - against the Shah's regime, a glorious deed, which struck horror into

the ruling circles. But as this armed movement lacked a safe rear zone, the Shah's regime managed somehow to crush it.

The Kurdish people in Iranian Kurdistan and KDPI played an active part in the Iranian people's uprising against the Shah's dictatorship. A group of KDPI leaders, who were living in exile either in neighbouring countries or in Europe, returned to Iran before the collapse of the monarchy, actively participating in the uprising of the Kurdish people and assuming the status of leadership in the movement.

The uprising of the Iranian peoples having succeeded, KDPI declared its public activities in a meeting held in Mahabad, which was attended by representatives from all parts of Iranian Kurdistan. Despite the Party's sincere endeavours to settle its differences over the democratic rights and freedoms



of the Kurdish people peacefully with the newly established regime in Tehran, the rulers in Tehran took no account of the responsible efforts made by KDPI. Instead, following the " *fatwa* " issued by ayatollah Khomeini against the Kurdish people, the Iranian armed forces ruthlessly embarked on a widespread offensive against the Kurdish population, shelling and bombing villages and towns of Kurdistan. KDPI had to resort to armed resistance, a valiant deed that, despite all ebbs and flows, has been going on till today.

On 13 July 1989, Dr. Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, Secretary-general of KDPI, and two of his collaborators, were assassinated in Vienna (Austria) as they were negotiating with envoys of the Iranian regime, at the latter's invitation, for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue in Iran. Dr. Ghassemlou's successor, Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi met with the same fate on 17 September 1992 in Berlin where he had attended the Congress of the Socialist International. They all were victims of Iranian State terrorism.

KDPI has held thirteen congresses. The 1st congress was convened in 1945, the 2nd in 1964, the 3rd in 1971, the 4th in 1980, the 5th in 1982, the 6th in 1984, the 7th in 1985, the 8th in 1988, the 9th in 1992, the 10th in 1995, the 11th in 1997, and the 12th in 2000 and the last congress was held in July 2004.

During the 20th Congress of the Socialist International held in the UN

headquarters in New York (9-11 September 1996), KDPI was given the status of observer member. In 2005, KDPI's membership was elevated to consultive status.

The highest body of KDPI is its Central Committee, which is usually composed of 21 permanent and 10 substitute members. The Central Committee also elects about 7 of its members as the Political Bureau, which also includes the Secretary-general.

Main principles:

-KDPI's main slogan -" The attainment of Kurdish national rights within a democratic federal republic of Iran "- has won the support of all of the ten million Kurds in Iran.

-KDPI rejects all acts of terrorism.

-KDPI's long-term objective is to establish a socialist democratic society.

- KDPI supports the fight of peoples of the world for their freedom and against oppressive and reactionary regimes. It supports peace and friendship between the peoples of all countries.

- KDPI support the national struggle of Kurds in other part of Kurdistan

KDPI fights for:

-A democratic, independent and non-aligned Iran

-The right of the peoples of Iran to self-determination

-Realization of worker's social and economic demands

-Equality of men and women in society and within the family

-Separation of religion and State