

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

KCK: Protests must not stop until the CPT makes a statement and lawyers meet with Öcalan

ANF | Behdinan | 6 December 2022

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council released a statement criticizing the CPT for creating the impression publicly that there had been a meeting with Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan during the September visit of an CPT delegation to İmralı Island Prison where he is held along with three other inmates, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş.

The KCK statement calling for continued protests against the isolation and torture system in İmralı includes the following:

“Leader Apo’s lawyers have recently stated that the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) did not have a meeting with Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] during its visit to İmralı in September 2022, as the CPT had publicly stated. The lawyers stated that there was information about the meeting not having taken place and that their concerns had increased due to this situation. The statement made by the lawyers shows that the CPT did not have any meeting with Leader Apo. Yet, the CPT had created the impression publicly that there had been a meeting.

This attitude of the CPT expresses the level of approach towards Leader Apo and the system of isolation and torture in İmralı. For the first time, although no meeting took place with Leader Apo, the Kurdish people and public opinion have been misled. This situation cannot and should not be treated as ordinary and normal. The deepening and continuous isolation and torture system in İmralı, the lack of any news from Leader Apo, as well as the attitude of the CPT, have exceeded the situation of being concerned about the health and life of Leader Apo and has brought the situation to a dangerous stage. This represents a new situation that has reached a dangerous limit.

Leader Apo has been kept under isolation and torture in İmralı for 24 years. He is subjected to isolation and torture because he has not given up on the Kurdish people’s cause for freedom and insists on the coexistence of the peoples. In fact, Leader Apo was imprisoned as the result of an international conspiracy and taken to the İmralı isolation and torture system in order to destroy the Kurdistan Freedom Struggle and to realize the Kurdish genocide. But Leader Apo has been resisting this isolation and torture system for 24 years. He has taken this resistant stance in the name of the freedom of the Kurdish people and the will of the peoples to live together. The Kurdish people have understood this reality very well from the beginning and have acted accordingly. They have always seen Leader Apo’s captivity as their own captivity and strongly embraced Leader Apo, stating that a free life can only be achieved with free Leadership. This attitude of the patriotic people of Kurdistan has been the most important factor in defeating the aim of the international conspiracy and its İmralı isolation and torture system. Unable to break the resistance of

Leader Apo and the attitude of the Kurdish people, the colonialist genocidal Turkish state and the fascist AKP-MHP government have brought the isolation and torture system to a new stage by blocking any news from Leader Apo and including the CPT in this process. This stage means that the health and life of Leader Apo has become uncertain and therefore endangered. Leader Apo's health and life are now in definite danger. The attitude of the CPT has made this clear. The CPT does not act with the responsibility of preventing torture and protecting fundamental rights. On the contrary, it takes an attitude that approves and legitimizes isolation and torture. It is known by our people and by everyone that when it comes to Kurds and Leader Apo, European states and institutions, including the CPT, adopt a hypocritical and unprincipled attitude, and that morality and law are sacrificed for their own interests. This approach of the relevant European institutions, especially the CPT and the ECHR, means that they are complicit in the Kurdish genocide. These approaches of Europe and the so-called institutions of law and justice cannot be explained in any other way. In fact, the İmralı isolation and torture system was established in accordance with and based on the European system. The CPT also acts according to the approach of the Council of Europe and the European states. Leader Apo has stated that it was the CPT that welcomed him when he was first taken to İmralı. Therefore, the CPT, the ECHR and other relevant European institutions are responsible for the İmralı isolation and torture system.

The CPT not only failed to make a statement about its visit to İmralı, but also manipulated, concealed and distorted the facts. This attitude of the CPT is unacceptable. It must immediately make a statement about what happened in İmralı and the situation of Leader Apo. The CPT and other European institutions are responsible for the situation of Leader Apo. They cannot evade this responsibility. Leader Apo, who represents the will of the Kurdish people, was imprisoned as the result of an international conspiracy and placed in the İmralı isolation and torture system. The international conspiracy was carried out by violating and breaking European law. The ECHR and the CPT have had to admit this fact in the past. They have stated that Leader Apo is being punished unlawfully and that the İmralı isolation system constitutes torture. However, due to the reconciliation of the Council of Europe and European states with the fascist AKP-MHP government and the genocidal system, the CPT and other institutions do not recognize their responsibilities and compromise with the torture system. The Kurdish people must show their reaction with a stronger attitude against the system of isolation and torture in İmralı, in which the CPT and European institutions are also involved and in which the life of Leader Apo has now entered a dangerous stage. The friends of the Kurdish people must also take a stronger stance to embrace Leader Apo and take action together with the Kurdish people to break the isolation in İmralı and bring an end to the danger to Leader Apo's life. The CPT must make an immediate statement on the situation of Leader Apo. The request of Leader Apo's lawyers to go to İmralı must be fulfilled immediately and the lawyers must be allowed to meet with Leader Apo. Until these two demands are realized, the protests must continue and increase.

The people of Kurdistan must no longer tolerate the İmralı system of isolation and torture. The Kurdish people have been able to exist until now through their struggle and resistance. Whatever they have achieved has been achieved through struggle and resistance. Leader Apo has been the architect, pioneer and representative of this struggle and resistance. For 24 years, he has demonstrated that he will not give up his stance of freedom by resisting the İmralı isolation and torture system. This attitude of Leader Apo, who represents the existence of the Kurdish people and the will of the Kurdish people to be free, can only be achieved by destroying the İmralı isolation and torture system, by taking a stronger attitude than the attitude put forward so far and by carrying out comprehensive protests to realize this. The people of North Kurdistan in particular and all our people in the four parts of Kurdistan and abroad need to take such a stance and increase their protests until the CPT makes a statement and the demands of the lawyers to

meet with Leader Apo are fulfilled. In Kurdistan, a correct and meaningful attitude can be taken by defending Leader Apo and standing against the İmralı isolation and torture system. Without this, talking about patriotism and the cause of freedom of Kurdistan and its people has no meaning or value. All democratic institutions, political parties, intellectuals, writers, and artists of the Kurdish people must act with this consciousness and responsibility and must strongly lead the protests against isolation. This is a necessity of being patriotic and of being the vanguard of the people.

The struggle for Turkey's democratization and liberation can only be waged by standing against the İmralı isolation and torture system. One cannot talk about democracy, freedom, justice, and the struggle for them without standing against isolation. Because, with the İmralı isolation and torture system, not only the Kurdish people, but also the will and freedom of the peoples of the Middle East, especially the peoples of Turkey, are being isolated. Everybody needs to know that the fascist AKP-MHP government tries to survive by imposing absolute isolation in İmralı and waging total war on the Kurdish people. This government suppresses the demands for freedom and democracy and continues to usurp Turkey's future. This reality is becoming clearer every day. Therefore, everyone in Turkey must clearly see that only by standing against the İmralı isolation and torture system and the Kurdish genocide can the fascist AKP-MHP government be opposed. This fascist mentality, which is an enemy of humanity and the people, can be overthrown and the way for democratic development in Turkey can be paved. Therefore, the peoples of Turkey, all democratic institutions and all those in favor of human rights and freedom must stand against the isolation of Leader Apo and take action together with the Kurdish people.

We therefore call on all friends of the Kurdish people, the patriotic people of Kurdistan and all those who are in favor of freedom, democracy and human values and who have a conscience to come together and carry out strong protests everywhere against the isolation and torture system in İmralı. These protests must take place with a strong and persistent attitude everywhere. This attitude must continue until the CPT makes a statement and the lawyers are allowed to meet with Leader Apo. No one should stand still while Leader Apo's life is under uncertainty and danger. Everyone must take action with a spirit of strong mobilization.”

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People of Shengal march in protest at the isolation of Öcalan

ANF |Shengal |6 December 2022

Hundreds of Yazidi and Arab citizens staged a march in Shengal under the leadership of the Yazidi Women's Freedom Movement (TAJÊ) and the Shengal Democratic Autonomous Assembly to protest the aggravated isolation regime imposed on Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan in Turkey.

The crowd displayed posters of Öcalan during the march, which was followed by a press statement.

The statement read out by a tribal leader, Nayif Şemo, said, “Leader Öcalan embraced Shengal in the most difficult times. And now, we, the Yazidis, Arabs and the whole of Shengal, must embrace him. We will continue our protests until we hear from him. We call on all human rights institutions to obtain information on Öcalan's situation and to share it with us.”

Since 2019, Abdullah Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, have not been able to meet their lawyers. The last physical contact with them took place during a family visit in March 2020. About a year later, the Turkish authorities allowed one more phone call. Since then, 21 months have passed and the İmrali prisoners continue to be held in absolute solitary confinement. According to the Asrin Law Office, which represents Öcalan and his fellow prisoners, this is a state of affairs that violates universal legal standards and national laws and constitutes torture and ill-treatment.

When the Council of Europe's Committee against Torture (CPT) announced in early October that it had made an ad hoc visit to Turkey in September and had also inspected İmrali, Kurdish society hoped that this would bring transparency and clarity to the situation on the prison island. But as Asrin Law Office announced last week, Öcalan did not take part in the conversation with the CPT delegation. Kurdish organisations then called for protests to put pressure on the institutions involved to intervene urgently and ensure that visits to İmrali can finally take place.



Bülbül: UN, NATO, CPT, ECHR have complicity in isolation

ANF |Van |7 December 2022

HDP Antalya MP Kemal Bülbül spoke to ANF about the 24-year-old isolation policy in the İmralı prison. Bülbül said that institutions such as the UN, NATO, CPT, EU, and the ECHR committed crimes against the Kurdish people, society, and humanity through unlawful practices that violated human rights and freedoms and carried out jointly with Turkey.

Bülbül said: “The İmrali system is a system introduced by a mentality that denies the demands of the Kurdish people and their leader. They arranged the İmrali system just as they previously arranged the Eastern reform, special war, government-appointed trustees, tortures, September 12 military coup, the unsolved murders. Gladio took part in the isolation in the İmrali prison just as it took part in the military coups. What concession did Turkey make to Sweden at the Madrid summit, and vice versa? Illegal practices are carried out. They pursue a policy that favors their own capitalist needs in defiance of international laws.”

Identity problem

Bülbül continued: “Identity issues exist all over the world. It is an ethnic, geographical and political problem. The Kurdish people also have this issue. The identity problems are a concern in Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq, and NATO has a finger in this. The ruling AKP boasts about holding meetings with Zelensky and Putin, but it does not meet with its own citizens. The AKP bullies its own citizens yet talks differently in international meetings. The isolation concerns not only Mr. Öcalan but also all peoples. There is a situation where four people are prevented from meeting with each other and they are forced to stay on an island.”

CPT doesn't respect itself

Bülbül defined the CPT as an institution which does not even respect itself. “The CPT said that the government did not allow them to meet Öcalan and did not make any statement. The CPT is supposed to represent Human Rights yet does not say anything about it. The system in the İmralı prison is tyrannical and this tyranny must be stopped. Mr. Öcalan has a political reputation respected by the state and the people in Turkey. When Mr. Öcalan is mentioned, the Kurdish people and social peace spring to mind. This system is unlawful, it is tyranny. There is a criminal approach against Mr. Öcalan, the Kurdish people and those who want democracy. The AKP, the Minister of Justice, prosecutors, the CPT, NATO, and the UN are openly committing crimes,” he said.

We should now talk about Öcalan's freedom

Bülbül concluded: “You put a person on an island, and do not allow his family to meet him. There is no such law. We live under a tyranny. Mr. We should now talk about Öcalan's freedom. Torture does not necessarily involve physical violence. Isolation is also a type of torture. The CPT says that ‘we will investigate whether there is torture or not’, which makes no sense. One can be subjected to torture when one reveals his/her political ideas. I do not find it correct to discuss the issue only within the CPT context. This system itself is wrong and generates crime. If the CPT does not see this torture in the İmralı prison, this is also torturing. The CPT makes fun of people because it still keeps saying that it is conducting research”.

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Kurdish youth organizations carry out action at Geneva

University to condemn isolation in İmralı

ANF |Geneva |7 December 2022

Members of Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger (TCŞ) and Jinên Ciwan ên Têkoşer (TekoJIN) held a demonstration on the campus of the University of Geneva.

Young people distributed leaflets in which they expressed the democratic ecological women's libertarian paradigm, as well as leaflets highlighting the aggravated isolation of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and expressing their concerns about his life and safety.

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Kaçmaz: There is systematic torture in Turkey, and its center is

İmralı

ANF |Ankara |7 December 2022

The debate on the 2023 Central Government Budget Law Proposal in the General Assembly of the Assembly continues with the deputies taking the floor on the budget submitted by the Ministry of Justice and its affiliated institutions. Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Şirnak MP Hüseyin Kaçmaz spoke about the isolation system in İmralı and the prevention of the release of detainees who have had their sentence completed.

Referring to the isolation in İmralı, Kaçmaz stated that the release of the prisoner, Çetin Arkadaş was delayed because he used the expression "Mr. Öcalan" and asked the Minister of Justice Bozdağ: "Is it a crime to say Mr. Öcalan? There are dozens of judicial decisions that it is not a crime, and there are statements by government officials in this direction. Minister, you mentioned zero tolerance for torture in your budget presentation. But the truth is not like that. There is systematic torture in Turkey. The center of this systematic torture is İmralı Prison. I ask: isn't isolation torture? Is social isolation practiced with isolation, not torture? Isn't it torturing not to let the prisoners meet with their families and lawyers? Isn't the denial of the right to hope not torture? For years, you hid behind bad weather and a broken boat lie [as reasons for not letting families and lawyers go to İmralı]. Now, you are constantly applying absolute isolation with arbitrary disciplinary punishments on absurd grounds. We see that Mr. Öcalan and the other prisoners have been barred from visits on the grounds that they were chatting while walking and playing sports. Could such an absurd reason be behind this decision? Isolation leads to a deadlock on the Kurdish issue, the policy of war and conflict to come into play, the law to be trampled on, and the public's budget to be diverted to war, interest lobbies and warmongers".

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Saarbrücken DKTM members take over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil

ANF |Strasbourg |7 December 2022

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Initiative was launched in Strasbourg on 25 June 2012 to ensure the physical freedom of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and to break the isolation imposed on him, has entered its 546th week.

The vigil, known as the longest-running action carried out by the Kurds in Europe, was taken over this week by a group of activists coming from Saarbrücken on behalf of the Democratic Kurdish Community Center (DKTM).

The group includes Hamit Ağırman, Barış Aydoğan and Fahrettin Bozkurt.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Hamit Ağırman said on behalf of the Saarbrücken Democratic Kurdish Community Center that they condemn the isolation imposed upon Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Pointing out that the Kurdish people continue the Freedom Vigil with great determination and patience, Ağırman emphasized that the way to nullify the conspiracy is to spread the organization. Ağırman added:

“We say that the enemy will never reach his goal. We will always act with great determination. Not only will it be essential for us to condemn, but from now on we must strive to organize. The antidote to conspiracy is organization. The more we grow, the more we increase our organization, the more we can embrace our Leadership and the more we can respond to the enemy. We can achieve this through organization. Our enemy is acting comprehensively. On the other hand, we will grow prepare and act more. We will not attempt anything unorganized. If a people is unorganized, it will come face to face with extinction. Organization is necessary for us.”

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Öcalan's lawyers file application to visit İmralı

ANF |8 December 2022

Rezan Sarıca, Raziye Öztürk, Faik Özgür Erol and Emran Emekçi, lawyers of the Asrın Law Office, applied to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and the Directorate of İmralı Penitentiary Institution to visit their client, Abdullah Öcalan, who has not been heard from for nearly two years.

Lawyers are requesting to visit Öcalan twice a week. However, the applications are systematically left unanswered. In some cases, months later, lawyers are presented as justification for disciplinary action against the Kurdish people's leader.

