

INTRODUCTION TO KURDISH HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

In 1992, Kurdish Human Rights Project (KHRP) was established in response to the growing need for an independent, non-governmental human rights organisation focussing on the rights of all persons in the Kurdish regions of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and elsewhere, irrespective of race, religion, sex, political persuasion or other belief or opinion.

These states, which encompass the regions traditionally and currently inhabited by the Kurdish people and form the crossroads between East and West, are bound by numerous international laws regarding the respect of human rights. Yet, they have been the scenes of some of the worst human rights violations in the twentieth century and onwards; often combined with the failure of the international community to bring governments in the regions to account for their human rights abuses.

KHRP was born out of a desire to utilise the international mechanisms available to victims of human rights violations, to make the perpetrators accountable and prevent further abuses in the future.

Today, KHRP has earned international recognition for its tireless work to promote and protect human rights in these regions. Its victories have established weighty judicial precedents, secured justice and redress for past abuses and prevented further abuses from recurring. KHRP also produces publications and

research that members of the mainstream media have come to rely as a reliable source of accurate information about the situation for the Kurdish people in these regions.

KHRP employs nine permanent members of staff in England and Turkey. Its UK office is located in central London, where it is not subject to the intimidation and censorship faced by NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) in these regions. It has formed partnerships with such NGOs as The Corner House and Human Rights Watch to send fact-finding missions to the aforementioned regions, and draws on the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales to conduct trial observation missions to these regions. KHRP is both a registered charity and limited company, and is funded through charitable trusts and donations.