

# WE WANT JUSTICE

**The political murders to three Kurdish women that happened in central Paris is still waiting to be clarified since 9 January 2013**

UIKI, IRKWM, CENI



*“Sakine Cansiz, who was one of the PKK’s founders, KNK Paris Representative Fidan Dogan and Leyla Saylemez were killed in the incident which was carried out in Paris the capital of France. According to information received, an unknown person or persons attacked the Kurdish Information Office located in Gare Du Nord. Firat News Agency Date:10/01/2013 04:04:06”*

## **WHAT HAPPENED ON 9 JANUARY 2013 BETWEEN 12:30 and 13:00 IN RUE LA FAYETTE IN THE HEART OF PARIS?**

On the evening of 9 January 2013 Fidan Dogan (Rojbin), Sakine Cansiz (Sara) and Leyla Saylemez’s friends started to look for them after not hearing anything from them. On the same night at about 01:15, when they opened the Kurdistan Information office’s door where Fidan Dogan worked, they were confronted with the three bloody bodies of the Kurdish women. French police officers were called immediately. The initial findings showed that the three Kurdish woman did not use their phones after 12:00 on 9 January. Despite the assault happening on the busy street of Rue La Fayette so close to the Train Station Gare du Nord in central Paris, not one witness could be found who had any knowledge at all about the assault!

The incident became major international news item. Thousands of Kurdish and Kurdish supporters came to Paris from all over Europe. They were distressed and furious.

On the 10 January, France’s Minister of the Interior Manuel Valls came to the Kurdish Information office to make investigations and he gave speech on behalf of the French Government. He described the case as a political murder and he pledged that the police team was working seriously on the case and they were attempting to show high performance to solve the case in a short time. Thousands of Kurdish and fellow supporters filled the streets of Paris to send the bodies of the three Kurdish women back to their homeland in a magnificent ceremony, during which they all together raised their voices in unison saying that they wanted justice.

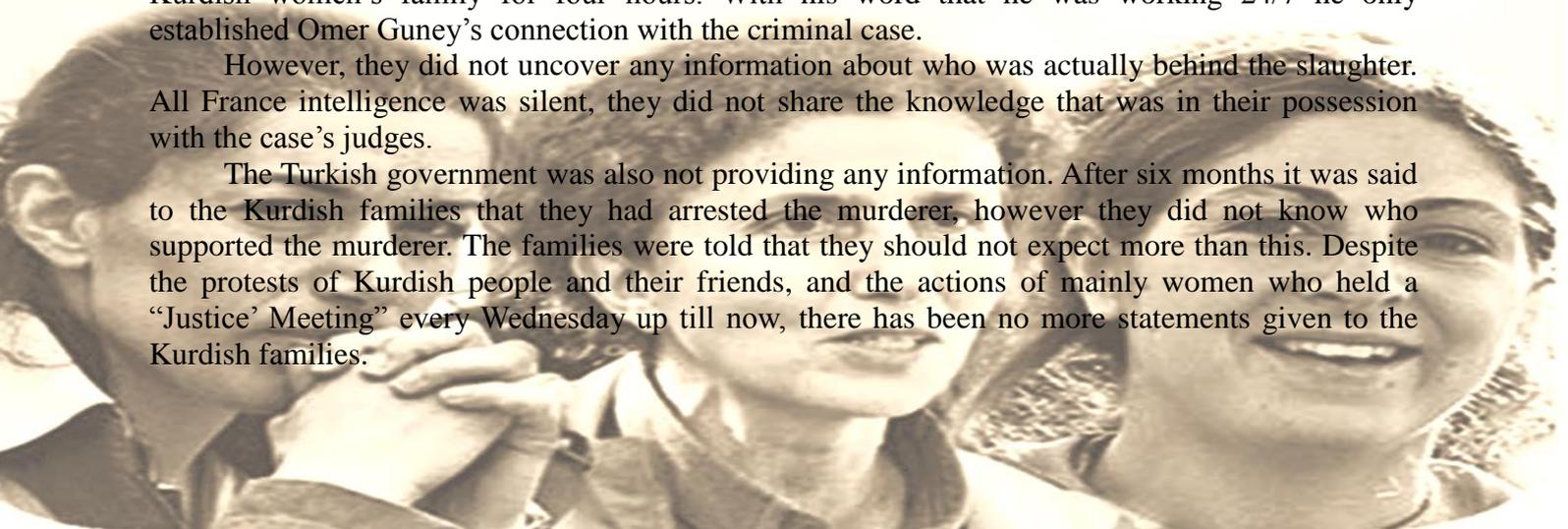
While several Kurdish organisations started an investigation into the assault immediately, they warned the shocked and angry Kurdish people to express peacefully their demand of justice and the apprehending of the murderer/s. It has been established that the last person who entered the Kurdistan Information Office was Omer Guney, and this information was shared with the French Police. However, Omer Guney was not taken into custody till 18 January, even then he was released after his initial questioning.

