

FAYLEE KURDS GENERAL COUNCIL

ئه نجومه ئى گشتى كوردى فه يلى

المجلس العام للکرد القيليين



Ambassador L Paul Bremer, III
Administrator
Coalition Provisional Authority

Best Regards

In the name of **Faylee Kurds** in Iraq and in exile, we wish to thank you personally, and both the American and British governments for all efforts you have carried out in the reconstruction of an new democratic, federal, united Iraq.

Faylee Kurds form an integral part of the Iraqi society. They mainly reside in the capital Baghdad, and in other main cities like Kut, Imarah, Khanaqin, Badreh, Jassan, Mendely, Hay, Ali Al-gharbee, lesser numbers in Hella, and some other cities and towns like Naseriah, and Basrah. I.e. in the capital Baghdad and in the eastern and southeastern areas of Iraq, Faylee Kurds played an important and positive rule through the modern history of the State of Iraq since its establishment in the early 1920s. Back in the 1940s they had pioneering civil society establishments such as cultural centers, sports clubs which were renowned for their proficiency. On the economic and business level, Faylee Kurds did perform rather well, during the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies of the last century they occupied no less than 30-35% of Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, and similar figure or even higher for the overall business sector in Baghdad.. They were known for their skills and honesty.

They enjoyed unmatched reputation for their hard working, political awareness, the defending of democracy and recognizing of human rights. They were harmonious and on very good terms with other ethnic groups and sectors of society. Many of them were among the wide spectrum of the political arena, as activists, high ranking, and indeed leaders of some political parties (except for some parties with some repressive, chauvinist agendas and practices like the Iraqi Bath Party). It is known that Fay lee Kurds in their areas of residency resisted the Bathist Coup d'e tat of 1963, stood their ground and gave the Bathist forces a hard time.

As a result of their economical achievements and successes, and their rule in the democratic movements, defending the just course of the Kurdish nation, and their stances against repression and sectarian discrimination against all Iraqis, they faced a lot of harassment by successive Iraqi



governments. What took place from 1963 onwards was a lot, but it could be summarized into the following:

- 1- Right from the start of the establishment of state of Iraq, Faylee Kurds were classified as second class citizens (and even in case of those of them obtaining full citizenship, they had to fulfill all rights and obligations on them, yet at the same time they were not given or allowed to practice their rights as full citizen as other Iraqis!). Despite the fact that they were there for long time before the creation of the modern satiate of Iraq.
- 2- In 1963, Bathists, started deporting hundreds of Faylee Kurd families on the pretext of being of Iranian origin.
- 3- At their second come back to power in 1968, the Bathist regime, and shortly after signing 11th of March Autonomous agreement with the Kurds in north of Iraq, and during 1970-71, some 70,000 Faylee Kurds were forcibly deported to Iran. They lost their homes, business, education, etc...
- 4- 1980 Saddam became the supreme ruler, and in April of 1980 Iraqi regime embarked on executing its biggest crime yet against us, the Faylee Kurds: They started a massive simultaneous midnight raids on Faylee Kurds and some Shia Arabs across Baghdad and other cities, in an orchestrated campaign, arresting them while they were in their bedtime cloths, stripping them off all documents, looting all of their valuables, money, properties, property deeds, bank accounts, etc...It was such a savage campaign it could only be compared to what happened to the Jews during the Nazi rule of Germany. They were kept in prison for weeks and months. Then taken to the Iranian borders where they were forced to cross into Iran, walking through battlegrounds, minefields, very harsh terrain in sever weather conditions, many killed during the days long journey on foot. This campaign lasted two years i.e. in 1980-1981, although it was continued on later, but on smaller scale. As result some 450,000-500,000 Iraqis were deported, some 300,000 of them were Faylee Kurds. During this process, the regime yet committed another abominable crime; they kept back some 15,000+ young men, aged between 12-40's of age. In fact in some cases they even kept some



girls, women, infants... for no reason, just to inflict more suffering on those deportees.

- 5- The predicament of Faylee Kurds continued in Iran, as many tens of thousands live in refugee camps since 1980, deprived of any forms of documents, or traveling papers to leave Iran, unemployment, no education, poverty..
- 6- As a result all of our properties, belongings, money, businesses and assets were unlawfully taken from us, this left its huge mark on us, as we are still to this very moment finding it financially and legally difficult to come back (for those outside Iraq) to claim back all or any of that, and resume a normal descent life like others.
- 7- After 23 years of anxiety, and after the fall of the regime on 9th April 2003, the crawl fact emerged that none of 15,000+ detainees has survived... They were all killed one way or another.

Dear Ambassador Bremer

As we went through the summery of what the Faylee Kurds had suffered at the hands of successive, oppressive, undemocratic rulers of Iraq, it is very fair to say that Faylee Kurds deserve to be among first Iraqis to have all their rights reimbursed fully to them, as the following:

- 1- That all Faylee Kurds should be granted full citizenship, and eliminate all sorts of discrimination against them in particular to scrap the ill reputed Nationality Certificate, and grant all Iraqis same rights and citizenship in a constitutional manner.
- 2- After the capture of Saddam, we see it is only fair to his Faylee Kurds victims that there should be a separate dossier of these crimes on this matter to be presented to the court to be added to his other crimes.
- 3- As the democratic process is well under way, and news of committees to be set up for a new constitution, and preparations for democratic elections, we see it fit and fair that Faylee Kurds are to be included in these committees and not to be left out. It is probably true to assume that some members on the Interim Council are aware of the Faylees problems and concerns, but it is fairer that if there was some Faylee



representation on the Council so it truly embraces all of Iraqis, and to ensure a collective effort of building new democratic Iraq.

- 4- It is known that a lot of Iraqi refugees did come back to their homeland (like from Rafha, Iran), and this was done under the control of the Coalition Authority and the Interim Council... But there have been no return of the Faylee Kurds! It is also worth mentioning that our properties and businesses are still been unlawfully occupied by pro Saddams, and they hanging on to them in some cases by force, as we do appreciate all the efforts done by you to restore order, but we also plea with you to help us gain our properties back as a matter of priority, and compensate us for all losses during the last 20 odd years and for them to be not to be compensated. It is worth mentioning again that those who are occupying these places they do not leave, they do not have the intention of leaving, indeed they do threaten to use force against the original owners, and in some cases they claim that they lawfully bought these properties.
- 5- Help us to locate and identify the where about of our loved ones who were eliminated by the regime, and compensate their families for their losses of their loved ones. As we suggest that committees to be set up to investigate this matter and to include Faylee on such bodies or committees.
- 6- Re-employ those who were sacked from their jobs during Saddams reign, and compensate them morally and financially for all their losses.

We take this opportunity to thank you again in helping us all Iraqis, and Kurds in particular, to have our freedom back and to help restore democracy and justice in a new united democratic, federal, Iraq, and towards a civil society in which all Iraqis rights are protected regardless of their creed, and race.