

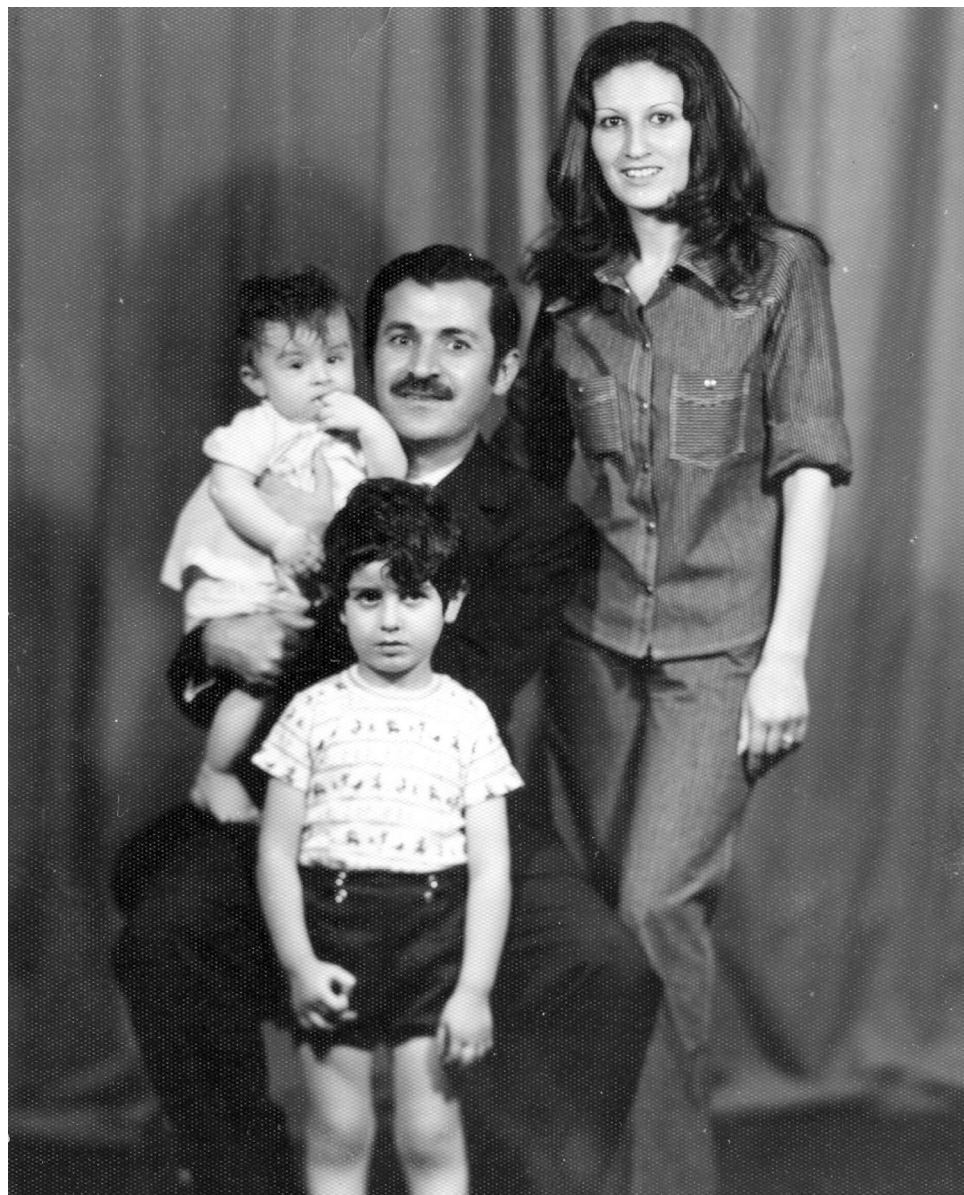
A black and white portrait of an older man with short, wavy hair, wearing glasses and a mustache. He is smiling and looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a dark tie. The background is dark.

MAM JALAL

IN RESPONSE TO 74 QUESTIONS

Mam Jalal

In response to 74 questions far from politics



Prepared by : Rebwar Star



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Introduction:

Mr. Rebwar Star took the initiative of preparing the biography of President Jalal Talabani by directly asking him 74 questions in 2000. The interview was recorded by the Radio of PUK Center in Slemani, and it is taken from their archive. Later, it was transcribed by the Media department of PUK's organizing office and has been reviewed by Mr. Didar Latif for the purpose of this book.

When Mr. Rebwar Star decided to publish this interview in book and audio form, he asked me to write the introduction, which I proudly accepted to do, as I am honored to write the introduction to a book that narrates the biography of a great Iraqi and Kurdish leader.

In this interview, this unique historical figure directly replies to 74 questions presented to him, with the aim of documenting his biography. Which is of particular importance for readers, militants, Kurdish peshmerga and Arabic, Kurdish, Persian academics and researchers. Also benefiting political parties of south, north, east and west of Kurdistan and Kurdish and Iraqi intellectuals.

Additionally, this book will be a unique resource for current and future generations to get to know a great and exceptional leader of Kurds, Kurdistan and Iraq.

President Jalal Talabani's actions and life history make for a great profile, comparable to historical leaders such as George Washington, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mao Zedong, Vladimir Lenin, Francois Mitterrand, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Olof Palme, or Winston Churchill. Yet I believe Jalal Talabani's biography is much richer than most of those world leaders, due to his prowess and proficiency in all areas of culture, his courage and selflessness, his analytical acumen and understanding of different perspectives and thorough knowledge of world history, his humanity and belief in self-determination for all oppressed people, his belief in gender equality and championing of women's rights and above all acquiring the right to self-determination for Kurdish people, a purpose he devoted his life to. Considering his involvement and expertise in every area mentioned above, Mam Jalal was always a path-breaker without parallel.

In terms of personality, Mam Jalal was a unique intellectual in the world, an intrepid chronicler, a versed lawyer and a great politician, peshmerga and military leader. By every measure he was a great statesman, an illustrious diplomat, a distinguished public speaker and an eminent writer. Judging by these facts, and Mam Jalal's the qualities, we cannot find any other person or leader similar to him in history. Therefore, it is vital for intellectuals, politicians, members of PUK and historians to write profiles of this great man and further research about his life. His life and struggle ought to be studied so that current and future generations remain aware that Kurds have had such a unique and great leader in world history. In chronicling Mam Jalal's life, beginning in his childhood until the last stage of his education, charting the way he started his political, military and peshmerga career the following interview should act as incentive for further research. I am confident that Mr. Rebwar Star has only covered one part of this great leader's life with these 74 questions. President Jalal Talabani Foundation and myself are honored to be entrusted with the valuable task of collecting and archiving all achievements and activities of this extraordinary man covering all aspects of his life through 70 years as a valuable and unique part of Kurdish history and that of its great leaders. Even though I have been familiar with Mam Jalal's life and achievements for over 50 years, I very much enjoyed reading this interview. For his exquisite job I would like to thank Mr. Rebwar Star from the bottom of my heart for this great piece of work that I am quite sure will be useful for all PUK members and future generations. I hope his initiative will become an example for more intellectuals and comrades of Mam Jalal to write about his thoughts and beliefs.

Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Sabir



President Jalal Talabani with Dr. Mohammed Sabir



The team tasked with recording the interview



President Jalal Talabani with Rebuar Star



**Back row : Ali Bchkol, Omer Seid Ali, Arsalan Bayeez, Jalal Talabani,
Aso Sheikh Noori**

Front row: Jabar Farman and Abdulrazaq

Question: What is your full name?¹

My full name is Mam Jalal, son of Sheikh Hussamadin, son of Sheikh Nuralla, son of Sheikh Noori, son of Sheikh Ghafur Talabani (I gave you the names of five elders instead of three).¹

Question: Your year of birth?

Honestly, my year of birth is not confirmed. My mother, may she rest in peace, was a rural woman and my father never documented my birthday, my mother's information was limited, she said I was born a year after the Red filis was introduced.² The red coin was issued in 1932. Accordingly, my year of birth ought to be 1933. My mother also knew that I was born in the summer; other than that, she knew nothing. Some say 1934, and others say 1932 or 1930. I myself think it is 1933, considering I started school in 1941 – 1942.

Question: Who first named you Mam Jalal?

My father named me Mam Jalal, and the story is as follows:

My father had an uncle named Jalal, they called him Uncle Jalal (Mam Jalal). This uncle passed away when he was quite young. Shortly before I was born, my father dreamed of his uncle giving him an apple. My father told the dream to the village mullah who interpreted the dream for him, saying he was going to have a son. My father said if he had a son, he would name him after his uncle Jalal. I was born and he gave me the name of Mam Jalal after his uncle Jalal. That's why since my childhood, I have been called Mam Jalal just like how some are named Baba Sheikh, Kaka Soor, likewise my name is Mam Jalal.

¹A full name in Kurdish is traditionally comprised of one's given name followed by the father's name followed by the grandfather's.

²The red filis were copper coins issued during the reign of King Faisal.

Question: Your place of birth?

My place of birth is a village called Kalkan located at the footnote of Kosrat mountain by Dukan Lake.

Question: Your education?

I finished primary and intermediate school in Koya. I was a good student at school. I came first in my province in primary school, the intention was to send me to King Faisal College, those who came first in their areas were enrolled for free. I didn't go because of politics. As for secondary school, I finished one year in Erbil and finished my fifth year in Kirkuk, then I enrolled in the College of Law. The academic years passed smoothly until I reached the fourth year, when an Arrest Warrant was issued for me and I had to escape. Rather than surrender I went underground.

I was then a member of KDP³ political bureau for political affairs. I was in hiding until the July 14th Revolution⁴. During that period, I was hiding and living in Slemani. When the revolution took place, I returned to college. The late Abdulkarim Qassim issued a general order for unconventional graduation, awarding degrees to students without them having to take exams, which was referred to as 'crawling'. I could have claimed it, finish my year and say that I was a lawyer now, but I didn't do that. I went back and repeated the academic year. I was joking about it saying I don't want to be called a crawling lawyer. In 1959, I finished my studies, so I officially graduated from the Iraqi College of Law at the University of Baghdad in the first round.

³Kurdistan Democratic Party

⁴The 1958 overthrow of the monarchy in Iraq



A Unique photo of Jalal Talabani

Question: Your social status?

My social status: I am married, I have two children, two sons.

Question: What are the names of your sons?

The older one is Bafel and the youngest is Qubad. I have given each of them a name based on a specific occasion. Bafel I named him after the waterfall of Chami Rezan, as during the period from 1961 until the September revolution of 1963, I was the commander of that area, at the south of Koya river where my headquarters were located. Chami Rezan has a very beautiful place called Bafel, which is a spring-fed waterfall. The second, Qubad, I named him after an Iranian activist named Qubad, he was a very close friend and a hero who was detained and killed under torture.



**Qubad Talabani– Jalal Talabani – Bafel Jalal Talabani
Qubad’s Wedding Day**

Question: May you all live long. Let's get back to your childhood, tell us a pleasant memory when you were a student at primary school?

Answer: What do you mean by pleasant?

Question: From when you were a primary student, if you could tell us a pleasant memory?

I have a few memories from my primary school. I lived in a village until the age of four or five, when my father became an advisor at the Talabani township of Tekia in Koya, and the family moved from the village to Koya. My first year at school was not pleasant for me, my classmates were making fun of me because of my rural accent, and I got into arguments because of it. But, as I was a good student, gradually the teachers loved and helped me, as a result, the students also got used to me and became friends. During those years, I remember, I would memorize many poems.

Every morning when students were standing in rows before class, I was called to read poems prior to going inside.

I was mostly reading Kurdish national poems that I learned either at home or in school, I was called twice a day to read poems, once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

I had a very good relationship with the teachers. One of those I knew very well was Majid Afandi Sheikh Miri, he was a history teacher, he had a strong impact on our education and another teacher was Mr. Kamal Abdulqadir Nashaat, who was our physical education teacher. Mr. Kamal had a strong influence on us in terms of politics, he was dragging us into politics.

We were two or three outstanding students in the class, so under the cover of assigning us the role of supervisors for registering payments for our ping-pong games, he got close to us and dragged us into a meeting in his house and established an association called the XPK, X for Education, P for Advancement and K for Association⁵.

I was then in year five of primary school. So, Mr. Kamal Abdulqadir Nashaat taught us politics and because of him we got involved in politics.

In 1946 I became a member of KDP through a teacher of mine, may he rest in peace, named Tahir Saeed, he was a very smart person with a strong personality, I remember I was still in primary school yet he was treating me as though I were older than my age. I have a famous incident , I was in my fourth year of primary school when the late Saeed Qazaz, who was Erbil Governor then, visited our city along with the Iraqi Military Commander in Erbil and some other people. We were studying history when he entered our class, the lesson was about Midhat Pasha⁶ and the reforms he did in Baghdad.

As I was sitting at the first row of the class, he asked me to stand up without knowing who I was and asked what did Midhat Pasha achieve. One of his achievements was setting up the tramway system between Kazmia and Baghdad.

Then he asked me about the tramway and a few other questions, and I answered precisely. Then he asked me my name, and who my father was. I said, I am the son of Sheikh Hussamadin Talabani. He nodded and said, the Talabanis are all one extreme or the other, there are none in the middle.

I just remembered another incident that I am going to tell. In 1951, I was in my fourth year of secondary school in Erbil about to graduate to fifth year, I didn't have to sit for final exams as my grades were over 90. For your information, I was exempted from the final exam from the first through fourth year of secondary school as my grades were over 90. I used to go back to Koya whenever I was exempted from the final exam, unexpectedly I was arrested with a group of people and exiled to Mosul, among them I remember the late Mr. Omer Dababa, Awni Yousif and the late Haji Hussain from Slemani, he was a baker and a member of KDP then he became a communist.

⁵Roughly translated as the Association for Education Advancement

⁶Midhat Pasha (1822–1883) was an Ottoman reformist who was the author of the Ottoman Empire's constitution.