After being kept in custody for four days, it was mentioned that he had been arrested in a press release on 22 January. The prosecution office announced that Omer Guney was the first suspect in the case. Gunpowder traces, the time that he entered to crime scene and his unclarified 46 minutes during that day were suspicious evidence against him. Well, what happened after that?

Since the assault was exposed in the early hours of 10 January, all Kurdish institutes in Paris was contacted to try and obtain information about the assault. It was decided that all this process was done in order to collect information about the murderer of the three Kurdish women and was intended to find out the forces behind the assault and to reach out for information to all those who could help. Over the period of six months the judge in charge of the case interviewed the three Kurdish women’s family for four hours. With his word that he was working 24/7 he only established Omer Guney’s connection with the criminal case.

However, they did not uncover any information about who was actually behind the slaughter. All France intelligence was silent, they did not share the knowledge that was in their possession with the case’s judges.

The Turkish government was also not providing any information. After six months it was said to the Kurdish families that they had arrested the murderer, however they did not know who supported the murderer. The families were told that they should not expect more than this. Despite the protests of Kurdish people and their friends, and the actions of mainly women who held a “Justice’ Meeting” every Wednesday up till now, there has been no more statements given to the Kurdish families.



## WHO WERE SAKINE, FIDAN AND LEYLA

**Sakine CANSIZ (Sara):12 February 1958- 9 January 2013**

**“SAKINE CANSIZ IS THE ROSA LUXEMBURG OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE”**

*(Gultan Kisanak Co-chair of BDP)*

She was born in Dersim, She was Kurdish and Alevi. She defended both her identities which were forbidden by the Turkish Republic regardless of her position. Therefore, she joined the PKK, she participated in the foundation congress of the PKK in 1978. Since 9 January she was one of the living PKK founders and also she was the first member of the Kurdish Women’s Army which had thousands of soldiers.

She took part in organisational activity for the PKK in Elazig and Bingol. She was arrested during the 12 September Coup. She expressed her defiance against Commander Esat Okay who was responsible for torturing prisoners while she was in Diyarbakir Prison where she stayed many years. The action made her legendary and also she was the first one to make a political defence in court in the Kurdish Freedom Struggle’s History. After finishing a 12 years prison sentence, she carried out the fight in various fields and she remained always a leader in Kurdish history.

In 1995 she participated in the first Kurdish Woman Congress in order to create opportunities for Kurdish women to become organized. She was experienced in the creation of the Kurdish Women Army. In her thirty years of struggle, she was a partisan commander, woman’s right advocate, a teacher in Maxnur refugee camp, a governor of the PKK, tutor in the academy, diplomat who attempted to bring the Kurdish Freedom Struggle to international attention. However, everybody regarded her as their comrade. She was the inspiration for Kurdish people and Women Freedom Fighters in particular.

