

THE IMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

People in Shehba protest isolation of Abdullah Öcalan

ANF - SHEHBA - 10 MAY 2023

Thousands of people from Afrin, Aleppo and Shehba protested the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, and called for the struggle to continue until his freedom is achieved.

A speech by Öcalan in which he explained the administrative system in the Middle East, the policies of the systems towards societies and women, and his paradigm for the freedom of the peoples of the Middle East was played.

Zelal Ceger, a member of the Democratic Union Party (PYD), drew attention to the Turkish state's policies towards Syria and the region in particular, and said: "The Kurdish people in Bakur Kurdistan and Turkey should vote for the Green Left Party in the 14 May elections. They should increase their struggle against the occupation and crimes carried out by Turkey against the peoples of Afrin and Northern and Eastern Syria."

'The occupied regions should be liberated'

Afrin and Shehba Canton Opinion Leaders Council member Mihemed Xeşan stated that the unity of the people of the region and its connection with the democratic nation project and the Autonomous Administration are important. Xeşan pointed out that liberating the Turkish-occupied areas of Afrin, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî is crucial.

Serdem Camp Assembly Women's Committee member Hesna Hesên, on the other hand, called on international rights organizations to act for the immediate release of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, saying that "he is the one who will bring peace to the entire region."

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Young activists in Basel and Geneva protest isolation of Abdullah Öcalan

ANF - BASEL/GENEVA - 10 MAY 2023

Rallies were held in the Swiss cities of Basel and Geneva to protest the isolation imposed upon Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and to demand his freedom.

Basel

Young people from Kurdistan, who came together at the Basel train station as part of the "Werin Cenga Azadiyê" campaign, pointed out that there has been no news from Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan for 25 months. The statement called on everyone to take action against the Imrali torture system.

Geneva

At the rally held in Geneva, the young activists said: "As patriotic youth, we reiterate our commitment to Leader Apo under all circumstances and reiterate our promise that we will continue to increase the struggle until we achieve his freedom. On this basis, we call on the international community, institutions and all our people to act to end this torture mentality."

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TEV-ÇAND members take over the vigil for Öcalan's freedom in Strasbourg

ANF - STRASBOURG - 10 MAY 2023

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil was launched on 25 June 2012 in Strasbourg with the aim of ensuring the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and breaking the absolute isolation imposed on him. The vigil continues in its 568th week.

Members of the Kurdish Culture and Arts Movement in Europe, TEV-ÇAND, took over the vigil this week. The group is made up of Hozan Şemdîn, Dawud Kobanê, Serhat Amed and Rêzan Mahîr.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Hozan Şemdîn highlighted the vigil and vowed to continue their vigil until Öcalan is freed.

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Young activists in Lucerne demand freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

ANF - LUCERNE - 11 MAY 2023

People came together in the Swiss city of Lucerne to attend an action organized by Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger (TCŞ) and Jinên Ciwan ên Têkoşer (TekoJIN) to protest the isolation imposed upon Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and demand his physical freedom.

In a statement read out at the Lucerne train station, the activists said: "We need to enter into a process of indefinite action to demand freedom for Leader Abdullah Öcalan."

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İmrali Peace Delegation visits Öcalan's lawyers and discusses isolation

ANF - ISTANBUL - 11 MAY 2023

Members of the International İmrali Peace Delegation visited the Asrın Law Office and received information about the isolation of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan.

The delegation consisted of three representatives from three different countries. Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Denis O'Hearn, Deputy Chair of the Left Group in the Council of Europe, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and a member of the Monitoring Committee, Laura Castel, and former Minister of Justice and Interior of Iceland Ögmundur Jonasson will meet with civil society and legal organizations in Istanbul on May 11-12.

The delegation first visited the Asrın Law Office, where they were welcomed by lawyers Raziye Öztürk, Emran Emekçi, İbrahim Bilmez and Rezan Sarıca.

Bilmez: Laws undermined in Turkey

Speaking at the meeting, İbrahim Bilmez said: "Mr. Abdullah Öcalan is not an ordinary person. His situation concerns the people. He has been subjected to unprecedented isolation. The laws in Turkey are already undermined. When it comes to Kurds, Abdullah Öcalan and the dissidents, the laws are trampled down."

Defining the practices on İmralı as unlawful and arbitrary, Bilmez added that the Kurdish people saw Öcalan as a "leader".

No news for 25 months

Bilmez remarked that Öcalan was in favour of a peaceful solution to the problems. He said: "Öcalan comes up with the most reasonable solution proposals. Therefore, the Kurdish question is also affected by the isolation imposed on him. It's hard to separate the two. Politicians resort to speculations about our client, from whom we have not heard for 25 months. In his last phone call on March 25, 2021, he told his brother that he wanted to meet with his lawyers. This phone call was interrupted. We have not heard from him since. That is why we find the discussions by politicians unethical."

Bilmez revealed that the "aggravated life imprisonment" was first introduced and applied for Öcalan, which was later imposed on other prisoners.

Sarıca: There are torture conditions in İmralı

Lawyer Sarıca called attention to the bans and disciplinary punishments imposed by the government and denial of visits by lawyers and families.

Sarıca pointed out that Turkey has entered a "tunnel" of conflict for the last 8 years, during the course of which the Kurdish people, Kurdish politicians and representatives have been criminalized.

"On the eve of the May 14 elections, torture conditions are maintained on İmralı," said Sarıca, reacting to the "immoral" political discourse against Öcalan in the election campaign.

"Those who seek to rule the country are doing politics without mentioning human rights and laws."

CPT's stance on isolation unchanged for 25 years

Answering a question by the delegation on Turkey-EU relations, the lawyers stated that it would not be possible for Turkey to join the EU without solving the Kurdish question.

Lawyers noted that Turkey's accession to the EU gained momentum during the de-escalation period as a result of the ceasefire suggested by Öcalan.

In a reference to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)'s approach to İmralı, Sarıca pointed out that the CPT's stance on Öcalan's isolation has remained unchanged for 25 years.

EU does not put pressure on Turkey

Raziye Öztürk, another lawyer of Asrın Law Office, noted they had submitted applications to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee (HRC) and the Urgent Action Committee on behalf of Asrın Law Office.

She added that the HRC had ruled in favor of ending the isolation of Öcalan and allowing him to meet his lawyers twice in a row.

Öztürk emphasized that the EU did not fully use its right to put pressure on Turkey because of their relations based on interests.

