

THE İMRALI POST

YOU HEARD HIS NAME. LEARN HIS STORY. DEMAND HIS FREEDOM.

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Lawyers bring family visit ban imposed on Öcalan to Constitutional Court

ANF | ANKARA | 12 MAY 2022

Lawyers of Asrın Law Office brought to the Constitutional Court (AYM) the prevention of family visits imposed on Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan saying these are “unlawful” disciplinary penalties.

In the application, attention was drawn to the “incommunicado status” in which Öcalan is held. This is a status of absolute non-communication.

In the application, the lawyer said that not hearing from Abdullah Öcalan was torture, and demanded from the Constitutional Court to confirm that the right to respect for family and private life, the right to defense and fair trial, and the right to an effective remedy were violated.



British trade unions expand Freedom for Öcalan campaign

ANF | LONDON | 13 MAY 2022

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Campaign, launched by the British unions which represent 6 million organized workers, is gaining momentum.

The Social Workers Union (SWU), which represents 15,000 social workers, has recently decided to join the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Campaign.

Following the endorsement of the SWU union, the number of unions organized in different business lines that endorse the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Campaign has reached 16 so far.

In line with the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Campaign, the unions continue to introduce various solidarity actions.

Last month, at a congress of the national education union which has 510,000 members, 1,700 delegates raised posters of the Kurdish leader, chanting the slogan “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan” and demanding his immediate release.

ASLEF to reiterate the call for Ocalan’s freedom

The train drivers' union ASLEF, which will hold its annual conference next week, will also reiterate the call for Öcalan’s freedom. Its delegates are expected to stage a solidarity action by displaying Öcalan's posters during the conference.

Actions in June

It is reported that a series of actions will be carried out in England for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and against the recent Turkish offensive against the Kurdish Freedom Movement.

The first action is expected to be carried out by thousands of GMB union delegates by raising the posters of Öcalan and by renewing the demand for his freedom at the annual congress of the union, which has 500 thousand members.

Moreover, trade unions are continuing preparations in cooperation with the trade unions carrying out the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Campaign for a mass march in which 150,000 people are expected to attend on June 18.

Thousands of union members and Kurds are expected to participate in the demonstration during which the loss of social rights and high cost of living in Britain will be protested. Organized in cooperation with the Kurdish People's Assembly, the activists will be wearing Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan T-shirts during the mass march.

Refugees in Maxmur Camp protest isolation imposed on Öcalan

ANF | MAXMUR | 15 MAY 2022

The isolation imposed upon Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan was protested in Martyr Rûstem Cûdî (Maxmur) Refugee Camp. In the action held in front of the Martyrs' Families Institution, a minute's silence was held in memory of those who fell as martyrs in the Kurdistan Freedom Struggle.

Then, the co-chair of the People's Assembly, Yusuf Kara, made a speech. Kara drew attention to the deepening isolation of Abdullah Öcalan and said that the isolation was used especially against the revolutionaries and their leader to prevent his ideas from reaching people. "As it is known, our Leader was taken prisoner by a conspiracy developed in 1998-1999. These forces wanted to stop Leader Apo's ideas from reaching people. They wanted to run around in the Middle East as they wished. The isolation is being implemented to destroy the Kurdish people, the Kurdish people's revolution, the new life system and the universal philosophy of Leader Apo. It is our responsibility to end the isolation imposed on Leader Apo."



New group of activists takes over Freedom for Öcalan Vigil, calls for support for guerrillas

ANF | STRASBOURG | 20 MAY 2022

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Initiative launched the vigil on 25 June 2012 with the aim of ensuring the physical freedom of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and lifting the isolation imposed on him.

The vigil in Strasbourg is carried out at the common point where European institutions meet, and continues every week.

Strasbourg DKTM members took over the vigil in its 518th week.

The group includes Ali Dönmez, İsmail Gümüş and Vedat Aydın.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Ali Dönmez said: "The culture of resistance of the Kurdish Freedom Movement and the paradigm of Leader Abdullah Öcalan lie behind this long-standing and determined action."

Ali Dönmez added: "We are continuing the vigil with this awareness and belief. We will continue the struggle to ensure our Leader's freedom until the end."

Ali Dönmez called on the Kurdish people to support the resistance carried out by the guerrillas and to increase actions.



Call for enhanced struggle against the isolation of Öcalan

ANF | URFA | 20 MAY 2022

Earlier this morning (May 20), the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the Free Women's Movement (TJA), the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) organized a march to the Amara village in Halfeti district, the birthplace of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, to protest the isolation imposed on him in Imrali Prison for 23 years. The protestors coming from various cities were blocked by Turkish soldiers at the checkpoints set up at the town and village entrances, and prevented from entering Amara.

While Turkish authorities cited a 'ban on the visit' introduced by the governor's office, a delegation from the group, who included deputies, made a press statement in front of the HDP Halfeti District office to raise concern on the isolation in Imrali.

Abdullah Öcalan's legal guardian Mazlum Dinç, DTK Co-Chair Bedran Öztürk, DBP Co-Chair Saliha Aydeniz, HDP Party Spokeswoman Ebru Günay, HDP Deputy Co-Chair Tayip Temel, HDP deputies Ömer Öcalan, Ayşe Sürücü, Pero DüNDAR, Dersim Dağ, Remziye Tosun and Mahmut Toğrul, ÖHD Co-Chair Bünyamin Şeker and members of the Urfa Peace Mothers Initiative and dozens of other people attended the event.

'The government's desperation'

Speaking here, Abdullah Öcalan's nephew and HDP Deputy Ömer Öcalan said: "They did not allow our guests to enter the village. No one is allowed to visit Mr. Öcalan's village. This is the desperation of the state. They should stop doing this. Mr. Öcalan's house will always have guests. Our door is open to everyone, and anyone can visit. No one can prevent this through cruelty and lawlessness. We will promote his paradigm. Mr. Öcalan's door is always open to those who love him. We do not accept this obstruction. They are afraid of us. Amara will always play its role. I would like to welcome everyone who has arrived to pay a visit to Mr. Öcalan's district and participated in the action."

'Öcalan is essential for democracy'

Speaking after, DBP Co-Chair Aydeniz said the following regarding the denial of access to Amara, "This is the desperation of the government. Today, we wanted to show how indispensable a political figure Mr. Öcalan is for Turkey's democracy. The whole world is aware of what Mr. Öcalan has suggested to the peoples. Not only the Kurds, but all the peoples of the world are fighting for Mr. Öcalan's freedom and the construction of democracy."

Pointing to ongoing campaigns for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan in many parts of the world, Aydeniz continued, “Everyone knows that Mr. Öcalan's philosophy is an alternative to the existing political system. The AKP-MHP fascist government wants to aggravate the isolation and spread chaos in Turkey and the Middle East. They seek to maintain their power through war and plundering. Today, we see that Turkey is facing several crises in every field. We see that the current political system described as the 'one-man regime' is the sole cause of these crises, stemming from the isolation and hostility towards Kurds. We think that the future of the peoples of Turkey is heading to a deadlock.”

'Crises caused by Imrali isolation'

Aydeniz called for an end to the 23-year isolation of Öcalan in Imrali Prison, stating, “The isolation of Öcalan must be lifted as soon as possible. All anti-democratic methods were first employed in Imrali and then spread to all prisons and peoples over the years. The reason for the crises in the Middle East is the lawlessness practiced in Imrali prison. The common ground that should be reached by all peoples should cover the fight against Öcalan's isolation. If the isolation continues, everywhere will turn into open prisons. We will fight until the isolation is over. Every day and hour, we will inform the public that Imrali isolation is the biggest obstacle to peoples. We will remain focused on Amara from everywhere. We will continue our social and democratic struggle until the policies of isolation, plunder and war are brought to an end. This isolation policy should be abandoned as soon as possible.”



Cemil Bayik: AKP-MHP alliance is suffering heavy blows in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 25 MAY 2022

Cemil Bayik, KCK co-chair spoke about the latest developments in Kurdistan, the Middle East and the world, including Turkey's isolation policy against Abdullah Öcalan, the death penalty in Turkey's prisons, the danger of Turkey's attacks on South Kurdistan for the whole Middle East, the danger of Iraq falling apart, the harm inflicted on the Kurdish People by the KDP's policy and the recent murder of the Kurdish patriot Mihemed Zekî Çelebî in Süleymaniye.

Isolation of Abdullah Öcalan on Turkish Prison Island Imrali

“The Turkish state says that because of disciplinary penalties nobody is allowed to meet Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. Thus, they want to create the impression that they are following the law. This approach has become a constant policy. They don't only use disciplinary penalties once, but always give a new one before the current one has even ended. Thus, they prolong these penalties every six months. They want to make the isolation of Rêber Apo constant. By doing this, they seek to cut Rêber Apo off from humanity, the people and our movement. They want to silence him so that people forget about him. They try to force us and everybody else to accept this. But this is absolutely impossible. Neither our movement, nor

the Kurdish people or anybody who defends human values can accept this. Because this isolation policy of the Turkish state against Rêber Apo is against the Kurdish people and humanity.

Currently, there is an international campaign for Rêber Apo. With the isolation policy, the Turkish state wants to obstruct this campaign. Furthermore, in European law there is the 'right to hope' which grants people who have been imprisoned for 24 years the right to have their conditions improved and be released. Rêber Apo has been imprisoned for 24 years now. As a member of the Council of Europe, Turkey knows that this issue will be put on the agenda and seeks to prevent exactly this. Therefore, they say that Rêber Apo is still in prison because he has not given up his goals. Consequently, they give him disciplinary penalties. People with disciplinary penalties don't get the chance to have their situation reviewed, their conditions improved and to be released. This is what Turkey is trying to make Europe accept.

Sixteen English trade unions have recently published a call, sent a letter to Turkey and made an international statement in support of Rêber Apo and the Kurdish people. They demand that the Turkish state stops its war against Rêber Apo, the Kurdish people and the guerrillas and that it puts an end to its genocidal occupation and the ban of the Kurdish culture and language. And they demand that the Turkish state sits down with the Kurds and solves the Kurdish question. Furthermore, Italian trade unions organized a demonstration and called on the Turkish state to stop its policy against Rêber Apo, the Kurdish people and the guerrillas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trade unions of Italy and England and congratulate them on their very important work. Our movement and our people will never forget this. Now, they need to increase their work even more so that they can mobilize trade unions from other countries and the European public as well. Thus, they will be able to achieve very important results."

Death Penalty in Turkey's Prisons

Bayik said: "If the Turkish state doesn't achieve any results in the prisons, its policy against the Kurdish people will also not lead to anything outside of the prisons. The political prisoners represent the Kurdish people. If you want to annihilate the Kurdish people, you need to crush the willpower of the political prisoners. This is why the Turkish state carries out such brutal attacks against the prisons. Turkey deceives everybody by claiming that it has put an end to the death penalty. This is a lie. Death penalties continue to be carried out in the prisons. Thus, they are taking revenge on political prisoners who refuse to accept their policy of capitulation. They simply murder them. Every day, new corpses leave the prisons. Ill prisoners are not allowed to receive treatment. They want all these people to die in prison. Many calls for the release of these people have been made but the Turkish state refuses to release them. The Turkish state murders these prisoners. And when they turn over their corpses, they claim that they have died because of an illness that could not be identified, that they just died or that it might have been Corona. All these claims are not true. It is absolutely obvious, that these political prisoners are being tortured to death and that their corpses are then turned over to their families. This clearly is a way of taking revenge."

Danger of Turkey's Attacks on South Kurdistan for Whole Middle East

Bayik added: "The war in [the South Kurdish areas] Zap and Avaşîn did not start on April 14 or 17 of this year. Actually, it started on August 26, 2016. On that day, when Turkey attacked [the North Syrian city] Cerablus, Biden and Mesûd Barzanî were in Ankara. Therefore, it is clear that the USA, Turkey and the KDP made this decision together. Based on their common decision, Turkey attacked Cerablus. Ever since that day, this policy has continued. As a result, the policy against the Kurdish people in North Kurdistan

continues, in Rojava [the areas] Efrîn, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî have been occupied, just like Cerablûs and Bab, and in South Kurdistan an attempt to occupy the region has been started. The current events in Zap and Avaşîn are also a result of this same policy. Therefore, Turkey might appear to be waging this war in Zap and Avaşîn, but it is actually NATO. We are fighting against NATO. Not only today, but we have been fighting against NATO ever since the PKK was founded. Because Turkey is a NATO member, it receives very comprehensive support from NATO. Without the help of NATO, Turkey could have never waged this war until now. NATO is the one that decides to wage this war and Turkey simply puts this decision into practice. And the KDP collaborates with Turkey in line with this NATO decision.

