



Annual Report on Kurdish Lobby Australia (KLA) Activities, 2020

Overview

In 2020 KLA continued to write reports and statements and be interviewed for Australian media and partake in web seminars hosted by the Washington Kurdish Institute. By 2 January 2021 www.KurdishLobbyAustralia.com had a total of 45,396 visitors and 124,035 visits.

Donations 2020

Donation of \$2,200 to Justice for Rojava's CrowdJustice campaign to pay Barrister Mansfield of Nexus Chambers to compile and present evidence against Erdogan to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. They are still raising funds. So far they have collected just over 14,000 English pounds.

Donation of \$300 to the Horsley Park Rural Fire Service

Donation of \$100 to Lebanese Muslim Association for disaster relief following Beirut explosion.

Donation of \$1000 in December to Jinwar Women's Committee, Jinwar being a village established for women and children in north East Syria

Reports on Overseas Projects

Report on water testing and quality at Judy refugee camp, Makhmour, Northern Iraq 9 February 2020

Other Reports / Presentations / Statements

KLA Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Why de-listing of PKK as a terrorist organisation needs to be considered, 7 February 2020 Sent to Joint Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security, Department of Home Affairs and Australian parliamentarians

Report on Turkey in Syria, 7 April 2020

Sent to Australian parliamentarians and media contacts.

Statement on the Centenary of the Treaty of Sevres, 10 August 2020

Signed by nine organisations and sent to Australian parliamentarians, Australian media contacts, EU, US Congress, country specific UN missions in Geneva and New York, KRG President, Prime Minister, Vice Prime Minister and Masoud Barzani

Call to free OCALAN, 16 October 2020 (read out at demonstration held at Sydney Town Hall)

Background to the Azerbaijan-Armenia War, 10 November 2020

Sent to the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Australian Parliamentarians, and others.



Letters

[Letter from Inner West Council](#) supporting deposed Kurdish mayors and councillors in Turkey, 20 October 2020

Letter to German FR Ambassador in Canberra, 31 January 2020

Letter to the Australian Kurdish Community calling for a united Newroz celebration in March 2020. Meetings were held, agreements struck, but unfortunately the event had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.

[Letter to KRG re Mostefa Salimi](#) being handed to Iranian authorities and executed three days later, May 2020

Letter sent to Australian Government, KRG, Iraqi Government, UN Missions in Geneva and various other parties, 15 June 2020, Re the need for a multilateral response to Turkey's aggression against Kurds in Turkey, Syria and Iraq.

[Letter to journalist Mr Slattery](#) who suggests changing the focus of ANZAC day away from Gallipoli.

[Letters to all RSL Presidents](#) to consider Mr Slattery's suggestion re ANZAC day.

Media Coverage

KLA President Eziz Bawermend had a phone interview with The Wire, an Adelaide radio station, about collecting money to pay for legal team to take Erdogan to the ICC. 22 April 2020 Link: [thewire.org.au](https://www.thewire.org.au) <https://www.thewire.org.au/story/kurds-push-to-prosecute-erdogan-for-war-crimes/>

Seminars

KLA Public Officer, Gina Lennox, interview with Yousif Ismael about the KLA and the Turkish incursion into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Kurdish Washington Institute, 7 July 2020. <https://soundcloud.com/dckurdishinstitute/the-turkish-incursion-into-the-kurdistan-region-of-iraq-interview-gina-lennox>

KLA Public Officer, Gina Lennox, Co-Chair of KLA, and Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq in the USA interviewed by Phillip Kowalski, Research analyst, Foundation for Defence of Democracies, for the Kurdish Washington Institute's webinar 'Kurds one century after the Treaty of Sevres' to mark the Centenary of the Treaty, held on 10 August 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC8roNmw1fU>

Meetings

There were no visits to parliament or meetings with parliamentarians in 2020 due to Covid 19.

Demonstrations

KLA member, Alison Buckley, attended the Freedom for Ocalan demonstration on 10 October and read out a speech re Freedom for Ocalan prepared by KLA Co-Chairs Gina Lennox and Eziz Bawermend.



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Priorities for 2021

In 2021 the KLA plans to:

- Continue writing reports, statements & letters about what is happening in Kurdistan;
- Make contact with Australian-based organisations to inform them about the situation in the four Kurdistan regions;
- Interest other Kurdish organisations and Australian parliamentarians in an informal parliamentary friendship group that develops links with all parts of Kurdistan
- Establish an online library of books & magazines
- Document a prudent investment strategy for investing in shares
- Hold an afternoon of debates on topic/s to be decided

Call for new Members and/or donations

KLA is a small group of volunteers. As you can see we are active but limited by our numbers. To become even more active we need new members with ideas and a willingness to take responsibility for specific tasks.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING KLA IF YOU WANT TO ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF KURDISTAN OR HAVE IDEAS, CONNECTIONS, OR A WISH TO MAKE PODCASTS, CONTRIBUTE TO THE WEBSITE, RAISE MONEY etc. OTHERWISE PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION NO MATTER HOW SMALL TO:

Kurdish Lobby Australia Incorporated

General Account with Westpac

Home Branch Name: Norwest

BSB: 032 164 Account Number: 387068 or click [Here](#) to donate by Credit Card or PayPal