

Yarsan Democratic Movement (YDM)
Purposes and Principles of YDM
Ratified during the Yarsan General Congress in Oslo, Norway,
10th - 11th Mars 2007.

Preamble

In the absence of democracy, basic human rights and freedom in the society will be restricted, violated and completely suppressed. In such societies the principles of non-existence of discrimination, equal rights, and peoples' desire of coexistence in a peaceful environment are ignored.

Human societies with their state of being special and each having own characteristics are all integral parts of the bigger image of mankind. By eliminating any one of these elements, the entire human society will be violated and damaged. Disturbing or seeking to destroy the natural structure of the society, will result into instability and insecurity.

The violation and lack of respect to human rights and principles of peaceful coexistence will certainly lead to uprising, struggle or revolution against discrimination and for achieving social justice.

National Identity

The majority of the Yarsan community is comprised of Iranian Kurds, and most of them are resident in the province of Kermanshahan. A considerable percentage of Yarsanis are to be found among other Iranian national groups. It is mentionable to say that Yarsan is also called Ahl-Haq. After Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan contains the highest number of Yarsanis, though known as Kakaey. Yarsan is a part of the Kurdish nation; therefore the destiny of the Yarsan community depends on the future of the Kurdish nation. Until now no government has produced any official or accurate statistics regarding Yarsan population.

Religious Belonging

From the religious point of view, Yarsanis are followers of Yari religion. The Yari religion was founded and established in written by Sultan Sehak and his companions based on a pact known as Pirrdiweri pact (*Biawbes Pirrdiweri*) in Hewraman of Kermanshahan in around 13th century A.D.

Regardless of religious belonging, Yarsanis have had cultural and social relationships with their neighbours, in which they have managed to preserve their characteristics in different fields of the society in a peaceful coexisting. Linguistic similarities in form of dialect and common history and culture have played an essential role in strengthening these relationships.

The Political and Social Condition of Yarsan

Yarsan society is a society that has intensively experienced all kinds of injustice. Their history includes continues struggle for protecting their identity and existence. Religious oppression in addition to ethnic discrimination, social and economical injustice and deprivation of civil rights and common social benefits have resulted in individual defeat and disappointment, which consequently damages and paralyzes

the entire Yarsan society. At present, Yarsani inhabited areas are among the most deprived areas in Iranian Kurdistan.

In the absence of freedom of civic engagement and lack of means for promoting scientific researches on history and philosophy of Yari religion, Yarsan identity and existence are seriously threatened. What most people know about the Yari religion today is some incorrect and contradicting knowledge, which doesn't meet the needs of this society. Such a development will only devastate this precious and national heritage, which has own philosophical, historical, native and cultural characteristics.

The revolution of 1357 (1979) followed by changes in terms of political structure and establishment of religious role in Iran, turned into serious political and social disturbances and instability. The political anarchy and power struggle lead to insecurity in the society. The result of this political and social transition not only made the life difficult for political parties and organizations with different opinions, but also other social and cultural minorities suffered deeply, in particular religious minorities. Consequentially, this situation forced many people to leave the country and seek protection in other countries. Yarsan community was among those religious minorities that suffered a great deal and became a victim in this political transformation. Currently, thousands of them are spread across Europe and other parts of the world.

The severe condition of Yarsan community in Iran on one hand, and presumed political changes in the country on the other hand has encouraged Yarsanis in exile to organize. Accordingly in this way try to mobilize and establish a united front in order to initiate a struggle for demanding justice for Yarsanis, and prepare for the possible political changes in the future.

The Organizational Tools

Yarsan community has occasionally expressed its dissatisfaction against discrimination, and has been willing to sacrifice to this cause. Yarsani cultural - associations and organizations have been active in exile for the past years. Meanwhile, establishing a political mechanism has occupied their minds in order to defend the rights of Yarsan people. There have been continuously and serious discussions in form of seminars, meetings through the Internet, articles and journalism to create a unified political mechanism.

The truth is that the Yarsan community has not yet been able to test its strength in such an organizational framework. Furthermore, any initiatives for establishing political movements have not won public attention until now, which is the main source of support in order to succeed. Therefore, the level and number of activities must go with the capability and manpower of the Organization. Then, the activities as well as the Purposes and Principles of the Organization will be evaluated and reconsidered during the annual general assemblies. And if required, the purposes, content and the organizational structure will be reshaped accordingly. The purposes and principles of this document are mostly prepared and designed in order to demand the rights of the Yarsan society.