Jonasson: Turkey is afraid of the Kurds

In his speech, delegation member Ögmundur Jonasson recalled his previous visit to Amed (Diyarbakır) and said: "As long as Turkey remains a NATO member, it will not be afraid of the actions of the EU or any other force. However, Turkey is afraid of the Kurds. We are aware of this. That's why we stand by you and the Kurds."

Delegation member Laura Castel said that a solution to the Kurdish question could only be achieved through the physical liberation of Öcalan and negotiations.

Lawyer Emran Emekçi remarked that Öcalan was always ready to fulfil this role and added: "He attributes his reason to live and resist to this."

After the speeches, the lawyers presented the 2022 report on the violations on İmralı to the members of the delegation.

People in Maxmur protest isolation imposed on Abdullah Öcalan

ANF - MAXMUR - 12 MAY 2023

Residents of Maxmur Martyr Rustem Cudi Refugee Camp organized a march to condemn the heavy isolation imposed on Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan. Photographs of Öcalan were carried during the march.

Speaking on behalf of the camp residents, Maxmur People's Assembly co-chair Filiz Budak drew attention to the fascist system developed by the AKP-MHP government and its policies against the Kurdish people and Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and said: "We will continue to fight against isolation and for the freedom of our Leader. We are working hard in Kurdistan, Europe and Maxmur to break this isolation. There has been no news from the Leader for more than two years. Today, the Kurdish people are kept in isolation in the person of our Leader. They are trying to force the Kurdish people to stay without a status and abandon their own culture. No government can succeed against the power of the people. The elections to be held in North Kurdistan on 14 May have a huge importance. The AKP-MHP fascist government will become history in this election."

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Families apply to visit their relatives on Imrali

ANF - ISTANBUL - 12 MAY 2023

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

Abdullah Öcalan's brother 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 visit their relatives.

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 informed that disciplinary action has been taken against the Kurdish people's leader and therefore no visit can be granted.

In a statement on May 2, 2023, Asrın Law Office said: "We have not heard anything from Öcalan since 25 March 2021. Despite all the requests and efforts of his lawyers and his relatives, we are not aware of the

living conditions and state of health of Öcalan and our three other clients on Imrali. This situation worries us and the whole society.”

A sham debate has been going on in Turkey for some time, speculating about talks with Abdullah Öcalan in the run-up to the presidential and parliamentary elections on May 14. The Asrin Law Office, which represents Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners on the prison island, assesses these rumours as manipulation, saying: “We have to emphasise again that we have not heard anything from Öcalan since 25 March 2021. Despite all the requests and efforts of his lawyers and his relatives, we are not aware of the living conditions and state of health of Öcalan and our three other clients on Imrali. This situation worries us and the whole society.”

The statement by Asrin Law Office pointed out that: “During the election campaign, the political centres are engaged in a propaganda race around Öcalan. Under these circumstances, we would like to inform the whole society that the lack of news and the strict isolation conditions continue and that all these discussions are going on without Öcalan's knowledge, contribution and participation. What is right and should be done is to give Öcalan the opportunity to meet with his lawyers immediately. The law and minimum ethics also require this. Under these conditions, where Öcalan has no opportunity to express himself, we don't think speculative discussions that would mean ignoring or blocking out the reality of isolation and lack of news are right.”

In its statement published on May 2 in connection with the talks in question on Imrali, the Asrin Law Office said:

- We have not received any messages from Öcalan and our three other clients after 25 March 2021, when a telephone conversation with his brother was interrupted and could not be continued. We do not know the reason for this interruption.
- We have no information about the detention conditions, the treatment and the state of health of our clients on Imrali.
- According to Article 66/3 of Law No. 5275, convicts have the right “to make immediate use of the prison’s telephone and fax facilities in the event of the death, serious illness, epidemic disease or natural disaster of their heirs, descendants, spouses and siblings”. Nevertheless, Öcalan and our other clients were deprived of this right even in the case of death, let alone illness, of their family members, and this prohibition was not relaxed even during the 6 February earthquakes.
- Öcalan could only use a single-channel radio for 14 years and only had access to television, which is available to all prisoners, in 2013. However, as a report from May 2018 shows, TV channels were restricted, and newspapers were delivered after a delay of 40 days.
- Öcalan was held in solitary confinement in the island prison for ten years and nine months from 16 February 1999 to 17 November 2009, after which five more of our clients were transferred to Imrali. Although these prisoners were later exchanged, as outlined in the 2016 and 2019 CPT (Committee for the Prevention of Torture) reports, our clients could only meet for six hours a week and spend the rest of the time alone in their cells.

Concerns increased after the 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, 2022. 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."

Conditions of extraordinary isolation

The İmralı F Type High Security Closed Prison was built specifically for Abdullah Öcalan in February 1999 and has since been operated based on a special status and through special practices.

Under the so-called aggravated execution regime, Abdullah Öcalan and his fellow prisoners, Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş, have been held under conditions of extraordinary isolation for a long time, 24 years in terms of Öcalan and eight years each in terms of other inmates.

Despite all their attempts, lawyers from the Istanbul-based Asrın Law Office, which represents Abdullah Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners, have not been able to receive even a single sign of life from their clients since 25 March 2021. They could not obtain any information regarding their health status, their detention conditions, their legal situation in 2022. It has been 23 months that their clients have not been heard from in any way.

Öcalan held in a single cell since 1999

According to the "[2022 Annual Assessment Report on Rights Violations and the Current Conditions in İmralı Island Prison](#)" released by Asrın Law Office on 15 February 2023, Abdullah Öcalan has been held in a single cell in İmralı Island Prison since 15 February 1999. For the first ten years, he was the only prisoner in the island prison. In November 2009, new cells were added to the prison and five other prisoners were brought in. Nevertheless, Öcalan continued to be kept in solitary confinement 23 hours a day on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends.

Until 2011, Öcalan's right to see his lawyers was limited to one hour one day a week, but in fact, he was constantly prevented from availing himself of this limited right, with the authorities alleging the pretext of "adverse weather conditions" or a "technical defect" of the coaster going to the island. In the twelve years since 27 July 2011, he has only been able to see his lawyer five times, between May and August 2019. The last of these five meetings took place on 7 August 2019.

Since 2014, Öcalan has received five visits from family members. His brother's visit to the prison on 3 March 2020 marks Öcalan's last direct contact with his family. Also, in 24 years, he communicated with the outside world via telephone on only two occasions (on 27 April 2020 and 25 March 2021). During

the last phone call on 25 March 2021, the connection was lost after only two minutes and could not be restored. Öcalan has not been heard from since.

