

Afrin and Kurd Dagħ: An Examination of Resources at the Kurdish Institute of Paris

I. Introduction

A. The Kurdish Institute of Paris: A Bastion of Kurdish Heritage and Advocacy

The Kurdish Institute of Paris (Kurdish: Enstîtuya Kurdî ya Parîsê, French: Institut Kurde de Paris; KIP), established in February 1983, stands as a significant independent, non-political, and secular organization. It was brought into existence by a collective of distinguished Kurdish intellectuals and artists, including luminaries such as the filmmaker Yılmaz Güney, whose work *YOL* garnered the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1982, the Syrian Kurdish poet Cegerxwin, and the Iranian Kurdish poet and linguist Hejar.¹ The Institute's foundational mission is twofold: to preserve and actively promote the Kurdish language, history, and rich cultural heritage among the Kurdish community, particularly in the diaspora, and to contribute to the integration of Kurdish immigrants into their European host societies. Simultaneously, it endeavors to raise international awareness regarding the Kurds, their culture, their historical lands, and their contemporary circumstances.¹ This dual commitment to cultural preservation and active engagement with current affairs shapes the nature and scope of its archival collections and publications. Currently under the presidency of Kendal Nezan¹, the Institute has unfortunately faced operational challenges, with reports indicating it is "at risk of disappearing".¹ This precarious situation carries potential implications for the long-term accessibility and preservation of its invaluable archival holdings.

B. Research Focus: Uncovering Afrin and Kurd Dagħ in the KIP Archives

This report aims to investigate and analyze the resources available through the Kurdish Institute of Paris that pertain to the geographical and socio-political entities known as "Afrin" and "Kurd Dagħ." The region of Afrin, also historically referred to by terms such as Kurd Dagħ (Kurdish: Çiyayê Kurmênc, meaning Mountain of the Kurds), is a historically Kurdish-inhabited area in northwestern Syria that has been the site of significant political and military developments in recent years. The methodology employed for this report relies on an analysis of provided documentation reflecting the KIP's online presence, publication lists, and news dissemination activities. This document will systematically explore the types of materials—ranging from news dispatches and reports to academic journals and monographic publications—that the KIP holds or has produced concerning these specific areas.

C. Significance of the Research

The Kurdish Institute of Paris represents a critical repository for research on Kurdish affairs due to its long-standing presence as a premier Kurdish cultural and intellectual institution in Europe. Its extensive library, reported to house "thousands of historical documents, brochures, and periodicals about the Kurds"², and its active, multilingual publication program make it an indispensable resource. The terms "Afrin" and "Kurd Dagħ" denote a region of

profound historical and cultural importance to the Kurdish people, which has recently experienced intense conflict, displacement, and humanitarian crises. Consequently, the documentation, analysis, and advocacy materials produced or archived by the KIP concerning this region are of particular scholarly and contemporary relevance. Understanding the scope and nature of these resources is vital for researchers seeking to comprehend the complexities of the Kurdish presence in this area and the broader Kurdish question.

II. The Kurdish Institute of Paris: Archival Infrastructure and Publication Portfolio

A. Institutional Framework and Resources

The Kurdish Institute of Paris operates as a foundation recognized for its public utility (fondation reconnue d'utilité publique) by the French government since March 2, 1993, after initially functioning as an association under the 1901 law for a decade.² This status, along with formal links to the French Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Culture, which provide liaison representatives³, suggests a degree of official engagement and implies a structured approach to its operations, potentially influencing the diversity and formality of its archival deposits. A cornerstone of its resources is its library, located at its headquarters at 106 rue La Fayette in the 10th arrondissement of Paris.² While the provided materials do not offer a complete catalogue, descriptions indicate that the library holds "thousands of historical documents, brochures, and periodicals about the Kurds" and "several thousand books and documents, manuscripts, brochures and magazines".² This points to a rich physical archive that likely extends well beyond the materials accessible or indexed online, offering significant potential for in-depth historical and cultural research. The KIP's dual mandate—serving as both a center for academic research and cultural preservation and as an advocacy group addressing contemporary Kurdish issues—profoundly shapes its archival profile. This duality is evident in its range of publications and activities. On one hand, it engages in long-term scholarly endeavors such as linguistic standardization and historical analysis. On the other, it responds rapidly to current events affecting Kurds, such as the situation in Afrin, through news dissemination and reports.¹ This suggests that researchers approaching the KIP archives can expect to find both materials suited for deep historical and cultural inquiry and more immediate, event-driven documentation reflecting its advocacy role. Awareness of these complementary collection tendencies is crucial for effective research.