**Fidan Dogan (Rojbin):17 January 1982- 9 January 2013**

**SHE WAS A WELL KNOWN PERSON BY ME AND BY SO MANY POLITICAL PEOPLE**

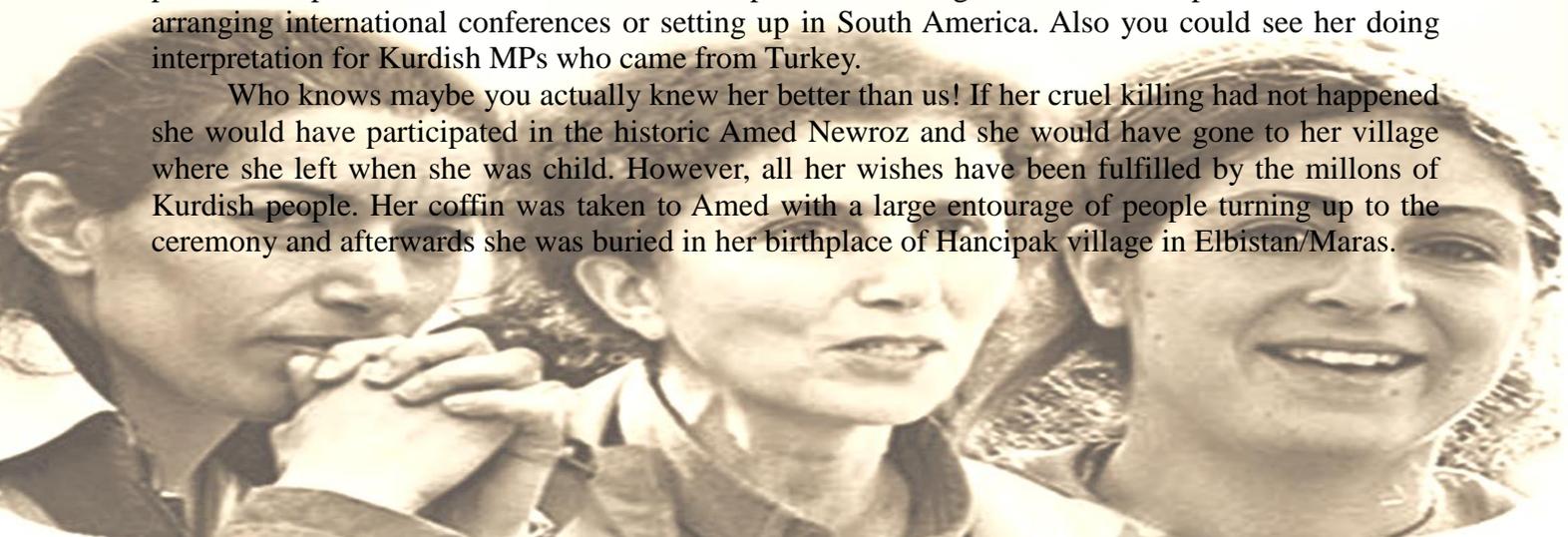
*(French President Francois Hollande)*

Fidan’s (Rojbin) family is Kurdish and Alevi from Maras where a huge massacre occurred. Fidan moved to France with her family when she was 9 years old. Her father stated that she learned French in six months.

She joined in Kurdish Freedom Struggle in reaction to Kurdish National Leader Abdullah Ocalan’s

hijacking and kidnapping to Turkey. She used her French language skills for her nation’s freedom fight. She worked hard to raise awareness of Kurdish issues among the international community. You could see her trying to get signatures from members of Parliament or interviewing a priest to help activists who could not find a place for a hunger strike. It was possible to see her arranging international conferences or setting up in South America. Also you could see her doing interpretation for Kurdish MPs who came from Turkey.

Who knows maybe you actually knew her better than us! If her cruel killing had not happened she would have participated in the historic Amed Newroz and she would have gone to her village where she left when she was child. However, all her wishes have been fulfilled by the millions of Kurdish people. Her coffin was taken to Amed with a large entourage of people turning up to the ceremony and afterwards she was buried in her birthplace of Hancipak village in Elbistan/Maras.