Finally, it was learned that after the ban on meeting Abdullah Öcalan on 13 April ended on 18 October, this ban was automatically extended for another six months.

Concerns after CPT visit to İmralı

Concerns over the situation of the Kurdish people's leader increased after the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) visited Turkey on September 20-29. In a statement on 3 October, the CPT announced that İmralı F Type High Security Prison was among the institutions it visited.

However, Asrın Law Office reported that the CPT had no meeting with Kurdish Abdullah Öcalan. Asrın Law Office said on 29 November: “We have heard that Mr. Öcalan did not attend the visit during the CPT's visit to İmralı Island in September 2022.”

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Sit-in outside CPT demands immediate contact with Abdullah Öcalan

ANF |Strasbourg |8 December 2022

Since the Asrin Law Office stated at the end of November that the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) probably had no personal contact with Abdullah Öcalan during its last visit to Turkey in September, concern for the life and safety of the Kurdish leader has increased. The Kurdish European Confederation KCDK-E is demanding clarification about the CPT's visit to the Turkish prison island of Imrali and information about Abdullah Öcalan's condition. A three-day sit-in action was launched yesterday, December 7, in front of the CPT building in Strasbourg. On the first day of the action, Kurdish activists from Switzerland and exiled politicians from Turkey living in Europe took part in the action.

On its second day, the action was taken over by Kurds from Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Mainz, Gissen, Mannheim, Hanau, Saarbrücken and Rüsselsheim cities of Germany, as well as Kurdish politicians in exile.

Speaking here, FCDK-KAWA Federation Co-Chair Mehmet Çoban stated that they would carry their actions to a higher level and turn everywhere into a scene of uprising unless lawyers are enabled access to Imrali.

Kurdish author and politician Aziz Tunç called on the CPT to put an end to this unclarity which, he said, is killing the Kurdish people every day.

“What is happening at Imrali? Why did the CPT give the impression that a meeting took place at Imrali, which was not the case as it later came out? What is the purpose of this information pollution?” Tunç asked.

KOMAW Darmstadt representative Murşide Oltan vowed to keep their protests going until lawyers meet with Öcalan.

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Families of Öcalan and other prisoners in Imrali apply for a visit

ANF |9 December 2022

There has been no news from Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan for nearly two years and there is absolute isolation imposed on him.

Mehmet Öcalan and his guardian Mazlum Dinç, Ömer Hayri Konar's brother Ali Konar, Hamili Yıldırım's brother Polat Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş's sister Melihe Çetin applied to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office to request a visit.

Families also applied to the Directorate of Imrali F Type High Security Closed Penal Institution through the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

Lawyers are requesting to meet with Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan twice a week. However, applications for visits are systematically left unanswered. In some cases, months later, lawyers are told that a disciplinary action has been taken against the Kurdish people's leader and therefore no visit can be granted.

In the past weeks, it was learned that after the ban on visits imposed to Abdullah Öcalan on 13 April ended on 18 October, this ban was automatically extended for another six months.

Concerns increased after CPT visit to İmralı

Concerns over the situation of the Kurdish people's leader increased after the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) visited Turkey on September 20-29. In a statement on 3 October, the CPT announced that İmralı F Type High Security Prison was among the institutions it visited.

However, Asrın Law Office reported that during the CPT visit, there was no meeting with Abdullah Öcalan, and that this increased their concerns. Asrın Law Office said on 29 November: "We have heard that Mr. Öcalan did not see the CPT delegation during its visit to İmralı Island in September 2022."

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Prisons in Turkey

Şadiye Manap arrested again after spending 30 years in jail

ANF |Kocaeli |6 December 2022

Şadiye Manap, who was sentenced to life imprisonment after being arrested in Riha in 1992, was released from Gebze Women's Closed Prison on 1 December after 30 years of detention. Manap was taken into custody again on the day of her release.

Manap, who was detained within the scope of a different file opened against her in 2020 with the allegation of "being a member of a terrorist organization", was brought to Kocaeli Courthouse on Monday after a 4-day detention. Manap was transferred to the Criminal Judgeship of Peace with a request for arrest after the prosecutor's interrogation. Manap was arrested on charges of "being a member of a terrorist organization" and sent to Kandıra Prison.

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Visit ban for JinNews correspondent imprisoned in Ankara

ANF |6 December 2022

JinNews reporter Öznur Değer is detained in Sincan Prison in Ankara. She was jailed on 29 October on terror charges in Ankara on the orders of the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office due to her journalistic activities. Visitation requests for Değer are refused under various pretexts, mostly with the simple note as "suspicious".

Değer was detained on 25 October together with Diren Yurtsever, editor-in-chief of the Mezopotamya news agency, journalists Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, Deniz Nazlım, Emrullah Acar, Hakan Yalçın, Selman Güzelyüz and JinNews correspondent Habibe Eren. Since June, 26 Kurdish media workers have been arrested in Turkey.

Öznur Değer was severely beaten by the police when she was arrested. Under the pretext that she was laughing, she was forcibly dragged down the stairs with her hands tied behind her back. The journalist was also threatened with death during the abuse.

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Prisoners in Giresun Espiye L Type jail go on hunger strike against increasing rights violations

ANF |8 December |2022

Kerem Ayas, who was imprisoned in Giresun Espiye L Type Closed Prison, announced that they had gone on hunger strike to protest the increasing rights violations in jail. In his weekly phone call with his family, Ayas said that all his belongings were confiscated after the arbitrary raids on the wards by the guards, and added: "They want to take us to the infirmary in handcuffs and after oral control. Since we do not accept this, we are not taken to the infirmary. They also confiscated our belongings, such as the television and radio. We went on hunger strike with a group of friends against these violations. The strike will continue until these abuses end."

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Families of prisoners on hunger strike in Ereğli jail thrown out of campus

ANF |Ankara |8 December 2022

Dozens of political prisoners in Konya Ereğli High Security Prison went on a 10-day indefinite alternating hunger strike on 4 October.

The strike has been going on indefinitely and irreversibly since 16 November. Three more prisoners joined the strike on 1 December.

After meeting with the prisoners on hunger strike, the families requested a meeting with the prosecutor.

However, prison officers forced the families out of the prison campus.

The families stated that the situation of the prisoners they met was not good and added: "After the visit, we wanted to convey our request to meet with the prosecutor and the director of the prison. A prison officer told us to wait and that he would convey our request to the prosecutor. After waiting for a while, the same officer told us that they were in a meeting and that we could not meet today".

According to the information provided by the families, the guards told them, "You can leave the campus and wait in front of the door if you want."

The prisoners' families said: "More than 40 detainees are on hunger strike, and they won't call it off until their demands are met."

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Prisoner Emre Abalak dies in Şırnak Prison

ANF |Şirnex |9 December 2022

Emre Abalak, 26, a cancer patient held hostage in Şırnak T Type Closed Prison, was murdered. The family said that prison officials told them that Abalak fell in the bathroom 2 days ago in prison, suffered a cerebral haemorrhage, and was therefore taken to Diyarbakır Dicle University Faculty of Medicine.

The family stated that Abalak died in the hospital on Thursday.

Emre Abalak, who was murdered by the Turkish state, was buried in his hometown Silopiya (Silopi) yesterday evening.

It was stated that Abalak had a final 20-year prison sentence. He was arrested 6 months ago.

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Police take 7 relatives of ill prisoners into custody at Justice Vigil in Istanbul

ANF |Istanbul |9 December 2022

The Justice Vigil, which was launched in Istanbul by the relatives of the prisoners demanding to release the ill prisoners and those whose sentence was served, has entered its 38th week.

This week's vigil took place in front of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan. The elder sister of Erdal Özel, a seriously ill prisoner held in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Prison, Kumri Akgül, the sister of a seriously ill prisoner held in Ümraniye L Type Closed Prison, Selim Çiftçi, the mother of Zeynep Calıhan who is being held in Şakran Women's Closed Prison, and Gülsüm Öztürk, attended the vigil.

Before the action, hundreds of police officers waiting in front of the courthouse wanted to prevent the march of the prisoners' relatives towards the area. While the police tried to implement the action and activity ban of the Kağıthane District Governor's Office, the families did not listen and continued to march. Kumri Akgül, one of the prisoners' relatives, stated that they were detained for 11 months only because they demanded justice and added: "We say 'enough is enough' to this state. Our ill children should not come out of prisons in a coffin." Akgül said that the state could not tolerate the actions organized for ill prisoners.

After the relatives of the prisoners voiced their objections, the police blockaded the group. Relatives of the prisoners and those who supported them chanted slogans of "Biji berxwedana dungeon" and "Right, law, justice" by making a victory sign. The police tried to put the participants into the detention vehicle. While the relatives of 4 prisoners, were detained, Ömer Ertuğrul, Serhat Ertuğrul and an unknown person were detained on the grounds that they supported the action.

The 7 people who were taken into custody were taken to the Kağıthane District Police Department.

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Women commemorate Garibe Gezer

ANF |Mardin |9 December 2022

Woman prisoner Garibe Gezer was murdered on 9 December 2021 after she was subjected to sexual and physical violence while being held in Kandıra F Type Closed Prison. Numerous women attended the commemoration held at the headquarters of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Mêrdîn Provincial Organization. The commemoration event started with a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the struggle for freedom and democracy. After the moment of silence, HDP Mêrdîn Provincial Co-Chair Berivan Bahçeci delivered a speech in which she said that women would keep the memory of Gezer alive.

In a speech afterwards, TJA activist Ayşe Bozan said that the violations of rights in prisons did not end after Gezer was murdered in prison and added that those who struggle for freedom was subjected to isolation. Bozan stressed that Gezer was murdered because she refused isolation and crackdown just like other prisoners who faced isolation and torture in prisons. "We condemn this mentality and approach. We will fight by keeping the memories of those who fought for freedom alive," she said.

The commemoration was ended following a documentary about Garibe Gezer.

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Military aggression and occupation

Families cannot identify bodies of 3 HPG members

ANF |Şirnak |5 December 2022

The Ministry of Interior announced that 3 HPG members, one of them a woman, lost their lives in clashes on Gabar mountain in Basa district of Şirnak. The bodies of the 3 HPG members were taken to the Şirnak State Hospital morgue. The families of the three guerrillas were called by the police to identify their bodies. The families, however, stated that they could not identify the bodies because they were burned.

They then gave a blood sample. The bodies are kept in the morgue while the DNA tests are performed.

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Ehmed: Necessary response will be given to Turkish attacks

ANF |5 December 2022

Newroz Ehmed, a member of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Command, held a Zoom meeting with intellectuals in the Cizire region of North-East Syria addressing the attacks of the invading Turkish state.

Ehmed explained the purpose of the Turkish attacks and the situation in the region to the intellectuals in the Cizire region and said that the intellectuals have an important role in rejecting these attacks which seek the annihilation and denial of the people of the region.

Invasion attacks

Ehmed pointed out that the attacks of the Turkish state posed a major danger: “The Turkish state has come up with pretexts to attack the region. It is targeting the existence of the people of the region through these attacks that are stretched as far as the centre of Syria and are directed against not only the military locations but also the existence of the people. Erdogan is ambitious of carrying out these attacks in an attempt to win the next elections. There is silence towards these attacks, and concrete attitudes have not been developed in previous cases either. We especially appealed to the parties that support the invasion. The reactions that emerged played an important role. In the talks, we also see some parties supporting the Rojava Revolution. This reality has pressure to be put on the states that support the invading Turkish state.”

'Erdogan will continue attacking'

Ehmed continued, “The forces in the region see the danger posed by Turkish attacks considering the fact that ISIS families are staying in prisons and camps in the region. Although there have been reactions to some extent, the Turkish aggression took place with their approval. We see that clearly. We know that this invasion attack can never take place without the approval of these forces. The coalition forces in particular have granted approval to Turkey. Russia wants us to leave some of the regions we hold. Their aim is to enable the deployment of the regime forces in the south of the region while we deal with the northern regions of Syria. The Turkish state, on the other hand, wants to make the people revolt against us and the Coalition, especially in cities such as Tabqa, Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor. It seeks to weaken us so that the Syrian regime forces dominate the region.”

“Erdogan could achieve success neither in our region nor in Iraq. That's why he won't stop. He especially wants to occupy the border areas. Annihilation of the Autonomous Administration is the only condition for Erdoğan to stop these attacks.

Erdogan will stop these attacks if he destroys the Autonomous Administration. Erdogan has neither friends nor permanent enemies, which is why he resorts to all means. The Syrian government does not have a serious attitude against it,” Ehmed said.

'We have made preparations'

“We have made preparations in the military field. Of course, everyone will give the necessary response to these attacks. In this regard, the attitude of intellectuals in particular is very important. The Turkish state disseminates the idea of invasion through intellectuals. However, our intellectuals also have a clear stance against this policy. In many revolutions, it was the intellectuals who stopped it. They have fulfilled this duty until now, and they should undertake this task more strongly from now on,” she added.



Kurdish asylum seeker extradited by Sweden jailed in Turkey

ANF |Istanbul |5 December 2022

Kurdish citizen Mahmut Tat sought asylum in Sweden seven years ago after he had been sentenced to 6 years and 10 months in prison for “being a member of the PKK” in Dersim province in 2015.

The Kurdish asylum seeker was arrested in Sweden on 22 November and was being held in Mölndal. On December 2, he was flown from Arlanda Airport in Stockholm to Istanbul and spent the night in the custody of the airport police. After the procedures here, he was referred to Gaziosmanpaşa Courthouse on Sunday.

Based on a final court order, Tat was remanded in custody and sent to Metris Prison in Istanbul.

Background

Turkey is preventing Finland and Sweden from applying to join NATO on the accusation that these countries, especially Sweden, are back-lands for the PKK. Sweden and Finland therefore signed an extradition agreement with Turkey in June. At the beginning of November, Sweden announced that it would approach Turkey even further and tighten its anti-terror laws. In the future, this will allow the Swedish government to introduce new laws restricting freedom of assembly when it comes to associations involved in or supporting "terrorism". Until now, Sweden had made its anti-terror laws comparatively liberal in order to protect freedom of association. For example, charges for mere membership of a group suspected of having a terrorist background are not permitted. Turkey made its consent to Sweden's NATO accession conditional on this step. The constitutional amendment will come into force at the turn of the year.

In September, Sweden approved arms exports to Turkey again for the first time. The export licences had been stopped in the course of the Turkish army's invasion of northern Syria in October 2019, which was against international law. At that time, Sweden advocated an EU-wide arms embargo against Turkey.

At the beginning of November, the Swedish government publicly distanced itself from the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria in order to "accommodate Turkish concerns". Foreign Minister Tobias Billström said regarding the Democratic Unity Party (PYD) and the People's Defense Units (YPG), their links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were "too close to be good for relations between us and Turkey". His government's main goal, he said, was Sweden's NATO membership. Billström thus signaled his willingness to add a new dimension to the criminalization policy against the Kurdish people that has been in place in the Nordic country for decades.

Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership in the wake of the Russian attack on Ukraine in May. Except for Hungary and Turkey, all member countries have ratified this application.

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SDF announces the outcome of Turkish aggression on December 4

ANF | 5 December 2022

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the balance sheet of Turkish attacks against North-East Syria on December 4, Sunday.

On the fifteenth day of the Turkish aggression on North-East Syria, more than 51 villages, farms, and town centers were subjected to artillery and tank shells, and our fighters thwarted an infiltration attempt by Turkish-backed mercenaries, SDF said.

Providing information about the latest attacks of the Turkish state against North-East Syria, the SDF Press Center stated the following:

An additional outcome of December 3, 2022:

Euphrates Region

Kobane

The villages of Kuran, al-Ziyara, and Jishan were targeted 5 times by heavy artillery.

