

Interview of Dr Jawad Mella, President of the Kurdistan National Congress on Al-Jazeera TV

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The presenter: How can we ask the Turkish Government to have normal relations with those who carry out terrorist actions on its territories? Is it possible that the Turkish Government would allow that and what were the reasons behind this kind of offer?

Dr. Jawad Mella: In reality the Turkish government is not hostile to the Kurdistan Workers Party or any other Party, but the Turkish state since its foundation is hostile to the Kurdish people and has executed several Kurdish leaders never allowing the Kurdish people to practice any of their rights even before the Kurdistan Workers Party was born.

The fact is that they are hostile in a disgusting racist manner to all the Kurdish people with all its factions, parties and institutions. If they claim that Kurdistan of Iraq or Kirkuk were one day parts of the Ottoman Empire, then Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia were also parts of that Empire.

This is something that no one can believe, to claim that if they have occupied some country in the past so it stays, belonging to them. According to the same logic Italy and Greece can claim Istanbul back as it was Constantinople, when 500 years ago they turned its churches into mosques.

The presenter: How can we ask the Turkish Government to establish normal relations with those who carry out terrorist acts and how can we believe that the 3 thousand persons from Turkey inside the Iraqi territories do not cause any trouble?

Dr. Jawad Mella: The Turkish Government is not hostile towards the Workers Party and those 3 thousand Kurds inside the Iraqi Kurdistan, as if they really want to negotiate and have a dialogue with Iraqi Kurdistan and its government, they have to give the rights to 20 million Kurds in Turkey whom they do not recognize as Kurdish people in Turkey. The Kurdish people there are more than 20 million, are they all terrorists, this is a complete nonsense and hence a clear lie.

The presenter: The Turkish Head of Staff says that he has damning evidence in regard of the involvement of the Kurdish factions in Northern Iraq in supplying the Kurdistan Workers Party with arms, explosives and ammunition, can we deny that?

Dr. Jawad Mella: Of course this is not true because the Kurdistan Workers Party has power much more than the Southern Kurdistan Government, the Iraqi Kurdistan Government. As while the Iraqi Kurdistan governs some 5 to 6 million Kurds, the



Dr. Jawad Mella
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Kurdistan Workers Party has more than 20 million Kurds in its disposal, that is a huge human potential, and instead of one TV station, it has several.

As for the claim that the Kurds are terrorists, it has been proven to be false because they regard any party or people hostile to them as terrorists. They have killed millions of Armenians and today they claim that the Armenians are terrorists, they kill the Kurds and claim that they are terrorists and that is not true.

The presenter: Do the Kurdish factions in Northern Iraq appreciate this step and welcome it?

Dr. Jawad Mella: Actually before I answer that question I would like to say something about this terrible accusation of Kurdish terrorism. In reality Kurdistan was divided and became an occupied part of Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. Some of these colonizers of Kurdistan are allies with America and some are hostile to America, accordingly the Kurds of Turkey are "terrorists" but the Kurds in Iraq, according to the imagination of others, are agents of America. In reality the Kurds are neither agents of America nor terrorists, but the Kurdish people has been a victim for 80 years of a dirty conspiracy as result of imperialist treaties that happened at the beginning of the last century.

The presenter: Do Kurdish leadership in Iraqi Kurdistan welcome Erdogan's initiative?

Dr. Jawad Mella: The Kurdistan Regional Government shall welcome any Kurdish demand or any other demand as long as it is a peaceful demand because the Kurds are a peaceful people and until now we have not seen any violent actions against any person in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Turkmen in Kirkuk are enjoying maximum freedom as the Assyrians, Arabs and all the rest.

Although Kurdistan today has power not to let any Arabs stay in Kirkuk but they allow all and using democratic and lawful methods, so they welcome the Turkish demands and any other peaceful demands.

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** The use of the term "Kurdistan" is vigorously rejected due to its alleged political implications by the Republic of Turkey, which does not recognize the existence of a "Turkish Kurdistan" Southeast Turkey. The Kurds have no rights in Turkey.

Others estimate as many as 40 million Kurds live in Big Kurdistan (Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Armenia), which covers an area as big as France, about half of all Kurds which estimate to 20 million live in Turkey.

The Kurdish flag flown officially in Iraqi Kurdistan but unofficially flown by Kurds in Armenia. The flag is banned in Iran, Syria, and Turkey where flying it is a criminal offence"

Southeastern Turkey: [North Kurdistan \(Kurdistan-Turkey\)](#) wikipedia