

Summary of Minutes

Kurdish Lobby Australia Information Session

7 February, 2016 4.15 – 7 pm

2 Herb Elliot Avenue, Olympic Park.

Please find KLA's Mission statement in separate attachment.

Note: At this stage KLA accepts individuals, not organisations as members and friends. Friends of KLA do not attend meetings and make decisions, but receive reports. The latest report was sent to Australian Parliamentarians on 15 February. If you would like a copy please email kurdishlobbyaus@gmail.com

Please note: KLA can only accept members who have constructive responses and wish to work on Kurdish issues for the benefit of all four regions. Having a working knowledge of English is essential as our lobbying and reports are in English.

Suggestions for what KLA should do in 2016

- Continue lobbying Australian politicians on Kurdish issues.
- Find out how Jewish and Armenian bodies successfully lobby
- Talk to Turkish groups.
- Approach international lawyers to write letters to address Kurdish rights on self determination based on the Treaty of Lausanne and Turkey being a signatory to the UN Declaration of Human Rights. E.g. write to French and UK parliamentarians re right to use mother tongue in Turkey, although trying to enforce a treaty is difficult.
- Have KLA lawyer to argue some issues when making presentations to Australian Parliamentarians.
- Lobby the Australian Parliament to clearly distinguish a terrorist organisation from an armed struggle with legitimate grievances and democratic aspirations.

Noted: difficulties re lobbying without funds, and because Kurds from each region operate separately, and do not have representation at the UN. In Australia, the Kurdish community is small and Australian politicians have good relations with Turkey, Iraq etc. However, the rise of ISIS provides Kurds with greater opportunities to lobby.

- Letters to be written to Kurdish political parties recommending the establishment of a National Congress.
- All Kurds should support demonstrations about what is happening in the different Kurdish regions.
- Provide humanitarian aid. Note: KLA does not have the capacity to do this, but it can lobby the Australian government, aid agencies and companies operating in Australia.

However to do this lobbying, KLA needs documentation and official letters from Rojava, Bashur etc, as to what is needed.

- Liaise with academics, writers, and journalists. E.g. David Hughes from Channel 9. We need names.
- Lobby Australian companies that do business in Turkey, Iran and Iraq. Bureau of Statistics has details about such companies.
- Kurds who are members of different political parties should get motions passed through sub-branches about Kurdish issues, so that motions are embedded in party platforms.
- Connect with overseas Kurdish organisations overseas, and get letters signed by Kurdish diaspora organisations.
- Write to world leaders and agencies like the UN. We need contact details.
- Follow up Amnesty International Report claims that have been discredited by contacting Human Rights Organisations.
- Lobby Human Rights Organisations.
- Lobby Australian parliamentarians associated with HR e.g. Jenny Leon, a State MP for the Greens, used to work in Amnesty International.
- Keep KLA's facebook page updated and create a website.
- Make presentations to churches and other religious organisations, as well as schools.\
- Hold a national conference and train young people to organise such events.
- Attract young people.
- Co-ordinate with activists like Matthew Gardner and Keith Harding.
- Find creative ways to tell Turks, Arabs and Persians that all Kurds want is the same as what they want.



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