

**THE STATE OF AZADISTAN
(THE STATE, ESTABLISHED IN IRAN IN 1920)**

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Abstract:

Towards the end of World War I, an important anti-colonialist and liberationist political and social movement emerged in the Azerbaijan Region in Iran. They have coalesced under the leadership of the revolutionist and intellectual venerable Sheikh Mohammed Hiyabâni, who has been among the leaders of the Iranian Democratic Party's Regional Organization during the Constitutional Revolution (1908-1911) and one of the members of the first parliament. Their goal and aims were to contribute to the independence of Iran, and especially to resist the attempts and practices for dividing Iran between the Prime Minister Vosouq al-Dowleh and the British government. This article analyzes the emergence, continuation and fall of the *Azadistan* (Land of Freedom) Movement.

Key words: Constitution, Freedom, Iran Democratic Party, Teceddud Newspaper.

Introduction

During the movements of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, occurred between 1908 – 1911; a young man aged 26 – 27, with a turban in his head and a rifle in his hand, gathered the attention amongst mujahedeen with his courage and impassionate outbursts. The name of this young man was Muhammet Hiyabâni, son of Abdulhamit and the place he was born was Hamene, a town of Azerbaijani Province, within the borders of Iran. This young mujahedeen would be the defender of the revolutions of the Constitutional movement in the future first and would be the head of the national independence movement of the Azerbaijani people of Iran. He would inscribe his name to the pages of the history books by leading the independence campaign of his land. In addition to that; he would come to prominence as Sheikh Muhammet Hiyabâni in the history of Independence and Democracy of Iran. Sheikh Muhammet was involved in the politics with an active manner, beginning from early ages. When the Constitutional Revolution was attacked by the pro-reactionist, Sheikh was defending the Revolution with iron faith. In the year of 1911, The Tsardom of Russia, gave

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an ultimatum after coming into an agreement with British and names such as Naibül-Saltana ve Nasirül-Mülk, who were the commanding the reactionary forces, shut down the National assembly by force of arms. Hiyabâni, was at that time, running down the imperialistic behaviors of the British and Russian Colonists and the feudal and aristocratic rule of Iran who backs on British and Russian in rallies, held in the Sebz Square of Teheran as being a member of the Assembly and on behalf of the leftist fraction, ultimately revealing the true nature of their policies against the people of Iran. Şeyh Muhammet Hiyabâni who was under prosecution and was being kept under pressure due to such indicated reasons, went to Castle Mohackala, where his father was involved in trading via Khorasan and Turkistan in order to conduct his political activities.

This journey was the second coming of Hiyabâni to Mohac. In his first visit, The Sheikh learned a great deal of things from Mirza Abdulrahim Talibov, who was the progressivist scholar of that day. And in that second visit, the Shekih, as being a well educated individual and being a revolutionist Mujahedeen who participated into Iranian Revolution, met with the progressive and revolutionist leaders of the Caucasian Nations (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Daghistan) and could be able to assess the process as well as the events of the era. At the same time, he established connections with the higher ups of the Russian Social Democratic Party, who were conducting illegal activities in such countries, and learned their tactics and ideologies.

Second visit of Hiyabâni to Mohac overlapped with the years of World War I. towards the end of the war, he decided to return to Iran and settle down to Tabriz, which was the center of Azerbaijan Province. In this war, Iran was under the pressure of two states, namely Russia and Britain. Diseases, hunger, unemployment were devastating the population.

The Initialization Phase of The Azadistan Movement

The feudal aristocrats, who were holding the rule of the state at their hand, reactionary clergymen, and politicians, were thinking about nothing but their own interests. Blackmarket and profiteering were on the rise. Just like any other regions of Iran, the Azerbaijani Region was also suffering greatly under this rule. The occupying armies of the belligerent nations confiscated the vital sources of income of the people. Poverty and corruption were at their peak as the administration pestered the life of people by seizing the principle sources of living such as horses, cattle and sheep that were possessed by the people, by seizing the agricultural products such as wheat, fruits and vegetables and by laying heavy taxes.