Back then 100 fils was allocated per day for people exiled because of politics. Two months passed and we never received the allocated amount. The whole group therefore went to the governor who was Saeed Qazaz, may he rest in peace, to complain. The housekeeper was a poor Badini man, who told us to wait and not enter the office as the Governor had a meeting with the Turkish Ambassador.

Qadir Haji Hussain stepped forward and said “Go and tell the Governor the Kurdish Ambassador is here”. The simple-minded housekeeper went and told him there was a group of people there to see him, one of them claimed that he was a Kurdish Ambassador. The Governor said, “Let them wait until the Turkish Ambassador leaves.”

When he saw us, the first question was: “Which one of you is the Kurdish Ambassador?” Qadir said it is me sir, he asked: “Who are you?” He answered, I am Qadir Haji Hussain, we used to live in the same neighborhood. You used to come to my father’s bakery. Then Saeed Qazaz said: “Qala! Is that you?”⁷

Later on, he asked which one of us was Omer Dababa, Dababa introduced himself. He said “Omer, you see how I receive you and respect you, what would you do if you took over?” Omer said “We would hand you over to the people’s court.”

As it turned out, when Saeed Qazaz was arrested, many people asked Omer Dababa to testify against him, but he refused to do so, he said he did us a favor.

Then it was my turn and he asked, “who is the one with Stalin moustache”. They introduced me. He said “Jalal come and get close, that Stalin moustache confused me, I remember when you were a child”. He still remembered what happened in four of primary school. He said, “you were one of the intelligent Talabanis, what got you into politics?” I replied, may be that very intelligence has got me into politics. May he rest in peace, he asked: “how will this Kurdistan be saved? Who will unite Slemani, Mahabad, Kermanshah and Diyarbakir?” He added, “go and study and do your job”. In the end, he did what we had asked him for, and had nothing but kind words for us.

⁷Qala is a common nickname for Qadir.

Another incident I'll never forget, was the first time I gave a speech for Newroz (Kurdish New Year). I was at primary school, fifth grade, I wrote the speech and gave it for the first time in Newroz⁸.

I will tell you one more incident that I remember happened when I was in primary school. We had a friend who was older than us called Hussamadin Taib whose nickname was Shaab⁹. He taught us Kurdish nationalism. One of the things he taught us was to go to the graveyards without fear. He was giving us Kurdish flags to take to graveyards at night, he was asking us to put them on specific graves.

Once, I was asked to go to a graveyard outside Koya city (usually the graveyards were outside the city), close to Haibat Sultan called the Old Tekia, it was very far and on a hill. Once I was there the policemen called me over and asked: "what are you doing here in the dark?" They took me to the commission officer; I told him I was reciting the Al-Fatiha surah at someone's grave¹⁰. The next day they found a Kurdish flag there; they suspected me, but I was not arrested.



The Sixth Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow – 1957

⁸The Kurdish New Year celebrations, beginning on the eve of the 20th of March each year.

⁹Meaning "people".

¹⁰The opening chapter of the Qur'an, recited in its entirety during prayer.



The Sixth Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow – 1957

Question: If you can remember, were there any teachers who beat you in school?

Yes, we had a teacher called Hannaa Fandi, he was a good man though. We had an argument about politics, and he beat me twice with a stick, when we organized a strike at school, he thought I deserved punishment, he called me over and asked me to open my hands and beat me twice with the stick. Another teacher called Mohammed Tofiq Wardi slapped me, I don't know why. I got upset and didn't go to school. He was our neighbor and came to our house, kissed my cheeks, held my hands and took me back to school.

Question: Dear Mam, you mentioned that you learned nationalist poetry. Who taught you nationalist poetry at home?

My cousin Kaka Soor had us memorizing the Qur'an as well as poetry. Though, rather than nationalist poems, he taught us poems praising the Talabanis, considering we were a Talabani household in Koya. He also taught us the poems of Haji Qadir and Sheikh Raza. Someone else, who was our neighbor called Haji Afandi (Haji Abdulbaqi) had a great influence on my life, he was one of those that Zaim Sadiq buried alive on June 10th 1963.¹¹ Haji Afandi was close enough to be considered a family member, he was intellectual and progressive, along with Kaka Soor, both taught me poetry and literature.

¹¹Sadiq Mustafa, known by his military title Zaim Sadiq, was the Baath party military commander in Slemani after the Baath party's coup d'état in 1963. On the 9th-10th of June of the same year, he executed almost 100 of the most celebrated and distinguished Kurds in Slemani among them artists, teachers and activists.

Question: Dear Mam, did you ever have a piggy bank during your childhood?

No, whenever I received money, I spent it on books and magazines. For example, I was buying Galawezh magazine. Since I was in my fifth year of primary school, I subscribed to Al-Ahali newspaper, so all my money was spent on books and magazines. I also had access to the library. There were two public libraries, Koysinjaq Library and Haji Qadri Koyee Library. I had a membership at Koysinjaq Library for 100 fils, then left due to an argument. We had a communist teacher named Fatih Rasoul. He created a garden for us and educated us on communist thoughts. One day I asked him if Kurds were a nation or not, he said no. Obviously, if Kurds are not a nation, then they are not entitled to the right of self-determination. We argued about this issue, therefore; I moved from Koysinjaq Library to Haji Qadri Koyee Library which was more aligned with the KDP. That is the sort of thing I would be spending money on.

Question: When you were a child, which games of the time did you prefer?

Listen, at 8, 9 and 10, I was an energetic kid, running around a lot. There was a garden in the Tekia, I loved the games that included running, like football. But at school I learned only one game which was ping pong, I knew nothing else, like volleyball or things like that, only ping pong, eventually I became someone who played very well.

Question: You mentioned that the money you received was spent on magazines and books, you never went to the cinema?

There was no cinema in Koya, I would also be giving part of my money to friends or students with low income.

Question: Did you ever realize that you were different from other children?

You know, at home since I was a son I was doted on, and that set me apart. Then at school I ranked first in my class every year, I was a good student and very social. I wouldn't treat people differently; I would socialize with everyone at school.

Question: Were you going around with children on Baraat¹² ?

Certainly, during the night I'd be visiting houses for sweets, and earlier in the day I would also be in various neighborhood fights with other children.

Question: Did you ever think about love in your youth?

Yes, I was from the generation of activists who were educated as Sufis, as Dervishes. We really saw it that way at the time. As politicians we believed we should have high morals, to see girls as our sisters and boys as our brothers, that was our ethics. This was one of the ways our generation acted as Sufis. Drinking alcohol was shameful and playing cards was deemed unacceptable. But as it turns out, each one of us, when we reached a certain age as human beings our hearts began to beat.

¹²The night of Baraat falls on the 15th day of the month of Sha'ban, 15 days before the month of Ramadan. In Kurdistan, this day is celebrated by children going from house to house to receive sweets.

Question: Name the friends who sat next to you when you were a student?