The war in Zap and Avaşîn is not just an operation, like they claim. Calling it an operation is simply an attempt to deceive. This is a huge war. I can clearly say that the current war in Zap and Avaşîn is not like the war that Turkey has been waging against us until now. It is completely different. Both the Turkish state and the AKP-MHP government consider this war strategic for themselves. They see this as a war that will decide whether they will survive or not. That is why they have mobilized all their resources both in- and outside of the country for this war in order to stay in power and allow the Turkish state to remain on its feet. This is the reason why they are using the most modern technology and have deployed a huge number of troops. They simply don't care about how many of their soldiers and Islamist proxy forces die there. Their order is clear: "You need to achieve results." Therefore, they are using war planes, drones, helicopters, artillery and chemical weapons in order to achieve their desired results.

Their goal in this war is to crush the PKK and thus be able to carry out their genocidal policy. But this is not their only goal. During World War I, the Ottomans lost a lot of territory. That is why they drew a border which they called Mîsak-î Millî [National Pact]. Within these borders, they wanted to re-establish their state and continue their hegemony. But because of the Treaty of Lausanne, this did not happen and they lost some of the territories that they had defined as their own as part of the Mîsak-î Millî. The Turkish state has never accepted this. Therefore, Erdogan and Bahçeli say that they need to reach the Mîsak-î Millî borders. They consider the current conditions in the world and in the Middle East to be convenient for achieving this goal. In order to be able to do so, they want to crush the PKK and carry out a genocide against the Kurds. Because if they don't achieve any results in this regard, they won't be able to achieve their goal. The current war in Zap does therefore not only affect the Kurds but all peoples in the region. If the PKK and the Kurdish people suffer a decisive blow, everybody will suffer great harm and nobody will be able to stay on their feet. Then, AKP-MHP fascism will be able to establish itself in all of Turkey.

"Erdogan and Bahçeli are not only using the Turkish army, but also Islamist proxy forces. The same proxy forces that they used in Libya and Azerbaijan, they are now using to wage this war [in Zap and Avaşîn]. And they are also deploying village guards from Turkey. With the help of all of these forces and by using chemical weapons, they want to achieve results. The HPG and YJA-Star guerrilla are putting up a heroic resistance against all of these attacks. The Turkish state had planned to achieve results quickly with its huge force and with the help of heavy bombardments. According to their plans, they would have thus taken control of Zap and carried on with their Mîsak-î Millî and neo-Ottoman aspirations. But the guerrilla forces have defeated this plan and have not allowed this policy to succeed. They have dealt huge blows to them. The Central Command [of the HPG] publishes balance sheets of the war daily, weekly and monthly. They clearly show that the Turkish state continues to suffer huge blows. The AKP-MHP government had planned to carry out early elections and have used all their resources to make this possible. But they have suffered huge blows and are unable to achieve any results in Zap. Zap will become a graveyard for them and the AKP-MHP government will fall. Therefore, everybody needs to refrain from keeping

close ties with Erdogan and Bahçeli and from supporting their policy. Whoever continues to support their policy will loose. Among the Kurds, this is the case for the KDP and in Turkey this holds true for the CHP and the İyi Parti. Whoever stays close to this government and supports its policy will loose.

In front of everybody's eyes, chemical weapons are being used every single day. But everybody just remains silent. A delegation wanted to investigate the use of chemical weapons in the affected areas but England prevented this. Why does England prevent such a delegation? Because if this delegation comes and documents the use of chemical weapons, this will turn into a problem for them. That is why England does not want the truth to become clear. England also provides Turkey with new weapons. Media reports have shown this. The US, England, Germany and Israel stand behind this war. And the KDP works with Turkey in line with the decision of these forces. So NATO is actively involved in this war which is why this is a war against NATO."

Danger of Iraq Falling Apart

Bayik continued: "Iraq is weak. Everybody sees this and wants to benefit from this situation. Many forces are putting pressure on Iraq and some are even directly intervening into the country. They want to increase their influence in Iraq and thus be able to impose their policy on the Iraqi state. Iraq has remained silent regarding the current war in Zap. They might have made some statements, but this only happened because they didn't have any other option. If they hadn't made any statements and hadn't voiced their criticism, neither Iraq nor the Arab people would have accepted this. Therefore, they made a statement in order to avoid protests from the Iraqi people and the Arab people. But their statements were very weak. Turkey, the KDP and the US know this very well and want to benefit from the weakness of Iraq. Iraqi airspace is under the control of the US. Without the approval of the USA, the war planes of the Turkish states cannot fly over Iraq and South Kurdistan. Turkey's war planes and helicopters can only scout and bomb the area because the US has opened Iraqi airspace for them. This clearly shows that NATO and the US stand behind this war. Because Turkey is a NATO member. Without the approval of NATO, Turkey cannot attack South Kurdistan and Rojava like this, it cannot take control of cities and areas, bomb them, cut down forests and depopulate the area. This policy constitutes a huge threat to Iraq and paves the way for the falling apart of the country. Both the Iraqi people and the Arab people need to recognize this. They need to understand the coalition between the Kurds and the Arabs as vital for themselves. If they do this, they will be able to stand against neo-Ottomanism, promote democracy and freedom in their country and protect it."

Harm of KDP Policy to the Kurdish People

Talking about the damage of the KDP policy to the Kurdish people, Bayik said: "In the past, there used to be a Turkish TV program called 'Anadolu'dan Görünüm'. The main aim of this program was to wage special warfare against our people and our movement. By spreading deceiving and wrong news, they wanted to manipulate our people and other peoples. Thus, they waged a very dirty war. Today, KDP media spreads news that is very similar to the news once spread by 'Anadolu'dan Görünüm'. The news of the KDP media is completely the same. This clearly shows, that they were trained by Turkey in order to deceive the Kurdish people and the international public. The KDP media is thus waging special warfare. The KDP needs to refrain from this policy. This policy does not serve the interests of the KDP and the Kurdish people. Today, the Kurdish people are faced with historic opportunities. Therefore, by building their national unity, the Kurdish people can achieve freedom. Despite our calls, the KDP works with the

Turkish state and serves its policy. With this policy, the KDP has destroyed all its respect among the Kurdish people, the people of the Behdînan area and also within the KDP itself. We don't say that the KDP needs to definitely support us. Of course, if they do, that would be good. But we simply ask them to not serve the Turkish state and its genocidal policy.”

Recent Murder of Kurdish Patriot Mihemed Zekî Çelebî in Süleymaniye

About the murder of Mihemed Zekî Çelebî, Bayk said: “I would like to respectfully commemorate Mihemed Zekî Çelebî. He was a true patriot. MIT [Turkish secret service] had threatened him. But he made these threats public on TV and thus showed exactly the right attitude. He made the policy of the Turkish state against Kurdish patriots public. By making the threats against himself public, he warned all Kurdish patriots not to fall for the games of the occupier. I would like to express my condolences to his family and friends and also to the Kurdish people. I would also like to greet all Kurdish patriots who refuse to give in to the Turkish state, who choose to stay in Kurdistan, work in Süleymaniye and Behdînan and don't give in to the blackmailing and threats by the MIT and Parastin [KDP secret service]. This is exactly what a patriotic and revolutionary attitude needs to be like. With these attacks, the Turkish state wants to send the following message: ‘There is no stability in South Kurdistan. If you insist on your patriotism, you won't stay alive.’ With this message, they want to intimidate the Kurdish patriots and the people of South Kurdistan. Therefore, our patriots from North Kurdistan who have settled down in South Kurdistan need to not take a single step back in the face of this policy of the Turkish state.”



Prisons in Turkey

Ill prisoner Abdullah Ece dies in Izmir Buca Kırıklar Closed Prison

ANF | İZMİR | 14 MAY 2022

Abdullah Ece, a 73-year-old prisoner in Izmir Buca Kırıklar Closed Prison, died. Ece caught the coronavirus on 5 April. He was taken to the hospital after his condition worsened but passed away this morning.

Ece was arrested on 9 September 2020, after being sentenced to 2 years and 4 days for the crime of “aiding a terrorist organization”. He was sent to the Buca Kırıklar No. 2 Closed Penitentiary Institution. Ece's right to probation was set for 10 June 2021. However, both his and his lawyer's applications were rejected by the prison administration, the execution judge and the heavy penal court.

Ece will be buried in the Bana village of Güçlükonak, in the province of Şırnak, his hometown.



Conditions in Patnos L Type very bad, says IHD Van Branch co-chair

ANF | VAN | 17 MAY 2022

acted in accordance with the legislation.

The delegation formed by the IHD, ÖHD and HDP published the report it prepared as a result of the meetings with the prisoners in Iğdır, Ağrı and Van prisons, the prosecutor's office and the prison administration. Prisoners Bilal Babahan, Vedat Kalın and Ferit Kaşçı, who were tortured in Patnos L Type Prison, told the delegation their experiences.

Broken arms

Bilal Balahan said that a crowded group of guards entered the courtyard and pointed directly at him. He said: "They took me to a room. Some were shouting 'Break his arm'. My arm was indeed broken in two places by the guards. Then they took me to the sponge room and let me there for hours. They shouted insults at me. 'These are your best days. Bad days are waiting for you,' they threatened. We were beaten and tortured, but the prison administration filed a criminal complaint against us."

Prisoner Vedat Kalın stated that they were thrown to the ground and kicked for opposing what was done to Bilal Balahan. He said: "They squeezed our throats. I have marks and bruises on my throat, back and shoulders."

Another prisoner, Ferit Kaşçı, added: "They hit our heads hard on the ground. When I said I couldn't breathe, they kicked my back. I have bruises on my right shoulder."

Very bad conditions

İHD Van Branch co-chair Emine Keskin said that they saw very bad conditions in Patnos L Type. Pointing out that the prison administration said it is acting in accordance with the legislation, Keskin said: "There are major abuses, as the prisoners say, from violation of rights to torture. Families are in great distress. Using the epidemic as an excuse, the prison administration has completely cut off the relationship of prisoners with the outside world and have isolated them."



IHD Adana Branch issues report on violations in Çukurova

Plain Prisons

ANF | ADANA | 21 MAY 2022

What is the human rights situation in the Çukurova Plain prisons? In order to provide some clarity on this issue, the prison commission of the Adana-based branch of the human rights association IHD has submitted a report on the violations in the prisons of the region. The report reveals a massive increase in human rights violations behind bars. A total of six facilities in the provinces of Adana, Osmaniye and Maraş were examined.

The situation in the F- and T-type prisons in Adana-Kürkçüler and the two L-type prisons in Maraş-Turkoğlu is the most devastating, said lawyer Serhat Ökmen at the presentation of the report. “The rights violations range from the prevention of treatment and denial of health rights for ill prisoners, torture, ill-treatment and degrading practices, strip searching, oral searches, lack of hygiene measures during the Covid-19 pandemic, arbitrary disciplinary punishments, restrictions on freedom of expression and the exchange of information Prisoners among themselves, problems faced by prisoners with disabilities, through to the practice of denying prisoners early release despite good behaviour.”

Methods beyond human rights

According to Ökmen, who is also spokesman for the local prison commission, these violations were described both in letters from prisoners and by relatives in discussions with the IHD. “These allegations were confirmed during our personal visits. Methods beyond human rights are being practiced in the prisons of this country for years and are also still ongoing in the correctional facilities in Çukurova.”

The lawyer pointed to cases of torture through oral cavity searches in the Kürkçüler F-type prison and described, that when prisoners were being transferred to a hospital, the gendarmerie staff carried out an intraoral search, even though the prisoners had already been searched four times on the way from their cells to being handed over to the transport. Although these examinations were carried out using detectors and x-rays, among other things, the gendarmerie insisted on the intraoral search of the prisoners. “This practice is arbitrary because it is not conducted under the supervision of a doctor and does not comply with the law. This practice is seen as a violation of human dignity,” says Ökmen.

