

Commemorating Dr. Ghassemlou's Martyrdom

PDKI in the period of its 57 years of struggling history has left behind many vulnerable stages. Hard and difficult struggle filled with strained circumstances, heaped up with sudden events and unpleasant tragedies. In the past, the despotism of monarchy, and in this period the reactionary regime of Islamic Republic's oppression have continuously been waging on our Party as a disturbing nightmare. These regimes have not withheld from any inhumane plans and actions for the elimination of our Party leadership, surrendering its members, and to put an end to its political and organizational history.

Qazi Mohammad who was the founder, and the leader of PDKI, and the establisher of the Kurdistan Republic was hanged on March 30, 1947 on the order of Mohammad Reza Shah, only with the offense that he had lived for his people, and had been in the service of his national aspirations. No doubt, the unpleasant tragedy of July 13, 1989 too was not only painful that it will never vanish from the memory of Kurds, but it also afflicted and touched upon the hearts of democratic liberation activists, and defendants of human rights globally. It was in this day, that Dr. Ghassemlou, the Secretary-general of our Party, and Abdullah Ghaderi-Azar, member of the Central Committee and the official representative of the Party in Europe, were assassinated in the city of Vienna by the terrorists of Islamic Republic. A plan that the regime's mercenaries had drafted in the name of negotiation ended with the assassination of Dr. Ghassemlou and his comrades. Regime's authorities had hoped to achieve from this terror the demise of our Party, the disappointment of the people of Kurdistan in their just cause that the PDKI had been leading.

Dr. Ghassemlou was a talented and a capable personality of our Party. Within the organization and the Kurdish community, he was a popular and a well-respected individual. He was not only a charismatic leader within the Kurds, but he was also known as a knowledgeable individual in diplomacy and a messenger of peace and dialogue in the world of politics, in international community, and democratic organizations, and his global fame emanated from these characteristics.

Ghassemlou's mission to lead PDKI dates back to 1950. When he started to perform this mission, from PDKI had remained a big name, but a destroyed city. It was because of his leading role that the political-organizational structure of the Party was redrawn from the start, and was organized based on a modern platform that was reflective of the contemporary conditions of struggle, and a developed programme and charter for the Party was proposed. After these changes, absolutism was abolished in the Party forever; internal democracy flourished; meetings, conferences and conventions took place; the leadership of the Party was elected from these conferences and conventions; collective cooperative activities proliferated; the principle of criticism --aimed at

eliminating shortages and solving difficulties-- and development was given top priority; education and training of members with organizational courage, and struggle in the direction of raising their level of political-organizational knowledge spread, and organization became the most important weapon of political activeness.

The thesis of living Ghassemlou on healthy internal relations were blended with mutual understanding and friendship; not only the borders between accountability and friendship did not fall and were not disrupted, but also each on its own place was respected. The circumstances were changed in a way that the member of the Party from the top of the pyramid to its bases, were transformed into members of a family. The effects of such changes on the members were so drastic that they considered the Party theirs, and were extremely active in preserving their Party personality.

Dr. Ghassemlou theorized the Party's relations with the Kurdish organizations and parties in a way that the layout of these relations should be analyzed as a historical necessity, and established on the basis of mutual respect and non-intervention in each other's affairs, and most importantly no Kurdish organization should allow itself to establish regional and international relations with countries on behalf of another organization.



Ghassemlou believed in the unity of the Kurdish nation. It was from this perspective that he published "Kurdistan and Kurds". However, his world understanding of the Kurdish issues was very realistic. He had felt all the obstacles that had been created by the sensitive geographical location of Kurdistan. He would critically analyze the level of capability and power of the international forces in the Middle East region. In this analysis it was important that between "national interest" and "political consideration", he had chosen "the possible". This thesis was followed by the synthesis slogan of "Democracy for Iran, Autonomy for Kurdistan", a slogan that has still remained as the strategic slogan of the Party, and has gathered members and sympathizers under its umbrella.

Ghassemlou observed a special dialectical relationship between "national democracy" and "regional autonomy", and identified a precise and logical relationship method that the Party developed with national Iranian organizations. These relations were rooted on the basis of finding common grounds and mutual respect, and the avoidance of any emerging hegemonic force. Those segment of organizations and national parties that respected democracy and the rights of oppressed nationalities of Iran

were placed on the front ranks of the organizations that the Party should establish relations with, and it was meant that these relations should be strategic and long-term. PDKI in this respect also attained many important achievements. Its prestige increased day by day among the popular masses of Iran and other democratic political personalities and nation-wide organizations. The political-organizational capability and credit of the Party in regards to the destiny of Iranian political alternative has reached a scale that any national or united democratic or progressive front in Iran without the cooperation or participation of PDKI is considered weak and incomplete.

Ghassemlou's thesis in regards to the presence of the Party in international gatherings and communities was also very effective and decisive. Previously, if there existed any relationships between our Party and the international groups and organizations, it was not reflective of our Party's resistance circumstances and conditions. It was Ghassemlou who with experience and awareness of the culture and politics of Eastern and Western European countries, cleverly and masterly strived on these matters and experimented many ways, and showed to the world a real image of a democrat; it reached a stage that now mainly as a result of his non-stop struggle, PDKI has been admitted to the ranks of Socialist International as a member to carry across the just demands of the Kurds in Iranian Kurdistan to the world via this universal tribune.

Ghassemlou had dedicated the last 20 years of his life serving Party objectives. He was himself a school of humanity, national sentiment, and performance of Party affairs. The changes that he brought into the Party organism was so effective, dynamic, and appropriate that after his martyrdom left behind a strong, firm Democratic Party with many experiences. The precious lessons and advices that the companions of Democrat had learned from the school of Ghassemlou, had brought them about in a way that they had remained in the stage of struggle with a firm belief and courage more than before; by keeping the ranks of the Party united, they remained faithful to the path of development, and did not allow the anti-ethnic regime, the Islamic Republic to carry out its polluted objectives.