
The Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva would like to draw your attention on the economic discriminations facing the Kurdish People in Iran.

While Iranian Kurdistan is, in terms of natural resources such as oil, agriculture, and minerals, one of the richest regions of Iran, this area is one of the most discriminated and impoverished of the country.

Since its creation, the Islamic Republic of Iran carries out a policy of «dekurdistanisation». Young Kurds are obliged to leave Kurdistan with their families because there is no work. The authorities do not invest in developing enterprises or infrastructures. All the mineral and oil resources are extracted in Kurdistan, but exploited in the other Persian provinces. Furthermore, the archaeological discoveries are usually taken out of the area, impeding its cultural and economical development.

Moreover, Gozinessh, is a practice used to marginalizing Kurds by expressly denying them employment in the State sector, as well as in parts of the Private sector. Such process legally impairs equality of opportunity and treatment for all the Kurds who seek jobs in the Public sector, and to a minor extent in the Private one. Any State jobs, whether a teacher, a policeman, a shopkeeper or a parliamentary candidate is selected accordingly. It should be emphasized that the State is by far the main employer in Iran.

State Universities are equally using discriminatory conditions to limit the admission of Kurdish students. This obviously implies a negative impact on their participation in the economic life.

The Iranian Kurdistan also suffered badly from the eight years of the Iran-Iraq War and became one of the most mined fields in the Middle East. Nevertheless, the Authorities have neglected it in their de-mining programs, which seriously hamper the development of agriculture and industry.

Another challenge facing the Kurds in Iran is the use of their own language in the economic life. Under the article 15 of the Iranian Constitution, the official language is Persian. The same article stipulates that the use of regional and tribal languages is allowed in addition to Persian, in the press and mass media, as well as in schools. However, the mention of regional languages is only a façade, since the Kurdish language is not taught in schools, the Kurdish newspapers are regularly closed down and the journalists arrested.

In conclusion, the economical discriminations facing the Kurds in Iran call for urgent measures, such as extensive de-mining programs, effective use of the Kurdish language in the Public life and reforming the laws restricting the participation of minorities in the Economic life. It is clear that discriminations against the Kurds and other minorities will not be improved without consideration of the international community. We therefore urge the United Nations and this Forum to address the situation and take effective measures in protecting the human rights of the Kurdish People and all minorities in Iran.