One of the students I stayed with for years was Mr. Wria Ali Kani Marani. Now he is the head of the Court of Cassation¹³, we joined the Kurdistan Democratic Party together. I had other friends, including Jamil Khoshnaw, who passed away too early, as well as Jamal Tahir and Fawzi Omer. And 70 students who were members of KPX from two schools, I was friends with all of them.

Question: Did it ever happen that one of those students was so disruptive that you asked the teacher to keep him away?

I was always the class supervisor; I was the one who asked the students to sit and stay still. We were behaving like adults and men; we wanted to grow up as soon as possible.

Question: Any memories associated with April 1st.?

I have an astonishing memory associated with April 1st (April Fool's Day) when I was in Syria. I had a friend named Abu Tamim, who was a member of the National Leadership of the Baath Party. In the early morning of April 1st, I called him, I said Abu Tamim "have you turned on the radio?" He said "No", I told him that a coup had taken place in Baghdad and the radio was playing the national anthem.¹⁴ He immediately called the republican palace asking them to wake President Hafiz Assad up and inform him about the situation. When Hafiz Assad turned on the radio, it was playing the Qur'an.

When he called me back to ask about the confusion, I said it was April 1st, (April Fool's Day) don't you know what day it is? That was something that would follow him from then on. I really played a good trick on him.

¹³A higher appellate court derived from the French judicial system.

¹⁴During periods of political upheaval, radio broadcasting would be interrupted and the national anthem would be played on a loop.



Jalal Talabani - Saeed Aziz

Question: Who are the Kurdish or Arab singers that you enjoy listening to?

Unlike the youth of this time, I liked to listen to Abdulwahab among the Arab singers. A close friend of mine called Qadir Kaka Ziad, may he rest in peace, we rented and lived in a house together. He liked Abdulwahab's voice, at that time I told him, I was quite ascetic, like a Sufi, but he said I should try and listen to Abdulwahab. Meanwhile, I had just read a book by Stalin talking about arts saying that the arts were the engineering of the human soul. So, I understood that I had to pay attention to the arts. I listened to Abdulwahab's song. The song was "Ya Jarat Al Wadi¹⁵", it was indeed a very nice song in terms of melody, lyrics and vocals. Since then, I started to listen to Abdulwahab. I also listened to Nazim Ghazali, Um Kalthum and Sabah, at that time those were trendy.

In 1946 there was a movie titled "Al Qalb Lahu Wahid", I was back in Kirkuk because I had a problem with my eyes. I probably went to watch that movie ten times because there was nothing else showing, and I liked Sabah's songs, then also Fairuz.

As for Iraqi singers, I liked Zhoor Hussain, I still have the cassettes and listen to them if I have time. Kurdish singers I like Kawesi Agha, Taher Tofiq, Mohammed Saleh Dilan and Seid Ali Asghari Kurdistani.

Question: Dear Mam, do you ever sing while walking, working or driving?

Yes, I do, let me tell you something: I was a student at Koya Intermediate School, at the time it was located outside the city. I very much liked to walk with an umbrella when it was raining. My friend Mr. Khalid Dler, the uncle of Ms. Narmin Marouf, would always stammer when talking but his voice was very clear when he would sing. We used to go walking together under the rain and I would raise my umbrella and he would sing songs. Even now, sometimes I unconsciously sing those songs especially the nationalistic ones.

¹⁵ "O neighbor of the valley"

Question: How do you feel about flowers?

They are good friends; I find them beautiful.

Question: What about birds?

I have no close relationship with birds.

Question: And sport?

I see it as useful for people, but I myself, don't do sports.

Question: Which form of exercise do you like the most?

I like walking, I find walking is the best for me. Unfortunately, I don't know how to swim, yet I like it. I watch all other types of sports. I think it is very important, for this I support the Olympic Committee and various sporting associations. I believe sports should be developed within the society.

Question: Did Mam Jalal participate in snowball fights?

Yes, I did.

Question: When?

At intermediate school and in the mountains when I was Peshmarga, for example, they used to seize their opportunity and pelt me with snowballs.

Question: What about in Slemani?

I never did it in Slemani.

Question: When did your honor meet Hero Xan¹⁶ ?

I have known Hero Xan since she was just a child, a very long time ago. In 1950 I went to Slemani, she came to see her uncle Hamza who had been released from prison, she was so young then. I also saw her in Kirkuk, her father had also been released from prison and he was exiled at the time in Kirkuk. I remember when Mamosta¹⁷ Ibrahim invited me and Saleh Dilan to their house when her brother Halo was born, she was either 3 or 4 years old then.

Question: How did she become your wife?

I made some attempts to get married earlier, but it didn't work. Eventually, in 1965 a few friends, the first of whom was the late Hilmi Ali Sharif, may he rest in peace, suggested I marry Hero Xan. He praised her and said rather than simply being the daughter of Ibrahim Ahmed, she had special characteristics of her own.

In 1967 I asked for her hand in marriage, and on the 14th of April 1967 we were engaged.

Question: As you mentioned previously, you were doted on at home and your father's favorite, could we know how was your wedding party?

I didn't have a wedding party. My marriage to Hero Xan was very modern. I think the dowry was only 1 dinar. We traveled abroad, to Lebanon, UK and France, and that was it. Hero Xan was always telling me, you owe me a wedding party, until Bafel was born, we had a big party in Cairo, Egypt, I told her this was for her too.

¹⁶Hero Ibrahim Ahmed, Jalal Talabani's wife.

¹⁷Meaning Teacher here is used as Guide.



Jalal Talabani - Hero Ibrahim Ahmed

Question: How is your relationship with your childhood friends, tell us the names of a few if you are still friends?

I am still on good terms with everyone I knew, especially those of my generation who got involved in politics together. For instance, I am still in touch with Mr. Wria Ali Kani Marani, the head of Court of Cassation, and some other friends I don't want to name as they are no longer with us. I am still good friends with people from my intermediate school, even those who have opposing beliefs, who are communists, I am still in touch with them.



**Jalal Talabani and Muzafar Nawab with friends
The Delegation of Iraqi Opposition in Libya – 04/02/1983**

Question: You have seen so many places, let's see what these places and villages remind you of Talaban village?

I would like to see the Talaban region. I have seen the one in Koya, but I haven't been to the Talaban that Sheikh Ahmed Talabani was named after, it is located to the east of Chamchamal.

Question: What about Slemani?

Slemani reminds me of many things, first and foremost enlightenment, politics and political struggle, going into hiding and even a place of love, once I fell in love with a girl from Slemani.

Question: and Erbil?

Erbil reminds me of struggle, history and ingenuity. I was a student in Erbil for a year, and so the city reminds me of the Farmers' Movement that was active there and with which I had a strong relation. It also reminds me of Rawanduz and Balakayati when I went to revive the KDP organization there and of a group of friends whom I am still in touch with.

Question: Baghdad?

