



0/2022 JNS NEWSLETTER ٠/٢٠٢٢

- Being the international foundation that we are, we offer this newsletter – as our website - in four versions:
Deutsch <https://www.jemal-nebez-stiftung.org/Deutsch/Newsletter>
English <https://www.jemal-nebez-stiftung.org/English/Newsletter>
کوردی https://www.jemal-nebez-stiftung.org/pid_697244/Newsletter
Kurdî <https://www.jemal-nebez-stiftung.org/Kurd/Newsletter-Kurd>
- We were established as a foundation by Kurds for Kurds - in honor of Jemal Nebez. We build on his life's work, which we want to preserve and make known far and wide.
- We have legal capacity and are politically independent, not affiliated with any party. Our committees work on a voluntary basis. We rely on donations for our projects and planning.
- We are recognized as a non-profit organization under German law. What we receive in donations is spent and disclosed in accordance with our statutes.

Dear friends and friends of the Kurds, old and new!

In short, summing up the above bullet points, our foundation not only builds on our namesake, it also has the organizational and legal framework to stand for his life's work and carry it into the future, through the present that is.

While looking ahead, we still want to position ourselves in the present, take a look at its hardships and not forget the past.

Hard to bear present

However, the present is increasingly difficult to bear. Not all parts of the world are equally affected, but few are more so than the home region of the Kurds in the Middle East, divided Kurdistan. Defenseless, threatened by drones with orders to kill, ordinary field workers kidnapped by terror militias, some areas occupied by terror militias. One part, Western Kurdistan - or Kurdistan-Rojava in Syria - is controlled by Turkey, with constant threats to extend the occupation even further, which could mean the end of the autonomous region of Kurdistan - Rojava, also AANES (Autonomous Administration of Northern and Eastern Syria).

Tabooing of suffered injustice, lack of recognition

This present situation is hard to bear – as is this review of the past century.

There is hardly anything more terrible than what has happened to the people of Kurdistan who have lived on their own land and have their own language from antiquity (among linguists, it is known that Kurdish is older than Persian).

The horror ran through the 20th century, from its beginning, when colonialism penetrated deep into the Middle East and oil began to play its devastating role for the Kurds, even before the outbreak of World War I.

After World War I they were systematically divided by the victory powers, attributed to a series of newly founded nation states and then have been held in this condition, without a chance for international recognition up to the present.

The League of Nations, created to moderate the implementation of Versailles at the end of 1919, failed miserably. Neither Turkey (1923), nor Iraq (1932) granted the cultural rights they had agreed to before gaining independence.

The UN, founded immediately after the Second World War, denied its competence in the case of the Kurds. Their representatives were not invited to the founding conference, but nevertheless made representations to the first Secretary General, without avail.

Interestingly, the League of Nations continued to exist until the last of the states dividing Kurdistan was founded, Syria (1946). Syria became independent on April 17, 1946, without any conditions regarding the "Kurdish minority" living in that part of Kurdistan. One day later, the League of Nations dissolved. At that time, the Cold War had already begun. With all that followed, the establishment of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, there were no UN-initiated explorations, neither before the end of the Soviet Union nor afterwards, on how the situation of the Kurds, who were forced to make countless sacrifices in vain, could be strengthened. On the contrary, by its persistent refusal to address the matter or to reform, the UN has cemented the situation of injustice.

De-tabooing through disclosure and insistence

Given time, the disclosure of the injustices and the insistence on efforts to find a solution at the level of international organization will eventually be successful. It may even not take that long, if some insightful states actively commit themselves to this goal, and if they unite efforts, because of some unforeseeable event in the future, it may even be faster, especially if the call for justice is loud enough.

For some decades now Kurds have gained competence, by focusing on crimes committed against individuals, i.e. on Human Rights violations in their parts of the world. They documented these cases, reported and argued them at courts, including international courts. Presenting cases of historical injustices, among them the denial of international recognition to the Kurds, requires a new expertise, but will be worth the effort at the latest when this expertise is called for at conferences likely to accompany the efforts of

insightful states to make the Kurds heard internationally, if this will be the case.

An effort to right the present, takes perseverance and funds

To the present time, Kurds are excluded from international problem-solving conferences, even when they are directly concerned. Kurds have time and again applied to be admitted to such events. A qualified documentation of such requests, an analysis of the chances to be admitted, and why the requests failed, could in our opinion contribute to future more successful such attempts. As a non-profit foundation specializing in science and research, we could take on such an undertaking, if only a sponsor for the grant-expenses (payable to the competent and qualified researcher/s) was found.

So much for looking forward and to the future.

Please note, we now have an online seminar series!

All information about the series can be found under "Events/Current Seminars". There you can also find the links to the videos of the first two seminars. We thank **Dr. Irfan Mustafa** for the project and the presentations in Kurdish.

The underlying text by Jemal Nebez from 1986 is also available in German - obtained by him in 1987. Both texts were published at the time by the Kurdish Academy of Science and Art (Stockholm). The full title in German was:

*Kurdish Affiliation: Who is a Kurd? What does being a Kurd mean?
A research into the study of a divided and stateless people.*

Jemal had originally given the lecture in Copenhagen in 1985, to Kurdish refugees in Denmark as part of a seminar on the Kurdish problem.

We have opened a ZOOM account on behalf of the Foundation for this online seminar series, which we will use in a variety of contexts from now on, including our annual meeting in early December.

Online annual meeting - on December 3, 1 pm.

We want to use the gray days of November to put together a positive program for our online annual meeting. It will be on our "Events" subpage in the 2nd half of November - as well as the necessary info for joining the ZOOM meeting.

The beginning of December is a significant time for us every year. On December 1, Jemal was born, this year he would have been 89 years old. On December 8, four years ago, he passed away. In the four years - and in the two and a half years since the Foundation was established - much has happened and, thank God, much has been achieved.

The active members of our foundation will report on their work and show what they have achieved, and there will be an opportunity to get to know them better by asking questions. In addition, there will be a preview of the new year.

So long, see you December 3 online!

We are planning our next newsletter for March next year, in time for Newroz.

In the meantime, please use the informational resources on our website.

We hope for your/your continued interest.

With best wishes,
Reez w silav!

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