

4/15/1

Kak Amir Hassanpour
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Dear Kak Amir,

Thank you very much for your fax and best wishes to you and your family. Your request is not an easy one as you imagined but I will do my best.

1. KDP-S : Kurdistan Democratic Party-Syria (Parti Demokrati Kurdistanana Surya) was established in July 1957 in Syria (illegally and underground). First president was the late Dr. Nureddin Zaza. It's newspaper was called "Parti". The ideological profile was marxist in the same manner as that of Iraq, at the time. It called for the liberation and unification of Kurdistan by revolutionary means. It had good relations with KDP of Iraq and the nucleus of Kurdish patriots in Turkey that were arrested in 1959.
2. In 1962 the party split in practice but not formally into two factions, keeping the same name for the party and the newspapers. The split developed within the leadership that was in prison since the fall of 1959 (nearly all the leadership was arrested including myself due to the party raising the slogan calling for the overthrow of the Nasser regime in Syria). The split was about future strategies: whether to continue the struggle along revolutionary lines and demanding the liberation and unification of all parts of Kurdistan or to moderate the profile of the party and concentrate on social and cultural rights for the kurds in Syria rather than the Kurdistanian profile. The pragmatic and moderate faction was headed by Dr. Zaza while the leftist faction was led by Osman Sabri.
3. In 1965 the party split officially into:
 - a- KDP-S with the old name for the party and the newspaper. This was the moderate faction which was led now by Hamid Darwesh because Dr. Zaza had gone into exile. It supported the polit-buro fraction in the split in Iraqi Kurdistan.
 - b- The Left KDPS (Partiya Cepi Kurdistanana Surya) was led by Osman Sabri. It sympathised with the Barzani leadership in the split in Iraqi Kurdistan but held some form of neutrality and independence. It was under the influence of the Syrian and Iraqi Communist parties. Their newspaper had different names starting with "AL-Party -Al-Yasar", then "Unity -Alittihad-Yeketi", then "The People -Al-Shaa'b-Gel". In 1967, Osman Sabri went to Turkish Kurdistan and Salah Bedreddin started to emerge as the new leading profile. He identified the party more strongly with the Barzani leadership in Iraq.
4. In 1970 (fall), the two factions agreed to the mediation of the Iraqi KDP (which was reunited under Barzani now) to hold a common unity conference in Iraqi Kurdistan. The sessions

were actually chaired either by Barzani or Dr. Mahmoud Osman. The conference elected a "Provisional Leadership" (Al-qiyadah al-marhaliyya) that would unite the organizations and hold a common congress. This PL was practically appointed by Barzani which led to some dissatisfaction by the two main factions. They subsequently refused to accept the PL and withdrew their representatives from PL. KDPS now became three parties instead of two, namely:

KDPS, the Left KDPS and KDPS-PL. The KDPS changed the name of its newspaper from "AL-party" to "Al-demokraty". The Left KDPS gave out a newspaper with the name of "Gel". While KDPS-PL gave out "Al-party". KDPS-PL was very pro-barzani leadership and could even be considered a local branch of Iraqi KDP.

