



Kurdish Diaspora Centre-Geneva
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Dear President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am here to draw your attention to the fact that many Kurdish towns and villages are being subject to a heavy military siege by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Nearly 70 days have passed since the mass protests in Iran. The uprising was triggered by the brutal murder of Zhina (Mahsa) Amini by the police of the Islamic Republic in Tehran. The protests started in a pacified manner in Saqz, Kurdistan with the slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” (Women, Life, Freedom) and extended across Kurdistan and towards other parts of Iran.

The government's response to the protests is at its most extreme form in the Kurdish and minority regions. The extent of the military assaults against the Kurds and the Balochs cannot be seen elsewhere. The discrimination against the Kurdish regions is clear even in the type of bullets used during the protests. It is with real bullets which the military vehicles are used in the Kurdish regions.

The regime is systematically targeting the Kurdish regions of Iran. They let the military machines loose onto defenceless civilians and innocent bystanders. They have killed at least 120 men, women and children. They raid peoples' homes and abduct hundreds of citizens whose whereabouts are

still unknown. They terrorise families, destroy their property and confiscate their mobile phones. Thus, leaving people without any means to report or document the human rights violations.

Over the last two weeks alone, many Kurdish towns have witnessed their electricity, water and internet being cut off. Reports state poisoning of the water and food reserves. Recent reports have mentioned the use of neurotoxic gases, which is caused by the lack of medical supplies in the region. Hospitals are being blocked by soldiers. Corpses are being abducted and families are not permitted to organise funeral services for their loved ones.

This systematic targeting of the Kurdish people includes the bombing of the Iranian Kurdish opposition parties and their neighbouring camps located out with Iran on the other side of the Iranian border. Again, targeting innocent civilians. Schools and hospitals are also being bombed.

A recent CNN report revealed absolutely horrible witness statements which illustrated how the Iranian security forces regularly use rape, sexual abuse and torture to repress the protests. The report also states that most of the reports of sexual violence investigated by CNN, since the start of the protests which were triggered by Amini's death, came from the Western part of the country where large sections of the region are predominantly Kurdish. Therefore, what is happening in Iranian Kurdistan, dear President, ladies and gentlemen, is rising to genocide level.

Thank you for your attention!