B. Key Serial Publications: Journals and Bulletins

The KIP has maintained a robust publication program, including several key serials that serve as important vehicles for Kurdish studies and information dissemination.

1. **Études Kurdes**: This biannual research journal, published in French by L'Harmattan since February 2000⁴, is a significant academic outlet. It describes itself as "pluralistic," covering a wide array of topics including Kurdish society, language, literature, sociology, anthropology, history, and current political events.⁴ *Études Kurdes* aims to be a "working tool for Kurdish studies as a whole" and a platform for emerging researchers.⁶ The journal's academic rigor is underscored by its scientific and editorial committees, which include prominent scholars such as Martin van Bruinessen and Kendal Nezan.⁶ Some content, such as the first issue, has been made available online in PDF format.⁶ Published issues are documented up to No. 14 (December 2021), alongside several special issues (Hors-série or HS).⁶
2. **Kurmancî**: Published twice a year since 1987, *Kurmancî* is a linguistic magazine dedicated to disseminating the results of the KIP's linguistic seminars. Its primary focus

is on "problems of terminology and standardisation of the Kurdish language," particularly the Kurmanji dialect.³ All issues of this periodical are reportedly available on the KIP's website, along with a Kurdish-French-English-Turkish index of the first twenty issues.³ A more comprehensive index covering the first forty issues, accompanied by a quadrilingual lexicon, was published in book form by Avesta Publishing in Istanbul in 2010.⁴ The strategic importance of language in KIP's work is evident through such dedicated publications. A substantial portion of KIP's efforts is devoted to Kurdish language studies, encompassing grammar, dictionaries, and the standardization initiatives championed by *Kurmancî*.¹ This emphasis is foundational to its cultural preservation mission and suggests that even for regional studies like those concerning Afrin or Kurd Dagħ, linguistic resources (e.g., toponymy, dialectology) could represent a unique contribution from KIP, beyond purely political or historical documentation. This aspect could be particularly relevant when investigating terms like "Kurd Dagħ," which might be an older or dialectal designation.

3. **Bulletin de liaison et d'information:** This publication is described as a monthly press review focusing on Kurdish issues.² Further details suggest that each issue typically includes "a large revue de presse internationale sur les Kurdes, preceded by about fifteen pages of presentation and commentary on the main events of the month".⁴ Such a bulletin would be an invaluable resource for tracking contemporary events, their media framing, and KIP's own analysis over time.
4. **Hêvî:** This multidisciplinary review was published from 1983, with eight issues released.⁴ Its earlier publication date, preceding the other journals, suggests it might contain historical perspectives and analyses relevant to the period before the establishment of *Études Kurdes* or *Kurmancî*.

C. Monographic Publications: Books and Reference Works

The KIP has played a significant role in producing and disseminating a wide range of monographic publications, including essential reference works, classical literature, contemporary analyses, and translations. This output underscores its commitment to fostering Kurdish literacy and scholarship.

Key areas of monographic publication include ⁴:

- **Linguistic Works:** The Institute has prioritized the creation of dictionaries, language manuals, and grammars. Notable examples include *Kürtçe Grameri* (Kurdish Grammar) by Celadet Alî Bedirxan and Roger Lescot, translated into Turkish and seeing multiple re-editions in Turkey ⁴, and *Saladin's English-Kurdish Dictionary* by S. Saadallah, containing 72,000 words.⁴ A major Kurdish-French dictionary with 85,000 entries was anticipated for publication in late 2016.⁴
- **Classical and Modern Literature:** KIP has published cornerstone texts of Kurdish literature, such as *Mem û Zîn* by Ehmedê Xani, edited by Hejar ¹⁰, and the autobiographical narrative *Şivanê Kurd / Le Berger kurde* (The Kurdish Shepherd) by Ereş Şemo in a bilingual edition.⁴
- **Sociology, Politics, and Human Rights:** Works in this category include *Devletlerarası Sömürge Kürdistan* (Kurdistan, Inter-State Colony) by the Turkish sociologist İsmail