The first thing that Hiyabâni, who returned to Tabriz in such a climate, did was to re-commissioning the Democratic Party and publishing a new

newspaper. Due to his political awareness and his organizing skills, he quickly succeeded bringing the supporters of revolution and independence. Some of the higher – ups, of the Democratic Party, who was led by Hiyabâni were exiled to Kashan (a province in central İran) and Kum, some of them were imprisoned and some of them were even murdered by the government. Sheikh Hiyabâni, who gathered the ones, located in Tabriz, started publishing the newspaper “Teceddüt”. (“Renewal” – in English)

Amongst the people who cooperated with Hiyabâni, many influential people were present, from the prominent individuals of Azerbaijan to the opinion leaders. As some of the most significant of all, we can list Mirza Tâki Han Rifat, Zeynelabidin Kiyami, Mirza Ebulkasım Feyuzat, Mirza İsmail Nevberi, Mirza Ali Heyet, Mehmet Ali Saffet, Mirza Resul Kâzimi, Mirza Ali Han Pezeşeyi

The people, listed above, decided to hold the congress of Democratic party under the presidency of Hiyabâni, to re-create the Democratic Party and to establish its tactics. Hiyabâni and his brothers in arms called the Congress in for a meeting in order to elect the Higher Board of Administration of the Azerbaijani Democratic Party. The Congress began in August 24, 1917; was held in Tabriz with the participation of 480 delegates. At first, the congress declared that “the Azerbaijani Democratic Party is an independent party”. In the congress, which lasted for few days, the main principles, comprised of 7 articles were acknowledged. The articles that the Congress acknowledged were the indicators of the opinions and political approach of Democratic Party. The articles that were accepted by the Congress are as follows;

1. Since the rule of Tsar had been overthrown by the recent revolution, to put the exploitation of the Russian Imperialism to an end.
2. To strengthen the party organization, not allowing nationalist, religious and reactionist elements to involve into party affairs.
3. In order to choose the assemblymen and state seat representatives to be sent to the Parliament in Teheran, fasten the process that leads to the elections and making efforts in this regard.
4. To publish the newspaper "Teceddüt" in a broad spectrum and attribute the party activities to the public.
5. To be in cooperation with other political parties, that are active in Iran.
6. Establishing cooperation with the progressivist elements in Russia.
7. Form up a commission that would work on Finance.

Although the Democratic Party boosted its number of members up to 5000 in a short amount of time, it did not have a homogeneous structure. We can suggest two fractions inside the party structure; radicals and reformists. But the real dominant fraction that was in command was the Midway, also known as the Hiyabânism, which adopted the parliamentary system and took up a position against all kinds of chaos and terrorism.

As a matter of fact, the decisions belonged to the amendments to be made in the party program as well as party code. In the congress, the Central Party Committee was elected. The party started to round up its organization. The newspaper called "Teceddüt", which was considered as the media organ of the party, started to be published regularly. Hiyabâni found a foothold for an opposition for the independence for Iran Azerbaijani. In his article titled Azerbaijan, Hiyabâni, who was having passionate outbursts in "Teceddüt" indicated that "Dear assiduous Azerbaijan. Raise up against oppression. Fight against foreign occupation. Bravemen who needs not to be separated; you are being asked for fight, courage and hardwork."

"Teceddüt" started its life in April of 1917. The newspaper carried on to be published until the September of 1920. Until that last date, 202 issues of the newspaper had been published. It continued its life under the editorship of Feyuzat and Ebulfeth Han Ulvi' between the issues; 1-58, under the editorship and management of Mirza Taki Rifat between the issues 58 – 86 and after that, until issue 202; under the editorship and responsibility of Sheikh Muhammed Hiyabani.

"Teceddüt" is a newspaper, siding with independence, freedom and people. It emphasized the issues and problems of the nation. The building that the newspaper was being published was at Mecidiye Street in Tabriz and its phone number was 171.

In a letter that he wrote to Tbilisi in 23rd of May 1917, the commander of the occupying Russian Force, deployed in Tabriz, I. Kanbarov says: "The supporters of Hiyabani in the region is increasing gradually. The Democratic Party, which leads the movement, came into activity in Erdebil, Marend, Kazvin and Urumiye apart from Tabriz by establishing its organizations. They call public to unite and act in order to repulse and out the imperialist foreigners from the country. This party which demands independence to Azerbaijan finds reciprocation in the crowds.

"Teceddüt", which was published by the guidance of Iran Azerbaijan Democratic Party, by spilling the wishes, coming from the heart of the People of Iran, was criticizing state's men like Vüsukul Dövlé, one of the prime ministers of Iran as well as Kavamül Saltana and Eminülmülk who hand Iran to British. Hiyabani was not alone for his fight against such people, who was holding the power at their hands, the people of Azerbaijan

was with him, united with him. In addition to that, all of those revolutionists who were elected as the members of the central committee in the General Congress of Democrat Party were challenging individuals with leadership skills. Those people, comprised of Democrat Revolutionist individuals, being Hiyabâni, Bademci, Seyyidül-Muhakkikin, Nazimül-Dövlé, Feyuzat, Kiyami, Rifat (Teceddüt) Mutemedül-Tüccar, Emir Hîzi, Saffer etc. first, were the characters who should be proudly and gratefully remembered by each liberal Iranian.

