

Press Release

A Conference on Anfal and Halabja, London – March 2007

The 16th March this year marks the 19th anniversary of the atrocity of Halabja and the genocide campaign of Anfal in Kurdistan. On this day in 1988, over 5000 Kurdish civilians were gassed to death and over 10,000 were maimed and scarred for life in the town of Halabja. This well publicised genocide act was only a small part of an ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing, infamously named “the Anfal operations”. During these well – orchestrated systematic military campaign, conducted between February and September of 1988, 182,000 villagers were rounded up by the Iraqi Army, never to be seen again. Around 2240 villages were razed to the ground and their farms and woodlands were destroyed.

To achieve this, Saddam’s army used devastating conventional and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

The Kurdish Nation is determined to keep the memories of Halabja and Anfal operations alive, not only for the prevention of future acts of genocide against the Kurds, but also for the elimination of the weapons of mass destruction worldwide.

In this year’s remembrance of Anfal and Halabja , the Kurdish community in the UK is holding a half day conference focusing on the historic and legal aspects of genocide. Details are given below:

Halabja and Anfal - A case for genocide

Organised by the Joint Committee for the Remembrance of Anfal and Halabja

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall,
Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX

Date: 18th March 2007

Time: 1.30 – 6.30pm

The conference will include presentations by the following distinguished speakers:

- **Miss Chnar Saad Abdullah**, The Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs
- **Mr. Ward Ferdinandusse** and **Mr Fred Teeven**, Prosecutors in the Van Anraat Case, Holland
- **Dr. Phillip Spencer**, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Kingston University, UK
- **Dr Kadhim A. Habib**, Iraqi commentator and Human Rights Activist, Germany
- **Mr Zouher K. Abbod**, Former Iraqi High Court Judge, Sweden

The Programme will also include:

- A short documentary film
- **Kamaran Nawroz Haider**, survivor of the chemical attack on Halabja
- **Alan Wahid**, survivor of Anfal
- Slideshow by **Osman Ahmed**

As places will be limited, please confirm your attendance by 14th March

This Conference is sponsored by a number of organisations and individual sponsors including:

Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)
The Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs – Kurdistan Region/Iraq
Kurdish Cultural Centre (KCC)
Kurdistan Medical and Scientific Federation (KMSF, incorporating KuMA, KSA and SCHEIKUK)
Kurdish Housing Association (KHA)
Kurdish Association (KA)
Kurdish Exile Association (KEA)
The Centre of Halabja against Anfalization and Genocide of the Kurds (CHAK)
Kurdish Women’s Project (KWP)
Women’s Union of Kurdistan – ZHNAN UK Office
Kurdish Women’s Rights Watch (KWRW)
Fedbir, Kurdish Federation in the UK
Halkevi
Roj Women’s Association
Radio Rojbas, London’s Kurdish Radio
Telgraf Newspaper
Real Kurds Sport Association
Kirkuk Support Committee (KSC)