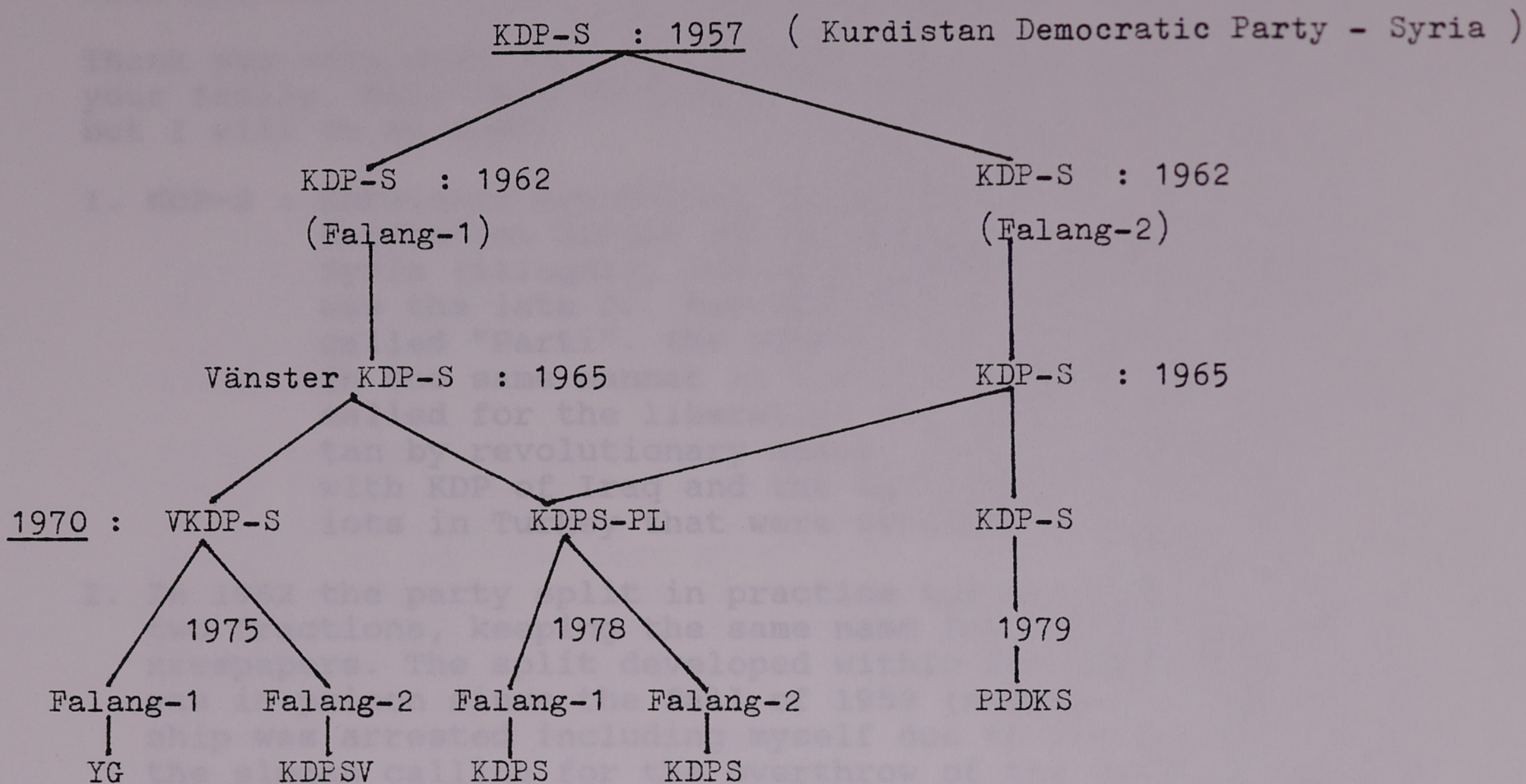
5. In 1975, The Left KDPS split into two parties because of their general secretary's (Salah Bedreddin) old alliance with barzani and later collaboration with the Iraqi govt. One was called "The Left KDPS" and gave out "Gel" while the other one called itself "Yeketya Gel" and gave a newspaper with the same name which was headed by Salah Bedreddin. The latter faction was extremely anti PUK because of its close contacts with the Iraqi government and the Palestinian resistance movements. It had no contacts with the Iraqi KDP-PL. The former faction was very close to the PUK when it was established.
6. In 1979, KDPS of Hamid Darwesh changed its name to "The Progressive KDPS - Partya Peshveru Demokratî Kurd li Sûrye PPKS" and gives out the newspaper "Al-demokraty" in Arabic. This continues until now.
7. In 1978, KDPS-PL was split into two parties. One was called "KDPS" and the other "KDPS-Alparty".
8. In 1991, a fraction split from KDPS-Alparty and called itself "The United KDPS or UKDPS".
9. In 1980, Yeketya Gel changed its name into "Hevgirtina Gel - The Kurdish Popular Unity Party in Syria - Hizb Al-ittihad Al-shaa'bi fi Soorya" and gave out a newspaper with the same name.
10. In 1991, Hevgirtina Gel split into two factions. One was led by Salah Bedreddin and the other led by Fuad Aliko a member of the Syrian Parliament.
11. In 1977, a completely independent party and not from the ranks of KDPS was formed which was called "The Socialist Kurdish Party of Syria". It strongly supported the PUK and three of its leaders that had joined puk's armed struggle were martyred in Badinan at the hands of Iraqi KDP-PL in 1978. It went into oblivion after 1988.
12. In 1985, The new Left KDPS was split and a faction from it formed "Hizb Alshagheela -Zehmetkeshan".

