

THE İMRALI POST

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

Issue № 22 / 8 October 2022 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	2
New Book Release: Abdullah Öcalan's "Beyond State, Power, and Violence"	2
CPT delegation visits Imrali.....	3
Committee for the Prevention of Torture to send Turkey its report on Imrali prison in March 2023.....	4
Activists from Kassel take over 538 th week of Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil.....	5
New disciplinary punishment for Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan.....	6
KCK: Let's wage the struggle at the highest level to defeat the International Conspiracy.....	7
Prisons in Turkey.....	11
Raids and torture in Elbistan Prison.....	11
Families of prisoners brutally detained by the police in Istanbul.....	11
Kidnapped and jailed, young man from Gire Spi tortured to death in prison.....	13
Prisoners in Erzurum E Type Closed Prison denounce torture.....	13
Seriously ill prisoner Ekim Polat denied treatment.....	14
Military aggression and occupation.....	15
Bodies of killed soldiers lie in hospitals.....	15
NATO blackmail: Sweden resumes arms sales to Turkey.....	15
Turkish-backed factions impose royalties, fell trees and take over houses in Afrin.....	16
Widespread power cut in Til Temir due to artillery fire.....	16
HPG reports Turkish and Iranian attacks on guerrilla areas in Iraq.....	17
Occupation forces continue to loot antiquities in Afrin.....	18
Turkish drones bomb village in Shehba.....	19
Turkish state kidnaps four people in Afrin.....	19
Resistance Areas hit with banned bombs and chemical weapons.....	20
Zozan Tolan: "I continue to carry out my duties".....	21
Turkish-linked mercenaries kidnap scores of people in Afrin.....	22
Two violent explosions near police station in Yüksekova.....	23
Turkish army continues its attacks against autonomous areas of Northern and Eastern Syria.....	24
Five assassination attacks carried out in Sulaymaniyah in a year.....	24
Drone attack in Sulaymaniyah.....	25
HPG reports continued Turkish and Iranian attacks on guerrilla areas.....	26
MIT Undersecretary Hakan Fidan meets Turkmen Front officials in Hewler.....	27
Turkish drones attack villages in South Kurdistan.....	27
Woman injured in Turkish attack on Zirgan.....	28
Zirgan under increasingly ongoing attack.....	29
Turkish state bombs Serdeşt Camp in Shengal.....	29
Femicide.....	30
Dersim Women's Platform makes statement on the 1000th day without Gülistan Doku.....	30

Two femicides in Niğde and Amed.....	31
Three more women killed in Turkey.....	31
Jineology activist and academic Nagihan Akarsel killed in armed attack in Sulaymaniyah.....	32
Men kill at least 26 women in Turkey in September.....	33
Ecocide.....	34
Water of Iraq and the Kurdistan region reduced by 80 percent due to the blocking of Turkey and Iran	34
Cholera outbreak in Northern and Eastern Syria continues to spread.....	34
Human Rights Violations.....	35
Police in Mersin take 9 more people into custody.....	35
Resistance continues in Rojhilat and Iran.....	36
Seven people sent to prison in Mersin.....	37
Annual inflation in Turkey rises to 186 per cent.....	37
Deposed co-mayor of Yenişehir sentenced to six years and three months in prison.....	38
Censorship law approved in Turkish Assembly.....	38
Armed attack on HDP building in Karlıova, Bingöl.....	39
Iraq imposes gasoline and diesel embargo on Shengal.....	40
Case brought against Emine Şenyaşar to silence her quest for justice says lawyer.....	41
Journalist Çetin Kurşun sentenced to 13 years in prison in Mardin.....	42
DFG: 72 media workers behind bars in Turkey.....	43
13 Kurdish students detained in İzmir and Manisa.....	44
Opinion.....	45
Remembering with anger and hope Şehid Nagihan Akarsel.....	45
Interview.....	48
Kalkan: Everyone must take responsibility and struggle.....	48
Who Are We?.....	59



Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

New Book Release: Abdullah Öcalan's "Beyond State, Power, and Violence"

PM PRESS | 8 OCTOBER 2022

PM Press has just released the English translation of another major work by Abdullah Öcalan.

The International Initiative "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan – Peace in Kurdistan" in collaboration with PM Press is happy to present the highly anticipated English translation of this monumental work.

After the dissolution of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) in 2002, fear and uncertainty about the future of the Kurdish freedom movement threatened to unravel the gains of decades of organizing and armed struggle. From his prison cell, Abdullah Öcalan intervened by penning his most influential work to date: *Beyond State, Power, and Violence*. With a stunning vision of a freedom movement centred on women's liberation, democracy, and ecology, Öcalan helped reinvigorate the Kurdish freedom movement by providing a revolutionary path forward with what is undoubtedly the furthest-reaching definition of democracy the world has ever seen.

On the Book

Beyond State, Power, and Violence is a breathtaking reconnaissance into life without the state, an essential portrait of the PKK and the Kurdish freedom movement, and an open blueprint for leftist organizing in the twenty-first century, written by one of the most vitally important political luminaries of today.

By carefully analyzing the past and present of the Middle East, Öcalan evaluates concrete prospects for the Kurdish people and arrives with his central proposal: recreate the Kurdish freedom movement along the lines of a new paradigm based on the principles of democratic confederalism and democratic autonomy. His vision of a democratic-ecological society has ushered in a new era for the Kurdish freedom movement while also offering a fresh and indispensable perspective on the global debate about a new socialism. Öcalan's calls for non-hierarchical forms of democratic social organization deserve the careful attention of anyone interested in constructive social thought or rebuilding society along feminist and ecological lines.

How to order

Request review copies from the International Initiative "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan – Peace in Kurdistan"

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CPT delegation visits İmralı

ANF | 3 OCTOBER 2022

A delegation of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out an ad hoc visit to Turkey from 20 to 29 September 2022.

CPT said in a written statement on Monday, October 3, that the main objective of the visit was to examine the treatment and conditions of detention of foreign nationals detained under aliens' legislation as well as the procedures applied to them in the context of their removal.

On the occasion of the visit, the delegation also went to İmralı F-type High-Security Prison, in order to examine the treatment and conditions of detention of all (four) prisoners currently held in the establishment. In this connection, particular attention was paid to the communal activities offered to the prisoners and their contacts with the outside world.

Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and his fellow prisoners Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş in İmralı have been subjected to aggravated isolation and denied meetings with both family members and lawyers for years.

The CPT is the only international body possessing the authority to visit prisons without the permission of governments in the 46 member states of the Council of Europe. CPT has sent a delegation to İmralı 8 times since 1999, and only 3 times in the past 10 years. The last visit by a six-person CPT delegation took place in May 2019.

In the course of the visit, the delegation met Süleyman Soylu, Minister of the Interior, Savaş Ünlü, Head of the Presidency of Migration Management, and senior officials from the Ministry of the Interior (including the Gendarmerie General Command and the Coast Guard Command). The delegation also held consultations with Akın Gürlek, Deputy Minister of Justice, and Enis Yavuz Yıldırım, Director General of Prisons and Detention Centers, as well as with other senior officials of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs, on the implementation of long-standing recommendations made by the CPT concerning İmralı Prison.

At the end of the visit, the delegation presented its preliminary observations to the Turkish authorities.



Committee for the Prevention of Torture to send Turkey its report on İmralı prison in March 2023

ANF | 4 OCTOBER 2022

A delegation from the CPT of the Council of Europe visited Turkish prisons on 20-29 September.

In this context, the CPT also visited İmralı F Type High Security Prison to verify the detention conditions of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş.

The CPT delegation also consulted with the relevant Turkish authorities on recommendations regarding the İmralı prison. The previous recommendations of the CPT had not been followed by the Turkish state.

Therese Rytter, the head of the delegation who visited İmralı and the 2nd Vice-President of the CPT, told the Mesopotamia Agency (MA) that they would approve the report and send it to Turkey in March 2023.

“Then Turkey will have 6 months to respond and then the CPT will decide whether it wants to publish its report. We have unhindered access to anyone deprived of their liberty,” Rytter said.

Asked by MA about Abdullah Öcalan’s health, Rytter said: “I can say that we visited all the prisoners in Turkey, but I cannot talk about our findings. These will be announced when the report is made public.”

The CPT, which last visited İmralı in 2019, has not yet released its report on this visit, though three years have passed. “It is the member state, not the CPT, - said Rytter - that decides whether a CPT report (and state response) is published or not. This should be asked to the Turkish government. So far, most states have chosen to publish the CPT’s report along with their response. If a state does not cooperate or refuses to improve the situation in light of the CPT’s recommendations, the Committee may decide to make a public statement.”



Activists from Kassel take over 538th week of Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil

ANF | STRASBOURG | 5 OCTOBER 2022

Since 25 June 2012, a permanent vigil for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan has been taking place in front of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in Strasbourg. This week, a group of activists from Kassel took over the protest. In the group are Serhan Akad, Leyla Kassel and Ahmed Başur.

“CPT does not release information on the situation in İmralı”

Akad, speaking on behalf of the group, said: “The European institutions are playing deaf and dumb to isolation. The CPT recently visited İmralı but does not release any information about it. We haven't heard from Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] for months. The youth and the women must stand up for the vigil and the freedom of Rêber Apo.”

Akad referred to the CPT’s September 20-29 visit to Turkey, during which the committee also visited İmralı. However, the committee does not release any information about the situation in İmralı and has announced that it will only send its report to Turkey in six months. This report will then only be published with the consent of the AKP/MHP regime.

“Freedom of Rêber Apo means freedom of the Kurdish people”

Leyla Kassel said: “We all know that we cannot free ourselves until Rêber Apo is free. He puts up more resistance in the prison than we do out here. I hope that the vigil will ensure the freedom of our people and Rêber Apo. The liberation of the Kurdish people means the liberation of all the oppressed peoples of the world. Because the paradigm of apoism has meaning for all oppressed peoples.”



New disciplinary punishment for Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | 7 OCTOBER 2022

There has been no news for more than 18 months from Ömer Hayri Konar, Veysi Aktaş and Hamili Yıldırım, who have been imprisoned in İmralı together with the Kurdish people's leader, who has been held under severe isolation conditions for 23 years.

While lawyers have not been able to meet with him for years, applications made by families as well as lawyers every week are either left unanswered or rejected months later, on the basis of disciplinary penalties. A new disciplinary penalty was given in İmralı just before the Committee for the Prevention of Justice visited the maximum security prison.

According to Mezopotamya Agency (MA), a 3-month family visit ban imposed on Öcalan and other prisoners by the İmralı Disciplinary Board in May ended on 15 September.

Asrın Law Office's lawyers applied for a new visit to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on 16 September, after the ban ended.

As the application was left unanswered, the lawyers applied to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and the Directorate of İmralı Penitentiary Institution on 23 September.

The lawyers also said that they object to a disciplinary sanction, if any, and that the samples of the decision in the file be given to their parties.

Bursa Execution Judge rejected the application made on 5 October, saying that the 3-month disciplinary punishment given on 9 September by the İmralı Disciplinary Board Presidency against Abdullah Öcalan and other prisoners became final on 28 September.

The lawyers were informed that there was a 3-month family visit ban, because of a new disciplinary sanction. The objections of Asrın Law Office's lawyers to the disciplinary punishments were not taken into consideration.

It was noteworthy that the disciplinary punishment coincided with the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture visit to İmralı Prison.

The CPT announced on 3 October that they visited İmralı Prison between 20 and 29 September.

The last disciplinary sanction was the 12th imposed as an obstacle to family visits since 2018.

While the reasons for the disciplinary punishments given until today have not been reported to the lawyers, answers are arbitrarily and deliberately given after the objection period has expired.



KCK: Let's wage the struggle at the highest level to defeat the International Conspiracy

ANF | BEHDINAN | 7 OCTOBER 2022

The General Presidency Council of the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) released a statement marking the anniversary of the 9 October International Conspiracy that led to the forced departure of the Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan from Syria, starting the process that resulted in his abduction, imprisonment and isolation.

The statement by KCK General Presidency Council includes the following:

“Twenty-four years have passed since the International Conspiracy against the Kurdish people and their struggle for existence took place in the form of the attack against Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. We would like to once again strongly condemn the International Conspiracy of October 09, 1998. We promise that we will never submit to any conspiratorial approach against the Kurdish people and their struggle for existence.

In order to protest the International Conspiracy, to defeat it and to prevent it from achieving its dirty goals, our heroic martyrs turned themselves into a shield of fire around Leader Apo with the slogan ‘You cannot darken our sun’. We would like to commemorate them once again in the person of our comrades Halit Oral, Selamet Menteş and Aynur Artan, and we bow respectfully and full of gratitude in front of them.

We salute Leader Apo, who has resisted the conditions of captivity in İmralı and the system of absolute isolation and torture with high willpower and extraordinary intellectual productivity during the 24 years since the start of the International Conspiracy.

When the international capitalist hegemonic powers, led by the USA, prepared to start the 21st century with the Greater Middle East Project, they identified Leader Apo and the Kurdish Freedom Struggle led by the PKK as the biggest obstacle to their capitalist modernist and imperialist interests. Because they had already recognized that the free Kurds led by Leader Apo had the potential to influence the entire Middle East. The Kurds had been divided among the four main countries of the Middle East and the Kurdish Freedom Struggle led by the PKK had succeeded in drawing the Kurds in all four countries into an important struggle. Kurds in the four parts of Kurdistan and abroad, armed with the consciousness of freedom, did not want to spend another century without a leader and without a status. On this basis, they embraced Leader Apo and the freedom struggle without hesitation. They showed great support for this struggle and actively participated in it. Thus, the Kurds gradually became the strongest dynamic of change and

transformation in the Middle East in favor of democracy and freedom. The aim of the International Conspiracy launched on October 9, 1998 by the capitalist hegemonic powers, led by the USA, was to eliminate this new free Kurdish willpower, which had begun to increasingly play a central role in the Middle East. For this purpose, they set up the International Conspiracy as part of a dirty cooperation. They did not hesitate to make all kinds of concessions among themselves for the realization of this conspiracy. Because the powers involved thought that if the Kurdish Freedom Struggle was destroyed, they could more easily take over the Middle East and redesign the region as they wished.

While the International Conspiracy had these regional aims, its main aim for the Kurds was to leave them without their own identity, leadership and status in the new century, just like in the 20th century. The goal was to make the Kurdish people lose another century just because they did not submit to the capitalist hegemonic world system and did not give up and surrender their will to struggle against the colonialist genocidal Turkish Republic's policy of annihilation and denial.

However, thanks to the new and unique understanding of resistance, intellectual creativity and productivity shown by Leader Apo, the high level of support of our patriotic people and the unbreakable will of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla to struggle, the dirty aims of the International Conspiracy have been defeated. In the 24 years since the conspiracy, a more conscious and organized popular reality, a more professional guerrilla and an increased level of the party, political consciousness and practice have emerged. As a result of all this, the national and social gains of the Kurdish people have been further enhanced during these years of struggle and have successfully created a democratic perspective.

However, the comprehensive aims of the failed conspiracy are today being updated in various forms by the conspiratorial forces and are being tried to be carried out in different ways and methods. Currently, there are huge and diverse efforts to sustain the International Conspiracy. Keeping Leader Apo as a 'hostage' and under torture in absolute isolation in the İmralı torture center is one of today's dimensions of the conspiracy. By keeping the doors of İmralı closed, on the one hand, the Kurds are deprived of their Leader; on the other hand, a historical problem such as the Kurdish problem, which is the biggest and main problem of Turkey, is prevented from becoming a part of Turkey's democratization process by deliberately keeping it in a state of non-solution.