The historian Mehti Müctehidi writes: “The democrat party and its representatives strongly objected to the agreement, made by the representative of Teheran National Council Assembly from Iran Azerbaijan, Vüsukul-Dövlé in 1919 with British, practically making Iran as a semi – colony, and opened the red flag in this regard by considering not responding as a treason to the nation. In April 7 1920, under the flag of insurrection movement, Hiyabâni addressed to a large crowd on Saad Gabagı (clock tower square) which is one of the largest squares in Tabriz and announced that “we demand a government that represents us righteously. We don’t want any government that didn’t obtain the will and the faith of the people. “The insurrecting crowd seized control of all kinds of administrations of the Government in Iran Azerbaijan except of the ones, belonging to army and repelled and ousted the civil servants of Tehran Government.

The mujahedeen that were gathered in 9th of April under the leadership of Hiyabâni, in their pronouncement, addressed to the public indicated that:” The libertarians of the city of Tabriz initiated an uprising against the evilness and the non democratic ruling of the representatives of Tehran Government in Iran Azerbaijan. Out of the civil servants who pay their respect to the Revolution Regime, who literally conduct the constitution and obey it can literally retain their seats. The libertarians give assurance that they will comply with the security and order in the nation. Their program can be summarized as: putting the general peace, safety and constitution in to the effect by real terms.”

The Objective and the Structure of State of Azadistan

There are only a few published scientific works, books and articles regarding the State of Azadistan. Along with the collapse of Soviet Union circa 1990 by the emerging of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a sovereign state, some historians in Baku stepped into this subject. And once again in the environment, which was formed after the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, some works started being published in Tehran and Tabriz regarding this establishment. And in our country, currently, there are not much work in this subject. However, many historians and writers made references to this subject in their studies and articles. One of those, Kamuran Gürün, in his piece titled “Warring Turkey and World” regarding the establishment phase

of Azadistan, says; Sheikh Muhammed Hiyabâni establishes the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party in Tabriz and in 1920, he announces the republic in the same fashion.

Mehmet Metin Ören, in his work titled “The Independence Movements of Iranian Turks”; evaluated the Hiyabâni movement like this; In April 7, 1920, The Democratic Party declared the State of Azadistan. Sheikh Muhammed Hiyabâni addressed to the crowd, gathered under the flag of insurrection: We demand a government which would represent us duly. The people who were gathered with such principle and demand seized control of all administration except army and ousted the civil servants of the Tehran government, sending them away from their seats.” Despite all of this, the acceding government started to implement many reform laws.

There had been two objectives of Iran Constitutional Revolution. Those are comprised of national objectives and social objectives. The national objective is to get rid of the Imperialist states, thus being free from the influence and pressure of Russian and British imperialism. Iran, which was free of the Russian pressure due to 1917 Russian Revolution, fell under the hegemony of England by the Iran – British Agreement in 1919. On the other hand, other capitalist states were also racing with each other to exploit Iran. For example, in the Farsi Carpet Factor, established in Tabriz by German Empire; small children were working for a very little wage under very unfavorable conditions for 14 hours a day. A carpet, which was produced at a cost 12 pounds, was sold for 120 pounds in England. Also all other workers were working without any social and security benefits with very low wages. The Social transformation, which was as one of the goals of the Constitutional Revolution failed to succeed. The bedraggled feudal system was the most important problem of the masses. We can understand the living conditions of the farmers / villagers, who constituted %80 of the population at that time, by their shares within the land ownership. 14 years after the constitutional revolution, the share of the land ownership in Iran was as follows;

1. %66 of the lands were owned by feudal lords.
2. %14 of the lands was owned by tribal lords.
3. %10 of the lands are foundation lands
4. %4 of the lands was considered as State Owned.
5. Only %3,5 of the lands constitutional owned by small scale land owners.

In such conditions, Hiyabâni and his colleagues prepared a reform package, consisting of 7 articles, and implemented it.