13. In 1993, "Zehmetkëshan" and "UKDPS" got united and maintained the name "UKDPS". Later in the year, Fuad's group of "Hevgirtina Gel" also joined them to form "Al-Qiyada Al-mooshtaraka - The Joint Leadership" and in late 1993 to be called " UKDPS-Yekety".
14. In 1993, KDPS + the Left KDPS + Salah's group of Hevgirtina Gel formed the "Alliance - Altahaluf", a semi front organisation. They were joined in early 1994 by PPDKS as well and maintained the same name.
15. Now, the Alliance and UKDPS-Yekety are holding a dialogue for unity and accommodation.
16. All the parties after 1970 concentrated on using the adjectives Kurd or Kurdish instead of Kurdistan in their names. Hence, pointing out that there are Kurds in Syria but no part of Kurdistan. Their demands were changed from liberation and unity with other parts of Kurdistan to Kurdish cultural and democratic rights in Syria. Now, there are signs (after the developments in Turkey and Iraq) that some want to return to the old slogans. Ideologically, they are a riff-raff of nationalists, liberals, democrats, marxists and conservatives.
17. None of the parties or organisations have ever had official recognition in Syria. They have always had either an illegal or underground status. Before the union with Egypt in 1958, the party was unofficially tolerated. After the union all political parties were abolished by Nasser. The Baath regimes have been extremely repressive and harsh. After 1978, the Assad regime has given the kurdish parties some form of unofficial status and the leaders of three of the parties (the main ones) were elected into the Syrian Parliament in the fall of 1990, namely: Hamid Darwësh (PPDKS), Kamal Ahmad (KDPS) and Fuad Aliko (Hevgirtina Gel) There are signs, now, of new arrests and torture especially among Fuad's group because they have raised new demands and are showing some militancy. It could also be that the Syrians are worried about the effects of the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan or it could be a result of policy coordination with Turkey and Iran in their periodic biannual meetings.

So you see my brother, that this was a very annoying and troublesome task that you asked me to do. But I did it gladly for you. I am also sending a skiss in Swedish that I did on the earlier period until 1980.

With best wishes
Omar Sheikmous
omaa
Ceifo
Stockholm University.
April 6, 1994.

Kurdiska Organisationer i Syrien



Nuläget :

- 1- PPKS : Det Progressiva Kurdiska Demokratiska Partiet i Syrien.
- 2- Yeketya Gel : Folkets Enhhet.
- 3- KDPS-Vänster : Kurdiska Demokratiska Partiet i Syrien - Vänster.
- 4- KDPS : Kurdiska Demokratiska Partiet i Syrien - 1.
- 5- KDPS : Kurdiska Demokratiska Partiet i Syrien - 2 .
- 6- PSKS : Kurdiska Socialist Partiet i Syrien . (1977).

4. In 1970 (fall), the two factions agreed to the mediation of the Iraqi KDP (which was founded under Barzani now) to hold a common unity conference in Iraqi Kurdistan. The session