Baghdad, I love Baghdad, it is one of the cities that I love from the bottom of my heart. From time to time, I read this Jawahiri¹⁸ Poem which reads¹⁹ :

*I greeted your foot from a distance, so greet me
O Tigris of goodness, O mother of the gardens
I greeted you thirsty to seek refuge in it
As the doves took refuge between the water and the mud
O Tigris of goodness, O spring that I leave
With reluctance from time to time
I received clear springs of water
None have quenched me*

Baghdad is the city of my education; I completed university there. I can say the age of maturity, political and intellectual thoughts, learning the Arabic language, knowing Jawahiri and great Arab personalities all took place in Baghdad. Baghdad reminds me of many things. Baghdad is one of my beloved cities.

¹⁸Muhammad Mahdi Al- Jawahiri was an Iraqi poet, considered by many as one of the best and the greatest Arabian poet in 20th Century and is considered to be the national poet of Iraq.

¹⁹Recited in the original Arabic in the interview.



**Jalal Talabani – Hero Ibrahim Ahmed – Mohammed Mahdi Al- Jawahiri
Damascus – 1987**

Question: Koya?

Koya is the place where I grew up. It is the first school of my life, politics, thoughts and morals. Koya has always been a vibrant Kurdish nationalist city, it has a great role in the history of our people. For this reason, invaders always hated the city and tried to destroy it. They plotted to raze it and displace its people. The Iraqi regime's plan was to completely destroy and eradicate this city. That is why this city is very close to my heart.

Question: Zalle?

Zalle was the heart of the revolution. It was the only place that sheltered us at the beginning of the revolution, because it was located on the border near the otherwise empty Mamand area. Whenever I think of Zalle I think of shelter. Other than that, there are nice memories of many hard years of struggle. It is beautiful when your hard struggle has a result, more beautiful than comfort or simplicity.

Question: As we mentioned, your honor knows how many Talaban villages are there in Kurdistan?

There are three Talaban villages, the big and small Talabans close to Taq Taq and the Talaban village located to the east of Chamamal.

Question: So, you are from the one near Chamchamal?

I am of the Talabani household. Originally, the Talabanis were not a clan, they are descendants of a man called Mulla Mahmoud Zangana who lived in that village i.e Talaban village. When Sheikh Ahmed Hindi came to Kurdistan, whose grave is in Surdash, Mulla Mahmoud Zangana became his successor, he went to Baghdad and passed by his house and stayed with him, and eventually became his successor after he passed away. Then he had a son and named him Sheikh Ahmed after Sheikh Ahmed Hindi. Sheikh Ahmed had seven sons, one of his sons is our grandparent.

Question: Do you remember who your oldest neighbor was and where they lived?

Our older neighbors in Koya were Hama Agha, the late Kaka Ziad, the late Hawez Agha Hawezi, Haji Salihi Koya Kaka Afandi and the house of Fathulla Agha.

Question: Have you ever been a house tenant?

You mean to let or rent?

Question: to rent?

I have always been a tenant and never had a house of my own. When I completed intermediate school and moved to Erbil, I rented. When I moved to Baghdad, I rented. Thank God, I never had any property of my own during my lifetime. Ever since the PUK gave me a house, I don't pay rent.



Jalal Talabani – Ibrahim Ahmed – Some dignitaries

Question: How many years have you not carried money?

I don't hold money for the sake of business, but I usually have some money to give to people to do their job, if I go out, I carry money to spend and buy things if I travel.

Question: Do you know how to drive?

No, I only know how to drive tanks as I was a Tank Officer, I graduated from the Reserve Officers College, I joined the Armored Force School, there, I spent a month learning how to drive a tank then did one month in the field. Maybe I could drive a tractor as they are similar to tanks.

Question: Tell us the name of a neighborhood that impressed you in each Kurdish city you have visited?

Tairawa neighborhood in Erbil, as I lived there, Takia in Kirkuk, Aqd Al- Nasar in Baghdad, Al- Mazraa in Sham (Syria), our house was there, and I lived in a couple of places in Slemani, the most beautiful place was Khanaqa, Aqari and a neighborhood that did not exist then but is now called Hawara Barza. What is now Hawara Barza is on the outskirts of the city of Slemani, I used to hide there at the house of the late Qadir Tagarani. The city of Slemani was very small at that time, its population was only between 25,000 – 30,000. There was a dam, behind the dam there was an empty land area, at the left side of it there was Hamia, which is now Azadi Park, and at the right side, Mr. Qadir built a house and a café²⁰. He mainly built his house outside the city because he was smuggling carpets and other things from Iran. I rented a room and hid there for two years.

²⁰Specifically, a teahouse, or a 'chaixana'.

Question: What was the first library that you borrowed books from to use as a resource?

Koysinjaq Library, which belonged to the Iraqi Communist Party in Koya and Haji Qadiri Koya Library.

Question: Did you borrow books there?

I had a subscription for 100 fils, I could take any book I desired and return it.



Jalal Talabani - Ahmed Chalabi - Two Arab figures – Dr. Kamal Fuad

Question: Have you ever borrowed a book for the purposes of your writing?

No, only for reading.

Question: Dear Mam, how much do you like poetry in general and Kurdish poems in particular? Whose poems have affected you, and whose poems do you read?

I do read poems, Jawahiri's poems have influenced me the most, especially in terms of learning the Arabic language and writing Arabic. As for Kurdish poets, the poems of Haji Qadir Koyee influenced me when I was young. Pira Merd and Mamosta Ibrahim Ahmed, though he has few poems, yet his poems are enthusiastic, full of meaning, grace and resistance. For example, Shirin Bahara, which the late Tahir Tofiq made into a song, this song has a very deep meaning if we look at it. From the poets of this era, I like Sherko Bekas's poems, I believe that he is the greatest Kurdish poet. Even though I prefer metered poems to free verse, Sherko Bekas's poetry remains incredibly deep in meaning, perspectives, content and poetic imagery.

Question: Do you have any verses in mind to tell us?

By whom?

Question: Any poet that you remember now?

I remember many poems by Ibrahim Ahmed, Jawahiri and Haji Qadir, which one would you prefer?

Question: Whichever you like, one of your favorites?

Fine, Mamosta Ibrahim Ahmed has a great poem, he wrote it in prison in Baghdad, when he along with Saleh Dilan were handcuffed together and were sentenced together. The title of the poem is The Last Arrow of the Bow, I like this poem so much and it goes:

*Shoot your last arrow it is your opportunity, Enemy
It is your last victory, the last knock of people, Enemy
Your fright nights are fearless, Dawn has come
Through your purple horizon, the sun is behind the hills, O enemy
How dim you are, when was the sunshine ever blocked by a sieve!
When was the wheel of history stopped by your stones
Any progress you make will lead you to the pit of doom
Any victory of yours are nothing but bubbles on the surface of water.*

There is great depth to these verses, for example there is a Socialist slogan that says: Any capitalist progress is a step closer to its death and its end will usher in the next phase, which is socialism.



