



26 of Azar (17 December 1945)

Iranian flag replaced by Kurdish flag at the Mahabad Department of Justice

Brief Historical Background of

Kurdistan Democratic Party

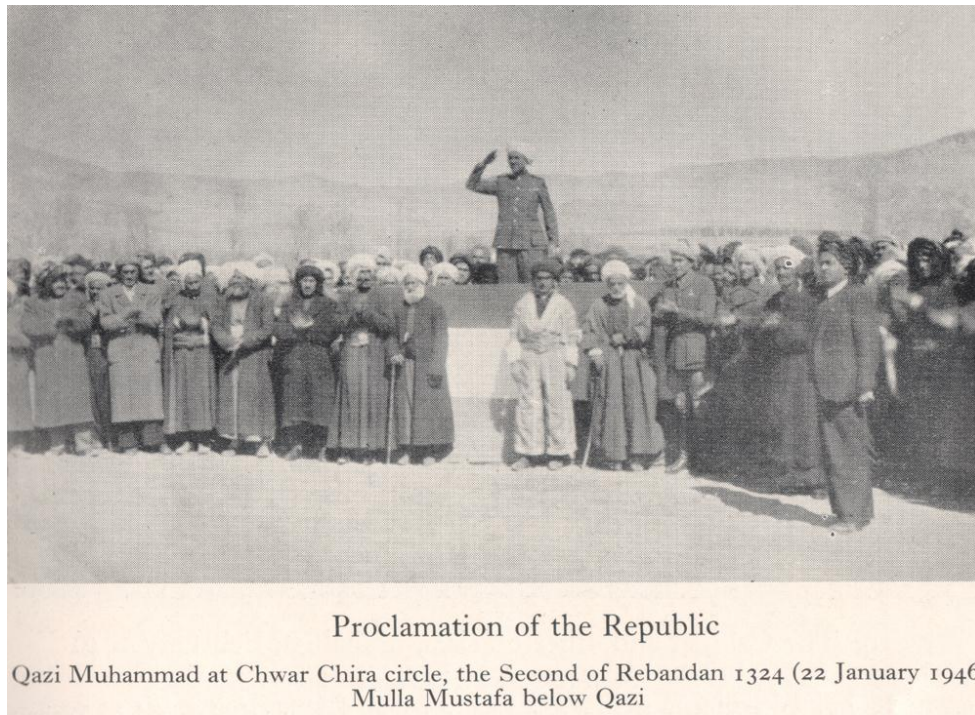
Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) was founded in Mahabad, Iran, on August 16, 1945. KDP replaced the "Komalay Ziyaway Kurd" (Society of Kurdish Resurrection) which had been formed three years earlier. Just 159 days after its foundation in January 22, 1946, the Party, availing itself of expedient circumstances 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 KDP 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 Bukan.

In less than two years after the collapse of the Republic, KDP 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.



28. Qazi Muhammad in his office at the time of Captain Roosevelt's visit (September 1946)



Following the collapse of Dr. Mossadegh's government in 1953, when democratic rights and freedoms of the peoples throughout Iran were suppressed, KDP'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.

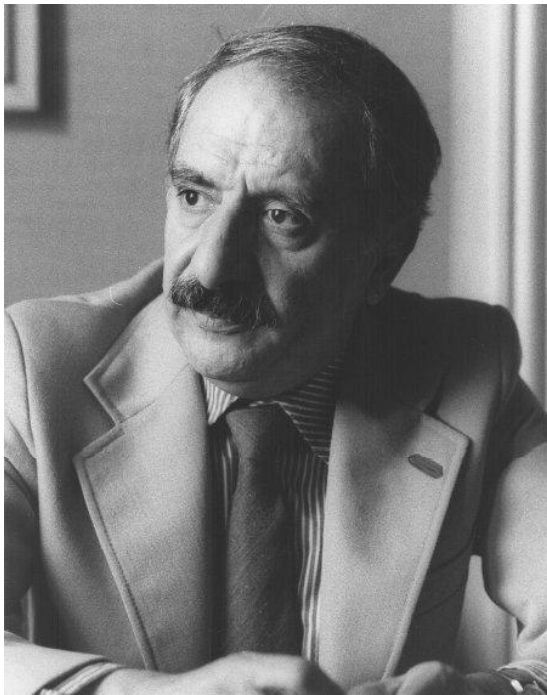
Two widespread police raids against the Party in 1959 and 1964 dealt heavy blows to its organization: some 300 Party activists were imprisoned, with an even greater number hiding away or fleeing Iran. Nevertheless, not having sunk into despair, the Party embarked on the task of reviving its organization. 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, 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 KDP played an active part in the Iranian people's uprising against the Shah's dictatorship. A group of KDP 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.

After the Iranian revolution in 1979, KDP 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 KDP. 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.



On 13 July 1989, Dr. Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, Secretary-general of KDP, 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. Sadegh 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.

KDP hold fourteen 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, the 12th in 2000, the 13 in July 2004 and the last congress 14th was held in 6 March 2008.

Notes on the KDP's congresses

3rd Congress

The 3rd congress was held under leadership of Ahmad Toufiq (Abdullah Eshaqi), and he deprived many members from their rights of participating in the congress, which caused major disagreement within the KDP. Having suffered from these disagreements a section KDP was forced to involve in the armed struggle against the Iranian regime between 1967-68 in order to maintain its integrity, however it caused heavy casualties and the remaining members organised a conference, which recorded in the history of KDP as a 3rd conference to agree a new political strategy and way forward following the armed struggle of 1967-68. In this conference the word of Iran in bracket was added to the name of KDP and which forced the remaining followers of Ahmad Toufiq to leave KDPI.

4th Congress

The 4th congress was held 1980 and a fraction who affiliated with the Tudeh Party of Iran left KDPI and formed KDPI-the followers of the 4th Congress. In this congress the word of Iran remain as a Party's title without a bracket.



8th Congress

The 8th congress was held in 1988 in which caused a major split within the party and a section of the leadership and rank and files continued their activities under name KDPI-revolutionary leadership. The main reason behind this split was the act of the other section of leadership by inventing 'fixed list' which meant only members of this list were entitle to be elected as a member of central committee.

13th Congress

The 13th congress was held in July 2004, in which the current leadership of KDPI by illegal means gained the majority and following the congress they started a campaign of expelling the members who were supporting political view of the minority of the leadership. This again caused a major split within the Party and the splitter group called themselves KDP to regenerate the original name of the party and the other section continued as KDPI.

During the 20th Congress of the Socialist International held in the UN headquarters in New York (9-11 September 1996), KDP was given the status of observer member. In 2005, KDP'S membership was elevated to continued status.

The highest body of KDP is its Central Committee, which is usually composed of 21 permanent and 12 substitute members. The Central Committee also elects about 7 of its members as the Political Bureau, which also includes the Secretary-general.

This Logo was used in 1945
when the party was established



This Logo was used from
the 4th congress of KDPI



This is the new Logo,
since the 14th Congress



Main principles:

- KDP's main slogan -" The attainment of self- rule for the Kurdish national rights within a democratic federal republic of Iran "- has won the support of all of the ten million Kurds in Iran.
- KDP rejects all acts of terrorism.
- KDP's long-term objective is to establish a socialist democratic society.
- KDP supports the fight of peoples of the world for their freedom and against oppressive and reactionary regimes. It supports peace and work to enhance friendly relationship between different national communities.
- KDP support the national struggle of Kurds in other part of Kurdistan

KDP 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