**Leyla Saylemez (Ronahi): 1 January 1989 - 9 January 2013**  
**IT SAID TO US THERE IS NO LIVING CHANCE FOR US BY THIS SLAUGHTER.**  
**HOWEVER, WE CREATE OUR CHANGE BY OURSELVES.**

*(BDP Amed MP Emine Ayna )*

Her family was deported from their homeland before she was born. She was born in Mersin miles away from her family's homeland. Her family is from Lice/Amed. When Lice was burned down by Turkish soldiers Leyla was only small baby. She had experienced deportation when she was 10 years old. She continued her education in Halle Salle in Germany where she moved with her parents and six siblings. She acquired knowledge about her country's painful history from her father and she showed a great interest in the future of her country. She became involved in many cultural activities at the Kurdish Institute. Before she was murdered she was actively participating in work among the youth.

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE MURDER GIVES A GREAT CLUE ABOUT THE MURDERERS**

9 January 2013 will remain a dark day in Kurdish history. Whereas, the Kurdish people entered 2013 with good news and high hope for the finishing of 25 years of conflict which has caused some 62 thousand deaths, 17 thousand unsolved killings, 4,500 village evacuations, over four million forced to emigrate. The Turkish government started to speak to Kurdish National Leader Abdullah Ocalan who was being held in bad conditions in Imrali for 14 years after long terms of isolation. Surely, it was not a coincidence that this slaughter happened just 12 days after these discussions with Abdullah Ocalan was revealed to the public.

In the first hours, the Gulen Community, AKP spokespersons, Turkish Government supporters in the media, so-called Kurdish intellectuals against the PKK and certain French media claimed that "The perpetrator was the PKK". It seemed that they had all reached some agreement. However, the judge in the investigation and the enquiry demonstrated clearly that it was not some internal revenge among the PKK. This refuted the assertions made against the PKK.

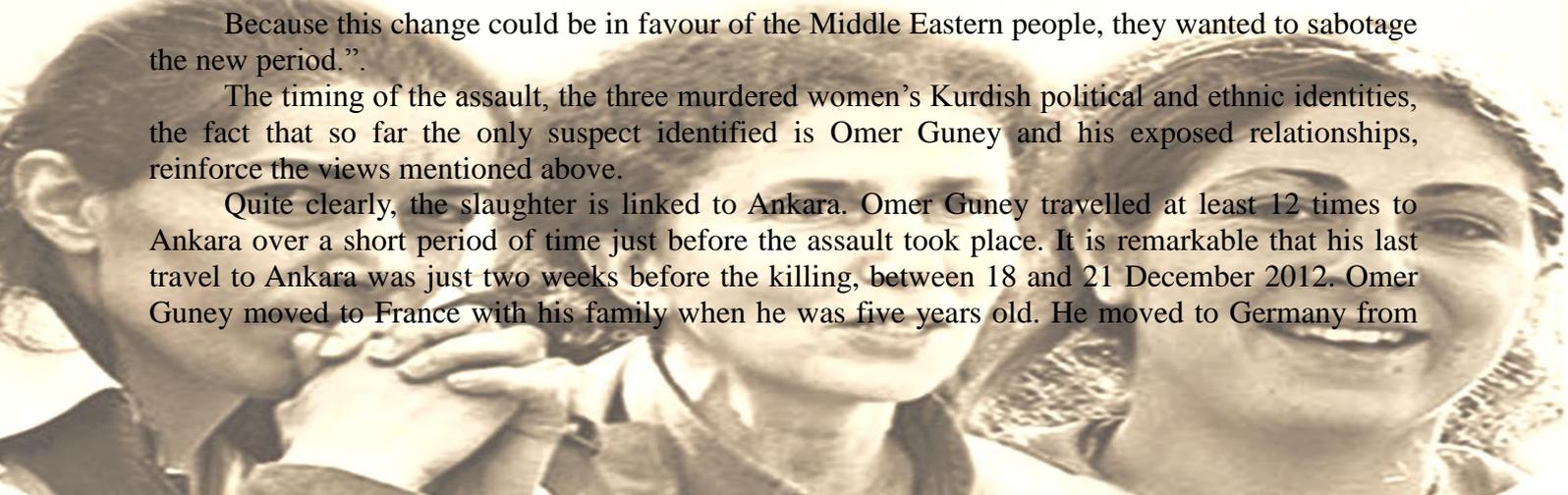
The assault seems to have been intended as a sabotage operation against to new period started in Imrali according to the people who are objective and take a more independent approach. They also emphasised that the assault's attributes indicated that only the State or the State's intelligence arm would be capable to do that kind of political murder. Also, the Kurdish people and Kurdish institutions thought that the Turkish Gladyo was behind the assault and it had been done to sabotage the new period opening up. According to Kurdish people, it was intended to sabotage the new period in Imrali, either it was a cruel step designed to eliminate the Kurdish nation and their freedom actions.