Same respirator for three weeks

Regarding further findings in connection with the “right to health” of prisoners during the Coronavirus pandemic, Ökmen explained that in all prisons in the region, even in the most critical times of the pandemic, no cleaning agents and disinfectants were made available and inmates sometimes used the same respirator. The guards, who are in very close contact with the outside world, enter the prisoner's cell blocks and cells without any precautionary measures. In the case of external hospital stays, those affected would be accommodated in extremely dirty rooms. The condition in the hospital rooms of city clinics in Osmaniye was described as particularly disastrous. The rooms of the quarantine station in the local T-type prison number 1 are also in a terrible state.

The situation of seriously ill prisoners

When presenting the report, lawyer Ökmen also addressed the documented violations of the rights of ill prisoners. For example, several prisoners in T-Type No. 2 prison in Osmaniye who were injured at the time of their arrest were denied the right to treatment for five years. “It was only after lengthy efforts that hospital transport could be obtained, but treatment by doctors was not carried out. In addition, the detainees were handcuffed during doctor consultations. We have found that the treatment of these cases has been deliberately delayed and permanent damage has been caused to the prisoners because necessary and appropriate therapies have been withheld for five years. In the case of a seriously ill prisoner held in the T-Type prison number 1 in Osmaniye, it could be proven that an urgently needed operation was not carried out because the prisoner had previously not consented to being treated in while handcuffed and in the presence of the gendarmerie.”

The report also documents several cases of elderly, sick or physically disabled prisoners who are denied the necessary routine medical examinations, medical treatment, accommodation appropriate to their situation or release. In some cases, life-threatening conditions have been caused by blocking access to medicines. “All of these are clear cases of violations of the right to health of prisoners,” Serhat Ökmen said.

The right to free access to information is also regularly violated in the Çukurova Plain detention centers. The Commission of the Human Rights Association was able to document cases in three prisons in which opposition newspapers were not handed out despite the prisoners' express wish to read them. Complaints from prisoners to the courts and the public prosecutor's office went unanswered, and letters written in Kurdish or English were neither handed over nor sent to the prisoners. The right to contact with the outside world is also being violated through reduced telephone and visiting hours. Cancelling social activities is one of the most common legal violations.

Ten prisoners receive food rations for four people

Another problem that prisoners frequently reported to the IHD Commission was the quantity and quality of the food. “Much too small portions, lack of nutrients, bad smell and taste and often the same food for days, which is sold to the prisoners in the prison canteen at high prices, are particularly fatal for ill and weak prisoners. Of course, prisoners in detention also have the right to healthy food,” said Serhat Ökmen.

“Prisoners' right to access adequate, sufficient and wholesome food and the obligation to provide it is the responsibility of the state. Arbitrary practices that threaten prisoners' basic needs, particularly their right to life and health, should be stopped immediately. Ill prisoners in particular must have access to appropriate and healthy food, taking into account health aspects and their prison conditions,” said the IHD.

Prisoners are punished economically as they have to pay high prices for goods and electricity

ANF | ISTANBUL | 25 MAY 2022

Journalist Hüseyin Aykol said that since open prisons and other cafeterias are considered commercial establishments, the electricity consumed by the prisoners is priced at a commercial price. Spokesperson of the Initiative for Solidarity with Prisoners, Hıdır Sabur, emphasized that the exorbitant prices outside are also applied in prisons, which is a different method of punishment.

In this period, when violations of rights in prisons are frequently on the agenda, another issue draws attention. Journalist Hüseyin Aykol, who voiced the problems of prisoners in Yeni Yaşam Newspaper, spoke about this issue in his column.

Answering ANF's questions, Aykol said that the first reason for the reflection of the economic crisis to prisons was the deportation of many prisoners away from their families. Aykol said: "Families have to go very far to see their relatives. Such a situation is affecting the economy of the family badly. The family can go to the visit with fewer people, even though they have the right to see their relatives."

Prisoners forced to pay high prices in the canteen

Another pillar of this economic problem, said Hüseyin Aykol, is canteen prices. Noting that the external economic crisis is reflected in prison even more, Aykol continued: "The second pillar of the economic problem is the canteen. By law, every prisoner must be given three meals a day and a loaf of bread a day. However, this food is insufficient and the prisoner wants to drink tea and coffee, and wants to eat things like fruit and yoghurt. Paper and pen are required for writing letters. Moreover, if a family cannot come or send things, prisoners will meet some of their needs such as socks, underwear and even shirts from the canteen. The need items that can be sent from outside are less every year. So prisoners are forced to buy things from the canteen. Items sold in prison canteens have always been more expensive than those sold outside. With the last economic crisis, the prisoners, who did not know the outside prices, started to complain about canteen prices in almost every letter."

The recently increased electricity and natural gas prices are also reflected in prison, said Aykol adding that "in F-Type prisons, small picnic boxes are not allowed, for security reasons. The prisoners were informed that they could use electricity for tea and similar small fire-heat needs, but that they had to pay for it themselves. Indeed, for almost 15-20 years, the electricity used by the prisoners for the samovars they use for tea and coffee made in their rooms is taken from the prisoners. In the past this was not a huge amount of money, but now the prisoners have to pay bills like those outside, the prices are incredibly high. Moreover, we have just learned that the tariff for the electricity used by the prisoners for tea is the tariff for business. Meals for prisoners in jails are made either in the cafeteria of that prison or in open prisons nearby. Open prisons and other cafeterias are considered commercial establishments and therefore the electricity used for that is priced at the commercial tariff."

Speaking to ANF, spokesperson of the Initiative for Solidarity with Prisoners (TDI), Hıdır Sabur, said that prisons are shown as business premises, not residences, and added that they wrote a petition to CIMER on this issue, but received no response.

Stating that many families are victims of high expenses, Sabur said that the exorbitant prices outside are reflected in prisons in this way, which is a different method of punishment.



Six political prisoners in Sincan receive visit ban for protesting Halabja massacre

ANF | ANKARA | 24 MAY 2022

Six political prisoners in Sincan have been punished with a ban on visits from their relatives. The six inmates affected will not be allowed to receive visitors for a month. Telephone calls are also prohibited. The order was issued by the prison administration of the women's jail in Ankara. Actions like these are common there.

The justification for the ban on visits is a “final disciplinary sanction” that the women have been given. The prison authorities accuse them of chanting “forbidden slogans” on the anniversary of the poison gas attack on Halabja. 16 March marked the 34th anniversary of the massacre of the population of the South Kurdish city ordered by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Around 5,000 lives were lost in Halabja at the time, and the effects continue to the present day. This attack was only possible because the poison gas factory from which the deadly bombs came was built using German technology and supplied by German companies.

It is still unclear whether public prosecutor investigations were initiated against the prisoners in connection with the supposedly forbidden slogans. One of the prisoners facing this so-called disciplinary sanction is Melike Göksu, who has been in prison since September 2019. The Kurdish HDP politician was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison in 2017 for “membership in an illegal organization”. While the appeal trial was still pending, she was elected co-mayor of the district town of Karayazi in the province of Erzurum in the local elections in March 2019 with 61.83 percent of the votes. Six months after moving into the town hall, the verdict against Göksu became final. Since their arrest and subsequent dismissal, a trustee appointed by the Turkish Ministry of the Interior has ruled in the town.



Military aggression and occupation

SDF says 53 villages were shelled in latest Turkish attacks

ANF | QAMISHLO | 13 MAY 2022

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said in a statement that “over the past 24 hours, the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries have waged large-scale artillery and rocket attacks accompanied by heavy reconnaissance flights against dozens of villages and towns in the north and eastern Syria.”

The statement added that “these attacks came two days after visiting the occupying army and its intelligence on the Syrian-Turkish border, resulting in threatening the lives of tens of thousands of civilians and destroying large areas of their crops.

The shelling stretched over 280 km. from villages in the Shirawa district, south of Afrin, to Manbij, Kobane, and the villages of Ain Isa district. About 53 villages were directly shelled using 40 tons of explosive materials.”

The statement said that “in Afrin and the Shehba, more than 700 artillery, mortar, and tank shells were landed on the villages of Suganka, Aqiba, Deir Jamal, Kashta’ar, Tanab, Shwarga and its castle, Maranaz, Tatmarsh, Kafr Anton, Alkmiyah, Meng, Ain Daqna, Belonia, Sheikh Issa, Harbel, Samuka, Tal Madik, al-Shahba Dam, Ta’ana, Musheirfa, Ziwan and the perimeter of the Tal Rifa’at town.

In Manbij and the vicinity of al-Bab, the villages of Hosharia, Al-Jat, Tokhar, Aoun al-Dadat, Mohsenli, Arab Hassan, Um Jeloud, Dandaniya, Al-Sayada, Al-Yalinli, Qart Wiran, Tal Torin and Kaukli were shelled by more than 177 mortar shells. In Kobane, the villages of Zor Magar, Sheuk Foqani, Khirb Atto, Baydiya, Sevtak, Popan, Ziyara, Ashma, Ahmed Munir Farm, and Mishtannour Hill in the center of Kobane city were shelled with more than 67 artillery and mortar shells, and the border villages were subjected to machine-gun fire.

The villages of Musheirfa, Jahbal, Syda, Jadida, Al-Saqr restaurant, and the M4 international road were also shelled by more than 30 artillery shells. The Turkish occupation deliberately targeted densely populated villages, civilian farms, towns, and cities at peak times and rush hours to intimidate civilians, preventing them from continuing their work.”

The statement continued: “The brutal Turkish bombing is considered a clear reflection of extermination plans led by the barbaric Turkish mind against the region’s peoples. Undoubtedly, it requires a concrete position from the international guarantors and international human rights institutions to condemn these continuous aggressions and occupation, which are the main cause of conflicts in the region, and transmit the Turkish aggression file to the international courts.

In parallel with these attacks, Turkish state media published false news about the martyrdom of 21 of our fighters during the bombing. However, we confirm that this news is false, and the shelling directly targeted civilian communities, resulting in injuring a woman and her child and causing extensive damage to dozens of houses.”

HPG releases one-month war balance sheet: 427 Turkish soldiers killed

ANF | BEHDINAN | 15 MAY 2022

The HPG Press Center announced the balance sheet of the war within the scope of the Bazên Zagrosê Revolutionary Campaign.

The HPG statement said: “One month has passed since the comprehensive invasion operation launched by the colonial Turkish state against the Zap and Avaşîn regions in the Medya Defense Zones on 14 April. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas gave the necessary response to the invaders and dealt heavy blows to the invasion attack by defending every inch of Kurdistan land on which the invaders set foot, with the spirit of the Apoist self-defeating militant, from the very first moment of the attack.”

The statement paid tribute to commander Şoreş Beytüşşebap, “who wrote a legend in the Garê attack carried out by the invading Turkish state in 2021” and those guerrillas involved in the Mamreşo and Zendura Resistances. “Our mobile guerrilla teams have developed creative actions by constantly holding the initiative in the field, using different tactics from infiltration to raid, from sabotage to assassination. Our Martyr Delal Air Defense Force, which overcame all the obstructive technical possibilities of the invading Turkish state and dealt a blow to the invaders in this way, also played a role in the one-month period.”

The statement also paid tribute to the “YJA Star guerrillas, who have carried out many successful actions since the first day of the invasion operation, and have most strongly represented the sharpened identity of the resisting and fighting Kurdish women, in line with Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] philosophy.”

Most comprehensive attack

The statement added: “The colonial Turkish state, which aims to realize its occupying ambitions by liquidating our Freedom Struggle, which has become the hope of the oppressed peoples, is carrying out one of the most comprehensive attacks in its history by putting all its technological means into action. However, it did not get any results from the attacks it carried out using thousands of howitzers and cannons on the resistance areas and bombing the area by air 813 times. The invading Turkish army, which suffered great losses and could not advance as a result of hundreds of actions developed by our forces, committed war crimes against the Resistance Areas by using chemical weapons 113 times. The colonial Turkish state carried out many attacks over the areas under the control of the KDP during the invasion operation and actively used the Turkish military bases within the borders of South Kurdistan. It was, however, dealt heavy blows. The KDP has made an intense effort to prevent the Turkish army from being defeated in Zap, by providing all kinds of support to the invasion operation of the fascist and genocidal Turkish state from the

very beginning. Despite all the support offered, however, the Turkish army was not able to reach its desired goals with this invasion operation and was seriously weakened.”

The statement continued “Our Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas showed its high combat capability by displaying a historic resistance in a one-month period. Undoubtedly, we owe the achievement of these successful results to the efforts of our martyrs, who joined the caravan of the immortals by fighting with the Apoist self-sacrificing spirit. During the one-month occupation operation, 25 of our comrades fell as martyrs, thus becoming the guarantors of Free Kurdistan. With their performance, self-sacrificing stance and militant war style, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas have proven once again that they have the power to respond to any attack against our people and the lands of Kurdistan, and have succeeded in being the pride of our people.”