Gri Spi / Tal Abyad

The villages of Salibi, Shorba Nisk, Qazaali, and Saida were shelled with heavy artillery and mortar shells.

Al-Terwaziya

The countryside of Al|Terwaziya and Al-Kantari was targeted 14 times with heavy artillery shells.

The outcome of December 4, 2022

Afrin and Al-Shahba'a Region

The villages of Harbal, Samuqah, Sheikh Issa, Aqiba, Binh / Ibin, Mayassa, Al-Malikiyah, Al-Shawargha, Al-Irshadiya, Soganaka, and Al-Shahba'a Dam were subjected to 23 heavy artillery shells, 25 mortar shells, and 4 tank shells.

Al Jazeera Region

Tal Tamir

The villages of "Um al-Kaif, al-Kuzliya, Tal Shanan, Tal Juma'a, al-Dardara, al-Tawila, and Tal al-Laban" were subjected to 33 heavy artillery shells, in addition to DShK weapons.

The Turkish-backed mercenaries tried to infiltrate the Um al-Kayf silos, but our fighters thwarted their attempt.

Zarkan

The villages of "Al-Asadiya, Dada Abdul, Bobi, Muharmala, Tal Al-Ward, Al-Rubiat, and the Zarkan downtown were subjected to /30/ heavy artillery shells, in addition to DShK weapons.

Our forces responded directly to all those attacks.

Euphrates Region

Kobane

The villages of Zour Maghar and Al-Ziyara were subjected to 3 mortar shells and one heavy artillery shell.

Gri Spi / Tal Abyad

The villages of “Al-Hoshan, Tal Khan, and Saida” were shelled with heavy artillery and mortars, in addition to DShK weapons.

Ain Issa

The village of “Al-Swaidiya” was targeted by two heavy artillery shells.

Manbij

The villages of “Arab Hassan, Karhiuk, Al-Jat, Qubbat Al-Binaiya, Al-Hawshariyah, Qurt Wiran, and Al-Qawqli” were targeted with /10/ mortar shells, and /4/ heavy artillery shells.

Al-Terwaziya

The countryside of thUm al-Baramil town was targeted by heavy artillery and DShK weapons.



Arms sales of SIPRI Top 100 arms companies grow despite supply chain challenges

ANF |5 December 2022

Sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the industry reached \$592 billion in 2021, a 1.9 per cent increase compared with 2020 in real terms. This is according to new data released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The increase marked the seventh consecutive year of rising global arms sales. However, while the rate of growth in 2020–21 was higher than in 2019–20 (1.1 per cent), it was still below the average for the four years leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic (3.7 per cent).

Supply chain issues seen in 2021 likely to worsen due to Ukraine war

Many parts of the arms industry were still affected by pandemic-related disruptions in global supply chains in 2021, which included delays in global shipping and shortages of vital components.

‘We might have expected even greater growth in arms sales in 2021 without persistent supply chain issues,’ said Dr Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Director of the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. ‘Both larger and smaller arms companies said that their sales had been affected during the year. Some companies, such as Airbus and General Dynamics, also reported labour shortages.’

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has added to supply chain challenges for arms companies, not least because Russia is a major supplier of raw materials used in arms production. This could hamper ongoing efforts in the United States and Europe to strengthen their armed forces and to replenish their stockpiles after sending billions of dollars' worth of ammunition and other equipment to Ukraine.

'Increasing output takes time,' said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, SIPRI Senior Researcher. 'If supply chain disruptions continue, it may take several years for some of the main arms producers to meet the new demand created by the Ukraine war.'

While reports indicate that Russian companies are increasing production because of the war, they have had difficulty accessing semiconductors. They are also being impacted by war-related sanctions. For example, Almaz-Antey (not included in the Top 100 for 2021 due to lack of data) has stated that it has not been able to receive payments for some of its arms export deliveries.

US companies dominate the Top 100, but sales decline

The arms sales of the 40 US companies in the listing totalled \$299 billion in 2021. North America was the only region to see a drop in arms sales compared with 2020. The 0.8 per cent real-terms decline was partly due to high inflation in the US economy during 2021. Since 2018, the top five companies in the Top 100 have all been based in the USA.

A recent wave of mergers and acquisitions in the US arms industry continued in 2021. One of the most significant acquisitions was Peraton's purchase of Perspecta, a government IT specialist, for \$7.1 billion.

'We can probably expect to see stronger action from the US government to limit arms industry mergers and acquisitions in the next few years,' said Dr Nan Tian, SIPRI Senior Researcher. 'The US Department of Defense has expressed concern that reduced competition in the industry could have knock-on effects on procurement costs and product innovation.'

Europe: Aerospace sales fall, shipbuilding rises

In 2021, there were 27 Top 100 companies headquartered in Europe. Their combined arms sales increased by 4.2 per cent compared with 2020, reaching \$123 billion.

'Most of the European companies that specialize in military aerospace reported losses for 2021, which they blamed on supply chain disruptions,' said Lorenzo Scarazzato, a researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. 'In contrast, European shipbuilders seem to have been less affected by the pandemic fallout and were able to increase their sales in 2021.'

Dassault Aviation Group bucked the trend in the military aerospace sector. The company's arms sales saw a sharp 59 per cent increase to \$6.3 billion in 2021, driven by deliveries of a total of 25 Rafale combat aircraft.

Chinese companies drive rapid growth in Asian arms sales

The combined arms sales of the 21 companies in Asia and Oceania included in the Top 100 reached \$136 billion in 2021—5.8 per cent more than in 2020. The eight Chinese arms companies in the listing had total arms sales of \$109 billion, a 6.3 per cent increase.

‘There has been a wave of consolidation in the Chinese arms industry since the mid 2010s,’ said Xiao Liang, a researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. ‘In 2021 this saw China’s CSSC becoming the biggest military shipbuilder in the world, with arms sales of \$11.1 billion, after a merger between two existing companies.’

The combined arms sales of the four South Korean companies in the Top 100 grew by 3.6 per cent compared with 2020, reaching \$7.2 Billion. This was largely due to a 7.6 per cent rise in arms sales by Hanwha Aerospace, to \$2.6 Billion. Hanwha’s arms sales are expected to grow significantly in the coming years, after it signed a major arms deal with Poland in 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



Asayish says explosion in Qamishlo was a terrorist attack

ANF |Qamishlo |5 December 2022

An explosion occurred in the northern Syrian city of Qamishlo at 8 a.m. local time on Monday morning in a parked vehicle in front of the office of the Education and Training Committee in the Cizre Democratic Autonomous Administration.

While the driver was seriously injured and hospitalized, the car, property of the Education Committee used as a staff shuttle, was destroyed as a result of the explosion on Quwetli Street. The institution therefore assumes that the perpetrator or perpetrators wanted an attack "with devastating consequences and a high number of dead and injured".

Initial investigations by the Internal Security Forces (Asayish) of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) revealed that the detonation was triggered by an explosive device in the rear part of the car. The Asayish named "terrorist aides of the Turkish state" as the suspected source of the attack.



Villages in Pervari sealed off due to military operation

ANF |Siirt |5 December 2022

In the northern Kurdish district of Pervari in the province Siirt, several villages are besieged by the Turkish army. The reason is a military operation in the rural area of Mansur Bay north of Şırnak. An informal curfew has been imposed on the population of the villages in the area, prohibiting them from entering or leaving the encircled localities. Violators face arrest.

The operation in Pervari was launched on Monday with the deployment of armored units of paramilitary special forces, while the Turkish Air Force is also deployed. According to the Turkish Interior Ministry, a total of more than 530 soldiers, police officers and so-called village guards were involved in the operation. At the moment, wide-ranging searches are taking place in the area.

Due to the curfews, herders are not allowed to take their animals to the pastures. The industrial sector in Pervari is very small, and the majority of the population lives from animal husbandry and agriculture. Many people see not only their security but also their livelihoods threatened by the military operation.

So far it is not known how long the curfew in the besieged villages in Pervari will remain in force. For those affected, the measure means a complete lockdown from the outside world.

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HPG: Seven soldiers killed in heavy fighting in Muş

ANF | Behdinan | 5 December 2022

According to the People's Defence Forces (HPG), at least seven Turkish soldiers were killed in fighting in the northern Kurdish province of Muş. The clash occurred on 18 November during a military operation in a rural area in the district of Varto. Guerrilla commander Aso Ferzad was martyred in the course of the clashes and another HPG member was taken prisoner.

The personal data of the fallen guerrilla fighter is:

Nom de Guerre: Aso Ferzad

First-Last Name: Seyîd Perendek

Birthplace: Rewanser

Mother's-Father's Name: Tuba – Ali Muhammed

Date and Place of Martyrdom: 18 November 2022 / Muş

According to HPG, Aso Ferzad was born in the eastern Kurdish town of Rewanser near Kermanshah to a family deeply connected to the Kurdish resistance. Aso Ferzad joined the guerrilla ranks in the mountains in 2012.

The HPG expressed their condolences to the relatives of the commander Ferzad as well as to Kurdish society, adding, “We promise to defend the free life that the fallen gave us and to realise our common ideal of a free Kurdistan.”

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Turkey bombs many villages in Northern and Eastern Syria

ANF |5 December 2022

The Turkish state's attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria continue. Today, many points have been bombed.

The villages of Meyase and Bêne in Sherawa district of Afrin; Kobanê's villages of Qeremox, Zormixar, Cêşan and Çarixli; the villages Seyda and Abu Sira in Ain Issa, the villages of Kefer Garis and Semûqa in Shehba, and Shehba Dam. They bombarded the village of Şêx Elî in Til Temir district with howitzers and other heavy weapons.

Another target of the attacks was the villages of Zenûbiye, Kor Hesên and Xan to the west of Girê Spî.

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Anonymous hacks Swedish government's website to protest extradition of Mahmut Tat

ANF |6 December 2022

The protests against the Swedish state's collaboration with Turkish fascism continue. After the extradition of Kurdish asylum seeker Mahmut Tat and his immediate detention in Turkey, hacktivists from Anonymous hacked the official Swedish government website. Anonymous, confirmed the hacking via Twitter and condemned the extradition of Mahmut Tat.

Kurdish asylum seeker with cancer extradited to Turkish custody

Sweden deported Mahmut Tat on Friday. Tat applied for asylum in Sweden in 2015 after being sentenced to six years and ten months in prison in Turkey for "membership of a terrorist organization". His application for asylum was rejected. After his extradition to Turkey, he was immediately arrested and imprisoned. According to HDP MP Alican Önlü, Tat has so far not had access to his much-needed cancer medication in prison.

Collaboration of Sweden with Turkish fascism

Turkey is blackmailing Sweden with a veto on the country's NATO accession. Turkey demands the extradition of alleged PKK members and other persons regarded as enemies of the state and the criminalization of Kurdish structures. The Swedish government appears to be following suit, with tightening of terror legislation coming into force in January. The deportation of Tat also points in this direction. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson had previously announced that he would heed the promises made to the Turkish state. Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ hailed Mahmut Tat's extradition as "a good start that shows Sweden's sincerity and goodwill".

On the other hand, Anonymous announced that it would continue protest actions against the Swedish government.

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Turkish armoured vehicle kills a woman and a child in Aleppo

ANF |6 December 2022

A Turkish armoured vehicle ran over and killed a woman and a child during a patrol in the town of al-Atarib in western Aleppo. Afterwards, angry residents of al-Atarib threw stones and other objects at the patrol.

A group of the Al-Qaida offshoot Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) intervened and protected the Turkish troops. In November, a young girl was crushed by an armoured vehicle in Serêkaniyê.

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SDF announces the outcome of Turkish aggression on December 5

ANF |6 December 2022

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the balance sheet of Turkish attacks against North-East Syria on December 4, Sunday.

The SDF stated that, on the sixteenth day of the Turkish aggression on North-East Syria, the artillery and tanks of the Turkish occupation continued shelling the areas of north and eastern Syria, targeting civilian homes and facilities and agricultural lands, and turning them into rubble, especially in Zarkan, Kobane, and the areas of Al-Shahba'a. The journalists and activists have documented Turkish criminality against the region and its inhabitants.

Providing information about the latest attacks of the Turkish state against North-East Syria, the SDF Press Center stated the following:

An additional outcome of December 4, 2022

Al Jazeera Region

Tal Tamir

The villages of Tal al-Laban, al-Kuzaliya, and Um al-Kayf silos were targeted by heavy artillery and DShK weapons.

Zarkan

The villages of Bobi, Dada Abdul, Muharmala, and the town of Zarkan were subjected to 31 mortar shells, in addition to DShK weapons attacks.

Our forces responded immediately and continuously to the source of those attacks.

Euphrates Region**Gri Spi / Tal Abyad**

The villages of Kur Hassan, Al-Arida, and Al-Salibi were shelled two times by heavy artillery, and 4 times by mortar shells, in addition to DShK weapons.

Ain Issa

The east of Ain Isa town was targeted with DShK weapons, in addition to other shells.

The Outcome of December 5, 2022**Afrin and Al-Shahba'a Region**

The villages of Sheikh Hilal, Harbal, Samouka, Mennig, Sheikh Issa, Kafr Naya, Sad Al-Shahba, Kafr Qars, Binh / Ibiyan, Soghanake, Aqiba, Mayassa, Al-Shawargha, Al-Irshadiya, and the town of Tal Rif'at were subjected to 33 heavy artillery shells and 30 mortar shells.

Ain Daqna village was targeted by a Turkish UAV.

Al Jazeera Region**Tal Tamir**

The villages of Um al-Kayf and its silos, Tal al-Laban, al-Kuzaliya, al-Sheikh Ali were shelled with heavy artillery and DShK weapons.

Euphrates Region**Kobane**

The villages of Zor Maghar, Charqli, Kuran, Kharab Baysan, Jishan, Khani, Qaramog, and the town of Al-Shuyoukh were shelled with heavy artillery and mortar shells.

Gri Spi / Tal Abyad

The villages of Tal Khan, al-Dibs, Abu Surra, Kor Hassan, Zenobia, and the international road (M4) were shelled two times by heavy artillery and 3 times by mortar shells.

Manbij

The villages of Karhiuk and Qawakli were targeted 7 times by heavy artillery shells.

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Avrin Hospital warns that it may reduce services because of embargo and Turkish attacks

ANF |Shehba |7 December 2022

The Damascus government, which maintains an embargo against the Shehba Canton, prevents supplies, medicine, and fuel from entering the region. This could soon turn into a humanitarian disaster for the patients of Avrin Hospital.

Life in Shehba has become even harder, as the embargo deepens and the Turkish attacks continue. The schools have closed for the time being, and the ambulances cannot work as there is no fuel.

Previously, 5 ambulances were serving the people at Avrin Hospital, where approximately 600 citizens were treated daily.

Talking to ANHA about the very serious situation, one of the directors of Avrin Hospital, Dr. Azad Reşo said that “patients are treated in the cold because there is no heating and electricity in the hospital”.

On the other hand, Reşo warned about the lack of fuel, medicine, and oxygen and stated that with the arrival of winter, the citizens, especially those in the refugee camps, are living in very harsh conditions.

Reşo underlined that dozens of ill citizens will die if drugs are not found or patients are not transferred to Aleppo, and called on international organizations to put pressure on the Syrian government to immediately lift the embargo.

More than 200 thousand refugees from Afrin and citizens of Shehba live in Shehba Canton.

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Erdal Kobanê: We will protect this land with our lives

Hivda Hebun |Gire Spi |7 December 2022

For a fortnight now, the Turkish state has been attacking the autonomous areas in northern and eastern Syria with all its might from the air, with rockets, drones, and howitzers and sporadic mercenary attacks. The spokesman of the Girê Spî Military Council, Erdal Kobanê, warns of a Turkish ground attack. In an interview with ANF, he emphasized that the region is meant to be occupied and that the Turkish state in-

tends to settle its mercenaries in the place of the population. Therefore, since the beginning of the expansion of the attacks on 19 November, mainly civilian settlement areas from Shehba in the west to Dêrik in the east have been attacked. The attacks have mainly killed civilians and many regime soldiers, including commanders. Nevertheless, the regime and Russia have remained silent about the attacks.