Leader Apo's case is the fundamental case of the century and its solution will constitute the solution for the century. The solution of such a historical case that has greatly influenced this century is of course not possible without revolutionary struggle. However, the political and legal grounds opened by the revolutionary struggle must also be utilized strongly. As our people and the democratic public know, the legal grounds for the physical freedom of Leader Apo have now emerged. The sentence imposed on our Leader is about to be completed according to international law. However, the anti-Kurdish colonialist, genocidal fascist Erdoğan-Bahçeli regime is engaged in a great legal conspiracy regarding this issue. They are trying to create lawlessness by imposing disciplinary penalties on our Leader without any material basis. They weave this web of penalties a little more tightly every day, just like a spider's web. Their aim is to prolong the 'hostage' situation and the conditions of captivity of our Leader forever. In order to make this possible, they do not even inform his lawyers and thus try to prevent any objection to the so-called disciplinary penalties they have imposed on our Leader. In this way, they aim to nullify the 'violation' verdict of the ECHR regarding the 'aggravated life imprisonment' sentence that the Turkish courts developed especially for Leader Apo. Along with the ongoing complete isolation of our Leader, everyone must see the reality of this legal conspiracy and every struggle possible must be waged to prevent it. The Council of Europe, to

which structures such as the ECHR and CPT are affiliated, is as responsible for the continuation of this situation against the law, human rights and democracy as the international conspiratorial forces. The Council of Europe must do its part regarding this matter and respond to the expectations of the Kurdish people within the framework of the principles of human rights, democracy and justice.

Leader Apo has overcome the torture conditions of imprisonment in İmralı with the power of free thought, developed a new paradigm of a society based on democracy, ecology and women's freedom and presented it to the Kurdish people as well as to all oppressed and exploited peoples of the Middle East and the world. This new world of ideas and thought, which Leader Apo has lived and revealed, constitutes a program of salvation for all the peoples of the Middle East and the world, especially the Kurds and all peoples of Kurdistan. For many years now, he has shown a tremendous level of thought under the torture of absolute isolation. As his thoughts are being translated into different languages and made available to different peoples and democratic humanity, they respond by supporting and embracing Leader Apo. The friends of the Kurdish people have multiplied even more on this basis over the past 24 years. Thus, a very valuable and meaningful friendship and brotherhood relations with the peoples of the Middle East as well as with various peoples in Europe and in many other parts of the world have developed. Because Leader Apo seeks to establish a relationship of democratic peace and brotherhood between the different peoples, beliefs and cultures. This relationship of Democratic Modernity is beginning to produce new values for humanity, democracy and freedom. This is beginning to be accepted as the only way out of the fundamental social crises caused by the statist, power-oriented system that the capitalist ideology has built in the form of the nation-state and industrialism. Today, the level of global support for Leader Apo and the demand for his freedom develop together.

In recent years, the work for the freedom of the Leader, led by various labor organizations and trade unions and supported globally by leading intellectuals, writers, academics, artists, lawyers, feminists, ecologists, anti-capitalists and anarchists, has reached an important level. In particular, the recent applications for a meeting with the Leader, led by legal circles in Kurdistan and Turkey, with the collective participation of lawyers from both the Middle East and Europe, is a very important and very valuable approach to the legal struggle. This 'application struggle' initiated by lawyers is an important area of struggle and can be further strengthened to achieve results. On this basis, we would like to salute everyone, all our friends and their valuable struggles who participate in, support and work for the end of complete isolation and for the freedom of the Leader. At the beginning of this new year of the International Conspiracy, we would like to once more express our strong belief and expectation that the international work for the freedom of Leader Apo will be carried to a new level.

In the 21st century, Leader Apo's ideas regarding women's freedom illuminate the path of Kurdish women more and more. The struggle waged by Kurdish women, who set out with his ideas on women's freedom, has led to very serious developments in Kurdistan and the Middle East. The huge willpower of Kurdish women in the political, military and social spheres is transforming into a serious awakening and consciousness among Kurdish women in all parts of Kurdistan, as well as among the women of the neighboring peoples with whom Kurdish women live together and are closely intertwined. This has now become an unstoppable development. No state power is enough to suppress this conscious, enlightened and questioning will for women's freedom. We see this on a daily basis, most notably in the misogynist practices carried out by the current fascist regime of the Turkish Republic against Kurdish women in North Kurdistan [East Turkey]. We also see it in the assertive stance of the women of Rojava in the war against the enemy of humanity, the misogynist ISIS gangs. Finally, we can see it in the women's uprising that has developed

around the slogan of “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” in Iran and East Kurdistan [West Iran] for Jina Emînî, who was detained and tortured to death by the morality police in Iran because her hair was visible. The stance for women’s freedom emerging in all four parts of Kurdistan and abroad and the level of ideological-paradigmatic inspiration this stance receives from Leader Apo continues to play a very important role in terms of defeating the International Conspiracy.

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, receiving its basic ideological, philosophical and organizational inspiration from Leader Apo, has been the most fundamental force that has prevented the International Conspiracy from succeeding in the past 24 years. This is thanks to the guerrilla’s determined struggle and strong will. The guerrilla has an unbreakable bond with Leader Apo and regards him as its main moral center. Thanks to the strong morale and consciousness it receives from the Leader, the freedom guerrilla continues to show its strength and will to resist under all circumstances. The colonialist genocidal Turkish occupying army is currently using inhuman ways and methods against the guerrilla in Kurdistan in an unprecedented way. It is using all of NATO’s war capabilities against our guerrilla forces in a very brutal way. Since last year, it has been using chemical and poisonous gases against our guerrilla forces, which it had otherwise not been able to deter despite using the latest NATO technology. Realizing that chemical and poisonous gases did not achieve the desired results and that the unprecedented resistance continues, the Turkish occupying army has now added tactical nuclear weapons and thermobaric weapons. All these inhumane ways and methods used against the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The balance sheet of these war crimes committed by the colonialist, genocidal, occupying Turkish army is being shared with the public on a daily basis by our HPG Press Center [Hêzên Parastina Gel – People’s Defense Forces]. Those responsible for these war crimes are being held accountable one by one on a daily basis and will continue to be held accountable. No one should have any doubts about this. Most recently, our comrades martyr Sara and martyr Rûken carried out a revolutionary operation against the colonialist police center in Mersin’s Mezitli district, punishing dozens of war criminals. This revolutionary operation carried out by our comrades was extremely successful and accurate in line with the resistance of Zilan and Agit. It has had very serious ideological, political and military consequences and has sent serious messages to all different forces. We would like to salute with great respect the successful sacrifice attack of our comrades martyr Sara and martyr Rûken shortly before the anniversary of the International Conspiracy. The professional and sacrificial style of their attack has clearly demonstrated what everybody’s stance against the conspiracy should be like. It has shown what professional, mobile and autonomous guerrilla units need to operate like. This has once again demonstrated that at the center of all developments in Kurdistan stands the strong will and decisive stance of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. Everyone should therefore once again acknowledge that without this determined and strong-willed stance of the guerrilla, not even a leaf in Kurdistan would be able to move.

In order to break the complete isolation of Leader Apo, to crush the total war plans of the Turkish state against the Kurds, and on this basis to defeat the conspiracy in its new year, we call on our people living in all parts of Kurdistan and abroad, together with their international friends, to carry out this struggle at the highest level possible until all desired results are achieved. On this basis, we call on the Kurdish youth and Kurdish women to increase their organization and strengthen their actions to ensure the health, safety and freedom of our Leader.”

Prisons in Turkey

Raids and torture in Elbistan Prison

ANF | MARAŞ | 1 OCTOBER 2022

In Maraş Elbistan E Type Closed Prison, the wards were raided and the prisoners were tortured. It was stated that in the raids, which were carried out by order of the Ministry of Justice, the prisoners who opposed violence were put in isolation cells. Three prisoners were taken to hospital.

Kemal Demirbaş (48), who has been in prison for 28 years, told his family that the people who tortured them were not guards, but people brought from outside, and added: “People who introduced themselves as counter-guerrillas raided the wards. They put us on the ground and handcuffed everyone on our backs. They were telling us to surrender. We fear for our lives. Many friends were deported after the raid and many were thrown in isolation cells.”

Demirbaş demanded that a delegation be sent to the prison.

The families of two other prisoners held in the same jail also applied to the Human Rights Association (IHD) Maraş Branch with the same request.

Deportation after torture

The names of the prisoners who were taken to the hospital as a result of torture were not disclosed, but it was learned that Abdo Şeyho was deported to Maraş Prison No. 1 while a prisoner named Abdullah Hasan was deported to Erzurum Prison. Information on how many detainees in total were transferred to different prisons against their will could not be obtained.

The prisoners, who made phone calls with their families in the same prison on 6 August, said that they were threatened with death and bullets were fired into the air conditioner by the soldiers.



Families of prisoners brutally detained by the police in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 1 OCTOBER 2022

It is like a ritual how the Istanbul police suppress the “justice vigil” of relatives of sick prisoners week after week in order to prevent the public from being informed about the situation in the prisons. For 28 weeks, the initiative has been taking to the streets in the Bosphorus metropolis to make their concern visible and to

make it heard: the release of seriously ill prisoners and those who continue to be imprisoned because they have not repented despite completing their sentences.

Almost every rally by the group, which is mainly made up of mothers fighting for the lives of their imprisoned children, has been violently broken up by police since it began last March. Today, security forces again cracked down on prisoners' families, detaining at least nine people. Among them are Evin Genç, co-chair of Anyakay-Der, a solidarity association of families of martyrs and missing prisoners in Central Anatolia, and Zeynep Calıhan, Kumri Akgül and Cemile Çiftçi, mothers of political prisoners. Press representatives were also repeatedly harassed by the police. The journalists affected were Zeynep Kuray (ANF), Rukiye Adıgüzel (MA), Hayri Tunç (Fersude) and Meral Danyıldız (Artı TV).

Death in prison: state murder

“We witnessed again that the regime’s thugs act in a barbaric way against peaceful people who exercise their fundamental right to freedom of assembly and denounce the life-threatening situation of sick prisoners,” HDP MP Musa Piroğlu criticised the violent dispersal of the rally by the police. “This state leaves sick detainees to certain death. Dozens of prisoners have died behind bars since the beginning of the year. Behind this there is a whole system of oppression and disenfranchisement that in effect amounts to state murder,” said Piroğlu. The fact that this action of the regime is not exposed and publicly denounced under any circumstances fits into the scheme of Turkish criminal law against the enemy, he said.

IHD: 650 seriously ill prisoners

According to the Human Rights Association (IHD), there are over 1,500 sick people in Turkey’s prisons and around 650 of them are seriously ill. In all cases, they are so-called prisoners of conscience - people who have been imprisoned because of their political and ideological views. Releases are extremely rare, even though Turkey has ratified the “European Prison Rules”. Because the Institute of Forensic Medicine (ATK), which is subordinate to the Ministry of Justice, certifies that many sick prisoners are fit for detention, deaths occur time and again. In 2022, about 50 prisoners have already died. According to the IHD, all these cases could have been avoided if the prisoners in question had been released in time and had enjoyed uninterrupted treatment.

Arbitrary continuation of imprisonment due to lack of remorse for “criminal acts”

In addition, there are numerous people in Turkish prisons whose regular term of imprisonment has long since expired but who are still not released. These prisoners are Kurds sentenced under the anti-terror law, often “lifers” who have served 30-year sentences. Under the pretext of not accepting the unlawful imposition of “repentance for their crimes“, they are arbitrarily deprived of their right to freedom.

Kidnapped and jailed, young man from Gire Spi tortured to death in prison

ANF | AIN ISSA | 2 OCTOBER 2022

More reports are coming through of crimes committed by the Turkish army and allied mercenaries in the regions they have occupied in North-East Syria in violation of international law. Bombing of civilian settlements, murder, torture, and abduction have become routine in the occupied areas.

Eziz El Mistefa was one of the five youngsters kidnapped two months ago by Turkish-backed jihadist mercenaries from the neighborhood of Haret Al-Layl in the occupied city of Girê Spî,

Held captive in a prison of the occupation forces, the young man is reported to have been tortured to death.

The family of Eziz was informed of his death as a result of brutal torture at the hands of mercenaries.

The Turkish state has established a regime of terror in the territories it has invaded together with jihadist groups under its control. Crimes such as kidnapping, execution, torture, plundering and forced migration have become a daily routine and war crimes are systematically committed, especially in the canton of Afrin, which has been occupied since March 2018.

Kidnappings of civilians are part of the daily routine. In most cases, a ransom is demanded for their release. In recent years, thousands of people have been kidnapped and tortured. Some have been executed, the fate of others is unknown.



Prisoners in Erzurum E Type Closed Prison denounce torture

ANF | ERZURUM | 2 OCTOBER 2022

Prisoners in Erzurum E Type Closed Prison said they were subjected to violence by the guards during the open visit held on 27 September.

Nazlı Oran said that she witnessed what happened when she went to visit her imprisoned brother Selçuk Oran.

Nazlı Oran told that the guards harassed the families during the visit and that a prisoner named Mehmet, who reacted to this situation, was exposed to violence in the presence of his family.

Pointing out that after the guards battered the prisoner, they wanted to take him back to the ward by force, and that he was also exposed to violence during this time, Oran said that families protested the attack by banging on the tables.

Oran said that her brother, who called them after this attack, said that the prisoners were tortured. “My brother said that after we left violence continued. They were tortured and taken to separate wards. The guards also threatened prisoners with deportation to other jails.”

Oran said that the ward, which houses 27 prisoners including her brother, was raided by more than a hundred guards and the prisoners were attacked.



Seriously ill prisoner Ekim Polat denied treatment

ANF | İZMİR | 4 OCTOBER 2022

Ekim Polat is 24-year-old and is seriously ill. He is held in Denizli T Type Closed Prison. He called off the hunger strike he went on on 1 August for the right to receive proper treatment, on 10 September due to health problems such as heart palpitations and high blood pressure. The Ministry of Justice sent a petition to the prison for the treatment of Polat. However, despite the ministry’s petition, Polat was not given his treatment.

His mother, Songül Ilker, who started a sit-in in front of Denizli Prison to ask her son’s demands being met, also brought her protest to the IHD Istanbul Branch.

While continuing the sit-in in Istanbul, Ilker talked to her son on the phone and said that despite the petition sent by the Ministry of Justice to the prison to ensure treatment, this was actually not granted. Ilker said: “Polat was only taken to Denizli State Hospital and Pamukkale University Hospital and returned to prison without treatment. He was not admitted to the hospital for treatment.”

Ilker said that what was done was attempted murder, and added: “Despite a petition from the Ministry of Justice to the prison, my son’s right to treatment continues to be denied. My son is being left to die. He should have been treated before, now it may be too late. The people should speak up for what happened. Ill prisoners should not be left alone.”

Adding that his son was threatened by a guard, Ilker said: “The guard told him he would only come out of prison dead. I will file a criminal complaint against this guard.”



Military aggression and occupation

Bodies of killed soldiers lie in hospitals

ANF | HAKKARI | 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The AKP/MHP regime is doing everything to conceal its own losses. Hundreds of bodies of killed soldiers of the Turkish army are lying in hospitals in Çukurca and Hakkari. The bodies were taken from the Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) by helicopters to the Hakkari Mountain Forces Command Brigade, Fatih Barracks and bases along the border. Afterwards, the dead were taken by ambulances to the morgue of the Hakkari state hospital and to a field hospital in the village of Bilican on the border and left there. According to reports, there are more than 40 bodies in the state hospital in Hakkari and more than 100 bodies in the field hospital between Çukurca and Hakkari. As some of them have been lying in the morgues for several months, the decomposition process has begun and an intense smell of decomposition is spreading. People who visit the hospital for treatment confirm the bestial stench.

A village guard reports that at least 60 Turkish soldiers died in one night, saying that he can testify to this himself. But the state has announced that only one major was killed in the battle. According to the People's Defence Forces (HPG), at least 2,132 Turkish soldiers were killed in the first five months after the beginning of the Turkish attack on the Medya Defence Zones.