The HPG said the balance sheet of the war between 14 April and 14 May is as follows:

Actions carried out by our force: 4 Raid actions; 5 Infiltration actions; 20 Coordinated and simultaneous Guerrilla actions; 37 Acts of sabotage; 62 Sniping actions; 68 Artillery actions; 147 Clashes; A total of 343 guerrilla actions were carried out.

Attacks by the invading Turkish army: As far as our forces could detect, the Media Defense Areas, especially the Resistance Areas, were bombed 917 times by warplanes; They were bombed 719 times by helicopters and 1274 times by howitzers; The battle positions of our forces were bombarded with chemical gases 164 times.

As a result of the actions taken by our forces: 427 Invaders were killed and 88 Invaders were injured

Military equipment and vehicles destroyed by our force: 1 Skorsky type helicopter; 1 Tank; 14 positions; 7 Drones; 5 Mobesse Camera System; 2 Audio Listening Devices; 1 BKC Weapon; 1 Grenade Launcher; 1 A4 Gun; 2 Military Tents; 2 Camera traps and motion sensors have been destroyed.

Military vehicles hit by our forces: 22 Helicopters; 3 Drones; 1 Military Vehicle.



Turkish troops depopulate a village in Hakkari

ANF | HAKKARI | 15 MAY 2022

The village of Şikeftan, in Şemdinli district of Hakkari province, has been under military siege since March 21 when a 52.500 kg explosive was found in a car driven by a police officer with the initials A.K.

On the date of the incident, Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu claimed that the explosive in question was laden in Iraq on a vehicle which was then brought to Şemdinli, but with its target being Istanbul.

As part of the investigation launched after the minister's statement, Turkish troops laid siege to the village of Şikeftan. Access to the village has been restricted for 40 days.

Turkish troops put pressure on the residents and depopulate the village, according to reports. Of the total 50 families living in the village, 35 have left already. Of the remaining 15 families, 14 have sold their sheep and the other one is harassed by soldiers to do the same. The villagers have had no access to water for 10 days and they are not allowed to leave the vicinity of their houses. Those who attempt to get out of the village to get supplies are subjected to strip search and other measures by the Turkish forces.

The Turkish state has escalated its repression of the Kurdish population in villages after the occupation attacks it launched against guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) on April 17.



Ban on access to villages in Şırnak countryside

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 15 MAY 2022

The Turkish authorities have issued a ban on access to several villages in the vicinity of Mount Cudi in the Kurdish province of Şırnak. As of now, a total of seven villages are affected by the measure. It is up to the villagers themselves to decide where they will continue to stay in the meantime. In any case, there are no temporary shelters provided by the state.

An official order for the ban has not yet been issued. The governor's office, as the responsible body, has instructed municipal and village leaders to ensure that the measure is implemented. The ban on access to the villages of Xinis, Şemga, Sorbitmê and Girêçolya in Silopi district has already been in effect since May 11. This Sunday, the "indefinite" regulation was extended to the villages of Serêdehlê, Avgamasya and Şilewêt.

The background to the ban on access to the villages is a military operation by the Turkish army against the Kurdish guerrillas at Mount Cudi, which has been ongoing since April 24 and has since expanded. The decision to launch this operation was taken by the Turkish Ministry of Defense in response to a series of successful guerrilla actions. At least eight soldiers were killed and others injured in actions by YJA Star and HPG guerrillas and in clashes with operations units on Mount Cudi during the last week of April.

Officially, however, there was only talk in Ankara of two casualties. These were probably a lieutenant of the military police and a staff sergeant. After the incident, Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu and Division General Aydoğan Aydın paid a visit to the injured military personnel at the state hospital in Şırnak. Since then, large troop concentrations have been taking place in the region. The area of operations continues to expand, with paramilitary village guard units from Şırnak also participating in the offensive.

Parallel to the military operation at Mount Cudi, a new stage in the political campaign of destruction against the Kurdish population is also emerging in Şırnak. Within a week, more than forty people from the province have been detained, and five people have been imprisoned. The basis of the political extermi-

nation campaign is an investigation conducted by the Şırnak Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. However, the background is unclear, as a secrecy order has been imposed on the file.



Muslim: Resettlement of Syrian refugees is part of Erdoğan's extermination plan against Kurds

ANF | QAMISHLO | 18 MAY 2022

Since the beginning of the Ukraine war, attacks on Rojava have escalated. In addition to thousands of artillery attacks, dozens of drone strikes are carried out in the region. At the same time, the Erdoğan regime is planning to settle refugees from Syria in the region. In an interview with ANF, Salih Muslim, a member of the PYD (Democratic Union Party) Co-Presidency Council, assessed the Turkish state's invasion attacks on southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) as well as northern and eastern Syria.

Muslim stressed that Erdogan's plan, which he stated with the words, "We are ready to send 1 million refugees to Syria," is also part of the plan to exterminate Kurds.

Evaluating drone strikes and international forces' silence, Müslüm stressed the importance of developing a solution against drones.

First and foremost, why was Zap targeted, and what is its relationship to Rojava?

We cannot consider the invasion attacks of the Turkish state on the guerrilla areas in Zap or Southern Kurdistan independently. These invasion attacks are part of the "defeat plan" that has been in force since 2014. The Turkish state is waging a total war of annihilation against the Kurds. In 2014, this plan was started with the attempt to completely wipe out the Kurdish population in Rojava, then they wanted to turn to the Kurds in Northern Kurdistan and then attack Southern Kurdistan.

As a stage of this plan, the popular resistance in Northern Kurdistan and Rojava will be suppressed by occupation and attacks, thus isolating the Kurdish freedom movement in the mountains. In Southern Kurdistan, the Sri Lanka model is currently being implemented, in which everything is directed against the mountains in order to destroy the PKK guerrillas. This plan has been pursued since 2014.

Turkey let ISIS attack Rojava, but the ISIS attacks met resistance and were crushed. The plan was not successful. For this reason, the Turkish state had to invade Syria itself. On August 24, 2016, Turkish troops, starting from Jarablus, first occupied Shehba, followed later by Afrin, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî. The regions were occupied with a massive attack. However, the attacks did not stop there; every day Rojava is attacked by drones and artillery.

In 2015-2016, the Turkish state also attacked Northern Kurdistan cities such as Nusaybin, Şırnak and Amed. The world public saw that the Turkish troops committed even worse massacres and left destruction

than ISIS. Now the Turkish state is trying to explain to everyone: "We have emptied Bakur and Rojava, they are only on the mountains in South Kurdistan, we will destroy them, and we will put an end to the Kurds with this."

But not everything goes as the Turkish state plans. We are the other party to the war. Our hands are not tied. In Rojava, we and our people are resisting. Tens of thousands of people are in captivity in Northern Kurdistan, fascism is massive, but resistance continues there as well. Hundreds of thousands of people filled the squares on Newroz and continued the resistance. For this reason, the Turkish state is intensifying its attacks on Rojava at the same time as the attacks on Zap. It is about the annihilation of the Kurds. But the struggle continues.

To what extent do people here support the guerrilla resistance?

The PKK has a history and a base. It has developed in Kurdistan and the people and the PKK have become one. The guerrillas in southern Kurdistan and in Zap are not only made up of people from the north. The guerrillas have a base. The fighters who are resisting in Zap and South Kurdistan today have joined the guerrillas from all four parts of Kurdistan. These mountains are the mountains of Kurdistan. The guerrillas have been there since 1982, they have taken their place there. The movement has become a popular movement. The people are behind this movement and the guerrillas.

Also, the PKK guerrillas are not only Kurds; there are also Arab and Syriac fighters and people from other nations. In the course of this war, dozens of fighters from Rojava and the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria have died. Among them are Kurdish, Arab and other martyrs. In this context, this war is not a war that will be confined to the mountains. The war of the Turkish state is designed to destroy the peoples. It is a war against the paradigm of the free coexistence of peoples. And the peoples of Rojava and northeast Syria have accepted this paradigm.

But we also see that the KDP is cooperating with the Turkish state in these attacks. What does this mean for the status of South Kurdistan?

Unfortunately, some regional forces in South Kurdistan have so far supported the Turkish state and are acting in concert with it. Turkey's plans are obvious. They do not want the Kurds to achieve a status. The Turkish state's plan in Iraq so far is to destroy the status of South Kurdistan and federalism. Representatives of the fascist Turkish state announce daily on television that they will make Kirkuk the 82nd province of Turkey. I'm not sure which province they will make Mosul. Of course, this is not just gossip. Turkey is behind all the chaos in Iraq.

Turkey is not only concerned with fighting the guerrillas. Why else does it have some 40 permanent bases in southern Kurdistan? Why has it established a base in Bashiqa? The Turkish state's goal is to occupy South Kurdistan and abolish the existing status. For Turkey, it does not matter who is friend or foe; a Kurd is a Kurd and should have no status. I don't know why the KDP wants to ignore and hide this.

The Kurds have never had their eyes on anyone else's property, they have always been in a position of legitimate self-defense. But the Turkish state has closed all doors of dialogue. It wants to end the existence of Kurdish politics, diplomacy and institutions. The guerrillas protect themselves and the people by fighting

on this basis. This is also the case in Rojava. The People's and Women's Defense Units (YPG/YPJ) and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are in legitimate self-defense.

So far, Turkey has not accepted South Kurdistan's federal status. It does not even mention the name of the region or the term "Kurdistan". We consider the coming and going of the South Kurdistan representatives in Ankara as an indictment. The Turkish state has always looked down on them with contempt. In fact, it even wants to destroy them. It is playing with how it can humiliate the Kurds, how it can turn them against each other and use them for its interests.

More deadly attacks by Turkish drones are taking place. Isn't the airspace over northern and eastern Syria actually under the control of the coalition, the U.S. and Russia?

We must face the truth. Turkey's atrocities in Rojava are not being seen. This goes against all humanity. In its war against the Kurds, Turkey knows no moral, legal or international standards; it attacks cruelly. It has done so throughout its history. These attacks are continuing and increasing.

The U.S., Russia and others only occasionally issue statements, express concerns or verbally condemn the attacks. The Turkish state does not understand these references, it only understands the war. Neither the U.S. nor Russia will fight Turkey for us. They think only of their own interests. It is only the guerrillas who respond in the language that the Turkish state understands. The guerrillas are not fighting against Turkey because of hostility or with the intention of destruction, but solely on the basis of legitimate self-defense. Because the Turkish state wants to prevent the Kurds from getting a status, it wants to destroy them. We also see what Turkey is doing to the population in North Kurdistan, to the prisoners and to Kurdish politicians.

Although the international powers have made some statements against Turkey's attacks, they are putting weapons in the hands of this brutal and immoderate state. This also applies to drones. We need to take defensive measures. For example, these drones launch and attack Russian soldiers in Ukraine. But Russia says nothing about this. Relations are based on interests. They say, "If there is a loss on one side, there is a gain on the other." But in these drone attacks, our people are being killed. In this regard, we have to take our own measures, defend ourselves and find a solution to the drone attacks.

Erdoğan has announced his intention to settle one million Syrian refugees in the occupied territories in Rojava. What do you think is behind this?

This idea of Erdoğan is part of his anti-Kurdish extermination plan. In order to eliminate the Kurdish identity, it is first necessary to make them forget themselves, in other words, to assimilate them. If you can't eliminate them with that, you expel them; if you can't, you murder them. Turkey is pursuing all three approaches simultaneously. It is pursuing assimilation policies in northern, southern, and western Kurdistan. We see that the Turkish state is opening new Turkish schools every day in the occupied areas in Rojava. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds had to flee from al-Bab, Jarablus, Afrin, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî due to the attacks and occupation. The Turkish plan is to destroy the Kurds through war, to expel them and to change the demography in the places they occupy. And the Turkish state is already doing that.

We want the people who had to flee to be able to return to their places of origin. But they cannot return as long as the places are occupied. Those who return are tortured and murdered by the Turkish state and its mercenaries.

Turkey has settled Arab and Turkmen jihadists and their families in Afrin. These mercenaries come from Ghouta, Damascus and Idlib. Now the Turkish state is building large camps and villages of prefabricated houses for them. So far, the money is coming from the Muslim Brotherhood. In other words, from Muslim Brotherhood facilities in Kuwait, Qatar, and the Gulf States. This money is being used to work on changing the demographics of Afrin and the other occupied areas.