The local and international powers, apart from the AKP and the Turkish Government, linked to the assault and their intention to carry out such an assault was to determine by interests summed up as "The improvement of Kurdish-Turkish dialogue and cooperation could cause a change in the political and financial balance in the Middle East that local and international powers would be uncomfortable with.

Because this change could be in favour of the Middle Eastern people, they wanted to sabotage the new period."

The timing of the assault, the three murdered women's Kurdish political and ethnic identities, the fact that so far the only suspect identified is Omer Guney and his exposed relationships, reinforce the views mentioned above.

Quite clearly, the slaughter is linked to Ankara. Omer Guney travelled at least 12 times to Ankara over a short period of time just before the assault took place. It is remarkable that his last travel to Ankara was just two weeks before the killing, between 18 and 21 December 2012. Omer Guney moved to France with his family when he was five years old. He moved to Germany from



France in order to get married when he was 20 years old. He was divorced two years before the assault, and came back to France again. It is worth noting that when he arrived in France he registered at the Kurdish Institute (his formal registration date is 18 November 2011). Later, it emerged that his views were against the Kurdish position and he is a nationalist/ chauvinist.

His relations in Turkey and the information about his life in Germany have not been conveyed to the French Forensic Office as yet. This indicates that he is a professional person who was trained based on his opposition to the Kurds. In addition, it shows that the assault had been orchestrated at an international level with strong links with the Turkish Government.

In Turkey where 17,000 unknown Kurdish murders had happened only in the last 30 years, AKP Party Deputy Chairman M Ali Yalcin and Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan made a speech about Sakine Cansiz. They stated "We required her return to us by arrest by the European authorities; however, they did not do that. Afterwards the assault happened, everybody see the final outcome. So they mean that we asked for her back but they did not give her back and we killed them and brought them back. This speech is a threat to other European countries especially Germany. They emphasised that this line of attack could happen in other European countries, particularly in Germany. The speech is also entirely a confession.

Once again, well known Kurdish politicians who have lived in Europe were warned about the killing teams which have been sent to kill them, and this situation was published in media.