The national government that came into power in Iran Azerbaijan, started preparing the reform laws. As for the beginning, the obligation of paying taxes was abolished for all the villagers / farmers. However, a method of collecting tax from a certain amount of income was set. It was also decided to allocate and distribute the state owned lands to the villagers / farmers without any cost. They also agreed upon allocating the foundation lands to the villagers / farmers, confiscating the lands of the landlords and giving such lands away and collecting their costs from the villagers by an installment plan and set up a bank to carry on the indicated workload.

Regarding the education aspect; he made it mandatory to open primary schools in villages and secondary schools in cities and for all children to have education. The schools of “Muhammediye”, “Feyuzat” and “Hikmet”, which were founded in Tabriz and still carry on education even today, came from that era. It was also decided to increase the number of hospitals that serve to public in villages and cities and to open new ones. The “Şir-i Hürşit” hospital, which is located in the Maralan neighborhood of Tabriz is the work of The National Azerbaijani Government.

The National Azerbaijani Government was established with a standing army of 12.000 men. It supplied the arms and equipment of this army. In order to provide the economic progress and development, the industrialization was taken into the program and first step towards this subject were taken. This state, established in Iran Azerbaijan was named Azadistan.

The President of the State of Azadistan, established in Iran Azerbaijan, Sheikh Muhammed Hiyabâni addressed his people in 29th of April, 1920, stating that: “ we are determined to raise the awareness of the public, which ranks the lowest in the hierarchical order of the society, by teaching them their social rights. By informing them, by giving them the power of knowledge, we will show them the path to their freedom. In this way, they will have the strongest means for defending their freedom. We would like to create such a government that it could be called the national rule. The independence and freedom should be complete and absolute. Spreading and delivering this view to the public is the task of an intellectual and this task should be paid utmost attention. We need to arm the upper layers of the society with the knowledge and democratic thoughts of XX. Century. Because this is the road to the revolution and progressivism.

The Azerbaijani Freedom Movement, started by Hiyabâni was favored by the public and gradually getting stronger. The Statesmen from Tehran who sold the state of Iran as well as the interests of the people was getting suspicious of the situation. They started to take measures in order to repress the movement. First, the Secret agents of Tehran provoked the tribes and public in some provinces and town of Azerbaijan to stand up against

Hiyabâni movement. The Azerbaijani National Government had to sent out its newly formed army in order to suppress the uprisings. The gendarmerie unit, stationed in Tabriz was commanded by Hüseyin Han Major. This commander gave his words to the libertarians of Tabriz regarding his loyalty. The government of Tehran sent Muhibürsultana Hidayet to settle with the revolutionaries of Tabriz and to suppress this movement. As first thing to do when he came to Tabriz, Muhibürsultana Hidayet reached to a secret agreement with Hüseyin Han Major, the Muhibür-Sultana Hidayet came to Tabriz, he showed himself as a person with democratic ideas and as a supporter of this movement. Müşirül-Dövlé, the Prime Minister in Tehran gave the order to drown the Azerbaijani Revolution Movement in its cradle. In 11th September of 1920, Muhibürsultana Hidayet sneaks into the Kazakhane Barracks and meets with the Gendarmerie officers in secrecy and prepares plans to overthrow the National Government. The military details, called Kazhaks, strikes the neighborhood called Alakapu, where the Government Center is located, next day, early in the morning and take command of the government center. From this point, the attacks to the houses of the democrats begin. 300 houses, within 3 days get pillaged and the democrats are slain. Although the home of Hiyabâni is also pillaged, he was not caught. People who betrayed the revolution inform that Sheikh Hiyabâni hides in the house of Sheikh Hasan Bademci. The house of Hasan Bademci is then surrounded and Hiyabâni declines the offer to surrender. He chooses the option to fight alone with few people at his side.

Hiyabâni is a faithful man of people. He fights until his very last bullet and breath. The Kazak Gendarmerie that breached into the garden of the house kill the brave defender of Iran and Azerbaijani revolution, the great revolutionist and leader Hiyabâni. The elimination of the Democrat Party in September 1920, and the killing of Hiyabâni, it should not be considered that the independence movement in Iran was extinguished at all. In the future, it would be witnessed the emergence of a denser independence movement. Hiyabâni movement enabled for a distinctive liberal generation to be raised in the history of Iran. The time showed that Vüsukül-Dövlé's imperialist state in Iran, based on the British State would not live long and the political events confirmed this fact within a short period of time. The Hiyabâni movement was temporarily faded after leaving a deep mark. None of the Independence movements in the world succeeded when they first emerge. However, this movement paved the way to the successful results and prepared a strong base.

