

The Tradition of Extending the Legal Term of Parliament Should Be Ended

Today 5/10/2022 The Kurdistan Parliament has proposed a proposal entitled " The Continuation of the Fifth Round of the Kurdistan Parliament bill" signed by 85 members of the Fractions of "PDK, PUK, the components, and a part of Goran's parliamentarians) put it on agenda and did the first reading for it. At the same time, the parliament gave the proposed bill an argent matter feature so that it can be approved as soon as possible. The purpose of the proposal is extending the parliament's age and delaying the election.

We as the civil society organizations, despite sending many reports and statements to the parties and political parties, have warned of the danger that is happening now. Here in the last meeting, the representative of the United Nations announced that the political parties do not agree on the election and the green and yellow area is still a reality. In his statement, he warned the political presidency of Kurdistan and the dangers of delaying and not holding the elections, which we think is a dangerous warning. For this reason, we represent some points:

1. One of the excuses for postponing the election is (amending the parliamentary election law) and the other excuse is (inactivation of the commission and the clean-up of voter registration), both excuses, if they are problems and obstacles to the election, the parliament itself is responsible, and over the past four years this issue has existed and it was the duty of the parliament to solve it, but the parliament was remiss and did nothing.

2. On March 1, 2022, the President of the Kurdistan Region, by order, set a date for the Kurdistan Parliamentary Elections to be held on 1/10/2022 and set a six-month period. Even if the elections were not held during that period, the issues in front of the elections could have been solved. Additionally, instead of solving the problems and facilitate the way for it, the parliament did not even do its duty and did not solve the problem, but also, the speaker of the parliament announced that she was not ready to hold any parliament sessions and disrupted the sessions for six months.

3. Not holding elections in The Kurdistan Region has generally become a tradition that will not be held on time, this is a shame for the region, its experience and political presidency. Because what was and is going on in extending the parliaments age is illegal according to the law and Rules of procedure, especially if it is not a technical reason, or changing a bill, or any other believable excuse out of the parliament's will. At the moment, there is not any excuse out of the parliament's will and any steps has not been taken during the delaying for removing the obstacles in order the elections can be hold on time.

4. The role of the speaker of the parliament should always be neutral, its duties are protecting the laws and the rules of procedure. However, in this proposal, the speaker herself and the parliament's presidency have become biased and signed on the proposal. This is the first time in the history of the Kurdistan Parliament that the speaker signs on a proposal like that. In the previous rounds, the parliament had eight speakers, however, none of them did this. Therefore, this shows that, the speaker and the parliament's presidency are a part of the scenario for extending the age of the parliament.

5. For history, this illegal action, which is committed against democracy and the feelings of Kurdistan's voters does not take into account. The political parties (The Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Change Movement and the eleven representatives of the components) are politically responsible for this historically political responsibility.

6. The Kurdistan parliament in the region is the highest power of legislation and monitoring and according to its decision, is "the only political and constitutional reference to deciding on the fateful issues of the Iraqi Kurdish people." It should not be unvalued like this and any of the bills and procedures not be counted and be treated this way.

Therefore, if not everyone comes forward, the issues will continue and this illegal action will be repeated again. Consequently, the activists, lawmakers, civil society organizations, and Intellectuals should not be silent on this matter but should take all the ways and civil pressure on it.

7. In order to prevent this legal and constitutional violation, a team of lawyers must be prepared and a complaint must be filed in the federal court in Baghdad on the parliament's presidency.

Sincerely,

October 5th, 2022

Name of the Organizations:

- 1- Halwest Organization
- 2- WOLA Organization
- 3- Democracy and Human Rights Development center.
- 4- capital of Peace Organization.
- 5- Kurdistan for Everyone for Developing Democracy (KEODD)
- 6- Runaki Organization for Developing Democracy and Human Right
- 7- House of Success Organization for Capacity Development
- 8- Chawy Zanko Organization
- 9- PAY Institute for Education and Development
- 10- Youth Activities Development Center