Besikçi ¹⁰, and a multilingual edition of the *Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme* (Universal Declaration of Human Rights), which saw wide distribution, including in Iraqi Kurdistan with UNESCO support.⁴

- **Conference Proceedings:** The Institute has published the acts of significant international conferences it co-organized, such as the 1989 Paris Conference on "The Kurds: Human Rights and Cultural Identity" and the 1991 International Interparliamentary Consultation on the Kurds held at the US Senate.¹⁰
- **Art and Culture:** An example is the *Peintres de l'Anfal* (Painters of Anfal) catalogue for an exhibition of Iraqi Kurdish artists held in Paris in 1993, inaugurated by then-French President François Mitterrand.⁴
- **Historical Works and Translations:** KIP facilitated the French translation of William Eagleton's classic *The Kurdish Republic of Mahabad*, published as *La République de Mahabad* (1946).¹⁰ It also translated N. Zaza's *Ma vie de Kurde* (My Life as a Kurd).¹⁰

Furthermore, the KIP has contributed to works published by other entities, such as providing support for Susan Meiselas's photographic history, *Kurdistan in the Shadow of History*.¹¹

D. Online Resources and Digital Presence

The Kurdish Institute of Paris maintains an official website (institutkurde.org) which serves as a primary portal for information. This website features news dispatches ("Dépêches") covering current events, as well as thematic sections on various aspects of Kurdish life and politics.¹ An online boutique (boutique.institutkurde.org) is also available for purchasing KIP publications.⁵ These digital resources, particularly the news section, provide immediate access to KIP's perspective on ongoing developments.

Table 1: Overview of Key Serial Publications by the Kurdish Institute of Paris

Publication Title	Type (Journal, Bulletin, Magazine)	Primary Language(s)	Stated Focus/Scope	Publication Frequency	Key Reference(s)
<i>Études Kurdes</i>	Research Journal	French	Kurdish society, language, literature, sociology, anthropology, history, current events	Biannual	⁴
<i>Kurmancî</i>	Linguistic Magazine	Kurdish (Kurmanji)	Terminology and standardization of the Kurdish language	Biannual	³
<i>Bulletin de liaison et d'info.</i>	Press Review Bulletin	French (presumably)	International press review on Kurdish issues,	Monthly	²

			commentary on main events		
<i>Hêvî</i>	Multidisciplinary Review	French, Kurdish	Multidisciplinary studies on Kurds	Irregular (8 issues)	⁴

III. Findings on "Afrin" at the Kurdish Institute of Paris

A. Prominence in Online News and Reports

The Kurdish Institute of Paris website prominently features contemporary information concerning Afrin. This material is primarily accessible through its news dispatches ("Dépêches") and a dedicated section titled "L'invasion turque d'Afrine" (The Turkish Invasion of Afrin).⁵ The content is largely focused on the Turkish military operations that commenced in early 2018 and their extensive humanitarian, social, and political consequences for the region and its predominantly Kurdish population. The nature of this online information includes ⁵:

- **Reports on Human Rights Violations:** Articles such as "Une rescapée raconte la torture et le viol des femmes d'Afrin par les gangs de la Turquie" (A survivor recounts the torture and rape of Afrin women by Turkish gangs) dated March 15, highlight severe abuses.
- **Documentation of Occupation and Displacement:** Pieces like "Afrin – trois ans d'occupation militaire turque illégale" (Afrin – three years of illegal Turkish military occupation) from March 17, and "Les Kurdes sont tous chassés des trois villages d'Afrin" (All Kurds have been driven out of three villages in Afrin) from February 10, document the ongoing impact of the occupation.
- **Allegations of Ethnic Cleansing:** An article titled "Nettoyage ethnique à Afrin (2): Le cas de la ville de Rajo" (Ethnic cleansing in Afrin (2): The case of the city of Rajo) dated February 26, points to systematic demographic changes.
- **Specific Incidents and Atrocities:** Reports such as "Afrin : Une jeune fille kurde retrouvée morte après avoir été enlevée par une milice pro-turque | RojInfo" (Afrin: A young Kurdish girl found dead after being abducted by a pro-Turkish militia) from June 9, detail targeted violence.
- **Calls for International Action:** The item "SYRIE: Crimes visant les femmes à Afrin : Les Kurdes demandent une enquête internationale" (SYRIA: Crimes targeting women in Afrin: Kurds demand an international investigation) from June 2, reflects advocacy efforts.
- **Broader Reflections on the Conflict's Impact:** Articles like "Un an après l'offensive turque, le rêve lointain d'un retour des Kurdes de Syrie" (One year after the Turkish offensive, the distant dream of a return for Syria's Kurds) from October 12, and the evocatively titled "Le sang des oliviers" (The Blood of the Olive Trees) from January 11, likely offer more reflective commentary on the devastation and loss in a region renowned for its olive groves.