“Turkish plans did not work”

The massive airstrikes are meant to make people panic and flee the region, Kobanê said and continued: "Of course, this calculation did not work. The attackers met with resistance from the population. Despite all the attacks, people did not leave their villages and towns. The attacks did not only take place at the border lines. The people's living space, infrastructure, schools, and hospitals were targeted. As the attacks increased, our people strengthened their resistance even more and clung to their land even more."

“As long as we live, this region cannot be occupied”

Kobanê emphasized that: "As the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces), we are the children of this people. We will protect these areas even if it costs us our lives. As long as we live, the Turkish state will not be able to occupy these areas. The children of this country are convinced and determined to fight. We are also prepared for any attack."

"The invasion attempts will continue"

The spokesperson of the military council, who sees a domestic political motivation of the Turkish regime behind the attacks and points to the upcoming elections next year, added: "The Turkish state will do everything to attack the people in northern and eastern Syria at every opportunity. All the state's efforts are already geared towards this. Whatever happens, we will never allow this land to be occupied and the hopes of the people here to be dashed. This is our promise to the people."



HPG: The Turkish state conceals the loss of its soldiers

ANF |Behdinan |7 December 2022

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) pointed out that the Turkish state conceals the loss of its soldiers during the ongoing war in Kurdistan, noting that Turkish soldier Mustafa Bazna's body could be delivered to his family upon request.

The statement released by the HPG Press Center on Wednesday includes the following:

“In our statement on November 4, we shared the information that the corpse, military equipment and mobile phone of a soldier were seized during the course of a guerrilla action at 12:20 on November 3 in the Girê FM Resistance Area of Metîna, near the Amadiya district of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). The soldier in question, whose body remains in the hands of our forces, has been established to be Mustafa

Bazna, son of Döndü and Ramazan, born in Düzce on May 14, 1996, with ID number 13082287382. It is understood that the death of this soldier is concealed from Turkey's people and public opinion.

Erdogan and Akar conceal military casualties

In order to remain in power for a longer while, the AKP-MHP fascist regime is sacrificing Turkish soldiers by deploying them into the guerrilla-controlled areas by orders of Tayyip Erdoğan and defence minister Hulusi Akar. Although nearly 2,500 Turkish soldiers have been killed in the Zap region in the last 8 months, the government does not reveal the death toll to the people and public of Turkey.

The truth, however, is there has been a large-scale war in these areas, and a huge number of military casualties under the responsibility of Erdoğan and Akar. The Turkish authorities announced the death of a major who was killed two days ago in the middle of the night as if it was an ordinary incident, proving once again that they do not value any of their soldiers, whether common or high-ranking, and trying to conceal the reality of the war in Kurdistan from the public.

As previously documented and revealed to the public by our forces, the military casualties have been concealed, corpses of soldiers were not retrieved but left in the battlefields and the corpses of soldiers were brutally burned on the instructions of Tayyip Erdoğan and Hulusi Akar. These special warlords who want to keep their anti-Kurdish fascist regime in power for a longer while, have committed and still continue to commit numerous war crimes by trampling on human morality, international laws of war and even their own core values.

We can deliver the soldier's body if requested

Even though there is such an inhuman enemy, as the Kurdistan People's Defence Forces, we state hereby that we can deliver the body of the soldier named Mustafa Bazna to his family through civilians or non-governmental organizations, if they demand, in accordance with the moral values of humanity, common values of the peoples and the laws of war.”

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More displaced Yazidis return to Shengal

ANF |Shengal |7 December 2022

Hundreds of citizens were killed, and thousands of others were forced to leave their homes when ISIS started to massacre the Yazidi people in Shengal on August 3, 2014.

After ISIS was defeated by the Kurdish freedom guerrillas and the Yazidi defense forces, displaced families have begun to return to their homeland.

Two more Yazidi families who were forcibly displaced after the mass slaughter have returned to Shengal after 8 years.

The families who migrated to the Sêmêlê town of Duhok 8 years ago have returned to their homes in the Shehidan district of Shengal.

According to the data of the Shengal District Governorate, about 300 Yazidi families have returned to the Yazidi town since August 2022.



‘Turkish aggression on North-East Syria poses a security threat to the entire region’

Mustafa Çoban |Kobane |7 December 2022

Mohammed Fethi Al-Sharif criticized Arab media outlets for their weak coverage of the Turkish attacks on North-East Syria.

Egyptian analyst and head of the Center for Arab Studies, Mohammed Fethi Al Sharif, spoke to ANF about the Turkish state’s increasingly ongoing attacks on North-East Syria.

Remarking that Turkey has crossed all lines and attacked North-East Syria, Al-Sharif said, “Turkey’s attacks are unacceptable. They have different plans. We have seen many images and reports of how it bombed and destroyed civilian residential areas. The international community must reject these attacks.”

Security problem for every place

Al-Sharif underlined that the Turkish attacks created a security problem for every place. “These attacks also raise security concerns in the international arena. Therefore, the Arab world and the international community should react to Turkish aggression. The international community and legal organizations know about the countless violations in the wake of Turkey’s attacks. Turkey acts in line with its own interests and the interests of regional states.”

International community should act

The Egyptian analyst pointed out that the attacks benefited terrorism: “Terrorist groups have emerged and dispersed into cities in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. As Turkey targeted these regions, the security of these countries was threatened. Thus, laws are removed, and terrorist groups go into action. ISIS is one of the groups trying to resurge. We do not accept this enormous danger to the whole Middle East. If the international community wants to eradicate these terrorist groups, it should put pressure on the states that support terrorism and contribute to its revival.”

Violations should be brought to court

Al-Sharif insisted that the violations committed by the Turkish state should be brought to international courts. “The Security Committee should hold a high-level meeting and address Turkey’s violations in

North-East Syria. Until Turkey halts the attacks, the Arab community and the world should put pressure on Turkey in concert. This requires a lot of hard work,” he said.

Al-Sharif criticized Arab media outlets for their weak coverage of the Turkish attacks on North-East Syria, saying, “Every person wants to live in peace and stability. If there is pressure on this legitimate right, media organizations should also play their part to criticize it, because war is the main cause of plunder and destruction.”

Those who resist will win

“I hope that there will be peace in the region and people will win against those who abuse their rights,” Al-Sharif concluded.

— ★ —

HDP Amed MP Tosun protests war and attacks by throwing her white scarf to the ground

ANF |Ankara |8 December 2022

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Amed MP Remziye Tosun wore a white scarf to protest the isolation system against Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and the attacks by the Turkish state against Northern and Eastern Syria and Basûrê Kurdistan at the General Assembly of the Parliament, where budget negotiations are continuing. She threw the scarf at the board.

Where war decisions are taken

Tosun protested the İmralı isolation system and the war and said: “Insisting on the deadlock in the Kurdish problem is dragging society into disaster. At the stage we have reached, every repression method has been applied. The repression which led to a deadlock has been met with resistance. The resistance of the Saturday Mothers against the darkness of the 90s was a leading action. Peace Mothers and women's struggle to resist war. Peace and justice vigils continue in many parts of the country. We need peace now more than ever. It is women who suffer the most from conflicts. We need to carry the power of women who threw their white scarf on the ground in the past to our days. In order for the conflicts to end, for the isolation system to be lifted, for honorable peace to come to this land, I am throwing my scarf here where war decisions are taken. Stop the operations, lift the isolation in İmralı, open the way to honorable peace.”

— ★ —

Kongra Star calls for support for 'close Rojava airspace' campaign

ANF |8 December 2022

In a statement, Kongra Star Coordination raised concern over the brutal attacks of the invading Turkish state against the region, which uses fighter jets, drones and prohibited weapons.

The statement pointed out that the citizens, the Autonomous Administration institutions and the infrastructure of the region were targeted in the attacks, adding that massacres were carried out against the people of the region in the presence of Russia and the US.

Kongra Star stated that it would support the hashtag campaign to be launched by the Autonomous Administration on 10 December, World Human Rights Day, in order to close the airspace of North and East Syria. The Kongra Star called on all assemblies and committees in North and East Syria, organizations and representatives abroad, all institutions, organizations, and women's movements in the Middle East and the world to join the campaign to protest the attacks.

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Afrin women resist Syrian embargo and Turkish attacks

ANF |Shehba |8 December 2022

Women who migrated from Afrin to Shehba Canton spoke to ANHA about the embargo imposed by the Syrian government and the attacks of the invading Turkish state.

Resistance for 5 years

Elif Osman called attention to the heavy embargo imposed on Shehba Canton and revealed that the Syrian government did not allow the supply of diesel, medicine and life-sustaining equipment to the region.

Osman said that they are facing attacks by the invading Turkish state simultaneously with the embargo, adding that despite these difficult conditions, they have been resisting and continuing to live in the camps for 5 years.

Osman unveiled that the Afrin Region Autonomous Administration helped the people as much as possible and provided basic needs. She noted that they had nevertheless difficulties due to the heavy embargo. She added they would still resist until they liberate Afrin and return to their homes.

Women urge Syrian government to lift embargo

Lütfiye Hesen remarked that due to the embargo on the region, their situation is worse than previous years. “Our children are too young, and they need milk. We earn a livelihood by collecting wooden fuel so that our children are not starved.”

Hesen pointed out that they faced constant attacks besides the embargo in order to make them to renounce their struggle. “However, we will fight with great persistence.”

Hesen called on humanitarian and legal organizations to come to the region to observe the current situation and to put pressure on the Syrian government to lift the blockade on region’s residents.



Turkey uses European products to produce missiles

ANF | 8 December 2022

The Conflict Armament Research (CAR) released a report on the weapons used by the Turkish state in its attacks on North and East Syria.

Between September 2021 and June 2022, the report analysed the remains of 17 air-to-surface missiles used in strikes in northeast Syria.

Researchers found that these missiles were manufactured by a Turkish arms company, Roketsan.

“These missiles included key components manufactured by U.S., Chinese and European companies,” the report said.

The report said that electromagnetic brakes are supposed to be used to produce blood analysis machines fitted to ambulances.

The report noted that these brakes were “incorporated into missiles to be used in strikes in north-eastern Syria” rather than being used in ambulances.

Electromagnetic brakes were purchased from the Netherlands-based company Kendrion NV. The report revealed that the company agreed to provide 20-25 000 brakes to the Turkish company FEMSAN to be used in blood analysis machines in ambulances in 2018. However, according to the report, Kendrion cut off its business relationship with the Turkish company when it was informed that the brakes were being used in military applications.

According to the CAR, export control officials argued that current EU regulations do not allow such purchases. They added that limitations would only apply if the purchasing country were under a multilateral

embargo. The report noted that while the EU has had an arms embargo related to Syria itself since 2011, Turkey has never been subject to sanctions at the multilateral level.

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HRW: Turkish strikes exacerbate humanitarian crisis in north-east Syria

ANF |8 December 2022

In a statement on Thursday, the HRW said that “Turkish airstrikes since November 20, 2022, are inflicting damage on densely populated areas and critical infrastructure across north and northeast Syria and exacerbating an already catastrophic humanitarian crisis for Kurds, Arabs, and other communities in the region.”

International humanitarian workers and local residents told the HRW that the strikes have displaced families, caused significant power cuts and fuel shortages, forced aid organizations to temporarily suspend certain activities, and led to school and work disruptions.

Citing nongovernmental organizations working in northeast Syria, the HRW said that targeting energy infrastructure could harm the environment and the current water crisis in the region.

“Turkey’s attacks on populated areas and critical infrastructure across north and northeast Syria is putting civilians’ basic rights further at risk,” Adam Coogle, deputy Middle East director at the HRW said.

“Syrians are already enduring a humanitarian catastrophe, a growing displacement crisis, and an economy in free fall. Turkey’s military strikes risk making an already unbearable situation much worse for Kurds, Arabs, and other communities.”

The HRW also called attention to the effects of the attacks on detained Syrian and foreign ISIS members.

“Turkey can, and should, ensure that its military actions do not further aggravate northeast Syria’s humanitarian and displacement crises,” Coogle said.

“Turkey’s international allies should press the government to ensure that its campaign does not put Syrians’ basic rights at risk,” he added.

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Nearly 30 villages in North-East Syria attacked by Turkey today

ANF |8 December 2022

The invading Turkish state forces attacked more civilian settlements in North-East Syria on Thursday.

The wave of attacks with howitzer, mortar, and artillery fire targeted the villages of Meyase and Zirnehîte in Afrin's Sherawa district; the villages of Til Leben, Gozeliyê, Um El Xêr and Mezreya Şiwêş in Til Temir; the village of Salûk southwest of Girê Spî (Tal Abyad); the villages of Til El Werd and Xirbet Şeir south of Zirgan; the villages of Keştiar and Bêne in Afrin and the village of Qeremox east of Kobanê.

In the evening hours, the Turkish army and mercenaries shelled the villages of Çelebiyê, Zormixar, Mer-simêlê, Şêxler, Şiyûx, Çarixli, Merc İsmail, Cişan and Qeremox in Kobanê; the town of Silûk in Girê Spî and the villages of Hoşan, Dibis and Fatsa in Ain Issa.

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TEV-DEM calls for participation in the campaign to close Rojava airspace

ANF |Qamishlo |9 December 2022

The Democratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM) made a statement in Qamishlo with the participation of committee and union members.

TEV-DEM Women's Bureau Executive member Zeyneb Hisên read the statement.

"Despite the presence of the US and Russia, the invading Turkish state's attacks on the gains made in Northern and Eastern Syria continue, especially with warplanes," the statement said.

"These attacks and crimes by the invading Turkish state are a threat to the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians and refugees who were forced to leave their homes in the region due to the security situation," added the statement.

TEV-DEM stated that it supports the hashtag campaign that the Autonomous Administration will launch on Saturday, 10 December, demanding to close the airspace of Northern and Eastern Syria to warplanes.

TEV-DEM called on humanitarian and legal organizations, especially the United Nations (UN), and local and international non-governmental organizations to take a common stance against the war crimes committed by the invading Turkish state against civilians and to join the campaign.

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Turkish military budget now 10 times larger than 2015

MedyaNews – 9 December 2022

In the 2023 Turkish General Assembly budget negotiations, the pro-Kurdish opposition People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP Sevinç Coşkun noted that TL 470 billion [\$25 billion] was allocated in 2023 for the defence and security budget, which was TL 45 billion [\$2.4 billion] at the time of the talks with PKK Leader Abdullah Öcalan during the resolution process.

Discussions on the 2023 Central Government Budget Law Proposal started on Monday and will continue for 12 days until 16 December. The resource allocation for defense caused heated debate, as Turkey deals with a failing economy and increasing poverty.

Despite economic hardships, the Turkish government has not paused cross-border operations with neighbors Iraq and Syria. Ankara is currently threatening to initiate a ground offensive against Kurdish groups in northeast Syria.

The HDP strongly criticized the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government for prioritizing war over economic policies in Monday's session. HDP MP Pervin Buldan said, "You have allocated TL 470 billion [\$25 billion] of the budget for security and defense. That is one of the reasons for high inflation, unemployment, and poverty."

As the HDP defined the government's 2023 spending plans as a "war budget", AKP lawmakers did not deny that a substantial budget is allocated to warfare.

The resolution and peace process between Turkey and the PKK ended in 2015 after attempts for negotiations for a period of two years.

The Turkish government has been conducting military operations in Syria since 2016. Turkey's recent airstrikes against North and East Syria have continued unabated since 19 November.