A family photo: Jalal Talabani, Ibrahim Ahmed and Dr. Latif

The poem continues:

*Any progress you make will lead you to the pit of doom
Any victory of yours are nothing but bubbles on the surface of water.
Was not Hitler the God of War on Earth?
Was he not the well-equipped Iron Castle of Capitalism?
Was Nazi Germany not like a jewel in his hands?
Was he not like the wall of China in the way of free people
Where is your German Wehrmacht now, that was a blood-feeding leech
Where is the Luftwaffe, the unreserved force, that sower of death
Where are its bombs, where are its tanks, where are its fleets
They have all ceased to be forever, all vanished like him
With us, mistakes are but the first step of success
Dissolution in the crucible of struggle is conditional on strength
The Kurdish people cares not about setbacks and mistakes
Your defeat is as clear as our path of struggle
The convoy of people's liberation marches on
Cares not about distance, harsh surroundings nor the brutality of our enemy
It never deviates, surrenders or stops
It does not rest until the eradication of the roots of repression.*

Look how elevated this poem is, it connects the Kurdish people's struggle with the struggle of all people, it marches along with the salvation convoy, regardless of the distance, difficult path and the brutality of the enemy.

The struggle strives for liberation on both national and class level, it does not rest until the eradication of the roots of repression, meaning, until repression and its underlying causes are eradicated the people will continue the struggle. This is a very inspiring poem.



**Jalal Talabani – A personality
Negotiation with Baghdad – 1963**

Question: Dear Mam, our Kurdish society has many beautiful traditions, which one do you find to be the best?

In my opinion, hospitality, loyalty, fraternity and courage are examples of beautiful traditions.

Question: Do you care about matching your outfits or do you just wear anything?

Before I got married, I used to choose what to wear, but now Hero Xan decides for me.

Question: What is your favorite dish?

I like bulgur so much, maybe people will be surprised. There are a few different ways to make it: Bulgur with tomato sauce and meat, lapa , qbulli²¹ and pilaf, I like the third one. I used to be close to the household of the late General Barzani, his house was then in Baghdad, I was very close to them and someone who visited them at home. Mulla Mustafa has a discreet and honorable wife named Hamail Xan, she is Kak Masoud's mother. She is a very discreet woman, it is rare to find such a discreet, strong and warm-hearted woman in Kurdish society.

I used to go there and shout: today I invite myself to eat bulgur, she would laugh and say: people don't invite themselves; I would say: Well, I do.

In recent years, whenever I would visit Kak Masoud, I asked to see Hamail Xan, she came and said you are invited for lunch Jalal, I have cooked bulgur for you. She cooked bulgur for me in addition to many other dishes. I believe bulgur is one of the most delicious foods.

²¹A Kurdish dish made with onions and a grain, typically rice.

Question: How many Kurdish traditional foods do you know?

I know a lot.

Question: Examples?

For example; Qbulli, pilaf, kufte, kubbe, bulgur, trxena, dandok, lentils and ganma kutraw. There is no food that I haven't had, either when I was a Peshmarga and when we had to be hidden in other people's houses or in our home.

Question: Do you know how to cook?

Yes, I do.



Conference – Jalal Talabani with Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the British Labour Party – 01/09/1993

Question: What do you know in specific?

I know how to make qbuli, tomato sauce with okra, bulgur... I can barbecue very well, and some other foreign dishes. For your information I taught Hero Xan how to cook, go and ask her, she will confirm that I taught her how to cook qbulli and pilaf. I learned cooking in prison, when I was a student, when I lived alone and also in the mountains, the first year in Chami Rezan area there were only a few of us, so I used to cook there.

Question: In your opinion, who cooks better, you or Hero Xan?

Now, Hero Xan cooks better. You know, it is like I was her teacher at primary school and she has completed college and received a Master Degree and PhD.

Question: Your honor carries prayer beads in your hand most of the time, in Mam Jalal's opinion, what is the most beautiful prayer beads?

Qazwan²² , the Qazwan prayer beads are beautiful.

Question: What do you think of men wearing wedding rings?

What do you mean?

Question: After one year of marriage, most men remove their wedding rings?

It is Bad, I see it as a very bad habit. I like for men to wear wedding rings. Those who remove it do so because either they are ashamed or they cheat. Both are bad. I have never removed it ever since I got married. I even wear it sometimes when it gets smaller.

Question: Is the ring you wear now the ring from your engagement?

Yes, it is the same, when I got engaged to Hero Xan.

²²Made from the raw fruits of the pistacia atlantica tree.



Hero Ibrahim Ahmed – Jalal Talabani



**Jalal Talabani – Hero Ibrahim Ahmed
Bafel Jalal Talabani's Birthday**



Ahmed Turk - Jalal Talabani – World Socialist Secretary in Slemani



Jalal Talabani

Question: You talk about funny stories and situations that happened that are seldom repeated, from where do you get or hear these stories?

You mean jokes?

Question: Jokes or any funny stories?

I personally like jokes, I have seen a lot in this life, read many things, I read magazines, I learn from them and use them.

Question: And now, do you have any joke or funny story to tell us?

Well, what joke can I tell you, I don't remember any for the time being. Real life stories, I will tell you anything you desire, I have faced many situations in my life. I have been in Libya, my friend Muammar Gaddafi and some other Libyan friends, gave me traditional Libyan clothing as a gift. When I returned back home, I decided to send them traditional Kurdish clothes. I called after Dr. Khidir the brother of Dr. Fuad, I said: Dr. Khidir, send someone to buy me nine or ten shals²³ of high quality, in different colors. At that time, the high quality shals were made in Marga area, I said I have to send them to my friends in Libya. In turn Dr. Khidir sends a letter to Mr. Rafiq Pshadari. In Koya they say kr²⁴ instead of shal. So, he writes to him send us that amount of kr. One morning I woke up and saw (at that time our house was of two rooms, one me and Hero Xan used as a bedroom, and the other as an office and guestroom) eight or nine male donkeys braying in front of my house, I was awakened by the braying of the donkeys. I said: what is this? They said: Mr. Rafiq has sent them.

²³a colorful woolen fabric used in traditional Kurdish male garments.

²⁴Homonymous with the Kurdish word for donkey.

I called him, we had a telephone then, I said Mr. Rafiq what is this? He said: I sent you the donkeys. I said: what donkeys? He said himar, himar in Arabic. I said: but how come? He said Dr. Khidir asked for them and instructed they be in different colors. They were really in different colors. I got angry as Dr. Khidir used to make such jokes, so I was very upset when called him. I said: Doctor, what have you done? He said: Mama don't say anything, I am coming to you, I will bring the letter and let Mr. Rafiq come too, so you can see what I wrote in the letter. Dr. Khidir wrote kr in the letter but Mr. Rafiq read it kerr which means donkey in Kurdish. Therefore; instead of 10 shals he sent 10 donkeys.