Erdoğan and Turkish fascism work very systematically. They set Syria on fire and expelled the people. They use the refugees in Turkey for their interests. While people from Syria who could raise the money were brought to Europe for five to ten thousand euros by smugglers controlled by Turkish intelligence, Turkey has received 40 billion euros from Europe by threatening the refugees. The money is not used for refugees as intended. It goes mainly to the war in Kurdistan. Now, Muslim Brotherhood money is being used to build houses in the occupied territories for the refugees in order to change the demographics of the region.

About 300,000 Syrians have been granted Turkish citizenship and Turkish identity cards. Who are these people? They are the rich, doctors and similar people. In other words, people from whom Turkey expects to benefit and who will be used in the elections. What remains are those who are considered useless, those who cannot go to Europe. They are sent to the regions occupied by Turkey and used against the Kurds. Already 120,000 of them have been recruited and turned into a reserve occupation army. The Turkish state even sent them to Libya and Azerbaijan. Now some are said to have been sent to Ukraine. In other words, Turkey is very systematically using Syrian refugees for its own interests.

Oppression, torture and war. Even the mercenaries are fighting each other. People are fleeing from the occupied zones and coming to our areas. Not only Kurds but also Arabs are fleeing here.

What do you propose the political forces in Rojava do against these plans?

We must resist both the Turkish plan to annihilate the Kurds and the use of the “return” of Syrian refugees. The displaced people from Afrin, Girê Spî and Serêkaniyê are not giving up their homes. They wait from morning to night to return and work to return. We must tell the world what the Turkish state is doing in the occupied territories and that there is no peace there as claimed. It is legitimate for us to oppose this plan with all the means at our disposal. We will do so.

In conclusion, I would like to say the following. We have no choice but to resist. We should not have any expectations from the outside, that is, from the international powers or states because no one but ourselves will do anything for us. If we organize and defend ourselves more strongly and thwart the Turkish annihilation plan, everyone will recognize us. But without us, no one would do anything. The enemy is cruel and knows no measure. No one should deceive himself in this regard.

There is also another fact: Turkey has been attacking us for so many years. It receives money from everywhere for these attacks. But it is still on the verge of collapse. Why? Because we resist, the plan does not work. But the Turkish state does not stop continuing its attacks. The war it has been waging against the Kurds since 2015 is a huge war. Even between two states, there is no war that big. Even states can not

withstand this war that Turkey is waging against the Kurdish people. But Turkey is losing because the Kurdish people are resisting. This resistance will continue and will be successful.



Turkish army launches large-scale operation in Doğubayazıt district

ANF | 18 MAY 2022

A large-scale operation was launched in the Ağrı Mountain region of Doğubayazıt district of Ağrı. Unmanned armed planes and helicopters were used in the operation area. There was news of occasional clashes.



First group of refugees settled in Girê Spî

ANF | GIRE SPI | 20 MAY 2022

The Turkish state uses every means at its disposal to enforce its neo-Ottoman expansionist policy, in doing which, it does not shy away from exploiting the plight of refugees. Apparently, the Turkish project to settle refugees from Syria in the areas occupied by Turkey and its mercenaries has begun.

According to a report by the Afrin - Syria Human Rights Organization, a first group of more than 100 refugees was brought by the Turkish state to the occupied zone in the northern Syrian canton of Girê Spî. The refugees from Homs, Aleppo, Idlib and Eastern Ghouta were housed in the homes of the displaced Kurdish population. At the same time, the Turkish state is pushing ahead with the construction of prefabricated housing estates. The people settled there are to receive identity cards and have the right to visit Turkey four times a year.

The Turkish state is actively trying to change the demographics of northern and eastern Syria. In doing so, it relies on expulsion and settlement policies. In the long term, Turkey wants to occupy and annex a strip of Syria that extends far into the south.



Turkish air-strikes and UCAV attacks on the civilians in Cemcemal/Suleymania and Mahmur Refugee Camp

ANF | 21 MAY 2022

Five people were killed and one person was injured in an air strike near Sulaymaniyah in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) on Saturday. As reported by the RojNews news agency, the village of Tuleqel in the Chamchamal district was bombed three times at 6:30 a.m. local time. A car was hit, apparently containing six people. Two of the dead were residents of the village. Aram Haci Kake Xan was the village head of Tuleqel, and the second victim has been identified as Ismail Ibrahim.

While the identities of the other dead and injured are not yet known, the bodies have since been recovered. A source in security circles told RojNews that the attack was carried out by the Turkish Air Force.

ANF | MAXMUR | 21 MAY 2022

Alongside its ongoing military incursion into the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), the Turkish state continues its attacks against the civilian population as well.

An unmanned combat air vehicle (UCAV) of the Turkish state struck a car in the Maxmur Refugee Camp in South Kurdistan on Saturday.

Details about the attack and its results were not immediately available.

About 12,000 people live in the self-administered Maxmur refugee camp which is located about 60 kilometers southwest of Hewlêr (Erbil) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Most of the residents were forced to leave their villages in the Botan region of northern Kurdistan (southeastern Turkey) in the 1990s due to the repression of the Turkish state. After an odyssey of several years and life in various camps, they founded the Maxmûr camp on the edge of the desert in 1998. Officially, Maxmur is under the protection of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), which is only nominally present. The organization left the camp during the attacks by the terrorist group Islamic State in 2014 and has not returned since.

Among the residents are old and sick people, but also children. There are 3,500 school-age children alone. The refugee camp is not only attacked by the Turkish air force and ISIS, but it has also been under an embargo for three years by South Kurdistan's ruling party, KDP, which collaborates with Turkish fascism.

On February 1st, airstrikes by the Turkish army targeted a military base of the Self-Defense Forces in Maxmur. Two members of the Self-Defense Forces were martyred during the aggression. Civilians who tried to help their relatives were also targeted and dozens of them were injured.

In a statement after the attack, the Self-Defence Forces Command of the Maxmur Refugee Camp said that the Turkish army, which has failed to get results against the guerrillas, "has attacked Maxmur, Shengal and Rojava in a vicious and immoral manner."

“We, as the Rüstem Cudi Camp Self-Defence Forces, will further expand our resistance by embracing the legacy of our martyrs. We will defeat the fascist Turkish state which is hostile to the peoples,” said the local Self-Defence Forces and urged the international community, the United Nations, and human rights institutions to raise their voices against the attacks on the refugee camp and to halt the crimes against humanity committed by the Turkish state.



Femicide

Chairman of association supporting paramilitary special police and gendarmerie units kills woman

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 16 MAY 2022

In Şırnak, a forty-year-old woman fell victim to femicide. The woman is Sakine Kültür, mother of five children. The police arrested Ibrahim Barkın, chairman of an association of supporters of paramilitary special forces, for the murder. The man is said to have first stabbed the woman and then set her face on fire. He has since admitted the crime and is in custody.

On Saturday, a truck driver discovered the woman's lifeless body in a garbage dump in Silopi district and called the police. Only an autopsy was able to clarify the identity of the Kurdish woman who was born in Van. The investigation revealed that Sakine Kültür was fatally injured with six knife wounds in the upper body. Her face was burned beyond recognition. The murder, according to the police, happened in a different place, not where the body was found.

The public prosecutor's office in Silopi, which is leading the investigation in the case, also had two of the dead man's brothers-in-law, Yunus Kültür and Hacı Kültür, arrested on Sunday. It was not immediately known what the men were accused of. Both were released later that day following questioning against reporting requirements. The relationship between the perpetrator and the victim is also unclear. According to unconfirmed information, Ibrahim Barkın has been threatening, blackmailing and sexually assaulting the forty-year-old for some time.



Women protest femicide of Sakine Kltr in Silopi

ANF | ŐIRNAK | 17 MAY 2022

The Mother Taybet Solidarity Center in Silopi, province of Őirnak, made a press statement for Sakine Kltr, who was brutally murdered by Őirnak Provincial Head of Special Operations Units, İbrahim Barkın.

Peace Mothers' Assembly, Free Women's Movement (TJA) Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Silopi Women's Assembly as well as many women attended the statement held on Art Street.

'Impunity policy encourages killers'

Speaking on behalf of Mother Taybet Solidarity Center, Evin Hasanođlu said that hundreds of women are subjected to violence every day by their husbands, partners, family members and many are killed. Noting that violence and massacres against women is a social problem, Hasanođlu said: "Femicide is a violation of human rights. The point of view of the male-dominated mentality, which sees women's dress, words and all kinds of actions of women as a justification for violence, legitimizes this violence and slaughter. When we look at the identities of the perpetrators of femicides that have taken place in our region recently, we see that they are encouraged by the policy of impunity. Femicides occur everywhere, regardless of place or time. All necessary legal arrangements must be made to ensure that the sentences imposed on those who commit these brutal acts are actually served and that the reduced and conditional release clauses are not applied."

The women then held a sit-in, after which they marched to Sakine Kltr's house in YeŐiltepe Mahallesi.

The women went to Sakine Kltr's house and offered their condolences to her family.



Women protest femicides carried out by men formally at state service

ANF | IZMIR | 19 MAY 2022

Women Are Strong Together Izmir held a press statement in front of KarŐiyaka Pier for Sakine Kltr killed by İbrahim Barkın in Silopi and all victims of femicide.

Killing encouraged, impunity granted

Women said in the statement that organized "evil is spreading everywhere. Rape and killing are encouraged as a war policy and impunity is granted to killers, especially when they wear uniforms."

Referring to the Pınar Gültekin case, the statement said: “During the case, Pınar's private life was scrutinized and something 'justifying' her murder was sought. We will not stop fighting for all murderers to get the punishment they deserve.”

The statement also addressed Onur Gencer, who killed Deniz Poyraz in the attack on the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) İzmir Provincial Organization and said: “You are an 'officially' trained killer. You entered the HDP building waving your arms. Because the way was paved for you. They [the police] called you 'brother'. They patted your back. But don't worry, the truth has a habit of coming out eventually. One day everyone will know what we know. Deniz's name will live, Deniz's struggle will live.”

Addressing Ibrahim Barkın, who raped and killed Sakine Kültür, the women made the following remarks. “We will bring you and those protecting you to account.”

The statement recalled that penalty discounts were given to members of the Hizbullah Organization who murdered 165 people, while Nevin Yıldırım and Çilem Doğan, who killed violent men in self-defense, were imprisoned. “We will send male justice to the dustbin of history. We will establish true justice. We will not give up on the Istanbul Convention, our lives, or our rights.”



Woman found dead near military guard post in Van

JINNEWS | VAN | 19 MAY 2022

A woman's corpse was found afloat in the irrigation dam about 10 days ago in Yukari Turgalı (Axruk), a rural neighbourhood in Van's Özalp district. Soldiers and medical teams were sent to the crime scene after a shepherd in the region informed officials. The body of the woman was removed from the dam and taken to Özalp State Hospital.

It remains unclear whether the woman's body was buried or not after the procedures in the hospital.

It is noteworthy that the military guard post, which is only 300 meters away from the dam where the body of the woman was found, was not aware of the incident since its occurrence.

Local sources claimed that human smugglers pimped out the woman to soldiers who killed her and threw the body into the dam after they raped her.



Ecocide

Turkish army and village guards destroy trees in Şırnak countryside

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 15 MAY 2022

The massive destruction of trees continues in the areas of Besta, Gabar, Cudi and Mount Namaz in the countryside of the Şırnak province amid Turkey's ongoing military operations in the region.

Village guards dispatched from the Sêgirkê and Hîlal towns of Uludere district to the Besta region are cutting down trees in Tikera region under the supervision of the Turkish troops.

Village guard chiefs Mahmut Babat, Kazım Babat and Süleyman Babat, who have won the “tender” of tree destruction in Besta, do not only deploy their guards to the region but also force the local people to take part in the destruction.

In the Tikera region where trees are massively destroyed, 300 tons of trees are cut down every day and these are then transported to an area near Segirke town. The trees are finally sold by Mahmut Babat, Kazım Babat and Süleyman Babat.