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Chemical weapons

Action Days against chemical weapons show international solidarity with Kurdish Freedom Movement

ANF | 5 December 2022

Following the initiative Defend Kurdistan, which called on activists to take to the streets in the frame of the Global days of action from November 30 – December 3, focused on pressuring the Western governments and institutions to take responsibility against Turkey's war crimes.

Hundreds of people have mobilized in different parts of the world to denounce Turkey's use of chemical weapons among other demands.

In Germany, the Green Party was time and again pointed out with the support of the environmental movement and various solidarity groups, that occupied their headquarters and carried out various creative actions. In Italy, the blockades of Turkish Airlines, the occupation of universities as well as the joint demonstrations of the Kurdish community with the solidarity movement have been heard from the north to the south of the country.

The Serhildan Network has taken the initiative in different territories. Also, together with the Kurdish community, they have made big demonstrations in the centre of Paris, blocked the traffic in Zurich and painted murals in Liege, among other actions. In England, Bristol, and London have organized pickets, targeting the Boeing company, the manufacturer of the bombs that fell in Rojava.

Actions have spread across Europe; Bulgaria, Greece, the Basque Country, Catalonia, Scotland, Valencia, and Austria have also targeted Turkish embassies and launched a message of solidarity. Beyond Europe, messages of solidarity have come from Chiapas, Brazil, India, Kenya and West Papua.

The global days of action have expressed support for the freedom movement of Kurdistan in the face of the bombing and threat of invasion in Rojava, raising the voice for the freedom of Reber Apo, giving support to the revolts in Rojhilat and to the great resistance of the guerrillas in the mountains. The Defend Kurdistan initiative calls to keep up the pressure against the attacks of the Turkish state, to strengthen solidarity and to organize in order to give an answer to the imperialist attacks in Kurdistan.

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French media covers Turkish use of chemical weapons against the PKK

ANF | 5 December 2022

The French paper L'Humanité has published a feature article titled "Chemical suspicion of Erdogan's operations against the Kurds" using a photo taken from video footage published by ANF. In it, the paper, examined the accusation made by the PKK which said that the Turkish army is using toxic chemical substances against its fighters in the mountains of northern Iraq.

The news channel France24 has also covered Turkey's chemical attacks, citing the headline of L'Humanité article and the suggestion that "only an international investigation under the aegis of the UN or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) can confirm or invalidate these allegations."

"The paper states that another sensible option is Iraq's submission of a demand for an investigation, but this option seems rather difficult considering the fact that there is no stable government in the country. The other possible option would be that a country like France could demand a verification mission into the allegations," said the France24 presenter.

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IADL joins campaign to OPCW for independent investigation into Turkey chemical weapons allegations

ANF |7 December 2022

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) supports the following petition campaign and encourages all lawyers and legal workers around the world to sign on.

It is urging an independent investigation be opened at the Office for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) regarding allegations that Turkey has used chemical weapons. A statement on this issue was previously issued by a number of organizational signatories, urging that people and organizations calling for such an investigation not be prosecuted and that OPCW member states support such an independent investigation.

With a deadline of 21 December, individual lawyers can join this campaign.

The text of the petition is below:

To Member States of OPCW:

Allegations that Turkey used chemical weapons should be the subject of an independent investigation.

Serious findings, statements, and images regarding the use of chemical weapons in the operations carried out by the Republic of Turkey on the territory of the Kurdistan Regional Government since 2021 are featured on social media and news channels. According to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the states party to the convention are strictly prohibited from using chemical weapons.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We urge member states of the OPCW to request an investigation to pave the way for an independent investigation by the OPCW.

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HPG reports ongoing Turkish attacks with chemical weapons

ANF |Behdinan |8 December 2022

According to the Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG), the Turkish army used chemical weapons continuously against a guerrilla position in the Zap region in Southern Kurdistan on Wednesday:

"The Turkish occupation forces bombarded the Şehîd Botan position in the resistance area of Çemço with chemical weapons twelve times continuously from morning to evening. At the same time, the resistance areas were attacked eight times by fighter jets and dozens of times with howitzers, mortars and heavy weapons. The targets of the airstrikes were Deştâ Kafya in Gare as well as Geliyê Avaşîn, Girê Bihar and Girê Cûdî," said the HPG statement on Thursday.

Regarding the recent guerrilla actions against the Turkish army, the HPG stated that the invading forces were attacked with semi-automatic and heavy weapons on 7 December in Girê Amêdî, Girê Cûdî and Girê Şehîd Şahan areas in Xakurke.



Turkish army carries out 20 chemical attacks

ANF | Behdinan | 9 December 2022

The HPG Press Center released a press statement saying that "as a result of the actions of our forces, 3 Turkish soldiers were killed."

The statement added: "The Martyr Botan battle positions in the Çemço Resistance Area were bombed with chemical weapons 20 times. Moreover, the invading Turkish army bombed Resistance Areas 5 times with fighter jets and dozens of times with howitzers, mortars, tanks and heavy weapons.

The details of our actions and the attacks against us are as follows:

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

On December 8, at 14:30, Turkish troops in the Martyr Adil Resistance Area in Çemço were shot down by our mobile teams with heavy weapons and one of them was killed.

On December 8, at 16:00, Turkish troops advancing towards the Martyr Botan battle positions in the Çemço Resistance Area were hit in a sabotage action.

As part of the Cenga Xabûre Martyr Savaş Maraş Revolutionary Campaign:

On December 8, Turkish troops on the move in the Girê Ortê area of Metîna were shot down with individual weapons after they were taken under control by our forces. 2 Turkish soldiers were killed following the action.

On December 8, at 10:00, 12:00 and 14:00, Turkish troops in the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area were hit three times with heavy weapons by our YJA Star mobile teams.

On December 8, at 14:50, our mobile teams intervened in invading troops who cut down trees in the Girê Amediyê Resistance Area, which forced them to retreat.

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

On August 8, the Martyr Botan battle positions in the Çemço Resistance Area were bombed with chemical weapons 20 times all day without interruption.

Attacks carried out by the invading Turkish army:

On December 8, Turkish fighter jets shelled Garê's Deşta Kafya area and Gunde Şkeftiyan land, and the Gunde Şêlazê area of Metîna 5 times.

On December 8, Sîda, Çemço, Girê Amediyê and Girê Cûdî Resistance Area were bombed dozens of times by howitzers, mortars, tanks and heavy weapons.

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Iran

Hîlala Zêrîn releases song “Baraye” in solidarity with women protesting in Iran and Rojhilat

ANF | Qamishlo | 5 December 2022

The song "Baraye", which means “For” in Kurdish and which is accepted as the anthem of the rebellion in Rojhilat and Iran, was sung in Persian by singer Shervin Hajipour.

Shervin Hajipour was detained on 29 September 2022, two days after the song's release.

This song resonated all over the world and was translated into different languages.

The lyrics of the song draw attention to the freedom dance played in the streets of Rojhilat and Iran during the revolt, the change in the reactionary mentality, the impact of the Iranian state's policies on the future of children and students, and the oppression of the detainees. The song also mentions the slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî”.

The Stêra Zêrîn Group from the Hilala Zêrîn Women's Cultural Movement recorded the song and released a clip which includes images and stills from the demonstrations in Rojhilat and Iran.

The Hêwa Group from the Hîlala Zêrîn Women's Cultural Movement had previously performed the song “Jina” to support the “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” rebellion.

You can lesson the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn1tni6qslA&t=82s>



General strike across Iran and Eastern Kurdistan

ANF |5 December 2022

The revolutionary movement in Iran and Eastern Kurdistan (Rojhilat) has called for a general strike, which is to culminate in protests at a public appearance by President Ebrahim Raisi. The strikes started on Monday and are expected to last until Wednesday, activists announced in several calls on the internet. Raisi is scheduled to visit Tehran University on Wednesday for Iranian Students' Day.

For the “14-15-16 protests”—the numbers are the dates in the Persian calendar month of Azar - a strike of traders and a three-day boycott of all economic activity was called for. Shops are to remain closed and purchases avoided, thus preventing any circulation of money in the Iranian banking system. The Kurdish human rights organization Hengaw showed videos from Rojhilat showing almost deserted streets and closed markets, shops, and bazaars in inner cities. In more than twenty Kurdish cities, traders and bazaars are taking part in the strikes. Across the country, more than 50 cities are on strike.

Similar calls led in recent weeks to an intensification of the popular uprising that has gripped the country since the death of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini. The Kurdish woman had been the victim of a state femicide in police custody in mid-September. The morality police had arrested her for allegedly violating the Islamist regime's dress code.

There was also an appeal on the web to target members of the “Basij” paramilitary militia on motorbikes, who have been instrumental in the violent suppression of the revolutionary movement. In recent weeks, demonstrators have mainly relied on the tactics of dumping oil on the streets and erecting barricades to impede the advance of the “Basij”—with success.

Since the beginning of the popular uprising in Iran and Eastern Kurdistan, human rights groups estimate that nearly 500 demonstrators have been killed, including at least 64 children. In addition, thousands of people have been arrested in recent months, some of whom have already been sentenced to death by revolutionary courts for “war against God”.



General strike continues in dozens of cities in East Kurdistan

ANF |6 December 2022

The mass protests that followed the murder of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini by the morality police in Tehran on September 16 continue throughout Iran and East Kurdistan.

Shopkeepers closed their shops in at least 29 cities in East Kurdistan, including Urmiya, Mahabad, Bokoan, Serdeşt, Piranşar, Şino, Seqiz, Bane, Dêwlan, Kamyaran, Dêwlan, Firwe, Merîwan, Pawe, Rewanser, Ciwanro, Selasî Bawecan, Kirmaşan and Îlam.

In the evening hours, protestors started bonfires on the streets during the protests.

While female students in the city of Sine removed their headscarves in protest at the Iranian regime, a commemoration was held for activist Mohammed Şeriet, who was murdered by the Iranian state forces.

Students marched in the city of Dêwlan, chanting the iconic slogan of “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” (Woman, Life, Freedom).

In the evening, young people took to the streets and started bonfires in Sine, Kirmaşan, Seqiz, Ciwanro and many other cities of East Kurdistan.

Shops were closed in Tehran, Isfahan, Kirman, Faris, Merkezi, Hamadan, Busher and many other cities.

Protests were staged in Tehran, Mashhad, Zanjan, Arak and Isfahan on Monday evening.

As the strike continues, protests are expected to take place in many cities during the day.

According to a recent report published by the Iranian Human Rights Organization last week, at least 448 people, 51 of them being children, have been killed since September 16.

While opposition sources have published a list of at least 565 people killed during protests, the death toll is claimed to be over 700.

Furthermore, tens of thousands of protestors have been arrested. Some of them face a death sentence.



Iranian prisons force dire conditions on protesters

MedyaNews | 7 December 2022

Female protesters held in Iran’s Evin Prison and other correctional facilities suffer dire conditions, including limited access to drinking water, squalid hygiene, little or no access to fresh air, and other degradations of basic rights.

Prisons are overcrowded and can only provide water in the showers for two days a week, resulting in hair loss and fears of lice, Iranian human rights activist Atena Daemi reported.

The prison administration does not provide cleaning products for self-hygiene, toilets are not cleaned, and most prisoners are already suffering from infections, she added.

As a form of punishment, prison guards refuse to let inmates use toilets, this results in kidney issues. Meanwhile, poor ventilation causes disease to spread rapidly.

Inmates are allowed 10 minutes outside in the sun per week, despite the law stipulating access to fresh air on a daily basis. If the allotted time to go outside clashes with any other scheduled event, including interrogations, the small allotted window of opportunity is retracted.

There are also major issues of regarding the sanitation of medications, inmates have been forced to take their pills after the hygienic packaging has been broken. Some have reported instances of receiving different coloured pills for the same medication, suggesting tampering.

These violations are reported by prisoners awaiting trial, arrested for protesting the death of Jîna Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman who lost her life while in the custody of the Islamic Republic's morality police.

Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi, also currently behind bars at Evin, called on UN special rapporteur for human rights in Iran Javaid Rehman to investigate sexual assaults by authorities against female prisoners.

“Assaulting women in custody and incarceration centres is part of the regime's plan to suppress female protesters and fighters,” Mohammadi said in an instagram post.

Arash Sadeghi was imprisoned in Evin after he was threatened by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). He is held in solitary confinement while suffering serious bone cancer. Sadeghi's mother was killed at her home by security agents while he was behind bars over his activism, Iran Wire reported. UN experts have called for his immediate release.

The Canadian government “will not stand idly by while the regime's human rights violations increase in scope and intensity against the Iranian people,” Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly said.

Last week Canada introduced new sanctions on four Iranian individuals and five entities “for their roles in the regime's gross and systematic human rights violations and actions that continue to threaten international peace and security”, Joly said.

The sanctioned individuals include an IRGC official, a senior judge formerly stationed at the Evin Prison Court, and the chief of Iran's law enforcement special units. Safiran Airport Services coordinating Russian military flights between Iran and Russia, IRGC subsidiary firm Baharestan Kish Company, both involved in the production and export of Iran's armed drones, and the Javan News Agency for spreading regime propaganda.

“As the Iranian regime continues to clamp down violently on Iranian society, we affirm our solidarity with the people of Iran, who have bravely called out the regime for its human rights abuses—especially those of women and girls. The Iranian regime continues to use fear and violence in suppressing the rights and free-

doms of all Iranians. Today, we reiterate our support to those who refuse to endure this repression any longer,” Joly said.

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General strike in East Kurdistan and Iran enters day three

ANF | 7 December 2022

The freedom rebellion in East Kurdistan and Iran has been going on for three months.

The general strike, called for by the revolutionary movement in Iran and East Kurdistan (Rojhilat), was launched two days ago to protest the attacks by Iranian regime forces.

The general strike continues in East Kurdistan's Kirmanshan, Sine, Îlam, Mahabad, Rewanser, Pawe, Merîwan, Seqîz, Bane, Bokan, Dîwandere, Qirwe, Kamyaran, Şîno, Dêwlan, Ciwanro, West Islam Abad and many other cities.

Shops have remained closed in Iran's Shiraz, Bushehr, Kerec, Esfehan, Lahican, Qezwîn and more cities.

University students have joined the general strike and are boycotting schools in many cities, especially in Tehran.

Background

For the “14-15-16 protests”—the numbers are the dates in the Persian calendar month of Azar—a strike by traders and a three-day boycott of all economic activity was called for. Shops are to remain closed and purchases avoided, thus preventing any circulation of money in the Iranian banking system. The Kurdish human rights organization Hengaw showed videos from Rojhilat showing almost deserted streets and closed markets, shops, and bazaars in inner cities. In more than twenty Kurdish cities, traders and bazaars are taking part in the strikes. Across the country, more than 50 cities are on strike.

Similar calls led in recent weeks to an intensification of the popular uprising that has gripped the country since the death of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini. The Kurdish woman had been the victim of a state femicide in police custody in mid-September. The morality police had arrested her for allegedly violating the Islamist regime's dress code.

Since the beginning of the popular uprising in Iran and Eastern Kurdistan, human rights groups estimate that nearly 500 demonstrators have been killed, including at least 64 children. In addition, thousands of people have been arrested in recent months, some of whom have already been sentenced to death by revolutionary courts for “war against God”.

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23 years old activist Mohsen Shekari executed in Iran

ANF |8 December 2022

The mass-anti-government protests launched following the murder of Mahsa Amini by the morality police in Tehran on September 16 continue. The attacks of the regime forces are gradually escalating. It is reported that more than 18 thousand protestors have been detained so far, as well as citizens killed and injured by the regime forces during the protests. Some citizens detained are sentenced to death after a quick show trial and executed immediately. After a two and a half months of detention, a 23-year-old man named Mohsen Shekari was executed this morning.

