

Balance and Imbalance in Nowadays Iraq

By Drs. G.J. Blankers

“If we look at the Iraqi elections, there can be discerned two agendas. The agenda of those groups who believe in democratic principles (...) and the agenda of those groups who are believing in the Islamic victory and fundamentalism, insuring that democratic principles will not affect to the Shia.” By these words described Mr. Mala Bakhtyar in a personal interview the dichotomy in current politics of Iraq. Mr. Mala Bakhtyar is a well known senior Iraqi Kurdish politician and thinker and a prominent member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (Yakîti Nîştimanî Kurdistan) as well as writer of several books on topics of democracy, it's development and opponents and rational freedom and civil society.

Three pathways

In a clear summary Mr. Mala Bakhtyar explained the dynamics of Iraqi political situation, a dynamic which is even affected by terrorist groups like Al-Qaida and ISIS.

In Iraq which till now can't be considered to be a secular state, there are three main political pathways. The first and most dominant pathway is the Shia. In the past they established a system much similar to the Iranian regime and still now they represent the Iraqi constitution and unity. Because of their dominance and for that influence which can't be resisted by other factions the Iraqi Constitution is not that democratic which should be wishful. The second pathway is the Sunni. They represent a serious component of Iraqi society but their influence is not like that of the Shia. And third are the Kurds. At most they are 15 till 17% of the Iraqi population. They stand for the democratic rights of the Kurds which are a lot of time under threat.

Mr. Mala Bakhtyar explained that ideally these three dimensions should consist a balance but unfortunately Shia damaged the equilibrium weakening the rival parties and threatens both of them.

Foreign interventions

Because of the fact that the internal political situation in Iraq is not something separated from the context of international regional and global geopolitical situation, I asked Mr. Mala Bakhtyar which foreign factors have an impact on the internal political situation of Iraq. He explained that from the days of the big empires onward especially Iran and Turkey have interventions all over the Middle East. Although their agendas are different it is a matter of fact that according to their opinion, they have the right to intervene in other country's affairs. And for reason that for approximately 15 to 20 years there is between these powers a status quo like a cold war, they can put heavy pressure upon Iraq.

Turkey uses his economic and military hegemony and has a geopolitical agenda and is even acting under the pretext his policy is on behalf of the Turkmens. From the other side Iran put his hegemony upon Iraq through the pathway of the Shia, through the pathway of Islamic doctrine. And for reason the border of Iraq and Iran stretches for hundreds of kilometres there are plenty of opportunities to intervene heavily in every respect in Iraq, including military, economically and geopolitically.

Context of interventions

Mr. Mala Bakhtyar stated: "It is obviously Turkey is NATO and it is obviously Turkey is drawing an unpolitical and military agenda." To explain this statement Mr. Mala Bakhtyar refers to military interventions against Greece and Cyprus on the pretext of national security and the fact that even if Greece is a Member State of the NATO and Cyprus at least one of the EU states near to the NATO, neither NATO nor the USA take care about the current situation. Even the USA intervened in Iraq and invaded. But even it is clear that military interventions are war crimes, when it is committed by powerful states like the USA and Turkey there is a lot of acceptance. This acceptance is the result of a history of one after another military intervention committed by the USA, but also by for example Great Britain and France. Mr. Mala Bakhtyar in this respect also referred to military interventions in Eastern Europe. They were committed and accepted.

Fascism

Mr. Mala Bakhtyar stated that after the cold war and the breakdown of the totalitarian regime, the fascism of national ideology became more powerful. For example in Yugoslavia, Serbia, and even Saddam Husayn. "It could be a global issue", he said. The behaviour of fascism is, not to agree with the geopolitical situation and the geography but for showing the power she would like to expand over the fore given borders. "That is why the Ba'ath regimes always have attacked the Kurdistan Region." Saddam killed half a million Kurds and in the Anfal Campaign, a counterinsurgency operation (1988), 68,000 Kurdish people were killed. In the Halabja massacre (March 1988) which was part of this operation, by a chemical attack 5,000 civilians were killed. Beside that one and a half million soldiers died.

"Unfortunately, in Europe most countries have forgotten the definition of fascism and Nazism", Mr. Mala Bakhtyar said, because "why are those crimes committed by the Saddam regime not seen as a genocide, as a war crime?" He said this against the background of recognition of genocide and war crimes committed by Germany and Italy in the second World War. But even if there is a formal recognition, this will not revive our killed people, he extended.