The high visibility and detailed nature of reporting on Afrin on the KIP website, particularly concerning the Turkish invasion and its aftermath ⁵, strongly indicate that KIP's public

documentation of Afrin is heavily event-driven and responsive to major political and humanitarian crises. The dates of the news items directly correlate with the post-2018 period of Turkish military operations in Afrin. The existence of a dedicated web section, "L'invasion turque d'Afrine" ⁵, further underscores this focused response. The content, emphasizing human rights abuses, displacement, and alleged ethnic cleansing, aligns with the urgent need for information dissemination and advocacy during such crises. This demonstrates KIP fulfilling its mission to "make the Kurds, their culture, their country and their present situation known to the general public" ¹, with its online archive for Afrin serving as a near real-time repository of crisis-related information.

B. Potential for Afrin-Related Content in KIP Journals

While direct keyword searches within the limited available tables of contents for early issues (No. 1-8) of *Études Kurdes* did not yield explicit mentions of "Afrin" ⁶, the journal's comprehensive scope—covering history, sociology, and current events—suggests that later issues, particularly those published after the 2018 invasion, or articles addressing Syrian Kurdistan or Rojava more broadly, could contain relevant academic analyses. For instance, Issue No. 12, themed "Les Kurdes et les frontières" (The Kurds and Borders), or Issue No. 14, on "Les organisations islamistes kurdes" (Kurdish Islamist Organizations) ⁷, could potentially touch upon the Afrin situation, although detailed tables of contents or full texts were not accessible in the provided materials. The successor or related publication, *Kurdish Studies Journal*, now published by Brill, also covers a wide multidisciplinary range of topics and could be a future venue for scholarly articles on Afrin.¹⁶ Regarding *Kurmancî*, its specific linguistic focus makes direct political analysis of Afrin less probable.³ However, it is conceivable that studies on the Kurmanji dialect as spoken in the Afrin region, research on local toponymy, or the development of terminology relevant to the area might be found within its pages. Access to a comprehensive index or the full run of issues, which was limited ¹⁷, would be necessary to confirm this.

C. Afrin in KIP Book Publications

The provided lists of KIP's monographic publications do not explicitly feature titles focused solely or primarily on Afrin.⁴ However, it is plausible that broader works on Kurdish history, human rights in Kurdish regions, or studies covering Syrian Kurdistan might contain relevant chapters, sections, or contextual information about Afrin. A thorough search of KIP's complete book catalogue, which was not available through the provided documentation ¹⁷, would be required to ascertain this definitively. Books to which KIP contributed, such as Susan Meiselas's *Kurdistan in the Shadow of History* ¹¹, cover the wider Kurdish region and significant historical events; such works could include Afrin within their broader narrative, as suggested by chapter titles like "Polarization in Turkey" or sections discussing post-Gulf War Iraq which might offer comparative regional context.¹³ The approach to documenting Afrin reveals a multi-layered potential for research at KIP. While the readily accessible online resources provide immediate, crisis-focused information, KIP's broader publication program, including journals like *Études Kurdes* and its books on history and culture, suggests that deeper, more contextual research on Afrin's history, society, and culture is also possible. KIP's mission encompasses the preservation of Kurdish "history and its cultural heritage" ¹, and *Études Kurdes* aims to cover "histoire, langue, littérature, vie sociale et culturelle".⁴ The Institute's track record of publishing and supporting historical works indicates a capacity for scholarly engagement that could extend to specific regional histories like that of Afrin. Therefore, researchers should not assume that the online news reports represent the entirety of KIP's resources on Afrin. A more exhaustive investigation of its physical archives and complete

publication backlogs is warranted for academic historical or cultural studies.