NATO blackmail: Sweden resumes arms sales to Turkey

ANF | 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Following Turkey's blackmail against the NATO membership bid, Sweden has decided to resume the export of weapons and military equipment to Ankara.

Previously, Turkey had sought a series of concessions to approve Sweden's membership in NATO.

One of these concessions was the lifting of the arms embargo on Turkey which had been in place since 2019. Despite strong public reaction, the Swedish government deferred to the Turkish blackmail and decided to resume the export of weapons and military equipment. The announcement was made by Sweden's Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP).



Turkish-backed factions impose royalties, fell trees and take over houses in Afrin

ANF | 1 OCTOBER 2022

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that members of Al-Sultan Sulaiman Shah Division” known as “Al-Amshat”, seized a commercial store in Qarmtalk village in Shaikh Al-Hadid district, under the pretext that they had priority as they were the ones who liberated the area, as they claim.

Moreover, the Al-Amshat faction in Sheikh Al-Hadid district imposed \$5 royalties for each olive tree on the people forcibly displaced outside Afrin, and 15% on citizens in Shaikh Al-Hadid district, for protection, SOHR said.

In this context, members of the “Malak shah” faction felled nearly 80 olive trees in Shiran district, which are owned by a citizen from the district, who filed an official complaint to the “Military Police”. However, the Military Police overlooked his complaint, under the pretext that they didn't have permission to arrest any member of the “National Army” faction.

According to SOHR, armed members of the “National Army” felled nearly 60 almond trees in Ba'danly village in Rajo district in the Afrin countryside, to sell them as firewood for heating.

Moreover, the Al-Jabha Al-Shamiyah faction sold a house in Afrin's Al-Qadima neighbourhood for 1,500 USD, which was owned by a citizen from Shera district.

Sources added that a leader of “Al-Jabha Al-Shamiyah” faction stole a crop of 200 olive trees in Masha'la village in Shera district. The citizen filed a complaint against the leader to the Committee for the Response of Rights and Grievances, but the latter did nothing.

This comes in continuation of Turkish-backed factions in Afrin to violate civilians' possessions, seize them by force, cut down olive trees and systematically destroy vegetation for material benefit.



Widespread power cut in Til Temir due to artillery fire

ANF | TIL TEMIR | 1 OCTOBER 2022

In large parts of Til Temir in the north-eastern Syrian autonomous zone, the public electricity supply failed on Saturday. The blackout was caused by attacks by Turkish jihadist occupation forces on a distribution station in the village of Umm al-Kayf, west of the city. According to the Til Temir Military Council, the shelling began late on Friday evening and continued into the morning hours. As a result, several power

lines were damaged by impacts from howitzer shells. The local electricity company said that hundreds of households and businesses were affected by the power outage.

Since the conclusion of the ceasefire and de-escalation agreement, which was agreed between the guarantor powers Russia and the USA with Turkey after the occupation of Serêkaniyê (ar. Ras al-Ain) and Girê Spî (Tal Abyad) in October 2019, Til Temir has effectively been under constant fire from the invading forces. Ankara wants to integrate the Christian-populated town in the Khabur Valley into its illegal occupation zone. The permanent attacks are therefore mainly directed against residential areas and civilian infrastructure; energy and power supply facilities are bombed particularly frequently. The distribution station in Umm al-Kayf alone has been attacked at least 29 times by Turkish jihadist occupiers in the last three years. This is how the civilian population is meant to be worn down.

The staff of the local electricity committee is also a frequent target of attacks. Time and again in the past, technical emergency teams have been targeted by the Turkish army or allied jihadist militias to hinder the repair of damage to equipment or lines. The permanent and targeted attacks on the electricity supply in the autonomous areas severely affect the civilian population and the economy of northern and eastern Syria, causing millions of dollars of damage.

Strategic location of Til Temir

Til Temir occupies a key position in Turkey's occupation plans because the M4 runs through the town with 25,000 inhabitants. The international traffic route is considered the lifeline of northern Syria because it connects the Euphrates and Cizire regions. In order to incorporate it into the occupation zone, the occupying forces are waging a "war of attrition" with the aim of depopulating Til Temir. Drones are increasingly being used in the brutal campaign. On 18 August, a Turkish killer drone attack southeast of Til Temir killed four youths and injured eleven others. The target of the airstrike was a United Nations (UN)-sponsored education centre for girls; a fifth victim succumbed to her serious injuries days later. Earlier, two fighters of the Syriac Military Council (MFS) were killed by Turkish artillery fire in the north of Til Temir.



HPG reports Turkish and Iranian attacks on guerrilla areas in Iraq

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 OCTOBER 2022

The press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) has issued a statement on the war in Kurdistan. According to the statement, the Iranian army has continued its attacks on Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq), which have been going on for more than a week, and artillery shells hit guerrilla areas in the Xakurke region on Friday. Regarding the attacks of the Turkish army, the HPG said that the Turkish army is using prohibited weapons with increasing violence every day and is benefiting from modern weapons technology from NATO. Nevertheless, the guerrillas continue to resist.

The HPG gave the following information on the guerrilla actions, the Turkish and Iranian attacks and the support of Turkey by South Kurdistan's ruling party, the KDP, which is dominated by the Barzani clan:

Guerrilla actions in Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna

In Çemço in the Zap region, guerrillas carried out a total of three actions of sabotage against Turkish troops on Thursday and Friday, killing one soldier. In Şukê in Avaşîn, mobile guerrilla groups struck an enemy unit from close range on Thursday, leaving three soldiers dead, one seriously injured. At the same time, an observation post was also struck by guerrillas and the soldiers stationed there fled. At Girê Cûdî in Metîna, a mobile guerrilla unit prevented an airborne operation by firing on a transport helicopter on Friday. The Sikorsky aircraft was hit and had to turn around without being able to drop troops in the area.

Attacks by the Turkish army

According to the HPG, the Turkish army used prohibited weapons in 19 attacks on Friday, affecting guerrilla positions in the Girê Amêdî, Saca, Sîda and Çemço areas. Areas in Metîna, Xakurke and Zap were bombed seven times by fighter jets, and 36 other airstrikes were carried out by attack helicopters. Girê FM and Çemço were also attacked dozens of times with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons. In Karker in the Zap region, the Turkish army tried to demolish guerrilla positions with construction equipment.

Attacks by the Iranian army

The Iranian army attacked the Girê Berbizinê and Goşînê areas in Xakurke with howitzers and mortars on Friday. Iran is currently carrying out massive attacks on Kurdish opposition parties in Southern Kurdistan. On Wednesday, 14 people were killed and 58 others injured in drone and rocket attacks in the greater area of Hewlêr and Sulaymaniyah. As the HPG had already announced on Friday, three rockets also hit the Qandil region in the course of this wave of attacks.

KDP builds roads and positions for the Turkish state

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has been building military roads for the Turkish state in the Girê Amêdî area in Metîna for some time. According to HPG information, the road construction is continuing, and the KDP also began building positions for the Turkish army on Friday.



Occupation forces continue to loot antiquities in Afrin

ANF | 2 OCTOBER 2022

Mercenaries of the so-called "Syrian Front" affiliated to the Turkish occupation army carried out excavations and searches for antiquities with heavy vehicles in the village of Ferghan of Shara district in occupied Afrin, reported the Rojava-based Hawar News Agency (ANHA).

The source cited by ANHA documented with pictures the excavation and search for antiquities in the village of Ferghan of Shera district in the occupied canton of Afrin by mercenaries of the so-called “Syrian Front” led by the mercenary Abu Jandal.

According to the source, the process of searching and digging through heavy machinery is still going on in the village. Sources from occupied Afrin said that “archaeologists, accompanied by officials and elements of the Turkish occupation army, went to the vicinity of Meydanke Lake, and began the process of searching and excavating for antiquities.”

Since March 18, 2018, more than 60 archaeological sites have been destroyed and looted in the occupied canton.

The most prominent archaeological sites that were destroyed were the archaeological site of Ain Dara in the Sherawa district, as well as the site of Nabi Hori, whose remains were smuggled by the Turkish occupation state and turned into a mosque, in which the flags of the occupying Turkish state were hung.

International law classifies infringements on the cultural heritage of a people as a war crime, but international organizations and forces continue their silence regarding Turkish crimes, and this is what the people of North and East Syria consider a partnership in the genocide.



Turkish drones bomb village in Shehba

ANF | SHEHBA | 2 OCTOBER 2022

According sources in the region, drones belonging to the Turkish state has bombed the village of Bêlûniyê in the Shehba Canton.

There is no news of damages or casualties so far.



Turkish state kidnaps four people in Afrin

ANF | AFRIN | 2 OCTOBER 2022

According to local sources, the “Civil Police“, the paramilitary crime apparatus established by the Turkish state in occupied Afrin, kidnapped 4 people in Cindirês.

The abductees have been named as follows: Mehmûd Hîla Xelef (28) from the village of Celemê, Hisên Ebdurehman Hiso from the village of Ashka Şerqî, Elî Mihemed El Kerîm (38) and Xelîl Hisên Hiso (34) from Cindirêsê district.

The whereabouts and fate of the four people is unknown.

The Turkish state systematically commits war crimes in the territories it occupies.

Crimes such as kidnapping, execution, torture, ransom, looting and extortion are committed on a daily basis.



Resistance Areas hit with banned bombs and chemical weapons

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 OCTOBER 2022

The HPG Press Centre released the following information concerning the guerrilla actions and Turkish invasion attacks:

“As a result of the actions carried out by our forces, 2 invading Turkish soldiers were killed. The invading Turkish army has hit the guerrilla resistance areas 18 times with banned bombs and chemical weapons, 2 times with fighter jets, 47 times with attack helicopters and dozens of times with howitzers and tanks.

The details of the actions carried out by our forces and the Turkish attacks are as follows;

As part of the Bazên Zagrosê Revolutionary Campaign in the Zap region:

On October 1, at 08:00, 12:30 and 16:30, Turkish troops on the move around the Martyr Agir battle positions in the Sîda Resistance Area were hit with heavy weapons by our mobile teams.

On October 1, at 10:30, Turkish troops around the Martyr Agir battle positions in the Sîda Resistance Area were shot down by our mobile teams in two simultaneous assassination actions. 2 Turkish soldiers, one of whom was an officer, were killed following the action.

On October 1, after being taken under control by our mobile teams in the Martyr Fedakar Resistance Area in Çemço, Turkish soldiers were hit with heavy weapons.

The attacks carried out by the invading Turkish army with banned bombs and chemical weapons:

On October 1, the battle positions in the Girê Amediyê and Şikefta Birîndara Resistance Areas, and the Martyr Xursi battle positions in the Saca Resistance Area, the Martyr Bahoz battle positions in the Çemço Resistance Area and the Martyr Agir battle positions in the Sîda Resistance Area were hit 10 times with banned bombs and chemical weapons by the Turkish army. Moreover, Turkish soldiers burned plastic ma-

terials and car tires near the Martyr Agir battle positions and directed the toxic fumes towards the battle positions.

On October 1, Martyr Felat battle positions in the Sîda Resistance Area were bombed 8 times with banned bombs and chemical weapons by the Turkish army.

The attacks carried out by the invading Turkish army:

On October 1, the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area was bombed twice by Turkish fighter jets.

On October 1, Kurojahro, Çemço, Saca, Girê FM, Girê Cûdî and Girê Amediye Resistance Areas were bombed 47 times by attack helicopters.

On October 1, the Çemço Resistance Area was bombed dozens of times by howitzers and tanks.

On October 1 and 2, Turkish drones are reported to have flown over Kurojahro, Karker, Saca, Girê FM, Girê Cûdî and Girê Amediyê Resistance Areas.

Iranian attacks

On October 1, the Girê Berbizinê and Hornê areas of Goşînê in Xakurkê were bombed by Iranian forces with howitzers and mortars.”



Zozan Tolan: “I continue to carry out my duties”

HEVIDAR CEYLAN | BEHDINAN | 3 OCTOBER 2022

On 26 September 2022, two fighters of the Free Women’s Troops (YJA Star) carried out an action of self-sacrifice against a Turkish police base in Mersin. Sara Goyî and Rûken Zelal sacrificed their lives in the spectacular action, which shook politics in Turkey. The Turkish Interior Minister, Süleyman Soylu, travelled there in person and spread the news that one of those involved was Zozan Tolan (Dişah Ercan).

HPG: False reports show weakness of the Turkish secret service

The People’s Defence Forces (HPG) said: “The AKP/MHP government could not find out the names of our friends who carried out this action. This shows how weak its intelligence service is. Although it knew that our friend Zozan Tolan was not involved in the action, the government deliberately named her and wanted to use her as a bargaining chip against her family and other circles. Our friend Zozan has nothing to do with this incident, she continues to do her job. The AKP/MHP government has arrested many people because of this action and is trying to take revenge on the people through pressure and torture. It is doing this to hide its failure against our self-sacrificing guerrilla team and cover up the incident.”

Repression based on false allegations

After the announcement of Zozan Tolan's alleged participation in the action, the regime stormed the homes of Tolan's family members. Twenty-two people, including Tolan's father, her mother, three brothers, three sisters and their spouses were arrested. After days of police detention, twelve of them were released.

Interior Minister spreads conspiracy theories

The conspiracy theories that the Interior Minister is forced to spread show how much pressure he is under after the action. After the HPG announced the identities of the militants involved, Interior Minister Soylu tried to justify himself by saying that Tolan had been identified by a taxi driver. Soylu claimed that the action had originated in the USA and that the fighters had come to Tarsus with paragliders from Manbij in northern Syria.

Zozan Tolan: "I continue to carry out my duties"

While the debates are still ongoing, former journalist and current guerrilla Zozan Tolan commented on the situation to ANF. She stated: "First of all, I bow to the deeds of the martyrs Sara and Rûken and their action carried out in Mersin-Mezitli. With them, I would like to commemorate all the martyrs. As a fighter of YJA Star and HPG, we will follow them with greater self-sacrificing actions." Regarding the allegations made by Interior Minister Soylu, Tolan said, "Our organisation has already explained everything necessary. I continue to carry out my duties. The struggle against the fascist AKP/MHP regime is the most important task for me as for all other Kurdish guerrilla fighters. I declare that I will be worthy of this task."

Tolan: "I am fighting because there is no democratic way anymore"

Tolan talked about her path to becoming a guerrilla: "I was arrested as a journalist. That is true. But the practices of the fascist AKP/MHP regime in Turkey and Kurdistan have eliminated the possibilities to tell the truth to the people and to have a legal democratic struggle for it. Because of this reality, many young people from Kurdistan are taking to the mountains to settle accounts with this fascist regime. I am one of them."



Turkish-linked mercenaries kidnap scores of people in Afrin

ANF | SHEHBA | 4 OCTOBER 2022

The "Civil Police", the paramilitary crime apparatus established by the occupying Turkish state, kidnapped a person named Ebdo Welid Sido in the Sina District of Afrin's Cindirês district.

The whereabouts and fate of Sido, who was kidnapped on the grounds that he was communicating with his brother in Shehba, is unknown.

The “Civil Police“, which systematically and arbitrarily committed crimes, kidnapped 4 people on 2 October in Cindirês.

On September 28, two people were kidnapped in the Cindirês center and in the village of Qirba.

On September 27, the Turkish state’s mercenary organization, Sultan Murad, kidnapped 5 people in Bilbilê district.

The Turkish state systematically commits war crimes in the occupied territories. Thousands of people have been kidnapped since 2018.

Crimes such as kidnapping, execution, torture, ransom, looting and extortion are committed on a daily basis.



Two violent explosions near police station in Yüksekova

ANF | HAKKARI | 4 OCTOBER 2022

Two violent explosions occurred near a police station in Yüksekova, in the province of Hakkari.