Incommunicado detention

The report by Asrın stated that their clients' situation was described as a form of "incommunicado" detention by the CPT in its report of 5 August 2020 (paras. 48 and 49). The CPT emphasized that such a state of affairs was unacceptable, urging the Turkish authorities to end it as soon as possible. "Incommunicado" detention means that the detainee or convict is completely prevented from any contact with the outside world and therefore cannot communicate with anyone, including his/her family, friends, and lawyers.

The "incommunicado" detention continued without interruption in 2022 despite lawyers' weekly applications to the authorities in which they requested for the families and lawyers to be allowed to visit the prison. From 25 March 2021, the last date of contact with İmralı, until the end of 2022, a total of 238 applications for lawyer visits and another 79 applications for family/guardian visits were made. These applications were left without any response. Likewise, lawyers did not receive any letters, telegrams, or faxes from their clients during this period; nor was there any contact via phone.

Restrictions through fabricated decisions

"After we applied to different international mechanisms, we learned from the government's responses that our clients' right to communicate via phone had been restricted for six months by decisions of the prison's Management and Supervisory Board dated 18 October 2021, 30 March 2022, 9 May 2022 and 9 June 2022, respectively. These restriction orders were not communicated to the lawyers; the procedures were carried out secretly, bypassing the lawyers. Thus, it was understood that our clients' right to communicate via phone is subject to periodic restrictions through fabricated decisions that are issued once every six months.

Moreover, we have not received any response to the numerous letters sent to our clients at regular intervals throughout the year. It is not known whether these letters were delivered to their addressees at all. In turn, we have also not received any letters, telegrams or faxes written by our clients in 2022.

In addition, the de facto and unlawful bans on family and lawyer visits that have been in place for many years have been maintained systematically and without cease so that not a single family or lawyer visit could take place in 2022. In this respect, 2022 was marked by the absolute impossibility of establishing any contact with our clients in İmralı Island Prison."

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Prisons in Turkey

Seriously ill political prisoner passes away after release from prison in Amed

ANF - AMED - 12 MAY 2023

Former political prisoner Abdulhalim Kırtay died on Friday morning in Amed (Diyarbakir). Kırtay was on the Human Rights Association's (IHD) list of seriously ill prisoners and died 51 days after his release from prison. He had previously been held in various correctional facilities in Turkey for thirty years.

The Kurdish man was arrested in Silvan in 1993 and sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment with no prospect of release before a state security court on charges of separatism. This form of punishment violates international human rights conventions regarding the "right to hope" and is mainly pronounced against political prisoners in Turkey.

Kırtay contracted various diseases in prison and had to undergo several operations. Last November, he was treated in a hospital in İzmir and was handcuffed to his bed for four days. His family has been fighting for his release for years, together with other relatives of prisoners. When Abdulhalim Kırtay was released from Burhaniye Correctional Centre in western Turkey on 22 March, he was terminally ill. The funeral will take place at the Yeniköy cemetery in the Bağlar district of Amed.

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Fadıl Şenyaşar to stay in prison after new hearing in Malatya

ANF - MALATYA - 13 MAY 2023

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.

Fadıl Şenyaşar is in prison accused of assault against the attackers who killed his father.

The trial continued at the Malatya 3rd High Criminal Court where the court board announced its interim decision on Friday. The court board decided to continue the detention on the grounds of "strong suspicion of crime" for Fadıl Şenyaşar and Enver Yıldız, as well as for Celal Yıldız and Mikail Şimşek.

The next hearing was adjourned to July 18.

Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit (who was also 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.

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Military aggression and occupation

Another mass grave found in Shengal

ANF - SHENGAL - 10 MAY 2023

Patricor Human Rights Organization announced the discovery of a new mass grave in Shengal where people killed by ISIS in 2014 were buried. According to the report, the mass grave was identified thanks to the information obtained by people. Bones were found when the grave was opened.

The report said that the bones belonged to women and children from Shengal who were killed by ISIS in 2014. 85 mass graves found so far, 85 mass graves have been found in Shengal. Research studies started for the first time on 15 March 2019.

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KCK: KDP and Parastin responsible for the fate of Azime

Arsun

ANF - 10 MAY 2023

The Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) Foreign Relations Committee released a statement concerning seriously ill politician Azime Arsun who was detained at Hewler airport and said that the KDP and its intelligence service Parastin are responsible for her fate.

The statement released by the KCK Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday said:

We are currently living through an important historical period leading towards the defeat of Erdoğan's fascism. The fascist AKP-MHP regime, which has committed genocide against our people, continues its attacks together with all the anti-Kurdish and collaborating elements until the last moment. The resistance of Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], our people and the freedom guerrilla has brought the fascist regime to the brink of collapse.

During such times, we have recently been informed that our friend Azime Arsun, who has been a part of the freedom struggle of our people and who is seriously ill, was detained at Hewlêr airport. Our friend Azime Arsun, who wanted to go abroad for treatment, was stopped and detained at the airport. Then she was kidnapped by the KDP's secret service Parastin and taken to an unknown destination. Information that our friend was kidnapped by Parastin and then handed over to the Turkish MIT has also emerged. We have not received any concrete information about this. But it is clear that our comrade Azime Arsun has been abducted by the collaborator Parastin without any record. Therefore, there is a risk that our friend, who has a severe heart disease, will be handed over to the Turkish state.

It is a great shame for the KDP to detain a revolutionary Kurdish woman in this way and to try to use her for its dirty relations with the Turkish state. The KDP and Parastin are therefore responsible for the fate of our friend Azime Arsun.

On this basis, we would like to call on the Kurdish public and all women's organizations to take action to find out the fate of our friend Azime Arsun and to prevent the KDP from handing her over to the Turkish state in order to support the fascist Erdoğan's election campaign."

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Two soldiers killed as guerrillas respond to Turkish attacks on guerrilla areas

ANF - BEHDINAN - 10 MAY 2023

In its daily overview of the war in Kurdistan, the press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that two soldiers of the Turkish army have been killed in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement, the Turkish invading forces attacked a guerrilla position in Sîda in the Zap region on Tuesday. The guerrillas responded to the attacks in self-defence and two occupiers died in the skirmish. In Sîda, Turkey again used prohibited weapons.