Village guards

Village guards are paramilitary units used in Kurdistan against guerrillas and unwelcome opposition members. They consist to a considerable extent of tribal leaders, large landowners, families, and individuals who have often worked with the state for decades in an attempt to advocate for the state's interests in Kurdistan. Some of the village guards join this system voluntarily, while others are threatened with murder, arrest, and expulsion and must become village guardians under pressure. The Hamidiye regiments in the Ottoman Empire are considered the historical model of the village guards. Today's village guard system came into being in 1985, a year after the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) launched its armed struggle. At that time, the Turkish government under Turgut Özal began recruiting and arming Kurdish tribes and clans in the war against the PKK. Thousands of Kurdish villages that rejected the village guard system were burned and razed to the ground by the state in the 1990s.

Turkish-backed mercenaries excavate and destroy archaeological site in Afrin

ANF – AFRIN | 16 MAY 2022

As Turkish-backed factions in Afrin continue their violations, destroying hills and archaeological sites in search of buried treasures and archaeological relics, and destroying Syria's civilisational heritage, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that Turkish-backed factions have destroyed by machinery the archaeological site of Bishirak near the Premja village in Afrin's Mabet district.

The site was previously bulldozed, affecting the archaeological layers. The area that has been bulldozed is estimated to be nearly 27500 square meters, in addition to the uprooting of dozens of olive trees surrounding the archaeological site.

On May 8, SOHR reported that "National Army" factions sabotaged and bulldozed the "Be'r Jobana" site completely during the last month, using heavy machinery and bulldozers looking for buried treasure and antiques.

The archaeological site is located near Jobana village in Rajo district in the Afrin countryside, where factions completely bulldozed the site, in addition to uprooting dozens of olive and oak trees.



Turkish soldiers attack villagers protesting mining project in Hakkari

ANF | HAKKARI | 19 MAY 2022

In Hakkari, in northern Kurdistan, the Turkish army attacked villagers when the mining company Seyitoğlu came with excavators to open a mine near the hamlet of Armutlu.

Villagers protested against the mine. The head of the mining company, Abdülkadir Seyitoğlu, who is known for his affiliation with the AKP/MHP regime, entered the village together with the military police. The soldiers severely repressed the villagers.

Two villagers, Aydın Kurt and Naif Kurt, were injured so badly that they had to be taken to the hospital. Due to the blockade by the military police, the relatives could not get news about the condition of the injured. At the same time, six other people from the same family were arrested under beatings and taken to the Üzümcü military base near the village of Marinos.

Village declared a restricted area

Meanwhile, the military police declared the village a restricted area and forbade entry and exit. Among other things, villagers had their mobile phones seized.



Turkish army cuts down trees in Cudi and Besta

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 24 MAY 2022

The Turkish army has begun to cut down trees in Bênavya and Nevava regions following a military operation launched after the entrance to the villages on the slopes of Mountain Cudi in Şırnak was ‘banned’ on May 10. As village guards from the Sêgirkê and Hilal towns of Uludere district are tasked with cutting down trees in the Besta Region and Cudi, tons of trees are taken out of the city by trucks and sold.

Entrances to the Avgamasiya, Serêdehlê and Şilerît villages in Şırnak were banned on May 10 following the Turkish army's defeat and the death of its 8 soldiers in an armed clash on April 30 in the vicinity of Mount Cudi.



Mesopotamian Ecology Movement: Tree cutting is a result of war practices in Kurdistan

ANF | AMED | 25 MAY 2022

The Mesopotamian Ecology Movement (MEH) issued a written statement regarding the continued deforestation by village guards in the Şenyayla region, which was taken from Diyarbakır's borders and incorporated within Muş's borders after the Ministry of Interior's decision last year. According to the statement, hundreds of trees were destroyed as part of preparations to build a new outpost on the outskirts of Çiyayê Sipî, opposite the military station near Andok Mountain.

The statement said, “Besides the destruction caused by the necessity of continuous growth and profit increase of global capitalism, the effects of nation-state policies cause different results in countries for different reasons,” referring to the fact that genocidal policies in state-capital partnership have caused different collapses and new crises have been produced from the created crises.

'Forests are being destroyed'

The statement remarked that forests, pastures and agricultural lands are sometimes sacrificed to tourism companies and sometimes to energy companies as a result of the rent policies in Turkey, continuing, "In addition to rent policies in Kurdistan's terrain, we are witnessing several faces of genocidal policies. A different aspect of the war concept that began in the 1990s

The destruction of villages and forced displacement of locals, a different aspect of the war concept that began in the 1990s, continues today with the burning of forests. Because the flames burn for days and there is no intervention, Kurdistan's forest ecosystems are destroyed. In addition to the damage to forest assets caused by fires, trees have been cut down in the previous two years, particularly in Şırnak, under the supervision of law enforcement officers."

'Destruction of the forests are a war practise'

While the destruction of trees continues in Şırnak, village guards fell trees for the construction of an outpost in Muş's Şenyayla region, said the statement, adding, "It is obvious that this mass destruction is an outcome of the already existing war practices in Kurdistan. Destruction of trees for security reasons, as well as construction of military outposts stand as the most concrete form of the repression of Kurdistan society. Furthermore, the policies of depopulation, deforestation and destruction of habitat from the past to the present constitute another dimension of the attacks against the Kurdish people."

'Destruction of forests should be stopped'

"The growing decrease in the forests of the country aggravates the climate crisis. A tree cut here today causes a river in another location to dry up tomorrow. Nature has unity, and every intervention has an impact on the entire planet. As the Mesopotamian Ecology Movement, we express that war practices are also a crime that destroys the environment and affects the existence of all living beings, and we urge everyone to speak out against this massacre. The cutting of trees must be stopped immediately."



Human Rights Violations

Turkey second worst country in Europe for LGBT+s rights, says ILGA

ANF | BRUSSELS | 13 MAY 2022

ILGA-Europe is an independent, international non-governmental umbrella group bringing together over 600 organizations and has been publishing its annual report each year since 2009.

Turkey has ranked 48th out of 49 countries in the “Rainbow Index” of the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA).

The report examined the advances made and provided concrete examples of on-the-ground situations at the national level country-by-country from January to December 2021.

For the last four years, Turkey ranks 48th, i.e. second worst on ILGA Europe's Rainbow Index.

Other notable changes in 2021 see Denmark jumping seven places to achieve second place in the 2022 ranking. The reason for Denmark's jump is that it is taking the lead in filling in anti-discrimination gaps in current legislation, including the equal treatment law, which covers health, education, employment, provision of goods and services, and the penal code to include sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) as aggravating factors in hate crime.

More countries are pushing forward for equality by giving due recognition and protection for people's lived realities. Iceland was awarded points because of its legislative recognition of trans parenthood, among other things, while Germany introduced a ban on intersex genital mutilation and France banned so-called ‘conversion therapy’ based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

After years of being stalled there is positive legislative movement in Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia, countering the narrative that there is an East/West divide on LGBTI rights in Europe, providing governments in these countries with strong opportunities to underpin democracy through adoption and implementation.

Turkish police attack the funeral of Kurdish politician

MH | DERSİM | 14 MAY 2022

The Turkish police attacked a crowd of people in Turkey's Kurdish-majority city of Dersim on Saturday to prevent the funeral procession to be held for the veteran Kurdish politician Aysel Doğan, who died on Wednesday while she was in exile in Germany.

After her death, the remains of Aysel Doğan were brought to her hometown Dersim for the funeral procession.

A large crowd in Dersim met on a highway to accompany the funeral car and to participate in the procession. A convoy with the funeral car was on its way to the district of Gazik, to the family house of Doğan, when hundreds of police officers stopped the convoy and the funeral vehicle at a checkpoint.

The police did not allow Doğan's remains to be taken to the family house, Mezopotamya News Agency reported.

People began to protest against the police's attempt to prevent the funeral procession by a sit-in.

The police attacked the protestors with tear gas and water cannons.

Alican Önlü, MP for the pro-Kurdish opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) reacted to the police's violence.

"They can turn to violence. They can arrest, even kill people, but we will not leave. We are not afraid of you; you are afraid of our dead ones," he said.

"The police forcibly took hold of Doğan's remains," Remziye Tosun, also MP for the HDP reported.

The HDP officials reacted with a statement on Twitter, saying that the attack against Doğan's funeral was similar to the recent attack on Palestinian journalist Şirin Ebu Akile's funeral.

Aysel Doğan was born in Dersim in 1953 and in her youth was committed to the constitutional recognition of Kurdish identity. After her studies, she worked as a teacher. At the time of the 1980 military coup, she was arrested and tortured on numerous occasions. She was detained for years without trial.

In 1991, she ran as an independent politician in Dersim for a seat in the Turkish Parliament. Although she received the most votes in the region, her career as an MP was thwarted by the electoral law. Because of her activities in Dersim, she was targeted by JITEM and received death threats. She then left Turkey and went to Germany, where she continued to be politically involved in the Kurdish liberation struggle.

In 1999, Aysel Doğan travelled from Europe to Turkey as a member of the peace group as part of the process initiated by Abdullah Öcalan on the prison island of Imralı for the start of peace negotiations. Upon entering the country, she was arrested and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. After her release in

2009, she returned to Dersim and founded an Alevi academy there. The association dealt with questions of faith and the Alevi culture and undertook a variety of activities to preserve the ecosystem and the holy places in Dersim.

In 2011, Aysel Doğan was arrested again as part of the “KCK operations” and sentenced to 18 years in prison. In 2012, she took part in a mass hunger strike against the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan. Her case was reopened in 2014 and she was released from Amed prison in 2015 due to her progressing cancer. She went back to Dersim and continued her work there until she left for Germany where she was receiving treatment for cancer.



New stage in the political extermination campaign in Şırnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 14 MAY 2022

A new level of anti-Kurdish repression is emerging in the province of Şırnak where more than forty people have been taken into custody within a week. Among those affected are several minors as well as members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). It appears that a purge covering the entire province has been set in motion. The raids took place in almost all of Şırnak's districts and towns.

The basis of the political extermination campaign is an investigation conducted by the Şırnak Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. The background is unclear, as a secrecy order has been imposed on the file. The reasoning behind the order is that personal contact between “the suspect and legal entities, as well as the authorization to examine the contents of the file or make copies of the documents” could jeopardize the purpose of the investigation. This practice is used as standard in proceedings under Turkey's anti-terror legislation. It is a popular method used by judicial authorities to torpedo the defense.

Raids took place in the Cizre district on the morning of May 7. A counterterrorism unit of the Turkish police raided several apartments in the Yafes neighborhood and made numerous arrests. In addition to Yahya U. (16), Yusuf Y. (15), Abdullah B. (20) and Mahsum B. (21), who are accused of throwing stones at police officers, six other (unnamed) people were also taken into custody. In five cases, arrest warrants have since been issued, and one person was released on police reporting conditions. Four of the persons concerned are still in police custody. It is not yet known whether they are the alleged “stone-throwers”.

Detentions in Dêrgûl and Ereban

In the town of Dêrgûl, activists Zeynep Unat and Zozan Aksu were detained on May 10. From Ereban in Idil district, the co-chairwoman of the HDP town association Müzeyyen Inan and her son Osman Inan are in custody. Unless their police detention is extended on Saturday, they should be released or transferred to court later today.

25 detentions in Yafes and Cudi

More people were detained in Cizre on May 12. Turkish police stormed numerous apartments in Yafes and Cûdî neighborhoods and detained a total of 25 people. The neighborhood of Yafes was besieged by police armored cars, and the searches continued for hours. The detainees continue to be detained at the provincial capital's Şırnak police headquarters. Prosecutorial interrogation is scheduled for next Monday.

Two detentions in İdil

Other raids took place in the district of İdil where Tarik Ul and Dilgeş Rüstemoğlu were taken into custody. They were also taken to the police directorate in Şırnak.

Political extermination campaign since 2015

Since the unilateral breakdown of peace talks between the Turkish government and PKK founder Abdullah Öcalan by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the summer of 2015, the AKP has been tirelessly turning the repression screw against the Kurdish population and the democratic opposition. The campaign of extermination, which has been in full swing since then, has de facto abolished dialogue, political discussion, pluralism and fundamental rights. Arbitrary arrests and detentions occur almost daily. Tens of thousands of people, including thousands of HDP members, are in prison for political reasons.



Şenyaşar family continues their struggle for justice on day 434

ANF | URFA | 16 MAY 2022

The Justice Vigil carried out by the Şenyaşar family has reached day 434. The vigil was launched on 9 March 2021 by Emine Şenyaşar, who lost her husband and two sons as a result of the attack carried out by AKP Deputy Ibrahim Halil Yıldız's bodyguards and relatives, in Suruç, province of Urfa, on 14 June 2018.

