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CONFERENCE

POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS OF THE KURDISH QUESTION

Tuesday 3 October 2006, 9.00am – 4.00pm

Venue: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre,
University of Melbourne (corner of Swanston Street and Monash Road)

The Kurdish Question remains one of the most protracted unresolved problems in the increasingly volatile Middle East. This conference will bring together politicians, academics, human rights advocates and lawyers who will discuss various aspects of the Kurdish question and Australia's position toward it, from different perspectives, and with a particular focus on the Kurdish problem in Turkey

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

9:00am Registration

9:30am Opening Remark by Conference Organisers

9:45am **Session One: The Kurdish Question: a Human Rights Issue**

1. The Kurdish Question: origins, content and historical background

Ms Aza Ozmanian (Research Assistant, University of Tasmania)

2. **Keynote Speech:** The Kurds in Turkey: the current human rights situation in the region, Turkey's international human rights obligations, and the impact of the EU accession process.

Mr. Kerim Yildiz (Executive Director of Kurdish Human Right Project, London)

3. **Keynote Speech:** The European Human Rights Court, the trial of Kurdish Leader Abdullah Ocalan and its impact on the Kurdish Question

Mr. Mark Muller (Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of England and Wales)

11:30am Tea Break

11:45am **Session Two: Prospects for the Resolution of the Kurdish Question**

4. Turkish state policy toward the Kurds and prospects for the resolution of the Kurdish problem in Turkey

Ms. Aysel Tugluk (Representative of the Democratic Society Party (DTP), Turkey)

5. International and regional political developments and their impact upon the Kurdish Question

Dr. Hussein Tahiri (Honorary Research Associate, Monash University)

1:15pm Lunch

2:00pm **Session Three: Australia's Policy toward the Kurds**

6. The impact of the listing of the PKK in Australia

Ms. Vicki Sentas (Federation of Community Legal Centres)

7. Australian government policy and the Green's position toward the Kurds

Ms. Kerry Nettle (Senator for NSW, Australian Greens Party)

8. Problems faced by Kurdish asylum seekers in Australia: refugees and recognition

Mr. Martin Clutterbuck (Refugee Lawyer, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre)

3.30pm Closing Remarks

RSVP before 27th September by phone: 9379 56 79, or email: kurds@optusnet.com.au.

Attendance fee: individuals \$20, organisations \$40 paid on entrance. *Lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.*