Table 2: Summary of Explicit Information on Afrin Identified in Kurdish Institute of Paris Online Resources

Source Type (KIP Website)	Title/Headline (Translated if French)	Key Information/Theme	Date of Information (if available)	Reference(s)
News/Report	"Une rescapée raconte la torture et le viol des femmes d'Afrin par les gangs de la Turquie"	Survivor account of torture and rape of women in Afrin by Turkish-backed groups	March 15 (year not specified)	⁵
News/Report	"Un an après l'offensive turque, le rêve lointain d'un retour des Kurdes de Syrie"	Challenges for Syrian Kurds returning to Afrin one year after Turkish offensive	October 12 (year not specified)	⁵
Dedicated Web Section/Report	"Afrin – trois ans d'occupation militaire turque illégale"	Report on three years of Turkish military occupation in Afrin	March 17 (year not specified)	⁵
News/Report	"Nettoyage ethnique à Afrin (2): Le cas de la ville de Rajo"	Allegations of ethnic cleansing in Afrin, focusing on Rajo	February 26 (year not specified)	⁵
News/Report	"Les Kurdes sont tous chassés des trois villages d'Afrin"	Report on the expulsion of Kurds from three villages in Afrin	February 10 (year not specified)	⁵
News/Report	"Afrin : Une jeune fille kurde retrouvée morte après avoir été enlevée par une milice pro-turque"	Abduction and death of a young Kurdish girl in Afrin by pro-Turkish militia	June 9 (year not specified)	⁵
News/Report	"SYRIE: Crimes visant les femmes à Afrin : Les Kurdes demandent une enquête"	Call by Kurds for an international investigation into crimes against women in Afrin	June 2 (year not specified)	⁵

	internationale"			
News/Report	"Le sang des oliviers" (The Blood of the Olive Trees)	Likely metaphorical piece on the conflict's impact on Afrin	January 11 (year not specified)	⁵
Thematic Link on Homepage	"L'invasion turque d'Afrine" (The Turkish invasion of Afrin)	Dedicated section for information related to the Turkish invasion of Afrin	Ongoing	⁵

IV. Findings on "Kurd Dagh" at the Kurdish Institute of Paris

A. Apparent Absence in Direct Searches

Direct searches for the specific term "Kurd Dagh" within the Kurdish Institute of Paris's website, including its general search functionality and specific publication sections (based on the browsed URLs), did not yield any immediate results. The system reported, "There is no mention of 'Kurd Dagh' in the article" when referring to the KIP homepage search results.⁵ Similarly, an examination of the available tables of contents for the initial issues of *Études Kurdes* (specifically Nos. 1 through 8) did not reveal any articles or sections explicitly titled with or focused on "Kurd Dagh".⁶

B. Potential Explanations and Avenues for Further Inquiry

The absence of "Kurd Dagh" in readily searchable online materials warrants consideration of several possibilities. "Kurd Dagh" (Mountain of the Kurds) is recognized as a historical name for the region that prominently includes Afrin. It is possible that this term is older, less commonly employed in contemporary discourse, or more localized compared to "Afrin," which has gained widespread international currency, particularly in media and political reporting since the 2018 Turkish military operation.

Further inquiry within KIP's resources could take several paths:

- KIP's linguistic journal, *Kurmancî*, with its dedicated focus on Kurdish terminology, standardization, and etymology³, stands out as a potential resource. It might contain studies on historical place names, regional dialectal variations, or the evolution of toponyms in the Kurmanji-speaking areas, which could include discussions of "Kurd Dagh." However, comprehensive access to its content and indices was limited in the provided information.¹⁷
- The KIP's physical library, with its "thousands of historical documents"², could house historical maps, older ethnographic texts, travelogues, or colonial-era reports that might utilize the term "Kurd Dagh" to refer to the region. Such materials often predate the more recent politicization of regional names. This avenue remains largely unexplored by the current set of available data.
- Broader thematic searches within KIP's catalogues (if a comprehensive one becomes accessible) for terms like "Kurdish mountains," "geography of Northern Syria," or

specific tribal confederations historically associated with the region might indirectly lead to information related to "Kurd Dagh."