Tagging AKP President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the AKP's official account and the Ministry of Justice, the family posted a tweet on their account saying: "For those who understand, waiting for justice at the door of the courthouse is the biggest action. There is truth there. All officials learned this truth. When the 'hospital' case is opened, the world will watch the perpetrators of crimes against humanity on a live broadcast."



Report on ‘Turkey’s Destruction of Kurdish Graves’ published

ANF | 18 MAY 2022

Deniz Arbet Nejbir, a legal advisor at Mojust and an associate Fellow at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies wrote a report titled ‘Turkey’s Destruction of Kurdish Graves’ and published by the Mesopotamia Observatory of Justice (MOJUST) and the Turkey based Özgürlük için Hukukçular Derneği (Association of Lawyers for Freedom – ÖHD). The report provides, for the first time, an unprecedented account of Turkey’s acts of destruction that have been directed against Kurdish cemeteries and graves in the South East of Turkey (North Kurdistan) from 2015 to the end of 2020.

The Turkish security forces’ systematic acts of destruction of Kurdish cemeteries and gravestones in 11 provinces of Southeast Turkey demonstrates one of the Justice and Development Party’s (AKP’s) modern suppression methods that has bolstered Turkey’s Kurdish annihilation policy. The Peoples’ Democracy Party (HDP), has made numerous attempts to hold the executive accountable in Parliament for these widespread and systematic attacks.

The significance of the report

This report is unique for three significant reasons. Firstly, it consolidates available news presented by domestic and international newspapers as well as news agencies and the findings of human rights associations in Turkey that have addressed the nature and form of the Turkish state’s attacks on Kurdish graves and cemeteries. Secondly, it demonstrates how the pro-Kurdish party, the Peoples’ Democracy Party (HDP), persistently tries to hold the executive accountable in Parliament for the widespread and systematic attacks that have taken place against Kurdish cemeteries and graves in North Kurdistan by the Turkish security forces.

Finally, it presents a rigorous study using empirical methods that have been used by both Mojust and ÖHD in their *pro bono* efforts to assist the victims of these attacks in their quest of justice in order to break the state’s traditional and systematic policy of impunity for perpetrators of these crimes. To provide a political context to these acts of destruction by the Turkish state, the first part of the report also provides a brief overview of Turkey’s Kurdish suppression policy under both the Kemalist (from 1923 to 2002) and the Erdoğan regimes (post-2002 to present).

The report has the added advantage of making publicly available information accessible, in one place, about Turkey’s systematic acts of destruction against Kurdish cemeteries and graves in North Kurdistan. In this context, this research fills an important gap in the field of Kurdish Studies.

The systematic nature of attacks against Kurdish cemeteries between 17 September 2015 and 4 April 2020

The findings of the report reveal that publicly accessible information indicates that Turkish security forces made 122 attacks against Kurdish cemeteries between 17 September 2015 and 4 April 2020. As a result of

these ongoing acts of destruction of cemeteries and gravestones, at least 1,644 graves were completely destroyed and 2,926 graves were vandalised.

The Turkish security forces completely destroyed 18 cemeteries where the graves of fallen Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) militants are located in 11 provinces of Southeast Turkey (North Kurdistan) by air bombardments and using explosives during the above mentioned time periods.

In parallel with these attacks, the security forces have vandalized – in a systematic and widespread manner – the graves of PKK members in the public cemeteries in every province in the Kurdish region since 2015. Nine hundred graves, for example, were completely destroyed and 1,475 vandalised in Sirnak province; 143 graves were completely destroyed and 340 vandalised in Diyarbakir province; 200 graves were completely destroyed and 369 were vandalised in Batman province; 150 graves were completely destroyed and 3 vandalised in Tunceli (Dersim) province; 41 graves were destroyed and 69 were vandalised in Van province; 200 graves were vandalised in Siirt province; 232 graves were vandalised in Mardin province; 9 graves were completely destroyed and 3 graves were vandalised in Suruc/Sanlıurfa; 267 graves were completely destroyed in Bitlis province; 54 graves were completely destroyed in Hakkari province; 27 graves were completely destroyed and 8 graves were vandalized in Mus province, whilst 80 graves were vandalised in Bingol province.

These figures also present the minimum number of graves which were destroyed and damaged. The exact numbers of graves targeted for destruction in the South-East are still unknown. As stated by the Unity and Culture Association for Aid and Solidarity with Families Who Lost Their Relatives in the Cradle of Civilizations (MEBYA-DER), the above figures of the vandalised graves provided in my research report can only “correspond to less than a quarter of the real figures” due to the fact that any research on this issue is constantly and persistently blocked and criminalized by the Turkish State.



Journalist Steve Sweeney: “OPCW has slammed the door in our faces again”

ANF | LONDON | 18 MAY 2022

Journalist Steve Sweeney was one of the members of the delegation from Britain prevented from reaching the headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague on Tuesday.

The delegation had requested an appointment with the OPCW, but in fact they couldn't even arrive in The Hague.

“We tried everything possible to make our way from Britain, but as is so often the case, fate was conspiring against us,” said Sweeney to the activists waiting for the delegation in front of the OPCW offices.

Sweeney said that in fact, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan should have been in The Hague, rather than the delegation, as he "should be facing charges of war crimes. And the fact that he is not here is not some unfortunate accident, it is not through circumstances beyond our control, but it is deliberate. It is because the world imperialist powers are colluding to keep him out of it as he acts as Nato's proxy in Syria and Iraq."

Sweeney said that he has "spent more than a year documenting the crimes committed by the Turkish state in Iraqi Kurdistan. I have been bombed, shot at and threatened.

I have met villagers exposed to chemical weapons, medics who have been threatened into silence, their expert reports seized and altered.

I have seen KDP forces and Turkish soldiers working together, heard reports of the threats they have made to Kurdish villagers, documented the testimonies of a people living in fear of daily bombings, seen the ghost villages as thousands have been forced to flee their homes.

I have gathered samples of soil, clothing and hair from Kurdish villagers, seen and felt the burn marks on their bodies, gathered footage of chemical attacks and seen with my own eyes the scale of the Turkish military occupation of Kurdistan."

On Tuesday, Sweeney planned to deliver his report to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the OPCW, and to hand over a letter demanding a fact-finding team is sent to the region to carry out investigations.

"I was going to give them the samples I have collected from the region to enable them to conduct tests to determine the presence of banned chemicals. I have gathered together footage of what I believe to be chemical attacks in guerrilla tunnels and elsewhere in Iraqi Kurdistan.

But once again the OPCW has slammed the door in our faces. By refusing to meet and receive my evidence they have shown once more that they are nothing more than a tool of the imperialist powers."

The OPCW has ignored letters from Kurdish organisations, dismissed appeals from politicians and refuses to even acknowledge the pleas of the very people it was established to protect.

"This politicised and secretive organisation blocked my media accreditation for its annual conference last year and refused to tell me why," said Sweeney.

North Kurdish man killed in the streets of Sulaymaniyah

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 19 MAY 2022

Another deadly attack occurred in the southern Kurdish metropolis of Sulaymaniyah. It is suspected that the Turkish secret service MIT could be behind the attack. Well known restaurant owner Mehmet Zeki Çelebi, who comes from northern Kurdistan and left Turkey twelve years ago due to political persecution, was shot and seriously injured by two people on a motorbike last night as he was leaving his restaurant, “Deniz”, on Bextiyari Street. He succumbed to the gunshot wounds in hospital on Wednesday.

After the attack, the restaurant's surveillance camera and other cameras in the area were confiscated by security forces. The authorities have not commented on the incident.

A large crowd gathered in front of the hospital

Çelebi was a member of the Association of Working People from Mesopotamia (Komeleya Karkerên Mezopotamyayê, KKM). The association organizes people who are politically persecuted in Northern Kurdistan and who have been recognized as refugees by the United Nations. Many of them have been in Turkish detention for years because their legal political activities were criminalized by the judiciary. Others are currently facing long prison sentences on terrorism charges.

Müslüm Kaplan, spokesman for the association, explained in front of the hospital in Sulaymaniyah that the deadly shots at Çelebi were a “terrorist attack” and the continuation of the attacks on the patriotic people from North Kurdistan.

Last year, attacks on KKM member Ferhat Barış Kondu and PKK member Yasin Bulut took place in Sulaymaniyah. Kondu was shot and seriously injured at his workplace on 16 September 2021. Bulut, a long-time member of the Kurdish liberation movement, was shot four times and killed in the street a day later. The KKM is convinced that the Turkish intelligence service MIT is responsible for the attacks. In addition, numerous members of the workers' association have been threatened and asked to act as informers.



Bones found under Bismil police station are secretly buried in Akpınar cemetery

ANF | VAN | 19 MAY 2022

A mass grave under the police station in Bismil (province of Amed) was discovered last month thanks to the news published by ANF.

During the demolition work carried out with ladles at the police station in Bismil, human bones were found. Thereupon, demolition work was stopped and concrete was poured into the area in question.

According to the information received, the workers who carried out the excavations delivered the human bones they found to the Municipality Park and Gardens Directorate.

The fate of the delivered bones was unknown until now.

Some people called the Bismil trustee and asked what happened to the bones, but no information was given.

An eyewitness, who did not want to be named, said that the bones were delivered to the municipality imam in a cardboard by the Municipality Park and Gardens Directorate and that they were buried by the imam in another place secretly.

The eyewitness thinks that the bones are likely to belong to those killed in the unsolved murders in the 1990s.

The bones were delivered to the Bismil Municipality Park and Gardens Directorate last year.

According to the information received, after the Park and Gardens Directorate conveyed this situation to the Bismil Public Prosecutor's Office, the prosecutor's office sent a written order to the municipality imam, accompanied by the police.

It was learned that the bones, consisting of 75 pieces, were collected in a chest and delivered to the surrendered imam, and in this way, they were brought to the Akpınar Cemetery and buried in a grave. However, it is not yet known how many people the bones belong to.

ANF received the photographs of the mass grave. They showed a tombstone with no name and stones lined up on the grave.



Turkish fascists in German police uniform

ANF | BERLIN | 21 MAY 2022

At the demonstration last Saturday in Berlin against Turkey's war of aggression in Southern Kurdistan, in which Turkey closely cooperates with the KDP, the behavior of the Berlin police was conspicuous. Despite compliance with the conditions imposed by the assembly authorities, the police harassed the demonstration and deliberately tried to provoke the participants.

At the demonstration, which took place a few days after the application to the Ministry of the Interior to lift the PKK ban in Germany, it was noticeable that the police did everything in their power to escalate vi-

olence. Under the pretext that slogans such as “Bijî Serok Apo” (Long live Chairman Apo) and “Bijî PKK” (Long live the PKK) had been shouted, the police repeatedly provoked the demonstrators. Among the police officers were many of Turkish origin, some of whom deliberately insulted and threatened demonstrators in Turkish.

Erdoğan supporters are used

It is not the first time that the Berlin authority deliberately deployed fascist Turkish-born police officers, who are supporters of the AKP-MHP/government, at a demonstration of Kurds. This situation has been a topic of discussion in the German media several times in recent years, and security experts have called on the Berlin police to refrain from this practice. The events on Saturday in Berlin show that the police, contrary to these warnings, have deployed even more police officers of Turkish origin.

In the November 2017 issue of Der Spiegel magazine, an instructor at the Berlin Police Academy stated that radical supporters of Erdoğan were among the police officers deployed at Kurdish demonstrations and that he could not say whether this would go well. Another instructor made similar statements to the Berliner Morgenpost. Many of the police trainees of Turkish origin are Erdoğan supporters, said the instructor, who did not want to be named: “Even if I criticize this, the relevant authorities then refer to freedom of expression.”

They pose with their police uniforms on social media!

These police officers, who work in different departments of the Berlin police, do not hide the fact that they are supporters of the AKP or MHP, they openly share their photos with the Turkish flag or fascist symbols on social networks. In 2017, the case of a police officer who shared his photo taken in uniform with the greeting sign of the Grey Wolves on social media aroused public attention.

Far beyond Germany, organized Turkish fascists shared the said photo with the caption, “We are inside, no problem.” Regarding the posting, which also included threats and insults against Western countries, the Berlin police only announced that the photo was genuine and were content to open an internal investigation against the officer. After the investigation was completed, the police officer was probably transferred to another location and is still on duty.