Detained for allegedly injuring basij member

According to the news in the Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency (IRNA), a Basij officer was injured with a knife during the protests in Tehran's Setar Xan District on September 25. The Basij, a paramilitary volunteer militia established in Iran in 1979, serves as an auxiliary force engaged in activities such as internal security, enforcing state control over society. Immediately after the injury, a 23-year-old young activist named Mohsen Shekari was detained on the grounds that he participated in the protests.

Court sentenced him to death

After a quick show trial, the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced Mohsen Shekari to death on the grounds that “he deprived people of freedom and security with the intent to kill and spread terror, deliberately injured a security member (Basij) with a weapon (machete)”.

Young activist executed this morning

Mohsen Shekari's lawyer objected to the decision and appealed to the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court decided that Shekari “committed a war crime and the death sentence complied with the Sharia and legal standards of the country”. After the decision was upheld, 23-year-old Shekari was executed this morning (Dec. 8).

Hundreds of messages in support of Shekari were shared over the social media, calling for international human rights organizations to take more action against the executions and the “inhumane” practices of the Iranian regime.

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Kurdish young man tortured to death while in custody of Iranian security forces

ANF |9 December 2022

Arrest by the Iranian regime can mean death. Shadman Ahmadi, a Kurdish activist from Dewlan (Dehgolan), in Rojhilat, was arrested by the Iranian Secret Service on Thursday and taken to a police station. He died there a few hours later.

According to reports from the human rights organization Hengaw, the 33-year-old was tortured to death by Secret Service agents. The security forces then pressured the family to bury Shadman Ahmadi that night to prevent protests. However, many people gathered in front of Ahmadi's house to prevent a forced burial at night and in silence.

According to the Center for Statistics and Documentation of the human rights organization Hengaw, at least eight Kurds have been killed by torture in the past 80 days after being detained by Iranian authorities. On Thursday, the first activist of the uprising in Iran was executed by hanging.

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At least 458 people have been killed in protests in Iran and Rojhilat

ANF | 9 December 2022

At least 458 people including 63 children have been killed by security forces in the nationwide protests so far. Of the 63 children, nine were girls. The 63 children were all under 18 years of age, but have not all been verified through document evidence. Iran Human Rights is working to obtain confirmation of their ages.

Death Toll by Province

Protesters have been killed in 26 provinces, with the most reported in Sistan and Baluchistan, Kurdistan, Western Azerbaijan, Tehran, Mazandaran and Kermanshah respectively.

Deaths have been recorded in 26 provinces: Sistan and Baluchistan: 128 people; Kurdistan: 53 people; West Azerbaijan: 53 people; Tehran: 46 people; Mazandaran: 37 people; Kermanshah: 25 people; Gilan: 25 people; Alborz: 18 people; Isfahan: 14 people; Khuzestan: 10 people; Fars: 8 people; Khorasan-Razavi: 7 people; Zanjan: 5 people; East Azerbaijan: 4 people; Lorestan: 3 people; Markazi: 3 people; Qazvin: 3 people; Hamedan: 3 people; Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad: 2 people; Ardabil: 2 people; Ilam: 2 people; Bushehr: 2 people; Hormozgan: 2 person; Semnan: 1 person; Kerman: 1 person; Golestan: 1 person.

The highest number of deaths were recorded on 21, 22 and 30 September (Baluchistan's "Bloody Friday"). November 4 was the bloodiest day last month with 21 recorded deaths.

The death toll is an absolute minimum. Reports of protester killings in the last few days are still being investigated. Iran Human Rights has received a high volume of reports of deaths which it continues to inves-

tigate with security considerations and internet disruptions. The actual number of people killed, therefore, is certainly higher.

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Iranian artists: We are ready to take action for colleagues in prison

ANF |9 December 2022

The popular uprisings in Iran and Rojhilat Kurdistan continue despite all attacks, oppression, massacres and arrests. Many artists, activists, and intellectuals who supported these uprisings were arrested. 400 names, including filmmakers, artists, activists and intellectuals, wrote an open letter to the Cinema Board of Directors and the Film Directors Justice and Law Protection Board. 400 names, “Why do the arrests of artists continue?”

We are ready to take action

The letter said: “Why are Mackan Iylanlo and other artists not released? Artists are the voice of the people and should not be in prison. Being the voice of the people is a social responsibility. In the letter, in which it was announced that action would be launched if the repressions did not end, the artists called for sit-ins to be organized in front of movie theaters.

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Femicide

Two women killed in Riha and Amed

ANF |5 December 2022

Bahar Hezer was shot dead by her brother Yekta Hezer in the northern Kurdish province of Riha (Urfa). The murder was committed on Saturday in a street in the town of Karaköprü. The killer was arrested.

Women carry Bahar Hezer's coffin

Bahar Hezer was buried in Riha on Sunday. The coffin, covered with a purple cloth, was carried out of the mortuary by women and transferred to the Asri cemetery. HDP MP Ayşe Sürücü also attended the funeral.

Bahar Hezer was on the board of civil engineers in Riha. The 26-year-old had published a video on the international day against violence against women to draw attention to male violence.

Femicide in Amed

In Amed, a woman named Gülcan A. was murdered by her husband in the Gürdoğan neighborhood of Yenişehir district.

Gülcan A. was married to S.G. The man had seriously wounded his wife on Saturday night. The woman was rushed to the hospital but did not survive her injuries.

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JINNEWS releases report on violence against women in November

ANF |5 December 2022

According to a monthly report prepared by JINNEWS based on open sources, 31 women died in Turkey in November as a result of male violence. 13 women were reported to have died in suspicious circumstances.

Perpetrators

Women were again subjected to violence by their closest relatives in November. One perpetrator was a former police officer. 15 women were murdered by their husbands, 8 by a friend, 3 by a relative, 1 by a former husband, and 1 by an acquaintance. While the murderer of 2 women remained unidentified, 1 woman died in a work-related murder. Two of the women killed by their husbands were about to get divorced.

The distribution of November's femicides by provinces is as follows: 6 in Istanbul, 3 in Izmir, 2 in Hatay, 2 in Antalya, 2 in Manisa, 2 in Denizli, 1 in Amed, 1 in Bursa, 1 in Kayseri, 1 in Ankara, 1 in Muğla, 1 in Uşak, 1 in Antep, 1 in Konya, 1 in Samsun, 1 in Erzurum, 1 in Batman, 1 in Adana, 1 in Kocaeli 1 in Bolu.

5 children killed

According to the same report, at least 5 children were killed and 4 others died suspiciously in November.

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Ecocide

Turkish-backed armed groups continue cutting down trees in Syria's Afrin

MedyaNews | 4 December 2022

Turkish-backed factions have through November been continuing logging trees illegally in the countryside around Afrin north of Aleppo, renowned for its olive growing, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported on Monday.

Factions of the Turkish-backed Malakshah and Al-Sham corps cut down approximately 150 olive trees belonging to three residents of the villages of Basufan and Sinka in the rural Shirawa and Sharan districts of Afrin, SOHR said.

Footage published on social media shows hundred-year-old olive trees felled by in Afrin, and according to SOHR, the armed groups transported these trees to Afrin city markets for sale as firewood.

Deforestation in the area is also linked to Turkey's efforts to build settlements for Arabs and Turkmens who moved to Afrin, while thousands of local Kurds found themselves displaced after the earlier Turkish operation.

The SOHR has documented 17 incidents of fruit-bearing trees being cut down by factions of the Turkish-backed "National Army" in November, while over 2,224 olive trees were cut down in several areas in the villages and districts of Afrin.

After Turkey and its allied Syrian militias launched "Operation Olive Branch" to dislodge Kurdish fighters affiliated with the People's Protection Units (YPG) and took control of Afrin in 2018, Turkish-backed factions have been repeatedly accused of systematically removing vegetation cover and earning money from it by selling it as firewood.

Human Rights Violations

67 people sentenced to 299 years imprisonment in Freedom of Expression trials in Turkey

ANF | 7 December 2022

The annual trial monitoring report of the Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA), which has been monitoring freedom of expression trials since 2018 and which currently has the biggest trial monitoring programme in Turkey, has been published. The report contains the data gathered through the monitoring of 446 hearings of 210 freedom of expression trials held in 23 different cities with the support of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkey Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

According to the report, journalists continued to be tried in terrorism cases in which their news articles and Social Media posts were cited as evidence for the charges. In the report, it is also stated that there is an increase in the lawsuits opened against those who had participated in peaceful demonstrations and protests. The report also highlights that prosecutors and first degree courts disregard the judgments of the Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The report also draws attention to the radical increase recorded in the prison sentences imposed in freedom of expression trials.

The practice of trying journalists in terrorism cases continues

The report demonstrates that the practice of trying journalists in terrorism cases continued in the monitoring period. In the report, it is shared that the charge of “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” was leveled in 62 trials and, in total, 143 journalists appeared before the courts over this charge. In a similar fashion, it is also shared that in 38 out of 44 trials in which the charge of “membership in a terrorist organization” was leveled against the defendants, the defendants were journalists. In total, 132 journalists appeared before the courts over “propaganda” charges. According to the report, the news articles and the Social Media posts of journalists constituted the majority of the evidence cited in these cases.

Unlawful evidence cited in ‘insulting the president’ cases

In the report, it is stated that “insulting the president” cases targeted journalists the most. 34 people were tried in 29 “insulting the president” cases and 18 out of these 34 defendants were journalists.

It is highlighted that in 19 cases, the defendants’ Social Media posts were the only evidence cited for the charges. The report points out the fact that in 14 cases, Social Media posts were gathered via the so-called “virtual patrol” method, which the Constitutional Court ruled to be unconstitutional in its judgment on 19 February 2020 and thereby revoked the relevant law article which granted the police to employ this method. In the report, it is emphasized that the courts accepted 8 indictments which were prepared after

the Constitutional Court's decision and in which Social Media posts gathered unlawfully via the "virtual patrol" method were cited as evidence against the defendants.

800 people were tried for having attended peaceful protests and demonstrations

According to the report, 800 people were tried for having attended peaceful protests and demonstrations as per their rights guaranteed in Article 34th of the Constitution. Among those who faced the charge of "defying the Law no.2911 on Demonstrations and Assemblies" were 328 activists including Saturday Mothers/People and 285 students who were tried in 9 separate cases which were opened because of the protests initiated after President Erdoğan's appointments of rectors to the Boğaziçi University.

In the report, it is also shared that in some cases, the prosecutors cited the arbitrary demonstration and protest bans of district or provincial governorships and the demonstration bans imposed by the Provincial Public Health Boards during the pandemic in order to prove that the demonstrations and protests cited in the indictments were "unlawful."

299 years, 2 months, 24 days: Courts imposed prison sentences ignoring the ECtHR

judgments

The report draws attention to the radical increase in the prison sentences imposed in freedom of expression trials. Pointing out that 67 people were sentenced to 299 years 2 months and 24 days in prison for having exercised their fundamental rights, the report underlines that prison sentences imposed upon 36 people were based on law articles which the ECtHR consistently found to be sources of systematic rights violations.

The report also includes the heavy prison sentences imposed during the monitoring period and draws attention to the fact that award-winning journalist Rojhat Doğru was sentenced to life in prison because of his activities as a journalist and that human rights defender Osman Kavala was sentenced to aggravated life in prison with no evidence and over a charge of which he was acquitted in 2020.

An increase in the number of trials that ended with acquittal has also been recorded in the report. The increase has been evaluated to be an indicator of the fact that criminal investigations concerning freedom of expression easily evolve into lawsuits. According to the report, during the monitoring period, 226 people tried in 51 cases were acquitted of the charges leveled against them.

The report titled *299 years, 2 months and 24 days: The cost of freedom of expression in Turkey*, which also contains detailed notes concerning violations of the right to a fair trial.

Taşçier: We would voice the Kurds' demand for language and status everywhere

ANF |Ankara |9 December 2022

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Amed MP Imam Taşçier, who wanted to make his speech in Kurdish at the parliamentary budget negotiations, was blocked by CHP Group Deputy Chairman Haydar Akar. Taşçier spoke to ANF about the incident.

Pointing out that the assimilation policy towards the Kurds has been systematically maintained since the establishment of the Republic, Taşçier said, "The fascist constitution of 12 September 1982 has been changed 19 times. Despite being a patchwork, there has been no change in the Kurdish language, the status of the Kurds, the rights, and freedoms of the Kurds. The Kurdish language is officially banned in Article 42 while Article 3 of the Constitution states that everyone living in Turkey is Turkish."

Taşçier added: "I wanted to speak my own language, Kurdish. I know that it is forbidden in this constitution, but if you do not resist and fight against the prohibitions, these prohibitions will not be lifted. The important thing for me is to lift those bans. That's why I wanted to express my opinion in the budget debate in Kurdish. I said there is nothing in the budget for the Kurds, and the only reason is that Kurdish identity and culture are not recognized. Since it is not under a legal and constitutional guarantee, the budget is not created in this way. They cut me off because I tried to express this."

Kurds should be given a status

Underlining that the Kurds will voice their demand for language and status on every platform, Taşçier continued: "If we do not express our opinions about the banning of the Kurdish identity and language in the Constitution, the bans will not be lifted. The CHP Group Deputy Chairman could have acted in a different way. This showed the CHP's view of the Kurdish language and its rights and freedoms. From the most backward countries in the world to the most advanced countries, there is no such practice in countries where there is more than one language. It didn't happen under Saddam, not under Assad. Even the most dictatorial countries do not have such intolerance. After the Republic of Turkey was established, it wanted to assimilate and Turkify the different masses within it."

The MP added: "Here they tried to create this nation-state. But they could not assimilate the Kurds. For centuries, executions, prisons, killings, and Eastern İslahat courts could not be dealt with. There's no point in still insisting on it. That's why we will express the status and language demands of the Kurds on every platform."

Stating that the appointment of trustees to the municipalities in Kurdistan explains the state's point of view towards the Kurds, Taşçier said: "If a mayor in the West of the country is sentenced for any crime, one of the council members is appointed instead. But this does not happen in Kurdistan."

Languages are not a reason for division among people

Stating that the mother tongue is the proof of the identity and existence of a nation and a people at the same time, Taşçıer said that every language should be used and protected. “This is how we reflect the culture we have inherited from the past, from our ancestors and our mothers. I am a teacher and I have taught Turkish. But I can't speak Turkish as well as I can speak Kurdish. Because that memory is formed in people's brains. The prohibition of language is something unthinkable. Words and languages are not a cause of fragmentation or division. There are dozens of official languages in many countries of the world. When we defend our language, culture and identity, it is as if we will tear this country apart.”

The MP continued: “If there are many nationalities and languages in Turkey, we want their spoken language to be respected. 30 million people do not understand what is being said in the parliament. When this language is prevented from being used under the roof of the parliament, it also affects all institutions. It is necessary to get out of the nation-state structure. The Kurds need to be given a status now. As long as the Kurds do not govern themselves on their own land, they will be subjected to such practices. The AKP has been in power for more than 20 years, but it has not made any constitutional arrangements or changes to the Kurdish language and Kurdish identity status.”

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Şenyaşar family continues Justice Vigil at Riha Book Fair

ANF |Urfa |9 December 2022

The Şenyaşar family continues its Justice Vigil on the 641th day. Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar continued their action at the Riha 5th National Book Fair.

A banner saying “Justice for the Şenyaşar family” was placed on the stand where the book “Justice” by Ali Oruç, which tells the story of the family, is presented. Ferit Şenyaşar said: "A fair trial has not been held because the person involved in the massacre was a deputy of the ruling party. Justice has not been provided for two years. We demand justice. Today, we are at the Urfa Book Fair with the book 'Justice'. We will voice this injustice everywhere.”

On 14 June 2018, the bodyguards and relatives of AKP Urfa MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız attacked the Şenyaşar family's shop in Suruç during the election campaign.