The explosions occurred near the 75th Yıl Police Station in the Kışla District on Monday night.

Before the explosions, fire was opened on an armoured vehicle, which was driving from the Kışla District to the Orman District, carrying special operations police.

While the neighbourhood and the area where the police station is located were besieged by hundreds of police, many ambulances were sent to the region.

Houses in the area where the explosion took place were raided and many people were taken into custody.

It was learned that the siege of the neighbourhood continued through the morning hours.



Turkish army continues its attacks against autonomous areas of Northern and Eastern Syria

ANF | 4 OCTOBER 2022

Four civilians were injured by artillery fire from the Turkish army and allied terrorist groups in Northern and Eastern Syria. The target of the attack on Monday evening was the village of Tall al-Lubn near Til Temir, according to military sources. Those affected were taken to the Şehîd Lêgerîn Hospital, but information on the severity of the injuries was not initially available.

Tall al-Lubn is about 17 kilometers west of Til Temir on the edge of the M4. Due to its proximity to the strategic highway, the village is frequently bombed by Turkish Jihadist occupying forces. The international transport route is considered the lifeline of northern Syria, because it connects the Euphrates and Cizîrê regions with each other. On Saturday, the public power supply failed in many places in Til Temir, because of the targeted attacks on a distribution station in the village of Umm Kahf.

Attacks on Kobanê, Zirgan and Ain Issa

On Monday evening, bombardments were also recorded in Kobanê, Zirgan and Ain Issa. In Ain Issa, artillery shells fell in the east of the city, in the municipality of Zirgan; the Xerbî district and the village of Bobî were hit by the shelling. In Kobanê, the villages of Til Şeîr and Mezra Abrûş, west of the city, were attacked. Earlier, Turkish soldiers from outposts in the border area had machine-gunned the village of Qeremox east of Kobanê. There have been no reports of casualties. Fighter jets and reconnaissance drones from the Turkish army have been circling over the canton since Monday evening.



Five assassination attacks carried out in Sulaymaniyah in a year

ANF | 4 OCTOBER 2022

With the Turkish state escalating its invasion attacks on southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), targeted attacks have become more common than ever before.

There is major concern that a large network of local collaborators might have been created in the region. Along with the frequent drone attacks, armed attacks are also carried out in public.

Authorities in Hewler (Erbil) and Sulaymaniyah have not introduced any preventive measures against further assassinations as the murderers have remained unpunished.

There have been at least five assassination attacks in Sulaymaniyah in a year alone.

The latest attack targeted a female activist.

On October 4, Nagihan Akarsel, a female activist and academician, editor of Jineology magazine and member of the Jineology Research Centre, was shot dead in Sulaymaniyah. The attack took place in front of Akarsel's house at 10:00 local time.

On August 28, Suheyl Xurid Eziz (Mamoste Şemal), a member of the Executive Council of the Azadi Movement, was killed as a result of an armed attack.

On May 17, Zeki Çelebi, a patriot from North Kurdistan, was attacked in the Bextiari neighbourhood. Çelebi, who was seriously injured in the attack, died the next day, on May 18. His killers haven't been found yet.

On September 17, 2021, Yasin Bulut (Şukri Serhed), a member of the PKK Martyrs' Families Committee, was assassinated in Sulaymaniyah.

On September 16, 2021, a citizen from North Kurdistan, named Ferhad Barış Kondu, was attacked in Sulaymaniyah. He survived the attack with serious injuries.



Drone attack in Sulaymaniyah

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 4 OCTOBER 2022

The South Kurdistan-based RojNews agency reports that an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) struck a car near the village of Zelani in the Sharbajar district of Sulaymaniyah on Tuesday.

While further information about the attack and its consequences was not immediately available, an official statement by the authorities of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) is not yet available either. Turkey is suspected to be behind the aerial strike as was the case with the previous UCAV attacks in the region.

In recent years, the region has frequently been targeted by the Turkish air force, often with the nearby Asos Mountains being bombed. Turkish airstrikes have become routine in South Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, as they are in Northeast Syria. For eleven days in a row, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards have also been bombing areas in southern Kurdistan.



HPG reports continued Turkish and Iranian attacks on guerrilla areas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 4 OCTOBER 2022

According to the press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG), Turkish combat helicopters carried out 78 attacks on guerrilla areas in southern Kurdistan on Monday, in addition to nine chemical weapons attacks and dozens of artillery attacks by the Turkish army. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards also continue to bombard the Xakurke region, using howitzers and mortar shells. The guerrilla forces of HPG and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) continue to resist the Turkish army invasion launched in mid-April, and five soldiers were killed in the Zap region on Monday.

In its daily statement in Kurdistan, the HPG gave the following details about the ongoing war in Southern Kurdistan on 3 October:

Guerrilla actions in the Zap region

In the resistance area of Sîda, one soldier was shot dead by a guerrilla sniper unit and another soldier was killed in an action carried out with heavy weapons. In Saca, mobile guerrilla groups carried out a coordinated action against the invading forces. The first action group used heavy weapons and killed two soldiers. When a Turkish unit tried to intervene, the second group came into action and shot another soldier. In the evening, guerrilla fighters shot at a transport helicopter that was about to airdrop troops in the resistance area of Saca. The airborne operation was thus prevented.

Attacks by the Turkish army in Zap and Metîna

The latest Turkish attacks with chemical weapons were directed against guerrilla positions in the Sîda and Çemço areas in the Zap region. The helicopter attacks affected Saca, Karker, Şehîd Fedakar, Girê Hekarî and Girê Amêdî. The areas of Çemço and Girê Hekarî were also attacked dozens of times with howitzers, mortars and tanks. In the Karker area, the Turkish army again tried to demolish guerrilla positions with construction machinery. Drones were observed in the airspace over Zap and Metîna.

Attacks by the Iranian Army in Xakurke

The Iranian army has been attacking Hornê and Girê Berbizinê in the Goşînê area in the Xakurke region with howitzers and mortars since Monday morning.

MIT Undersecretary Hakan Fidan meets Turkmen Front officials in Hewler

ANF | 5 OCTOBER 2022

MIT Undersecretary Hakan Fidan was said to have visited the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITC) Hewlêr provincial presidency on Tuesday, 4 October.

ITF President Hasan Turan shared photos of this meeting on his official Facebook account and wrote: "ITF President Hasan Turan, together with the members of the ITF Political Bureau, welcomed the Undersecretary of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Hakan Fidan, at the provincial presidency of ITF Erbil."

MIT Undersecretary Hakan Fidan has been having intense contacts in Iraq for a while, as was even acknowledged by senior Iraqi officials.

Apparently, there is no need to make any public statements about what was discussed, what was the subject of negotiation or what was agreed during the meetings.

Fidan visited Baghdad on 11 September and held many secret and public meetings with the authorities, especially with Iraqi President Barhem Salih, Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kazimi and Sunni leader Hamis Hançer.

It is no longer a secret that the Turkmen Front, which is a racist formation, is trained and armed by the Turkish state.

Former President of the Turkmen Front, known for his hatred of Kurds, racist Ersed Salihi, claimed that they would take control of Kirkuk after the clashes in Iraq at the end of August.



Turkish drones attack villages in South Kurdistan

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 5 OCTOBER 2022

After the drone attack on a vehicle crossing the Şêxel-Marên Bridge near the village of Zelanî in Şarbajêr district, further bombardments were carried out by Turkish drones in the region near Sulaymaniyah on Tuesday. According to reports from the regional administration, Turkish drones attacked the villages of Kuşkewe, Beyane and Renêne near Pêncwên. According to reports, three killer drones circled over the region and carried out sporadic attacks. There is no information on human casualties.

No rescue sent due to continuous bombardment

At the same time, reports came through of continued attacks on the area near Şarbajêr, where the village of Şêxelmârênî was attacked in particular. The district administrator of Şarbajêr, Şaho Hesên, speaks of several attacks on the village. Apparently, not only drones but also fighter jets were used against the villages of Beyane and Renêne, which are located on the border between the districts of Şarbajêr and Pêncwên. Hesên reports that so far, no rescue units could be sent to the attacked areas due to the attacks.

Turkish state terrorism at all levels

The war is not only waged by fighter jets and drones, but also by assassination squads. On Tuesday morning, Kurdish journalist Nagihan Akarsel was shot dead in the street in Sulaymaniyah, and there are many indications that the Turkish secret service was responsible.



Woman injured in Turkish attack on Zirgan

ANF | 5 OCTOBER 2022

The Turkish army and its jihadist proxy forces continue to attack the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria day after day. Late on Tuesday afternoon, a woman was injured by artillery fire in the town of Zirgan (ar. Abu Rasen), and there was significant property damage to homes in six villages. The injured woman is 23-year-old Aşar Hisên El Kemorî from the village of Metmora.

According to the security forces in the region, their headquarters in Zirgan were bombed in addition to residential buildings. The permanent bombardments were aimed at driving the population of the region to flee, a statement by the security forces said.

The villages of Dirdara and Eboş in the north of Til Temir were also attacked on Tuesday. On Monday evening, four civilians were injured by shells in the village of Tall al-Lubn near Til Temir.

Zirgan (ar. Abu Rasen) is located about thirty kilometres east of the already fully occupied town of Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) and lies on the edge of a connecting road between the strategic roads 712 and M4. It is barely 25 kilometres to the town of Til Temir, which Turkey also wants to incorporate into its illegal occupation zone after Zirgan. The constant incursions by Turkey and its mercenaries into the region are violations of the ceasefire and de-escalation agreements agreed between the guarantor powers Russia and the US with Turkey in October 2019. Both Moscow and Washington give Turkey a free hand.



Zirgan under increasingly ongoing attack

ANF | HESEKE | 6 OCTOBER 2022

The invading Turkish state heavily bombed the Zirgan town in the Heseke Canton in northern Syria. The Turkish attacks hit the central areas of the district.

Turkish forces started to bomb the village of Eseye in the north of Zirgan at 20.50 on October 5 before shelling the village of El Bobî, the district centre of Zirgan and the villages of Xirbet Şeîr, Bince and Til Werd.

Commanders on the war fronts in Zirgan reported that the region had been targeted by more than 100 howitzers and mortar shells, while 65 artillery fires hit the district centre.

Residential areas were also damaged by the Turkish bombings. Zirgan People's Municipality headquarters and the Sefarine mill were also targeted by the attacks.

On October 6, at around 12:00 local time, the Zirgan district centre and its northern and southern rural areas were once again bombed by the Turkish forces.

Late on Tuesday afternoon, a woman was injured by artillery fire in the town of Zirgan and there was significant property damage to homes in six villages. The injured woman was identified as 23-year-old Ayşar Hisên El Kemorî from the village of Metmora.

Zirgan (ar. Abu Rasen) is located about thirty kilometres east of the already fully occupied town of Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) and lies on the edge of a connecting road between the strategic roads 712 and M4. It is barely 25 kilometres to the town of Til Temir, which Turkey also wants to incorporate into its illegal occupation zone after Zirgan. The constant incursions by Turkey and its mercenaries into the region are violations of the ceasefire and de-escalation agreements agreed between the guarantor powers Russia and the US with Turkey in October 2019. Both Moscow and Washington give Turkey a free hand.



Turkish state bombs Serdeşt Camp in Shengal

ANF | SHENGAL | 7 OCTOBER 2022

The Turkish state, with its drones, bombed the Serdeşt Camp and its surroundings, where the Yazidi people who survived the ISIS attacks in Shengal continue to live.

While no information can be obtained about the result of the attack, the activity of the invaders on the region continues.



Femicide

Dersim Women's Platform makes statement on the 1000th day without Gülistan Doku

ANF | DERSİM | 1 OCTOBER 2022

There has been no news from Gülistan Doku (21), a student at Munzur University Vocational School Child Development Department, since 5 January 2020. One thousand days have passed since Doku's disappearance and the Dersim Women's Platform made a statement at Jara Gola Çetü, where Pülümür and Munzur Streams meet. A banner saying "Gülistan Doku has been missing for 1000 days" was unfurled.

Speaking on behalf of the platform, Eylül Yantemur said that no progress has been made in the Doku case. Yantemur said that although the women and the Doku family demanded that the investigation be continued in a multi-faceted manner, the representatives of the official institutions, especially the prosecutor's office, focused on the claims that she had committed "suicide".

Authorities closed the file

Yantemur said that Zaynal Abarakov, the only suspect in the file and the last person Gulistan spoke to, was only asked to testify once. Yantemur emphasized that while no action was taken against the suspects, a lawsuit was filed against Gülistan Doku's older sister, Aygül Doku. Yantemur said: "As a result of all this, the family started a sit-in in front of the courthouse and held a meeting with the governor. The statements of the governor and the prosecutor go in a direction aimed at acquitting the suspects. The Governor even told Gulistan's mother to do whatever she wanted when she said she wouldn't lift her sit-in until truth and justice are done. The authorities ignored this disappearance and in fact closed the case."

Yantemur said that "every sentence said by members of the government has turned into an act of violence against women in our country. The laws have not been implemented effectively for years."

Yantemur reminded that the government turned a deaf ear to the calls for an emergency action plan against male violence and withdrew from the important Istanbul Convention. "As women, we will expand the organized women's struggle against all these policies of annihilation. We had stated that we would follow this case from the first day of Gülistan's disappearance and that we would not give up until she was found. We repeat this promise here. We will not allow you to acquit and protect the responsible of the disappearance. Long live our women's struggle."



Two femicides in Niğde and Amed

ANF | 1 OCTOBER 2022

A man called Mehmet Büyüksaraç killed his wife, Kiraz Büyüksaraç, in Niğde. The couple was in the process of divorce.

Kiraz Büyüksaraç was taken to Ömer Halisdemir University Training and Research Hospital by ambulance, but could not be saved despite the prompt intervention. Mehmet Büyüksaraç, who was taken into custody after the incident, was sent to prison.

In Amed's Yenişehir district, a man called Emrah Başeğmez killed 27-year-old Esmâ Başeğmez, 3 months ago, after the couple divorced. He was finally taken into custody and sent to prison.



Three more women killed in Turkey

ANF | 3 OCTOBER 2022

Şengül Okay, a resident of the Bağlar district of Amed (Diyarbakır), was subjected to systematic violence by her husband whom she had been married to for 15 years.

Şengül Oktay used to visit a women's shelter due to violence yet was "convinced" by her family members each time and sent back to the man who subjected her to violence.

The woman died under suspicious circumstances on Sunday, October 2. Her husband disappeared following her death.

The woman was buried in the Silvan district after her body was taken from the Forensic Medicine Institute (ATK).

Isparta

Another woman was murdered in Isparta city. Sezer Işık, who lives in the Büyükgökçeli village, injured his wife Yadiğar Işık with a gun.

The seriously injured woman was taken to a hospital yet could not be saved.

Her husband ran away after the murder and has not been caught yet.

Ankara

In Ankara, judge Serkan Tuzun, who works as the Head of the Department of Supporting Services at the Ministry of Justice, murdered his wife.

It is reported that the judge used a gun to murder his wife during the incident that took place in the judges' lodging in the central district of Etimesgut. He committed suicide after the murder.

The bodies of the judge and his wife were taken to the Forensic Medicine Institute for an autopsy. An investigation into the incident has been launched.

It is further reported that the judge was a former chair of the "Alperen Ocakları", a far-right paramilitary group supported by the security forces.

At least 246 women killed in 9 months

At least one woman is murdered per day in Turkey. According to the "We Will Stop Femicides Platform", at least 26 women were murdered, and 19 women died suspiciously in September. There were 33 femicides and 15 suspicious female deaths in August. Monthly reports by the platform reveal that at least 246 women have been murdered since the beginning of the year. The number of cases is believed to be higher due to dozens of suspicious deaths.



