

WORKSHEET 1

About Kurdistan

The Kurds are the fourth largest ethnic group in the Middle East and the largest ethnic group in the world without a country of their own. The Kurdish population throughout the world is estimated to be 25-30 million. The geographical area that is called Kurdistan ("Land of the Kurds") is divided between Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Most Kurds reside in Turkey, but there are also many living in Iran, Iraq, Armenia, and Syria.

Kurdish nationalism and the struggle for an independent Kurdish state have been strong since the end of the 19th century, and have always met tough opposition. The Kurds have long been exposed to political persecution and many Kurdish writers, authors, journalists and human rights activists have been imprisoned and executed. The civilian population has been forced to move from place to place and has also been massacred in the past. The Kurdish language and culture have often been forbidden.

Source: www.globalis.se and www.sakerhetspolitik.se

