

Celebrating the Kurdish achievements in the new emerging Iraq

The Kurdish community in the UK held a boisterous party to mark the recent developments in Iraq and to celebrate the achievements of the Kurds in the new emerging Iraq.

BY Neman



Celebration at Porchaster Hall

In his welcoming address, Mr. Hishyar Abid, the chair of Kurdish Housing association, said :

“Over the past few weeks, we have witnessed the inauguration of the first Iraqi President to be elected through democratic means, who is a Kurdish leader, in the person of Mr. Jalal Talabani. The new Parliament in Kurdistan is about to elect a president of the region and confirm a unified Kurdistan Regional Government.”

Mr. Abid asserted in his speech, which was delivered on behalf of the organising committee, that **“These are significant milestones in the history of the Kurdish nation and of Iraq. These are historic achievement that came about through the bloody struggle of the Kurdish people over the past decades, the sacrifices that they made and the tragedies they endured, not only in Iraq, but in all of Kurdistan. Indeed, these victories are not just for Iraqi Kurds but for all of the Kurds in Kurdistan as well as for all Iraqis.”**

The gathering included Mr. Abdulmuhaimen Al-Oraibi, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Iraqi Embassy who was representing his Excellency Dr Salah Al-Sheikhly the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, and Mr. Mudhafar Zedan Khalaf, second secretary to the Ambassador. Mr. Abid reminded the attendants: **“For decades, the Kurds were the target of a vicious and systematic oppression, coordinated by the despotic and chauvinistic regimes in the region. Despite their animosity and hostility towards each other, despite the 8-year war between Iraq and Iran, the plotting and counter plotting between Syria and Iraq, the grave contrast of NATO membership of Turkey and anti-Western stances of the other three governments. All of these countries maintained and coordinated well-liased strategies to suppress the Kurdish people throughout the region. This policy has united the oppressive regimes of the region.”** He then added that **“The Kurdish nation has lived side by side, and shared a great heritage and culture, with the Arab nations of Iraq and Syria.**

On the 30th January 2005, the first free and fair elections took place in Iraq, which produced the first democratically elected representative body. On the same day the second election for the Kurdish Parliament took place as well as local elections to elect town-hall style councils. The first business meeting of the Iraqi Assembly elected a Kurdish leader, Mr. Jalal Talabani, as President of Iraq. In the Kurdistan region the unified Parliament was established with the prospect of the widely expected announcement of the election of Mr. Masoud Barzani as President of the Kurdistan Region and the formation of a unified Kurdistan Regional Government.

The Iraqi people are grasping the first real chance to shape their own destiny and set an example for democratic government with the rule of law that guarantees the basic human rights of all people and ensures the prosperity and stability of the country and the region.



Living Fire Group

They have coexisted for millennia with their Persian cousins and have shared one single political entity with the Turks since the inception of the Turkish republic in the beginning of the last century. They are in effect the common factor with all of these nations. And now, in the light of the event which took place in the last decade, the Kurdish people are looking foreword to playing a new role in the region. One of promoting peace and stability, democracy and freedom, stability and prosperity. A role that unifies the four great nations which inhabit the region.”

The Party included many distinguished Arab journalists, representatives of the Kurdistan Regional Government in the UK, Ms. Bayan Rahman, representatives of the Kurdish political parties, representatives of UK based organisations and other dignitaries.



It continued until midnight and was enchanted by the brilliant performance of the Living Fire Ensemble, which combined traditional Kurdish music, punctuated by mesmerising percussion on the Deff by Hazhar, and by passionate Kurdish poetry. Their performance was followed by a fashion show organised by the Kurdish designer Dilkash, that included some exquisite combinations of traditional clothes imaginatively fused with new designs. The second half of the party was filled with performances from two rising stars in the Kurdish music world, Ashder Wahbi, who resides in Denmark and Ardelan Mahmoud, who flew to London from Sweden with his band. Their songs aroused the whole party in long lines of energetic dancing that transformed the atmosphere to one of a true festival.



Kurdish Fashion Show