Jineology activist and academic Nagihan Akarsel killed in armed attack in Sulaymaniyah

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 4 OCTOBER 2022

Activist and academic Nagihan Akarsel, editor of the Jineology magazine and member of Jineology Research Center, was targeted by an armed attack in Sulaymaniyah at around 10 am local time on Tuesday morning.

While Akarsel lost her life at the scene, her body was taken to Sulaymaniyah Forensic Medicine Institute.

A figure well-known for her work on women, Jineology, and women's journalism, Akarsel was born in the Turkish province of Konya and had been living in Sulaymaniyah for many years as part of her Jineology studies. In the scope of a project, the journalist-writer was working for the establishment of a Jineology Academy and a Library of Kurdistan Women in Sulaymaniyah.

Jineology (Jineolojî), translated as "science of women," is a central component of the Kurdish liberation movement and plays a major role at the institutional level, especially in the Rojava revolution. Jineolojî

views women's individual freedom as an indispensable prerequisite for the freedom of society as a whole and focuses on the study of society, history, religion, epistemology and many other areas from a woman's perspective. In doing so, Jineolojî does not limit itself to academic education, but builds centers, conducts seminars, and actively works to empower women at all levels. Jineolojî's research areas were established in northern and eastern Syria in 2015. Meanwhile, Jineolojî has spread to every institution and every aspect of life in northern and eastern Syria, from academies to schools and universities, the defense forces, and into grassroots councils and their commissions.



Men kill at least 26 women in Turkey in September

ANF | 7 OCTOBER 2022

According to the news compiled by Bianet from local and national newspapers, news websites and news agencies, men killed at least 26 women and two children in September.

In September, the deaths of at least 13 women (Antalya (1), Balıkesir (1), Bursa (1), Çorum (1), İstanbul (1), İzmir (1), Malatya (1), Ordu (1), Sivas(1), Zonguldak (4)) were reported in the press as "suspicious."

Men inflicted violence on at least 71 women, abused at least 12 girls and boys, harassed at least 16 women, and forced two women to do sex work. Men raped three women in September.

In Hatay, a child from Syria was killed. The killers could not be identified. In Ankara, the death of a child was reported in the press as "suspicious."

In Mersin, a woman from Syria was driven to suicide by her husband.

Femicide

In September, men killed at least 26 women. This figure was also 26 in the same month last year. Men also killed three men who were together with the women they killed. One of the women was from Estonia, and one was from Russia.

At least three women were killed despite protection orders.

Violence against women increasing

In the first nine months of 2022, men killed 248 women, harassed 118 women, abused 187 children, inflicted violence on 605 women, and raped 24 women. Men forced at least 372 women to do sex work. In the first nine months of 2022, deaths of at least 145 women were reported as "suspicious" in the press. Men killed 32 women in the first nine months of the year.

In the first nine months of 2021, men killed 234 women, harassed 116 women, abused 11 children, and raped 78 women. Men forced at least 507 women to do sex work, inflicted violence on and injured at least 617 women. In the first nine months of 2021, deaths of at least 170 women were reported as “suspicious” in the press. Men killed at least 25 children.



Ecocide

Water of Iraq and the Kurdistan region reduced by 80 percent due to the blocking of Turkey and Iran

ANF | 3 OCTOBER 2022

Ako Reşid, Head of the Department of Civilization at Komar University, spoke to Rojnews about the reduction of water supply to the Kurdistan Region and Iraq by Turkey and Iran.

“The main reason for the decrease in water levels in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region is the construction of dams on Iraq’s water resources by neighbouring countries. Because 70 % of our water resources come from outside of our borders. Environmental pollution and improper use of water are among the reasons for the decrease in the water level,” Ako Reşid said.

“Due to the blocking of the neighbouring countries, the waters in the Kurdistan Region have decreased by 80 percent. There is also a significant decrease in underground water. Previously, water could be extracted from wells at a 200-meter depth before, but only at a 750-meter-depth now,” Ako Reşid added.



Cholera outbreak in Northern and Eastern Syria continues to spread

ANF | 2 OCTOBER 2022

The cholera outbreak in Northern and Eastern Syria has continued to spread, according to the health authorities of the region.

There have been 5,900 suspected cases, 98 confirmed cases, 36 deaths so far. Testing capacity is limited. Therefore, cases are under-reported, said the health authorities.

According to RIC (Rojava Information Centre), in Raqqa, the Health Committee states it has taken measures such as designating a specific medical center for treatment and distributing awareness-raising brochures, yet says it lacks equipment to carry out proper testing, thus is reliant on 2 private sector labs.

In Deir ez-Zor, Health Committee co-chair Muhammad al-Salem said, “lack of humanitarian aid and capabilities such as medicines and medical supplies, impede rapid treatment.” Rapid treatment greatly reduces the likelihood that contraction of the illness will lead to death.

Infections have recently been announced for the first time in SNA-occupied Afrin as well as IDP camps in Idlib.

Actors outside the Autonomous Administration have offered support, but this is unlikely to remedy the root causes of the outbreak: Contamination in the Euphrates due to sewage discharge and the low levels of the river since Turkey greatly restricted flow in January 2021; Water from Alouk station is cut off by Turkish-backed SNA, whilst an estimated more than 200 water treatment plants are out of action due to low water levels in the Euphrates, meaning delivery of clean water across NES is hampered; Many people therefore use untreated Euphrates water for drinking/irrigating, with no other options in situations of acute water shortage.

UNICEF claims that it “continues to invest in preventive measures and scale up a rapid response to curb the spread of the disease and limit its negative impacts”, whilst a French government delegation has visited Kurdish Red Crescent to give new medical supplies and 3 ambulances.



Human Rights Violations

Police in Mersin take 9 more people into custody

ANF | MERSIN | 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

As part of the investigation carried out by the Mersin Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on the grounds of “terrorist propaganda“, many addresses were raided. Within the scope of the new political police operation, 9 people were taken into custody following raids on the houses of 10 people for whom detention warrants were issued.

Nine people, including Neslihan Oruç, Devrim Aydın, Bayram Çağlar, Selim Ekici, Arif Adalı and Abdülhadi Bozan, were taken into custody and brought to Mersin Police Department.



Resistance continues in Rojhilat and Iran

ANF | 1 OCTOBER 2022

Protests have been taking place across Rojhilat and Iran for two weeks against the murder of a young Kurdish woman, Mahsa (Jina) Amini. On the 14th day of massive demonstrations, security forces heavily suppressed protestors in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchistan.

Iranian forces carried out a massacre yesterday in the city of Zahidan, the centre of Sistan and the centre of Baluchistan province. Iranian officials claimed that 19 people were killed, but according to Baloch activists, 36 protesters were killed and 58 injured.

Iranian forces opened fire on protestors after several of them went to a police station in Zahidan and chanted slogans against a police officer who attacked a teenager.

Iran's highest military body instructed the commanders of armed forces in all provinces to "severely confront" protesters who took to the streets following the death of Amini, Amnesty International said on Friday after obtaining leaked official documents which revealed the authorities' plan to systematically crush the protests at any cost.

The protests in Sine continued with the support of women and youth as in the previous days. Iranian forces resorted to violence against the demonstrators in many places.

Protests were also held in many cities of Saqiz, Kirmanshah, Urmia and East Kurdistan.

Kawe Zezayi, a Kurdish football player of Traktursaz club in Gilan Xerib in Tabriz, was detained on the grounds that he supported the protests.

Demonstrations continued last night in different parts of Tehran, which has been in chaos since the murder of Amini.

In the meantime, the dead body of a 17-year-old woman named Nika Şakiremi, who allegedly disappeared on the 10th day of the protests, was found in Tehran.

Demonstrations continued in Khuzestan, Tabriz, Mashhad, Kirman, Faris and many other cities and towns.

A general strike is being held today following the calls of parties, organizations and activists in East Kurdistan and Iran.

Seven people sent to prison in Mersin

ANF | MERSIN | 2 OCTOBER 2022

Six people, who were taken into custody after the action carried out on September 26 at the Tece Police House in the neighbourhood of Deniz in Mersin, were transferred to the courthouse after their procedures at the police station. After their statements, the prosecutor referred 6 people to Mersin Criminal Judgeship of Peace with a request for their arrest. Five people were sent to prison.

Abdullah Kızılkaya, Abdülhadi Bozan, Neslihan Oruç, Devrim Aydın, Bayram Çağlar, Selim Ekici, Veysi Örünç, Arif Adalı and Ergin Altuntaş, who were taken into custody in a different political police operation carried out by the Mersin Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, were also referred to the courthouse. Neslihan Oruç, Devrim Aydın, Bayram Çağlar, Selim Ekici, Arif Adalı and Ergin Altuntaş were referred to the judge with the request of being put under judicial control, and Abdullah Kızılkaya, Abdülhadi Bozan and Veysi Örünç with a request for arrest.

Abdullah Kızılkaya and Abdülhadi Bozan were arrested on charges of being “members of a terrorist organization”.



Annual inflation in Turkey rises to 186 per cent

ANF | 3 OCTOBER 2022

Inflation in Turkey continues to rise at a furious pace due to war spending and neoliberal economic policies of the AKP/MHP regime. The monthly inflation rate has increased by 5.3 per cent and the annual inflation rate by 186.27 per cent. This is according to the inflation research group ENAG. The consumer price index increased by 101.63 per cent in 2022 alone.

Health care costs rise by 26 per cent per month

ENAG found that of the twelve expenditure groups studied, monthly inflation declined only in transport, while the highest monthly increase of 26.05 per cent was recorded in the health category. Housing prices increased by 8.57 per cent and clothing and footwear prices by 7.79 per cent per month.

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), which is suspected of following the regime's orders and issuing corresponding figures, spoke of 3.08 per cent inflation on a monthly basis and 83.45 per cent on an annual basis.



Deposed co-mayor of Yenişehir sentenced to six years and three months in prison

ANF | AMED | 4 OCTOBER 2022

In the local elections of 31 March 2019, Kurdish politician Belgin Diken was elected co-mayor of the Yenişehir district of Amed (Diyarbakır) for the HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party).

On 13 November 2019, she was removed from office and replaced by a trustee, district governor Murat Beşikçi, due to an investigation she faced for alleged "membership in an armed terrorist organisation".

The final judgment in the trial of the Kurdish politician was announced during a hearing on Tuesday, which was attended by Diken herself and her lawyer, Feride Laçın.

While the prosecutor reiterated his opinion seeking a prison sentence, lawyer Feride Laçın submitted a written defense to the court board, in which she defined the acts and political activities of her client as falling within the scope of freedom of thought and expression.

The court sentenced Belgin Diken to six years and three months in prison and ruled for the continuation of the judicial measure imposed on her.



Censorship law approved in Turkish Assembly

MEDYANEWS | 5 OCTOBER 2022

Turkey's parliament on Tuesday approved the first two articles in an anti-disinformation law that critics say will be used to suppress critical journalism and free speech, Duvar news website reported.

The bill, tabled by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) alliance, has passed two parliamentary commissions and was brought for discussion in parliament this week.

Among other regulations that the government says are designed to tackle the spread of false information, the core of the draft law comprises articles on the use of press cards and on prison sentences.

The second article states that individuals deemed to have published information on Turkey's security, public order and general health "in order to create anxiety, fear or panic among the public" will face a 1–3-year prison sentence.

If passed, the draft law will also bring new regulation making it an offense to publish content that is deemed to “constitute a crime against the activities and personnel” of Turkey’s intelligence agency.

Opposition parties took the podium to oppose the law, which many see as a new attack on freedom of the press and expression, reported Diken.

Journalists’ associations and unions also slammed the draft law that would criminalise the spread of material the government considers to be disinformation, reported Euronews.

The bill will allow the government to tighten its control over the digital media by channelling more resources to pro-government online media and expanding censorship, said Sabancı University political scientist Berk Esen in a commentary.

Adding that the new law could be used to narrow public debate on politically sensitive issues such as migration and the economic crisis, Esen noted that the atmosphere generated by such a law would lead to self-censorship.

Turkey is ranked 149th among 180 countries in the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 2022 World Press Freedom Index.

As of 28 September 2022, 39 arrested journalists in Turkey still continue to work behind bars.



Armed attack on HDP building in Karlıova, Bingöl

ANF | BINGÖL | 5 OCTOBER 2022

On Wednesday night, an armed attack was carried out on the building of the district association of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in the northern Kurdish town of Karlıova in the province of Bingöl. At around two o'clock, two shots were fired at the building. The damage was noticed in the morning. Party members are protesting in front of the building, waiting for clarification. According to the Mezopotamya news agency, one person has been detained in connection with the attack.

The co-chair of the HDP district association, Yılmaz Bülbül, spoke of two shots being fired at the building and said he would press charges. Bingöl is a region where counter-guerrilla and paramilitary forces are particularly active. Attacks, threats of murder and abduction by these forces are not uncommon. Attacks like this represent not only symbolic actions, but serious death threats.

This is also proved by attacks in other regions. On 28 December 2021, the Turkish fascist Muhammed Eren Sütçü tried to carry out a massacre in the district association of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in Istanbul’s Bahçelievler district. He was released from prison in September. Previously, on 17 June 2021, HDP member Deniz Poyraz had been shot with six bullets by Turkish fascist Onur Gencer at the HDP headquarters in Izmir. On that day, a board meeting with about forty people was supposed to

take place in the building, but was postponed at short notice. The HDP therefore spoke early on of a massacre that was set to take place there. In the meantime, it has been proven that Gencer was trained by the parastatal Turkish mercenary group SADAT in Syria. The HDP building is permanently monitored and controlled by the police. Therefore, many doubt that the heavily armed perpetrator could have acted without the support of the state.



Iraq imposes gasoline and diesel embargo on Shengal

ANF | SHENGAL | 5 OCTOBER 2022

The invading Turkish state, the KDP and Iraq are using various tools and methods to depopulate the Yazidi town of Shengal (Sinjar) in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Apart from the attacks, prevention of the return of refugees, and threats continue. Most recently, a gasoline embargo has been imposed on Shengal. After a decision taken by the Iraqi intelligence and the National Security, the sale of diesel, gasoline and gas to Shengal was banned.

There has been a gasoline, diesel and gas crisis in Shengal since the beginning of last summer. The Iraqi government has been implementing an oil embargo on Shengal with the help of the intelligence service. All private gas stations in Shengal have been closed. Suppliers have been threatened not to sell diesel, petrol and gas to Shengal. The Iraqi authorities are attempting to force the town's residents to migrate and to evacuate the city. However, despite all the obstacles, pressures and embargoes, Shengal municipalities continue to provide public services. They are using generators, water tanks and ambulances to combat the embargoes.

Shengal Municipality Member Berekat Kasım spoke to Rojnews about the oil embargo.

Kasım said that municipal vehicles do not work when there is a lack of diesel and petrol, which also causes water tanks to stop functioning. "Sometimes garbage cannot be collected on the streets because the municipal vehicles are not working, which is a threat to public health. Our work is blocked due to the embargo imposed on us. We call on the Iraqi government to lift this embargo against Shengal," he stated.

The generator manager of the neighbourhood, Kuti Şengali from Xanesor (Khanasor), called on the Iraqi government to lift the embargo. "The intelligence said that they have decided not to supply gasoline to us. This gasoline embargo affects us negatively. Despite all threats, we will continue our work," he said.



Case brought against Emine Şenyaşar to silence her quest for justice says lawyer

MEDYANEWS | URFA | 6 OCTOBER 2022

A grieving Kurdish mother whose husband and two sons were murdered, allegedly by bodyguards of a Turkish MP of the ruling AKP party has been hauled before a court for “insulting” the said MP and the Turkish Interior Minister during her campaign for justice.

While there have been hundreds of extreme examples of injustices against the Kurds, the case of Kurdish mother, Emine Şenyaşar has attained a particular status among human rights groups as a breathtakingly cruel example of a blatant miscarriage of justice.