Societies, who are aware of their strengths and capacities of different kinds, know their goals and are struggling to achieve them, are wise and productive. The

demands of Yarsan people are to achieve basic human rights. They count on support from free people who respect human rights and values, and based on these, the Yarsan Democratic Movement takes on its struggle.

Purposes of Yarsan Democratic Movement

1. Article

The Purposes of the Organization

1. Yarsan Democratic Movement commits itself to the international declaration of human rights.
2. Fighting and eliminating oppression based on nationality, and openly supports the principle of self-determination of nations.
3. Fighting and eliminating religious persecution of the Yarsan society.
4. Defending the principle of separation of religion and State, and declaring religious believe as a private affair.
5. Fighting all types of discriminations (national, gender, religious, racial and ideological, etc.) in the society.
6. Defending freedom of thoughts and free expression of opinions.
7. Defending the rights of refugees to seek asylum.
8. Condemning terror, discrimination, torture and death penalty.
9. Work against gender discrimination, and for respecting gender equality in society.
10. Empowering and developing the mother tongue based on local dialects.
11. Obtaining international communities' support and protection of Yarsan society, in accordance with international declaration of human rights and conventions.
12. To achieve acknowledgment of identity of Yarsan community, and the Yari religion to be declared as an independent religion.
13. Work towards eliminating economical and social injustice in the society.
14. Establishing research and scientific institutes, for researching, securing and publishing Yarsan literature and heritages.
15. Work towards obtaining submission from different universities and researching institutions for Yarsan youth and students.
16. Working towards peaceful coexistence and developing friendly relations among different groupings in the society based on mutual respect and tolerance.
17. To Establish and develop peaceful relations and cooperation among groups and communities in order to maintain and strengthen the principle of democracy in the society.

The Principles of Yarsan Democratic Movement

1. Article

Name and Identity

1. The name of the Organization is Yarsan Democratic Movement (short name YDM).
2. YDM is an independent and democratic organization.

2. Article

Membership

1. Every one who has completed the age of 16, acknowledges, respects and commits to the Purposes and Principles of the Organization may acquire

membership, and is officially member of the Organization upon the recommendation of the Executive Council.

2. The members of the establishing General Congress are participants who represent Yarsani individuals, and ratify the first Purposes and Principles of this Organization.

3. Article Duties of the Members

1. Be committed to work for promoting and maintenance of the Purposes and Principles of the Organization.
2. Be committed to the principles and regulations of organizational system.
3. Be committed to work for maintenance of unity of the Yarsan society.
4. Pay membership fee, equivalent to Euro 50.
 - a. Asylum seekers, students and any one between 16 and 18 pays 50% of the membership fee.

4. Article Rights of the Members

1. Right to participate in General Congress.
2. Right to elect and run for election.
 - a. Any candidate running for election must be over 18 years old.
3. Right to submit proposals and complaints.
4. All members are treated equally.

5. Article Denial of Membership

1. A Member of the Organization who violates the Principles and regulations, or by any form commit acts harmful to the Purposes and Principals of the Organization may face organizational sanctions such as sectional suspending, withdrawal of organizational responsibilities and expulsion from the Organization, after issuing verbal and written reprimand.
2. The Executive Council will request for sanctions and submit the case to the Central Committee for final decision.
3. The Organization has right to take lawful measures to investigate.
4. A Member who is expelled will be suspended from the exercise of the rights, duties and privileges of membership.

6. Article The Principal Organs

1. The principal organs of the YDM are the General Congress, Central Committee and Executive Council.
2. Different subsidiaries, commissions, City- and Country - based committees may be established in accordance with this document.

7. Article The General Congress

1. The General Congress is the highest organ of the Organization, and is established by members between two General Congresses.
2. The General Congress convenes every one-year.

3. The General Congress is recognized when 2/3 of its members approve it.
4. Proposals are accepted after 50% + 1 vote of the members in the General Congress.
5. The General Congress shall elect the presidency for each session.
6. Extraordinary General Congress will be held if requested by 2/3 of the Executive Council, 2/3 of the Central Committee or 2/3 of the members.
7. The Executive Council is responsible for organizing the General Congress.
8. Members must be informed on date of General Congress at least 2 months before.

8. Article

The Duties and Authorities of the General Congress

1. Ratification of the first Purposes and Principle of the Organization.
2. Electing the Central Committee through free and democratic election.
3. Assigning an Election Committee of 5 members.
4. Assigning Inspection Board of 3 members for economical affairs.
5. Organizing Annual Conferences ahead of the General Congress.