The Hiyabâni Movement and the state of Azadistan were established in April 7, 1920 and lived for 9 months until being suppressed by Müşirül Dövlé and his collaborators. Khan Reza, who would become the Shah played a pivotal role on suppressing the movement. The state of Azadistan was

extinguished like this, however, it would be witnessed that the liberal movement will continue in the history of Iran in the future.

Sheikh Muhammed Hiyabâni, The Head Of The State Of Azadistan

As it's known, Muhammed Hiyabâni participated the Constitutional Revolution and played an active role. He took part in the II. Assembly as the delegate of Azerbaijan in the elections of 1909. He gave speeches in the assembly as a member of the Democrat group against imperialists. And as the result of this, he was forced to move to Mohac Kale, the capital of Daghistan after being subjected to state pressure. During this second exile of Muhammed Hiyabâni, he had chance to meet and exchange ideas with the social democrats and revolutionists of Maveræe Caucasians. By coming back to Tabriz in the early phases of the world war one, he started to conduct his political activities in secrecy. In this era, the Democrat Party also went into underground.

The success of the October Revolution of Russia in 1917 led to the spreading of the democratic ideas in Iran and to the development of liberal movements. On this opportunity, the Democratic party resumed its political activities in an active manner once again after 5 years. As we have stated before, the Congress was gathered with 480 delegates towards the end of 1917 in order to re-organize the party. To this congress, most of the prominent political and intellectual figures of Azerbaijan attended. In the decisions, announced at the end of the congress, many important observations were conducted;

Generally, decisions that regulate the this Congress and the Azadistan State of Azerbaijan which was established right after the congress, led by Muhammed Hiyabâni as well as that regulate the legal and social framework which conducts the relationship of the people who live in here, with other people who live in other parts of Iran and other neighboring countries, were taken. Steps were also taken towards meeting with the economic, social and communal needs of people regarding current issues of the day. Those are:

- The standing of Azerbaijan and the views of the party regarding this stand.
- Views on the elections of National Assembly.
- Immediate establishment of State and provincial committees (Local parliaments)
- The relations of the Party with the Russian Revolution.
- Economic decisions and formation of a finance system.

The party ruling starts by underlining that the State of Azerbaijan is an integral part of Iran. After indicating this view, they point out that the Azerbaijan should be developed, the democratic implementations should be spread across the region instantly and they would do everything to provide peace. They ruled to commission the legislature right away and let the party reach to the most valuable and honest people. The most important subject that is emphasized here is that they stipulated to open up local parliaments in a rapid manner and to deal with the economic and social life of the region directly. After they underlined that they were happy about the September Revolution in Soviet Union and this revolution would be an example to all nations and their steps to the independence, they stipulated to establish warm relationships with Russian Revolutionists and to obtain support from them.

In 1920, Mirza Ali, a prominent revolutionary who was known by his fight against Tsar Russia and the regime as well as his personality, and Sigget-ul Islam were killed by hanging by the soldiers of Tsar Russia. After the September revolution, the Russian revolutionists, located in Tabriz, came by his grave and paid their respect, condemning the Tsar Russia. Muhammed Hiyabâni, in all of his speeches, by calling the Farsi, Azeri, Kurds, Belucs and Arabs for fighting against their common enemy in unity, actually underlined that all people are brothers and the enemy plants the seeds of hatred and loathing amongst them in reality.

Hiyabâni. Who emphasized that the political thinking is essential, showed the Russian soldiers as an example and indicated that how their actions that include brutality and cruel treatment, towards the people of Iran changed after the revolution and they started fighting against reactionism side by side with the people of Iran.

After the State of Azadistan, established under the presidency of Hiyabâni, took control; Tabriz was taken after an armed revolt in April 1920 and the Administration of Azerbaijan seized. And right after that, the party who took command of the administration, ousted all civil servants, who oppressed the public and the fight against the famine and poverty was initiated.

By distributing the food stocks, held by the government, to people, the price levels led to be decreased. All the taxes, obtained from the villagers were revoked and the lands, possessed by the state, were also allocated to the villagers. The lands of the landlords were bought out by the state against remuneration and distributed to the villagers, the education was made mandatory and new schools were founded in many locations. The health system was reformed and new hospitals were commissioned.

In one of his speeches in 29th of April 1920, Hiyabâni comments on the reforms: “ We, by introducing the lower layers of the public with their own

rights, by arming them with science and culture, will ensure that they will claim their own independence rights. We are trying to establish and form a national and independent government in Iran in real terms. We will equip such masses with the greatest weapon of XX.th century; the science and technology.” Hiyabani observed the conditions of the day that emerged especially after the foundation of the Soviet Union perfectly and took reformative steps towards villagers without any land as well as to the farmers, which together forms the lowest ranks of the society. And on the top of such steps, the Land Reform comes to the forefront.