A fascist named Tolga is said to be protecting a synagogue

In 2019, a fascist named Zafer Gülgen shared a photo with the phrase “For us, everywhere is TR” on his social media account. While doing so, he wore the uniform and equipment of the Berlin State Police Directorate and used nationalist symbols. The Berlin police said that the person in question was not currently working for the police after the scandal: “It is being investigated how he got the police equipment.”

In March of this year, a Turkish fascist shared rap music clips on the Internet under the false name “Tolga,” which he had filmed in police clothing in front of a Turkish flag. Through research by German media, it became known that the person who appeared in the clip, which featured racist threats such as “The infidels will be beheaded by the Turks, we are ready to die in the way of Allah,” is actually an officer with the Berlin Police Department.

Talking to the newspaper “Die Welt”, a policeman testified that this policeman of Turkish origin is in charge of a unit guarding sensitive places and squares. It turned out that the racist policeman, who shared pictures of the Turkish army's war against the Kurdish people and photos showing him saluting a Turkish flag, was in charge of guarding Kurds and with protecting foreign embassies and the synagogue in Berlin.

High-ranking policeman exposed as MIT agent

But the scandals at the Berlin police are not limited to that. In 2018, it became known that an official of the Berlin police department was working for the Turkish intelligence agency MIT. The high-ranking police officer was caught red-handed when he passed on to an official of the Turkish embassy the information he had collected about opposition members and Kurds living in Berlin.

While the investigation launched by the Berlin prosecutor's office was kept secret, it turned out that the person informed by the spy was also an agent of the MIT disguised as a diplomat. In a brief statement after the scandal became public, Berlin Interior Minister Andreas Geisel said that he was aware of the allegations against the police officer.

From the Office for the Protection of the Constitution to the BAMF – targeted

infiltration of authorities

It is not new that the Erdoğan regime is trying to gather information about Kurds and Turkish opposition figures in Germany by MIT, which has built up an agent network through the religious institution DITIB, consulates, front companies and Turkish banks, also deliberately infiltrating German authorities. Döndü Yazgan, a chief inspector of Turkish origin whose identity was unmasked by ANF in August 2017, had been exposed as an informer for the Erdoğan regime while working as a police migration officer in Wiesbaden, Hesse.

While links to MIT were uncovered in the case of several Turks who had applied to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, it became known that 20 translators for the Turkish language who worked at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) also worked for MIT. However, the investigations against Turkish spies in Germany, where more than 6,000 informants and agents of the MIT are active, did not go beyond symbolic significance. None of the investigations launched against nearly 20 MIT members in the last five years led to any results.

Two more singers prevented from performing as Turkish crackdown on concerts and musicians continues

ANF DENİZLİ | 24 MAY 2022

The AKP-MHP government continues to cancel concerts and festivals organized by Kurdish and opposition artists. After the prevented performances of Kurdish artists Aynur Doğan and Metin Kemal Kahraman, concerts of Apolas Lermi and Niyazi Koyuncu from the Black Sea region have been cancelled. Apolas Lermi announced on his social media account that his concert to take place in Denizli province on May 29 has been cancelled by the ruling AKP's Pamukkale Municipality, and a second concert on June 11 in Bostancı, Istanbul has been cancelled by the organizing company.

“The concerts have been cancelled because of the statements and posts of a certain person who targeted me,” Apolas Lermi said.

AKP Municipality: Concerts are against our values

A concert by Niyazi Koyuncu, organized by Pendik Public Education Centre to be staged on May 25 at Pendik Beach Square, has also been cancelled by the AKP's Pendik Municipality. “As a justification for the cancellation, the municipality argued that a musician who does not share the 'value judgments and views' of the municipality should not be allowed to perform in Pendik. Despite all the bans and crackdowns, we will continue to sing our songs together and more loudly,” Koyuncu said, reacting to the ban.

On May 12, during a raid on her apartment in Istanbul, Kurdish artist Xalîde was taken into custody by the Turkish police on Thursday. Special forces stormed the apartment of the well-known Dengbêj singer as part of an “initiated investigation.” The policemen damaged a saz and confiscated music books and books while the musician was beaten with blows. After a two-hour search of the apartment, the musician was taken into. Xalîde is one of the musicians of the Mesopotamian Cultural Center (MKM).

On May 16, the municipality of the Derince district in Kocaeli, which is run by the AKP, banned a concert by the Kurdish singer Aynur Doğan. The event, which was organized by a private company and was to take place on 25 May in the Derince amphitheatre, was classified as “unsuitable” and prohibited after a thorough examination by the city administration, the municipality said in a statement on Twitter.

Aynur Doğan is one of the most famous singers from Kurdistan. With her extraordinary voice and stage presence, she has been one of the most important ambassadors of the Kurdish people on international stages for more than two decades. She repeatedly carried Kurdish folk music to the international bestseller lists and made her contribution to the fact that Kurdish music has experienced a hesitant comeback even in Turkey in recent years - despite all reprisals and traumatic memories of the times in which Kurdish cultural heritage was systematically destroyed in Turkey was ousted.

Just one day later, on May 17, the governor's office for the province of Muş banned a concert by Metin and Kemal Kahraman. As the artist duo explained in a statement, they were only informed of the ban on the event one day before the concert. The announcement was made by telephone, shortly before the clos-

ing time of the authority. As the written decision could be received only one day before, there was hardly any time left for an urgent application to the court against the ban order.

Metin and Kemal Kahraman are from the Kurdish-Alevi region of Dersim. In the early 1990s, they began making field recordings in their homeland. They asked older relatives and acquaintances to sing songs to document the tradition of Dersim, which is in danger of disappearing. This documentation is a pioneering work. It consists of music, fairy tales and myths of the culture of Kirmanckî - this variety of Kurdish is also called Zazakî, Dimilkî or Kirdkî. Metin and Kemal Kahraman are not only musicians and songwriters, but also ethnomusicologists.

On the other hand, the Turkish Consulate in Cologne put pressure on the Filmforum NRW management to cancel the screening of the film “Dema Dirîreşkan” (Blackberry Season) by director Haşim Aydemir, set to be screened at the Filmforum NRW theatre in Cologne on May 21.

The film crew reacted to the pressures by the Turkish state with a written statement, saying, “The Turkish state's fear of art is clear. In the last week, Turkey has cancelled concerts by Kurdish artists and arrested several artists. The AKP-MHP government, which wants to make its existence legitimate and permanent, wants to transform everything that can transform, beautify and make life more liveable into a crime. This situation has turned into the usual practice of the Turkish state. As we have seen in recent days, intense pressure is being exerted on Kurdish artists by the Turkish state. They want to impose these practices on European states as well. We condemn this approach once again. We believe that our film will be supported by all art lovers. Our goal, of course, is to be worthy of our audience, to show things that they may not know, and to create a little sensitivity.”



Is the case of two villagers thrown off a helicopter being covered up?

ANF | VAN | 24 MAY 2022

55 year-old Servet Turgut and 51 year-old Osman Şiban were detained on September 11, 2020, during field work by soldiers from a Turkish operations unit in the countryside of Çatak district in Van province. After severe torture, both villagers were pushed out of a military helicopter and they suffered serious injuries. While Turgut lost his life after 22 days in intensive care, Osman Şiban was treated in a hospital for a long time.

Despite the fact that an investigation has been launched into the incident, no indictment has been prepared yet.

According to Hamit Koçak, one of the lawyers dealing with the case, the lack of an indictment after 21 months reveals that political motives manipulate the case.

Koçak pointed to a “huge neglect” concerning the case, noting that the confidentiality order on the file has not been lifted yet. He remarked that their applications to clarify the issue have all been rejected hastily.

“Our access to the file is blocked due to the confidentiality order. We do not believe that justice will be served in this case. Following our applications and meetings, we realized that the state authorities refrain from doing anything regarding this file. The prosecution should immediately abandon this stance,” the lawyer said.

In December 2021, Osman Şiban was accused of being a member of the PKK. The chief public prosecutor's office in Van accuses the 51 year-old, based on “relevant intelligence information”, of being a “member of an armed terrorist organisation” and, as such, of having provided “logistical support”. If Şiban is convicted, he faces up to ten years in prison under Article 314/2 of the Turkish Penal Code.



Culture

New resistance song from Rojava: “Hey Zapê”

ANF | 17 MAY 2022

Kurdish culture is characterized by resistance. This is also shown by the new piece from the “Atelier of the Homeland” (Hûnergeha Welat) entitled “Hey Zapê”. The song was written in solidarity with the guerrilla resistance against the Turkish army in the guerrilla-held Zap region of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). In the piece, protesting people are shown holding up mekap, the guerrillas' shoes. By holding up the guerrilla shoes, they express their protest against the Turkish state's war policy and their solidarity with the freedom fighters in the mountains of Kurdistan.

Hûnergeha Welat - chroniclers of resistance and artists

Hûnergeha Welat was founded in Qamişlo on July 1, 2014. There are two crucial areas; music and documentation. Every year, music and video works are created and documentaries are produced with dengbej and music groups. A large part of all songs and music videos dedicated to the revolution and filmed in Rojava are productions of Hûnergeha Welat. Hûnergeha Welat sees itself as a studio of new revolutionary art beyond sloganeering. Instead, the current revolutionary spirit and the feelings of the society of Rojava are to be reflected in the pieces. At the same time, the studio is also a chronicler of the resistance in the different regions of Rojava.

The name is considered as a memory of the fallen artist Welat who was killed by the detonation of an ISIS car bomb.

Please watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOzi5U4mm-g>

Who Are We?

The International Initiative “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan—Peace in Kurdistan” was founded in March 1999, a month after Öcalan’s abduction from Kenya and his imprisonment by Turkey. Since its initial foundation, the International Initiative struggled for Abdullah Öcalan’s release from prison so that he can play his rightful role in the establishment of a just peace between the Turkish state and Kurdistan’s Workers Party (PKK). The International Initiative also aimed at contributing to the repairing of the ties between the Kurdish and Turkish peoples, as well as all other peoples of the Middle Eastern regions.

In order to achieve its aims, the International Initiative followed several related paths. Influencing international and national audiences through international campaigns to interfere with Turkish state’s policies towards Abdullah Öcalan has been one of these paths. A second area of work the International Initiative committed itself is the dissemination of Öcalan’s views through art, publications and conferences. Finally, the International Initiative has also been active in raising awareness for Öcalan’s conditions and the human rights violations he faces through reports, fact-finding delegations and lobbying.

Campaigns

The International Initiative organizes signature campaigns to influence the policies towards Öcalan. One such campaign which was launched in 2012 by one thousand preliminary signatories including Gerry Adams, Prof. Antonio Negri, Prof. Immanuel Wallerstein, Prof. Achin Vanaik, and other intellectuals, politicians, MPs, and NGOs from South America, Europe, Asia, Russia, and the Middle East. The campaign reached 10,328,623 signatures and may be the biggest signature campaign for the freedom of a political prisoner that the world has ever seen. It significantly challenged the isolation that was enforced on Öcalan and possibly paved the ways for the peace talks that the Turkish state and Öcalan led between 2013 and 2015.

The International Initiative also organizes video campaigns that educate the public on Öcalan’s life-story, his prison conditions and the demands for his freedom.

Publications

The International Initiative translates, edits and publishes books written by Öcalan in different languages including in English, German, French, Spanish and Arabic.

It compiles brochures from his works on specific topics, such as democratic confederalism or women’s freedom.

It edits books on Öcalan that discuss his main ideas.

The International Initiative also publishes regular reports on Öcalan’s prison conditions and his isolation.

Conferences

The International Initiative organizes biannual conferences and invites scholars, activists, students and politicians to discuss Öcalan’s ideas in order to initiate a conversation between different Movements around the world.

Delegations

Every year on February 15th, which is the date of the abduction of Abdullah Öcalan, the International Initiative organizes a group of internationally acclaimed people to take a trip to Turkey for a fact finding mission and publicizes their findings.

Lobbying

The International Initiative lobbies in the European Council, CPT and other international organizations against the human rights violations against Abdullah Öcalan and his total isolation in İmralı prison.

Art for Öcalan

This campaign aims to express the relationship between Abdullah Öcalan, Kurdish people, freedom and women’s freedom and to educate the wider public on the past and present of the Kurdish people. The International Initiative has already collected art from Brazil, South Africa, USA, South America, Italy, Germany as well as Kurds from different parts of Kurdistan. These works have been printed in postcards, t-shirts and canvas and made available for solidarity sale.

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