The guerrillas also exercised their right to self-defence in the Girê FM resistance area on Tuesday when the Turkish army carried out two attacks. Since yesterday, HPG recorded two attacks with attack helicopters and nine attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons on the Girê Cûdî, Girê Amêdî, Girê FM and Sîda areas. In the Gare region, six airstrikes by Turkish fighter jets have taken place since Monday on the foothills of Girê Zengil, the area around the village of Sêdarê and Dola Mêranê.

Turkey's attacks continue despite a ceasefire announced by the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK). The decision was taken after the devastating earthquake disaster in the Turkish-Syrian border area on 6 February. The Kurdish guerrillas, which include the HPG and the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops), are implementing the call for a cessation of all hostilities and are in a defensive position.

In a statement on February 9, the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK), an umbrella organization of the Kurdish freedom movement of which the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) is also a member, called for a halt of military actions in Turkey, in metropolises and cities. “It is necessary to prevent the people from experiencing even more suffering in this affliction”, [said](#) Cemil Bayık, co-chairman of the executive council of the KCK.

The Central Headquarters of the People's Defence Forces (HSM) expressed support for the KCK's call and [said](#) on February 11 that the guerrillas were ready to do their part to alleviate the suffering of people.

On March 27, the KCK Executive Council co-chair Besê Hozat [announced](#) that the unilateral ceasefire would remain in place until after the elections to be held in Turkey on May 14.

According to the annual [balance sheet](#) of war in the Medya Defence Zones, published by the Central Headquarters of the People's Defence Forces on April 14, the Turkish army carried out 3,730 attacks with chemical and other unconventional bombs on guerrilla areas, 4,233 attacks by combat aircraft and 5,628 attacks by combat helicopters.

According to the [balance sheet](#) of war for the month of April, published by HPG on May 2, the Turkish army bombed Medya Defense Zones from the air and land 1081 times and attacked the guerrilla positions 8 times using chemical and banned weapons.

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Turkish army launches operation in Lice countryside

ANF - AMED - 10 MAY 2023

The Turkish army has launched a large-scale invasion operation in the countryside of the Lice district in Amed (Diyarbakır).

According to information provided by local sources, dozens of armored vehicles and helicopters are taking part in the large-scale operation carried out in the area of Şehîd Kendal.

Reports are coming through of heavy clashes between the guerrillas and Turkish occupation forces.

The operation area is shelled by helicopters while the fighting is reported to be continuing.

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Turkish attack on Til Temir results in casualties

ANF - 11 MAY 2023

The Turkish army and its jihadist proxy forces in northern Syria attacked the village of Til Leben (Tel al-Laban) southwest of Til Temir with mortars and artillery on Thursday. One civilian was killed in the attack and four other residents were injured.

According to ANHA, the victim was identified as Mihemed Ebdulfetah Hisên (38), who was working in the field during the attack. Xalis Hec Hozeyfa (35), Ebdullah Elêwî (27), Îbrahîm Geraf (38) and Hafiz Muhemmed Geraf (27) were injured and are being treated at Lêgerîn Hospital in Til Temir.

Til Temir is a good 30 kilometres from the Turkish border and borders in the north on the illegal occupation zone that Turkey is running along its southern border in solidarity with jihadists in Rojava. In the nearby village of Ain el Aabed, three children were killed by Turkish shells on 24 April, and two others were injured, some seriously.

According to a balance sheet published by ANHA, attacks on the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria have intensified in the run-up to Turkey's elections. The news agency reports 163 air and ground attacks in April, including five drone strikes. According to the data, airspace over the region was consistently violated by Turkey, in 643 cases by drones, 25 times by fighter jets and seven times by helicopters.

— ★ —

SADAT member detained in Paris in connection with attack on Kurdish association

ANF - PARIS - 11 MAY 2023

On 3 March, a man of Turkish nationality attacked the Kurdish centre in Paris.

French journalist Guillaume Perrier said in a Twitter message that, “the suspect, who presented himself as a former SADAT mercenary, was taken into custody in Paris.”

The attack came after a deadly attack that killed three Kurds in the French capital on 23 December, 2022.

As a private military company in Turkey, SADAT was created by 23 retired officers and non-commissioned officers from various units of the Turkish army and is led by retired Brigadier General Adnan Tanriverdi. The parastatal Turkish mercenary group is best known for its assistance to mercenary groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda against Kurds in Rojava, but has recently begun to expand its operations in Turkey as well. This illegal non-paramilitary organization structure, funded by the presidential budget, killed

thousands of people in Sur, Cizre, and Nusaybin by deploying the Chechen mercenary herd of ISIS in order to repress the legitimate battle of Kurds in self-government announcements in Kurdish districts.

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HPG reports continued Turkish attacks on guerrilla areas

ANF - BEHDINAN - 11 MAY 2023

The press centre of the People's Defence Forces reported that the Turkish army continues its occupation attacks on the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the daily statement of the HPG, Turkish troops attacked the Girê Cûdî resistance area in Zap region with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons at 9.30 and 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, and the guerrillas responded in self-defence. Guerrillas also responded to an attack in the Girê FM resistance area.

Turkish forces also attacked a guerrilla position in Sîda where they faced a response from the guerrillas, damaging a shovel excavator.

Since Wednesday, the Turkish army has carried out twelve attacks on Girê Cûdî, Girê Amêdî, Girê FM and Sîda with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

Turkey's attacks continue despite a ceasefire announced by the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK). The decision was taken after the devastating earthquake disaster in the Turkish-Syrian border area on 6 February. The Kurdish guerrillas, which include the HPG and the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops), are implementing the call for a cessation of all hostilities and are in a defensive position.

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KDP closes Semalka Border Crossing

ANF - 12 MAY 2023

The Fîşxabûr (Semalka) Border Gate, located between Bashur (South) Kurdistan and Northern and Eastern Syria, was closed unilaterally by the KDP border administration.

Speaking to ANHA, Semalka Border Gate official Baz Ehmed said that Fîşxabur Border Gate Management closed the gate unilaterally and they were not informed about why this decision was taken.

The KDP closed the gate unilaterally for 40 days at the end of 2021.

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Autonomous Administration: We are ready to play our part

ANF - 12 MAY 2023

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) issued a written statement regarding the re-admission of Syria to the Arab League.

The statement said: “The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria closely follows the international and Arab world initiatives for a solution to the Syrian crisis, and attaches importance to the efforts made by the Arab countries in the last few months. Important meetings are being held in search for a solution. We hope that these efforts will bring about a positive result.”

The statement also welcomed the re-admission of Syria to the Arab League following a meeting of the body’s foreign ministers on 7 May.