Let me tell you another story regarding Dr. Khidir. We had an Arab deputy officer as a prisoner. The deputy officer was from Dora. Later we visited Izzat Douri, he told us, if you do good deeds, people will talk about you positively, and if you do ill, people will talk about you negatively.²⁵

He then told us the story that I am telling you now. The head of the clan of this Arab prisoner asks where their son is imprisoned, they told him with Al- Mukharibin²⁶ , which means the vandals, implying with us. The head of the clan thinks that Mukharibin is a clan like any other clan and says: where are the Mukharibin located? They told him in Shene close to Qaladze. He was a respectful Arab man with abaya and aghal²⁷. He came to Shene and passed by Dr. Khidir, Dr. Khidir goes toward him asking: Yes, Uncle what do you want? The man replies: I came to see the head of Mukharibin, and tells his story. Dr. Khidir told him, fine, I will take you to the head of Mukharibin. I stood up out of respect. The man said dear Head of Mukharibin, a man asks a favor of a man and a man goes to a man's house. Our son is imprisoned by you, whatever you ask for except women, we don't have women to give, we will give, we can give you money or weapon, anything in return for releasing our son.

²⁵Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, vice-chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) from 1979 until 2003.

²⁶Meaning "Vandals" is a name given to Peshmarmaga during the reign of Saddam Hussain

²⁷Traditional arabic headdress.

I knew he didn't know that the meaning of Mukharibin and that he had been deceived. I said: I will accept your request on one condition, you have to stay for lunch and I will ask for your son to come. He accepted. Then the boy came and kissed his uncle's hands, I told him you are free to go.

Then, when the head of the clan started calling me head of the vandals several times, and saying I owe you a favor. I will never forget your kindness until doomsday, especially since you asked for nothing in return. The deputy officer got close to him and whispered in his ear, he must have told him not to use that word. Immediately the man became embarrassed and cursed the Government and said damn them, they taught us this, otherwise I swear to God you are not vandals, you are so and so, you are good men. I said it was fine, to forget about it. When he returned back, he started praising us and speaking good about us. When you do good, good things happen in return.

Izzat Douri told me that the head of the clan was praising us in all their meetings and gatherings, until the security offices asked Izzat Douri to stop his relative from praising us, and tell him he is propagandizing in favor of PUK and the vandals, why does he have to sit in every meeting praising them, Izzat Douri said, for this reason I went to see him and tell him to stop praising you.

Izzat Douri said: I swear to God when I arrived there, he was already praising you, he saw me but never stopped, he said out loud: "Here Izzat comes, but I swear to God, those people are not vandals, on the contrary, they are nobles and honorable men. They are kind, when I visited them, they were nobles and so and so," so I told him: "Uncle, I have come to tell you to stop doing propaganda in their name, from now on don't say that they are like this and that". When we do someone a favor, we will gain people to our cause.



Jalal Talabani with a number of Peshmarga and Leaders during the days of struggle

Question: Dear Mam, let's assume that you have become a coach for PUK's football team, and you will have to select the team members from the party leadership and PUK political bureau. Who would you choose as a goalkeeper and who would be the players?

None of them are suitable for this role, I will not select any of them. I will send after other players from Slemani and other cities. Those from the PUK leadership and political bureau are not qualified for goalkeeping or football.

Question: Dear Mam, consider that you are now wearing a set of custom pair of Abubakir Klash²⁸, you go out and all of the sudden it rains, what do you do?

I will be very upset. I worry about my klash getting wet, you know when klash get wet, they are useless. I would feel very bad. I would immediately find shade if I could, or I would take a taxi.

Question: Which does Mam Jalal like the most: tea, milk or coffee?

I don't drink milk, I like tea, I like coffee but a little. As for milk, except my mother's milk, I have never drunk milk.

²⁸Traditional Kurdish shoes, with cloth uppers.



Jalal Talabani with some figures – Salman Pak City – Baghdad – 1969

Question: Dear Mam, would you like to tell us something that happened between you and Jamal Agha²⁹ ?

I have known Jamal Agha for ages, Jamal Agha is an old militant of this city. He is one of the patriots who has been fighting for over 50 years without giving up and continued on the same track. He is a noble and smart man. I will tell you a story that happened between me and Jamal Agha. There are many stories, but I will tell you one of them.

Every year, Jamal Agha used to send rice with me to bring to Mamosta Ibrahim Ahmed. And as I was living in Slemani, I was always telling him: Jamal Agha, I pass by Kirkuk where Mr. Dababa and Ali Askari live, and the late Noori Shawais is Mamosta Ibrahim's neighbor, what about them, why don't you send them rice too? He was saying: Mam Jalal do you want me to adopt every KDP panhandler? I cannot do that.

Once I came back from Baghdad, I said: Jamal Agha all your friends there sent their regards: Mamosta Ibrahim, Noori Shawais, and so-and-so, I said, Jalal Husamaddin also sent his warm regards to you, he said: who is Jalal Hussamaddin? I said he considers himself very close to you, he said: I swear to God, I don't know him. I said: Well, he believes he is a very close friend of yours; he says he has met you and knows you very well, it seems he has met you in so many places. He asked where? I said: in in Kirkuk, Baghdad, Slemani and Zrgwez. He turned around and said: oh, is that you? I said that is right.

²⁹Jamal Agha was one of the early members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, after the Socialist Movement, which Jamal Agha was a part of, was one of the first to join the PUK in 1976.

Question: Dear Mam, what makes Jamal Agha angry?

It is easy to make Jamal Agha angry. Praise Erbil and insult Slemani, this makes him angry. Or talk about his old friends, he loves his friends so much, he is very faithful and loyal to his old friends, say anything bad about them, he immediately gets angry. Or praise a contemporary poem, he will get upset, he says they are off-beat.



Jamal Agha – Jalal Talabani

Question: Dear Mam, in conclusion, what do you like to say to the city of Slemani?

I greet all Slemani people, it is indeed a city of revolution and sacrifice and also the city of kindness. Another characteristic, as Mr. Jabar Farman once said: all the people who are not from Slemani and have come from Khanaqin, Garmyan, Kirkuk, Erbil and Koya feel at home. Their children are not treated as strangers at schools, when they go to the markets they are not treated as strangers. The people of this city show a lot of kindness. Therefore; rather than being known as the city of revolution and sacrifice it should be the city of kindness and beauty. As you know Jamal Agha composed a poem about Slemani titled Paradise.

God's pure paradise is known for its beauty

Identically to Slemani's features

This verse means that paradise is drawn on the features of Slemani, that is why it is beautiful.

Therefore; I hope that this courageous and kind city stays beautiful, thriving and more and its people live in happiness and develop more and more. Indeed, this city is the heartbeat of Kurdistan, beyond being an ancient capital of Kurdistan since its establishment it has been the center of awareness, social development, progress and culture. No matter how much we praise it, it will never be enough.



Jalal Talabani with some friends



Jalal Talabani with some figures



Jalal Talabani - Yousif Zozani
Qamishlo 1991



Nawshirwan Mustafa – Jalal Talabani



Jalal Talabani's visit to China as the President of Republic of Iraq

Shenzhen's mayor warns on property

He Hailiang
Authorities have an unshakable possibility to rein in runaway property prices and guide the market towards health and social harmony, Shenzhen's mayor said yesterday.

Xu Zhenyong's (许振勇) comments in the Southern Metropolis News yesterday were the first public statements on the issue by a senior city official, and came after a day of from banks, developers, and property congress and government.

Official data shows Shenzhen housing cost an average of 14,223 yuan per square meter last month, up 52 per cent on last year's average. Prices rose 22 per cent from April to May this year.