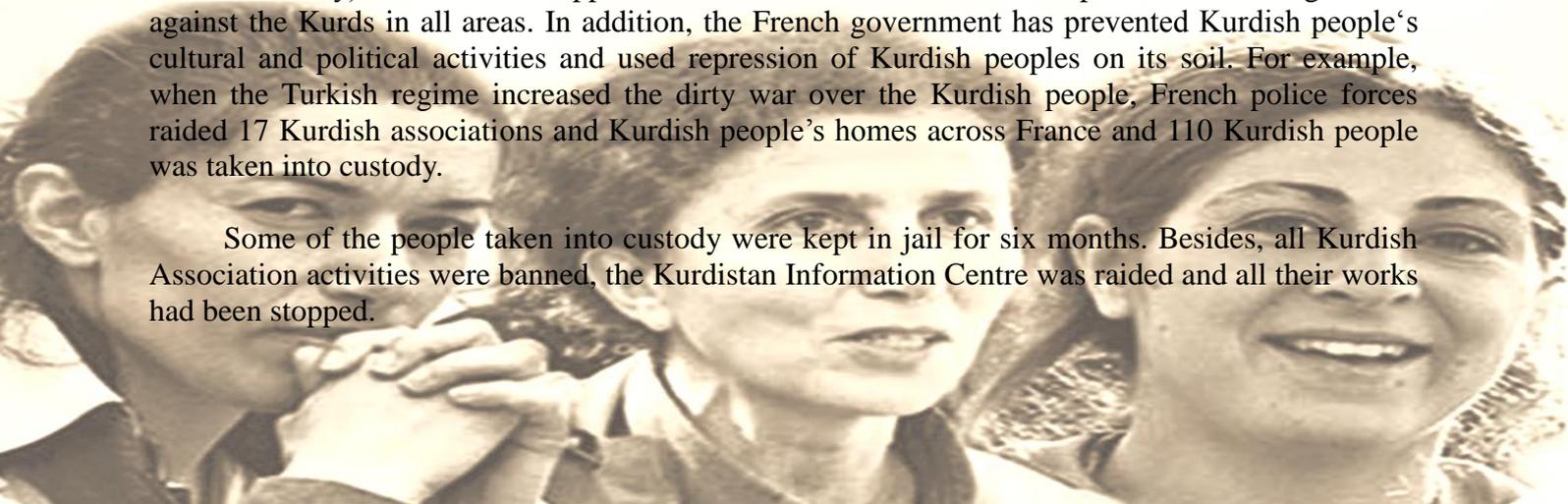
In the same way, news has been published on 19 October 2012 on Hurriyet newspaper which was remarkable in terms of showing Turkish government's applications for capturing Kurdish politicians.

According the news, Turkey's Ministry of the Interior prepared to 'Reward Regulation' to be applied in the Fight Against Terrorism. The draft of the regulation was sent to the Prime Minister Office and it was waiting approval. The reward regulation based on rewards of millions of dollars for capturing the PKK's 50 leader of whom 20 were living in European countries. However, there is no possibility of capturing them legally. Because, they are political refugees and their status as political asylum seekers does not allow them to be captured them. Thus, the four millions reward was purposefully set aside for killing them.

From the beginning, most of the specialists and journalists who have close relations with the Turkish Government have adopted the same thoughts about the assaults. They think that the assault could not be clarified in terms of whether it was a political murder and so many dominant/forces were related to the assault. It is considered that even if the assault seems mainly Turkey's action, it would not have been possible to arrange without international support. First and foremost, it is not convincing that this line of assault had been done without French intelligence permission, especially when considering the French intelligence service's efforts over many years to watch and control Kurds and their institutions.

France was one of the main powers responsible for the division of Kurdistan into four parts, between Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran. France was also responsible for the disavowal and extermination applications which Kurdish people were subjected to within the framework of 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement. Recently, France applied the same political approach to the Kurdish National and Democracy Struggle which is developing under the leadership of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party). France has supported the Turkish Government's implementation of genocide against the Kurds in all areas. In addition, the French government has prevented Kurdish people's cultural and political activities and used repression of Kurdish peoples on its soil. For example, when the Turkish regime increased the dirty war over the Kurdish people, French police forces raided 17 Kurdish associations and Kurdish people's homes across France and 110 Kurdish people was taken into custody.

Some of the people taken into custody were kept in jail for six months. Besides, all Kurdish Association activities were banned, the Kurdistan Information Centre was raided and all their works had been stopped.



At the same time, the PKK has been listed as an illegal organisation. France became the second European country to prohibit the PKK after Germany. However, until 2001 all Kurdish people who were on trial were acquitted. In addition, the first Kurdish channel Med TV was banned by the French authorities in 2004, after being first banned by UK authority in 1999.