Emphasizing that it is important for Syria to be included in the Arab League again, but this should not be an obstacle to the political solution to the Syrian crisis, the statement said: “This should be an important step for the political work in Syria. We hope that the Arab League will take an active role in this matter.”

Need for a comprehensive solution

The Autonomous Administration underlined the importance of the declaration it issued on 18 April, and called on the Arab League and the UN to play a constructive role in the solution of the Syrian crisis, taking into account the views of the Syrians. “There are common issues that Arab countries should focus on. For this reason, it is necessary to work together within the scope of a comprehensive political solution.”

The statement said that the Autonomous Administration welcomes Syria’s admission to the Arab League within the scope of international interests, the protection of Syria’s integrity and the construction of a decentralized democratic system, and added: “We will increase efforts for the beginning of true dialogue with the Syrian Government and the Syrian forces who believe in a political-democratic solution. We hope to carry out joint work with Arab countries.

We can play a positive role in the search for a political solution. We have political, economic, security and humanitarian opportunities. We call on the Arab League to engage in dialogue with all Syrians, not just one side. Because the political solution needs a general consensus. We are ready to work together with Arab states and the UN on key issues such as the fight against terrorism, drugs and migration. We hope that the suffering of the Syrian people in the past 12 years will come to an end. We will work to achieve security and a political solution so that the Syrians, with all their ethnic backgrounds, can live with dignity.”

Yazidis in Shengal once again protest the 9 October Agreement

ANF - SHENGAL - 11 MAY 2023

The “Shengal Agreement” was signed on 9 October 2020 between the former Iraqi Government headed by Mustafa Kazimi and the Kurdistan Region Government. The Yazidi people never recognized the agreement because it was signed without consulting with them.

Photographs of Shengal martyrs were carried during the march held in Shengal with the slogan “We do not accept any agreement, including the 9 October one” to reject once again the 9 October Agreement.

During the march, in which people from all over Shengal flocked, a call was made to protect the gains.

Shengal Autonomous Assembly co-chair Reham Hasan pointed out that there are plans for destroying the unity of the peoples and said: “One of these plans is the agreement signed on 9 October 2020. Our people have not accepted this agreement since it was signed. Components living in Shengal opposed this dirty plan. Unfortunately, the will of the Shengal people was not respected. The newly formed government wants to implement the plans of the Kazimi government.”

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KCDK-E calls on the German government to end its complicity with Turkish fascism

ANF - 12 MAY 2023

The Kurdish European umbrella organization KCDK-E criticized the German government for its anti-Kurdish persecution policy. The association accused Germany of a “witch hunt” against Kurdish politicians and criticized their imprisonment.

The declaration was issued to protest the impending extradition of the Kurdish politician Kenan Ayaz to Germany. The KCDK-E said: “Politician Kenan Ayaz was arrested at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus while traveling to Sweden to visit his family. The Cypriot authorities justified the arrest with an arrest warrant based on an extradition request from the German state.”

Five years in prison for Özgür A.

The KCDK-E also spoke about the conviction of Özgür A. on 10 May. The court in Koblenz said that from May 2018 until his arrest in Bremen in April 2022, the Kurdish activist was responsible for various areas of Germany as a “full-time cadre” of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). As a result, it sentenced the activist to five years in prison under Sections 129a/b of the Criminal Code for “being a member of a terrorist organization abroad.”

The KCDK-E said: “None of the allegations and reasons for the judgments against Kurdish politicians imprisoned in Germany refer to ‘terrorist acts’. Kurdish politicians are being tried primarily on the basis of the 1993 PKK ban. Based on this, all legitimate demands and activities of Kurdish politicians and the Kurdish community as a whole are criminalized in Germany. This political campaign of annihilation by the German state against Kurdish politicians has no legal basis whatsoever. It is totally anti-democratic and at odds with the international democratic and intellectual values that Europe claims to stand for.”

End the complicity!

The KCDK-E called on the German government to end its criminalization policy and its anti-Kurdish complicity with the AKP-MHP fascism and to release all political prisoners immediately. On Thursday, the Frankfurt Higher Regional Court sentenced the Kurdish activist Abdullah Öcalan to four years and five months in prison for “membership in a terrorist organization abroad” under Sections 129a/b of the Criminal Code.

The KCDK-E continued: “Thousands of Kurdish politicians are being imprisoned in Turkey without any legal basis. Unfortunately, the German government is resorting to similar methods. These arrests are not independent of Turkey. The Kurdish people are defamed as ‘terrorists’ for their struggle for democracy and freedom. But the whole world knows that the Kurdish people saved humanity from the horrors of ISIS and continues its struggle for freedom. We call on Germany to stop being an accomplice to massacres carried out by Turkey and to stop supporting the dictator Erdoğan and the AKP state. Instead of supporting the genocidal policy of the Turkish state, the German government should contribute to the search for a democratic solution to the Kurdish question and give up its criminalization policy.”

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IDP from Afrin: There is no other way but to resist until our home is liberated

ANF - SHEHBA - 12 MAY 2023

Following the occupation of Afrin, the village of Basilê in the Sherawa district and most of the other villages in the district came under the control of the invading Turkish state and its mercenaries. The residents of these villages were forcibly displaced.

Xelil Ebdo Oso (66) from the Basilê village moved to the village of Dêr Cimêlê in the neighboring Shehba Canton after the occupation of his village. Oso goes to Aqibe village every day to see his village, which is just one kilometre away from there.

Oso lives in the village of Dêr Cimêl near the Aleppo-Dîlok road (214) along the borders of the villages in Sherawa district.

To fulfil his longing, Oso keeps visiting his village where he had a small, landed property.

Speaking to ANHA, Oso said: “When I visit the places where I grew up, I get emotional. I remember old memories. After the occupation, the Turkish army turned the village of Basilê, which is about 15 km away from the city centre, into a military base. The Turkish army also dug trenches over the ruins of houses.”

Oso added: “Many houses in the village were destroyed before our eyes. We have nothing to do, but to be patient and resist. We will return home. Watching my village from afar is just afflicting.”

The invasion forces confiscated all the property and olive trees owned by Oso, who concluded by saying that he would fight until the liberation of Afrin and his village, Basilê.

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HPG: Turkish attacks on guerrilla areas continue unabated

ANF - BEHDINAN - 12 MAY 2023

The press centre of the People’s Defence Forces (HPG) reported that the Turkish army continues its occupation attacks on the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the daily statement of the HPG, Turkish occupation forces launched attacks on Girê FM Resistance Area on May 11, to which the guerrillas responded to defend themselves.