Mr Xu said property prices in the city had jumped too quickly and authorities would have to lower them by meeting annual land supply targets, building cheaper, smaller commercial housing units for rent and sale, and controlling "the order of the property market".

The report quoted a housing and land resource bureau official as saying he would soon investigate illegal property sale in Shenzhen to eliminate the market. The official said legal sale, the bureau would punish developers who delayed selling housing in order to reap higher profits. He also said

Too hot for comfort
Authorities say Shenzhen real estate prices are rising far too quickly

The city's property prices are up on last year's average by

52%

Shenzhen would support and follow the central government's macroeconomic control measures.

Industry insiders had differing views on the probable effects of the official's plans.

Li Yaoshi, general manager of Shenzhen Centaline Property Consultants, said the mayor's warnings could mean speculators would take a wait-and-see attitude.

"The mayor's criticism reflected the attitude from the top that they would consider introducing strict measures to control speculation in the market," Mr Li said. "Property prices are very high and sensitive. Any external or internal factor can have an impact on the market."

But Jiang Bingjie (江冰洁), from DTZ (Debtors) Le Long Property Advisors, forecast that property prices would keep rising, despite the official's warning. "The will of officials cannot end the surge," he said. "Guangzhou mayor Zhang Guangming (张广明) made similar comments, asking city residents to trust the government's efforts to cool the market. In contrast, his speech helped little to rein in prices."

Shenzhen property agent Pan Jianqiang (潘建强) said the increasing number of speculators in the city was continuing to push prices up.

"At least half of the buyers are speculators," Mr Pan said. "If you bought a one-bedroom flat in the booming business center last month, you would have already earned at least 100,000 yuan in profit."

"You can wait for the official's words to come true. But others will earn money while you are waiting, because they are speculating on housing," Shenzhen resident Wang Ying (王莹) bought a three-bedroom flat last month but she regretted not buying earlier.

"The flat was only 8,000 yuan per square meter in October. It almost doubled in price by May," Mr Wang said. "I was afraid it would double again by the end of this year."

Beijing forgives Iraqi debt and pledges assistance in rebuilding



President Hu Jintao greets Iraqi President Jalal Talabani at his arrival in Beijing yesterday. Photo: Reuters

Agencies in Beijing Beijing yesterday forgave a debt part of Iraq's debt and pledged to help rebuild the country's war-shattered economy.

"China has always been supportive and has participated in the rebuilding of Iraq," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang (秦刚) said on Friday that Iraq's President Jalal Talabani arrived in Beijing for a working visit.

"We will reduce or forgive Iraq's debt on a large scale, and help it to train people in the fields of computer, electrical power, medicine and management."

Mr Qin said ministerial companies also were willing to participate in the rebuilding of Iraq. He did not elaborate on the debt but Mr Talabani said Iraq would like to see a possible of laboring departments in Iraq that he visited Iraq in 2008 to see the situation. Commerce Minister Bo Xilai (薄熙来) later signed an agreement with Iraqi officials in a cabinet meeting to the central government. No details were provided.

During his visit, Mr Talabani will hold meetings with President Hu Jintao (胡锦涛), Premier Wen Jiabao (温家宝) and National People's Congress chairman Wu Bangguo (吴邦国).

"We hope Iraq can restore stability, safety and development as soon as possible," Mr Qin said.

Beijing donated 10 million yuan of aid to Iraq last month, he said.

In a separate visit, Mr Talabani's visit to Beijing, he said, will be a landmark moment in the history of Sino-Iraqi relations, and will be a milestone in the development of the Sino-Iraqi relationship.

China Daily also acknowledged the visit of the Iraqi president to the potential revival of a 1987 deal for the reconstruction of Iraq. The deal was to develop Iraq's oil fields.

Reuters, Agence France Press

CHINA DAILY THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER. Includes DHL logo and 'ALL THE WAY' slogan.

Nation set to forgive Iraq debt

Chinese firms encouraged to help in country's reconstruction

By Joe Jia

The parents of missing children paid a price to get their children home. The nation set to forgive Iraq's debt and pledged to help rebuild the country's war-shattered economy.

China will substantially forgive a debt part of Iraq's debt and pledged to help rebuild the country's war-shattered economy.

China will substantially forgive a debt part of Iraq's debt and pledged to help rebuild the country's war-shattered economy.

Forex reform 'should not be hastened'

By Zhenan Han

A senior central bank official said on Friday that the pace of reforming the foreign exchange market should not be hastened.

The official said that the government is still studying the impact of the reform on the economy, and that the reform should be carried out in a steady and prudent manner.

China Daily also reported that the government is still studying the impact of the reform on the economy, and that the reform should be carried out in a steady and prudent manner.

Springfields in US vie for Simpsons premiere

Springfield, Mass., is vying for the honor of being the first city to host the premiere of the animated TV show 'The Simpsons'.

The show's creator, James L. Brooks, is planning to film the premiere in Springfield, Mass., which is the show's fictional hometown.

Springfield, Mass., is vying for the honor of being the first city to host the premiere of the animated TV show 'The Simpsons'.

Homeowners' voices are heard

Chow Chung-yun
In a rare move, a Shenzhen district government yesterday appeared to property owners in an apartment community not to block the construction of a high-voltage transmission station near their homes. Xinhua reported.

The appeal followed repeated protests by residents of an affluent district in the Luohu district against a plan to build a power transformer station near their homes. Homeowners blamed the plan for hurting their property values and

questioned whether radiation from the station posed a health risk.

Xinhua said about 200 residents had organized an unlawful protest last year, with police arresting 15 people.

But the residents refused to give up, continuing to organize protests and petitions.

The Luohu district government tried to pacify them yesterday, holding a rare press conference to explain the plan.

An official in charge of the petition office said the radiation level around the transformer station was a hundred times lower than the national safety standards and posed no danger to residents. The district government said it would stop construction work and the transformer station would be built in another location.

Zou Shaubin (邹韶彬), a Shenzhen professor, said such tactics would become increasingly commonplace as the middle class in rich coastal cities grows. "They are maintained critics grew." "They are determined to protect their interests. It is a show of domestic awareness and social progress," he said.

With a housing alert, a public price and a market price just down the road, Springfield, Mass., is vying for the honor of being the first city to host the premiere of the animated TV show 'The Simpsons'.

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See more from other cities in China on page 2

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Announcement of the news of Jalal Talabani's visit to China and his meeting with the President in CHINA DAILY Newspaper.



Iraq Highi Delegation in China



Jalal Talabani - Al Gore , Former US Vice President



Mam Jalal – Sheikh Sabah Jabir the late prince of Kuwait



Jalal Talabani - George W. Bush



**Jalal Talabani – Colin Powell, the former US Secretary of State
Halabja**



From right: Rebwar Satar –Burhan Haji Ali – Jalal Talabani – Dr. Sajid – Aryan Ahmed – the staff of Slemani Radio, the voice of Slemani Organizing Center / PUK



MAM JALAL

IN RESPONSE TO 74 QUESTIONS