Emine Şenyaşar lost her husband and two of her sons in a vicious attack by people connected to the Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP Halil Yıldız on 14 June 2018. Her husband and one of her sons were then killed while in hospital receiving treatment for injuries they sustained in the initial attack.

In the four years since then, she and her son Ferit have been campaigning for justice for their family, including the release of the relevant CCTV videos from the hospital, and since March 2021 they have been holding a daily Justice Vigil outside Urfa Judicial Buildings.

One of Şenyaşar’s two remaining sons was sentenced to 37 years imprisonment for his part in the events in which he defended his family.

Emine Şenyaşar was supported by a number of lawyers as well as political parties and NGOs at her first hearing at Urfa Primary Penal Court where she was charged with “insulting” the MP and the Interior Minister.

During the questioning, Şenyaşar began to talk about the massacre of her family, but the court stopped her and told her to restrict herself to only answering questions about the “insults”. She then said she had insulted the people who killed her family, but that she could not remember the words, and when she was asked directly whether she had insulted Turkish interior minister, Süleyman Soylu and the MP whose entourage allegedly killed her family, Halil Yıldız. She said, “I have never met them, to insult them.”

The official court interpreter also mistranslated her from her mother tongue Kurdish, reported Politika Haber.

A lawyer for the family, Mehmet Ali Aslan, explained about the killings and the family’s quest for justice, saying that there were attempts to hinder this quest with inquiries: “Fifteen separate inquiries have been set up. The mother is charged with insulting Soylu [Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu] and Yıldız from the AKP. It is not clear who she was talking about.” He also said the recordings of her speaking had only been partially translated from Kurdish into Turkish, demanding a full translation, which the court refused.

After the recess, the presiding judge then ordered a court usher to record the hearing on his personal phone, saying that the court video recording equipment was faulty, to strong objections by Şenyaşar's lawyers.

After the prosecution's summing up, Şenyaşar was given the floor. She told the court to give her whatever penalty they wished, but to "release the hospital videos and punish the people who murdered my family".

Another lawyer for the family, Hidayet Enmek also called for full disclosure of the video tapes, as well as a transcript of the interview of the MP Halil Yıldız in connection with the events at the hospital. The court refused these requests. Enmek also went on to say that the indictment against Şenyaşar was illegal, saying, "It has been drawn up with the sole intent of silencing the family's quest for justice."

Şenyaşar's son wished to provide a witness statement to the court, but the bench refused, and the hearing was adjourned to February 2023.

Following the hearing, the family shared a photo of Şenyaşar in the dock saying, "It has become an offence to want to expose a crime. Mother in the dock."



Journalist Çetin Kurşun sentenced to 13 years in prison in Mardin

ANF | MARDIN | 6 OCTOBER 2022

Kurdish journalist Çetin Kurşun has been sentenced to 13 years and three months imprisonment in Mardin. The sentence was handed down in the retrial of Kurşun for "membership in a terrorist organization" and "spreading propaganda". The journalist and his legal counsel did not attend the trial before the 2nd Heavy Penal Court. After the prosecution's closing argument and a break for deliberations, the court announced the verdict and issued an arrest warrant.

Çetin Kurşun was an employee of the Kurdish newspaper Azadiya Welat, which was closed by an emergency decree, and was arrested on 6 February 2018 by masked special forces who drove in armoured vehicles in front of his flat in the Kiziltepe district. The door of the flat was broken open with a battering ram and the inventory of the flat was destroyed. Subsequently, his brother Sedat Kurşun was also arrested at his workplace. The journalist was released from prison on 30 May 2019. The trial for alleged "membership of a terrorist organization" was merged on appeal with another charge of "terrorist propaganda". Kurşun was accused of running the website Ciwannews.



DFG: 72 media workers behind bars in Turkey

ANF | AMED | 7 OCTOBER 2022

The Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG) has published its report on violations of journalists' rights by the Turkish state for the month of September. In the report, the association first recalls the murder of journalist and academic Nagihan Akarsel in Sulaymaniyah on Tuesday. Akarsel was a member of the Academy for Jineology and an editor for the journal of the same name. The Turkish secret service MIT is suspected to be behind the attack.

“This is bad news for all journalists and humanity as a whole. As colleagues who know Akarsel’s journalism and her struggle, we condemn this attack. We know that this attack on Akarsel, who has worked as a journalist for many years and researched Jineology, women’s science, was aimed at her search for truth. We say again to those who murdered Nagihan Akarsel that no massacre can break the pen of truth. Whether in our newsrooms or on the streets, we make it clear that we will continue their struggle for truth and their journalistic work. Nagihan Akarsel is a martyr of the free press and she will be a light to us in the fight for truth,” said the DFG.

“Court murdered Ape Musa one more time”

The DFG also condemned the fact that the trial for the murder of Kurdish intellectual and author Musa Anter on 20 September 1992 is considered time-barred by the Turkish judiciary. “On the 30th anniversary of the murder of our teacher Apê Musa (Musa Anter), the judiciary acquitted his killers. The court, which had not taken any steps to prosecute the perpetrators and the forces behind them in the previous hearing and had deliberately set the trial date for 21 September, a day after the 30th anniversary of the death, stopped the proceedings on the grounds of the statute of limitations. The court, which did not grant the requests to consider the murder as a 'crime against humanity', rewarded the perpetrators with this decision and murdered Musa Anter one more time in collaboration with the sinister forces of the 1990s. We as followers of Apê Musa condemn the verdict and declare that we will continue to pursue this case.”

“Press wanted silenced by censorship law”

The DFG also criticised the “Law for the Prevention of Disinformation“, calling it a “censorship law”. The legislation, which is intended to de facto silence the press, was introduced to parliament by the AKP/MHP regime on 27 May and includes prison sentences of up to three years for, among other things, “intentionally spreading disinformation and fake news”. The DFG stated: “As media workers, we know that this law aims to extend censorship to the whole of society. We warn that this law will exacerbate violations of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and digital media platforms that provide an alternative in the field of communication will be placed under government control.

We reject this law in the clearest terms and emphasise once again the importance of solidarity and the common struggle for its immediate abolition. This law, which aims to suppress social opposition, freedom of the press, freedom of expression and freedom of thought, is a comprehensive censorship law in all areas. Even before the law is passed, we will witness how this law will manifest itself. While we produce reports on freedom of thought, freedom of expression and freedom of the press every month, the fact that even

these reports are being blocked clearly shows the point journalism has reached or been brought to in Turkey. We call on everyone to unite to fight for the withdrawal of the draft law, the first two articles of which have already been adopted in the General Assembly of Parliament.”

Imprisoned journalists

In the report, the DFG also referred to the situation of the imprisoned journalists, pointing in particular to the prisoners' warning hunger strike: “Safiye Alağaç, Neşe Toprak, Remziye Temel and Elif Üngür, who are among the 16 journalists arrested on 8 June during an operation in Diyarbakır, went on a hunger strike to protest against surveillance, body search and the prevention of treatment of sick prisoners. They went on hunger strike to protest against surveillance, strip search, prevention of treatment of sick prisoners and restriction of activities in Diyarbakır Women's Prison. The journalists, together with other prisoners, went on a five-day hunger strike 'as a warning against increasing rights violations'.”

The DFG also commemorated Gurbetelli Ersöz, whose anniversary of death on 7 October 1997 is marked in Kurdistan as Kurdish Women Journalists Day. The studied chemist and journalist was editor-in-chief of the pro-Kurdish newspaper Özgür Gündem. After being imprisoned and tortured in Turkey, she joined the guerrillas in 1994. In 1997, she was martyred in the “southern war”.

Arrests, detension and internet bans

Regarding the situation of journalists in Turkey, the DFG report stated that in September, five journalists were arrested, two were detained, 12 were ill-treated, seven were threatened, four were investigated, seven were charged, 15 were prevented from reporting, and six suffered other rights violations in prison. In addition, nine journalists were sentenced to years in prison, 72 are on trial and 72 remain in prison. The Broadcasting Authority imposed fines and broadcast bans on three broadcasters, blocked five programmes, shut down three websites, blocked access to 137 news items and banned the content of 18 social media accounts.



13 Kurdish students detained in İzmir and Manisa

ANF | 7 OCTOBER 2022

A wave of arrests against Kurdish students is rolling on in western Turkey. At least 13 students were detained on Friday morning in raids in the provinces of İzmir and Manisa, apparently on suspicion of “terrorism”. Units of the Turkish police's counter-terrorism department stormed several flats at the same time and carried out meticulous searches. Information on the background has not yet been given.

The detainees were first taken to a state hospital for compulsory health checks before being taken to the police headquarters in Konak, İzmir. According to Turkish media reports, the students are accused of links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Among those in custody are four women.



Opinion

Remembering with anger and hope Şehîd Nagihan Akarsel

ANF | 6 OCTOBER 2022

This text has been written by “Fighting Together” Feminist Organizing for Self-Determination and Democratic Autonomy and the Jineoloji Committee Germany to pay tribute to Nagihan Akarsel.

“I have used learning to express anger for growth.” Audre Lorde has written about the importance of anger in the face of racist attacks against her as a lesbian, black, woman.

It is important to give expression to anger, to grow in the process, and to take action. Grief also needs expression and we must not dig it in. We are angry and saddened by the murder of Nagihan Akarsel. She was a fighter in the construction of free life and the collectively developed scientific basis for it with the Jineoloji. For us she was like a flower, she was a Kurdish woman and a freedom fighter.

With her person, a pioneer of the organization of women and the intellectual basis of the movement for radical freedom thinking and research from a women’s perspective was targeted. Nagihan Akarsel was a pioneer of Jineoloji science and the women’s revolution. In times of upheaval, the comprehensive global crisis that we all feel and that sometimes makes us feel crushed and hopeless, those people, especially those women, who work with clarity and determination to build the way to a liberated form of society, are a threat to the existing system.

The woman who puts life and caring social as well as ecological relationships at the center, who liberates all genders from patriarchy, who does without the state, without militarism, and without divisions and hierarchies between people in their diversities or between people and all other forms of life. Nagihan Akarsel has done research and established research centers for these social changes, she has done educational work. She helped establish the Jineoloji Journal and served on its editorial board. She has spent many years in Turkish prisons for her critical research and reporting as a journalist and women’s fighter. Most recently, she established a women’s library with an archive and research center in Silêmanî, where she was murdered in the morning on her doorstep, and continued to build the Jineoloji.

She was on her way to the women’s library on foot when she was deliberately shot. Nagihan Akarsel was - together with many and with the Kurdish Freedom Movement - in search of another science for a free, just life and has developed and spread it concretely with the Jineoloji in the last more than 10 years. The profound global crisis – of militarism, imperial wars, climate, hunger and poverty, of loneliness, of the destruction of nature and the social basis of life, also of hatred of women and other oppressed genders, femicides and increasing fascism – is, with the inevitable upheavals, also a chance for free, democratic and gender liberating alternatives. This requires to develop the power for it very strongly with knowledge and

organizing, because the dictatorial, imperialist side is prepared. Science is also in crisis. The entanglements of science with colonialism, male domination, capitalist growth dogma, subjugation of nature, military and state are extensive and deep.

The problem is already in the foundations for finding truth, in epistemologies and methods, in the divisions, claims of control and universality, in the model of thinking that makes the world, nature, society an object. On this basis, no good solutions can be found for a dignified, just life and the preservation of life, yet most research contributes to the perpetuation of the existing disaster. Therefore, Nagihan Akarsel was convinced science on new foundations is needed.

There is a need for a paradigm shift and for research that, together with a democratic society, reveals again and recreates the knowledge that strengthens and supports selfdetermination as social coexistence in a community of diversity and in ethical-political self self-responsibility. A science that seeks knowledge in relationships, in complex connections and on an ethical basis, rather than in divisions and objectifications - not with distance, control, distant from life, emptied of life and destructive. Nagihan Akarsel has lived connections on many levels and has been a pioneer in laying the foundations for a science of relationships for free, political-moral, democratic society.

The project of building a science from the experiences of the Kurdish Freedom Movement and against the background of the history of Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilization, this project Jineolojî, which became central in the life of Nagihan Akarsel, has also reached and inspired us in Europe. For some years now, the scientific approach of Jineolojî, its methods, concepts, theories and analyses, has become an important point of reference or even the basis of their own way of working for many leftists, democrats, internationalists and feminists in Europe and other parts of the world, also for the Feminist Organizing "Fighting Together".

At a large international conference in 2014 and at many events since then, Jineolojî has been made known and discussed in Europe. Since 2017, numerous multi-day educational camps with a total of many hundreds of participants have taken place in various countries and regions of Europe, including five in Germany so far, with more to come. Two conferences, "Gender Studies meets Jineolojî" have been held with about 100 participants each. The next one will follow in 2023. Jineolojî is integrated into many other educational programs, including at German universities.

The Emden/Leer University of Applied Sciences has maintained a university partnership with the Jineolojî department of the Rojava University in the self-governing region of Northern and Eastern Syria for more than four years. The University of Bremen has made Jineolojî part of a transnational summer university, and other universities have had guest lecturers from the Jineolojî. Some of those who today in Europe refer to, work with and carry forward the Jineolojî have also become acquainted with it in direct contact with Nagihan Akarsel, among other occasions, at the Jineolojî Academy in Northern and Eastern Syria, at a meeting with the international peace delegation to Başur/Southern Kurdistan in June 2021 or in connection with the building-up of the women's library in Silêmanî.

The murder of Nagihan Akarsel continues the series of murders of pioneers of women's liberation from the Kurdish movement and other movements worldwide. The Community of Women of Kurdistan (KJK) stated, "This shows that we are facing a global counterattack of capitalist misogyny that seeks to prevent our century from becoming an era of women's liberation." (10/4/2022) Against these femicides of

women's revolution activists, as against all femicides and practices of misogyny and anti-feminist efforts to maintain dominant male power, we must put our anger, solidarity and strong organizing for women's revolution.

On the occasion of the femicide of Jina Mahsa Amini in Iran, the Kurdish Women's Office for Peace Cenî writes: "Today, when [the shout of] 'Jin Jiyan Azadî' makes the streets tremble and women all over the world gather in the streets in solidarity, it is another common step of the revolution. By transforming the pain and anger from mere emotions into a revolutionary force that drives us forward, we ensure that these uprisings live on and on." (9/29/2022)

With the deadly attack on women's rights activist Nagihan Akarsel in Silêmanî, all those who have been on the streets worldwide for weeks with the slogan 'Jin-Jiyan-Azadî' are also under attack. This slogan comes from the Kurdish Women's Movement and expresses women's freedom, thinking that Nagihan Akarsel has helped to shape and put into living practice. The uproar that has not subsided since the femicide of Jina Mahsa Amini is now intensified by the protests against the femicide of Nagihan Akarsel. In Southern Kurdistan, where Nagihan Akarsel was murdered, the Turkish military and the Turkish secret service, in the interests of NATO, are waging an imperialist war of extermination against Kurds and their hopes for liberation, the PKK guerrillas.

In the mountains, deadly chemical weapons, forbidden by international law, are used en masse against guerrilla positions. Forests are destroyed and people are forced to leave their villages. Targeted drone killings are carried out against leaders of the Kurdish movement. Bombings are directed against places of self-organization such as the Ezidis in Şengal and the Mexmur refugee camp. In the city of Silêmanî, the murder of Nagihan Akarsel is the fifth killing of Kurdish activists in just one year. Most recently, a historian who worked with the Kurdish grassroots movement Tevgera Azadî was also shot on his doorstep at the end of August. The Turkish intelligence service MIT is suspected of being behind all of these murders. The fact that the MIT can monitor, investigate and murder with impunity in the territory of the Kurdish Regional Government in northern Iraq, that at least 60 Turkish military bases exist there and that bombings, drone assassinations and poison gas attacks can take place continuously, is made possible by the cooperation of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), which is dominated by the KDP and de facto controlled by the Barzani family, but also by the USA, without whose approval nothing can happen in northern Iraq.