On the same day, guerrillas responded to the Turkish troops that attacked and tried to demolish the guerrilla positions in Sîda.

On the other hand, the areas of Kanîsarkê and Girê Cûdî were shelled six times by fighter jets.

On May 11 and 12, the areas of Girê Cûdî and Girê Amediyê, and the guerrilla positions in Sîda were targeted by 8 attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

Turkey’s attacks continue despite a ceasefire announced by the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK). The decision was taken after the devastating earthquake disaster in the Turkish-Syrian border area on 6 February. The Kurdish guerrillas, which include the HPG and the YJA Star (Free Women’s Troops), are implementing the call for a cessation of all hostilities and are in a defensive position.

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Heyva Sor says embargo imposed on Shehba puts health of refugees in danger

ANF - SHEHBA - 13 MAY 2023

After the residents of Afrin canton migrated to Shehba canton, the local administration set up 5 camps. One of these is the Berxwedan Camp, located in Fafin. A center was opened by Heyva Sor a Kurd, to provide health services in the camp.

More than 750 families live in the Berxwedan camp, where only Heyva Sor a Kurd provides health services for the residents. Two internal medicine and heart disease doctors work in the center, examining and treating patients.

As a result of the heavy embargo imposed by the Damascus government for 9 months, the health and medical condition of the canton has also deteriorated. Before the embargo was tightened, Heyva Sor a Kurd helped the residents of the region in every way, especially in the supply of medicine and particularly medicine for serious diseases.

Berxwedan Camp Heyva Sor a Kurd director, Heyder Reşid, told ANHA that they paid a lot of money for the supply of medicines before the embargo was tightened, and added: "However, we have not been able to bring medicine to the canton for 9 months. We can no longer give the necessary medicine to patients. The embargo is affecting our work very negatively."

Drawing attention to the approaching summer season, Heyder Reşid said: "There are about 750 families in the camps. As we know, the temperature inside the tents is very high. Residents, especially children, are adversely affected by the high temperatures."

Regarding the center's supply of medicines for serious diseases, Reşid said: "Before, we were providing monthly medicines to all patients with serious diseases such as heart, blood pressure and kidney failure. But now we do not have those medicines. They cannot even be supplied in pharmacies. If the Damascus government continues this embargo, we risk a humanitarian crisis."

Reşid called for the lifting of the siege against the Afrin refugees and the residents of Shehba canton, and the provision of medicines and medical supplies to the region.

SDF denies Turkish reports about death of five fighters

ANF - 13 MAY 2023

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) denied Turkish allegations about the death of their fighters.

“The Turkish occupation Ministry of Defense claimed in a statement that 5 of our fighters were martyred in the Serêkaniyê - Girê Spî area on May 13. These allegations are groundless,” read the SDF statement on Twitter on Saturday.



AANES condemns KDP's unilateral closure of Semalka border crossing

ANF - 13 MAY 2023

The Semalka (Faysh Khabur, Kr: Pêşxabûr) border crossing is located between the town of Pêşxabûr on the east bank of the Tigris in Duhok province on the side of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) and the town of Semalka in Dêrik on the side of western Kurdistan (northern Syria). It is currently the only way to get into North-East Syria, but also to get out and bring medicine and humanitarian aid supplies into the region. Only aid organisations and NGOs active in northern and eastern Syria were informed of the closure of the border crossing by Southern Kurdistan's border control authority. However, no reason was given.

The border has been closed since Thursday, and there is still no official justification or announcement from the authorities. The closure of the crossing could cause a disaster and further complicate the humanitarian situation in the region.

In a statement against the closure of the Semalka border crossing by the KDP-dominated government of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) said: “In view of the ongoing embargo, threats from Turkey and allied jihadist militias, as well as the danger posed by sleeper cells of ISIS, we are appalled by the closure of the only border crossing into the north-eastern Syrian autonomous government.”

Defining the move as “unilateral” and “inhumane”, AANES stated: “We are concerned and appalled by the closure of the border crossing point at Sêmalka, as until recently it was the only open gateway into our regions. Sêmalka is the lifeline for millions of people who depend on the delivery of humanitarian supplies and medicines in a region ravaged by embargo, occupation and war.”

AANES warned that the unilateral blockade of the crossing would be used as a means of political blackmail against the administration and reprisal against the people and urged its immediate reopening. “We

hope that common sense will prevail, and that the lifeline of our regions will never be used as a means of pressure.”

It is not the first time that the Semalka border crossing has been closed by the KRI authorities. Time and again, the important crossing point is closed by order of the KRI government, which is dominated by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). The last prolonged closure took place in the winter of 2021/2022. For about six weeks, the border crossing remained completely closed to all traffic. Previously, the KDP had closed the gate between South and West Kurdistan several times on Turkish orders. With such blockades, the Turkish state is trying to isolate Rojava and destabilise the self-governed areas. It is also suspected that the border was closed at the insistence of the government in Ankara.

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HPG: 8 soldiers killed in Mardin region

ANF - BEHDINAN - 14 MAY 2023

The HPG Press Center issued a statement with information detailing the attacks launched by the Turkish army against the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas in the province of Mardin from 27 April to 5 May.

The statement said: “The invading Turkish army, taking advantage of the position of inaction of our guerrilla forces, continued its attacks uninterrupted, especially in Bakur Kurdistan. Operations against our forces in the province of Mardin were launched on 27 April and continued uninterrupted until 5 May. Our forces in Mardin defeated the operations launched by the enemy for 8 days by using all war techniques, but also dealt effective blows to the invaders. During the 8-day operation, 8 soldiers were killed, one was injured and our comrade Bahoz Çiya fell as a martyr. The detailed identity information of our comrade, Bahoz Çiya, will be shared with our people and the public later.

In Bagok, our forces targeted and hit an operation column on 30 April and 2 invaders were killed.

On 2 May, the same area was bombed 4 times by warplanes and war helicopters. The enemy expanded the scope of the operation by landing soldiers. On 2 May, there was a conflict between our forces and the invaders, and our comrade Bahoz Çiya fell as a martyr.

Avaşîn region

In the Avaşîn region, our guerrillas stopped the invading soldiers. In this action, 3 soldiers were killed. The Turkish army admitted only one loss.

The attacks carried out by the invading Turkish army:

On 11 May, Garê's Deşta Kafya Area was bombed by warplanes 3 times.