The prevalence of "Afrin" and the apparent scarcity of "Kurd Dagh" in KIP's easily accessible online materials may reflect a broader discursive shift. This shift is likely influenced by recent geopolitical events and the terminology adopted by international media and organizations. "Afrin" has become the dominant signifier for the district and its main town, especially in the context of the recent conflict and humanitarian crisis. KIP's role in informing the international public¹ naturally leads it to use terminology that is currently recognized and understood in global discourse. This suggests that while "Kurd Dagh" might be a historically or culturally resonant term—potentially discoverable through deeper archival research or specialized linguistic studies within KIP's collections—"Afrin" is the term of currency for contemporary political, human rights, and humanitarian documentation, which KIP actively produces and disseminates. This observation has practical implications for researchers, highlighting the need for flexible keyword strategies that account for both historical and contemporary terminologies when navigating KIP's archives.

V. Navigating and Utilizing the Kurdish Institute of Paris Archives for Research on Afrin/Kurd Dagh

A. Differentiating Between Online and Physical Archives

It is crucial for researchers to understand that the Kurdish Institute of Paris's online presence—comprising news articles, some journal access, and general institutional information—likely represents only a segment of its total archival and library holdings. The reference to "thousands of historical documents, brochures, and periodicals about the Kurds" and "several thousand books and documents, manuscripts, brochures and magazines" housed in its library² points towards a substantial physical archive that complements its digital offerings. Research focused on contemporary events, human rights situations, and immediate political developments in Afrin is relatively well-supported by KIP's online resources, particularly its news section and dedicated pages.⁵ These provide timely, albeit often advocacy-oriented, information. However, for deeper historical, cultural, socio-anthropological, or linguistic research pertaining to Afrin or the broader Kurd Dagh region, engagement with the physical library in Paris would likely be indispensable. This would allow access to the full back catalogue of its journals, its complete collection of monographic publications, and potentially uncatalogued archival materials such as manuscripts, personal papers, photographs, and audio-visual recordings.¹⁰

B. Recommended Research Strategies

To effectively utilize KIP's resources for research on Afrin and Kurd Dagh, tailored strategies are recommended:

- **For "Afrin":**
 - Begin by thoroughly exploring the KIP website's news archives ("Dépêches") and any dedicated sections related to Afrin.⁵
 - Systematically review the tables of contents of *Études Kurdes*, particularly issues published from 2018 onwards, and, if full-text access can be obtained, conduct keyword searches within relevant articles.
 - Consult KIP's book publication lists for titles on Syrian Kurds, modern Kurdish history, or human rights, which might contain chapters or significant mentions of Afrin.

- **For "Kurd Dagħ":**
 - Focus research efforts on historical texts, ethnographic studies, and linguistic resources within KIP's collection. This includes prioritizing the *Kurmancî* journal for potential articles on toponymy or regional Kurmanji dialects.³
 - Explore KIP's collection of dictionaries for etymological information on place names.
 - If accessing the physical library, specific inquiries about historical maps, 19th and early 20th-century travelogues, or colonial administrative documents pertaining to northwestern Syria would be pertinent.
 - This line of inquiry may require more specialized catalogue searches (if available) or direct consultation with KIP librarians or archivists, given the term's less frequent appearance in contemporary materials.
- **General Thematic Searches:** Researchers should also consider broader thematic searches, such as "Syrian Kurds," "Rojava," "Kurdish toponymy," "history of Kurdish regions in Syria," "Kurdish tribes Aleppo vilayet," or "Kurdish oral literature Northern Syria." These themes might encompass the desired topics even if "Afrin" or "Kurd Dagħ" are not primary keywords in older or more generalist materials.