9. Article

Annual Conference

1. The Annual Conference convenes every one-year, and it comprises the Central Committee, the Executive Council, representatives from different subsidiaries, country- and city-based committees, and other commissions.
2. The leader and 2 members of the Central Committee, and 2 representatives from other units or commissions lead the session.

10. Article

Duties and Authorities of the Annual Conference

1. Evaluating and examining the activities of the subsidiaries, committees, country- and city-based commissions and unites, in addition to evaluating the problems and obstacles.
2. To present proposals and suitable guidance in order to resolve obstacles and make advances towards aims of the Organization and its different organs.

11. Article

The Central Committee

1. The General Congress elects the members of the Central Committee; the Central Committee is the highest authority during the period between two General Congresses.
2. Only members with 6 months of membership are able to participate in electing the Central Committee.
3. The number of the members of the Central Committee is 9 permanent members and 2 substitutes, elected by the General Congress for 1 year.
4. The Central Committee convenes session once in four months. Extraordinary meetings will settle if requested by 2/3 of members of the Central Committee.
5. The Central Committee will appoint the leader of the meetings.
6. The members of the Central Committee have 1 equal vote each.
7. The decisions taken by the Central Committee will be executed when 2/3 of its members approve it.

8. The income and expenses of the Central Committee are provided through the budget of the Organization.

12. Article

Duties and Authorities of the Central Committee

1. Supervising the implementing of the decisions and policies of the General Congress. And appointing suitable guidelines and strategies to reach the goals of the Organization.
2. Electing the Executive Council, approving the numbers of its members, and appointing positions needed.
3. Deciding the duration of the Executive Council.
4. Establishing necessary positions and unites and maintaining principles and rules of the Organization.
5. Appointing representatives in different countries and cities according to needs and consultations.
6. Providing and collecting internal documents and regulations.
7. Drafting suitable proposals and guidelines in connection with the Purposes and Principles and changes that are needed.
8. Considering and evaluating proposals of denying or excluding members presented by the Executive Council.

13. Article

The Executive Council

1. Is the highest organ between two Central Committee sessions.
2. Meets once in two months.

14. Article

Duties and authorities of the Executive Council

1. Is responsible for developing, executing and practicing the decisions of the General Congress.
2. Electing the leader and other positions of the Executive Council among its members.
3. Is accountable directly to the Central Committee, and reports back to it.
4. Setting the budget and finding economical solutions and presenting these to the Central Committee.
5. Is responsible for the establishment of friendly relations with other independent organizations and personalities.
6. Publishing announcements and information related to the Organization.
7. Supervising the activities of the committees and commissions.
8. Researching and evaluating possible national and international support and cooperation in order to make progress and reach the goals of the Organization
9. Investigating and dealing with complaints and critiques from the members.

15. Article

Country- and City based Unites

1. The members are able to establish and run unites under the sight of the Organization in their country and city of residence.
2. The responsible for each Unit is elected through local elections under the supervision of the Executive Council.

3. The elected members will coordinate with and acts under the supervision of the Executive Council.

16. Article Financial Affairs

1. The income and expenses are provided and covered by membership contributions, donations and other financial supports from charity associations and individuals.
2. The members responsible for Financial Affairs will regulate and provide with financial report and submit it to the Central Committee, the Annual Conference and the General Congress.

17. Article Inspection Board of Financial Affairs

1. Is compounded of 3 members, which is elected by the General Congress.
2. The members of the Inspection Board cannot be from the Central Committee or the Executive Council.
3. Has a complete and continues supervision on the financial affairs.
4. Shall submit reports and its result to the Executive Council, Central Committee and when necessary to the Annual Conference and the General Congress.

18. Article Dissolution of the Organization

1. The Organization will dissolve if requested by 2/3 of its members, and the same Assembly will decide the future of the financial and economical means of the Organization.

19. Article The Slogan of the Organization

- 1- **“Freedom, Equality, our Yarsani aims”** is the official Slogan of Yarsan Democratic Movement.

20. Article Ratification and Enforcement

1. Yarsan Democratic Movement (YDM), including its Purposes and Principles was established and ratified through representatives assembled in the city of Oslo, Norway on 10th - 11th March 2007. The Purposes and Principles of the Organization came into force on 11th Mars same year, and its content was bound to be carried out.