On 12 May, our resistance positions in Sîda were bombed 3 times by heavy weapons.”



Guerrillas respond to ongoing Turkish attacks in South Kurdistan

ANF - BEHDINAN - 14 MAY 2023

The press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that the Turkish army continues its occupation attacks on the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the daily statement of the HPG, Turkish occupation forces attacked the areas of Girê Şehîd Heqî and Girê Şehîd Kamuran in Xakurkê with howitzers and mortars on May 13. Guerrillas responded to the attacks to defend themselves.

On the same day, the Turkish army attacked Girê Şehîd Axin, facing a response from the guerrillas. During the ensuing fighting, the position of the occupiers was struck by the guerrillas and two of them were killed.

The areas of Girê Bahar and Golka in Metîna were shelled four times by fighter jets.

On the other hand, the areas of Girê Şehîd Heqî, Girê Şehîd Kamuran, Girê Axîn in Xakurkê, as well as the Girê Bahar, Girê FM, Girê Cûdî and Girê Amediyê resistance areas and the guerrilla positions in Sîda were targeted by 17 attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

Turkey's attacks continue despite a ceasefire announced by the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK). The decision was taken after the devastating earthquake disaster in the Turkish-Syrian border area on 6 February. The Kurdish guerrillas, which include the HPG and the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops), are implementing the call for a cessation of all hostilities and are in a defensive position.



YPJ fighter Cûdî Egîd martyred in Turkish drone attack

ANF - 14 MAY 2023

The Press Office of the Women's Defence Units (YPJ) announced the martyrdom of one of their fighters, Cûdî Egîd, in a Turkish drone attack on 11 May in the town of Çelebiyê (Jalabiyya), which lies between Kobanê and the occupied Girê Spî (Tal Abyad).

In an obituary paying tribute to the fallen fighter, YPJ Press Office said the following:

“The Women’s Revolution of Rojava is a sacred refuge for all people who want to be free. Our ancient land has produced great heroines. The border lines drawn by the rulers have lost their meaning with the Rojava Revolution and the unity of peoples has received a new boost with the resistance of courageous women against the mentality of genocide.

Our companion Cûdî Egîd (Tuğba Karakoç) was born in 1995 into a patriotic family in Amed. The place of birth plays a determining role in a person’s socialisation. The tradition of resistance emanating from the magnificent city walls in Amed contributed to comrade Cûdî taking a revolutionary path in her life.

Inspired by two of her brothers who joined the liberation movement, comrade Cûdî too was looking for a free life and wanted to make a choice. She stood up against the genocidal mentality of the Turkish state and took to the mountains of Kurdistan in 2013 with the spirit of resistance of Amed. There she gained great experience and allowed the dream of a free and independent Kurdistan to grow in her heart. With this great hope, she continued to develop on a military and ideological level.

After her struggle in the mountains of freedom, comrade Cûdî came to Rojavayê Kurdistanê due to the attacks of the terrorist organisation DAESH [ISIS]. As a militant of the YPJ, she fought relentlessly against the barbarism of the century with the spirit of that time.

With her attitude, her modesty and her joy of life, she took a special place among her companions. She fought armed against those in power and against the occupation, thus becoming an expression of the heroic deeds that have taken place and continue to take place in this country.

With the same enthusiasm that she showed on the first day in the ranks of the revolution, she participated in many different areas. She shouldered the burden of the revolution with a selfless and sacrificial attitude to create a free, democratic society based on free women despite all the difficulties.

Comrade Cûdî was martyred on 11 May by an air strike carried out by an armed drone of the Turkish occupying state, which wants to eliminate the leaders of the women’s revolution of Rojava with these vile attacks.

The level of our revolution is developing both in the defence forces and in the popular movement under the leadership of women. This fact puts our enemies like Erdoğan in great fear. Erdoğan and the Turkish state, with its history of genocides, want to restore their destroyed psychological state with these attacks. However, we have sworn to defend at all costs the values left to us as a legacy by those who died in the struggle for freedom.

Our never-ending struggle has produced countless brave women and men. Comrade Cûdî was one of those countless heroines who fought until their last breath against the mentality of genocide and occupation.

We give our word to our martyrs for the freedom of the peoples to create a free and meaningful future. We express our sympathy to the Karakoç family and to all patriotic people from our nation who are fighting for their dignity and values. We promise revenge.”

Feminicide

YPJ Information office publishes report on femicide in Turkey under the AKP

ANF - 10 MAY 2023

The YPJ Information and Documentation office published a [report](#) called “Femicide in Turkey under AKP rule” using data from two different sources, the Anıt Savaş archive and the ‘We Will Stop Femicide Platform’ (KCDP).

The report pointed out that “the AKP government’s policies of the past 20 years have explicitly aimed at getting women to marry young, and pushing them to have many children. When the perpetrator is, in most cases, the husband or ex-husband, putting psychological pressure on women to get married means putting them even more at risk. Furthermore, political efforts are aimed at preventing women from having a job outside the home, to the extent that working women are blamed for the rise in unemployment. All this, if compared with the data of this study, makes us understand how the AKP government is among the infrastructural causes of these feminicides.”

The report underlined that “another of the main reasons why feminicides are on the rise so drastically is that following the reports of violence, safety measures for victims are scarce.”

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Hozan Mizgîn, the voice of Kurdistan

DILARA NURHAQ - BEHDINAN - 11 MAY 2023

Today marks the 31st anniversary of the martyrdom of the revolutionary artist and legendary commander Martyr Mizgîn (Gurbet Aydın), who fell in Tatvan on 11 May 1992.

Born in Batman in 1965, Hozan Mizgîn went to school only for a few years, as her family did not allow her to continue studying because of the feudal oppression against women. She never accepted the life imposed on her. She met the Kurdish Freedom Movement at an early age, and in 1980 she went to join the freedom struggle. She wholeheartedly embraces the ideas of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and went to Lebanon to see him.

Noticing Hozan Mizgîn’s beautiful voice, Abdullah Öcalan sent her to Europe for cultural and artistic studies. In Europe she set up the cultural movement with Martyr Hozan Sefqan, becoming one of the members of Koma Berxwedan. She also went through ideological training.

She was not just an artist, she became a commander, a fighter when appropriate, and did whatever it took for the freedom of Kurdistan.

After returning to Kurdistan from Europe, Gurbet Aydın carried out organizational activities in South Kurdistan and in the province of Mardin.