In the attack, brothers Celal, Adil, Mehmet, Fadıl and Ferit Şenyaşar were injured. Relatives and supporters of AKP MP Yıldız, badly injured Celal and Adil Şenyaşar, and their father Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar, when he went to the hospital to visit their sons. He was brutally murdered, being lynched in front of his wife Emine Şenyaşar.

Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit (who was injured in the attack), have been holding a ‘Justice Vigil’ in front of the Courthouse of Urfa since 9 March 2021, demanding those responsible to be brought to account.



Turkey files two more lawsuits against woman demanding justice for murder

MedyaNews | 9 December 2022

Emine Şenyaşar, who has been seeking justice for 641 days was notified on Friday that two more lawsuits were filed against her. Along with these two charges against Şenyaşar, a total of six lawsuits were filed out of 15 investigations.

Emine Senyaşar came into the public stage when she held a sit-in for 641 days in Turkey's southeastern city of Şanlıurfa (Riha) demanding justice for her family members, who had been killed by bodyguards of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP İbrahim Halil Yıldız.

One of the family's lawyers, Mehmet Ali Aslan, a member of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), said the new investigations were made up of alleged insults against AKP Deputy Yıldız.

Aslan told Mezopotamya Agency that all investigations had started after Şenyaşar's justice vigil began. "We see that with these investigations, there is an effort to disrupt Emine Şenyaşar's fight for justice," he added.

Meanwhile, Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) MP, Mahmut Tanal, announced on Friday that a member of the Şenyaşar family, who was convicted of terrorism charges, was made a member of the local chapter of the AKP.

Fadıl Şenyaşar, currently behind bars, was a member of the AKP until 14 April 2020, when records of his membership were expunged, according to Tanal.

Fadıl Şenyaşar was sentenced to 37 years and 9 months in prison in the case of the fatal fight with MP Yıldız's relatives and bodyguards. Yıldız had been visiting shopkeepers in the area ahead of the 2018 general elections as part of his re-election campaign. His brother also lost his life in the incident, and three members of the Şenyaşar family were hospitalised. Yıldız's relatives attacked the family in the emergency room, killing them all.

A court case began more than four years after the incident regarding the triple homicide, and the first hearing is scheduled for 17 January 2023.



Interview

Duran Kalkan: We are in the most extraordinary period of our struggle history

KCK-Info |BEHDINAN |9 Dec 2022

Parts of an interview with Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, about the latest developments in Kurdistan, the Middle East and the world, including the misleading policy of the CPT in regard to Abdullah Öcalan's imprisonment, the dangerous attitude of international and regional powers towards the Kurdish question, Abdullah Öcalan's willingness to solve the current crisis democratically, major recent attacks by the guerrilla forces in South Kurdistan/North Iraq and the latest meeting of Turkey's Nationals Security Council:

Wrong Information Provided by CPT Regarding Last Visit to İmralı

“The situation [on the Turkish prison island İmralı] is extremely critical and sensitive. The recent Asrin Law Office's statement changed the agenda completely. Now, the agenda is focused on the situation in İmralı and the health, security and freedom of Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. In previous interviews, we evaluated the CPT's [European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment] latest visit to Turkey and İmralı. The CPT itself openly stated that a visit had recently taken place but that they had not seen Leader Apo. “Don't ask anything else. Be satisfied with that,” was the CPT's message. This is how we evaluated this issue in our last interview. Now, with the new statement of the Asrin Law Office, the situation has become clearer, and we can see that the latest information provided by the CPT is not true. This is a very serious situation. It is very serious that such information has emerged after an organization like the CPT made a statement saying “I went and met him [Abdullah Öcalan]”. To state that there was no such meeting, to contradict the CPT's statement that they met Leader Apo is a situation that can turn everything upside down. If this is true, we are faced with a dangerous situation. We have no way of proving whether this is true or not. Either the CPT, as the institution that provided this information, will clarify the issue and immediately shed light on the facts, or the lawyers and the family need to be allowed to go to İmralı immediately. They need to go there and have a meeting [with Abdullah Öcalan]. Unless this happens, there is absolutely no clarity. Currently, there is absolutely no information. There is absolutely no information about İmralı. Previously, it was said that the CPT had gone and met with him [Abdullah Öcalan] but that they were not able to say anything else. But now there is a statement saying that Leader Apo did not show up for a meeting. That there simply was no meeting. These are all rumors, assumptions, and interpretations of various circles. Some people say that Leader Apo did not meet with the CPT as a sign of resistance. But who saw this, and how do they know this? There is nothing like that. Was a meeting requested with Leader Apo? That is not clear either. So all this has nothing to do with real facts. The truth is that all these rumors have no coherent basis. There is simply no concrete, clear and precise information about Leader Apo or the other comrades imprisoned in İmralı. In other words, there are only interpretations based on assumptions. But what is the actual situation? How can it be that an organization like the CPT says that it has visited İmralı, but now others say

that this is not the case. Everyone says something according to their own interests. In other words, they are trying to use the situation in İmralı for their own interests. There is no concrete information about this issue. There is complete uncertainty. Leader Apo is not allowed to explain anything about his own situation, but others talk a lot. They evaluate, comment and try to use the situation for their own interests. How is this possible? They don't let him have any meetings and don't recognize the law. But what are these rumors about? How can things be kept in the dark like this?"

Current Wrong Approaches to Kurdish Question

"This is a very dangerous situation. Therefore, I would like to underline the following points once again: First of all, the Kurdish problem is a serious problem. Those who say that they will address it, express their opinion about it and make a contribution must first and foremost be serious. This problem cannot be used as a tool for any political interests or games. Those who think that they can do so and make political gains will burn themselves. They will end up getting trapped while trying to make some minor political gains. On the other hand, those who say they want to solve the problem can only do so if they approach it with great seriousness, act in a holistic manner and do not use this issue for simple political or economic interests. If they do not play games, they can pave the way for a solution. This is the primary condition for solving the issue at hand. Other efforts are also needed in order to solve it. We don't want to create the impression that just based on such an attitude the issue will solve itself. Different efforts are needed as well. Paving the way for a solution requires a serious and holistic approach, free from all kinds of simple political interests, games, and tricks. But we cannot see anything like that at the moment. We are faced with a serious misunderstanding and self-deception. Everything is being simplified in Turkey. And Europe is playing games. There are a lot of conflicts of interest. These forces play daily tricks and games. They use everything as a tool for their interests. This is what they understand as politics: cheating, games and making simple gains."

Need for Prevention of Yet Another Genocide by Turkish State

"For 100 years they have shed the blood of millions of people. They have brought humanity face to face with extinction. They have put the system in a deadlock, crisis and chaos. We can say that the Kurdish problem lies at the root of all of this. There is a mentality and politics that created the Kurdish problem. What is this mentality and politics like? It is fascist, colonialist and genocidal. This colonialist, fascist and genocidal mentality and politics have brought the Kurdish question to the current situation. The Kurdish problem, which is the source of all other problems, is most clearly embodied in the form of this mentality and politics. This is how this system has emerged. A system that has brought humanity to the brink of extinction, that has kept it under the threat of nuclear war, that has robbed it, that has made people live in a state of starvation and on the verge of death. Those who try to continue playing games more will burn themselves. This is how urgent the situation is. Why? Because a people's existence is at stake. A genocide is being carried out against the Kurdish people. Today the target is the Kurdish people, but everyone is affected. Before, genocides were committed against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians and others. And tomorrow it will be other peoples. This will not only remain limited to Kurds. Those who think so are mistaken. Therefore, we are faced with a dangerous situation. We are definitely warning everybody about this. It is up to them, but they will burn themselves. This is not an issue to be used for simple interests. The right approach, a serious approach, a holistic approach is essential for this. Not only a holistic approach of the current government and of Turkish politics. A holistic approach of global statist, power-oriented politics is

a must. Without this they won't be able to solve this issue. This will only deepen the crisis and chaos they are currently experiencing. They will drown in this chaos. That is why we are warning everybody.”

Democratic Solution Possible with Abdullah Öcalan

“If the so-called Kurdish problem is to be solved, it will be solved through democratic and political methods. If there is to be peace and a Kurdish-Turkish peace on this basis, the peoples in the Middle East and humanity as a whole will move towards peace. If a free and democratic life is to be achieved, the only power who can realize this is Leader Apo. No one should deceive themselves. Let no one say that there is any other way. We will continue this war if necessary. If there are some who say, “Our interests lie in the existence of this problem, in the continuation of this conflict. We will solve this issue on the basis of annihilating the Kurds by carrying out a genocide.”, and if they envision this as a solution, I don't have anything to say to them. Will they be able to do this or not? They have been trying for 200 years. It cannot be said that they have not made any progress, but this is how far they have got despite all their efforts. It is clear that this will not be easy for them. Still, it's up to them. But we intend to really solve the problem. We will solve it with democracy, freedom, and peace. If this problem is to be solved for the benefit of the Kurds, Turks, the peoples of the Middle East and humanity, then the only person who can ensure this is Leader Apo. We have always wanted everybody to make use of this fact and have brought this situation to everyone's attention. Leader Apo has made the most comprehensive evaluations about this issue. He has put forward ideas for a solution. Now it seems that instead of seriously evaluating this opportunity for a solution, games are being played. This constitutes a great danger and is a sign of a great lack of seriousness. This kind of approach will burn everyone. In other words, we are heading towards an outcome that will almost cause an apocalypse. Therefore, everyone needs to come to their senses.”

Questionable Policy of CPT Regarding Imprisonment of Abdullah Öcalan

“We really don't understand the CPT, what kind of organization it is. Its name sounds so appealing. Fighting against torture is the most basic human right, the most democratic stance. In this respect, we have tried to attribute importance to this institution. At the beginning we thought the CPT was an important institution, but then it turned out that this was not the case. It doesn't have any power to solve things. It cannot do anything. It can't guarantee visits by the lawyers of family members. In other words, the situation on İmralı has been established by the CPT. This institution has established İmralı and accepts the current state of lawlessness there. What kind of European institution is this? Is this what the European Declaration of Human Rights means? We don't know if this is the decision of the ECHR. The truth in İmralı has unmasked everybody. It has exposed the lies and shed light on everything. It turns out that all the promises were lies. When you scrape off the varnish, you can clearly see what kind of oppression and despotism we are faced with.”

Responsibility of EU Institutions for CPT's Policy

“The applied practices in İmralı clearly show this. There are rules that must be applied to every prisoner. Moreover, İmralı is not a place of detention based on Turkish law. European law is being applied there. That is why we consider the CPT responsible and hold it accountable. Is the CPT's influence really this small? If it has so little influence, why did it become such an institution? In fact, it is not. We know that it is not so ineffective. The CPT really thinks it can fool the Kurds. It really thinks that anything can be done to the Kurds. They have a colonialist, genocidal mentality. And the CPT is not the only one responsible

for this. It is not an institution on its own. It is affiliated with the Council of Europe. It is linked to the decisions of the ECtHR. And it is the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe that puts these decisions into practice. So we talk about the CPT, but we do not only consider the CPT as responsible. In fact, when we talk about the CPT we mean all these different institutions. They are all responsible for the current situation. In other words, the Council of Europe and its Committee of Ministers are the ones who are the most responsible for the practices in İmralı. They consider this situation as appropriate. This reveals their true faces. This situation clearly shows how their democracy is a mask, how human rights are nothing more than words, what their economic and political interests are and that they do not go beyond those interests. So they should neither try to deceive themselves, nor anyone else.”

Need to Hold Greek State Responsible for Involvement in Imprisonment of Abdullah

Öcalan

“Of course Greece should be put on trial. Greece was called upon not only afterwards, but also when Leader Apo was taken from Syria to Europe. MPs made calls because the parliament had taken a decision. At the time, many MPs said that everything would be provided. On this basis, they turned the direction of Leader Apo’s exodus from Syria to Greece. They didn’t let him into Greece at first. Then they tried to drive him into a void in order to kill him. But Leader Apo pushed them aside and went from Russia to Rome. But with all kinds of tricks, they made him leave Rome as well. Then, they made him go back to Greece. What happened in Greece? They took him to Minsk from there. There, they were going to take him off the plane and kill him. When they were taking him from Corfu, they caused an accident of the plane. They were going to destroy the car he was in. When they couldn’t destroy it, they took him to Kenya, saying this was the decision of the Greek government. In Kenya, Leader Apo stayed in the Greek embassy. There, he was taken out of the embassy and delivered to Turkey. The Greek embassy in Kenya handed him over to them. At the time, Greek intelligence officers were with Leader Apo. They were the ones who handed him over. He did not go to Kenya on his own. He was not taken from Kenya and brought to Turkey based on his own will. It was the Greek government that took him from Greece to Kenya. It was also the Greek government that handed him over to the CIA and the Turkish state in Kenya. It was the Greek embassy as an institution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There were special officers of the Greek intelligence service in the plane until he [Abdullah Öcalan] was handed over. They were in charge. They ensured Leader Apo’s departure by making promises to him. What was the result? He was taken to İmralı. Of course Greece is responsible for all this.”

NATO and EU’s Involvement in Greek State’s Policy Towards Kurdish People

“In fact, if things had happened differently, they would have already been tried and punished. Because of Greece, European law would have really needed to be subjected to a new discussion and to corrections. But when it comes to the Kurdish issue, when it comes to the Kurds, when it comes to the attack on the Kurdish will for existence and freedom, no one dwells on it. Everyone considers themselves right, because no one accepts the Kurds and simply ignores them. They predicate their existence, life and economic and political interests on the annihilation of the Kurds. Therefore, the Kurds don't have any rights, which is why it is also impossible to commit crimes against them. They do not recognize the rights of the Kurdish people. Therefore, there cannot be any crime. If there are no rights, of course there can be no crime. The İmralı system has been existing for 24 years now. It is based on the international conspiracy, the tricks, and games associated with it. At the center of these tricks and games stands the Greek government of the time

and Greek politics. And of course it was the CIA that directed the international conspiracy. It were NATO's Gladio structures. Greece is a member of the European Union and a member of NATO. Of course NATO and the European Union are responsible for everything Greece does. Greece does everything it does with their knowledge and approval. That's how they carried out the conspiracy. That's how they established İmralı."

Imprisonment of Abdullah Öcalan Constitutes International Issue

"We are responsible for the situation in İmralı as a movement and as a people, as the entire Kurdish society, as democratic Turkey, the Middle East and humanity. Everyone is responsible for İmralı. İmralı concerns everyone. The pulse of all humanity beats there. In that respect, it cannot be approached in a simple, superficial, or normal way. So what needs to happen now? A full mobilization is necessary. Our people, women, youth, all Kurds, wherever they are in the four parts of Kurdistan and all over the world are responsible for this situation. They need to consider themselves responsible and understand the current danger. In other words, they need to Know-how to stand against this danger, how to fight against it. In this situation, it is completely unacceptable to stand still, to sleep or to just sit around. This applies not only to the Kurds, but to everyone who says they are revolutionaries, democrats, socialists, human rights supporters, ecologists, or women's liberationists. The litmus paper for all of them is İmralı. Their attitude towards the situation in İmralı shows how left, democratic, libertarian, ecologist and in favor of human rights they are. There is no other measure. This issue clarifies everything. İmralı is a center of clarification in terms of shedding light on the reality of the world, the reality of power and the state, the reality of the Kurds, the approach to the Kurds and the genocidal mentality and politics. One can say I am a democrat. One can say I am this or that. But you cannot be a democrat by just calling yourself that. One cannot be in favor of human rights by just talking about it. All this is related to your actual attitude. The attitude towards İmralı is essential. İmralı is the most concrete, the most comprehensive and the most clarifying place in this regard. The Kurdish question is also like this. The will to solve the Kurdish question, the will of the Kurdish people for freedom is held prison in İmralı. There is an attack on all this in İmralı."