The KDP sides with the anti-Kurdish, anti-democratic, anti-women and imperialist policies of the Turkish state and strengthens its war by supporting military measures such as military intelligence, road building, but also ambushes. Murders like the one in Silêmanî are possible because the MIT can act freely everywhere. Even the second KRG ruling party, the PUK, which governs Silêmanî, apparently no longer opposes this. After the femicide of Nagihan Akarsel, the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) declared that, in addition to the PUK, the Iraqi central government, NATO, the EU and the Council of Europe are also called upon to stop the extrajudicial executions by Turkey, with which a partnership is being conducted.

A "feminist foreign policy" as claimed by the Green Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, among others, becomes more than a farce in the face of such a partnership with this state, which has withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women, which motivates murderers of women in its own country with impunity, and which is most likely responsible for the secret service execution of Nagihan Akarsel. Let us never again silence the uprising with the cry of "Jin-Jiyan-Azadî" and come to rest. Let us make Ji-

neoloji and women's liberation the basis of our research, thinking, practice, future society and the world of democratic confederalism. Nagihan Akarsel lives on in us. Şehîd namirin!



Interview

Kalkan: Everyone must take responsibility and struggle

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 OCTOBER 2022

An interview with Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council, on Medya Haber TV about important news with regards to the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan, the 25th anniversary of his imprisonment, the continuing uprising in East Kurdistan and Iran, the importance of the war in the South Kurdish Medya Defense Zones and the likely developments following the recent guerrilla attack in the city of Mersin.

Let's first talk about the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan. In the last weeks there have been serious developments, especially in the international arena. How should we evaluate the constantly increasing struggle against isolation?

I would like to respectfully salute the historic İmralı resistance and Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. Recently, there have been certain developments in the struggle, but the İmralı system of isolation and torture itself has not changed. The torture and oppression continue. No legal principles have any validity there. Those who created this system do not even abide by their own laws. Although they promised to do so, the practices in İmralı have clearly shown how faithful, reliable and credible the current AKP administration is. However, it has become clear that it is not only the Turkish state and the AKP-MHP fascist administration that do not abide by the law in İmralı, but also the European governments that try to lecture everyone on democracy and law. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe was supposed to make a statement by the end of September on how to implement the ECHR's ruling on Leader Apo. Turkey had allegedly been asked for its opinion on this issue, but it simply did not respond. The ECHR brought up the issue of the 'Right to Hope'. They wanted Turkey's opinion on what the Turkish government would do to change the situation on İmralı. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had asked Turkey to change the situation there. But Turkey did not show any interest in the matter and did not even respond properly. The lawyers said that a statement would be made, that the Turkish administration was forced to do so and thus hope was created that the Committee of Ministers would make a statement in September. Therefore, society developed certain expectations. But now, September is over and there is still no explanation. For the past 8 years they have not put their decisions into practice, and now, again, there is no explanation.

What does this show? It actually reveals the reality of the İmralı system. In other words, it shows that there is no such thing as law there, that the law is completely under the control of politics and serves political

interests. This is how the AKP-MHP administration and the European administrations apply law. If the ECHR decision is a legal decision, it is not only the Turkish state that does not comply with it, but also the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. So, basically, no one complies. It is clear that there is no law, no legal process in İmralı. Rather, this is a political hostage system. This hostage system continues to exist and the different actors are doing everything for their political interests. Law is a cover for a system of political hostage-taking. This is very obvious. We really don't know what the ECHR will say about this. There are all these renowned judges. They are not only one or two. They line up, as if a battalion is marching, announce their verdicts, claim that they are delivering justice, and everyone thinks, hopes and expects this, but then there is nothing.

What does this legal institution think about those who do not implement its decisions? Will it take a decision, or is it just for show? Do its decisions have absolutely no applicability? Is it a game, a procedure, in fact a method of politics, a way of carrying on business in line with their own interests? 8 to 9 years have passed, but still the ECHR does not monitor the non-implementation of its own judgment. If it has no power to enforce its decisions, why does it take decisions and thus deceive the public? Why does it make others expect something from it?

This shows that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adjusts everything according to politics. In fact, its relationship with the ECHR is a relationship of subjecting law to the control of politics. This is a serious problem for everyone. Because the law is not only necessary for Leader Apo and the Kurds, it is necessary for everyone. Those who claim they are delivering justice today, but do not implement it, may one day come to need the law themselves. There is clearly a game being played here. Lawyers have also made many statements recently and created hope and expectations. Now they must address this situation. There must be a way, a method of struggle against this. Why does the ECHR take such a decision? If it does, then how will its decision be implemented? These decisions must be implemented so that they have value. If not, then what is the value of that decision? It only means stalling and deceit. This is exactly what is happening. All this constitutes a very serious situation.

It is necessary to fight, and a struggle is being waged in deed: More than 2000 lawyers have applied to visit İmralı. Some of them have been waiting for 6 months, others for 3 months. Lawyers, intellectuals, artists, scientists, writers from all over the world are applying to go to İmralı. They want to meet Leader Apo. They want to discuss with him and benefit from his thoughts. And they also want to convey their own thoughts to him, but there is simply no response from the authorities. The AKP-MHP fascist administration has shut down everything and does not even follow the requirements of its own law. Everywhere, different kinds of laws are being applied. Specific laws are being applied separately to so-and-so prison and so-and-so person. So there is no law, politics and military methods are being used. This is actually a system of deception. Law, justice, democracy, these are all empty words in this case. These forces do not listen to justice and the law. They are the forces of state politics. Under the name of politics, such a situation has been created. The institution of politics, which should be a domain for the implementation of the vital affairs of society, has been turned into this by the power and state system. This has absolutely nothing to do with society. It has been turned into an institution for the destruction of society, not just the destruction of nature. Still, it is necessary to wage more legal struggles before the ECHR and the Committee of Ministers, and to intervene in every way possible.

On the other hand, we need to increase the efforts of lawyers to go to İmralı. We need to be more assertive. Not only lawyers, but also other groups, MPs, artists, writers, everyone in Kurdistan and Turkey

can demand to go to İmralı. It is necessary to create pressure, to break this system of torture, isolation and genocide in İmralı. This is not only about the physical freedom of Leader Apo and about the Kurds gaining their rights, but also about the democratization of Turkey, the Middle East, and the democratization and freedom of humanity. This concerns everyone. There is nothing in the world that the İmralı system does not affect. This needs to be understood well. The struggle against the İmralı system of isolation and torture is everyone's struggle, it is in everyone's interest. It is a struggle for freedom from oppression and exploitation. It is necessary to spread the struggle further, to include more groups of society. We need to intensify actions both in the political and the legal realm. We need to promote actions like the 'Dem Dema Azadiyê' ['The Time of Freedom is Now'] campaign. The anniversary of the International Conspiracy [on October 9, 1998 when Abdullah Öcalan was forced to leave Syria] is approaching. This conspiracy will enter its 25th year. Therefore, it is necessary to demonstrate everywhere against the İmralı torture and isolation system and to call for the physical freedom of Leader Apo. Indeed, only such a struggle can remove this mentality and change the system of oppression. With his stance, his struggle and the values he has created, Leader Apo has created a great basis for this. He has addressed everyone and has shown the truth. We must spread this issue all over the world. We must take this to women, youth, workers and laborers, humanity all over the world. As people become more conscious, they start to struggle and support Leader Apo. This struggle is spreading to all humanity. I would like to salute everyone who is waging this struggle and wish them success.

The International Conspiracy of October 9 is entering its 25th anniversary. How would you describe the current situation of the conspiracy and the struggle against it?

Launched on October 9, 1998, the International Conspiracy, which began with the extraction of Leader Apo from Syria, is now completing its 24th year. It is an attack that has been continuing for a quarter century now. It is very important to understand and evaluate what has happened in this quarter century. This has not been an easy time. Things did not happen by themselves, but there has been a very intense struggle. First of all, I would like to emphasize that the conspiracy was an attack aimed at the annihilation of Leader Apo. Its aim was to destroy the Kurdish existence and freedom in the person of Leader Apo. It was an attack against the free Kurds, against the democratic solution to the Kurdish question. İmralı has since turned into a system of isolation, torture and genocide. There are those forces which are responsible for this, those who made the decisions back then, those who directed and planned the conspiracy. There are those who participated in this attack. There is a wide range of accomplices. A whole circle of criminals. These people should not have acted like that. I would like to invite them to question their own real situation and save themselves from this situation of guilt.

In the past 24 years, a great and sacrificial resistance against the International Conspiracy under the slogan 'You cannot darken our sun' has taken place and thousands and tens of thousands of martyrs have been given by the Kurds in all four parts of Kurdistan and all over the world. For 24 years there has been a historic struggle against the conspiracy. The success of the conspiracy has thus been prevented. I would like to commemorate with respect, love and gratitude the heroic martyrs of the resistance against the conspiracy in the person of Halit Oral and Aynur Artan, who started this struggle. They made October the beginning of the resistance against the conspiracy. They turned October into the month of martyrs. In combination with the day of comrade Bêrîtan's martyrdom on October 25, the women have declared this the month of martyrs. Therefore, everybody needs to approach October on this basis.

First of all, it would be useful to restate what this conspiracy means. The aim of this attack is the annihilation of Leader Apo. There is an aggression taking place here, an attack of annihilation. Who did this? This did not fall from the sky. Those who did it are obvious. The President of the United States decided this. Clinton signed it, his aides said that they prepared it and had the President sign it. All this is documented. Biden is also a member of the Democratic Party. Today, the US administration is led by the Democratic Party. Britain and Israel also took part in this conspiracy. And we know very well how much pressure they put on Russia when Leader Apo went there.

Leader Apo went to Europe to urge the countries there to solve the Kurdish problem democratically and he presented an 8-point plan. This was a situation that could have really changed everything. But what did Europe do? They showed him the way to İmralı and deported him. They declared him persona non grata, especially Germany and France. They didn't even allow him to stay in those countries but drove him all the way to Kenya. Then they gave him to Turkey in 1999 in order to make Turkey dependent on them and to completely exploit the country. Back then, Ecevit said, "We don't understand why the US has given him [Abdullah Öcalan] to us." Therefore, there are forces that decided and carried out the International Conspiracy, carried out February 15 [on February 15, 1999 Abdullah Öcalan was imprisoned in the city of Nairobi], and created the İmralı system. All these forces are responsible for this.

Why did they do that? Why did they attack Leader Apo? He wanted a democratic solution to the Kurdish question. He said that the Kurds are subjected to genocide and that they deserve to live humanely in a democratic environment. What harm did this cause to anybody and why did they jointly take a stance against this demand? Thus, they have committed a great crime. I would like to call on all these forces, especially the USA, to re-evaluate the injustices they have done to the Kurds in the wake of the International Conspiracy, to make a conscientious evaluation, to make a democratic and legal assessment and to free themselves from their guilt. If they don't do this, even if they are called the Democratic Party, even if they pass themselves off as democrats, they won't convince anyone. They have done a lot of harm to the Kurdish people and they must change this. At the very least, they should end this injustice.

The International Conspiracy still continues. The İmralı torture and isolation system shows that the conspiracy continues. There has not been any news from İmralı for 19 months. If someone's finger bleeds somewhere in the world, all hell breaks loose. They join hands and talk about human rights. When it comes to Kurds, anything goes. They play the game of 'I didn't hear, I didn't see, I don't know'. What kind of world is this? So what will they demand from the Kurds? What have they given, so that they can ask for anything from the Kurds? There can't be this much lawlessness. Which world system, justice, law can they even talk about?

The International Conspiracy was directed against the Kurdish question. It was against Kurdish freedom. This is an attack that wants the Kurdish genocide system and mentality to continue. They profit from this. They go against whoever wants to change this. They have created a world system and the world is at war today. There was an International Conspiracy and the Gulf War, which was the second stage of what we call World War 3. The second period started with the conspiracy, then continued with the Twin Towers in 2001 and in 2002/03 with the Afghanistan-Iraq war. Where are we now? The war in Ukraine. The international forces behind the conspiracy prevented the democratic solution to the Kurdish question. They put Leader Apo in a system of isolation and torture, in an İmralı coffin. So what kind of world did they create? They are fighting each other in Ukraine, threatening each other with nuclear weapons. They have brought the world and humanity to the stage of complete destruction, and everyone is in a state of agony.

There is militarization, an arms race similar to the early 1900s. Everyone is in a state of panic about their own security. Those who possess nuclear weapons threaten everyone. How many people have died so far in Ukraine? How and who destroyed all those wheat areas? Humanity has been brought to the point of extinction.

They attacked Leader Apo and called this a fight against terrorism. So what have those who attacked him done in a quarter of a century? What have they achieved? The Middle East, Iraq and Kurdistan are now bloodbaths. But they didn't stop there. Europe is trembling over Ukraine, saying 'I have no security'. The countries there are experiencing anxiety and fear. This is the world they have created. Can they really say that they have created a good world? The situation is very serious. The International Conspiracy should not be taken lightly. It should not be considered as only an issue of the Kurds. Undoubtedly, Turkey is the main dimension, but what this system has created in the Middle East and the world is also obvious. Leader Apo has said that they want to profit from this by creating an endless Turkish-Kurdish war. Isn't this what they have created under the name of the 'Submission Plan' [passed by the Turkish government in October 2014] ? They started with ISIS, they attacked Şengal [Sinjar], Maxmûr, Kobanê, then they joined forces with Turkey, they attacked, and they are still profiting from this. They have caused one of the heaviest wars ever. And they want to continue the conspiracy with this war. They have put Erdoğan in charge of the conspiracy. For 20 years they have been using him. They want him to carry out the conspiracy. He thinks he is a hero, more like a sultan than Mustafa Kemal. He says that he will succeed and that he is doing this in the service of the Turks. Which interests? What service? He is simply serving the international conspirators.

The conspiracy was an attack of annihilation. But the Kurdish people, Leader Apo and the Freedom Movement have prevented this annihilation. İmralı is a system designed to make the prisoner rot, but Leader Apo and the Kurdish people have thwarted this. For the solution to the Kurdish question, for the solution to all the problems created by the power and state system, Leader Apo has created both theoretical ideas and practical political projects. Thus, he has impressed everyone with his ideas. They inspire everyone, especially women, to struggle for freedom.

The October 9th Conspiracy was an attack that envisioned the instant annihilation of Leader Apo. On this basis, the goal was to destroy the PKK within 6 months, to thus successfully carry out the Kurdish genocide. Since then, this annihilation plan has evolved into a 24-year-long fierce struggle. This has unmasked the conspirators and has thus revealed their real aims. Today, the level of awareness of this, the degree of organization and the demand for freedom in all parts of Kurdistan have increased significantly. This has put the issue of the solution to the Kurdish question on the political agenda of the world. This struggle has now become a real alternative.

The international conspirators have established a system, and the alternative to this is the struggle for Democratic Confederalism developed by Leader Apo. It is the Democratic Nation that will solve all existing problems. Against all the powers which produce no solution, Leader Apo has created an alternative system in which everyone can freely organize themselves in the framework of Democratic Autonomy and Democratic Confederalism. In the 25th year of the International Conspiracy, these questions will be discussed even more. The war in Ukraine and all the other issues are secondary. The essence of the matter is Leader Apo's solution of Democratic Modernity as an alternative to the system of capitalist modernity, which brings about all these problems and leads humanity to extinction. So the real issue is the creation of a just, democratic world where people can live equally. Destroying the İmralı torture and isolation system

and ensuring the freedom of Leader Apo will help to promote Democratic Modernity everywhere. Therefore, I would like to wish success to all those who struggle on this basis.