In place of Conclusion; The Assessments regarding the State of Azadistan

The State of Azadistan, under the rule of M. Hiyabâni; worked hard for the prosperity of the people and for them to gain their democratic rights. In my opinion, The Self Governing State of Azerbaijan, established 25 years after the crush of Azadistan, absorbed a lot of core opinions and approaches from it. In case it is looked into, we will see the proximity, similarity and differences between those two movements. However, the reasons of failure for both movements are different.

If a complete analysis of the Hiyabani movement is done, we will see closely that, apart from being a national liberalist source of inspiration, the democratic middle class made significant mistakes regarding the ideas. As the result of the mistakes, the forces of reactionists made a collaboration with the state forces, run from the center and thus formed an anti revolutionary force. The Party cared to arm the masses, especially the villagers but failed to undertake a complete land reform.

And finally, in 11th of September 1920, as the result of the attack of the Central government and the reactionists, this great revolutionary, the leader and the theoretician of the movement was killed in his home and the movement was suppressed. He declined surrendering and talked “A dead with honor is better than living without it. The people of Tabriz wants that the authority should be held by the people, actually that’s what all Iran wants. We want the democracy reign over entire Iran. We want all the states express their will freely. The last phase for defending this right is death and we, upon this path, choose to die with honor over living without it.”

Approximately 90 years has passed since the foundation and the collapse of the Azadistan Movement. In such long years, many articles and studies were published in order to determine the plus and minus aspects of the movement. First of all, I would like to mention the comments of those who criticize this movement and its leader, Muhammed Hiyabâni. The Russian Historian Gilyenski determined the Azadistani Movement as an anti people movement and asserted that this movement prevented a middle class

democratic revolution, which was to occur under the leadership of proletariat in Iran.

Yet another Soviet Author, S.N. Rostosky, in his work titled “Kemalist Movement in Turkey, 1919 – 22 Revolutionary Movement in Iran” and published in 1940, assessed Hiyabâni as an idealist and anti-communist individual. One of the Soviet authors, Historian M.S. Ivanov claimed that in the Hiyabâni movement, the contributions of the public masses to the revolution were ignored thus the movement was destined for being crushed. Another Soviet scientist L. Persikov in his article, published in 1941 where he review the movement, stressed on the fact that this tide was disconnected from people. The Iran Expert, lecturer in American Hamilton University, Polish Jore Lenozki, in his work titled “The clash of Russia and West in Iran” criticized the Azadistan movement harshly, considered the movement as separatist and accused Hiyabâni of being a Bolshevik.

Generally we encounter with two different perspectives in the comments of the foreign writers. Soviet scientists, including Azeri historian Sevket Takiova, considered the Azadistan Movement as a democratic, national and anti-imperialist movement. When we read the comments of Iranian writers and scientists, we see that the movement and its leader are criticized harshly. Ibrahim Sebuster, one of the prominent members of Justice Party, (The successor to the Iran Communist Party) named Hiyabâni as a dictator and even an anti-revolutionist.

After 1945, books, supporting the Azadistan movement, was published in Baku. One of them, titled Hiyabâni, which is printed in 1947 by Gulam Mehmetli, another work titled “Azerbaijan and The Democratic Forces of Azerbaijan” written by Ismail Şems in 1960, “Hiyabâni”, written by Abbas Penahi in 1979 and finally the work that we discussed before, “1920 Tabriz Revolt” by Şevket Takiova, all that we can mention. Huseyin Mekki, who published his work titled “126 Years of History of Iran” in 1945, categorized the Azadistan movement as one of the most significant historical events and concluded this as a constitutional level event.

Today, in the cities of Tabriz, Urumiye and Erdebil in particular in addition to other Azerbaijan cities, just like regarding many other topics, many books, articles and studies are being conducted and published about the Azadistan Movement daily and weekly newspapers and magazines try to uncover this event by publishing many articles and studies regarding the rise, continuity and collapse of Hiyabâni Movement. In my opinion, most important of them all is the research book, titled “Azadistan, Sheikh Muhammed Hiyabâni”, written by Abdül Hüseyin Nahidiazer. This is a piece of work, made by great care and endeavor. And today, by giving his name to town squares, by erecting his statues; the memory of Hiyabâni is being tried to be kept fresh.

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