Need for Strong International Protests for Freedom of Abdullah Öcalan

"The situation is very serious. Historically speaking, we are in the most extraordinary period of our struggle as a movement and as a people. So we really need to fight against this situation based on a comprehensive mobilization. Everyone really needs to stand up. An uninterrupted and continuous mobilization is a must until Leader Apo's lawyers and family are allowed to go to İmralı to support and defend Leader Apo, to defend our existence and freedom, until his lawyers and family get concrete information about Leader Apo and the prisoners in İmralı. There have been calls made in this regard. There are different institutions that have called for a comprehensive mobilization, such as the KCDK-E. We agree with their calls. Many organizations have made similar statements. All of these statements are absolutely correct, important and meaningful. They should not only remain statements. Since the most recent information came to light, there have been some protests. We must intensify and spread these protests in all four parts of Kurdistan and all over the world. Every Kurdish person – no matter if young or old – woman, young person, child, elderly person, must take responsibility. They need to organize the people around them, participate in the protests and increase the struggle. We must definitely continue our struggle for the freedom of Leader Apo, for his health and safety, at least until we receive concrete information. Of course, we must continue our struggle in various forms until the İmralı torture system is dismantled and Leader Apo is free. On this basis, I respectfully greet all those who have taken to the streets in different places and participated in the

protests last weekend against the current situation, especially abroad, and I wish them successful protests in the future.”

Recent Important Developments in War in South Kurdistan/North Iraq

“The resistance is led by the guerrilla. Today, the guerrilla in Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna [South Kurdistan/North Iraq] are the vanguard of this great resistance. Therefore, the revelation of the current situation and the spread of the information mentioned before are linked to the great attacks of the guerrilla. Both the PKK’s glorious 45th anniversary and the victorious and highly successful attacks of the guerrilla forces in Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna, who celebrated this anniversary with the greatest possible attacks, have led to the current situation. The HPG BIM [press center of guerrilla forces] publishes all available information and related videos. There will be more to discuss in the coming hours and days as more and more videos will be published in the press. Everyone will see what the guerrilla has done in Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna on the anniversary of the founding of the PKK, and what kind of blows it has dealt to the AKP-MHP fascist dictatorship. This constitutes a peak. Especially the attacks on Girê Hakkarî [Hakkarî hill] and Girê Cûdî [Cûdî Hill, in South Kurdish Metîna area] show the point the war in Zap has reached. Those who want to know how this war is going can look here. One can clearly state that the recent attacks were a crushing blow. The Minister of War [Hulusi Akar] and the General Staff all rushed to Çukurca [area in North Kurdistan/East Turkey, close to Iraqi border] right afterwards. They tried to prevent the syndrome experienced by the commanders and the fighting force there. They tried to prevent their dispersal. Hulusi Akar had said once before that they needed to boost morale and that they were in a difficult situation. Now he doesn’t make such blunders anymore. Because he has done so a lot. Instead, he keeps quiet. But the situation is much worse for them than it was back then. They need new motivation in order to be able to hold out there. A disintegration is happening in their ranks, and they need to try to prevent it. They have suffered a heavy blow there and are now trying to stop it. They were swept away from a significant part of Girê Hakkarî recently. The guerrilla broke the occupation, swept away the occupier and liberated some important strategic areas. The balance sheets are all public. They are included in the statements of the HPG BIM which clearly reveal the state of the war. In other words, on November 26-27, the guerrilla carried out a strong revolutionary operation. The attack on Girê Hakkarî was important. It led to huge results and was very successful. So was the attack on Girê Cûdî. This spread all the way to Çemço [in South Kurdish Zap area]. Large and small attacks also happened in other places. And it continues like this. Therefore, on behalf of our party leadership, I would like to congratulate the guerrilla forces on their revolutionary operations and attacks. I salute the command and fighters of the HPG and YJA Star who carried out these attacks. And I commemorate all martyrs with respect and gratitude.”

New Phase of War and Intensification of Fighting

“All this shows that a new phase has started. This is an indicator of how the war will develop in the coming winter and spring. The invaders are in a difficult situation and are getting hit. The season has changed, they are spread out too much and cannot protect themselves. The press also reported that they [Turkish army] were gathering some of their forces. The places where the recent attacks took place were the places where the Turkish army had taken measures to protect itself. These were places where they had withdrawn to from other places and where they had planned to stay for the winter. It turned out that it is not possible for them to survive against the guerrilla with these measures. The recent guerrilla attacks have shown this clearly. This is very important in regard to the current phase. There were also threats. They talked about entering Rojava and bombarded the region. AKP-MHP fascism threatened the peoples of Mexmûr, Şengal

[Sinjar] and North and East Syria. They thought that they would get help from the USA, Russia and Iran for their planned attack. The AKP-MHP was threatening everyone. Now, it has become clear that such threats were all empty. The war is taking place in the Medya Defense Zones [in South Kurdistan/North Iraq]. It is focused on the areas Zap and Avaşın. What is their situation in the war there? What have they been able to achieve? How much have they achieved what they had aimed for? How long can they survive there? The recent guerrilla attacks have unmasked them. They have revealed that all those threats were empty. What is left exposed is a relentless war. And this war continues. The recent attacks are important. They will have military and political consequences. It has become much more difficult for AKP-MHP fascism to continue the occupation. It looks like they will receive more similar blows in the future. Of course, AKP-MHP fascism is also using all the means of Turkey, plus foreign means. It is trying to get support from Russia, NATO and everywhere. It directs all the support it receives to the genocide and war against the Kurds. There is no budget in Turkey, there is no economy. The main thing is the war. All means are being directed to this war. Therefore, AKP-MHP fascism will try to survive. The war continues to intensify. Despite the changing seasonal conditions, snow everywhere, mud and cold, the war continues with all its intensity. And it seems that it will continue throughout the winter. Why? Because the invaders have not been able to implement their plans, to succeed and to occupy the area. They have entered different places, but they have not been able to destroy the guerrilla and successfully carry out their occupation. On the contrary, the Turkish army has entered everywhere but has now become a target for the guerrilla. Using its technical and other capabilities, it tries to hit the guerrilla wherever it can, but it is a target itself in hundreds of places. And the guerrilla attacks whenever its gets the chance. It seems that it will hit even more in the future. The coming phase will witness an even more violent war. This is the case in the Media Defense Zones, in different areas of North Kurdistan and in the cities. Whether this war will spread to Rojava or not will be determined by the decisions of the AKP-MHP government.”

Strong Support for Success of Guerrilla Forces

“Now we can say here that yes, the guerrilla has prevented the invasion, fought a great war, struck heavy blows and has shown great courage and sacrifice. Indeed, the Apoist self-sacrifice has reached its peak in the war in Zap, Avaşın and Metîna that has been going on for the last 7 to 8 months. This will continue. The war will continue intensifying. The guerrilla will continue this war and achieve important results. It has the power and possibility to continue and achieve results, to gain victory and defeat the invader. The recent attacks have shown that. We are absolutely convinced about that. We expect the whole youth and all our people to recognize this reality well, to unite even more with the guerrilla resistance and to increase the popular resistance that unites with the guerrilla in every field. Especially the youth and women need to assume more responsibility in this regard. They need to carry out more effective attacks. And our people and international friends in the four parts of Kurdistan and abroad need to be able to continue uninterruptedly the popular resistance that completes the guerrilla. This is the call of the guerrilla. This is the conclusion we can draw from the guerrilla’s attacks. If this happens, we will win. Everyone must have a share in this victory. Everyone must be able to do something to achieve victory. A correct understanding of guerrilla warfare and a people who are integrated and united with it must be developed in every field of resistance. This is our call to the youth and the people.”

Importance of Last Meeting of Turkey’s National Security Council

“The last meeting of the year of Turkey’s National Security Council (NSC) came right after the recent revolutionary guerrilla attacks. They evaluated this in their meeting. Immediately after the attacks, the delega-

tion from the Ministry of Defense responsible for the whole war went to the area. They were that worried. These attacks had an impact just like the big attack in Çukurca in 2011. This shows how huge of an attack it was, how heavy a blow had been dealt to the AKP-MHP administration and the fascist hordes fighting there. Otherwise, they wouldn't have gone there. After the information received from there had been taken to Ankara, the NSC convened. We cannot say that this was an ordinary monthly meeting of the NSC. This was an extraordinary meeting. In other words, they discussed how to overcome the shock of the heavy blow that the guerrilla struck. They discussed what to do now. They always publish the results of their meeting in the form of a declaration. Of course we don't take what they say as basis since it is not credible. There are some hints, but they don't say what they really discussed. What did they discuss, how will they get out of the situation they are in? This is what they discussed. We don't know what kind of opinions were voiced during the meeting. Different opinions may have been put forward. For example, some of them may have discussed withdrawal, if they were not afraid. Because we all know what happened to Yaşar Büyükanıt and İlker Başbuğ after they withdrew from Zap in 2008. Now Tayyip Erdoğan and Devlet Bahçeli are afraid of the same happening to them. Because at that time it were Tayyip Erdoğan and Devlet Bahçeli who attacked İlker Başbuğ and Yaşar Büyükanıt the most. They called them guilty and accused them of not being able to fight against terrorism or the PKK. Now Tayyip Erdoğan and Devlet Bahçeli are in the same position. They are still resisting not to end up in that situation. That is why they have imposed kind of a ban. They prohibit most of the discussions. They want to determine everything themselves. If there were free discussions, certainly a withdrawal would be discussed. If some people dared, they might have brought it up during the meeting of the NSC. We don't know if that really happened. But they definitely discussed the following: "The situation is serious. We are being hit hard. How are we going to get ourselves out of this situation?" That's what they are looking for. Will they retreat? Or will they attack somewhere else? Let's be careful. They have carried out many attacks and have made many arrests recently. And they blamed the opposition. They blame the HDP and threaten to shut it down. In front of the eyes of NATO and the US. They attacked the Free Women's Movement and arrested dozens of patriotic, revolutionary women. All these women were opposing chemical weapons, waging a revolutionary struggle and demanding freedom. They were educating the people. It was as if they were taking revenge for what happened in Zap. There is no justification for those arrests. This is like a retaliation for the blow they recently received. On the other hand, they are also threatening every day that they will attack Rojava, that they will attack North and East Syria."

Fall of AKP-MHP Regime Necessary

"Recently, there were news about the US not wanting it [Turkish attacks against North and East Syria] and about Germany and France being totally against it. Part of the Turkish press said Norway was good since it supported Turkey. The Norwegians stated that they understand the Turkish state's struggle against terrorism for self-defense. Against which terror? If these statements are true, they need to come to their senses. Who is a terrorist here? Which terror are they talking about? Who has a security problem? A genocide is being carried out. You are talking about the security of the one who is carrying out a genocide. You are giving rights to the executioner and oppressor. What kind of mentality is that? What kind of politics is that? This is Europe. It considers itself a democracy. What a democrat. What kind of democrat is one who does not oppose genocide? Is it democratic not to oppose a massacre? Is it democratic to deny the rights of a people? Turkey is in a difficult situation, but it can still attack. It seems that the people of North and East Syria have taken certain precautions. They have made many statements recently. They stand upright and are brave. It is clear that they will stand courageously. If Turkey launches new military attacks, they can attack the [South Kurdish] areas Zap and Avaşın. Turkey is in a very critical period. Things don't work any

longer with this administration. This administration cannot bring about change. It is not clear how it will change. Tayyip Erdoğan and Devlet Bahçeli do not intend to leave the administration. Especially the ideas of the MHP and Devlet Bahçeli are in power. They control everything. During the September 12 period [military coup on September 12, 1980], Alpaslan Türkeş, the then president of the MHP, said, “We are in prison but our ideas are in power.” Now Devlet Bahçeli is not even in jail. His ideas are completely in power. He gives all kinds of orders which are then passed on to Tayyip Erdoğan, the commander in chief, and the team around him. This is the current situation, and it is not even clear how it will change. It is not clear whether there will be an election or not. The opposition doesn't have a say. Tayyip Erdoğan is busy 24 hours a day. In other words, he speaks, writes and reads speeches in five different places a day. He goes on TV, reads what others write for him, goes to meetings and reads his speeches. He has truly become a reader of speeches. We don't know if he even understands what he reads, if it stays in his mind. It is clear that he doesn't write the speeches himself. He tries to protect his power. He has fought so many wars, committed so much cruelty, practiced so much oppression and exploitation and has brought the people to the point of starvation. He knows that everyone will ask him to pay for this. Everyone will want to avenge what has been done. One day they will be caught. The day of reckoning will come. And this day is getting closer and closer. These are the main topics of discussion. Turkey's trajectory is really very, very important. This situation needs to change, but how? There is a deadlock. The situation cannot change by itself. Anything can happen in such a situation. The AKP-MHP tries to stay in power through pressure, violence and war. They declared war in 2015 and turned their electoral defeat into a return to power. They are looking for ways and methods to remain in power. Therefore, they can carry out more attacks and intensify the war in different places.”

Abdullah Öcalan's Proposals Constitute Way Out of Current Crisis

“All kinds of things can be expected. Everyone must be vigilant. The peoples, women, youth,

workers, and laborers and all revolutionary democrats of Turkey must be extremely vigilant. We are going through a critical phase. It is really necessary to get rid of this regime. But in order to get rid of it, it is necessary to be in a position to replace it and to come up with a candidate who can take its place. This is very important. Leader Apo has been the power of solution, he has said that he can solve the problem completely. He has made it clear that he possesses the power to solve the problem. So those who love Turkey, those who really want to live free and democratic lives and everyone else must see this reality. No one can solve this problem except Leader Apo. Everyone, leftists and rightists, need to come to their senses. There is a blockage. The AKP-MHP mentality, the fascist, colonialist, genocidal mentality has created this blockage, chaos and crisis. And then there is the power to solve it. There are the forces of solution. Let them give Leader Apo the opportunity to solve it. “I will solve it in two months”, he has said. All problems. “I can solve the Kurdish problem in a few weeks,” he has said in the past. So there is a solution, there is a resolving power. Everyone need to recognize this and be very serious. Everyone needs to approach this issue correctly. In other words, they should not make a mistake now and then later regret their mistake. Everyone needs to think correctly, understand the situation well and develop the right attitude now. This fascist, colonialist and genocidal mentality needs to be eliminated. The regime and system that is anti-Kurdish, that does not recognize any law, morality or measure, and that organizes everything according to its own interests needs to be brought to an end. This is the point AKP-MHP fascism has reached today. We need to get rid of it once and for all.”

Democratization of Turkey Instead of Dangerous Current Politics

“This mentality and politics must be overcome. The way to go is democratization, the solution of the Kurdish question on the basis of democratization. The only power to put this into practice is Leader Apo. No one should make other calculations or be mistaken. No one else can solve this. If they really want a democratic solution and a free life, then the power that creates this is obvious. Everyone must approach this issue correctly. If such uncertainty is created [on İmralı], no one should ask why there has been no solution or how a solution could be achieved. They will not be able to find one. Therefore, everyone must oppose the anti-Kurdish, colonialist, genocidal mentality and politics. Turkey must be democratized on the basis of women’s freedom, the freedom of Kurds, the freedom of Alevi and others. If this is put into practice, Turkey will have a future. The 21st century will only become the century of Turkey, if these things are realized. What kind of disasters will Turkey experience in the 21st century if it fails to realize this? No one really knows. But they need to remember the Ottoman Empire. It was also very glorious but was eventually overthrown with a thud. This is politics. One does not know who will be what. Only based on the right policies can a future be built by envisioning the free and democratic life of society. Otherwise, this fight for interests entails all kinds of dangers. Then, Turkey cannot avoid becoming a country that will experience the biggest disasters in this century. Everyone should know this.”

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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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