One of the big operations aimed at Kurdish people has been arranged on 5-6 February 2007. Well known Kurdish politicians such as Riza Altun, Nedim Seven and Canan Kurt Yilmaz, were taken into custody with other Kurdish politicians in an operation which was intended for capturing Kurdish politicians in France and Belgium. Only some of them were arrested. The case concluded in 2011 when 17 Kurdish people were sentenced to 1 to 5 year and also the Paris based Ahmet Kaya Culture Centre was closed down.

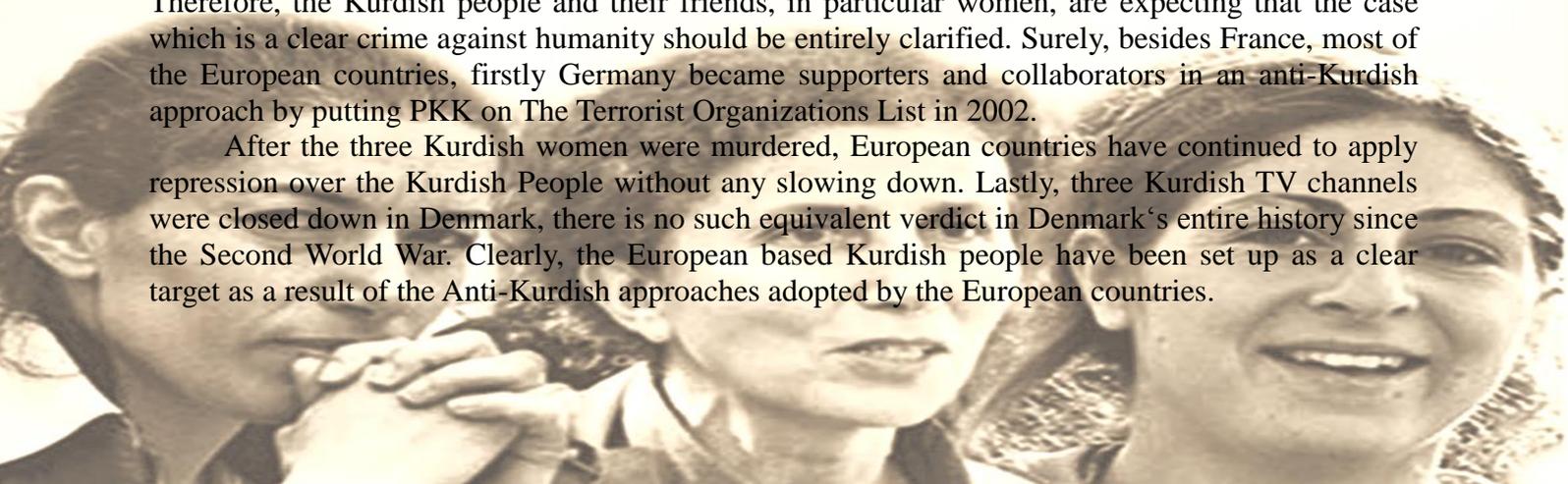
Furthermore, in 2007 when Nicolas Sarkozy became President, the French authorities increased the repression of the Kurdish people. Up to 2013, about 250 Kurdish people were taken in custody for political reasons. Kurdish International Executive Administration Member Adem Uzun was also among the people who was taken into custody. When French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius met his counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Paris on 12 February, it was arranged that simultaneous operations against Kurdish Institutes in the city of Bordeaux and Toulouse would be carried out. 17 Kurdish people was taken into custody in those operations and the connection was drawn to the attention of the public. The French government signed a Security Cooperation Agreement with Turkey against the PKK on 7 September 2011, which resulted in thousands of Kurds jailed. Many MPs, mayors, journalists, trade unionists, lawyers and students, even juveniles, were among the jailed. The Security Cooperation Agreement provided an operational cooperation with regard to the fight against terrorism in both countries.

Therefore, both countries' security forces would work in common under the terms of the agreement. When The French Minister of the Interior who signed the agreement made a statement about the execution of the three Kurdish women, he could only say that he was sure that Turkish intelligence did not have any hand in the assault.