C. Challenges and Considerations

Researchers should be mindful of several challenges and considerations when planning to use KIP's resources. The reported "at risk of disappearing" status of the Institute¹ is a significant concern. This financial precarity could impact staffing, cataloguing efforts, preservation activities, and overall accessibility. Instances of inaccessible online resources noted during the preparation of this report¹⁷ may be indicative of these underlying challenges. Therefore, researchers should be prepared for potential difficulties in accessing certain materials and recognize the broader importance of supporting such vital cultural institutions. Furthermore, the primary language of many KIP publications is French (e.g., *Études Kurdes*⁶) or Kurdish (specifically the Kurmanji dialect, e.g., *Kurmancî*³), with some materials also in Turkish or English. Proficiency in these languages is essential for conducting in-depth research using these core resources. The Kurdish Institute of Paris not only produces its own research but also actively collaborates with and supports the work of other scholars, institutions, and organizations. This is evident in its contributions to books like Susan Meiselas's *Kurdistan in the Shadow of History*¹¹, its publication of translations of important works¹⁰, and its partnerships with entities such as Fondation France-Libertés, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and UNESCO.⁴ The international composition of the scientific committee for *Études Kurdes* also reflects this collaborative spirit.⁶ This interconnectedness implies that KIP's archives might contain records of these collaborations or serve as a valuable node pointing towards related resources held in other archives or institutions. Researching at KIP could thus open pathways to wider scholarly networks and a more comprehensive understanding of the ecosystem of Kurdish studies. Given KIP's foundational mission to preserve and promote Kurdish language, history, and cultural heritage¹, often in a context where these are under pressure or threat in their homelands, and considering the Institute's own precarious financial situation¹, its archives can be viewed as a repository of "endangered knowledge." This encompasses not only formal publications but also potentially unique materials such as oral histories, manuscripts, rare periodicals, photographs, posters¹⁰, and recordings of traditional Kurdish music.¹¹ The Institute's own vulnerability underscores the

fragility of these collections. This elevates the significance of research conducted at KIP beyond simple information retrieval; it becomes an act of engaging with, and potentially contributing to the documentation and preservation of, a vital cultural record, especially for regions like Afrin that have faced significant cultural and demographic disruption.

VI. Conclusion

A. Summary of Key Findings

The investigation into the resources concerning "Afrin" and "Kurd Dagħ" at the Kurdish Institute of Paris reveals a differentiated landscape of information. For "Afrin," KIP's online channels, particularly its website news and dedicated sections, offer significant and readily accessible contemporary information. This material is predominantly crisis-focused, detailing the Turkish military invasion, its aftermath, human rights violations, and the socio-political impact on the region.⁵ This reflects KIP's active role in advocacy and information dissemination regarding current Kurdish affairs. Conversely, direct and easily accessible information specifically on "Kurd Dagħ" appears limited in KIP's online public-facing resources.⁵ This suggests that research on this term would necessitate a deeper dive into historical, ethnographic, or linguistic materials potentially held within KIP's physical library and specialized publications like

Kurmancî. The term "Kurd Dagħ" may be an older or more localized designation, less prevalent in contemporary discourse which favors "Afrin."

Beyond immediate online content, KIP's extensive portfolio of academic journals (*Études Kurdes, Kurmancî*), monographic publications, and its substantial library holdings² indicate considerable potential for more in-depth academic research on both Afrin and the broader historical region of Kurd Dagħ. Access to the full extent of these resources was constrained by the nature of the initial information gathering for this report, highlighting the need for on-site research or more comprehensive digital access for exhaustive study.

B. The Enduring Importance of the Kurdish Institute of Paris

For nearly four decades, the Kurdish Institute of Paris has served as a vital center for Kurdish studies, cultural preservation, linguistic development, and information dissemination in Europe and internationally.¹ Its contributions to standardizing the Kurdish language, publishing foundational texts, fostering academic research, and raising awareness about the Kurdish condition are immense. Despite any current operational challenges or its reported "at risk" status¹, the KIP's archives, library, and accumulated body of published work remain an invaluable and often unique resource. Researchers studying Kurdish history, culture, language, politics, and contemporary issues, such as the complex situation in Afrin, will find KIP's holdings indispensable.

C. Avenues for Future Research

Future research endeavors aiming for a comprehensive understanding of Afrin and Kurd Dagħ through KIP's resources would significantly benefit from direct engagement with the Institute's physical archives and library in Paris. This would allow for consultation of complete publication catalogues, access to the full run of its serials, and the potential discovery of non-digitized or uncatalogued materials.

Furthermore, exploring the archives and publications of sister institutions involved in Kurdish studies, such as the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris, which offers degree courses in Kurdish²⁰, or engaging with newer academic platforms like Brill's *Kurdish Studies Journal*¹⁶, could complement findings from KIP and help build a more comprehensive picture. Comparative analysis of how Afrin and Kurd Dagħ are represented

across different institutional archives could also yield valuable insights into the evolution of Kurdish studies and the documentation of Kurdish regions. The pursuit of such research is not merely an academic exercise but also a contribution to the understanding and preservation of the heritage of a people and a region that continue to navigate profound historical and contemporary challenges.

VII. Works Cited

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