

The Center of Halabja
*Against Anfalization and
Genocide of the Kurds*
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Remove the Lausanne treaty's denial policy and replace it with an acceptance policy

The Lausanne treaty was an agreement between Turkey on the one side and the UK, France, Italy, Japan, Greece, Romania and the Serb-Croat-Slovenian state, signed on July 24, 1923. It negated the promises of a Kurdish independent state, and gave the governments controlling Kurdistan a free hand to repress the Kurdish people. The Lausanne agreement was an international plot against prominent national groups in the region, particularly the Kurds. This was an agreement to deny the Kurdish right to freedom and self-determination.

The Kurdish territory was divided among four occupier states which never permitted democracy and had no respect for the Kurdish people's demands for freedom.

Turkey won the northern part of the Kurdish territory and it began crushing Kurdish freedom demands and undertook a Turkization and ethnic cleansing policy. In 1937 it committed the crime of genocide against the Kurds in the Dersim region. Under Kamalism, an exclusionary ethnic nationalism arose, aiming for a pure nation state which denied the existence of the Kurds and destroyed any Kurdish elements. Kurds suffered oppression, discrimination, deportations and killings. Turkey still practices the same intolerant nationalism and does not recognize any Kurdish political rights. In the last 15 years Turkey has destroyed more than 3000 villages in Kurdish territory; thus it has destroyed the Kurdish economy, agriculture and production, besides making millions of Kurds homeless and immigrants in other Turkish cities.

Iran strengthened its control over the western part of Kurdistan and began oppressing the Kurds in different ways. Since then Iran has refused to meet Kurdish national and political rights and instead has deported Kurds to other Iranian areas, oppressed them, and tried to destroy the Kurdish people by assimilation and a policy of Persization and ethnic cleansing. The establishment of the Republic of Kurdistan in Mahabad in 1946 was not accepted, the freedom struggle of the Kurds was not tolerated and there has not been a single example of recognition of the political rights of the Kurdish people. Iran continues the same policy of intolerance towards Kurds by hunting civil rights fighters, killing journalists, political activists, and any individual who wants freedom and democracy.

Syria has been no better; on the contrary, it has oppressed the Kurds constantly and has maintained an intolerant policy towards Kurdish rights and freedom demands. Syria practiced ethnic cleansing, arabization and assimilation policy. Furthermore it denied hundreds of thousands of the Kurds citizenship in their own land. Syria has pursued a policy of hunting, persecuting, terrorizing and killing Kurdish journalists and civil rights activists as well political activists. Syrian jails are full of Kurdish prisoners whose guilt consists of their political beliefs or simply their being Kurds.

Iraq practiced ethnic cleansing, arabization, assimilation and genocide against the Kurds before and under Saddam Hussein. Now after Saddam Hussein's fall, the Iraqi government ignores Kurdish national rights and demands in central issues such as natural resources, regional security, recognizing the Kurdish ethnic border, and so on.

In brief, the Lausanne Treaty confirmed the division of Kurdistan among those countries without respecting Kurdish interests, and put Kurdish destiny in the hands of those regional occupier states. Under the Westphalian system, the international principle of nonintervention gave those states a free hand to treat the Kurds as they wished, which created the opportunity to eliminate Kurdish identity and national existence even by extreme means.

After so many crimes committed against the Kurds and after their survival from past oppression, ethnic cleansing and genocides, now it is time to rethink the unjust Lausanne Treaty and open the door for Kurdish freedom.

We demand:

- Remove the denial policy against Kurdish freedom in every part of Kurdistan and instead implement a policy of acceptance.
- Accept Kurdish self-determination as a natural right, as for any nation.
- Stop Turkish and Iranian attacks on the Kurdish countryside and villagers in the northern and eastern part of Kurdistan.
- Stop Turkish and Iranian bombardment of the border areas inside Southern Kurdistan under control of the Kurdistan Regional Government.
- Accept the Vellayet of Mosul border as the Kurdistan border, as recognized by the international community in 1925.
- Prevent Iran from killing journalists and political activists.
- Free innocent Kurds from Syrian jails.
- Accept Kurdish citizenship, and the national and political rights of the Kurds in Syria.