In this instance, when the Socialist Party was in power a crucial attack was carried out on the Kurdistan Information Institute (CIK) which was under the watch of French and Turkish intelligence. When the cases of Kurds were being decided it became clear during the enquiries that pictures were captured on CCTV. The pictures were captured when people were entering or leaving the CIK building. Also, Kurds carrying out political and cultural activities were being monitored by their phones being listened in on. Thus in this way, information about Kurdish political refugees was being shared with Turkish intelligence as part of the Security Cooperation Agreement. Surely it is not known if there is any French influence on the assault because there is no data to prove it.

However, there are a lot of question marks about the role of the French government, its intelligence service and its police forces with respect to the killings. Maybe the French government is not directly involved with the killings. However, the French government did collaborate with the Turkish authorities to commit crimes over the Kurdish people in the past. Therefore, the French government was to blame for helping or supporting the assault. Even if the French President and the French Ministry of Interior stated that they are seriously investigating the case, to date there is no conclusive information available. French principles are based on peace, equality and friendship, so the approach of the French authorities to this assault is creating conflict in Kurdish people's minds. Therefore, the Kurdish people and their friends, in particular women, are expecting that the case which is a clear crime against humanity should be entirely clarified. Surely, besides France, most of the European countries, firstly Germany became supporters and collaborators in an anti-Kurdish approach by putting PKK on The Terrorist Organizations List in 2002.

After the three Kurdish women were murdered, European countries have continued to apply repression over the Kurdish People without any slowing down. Lastly, three Kurdish TV channels were closed down in Denmark, there is no such equivalent verdict in Denmark's entire history since the Second World War. Clearly, the European based Kurdish people have been set up as a clear target as a result of the Anti-Kurdish approaches adopted by the European countries.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO??

The Jeanne d'Arcs of Kurdistan, the pride of the Kurdish Nation: Sakine, Fidan and Leyla can only be kept alive in our fights if we succeed in finding their murderers, destroy the dirty plans and call who is responsible to account. The women who fight for their freedom always would pose a nightmare for sovereign forces. That is the reason why they ordered that women should be in the firing line to be killed.

When Olympe de Gouges went to death she stated that if woman is right to be executed then woman should be right to come into power too. The execution of Rosa Luxemburg, who remains symbol of the resistance against the rise of Hitler, demonstrated how the woman freedom fighter was a nightmare for the sovereign forces. There are so many of such examples in the whole of human history. The cruel killing of the three Kurdish women in Paris is but the latest examples of this kind of story. It is not only these three Kurdish Women that were murdered, it is also the fact that the freedom these women and all human beings struggle for has come under attack.

### **Therefore the women who are always fighting with us are raising their voice:**

We are so furious as a result of this assault. But we did not let that our fury create new conflict and we will not do so. The murderers will not succeed. We express our fury with the Justice Demands' Campaign (We Want Justice) and we will continue to express our anger in the same way in the future. Until that assault happened Wednesday was like any other day. However, Wednesday is now a day of activity for us. We do not forget the assault and we will never let the assault be forgotten. Every Wednesday we will continue our activity in most European cities in front of the French Representative Office. We Want Justice Campaign is not only a Wednesday activity, it is also part of our political activity. 'We Want Justice' campaign is an indication of our demand for freedom. We call on you to join and support our freedom activity on behalf of Olympe de Gouges, Rosa Luxemburg, Sakine, Rojbin, Leyla and others.

## HOW?

- *Join our Wednesday activity*
- *Demand an investigation into the assault or discuss the assault in your organisation*
- *send fax and e-mails to the French Authorities, especially to the French Justice Ministry*
- *Oppose the Europe-wide Anti-Kurdish policies which are the result of European countries self-interests and are definitely being applied unfairly*
- *Give support to the struggle of the Kurdish people's legitimate rights and fundamental freedom*
- *Support the peaceful and democratic political solution to the Kurdish problem*



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