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Behrouz Boochani's *No Friend but the Mountains*: an Odyssey of Silence and Resistance

Snehlata Tailor

The spectacle of people without home and shelter without nationality and sense of rootedness makes headlines of the world news almost every day. Many of such people do not survive the struggle, and meet their end due to various causes. The writer, journalist, filmmaker, poet and novelist Behrouz Boochani's memoir *No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from the Manus Prison* provides a detailed and very vivid account of the journey of such people who have to leave their lands due to war ravages and launch on the Odyssey of extreme inhuman affliction in the Pacific Ocean.

Behrouz Boochani basically belonged to the Kurdish region in Iran. He calls himself a child of War the Kurdish community of Iran happens to be situated on Iraq and Iran borders. This region is not self ruled and the uncertainty remains regarding the safety of Kurdish community residing in the area. The region is all the time suffering war between the surrounding countries like Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey. Behrouz has given account of the situation of that region in following words:

My earliest childhood memories are of warplanes ruthlessly raiding the skies. Warplanes splitting the sky over a village nestled within forests of chestnut oak trees; my earliest childhood memories are of the fear that ran deep within our bones. (Boochani 167)

During his stay in Kurdistan, he used writing as a form of resistance and wrote many articles on Middle-East politics, minority rights and survival of Kurdish culture. (Wiki) He co-founded the Kurdish magazine *Werya* which he regarded as his most important work. This magazine

