



**Iraqi Turkmen Human
Rights Research
foundation**

**Barzani's way of Democracy:
How to mislead the international
community**

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On 16 of December 2007, the Kurdish directors of the legislative offices in Kerkuk province, who unfairly represent the majority, informed their staffs that the curfew will be functional on 17 December 2007 and all the offices should close.

In addition the students were told not to attend their schools. The Kurdish security (Asayish) agents and the Peshmergas, whom have no legal authority in Kerkuk entered into the main centers of the cities in Kerkuk region, Kerkuk city, Tuz Khurmatu, Daquq, Taze Khurmatu, Altun Kopri ... etc and conversant the shoppers about curfew of 17 December and ordered them not to open the shops. When the staffs, students and the shoppers confronted the security about the reason, there were no clear explanations given.

On the evening of 16 December 2007, the deputy of Kerkuk police chief emerged in the Turkmeneli Television and said that there is no curfew on 17 December 2007, and declared normal working day.

Apparently become clear later in the day that; the Kurdish parties, particularly KDP and Peshmerga militants plan to impose the Kerkuk inhabitants to stay at home to give the impression that the people in Kerkuk are protesting against adjournment of the article 140.

At 8.30 in the morning, the Kurdish Asayish, Peshmergas and Kurdish policemen closed the cities entrances in Kerkuk province; they prevented citizens from leaving the cities, even those whom had patients.

Despite the director's instructions, large numbers of staffs attended work. But the Kurdish directors prevented them entering there offices.

The Kurdish Peshmergas and Asayish agents instituted different control points and blocked the streets in different regions within the cities. They questioned and offended the citizens for breaking of curfew and forced them to return home. The Staffs in Leylan city whom attended work in there offices were uncompromisingly beaten by a police chief called Brigadier Pola of Kurdish origin. The illegal Kurdish Asayish agents entered schools and affronted the teachers and ordered them to close the school. Later on, the school was photographed so it could be shown to the international community, as a protest of the Kerkuk's citizen against the setback of the article 140.

In the main street of al- Jumhuriyet, Musallah and Baghdad Yolo (Road) neighborhoods, the Kurdish militants threatened the shop owners that their shops can be raid by the angry Kurds. Several petrol stations were closed by the Kurdish Pashmargas and the front window of 3 vehicles smashed and shattered in one of stations.

At 9.00 am, several Peshmergas questioned the shoppers in the center of Great Market near Khurma Khani, when the shop owners refused to close; the names of 15 shop owners were registered. Publicly and on Television screens, they confirmed there ordeal, they were threatened and as a consequences they are anxious of punishment, kidnapping or

assassination. Many other shops were closed by force. The official papers of the taxi driver's license were taken from them by Kurdish Peshmergas.

Kerkuk governorate was open but the attendees were not allowed entering the building. And When Kerkuk governor asked about the curfew, he said , he had no information or any idea.!

At this occasion the Turkmen, Arabs, Assyrians and even the real Kurdish inhabitants of Kerkuk were adequately prepared to oppose the non democratic orders. Thousands of shops were open and a large numbers of the peoples refuse to go along with the Kurdish Peshmergas and Asayish militants. Turkmeneli televisions transmitted continuously live programs from the evening of 16 December till late night of 17 December and transmitted the illegal behaviors of the Kurdish Parties and their militants on time.

It is well known for the Kerkuk inhabitants that in the last several weeks many staffs were throwing out in Kerkuk government offices and in place of them new Kurdish security and Peshmergas militants were appointed.

The intimidation is one of the major characteristics of the non democratic systems which make the people avoid criticizing the government and easily comply with the orders. This phenomenon very much intensified in dictatorship. The protest meetings of Ba'ath regime are well known for its obligatory nature. The motives were always political; the orders were coming from the political authorities to schools, syndicates and governmental offices to leave their offices or classes in echelons to the appointed streets. The slogans were also prepared in advance by the political system. Unfortunately, the Kurdish authorities have no different mentality, their policy is still oppressive, tyrannical and they remained undemocratically minded, like Ba'ath regime. They rule the region with an iron fist.

What happened today (17 December 2007) in Kerkuk region supports the conclusion of SOITM that the Kurdish actors learned how to mislead the international community?

It is well known that the administration in Kerkuk region was reconstructed after occupation by the Americans and Kurdish parties. The police, security, military and governmental offices were all staffed by the disqualified and devotee Kurds. Illiterate Kurds were appointed in police and in highly specialized posts. The Iraqi government found the largest numbers of false police officers in Kerkuk province. The central government asked the administration in Kerkuk to expel the false policemen and the officers, the governorate which administered by the Kurds hindered to apply the orders of the government. The majority of the directors which were appointed by the Kurdish parties are high degree party members and most of them are not specialized in the field which they work.