All these issues will undoubtedly be discussed in Iran as well in the coming period. Since they have taken to the streets chanting 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî'. This uprising still continues. What is the message of the people there, both to the Iranian regime and the revolutionary-democratic forces?

I would like to commemorate Jîna Emînî and all the martyrs of the struggle for women's freedom. The recent developments have revealed an important reality. Thus, the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' has become a reality. This has shown what is needed in Iran and therefore in the world. The leadership of our movement has recently published a statement on this issue. The libertarian forces of East Kurdistan [West Iran] are currently making intense efforts. This is very important. There are a few points we can evaluate here: First of all, under the cover of criticizing the current regime, some people have recently denigrated the February 11, 1979 Revolution and have almost praised the former Shah regime. This is wrong. I myself lived through that revolution and I know very well what the Shah of Iran was like. Therefore, this is not the right way to approach this issue. The February Revolution was an important battle of modernity, a time during which a serious attempt was made to establish an alternative modernity. But this attempt was diverted away from its actual goals and later transformed into an Islamic administration which continues to exist until today. Since then, the various rulers of Iran have made the country part of capitalist modernity. When it was possible to build a system of democratic modernity in Iran, they did the exact opposite.

The '79 Revolution was different. It was a revolution carried out by a huge alliance in which the whole society participated based on democratic unity. The vanguard of that revolution was again women. All libertarian, democratic, communal socialist forces were involved. Iran has such a social tradition. Therefore, all those who take the stance described earlier are orientalist. They consider Iran as backward and look at the country from a European perspective.

Now, the foundation of the regime has started to shake. No one had expected anything like this. Everybody had thought that there would be massacres, oppression and persecution, but that no one would fight back. But it is wrong to consider the society of Iran to be so weak and backward. This is a hegemonic and imperialist point of view. On the contrary, recent events have shown once again that hope lies in the east and in women. This is really important. It has become clear once more that there are still things for humanity to hope for. Women's resistance has spread all over the world. Everyone has been affected by this. And everyone is still trying to understand what is going on.

The recent events constitute a revolution. We can clearly say that there is a women's revolution of freedom taking place in Iran, a women-led revolution of freedom. This revolution clearly has ties with the '79 Revolution that overthrew the Shah. Iran is a country in the Middle East that has experienced many revolutions and social movements. This is exactly what happened 43 years ago. But in the end, certain forces took over power and called their new system an Islamic state. Those in power in Iran pretend to be against Europe, but they are closely intertwined with the European system. They created a system that brought society into its current situation. All this has nothing to do with the real goals of the '79 revolution. We should not look at the current situation and then denigrate the '79 revolution or praise the Shah regime. In the 20th century, one of the most important developments in the Middle East in the wake of the First World War was the fall of the Shah in Iran. The fall of the Shah regime was the most fundamental development that affected all of the Middle East deeply. This regime had been an agent of foreign powers. In

fact, it was the center of Middle Eastern reactionary forces. The intelligence organization it created, Savak, is still legendary. They were spilling blood everywhere, just like the MIT [Turkish intelligence service] and MOSSAD. The Shah regime was one of the most severe repression regimes in the region. The fall of this regime allowed everybody to breathe again. But this success was not sustained and was eventually diverted from its actual goals. A new state and a new system of power were established and transformed into a part of capitalist modernity, a statist system. This is where the actual problem lies. Women were very influential in the '79 revolution. At the time, the regime was afraid of arresting women, let alone torturing them to death. The regime forces could not even raise their hands against women. This is how we need to evaluate the past.

On the other hand, the Iranian regime today attributes everything to foreign powers, calling everybody American agents. Foreign powers may be pursuing their own plans in Iran. A lot of forces are involved and struggling against each other. But it is not right to attribute everything to foreign powers and to try to crush the slightest demand for freedom by attributing it to foreign powers or calling it a sin. The Iranian regime is not acting in the right way. It has recently tried to correct its own stance a little bit. But what should it actually do? It should have talked to the resistance. It should have listened to what this society demands. Instead of looking for solutions, the Iranian regime has resorted to massacres. They should not have done this. The regime won't get anywhere with these kinds of methods. The women who are demonstrating against the regime forces today were marching with them against the Shah 43 years ago. The workers, laborers, Kurds of that time are now the laborers, Kurds and women who have turned angry at the regime. Have foreign powers done all of this? No, the Iranian regime itself has paved the way for today's developments. Therefore, there should be a more sensible approach. The demands of the peoples and women must be taken seriously. In fact, this is the kind of approach that we would expect from a government that is connected to society and comes from within the social movements. But the current Iranian regime is showing its traditional attitude, the attitude of the state. This means that it is no longer connected to society. This is why we have condemned the state's approach. In fact, we expected the state to show the right attitude. This is society's cry for freedom. We are not in favor of solving the problems in Iran through conflict, war and violence. Society wants to solve the problems democratically, politically, through mass struggle. And this is the right thing to do.

The demands that started in Saqiz, led by women, are very legitimate and libertarian demands. Iranian society wants freedom and has now started an uprising based on this demand. This represents today's reality of Iran. Their demands and actions are legitimate. They should continue their struggle on condition that they do not use violence. They should increase their organization and continue their actions. The Iranian state should also meet with the protesters. It must change and renew itself on the basis of these demands. Otherwise, things will lead to a more dangerous situation.

Women's leadership has played an important role in these protests. The women's movements in the world have reached a certain level and in Kurdistan, through the women's liberation revolution, this has taken on a combative and assertive form. Leader Apo developed the mentality and theory of this. PAJK [Partîya Azadiya Jin a Kurdistan – Party of Woman's Freedom in Kurdistan] built up the leadership and organization necessary for this. All this has an important share in the development of women's liberation movements in the Middle East. And it is only natural that the women of East Kurdistan have also been influenced by this. Leader Apo's ideas and the courage of the guerrillas fighting for freedom have also organized women and raised their consciousness. They want to live freely, they want to participate in social life equally and with their own identity. Therefore, the Iranian state needs to understand the reality of women.

But instead, they are trying to put the blame on women. The people in power are somewhat bewildered and are now showing their attitude of domination and aggression. Women are really crying out. All over the world, women are cutting off their hair and throwing it away so that those in power feel ashamed. Women are forced to do so. No one is doing this for no reason. This attitude of 'I can do as I want, be as I want, others are subject to me, I can dominate as much as I want' is not the right way. Today's state of humanity shows that this cannot be the way things work.

Women have turned their hair into a flag of freedom. I would like to salute them all. They will really change the world. The 21st century will indeed be the century of women. The revolution in Iran can indeed become a women-led revolution for freedom. The revolution has already been spreading in Kurdistan and this is also what will happen in other parts of the world. There may be inexperience, but through more organization, education, consciousness, power building and the right struggle, they can definitely triumph. The Iranian reality has shown this once again. This has made everyone reconsider the current situation. But those in power may not do so and may not want to give up their power. Yet, women can change this through their struggle. And they must develop the struggle in their own ways and with their own methods, in their own style, not in the way of others. If they struggle with the style of the hegemonic forces, they will not succeed. Women will develop their own style. The developments in Iran are exciting. They have already had an impact on the Middle East and the world. In the Middle East, the inactivity in Iran had been the reason for a certain weakness and there were many unnecessary conflicts. Now things are coming back on track in Iran. The current demands actually show very clearly what needs to change and how. This has made a great contribution to the situation in the Middle East. By walking in its own lane, the women's libertarian line will liberate Iran and the Middle East, solve the Kurdish problem and create a new world of women's liberation. This can be realized; it is not a dream.

The situation in Iran has shaken up things, which is why nothing will ever be the same again. The current regime should not seek to go back to the old way. There will be changes, new developments. Iran's participation makes the struggle in the Middle East stronger and more fruitful. We are hopeful that this will be successful.

There is a war in the South Kurdish areas of Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna in the Medya Defense Zones that has led to this consciousness and identity that we just talked about. What is the latest situation with regards to the war?

We have evaluated the war centered on Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna before. There is no need to repeat our evaluation. A savage attack is taking place. Using all the instruments of crime – chemical weapons and banned tactical nuclear bombs – an attempt is being made to carry out a Kurdish genocide. The goal is to destroy the free Kurdish identity. And against this there is the heroic resistance of Kurdish women and men. This resistance is really superhuman. It must always be saluted and the heroic martyrs must always be commemorated. Most recently, friends have been martyred on 'Hell Hill' [Cehennem Tepesi] with chemical weapons. I would like to commemorate these martyrs under the command of Comrade Zinar with respect and gratitude. I would also like to commemorate all other martyrs of Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna on their behalf. Our Central Headquarters Command has announced recently that the war continues to escalate. The parties involved in this war are mobilizing all their forces to achieve results. The PKK and the Kurdish people are resisting on this basis.

This is a very intense situation and a very critical process. We have always said in our previous evaluations that political events are taking place in different places, but that they are not decisive. What is decisive is war. And this war is happening mainly in Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna. Those in Kurdistan and Turkey who say that they will live in a conscious way and do politics must acknowledge this reality. Without doing this, their words will not be appropriate, their plans will not be right and their work will not succeed. The war in Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna is at its peak. Crimes are being committed there every day; crimes against humanity and war crimes. This has been documented and published, but there has been no reaction so far because all this is directed against Kurds. Everyone is complicit in these attacks. Prohibited weapons are being used. The Turkish press is currently discussing whether Russia will use tactical nuclear bombs, etc. Well, Turkey itself has been using these weapons for years. They consider it their right to do this.

We have asked NATO and the US and told them that the Kurdish people want an explanation about this issue. If Russia is giving these weapons to Turkey, let them say that Turkey is getting them from Russia. But Turkey is a NATO member and these weapons are NATO weapons. They should explain whether they know about this and whether they allow it. They are complicit in the AKP-MHP's crimes. They give all kinds of support and this has been exposed. This shows what kind of world we are living in, how relations work and how states are networks of interests.

What has our Central Headquarters recently said? That this war concerns everyone. Everyone should participate and fight where they are. The genocidal colonialist enemy is using all kinds of attacks to get results, to crush the guerrilla. It uses forbidden and criminal tools. It wants to get support from all over the world by selling Turkey's means and resources.

The resistance must grow. Everyone must take responsibility and struggle. Nobody can say that this is none of their business. Nor should anybody say that they can't do anything. Instead, everybody needs to show strength and courage. If they cannot do it alone, they should organize themselves. The guerrilla is waging a war. There have been clashes in the Botan area [North Kurdistan], in the Zagros area and in Amed [Diyarbakir]. I commemorate the martyrs of Amed with respect, love and gratitude. Indeed, they resisted heroically and made superhuman efforts to prevent the enemy from passing through Amed, to protect the land of Amed, to breathe and live freely.

Yes, the center of the war is in the Medya Defense Zones, in Xakurkê, Heftanîn, Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna, but the war is also spreading everywhere in North Kurdistan, Turkey and South Kurdistan. It has partially spread, and has also remained incomplete in some areas. Everyone has a responsibility to make up for the shortcomings. This is what our call is about. We shouldn't say we can't do it. There is something everyone can do. As long as you look for it, want to do something, call the enemy what it is and call injustice by its name. Everybody should have the intention of doing something and take a decision accordingly. A method and the necessary means can definitely be found. Currently, some people still fail to fully and correctly see and understand what is happening. There is retreat, individualism, timidity. All this must be overcome. There must be a stronger struggle. The guerrilla is heroically resisting with all its strength to achieve results. And if we unite around the guerrilla, we will definitely succeed. There is no other solution anyway. Therefore, I agree with the call of our Central Headquarters and call on everyone to act more responsibly, to organize more and join the struggle, to take part in the overthrow of AKP-MHP fascism.

The HPG recently carried out an attack in the city of Mersin in Turkey. What is the meaning and importance of this attack in Mersin during a time of so much pressure and attacks?

As we have said before, war is spreading. It is very important to understand the attack in Mersin correctly. Its place in the general war, but also its impact on the war must be understood well. Statements have recently been published by the HPG Press Center (Hêzên Parastina Gel – People’s Defense Forces) and our Central Headquarters. These were important and meaningful statements. The Turkish administration has repeatedly claimed that there were no guerrilla forces left and that they were monitoring them completely. But the attack in Mersin has negated all that. Just like the uprising in Iran has shaken up everything, the Mersin action also did. Turkey’s National Security Council was forced to hold a meeting afterwards. Now everybody is talking about this attack. There is a line of resistance called the ‘Zilan line’ in the Kurdish Freedom Struggle. Carrying out the struggle like Zilan means walking on the line of victory and success, defending the reality of the Leadership [Abdullah Öcalan]. On May 6, 1996, in the face of the attack on Leader Apo, the struggle of Zilan took place and developed into a clear line of resistance. The attack in Mersin is the most recent link in this line of resistance. It means defending Leader Apo in the way Zilan did and waging the struggle for freedom like her. As the International Conspiracy is entering its 25th year, the attack in Mersin has emerged as the most recent link of the defense of Leader Apo against the system of isolation and genocide. This is how we should understand this attack. The line of conducting the war of freedom at the highest possible level, with the highest courage, sacrificially focused on victory. I would therefore like to commemorate with respect, love and gratitude the comrades Sara and Rûken who carried out this attack.

They have achieved great success and have given an answer to the 25th year of the International Conspiracy. They have shown everybody how we need to fight and how the youth and women of the Kurdish people will struggle from now on. Everyone should look at the Mersin attack and criticize and question themselves on this basis. These discussions have already started. Leader Apo has said, “Zilan is the commander; we are following her commands.” Sara and Rûken are our commanders and we are their fighters. This is the right attitude. All Kurds, patriots, women, Turks, workers and laborers will evaluate their current situation accordingly. Of course, the state and those in power will also question themselves. Erdogan and his cohorts are talking cheaply. What have you done to these Kurdish women that they are forced to organize so many attacks and that they decide to take up this struggle? You did this. You cooperate with everyone, you slaughter them, you put them in prisons, you put their leaders, workers and laborers in prison. There is no cruelty left you have not committed in North Kurdistan, South Kurdistan and East Kurdistan. These women are the soul of free humanity, the most distinguished representatives of free life. They do everything based on knowledge and understanding. But who forced them to carry out such an attack? The one who forced them is still talking instead of being held accountable. You have allied with everyone to exterminate the Kurds. Who is the traitor, who is the terrorist, who is practicing terror, is there a bigger traitor than you!?

From now on, Kurdish youth, women, simply everyone will be like this. For 30 years we have all fought like Zilan and from now on everyone will fight like Sara and Rûken. Those in power deserve to face such attacks. Do they really think that they will not be held accountable for what they have done? Leader Apo and our leadership have warned many times: Kurds are not like the Kurds of the past anymore. They have become more conscious. They know the world and have learned to struggle. Come to your senses, otherwise you will suffer the consequences. But we are still faced with sadistic fascist aggression and with a

racist, chauvinist nationalism. The Turkish rulers must see the truth. If they re-evaluate the current situation, they can understand the message of the Mersin attack.

For the revolutionary democratic forces, the Kurdish people, women, youth and the patriots, this constitutes the main line of resistance. This is the right line, the line of resistance of the vanguard. So if you can, be like them. And if you can't, pray for those who do, don't oppose them. No one has the right to be arrogant. The Kurds are in a life and death situation. When the Zap war started, our leadership declared that this was a war of annihilation and destruction. Only by fighting and by defeating these attacks can we live freely. The most brave way of doing this is the attack in Mersin. I would like to congratulate and salute our HPG and YJA Star commanders who carried out the attack in Mersin. And I would like to wish them continued success. I would also like to remember the comrades Sara and Rûken once again with respect and gratitude. They are the ones who will always show us the right way. We will walk in their path and will therefore definitely win.

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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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