She won the people's love in a short time with her determined and humble stance. She organized the masses and built extensive and successful relationships.

Hozan Mizgîn was also very popular among her comrades. She became the target of the enemy due to her great influence on people.

The revolutionary artist and legendary commander fell a martyr in Tatvan on 11 May 1992, after a great resistance.

Thousands of Kurdish children, who grew up with Hozan Mizgîn's voice and music, are fighting and resisting today with her spirit.



Court wants Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk to present her defense in new trial

ANF - AMED - 11 MAY 2023

Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk was released from prison after the decision of the Constitutional Court (AYM) that ruled that she could not continue to stay in prison because she was suffering from dementia.

After her release on 27 October 2022, Tuğluk was accused of “being a member of a terrorist organization” in a new lawsuit.

The trial was held on 5 May at the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court. Tuğluk did not attend the hearing due to her illness.

Tuğluk's lawyer, Serdar Çelebi, said that the execution of her client's sentence was postponed until she recovered, and demanded to put the trial on “hold”.

The Court, however, set up an interim decision for Tuğluk to attend the hearing via Audio and Visual Information System (SEGBİS).

Tuğluk's lawyers, Çelebi and Reyhan Yalçındağ, objected to the continuation of their clients' trial and to her being forced to present her defense.

The lawyers pointed to the ATK's report that states that her client “cannot lead her life in prison alone”.

In the appeal petition, the lawyers stated that it was not possible for Tuğluk to attend the hearings or make a defense, and that “the continuation of the prosecution against their client will be determined by whether she is in a position to make a defense and whether she has criminal capacity.”

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Women in North-East Syria condemn crimes against children

ANF - 12 MAY 2023

In the northern Syrian canton of Afrin occupied by the Turkish state and its mercenaries, crimes such as harassment, rape, extortion, theft and plunder of nature have become rampant since the invasion of the region in 2018. The main victims of these crimes are women and children.

Most recently, a leader of the Turkey-backed “Sultan Şuleyken Shah (Amshat)” group raped a 10-year-old child and the leader of the “Jaysh Al Islam” group raped a 14-year-old child in Afrin. In the same week, a child who refused to be married off was kidnapped by mercenary groups.

Speaking to ANHA, women in North and East Syria reacted to the inhumane practices carried out by the invading Turkish state and its mercenaries and stated that these crimes were part of the policies of genocide and demographic change.

Women and children are targeted

Newroz El Elî, Deputy Chair of the Women’s Council of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), said that the crimes committed in Afrin were not new, and the Turkish state used various excuses to commit crimes against citizens, women and children.

Denouncing the crimes of rape and kidnapping against several children within a week, Elî underlined that the Turkish state and allied mercenaries especially targeted women and children.

Elî called on all humanitarian and legal institutions that advocate for human rights to take a stand against the crimes of the Turkish Republic.

Where are legal organizations ?

A citizen named Rabie Bekro condemned the rape of a 10-year-old child in Afrin’s Shiye district, saying that this act had no place in any religion.

Another citizen, Zehra Mihemed, said that she was shocked by the silence of the institutions and organizations that promote children's rights. She said: “Why don’t these organizations react to crimes against children? These crimes pose a real danger to the lives of children.”

Shehrezad El Casim, an executive member of the Zenubiya Women's Community, said: "Afrin was a city of peace, stability and brotherhood for years. Free women lived in Afrin, the city of olives. But today, women are subjected to violence and crimes are committed."

She added: "The invaders and mercenary groups are changing the demographic structure of the city. They want to break the free will of women through rape, violence, forced displacement and child abduction."

'Hideous crimes'

Ayşe El Mudhi, an executive member of the Deir ez-Zor Eastern Region Women's Committee, condemned the crimes committed by the invading Turkic state and its mercenary groups against women and children.

El Mudhi defined the crimes in question as "hideous" and demanded harsh penalties for the perpetrators.

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Human Rights Violations

Victims of 2015 Ankara massacre commemorated

ANF - ANKARA - 10 MAY 2023

On October 10, 2015, 104 people lost their lives as a result of a bomb attack carried out by ISIS which was supported by the AKP-MHP government.

A commemoration event was held in front of Ankara Train Station where the bombing took place, to mark the 91st month of the massacre.

During the event organized by the 10 October Peace Association (10 Ekim-Der), a banner with the photos of the victims was displayed.

The commemoration was attended by Green Left Party's Ankara deputy candidates İhsan Ceylan, Hatice Göz, Metin Kılıç, Zişan Kürüm Yılmaz, Emirali Türkmen and Ruken Dilara Zaf, as well as Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) and Green Left Party provincial administrators and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Ankara Provincial Co-Chair Pakize Sinemillioğlu.

In a speech, 10 Ekim-Der Head Mehtap Sakinci Coşgun said: "We are on the eve of the May 14 elections. The country saw bomb attacks, cross border operations, detentions and arrests before the November elections in 2015. Huge prices were paid, and a lot of blood was spilled. Those responsible for the killings have never been brought to account, and the government has ignored the massacres.

“We want to talk about other things after the 14 May elections. We want to see the end of this notorious era. We want to say that it is now time for the country to officially confront the massacres.

İhsan Ceylan said: “The 2015 Ankara massacre has remained unsolved. The attack on a HDP party rally on June 5 in 2015 was organized by the same group. We have always promoted peace. This is the October 10 square. It is the grave of our children.

Emirali Türkmen said: “Although 91 months have passed since the massacre, we are here today because no perpetrator who was involved in the massacre has been revealed so far.”

Türkmen added: “We know that Turkey's history is the history of massacres. We lost many lives. We have not forgotten the massacres in Maraş, Sivas and Çorum. Suruç is very close to us, and the Ankara massacre took place right here. We were all together. Democracy will never come to this country until we confront the previous massacres.”

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General Elections in Turkey

300 intellectuals, artists, writers, peace academics, women call for a vote to Green Left Party

ANF - 10 MAY 2023

Support statements for the Greens and the Left Future Party (Green Left Party) for the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections continue to increase.

300 intellectuals, artists, writers, academics and journalists, added their names to a statement of support for the Green Left Party in the 14 May elections.

The statement said: “We, the undersigned intellectuals, artists, writers, peace academics, representatives of the women’s movement, opinion leaders and filmmakers see the elections to be held on 14 May as an opportunity to ensure a democratic transformation of Turkey.

In this context, we invite you to vote for the Green Left Party for a strong, democratic and pluralist opposition to ensure the democratic transformation it promises, and for Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, who has promised to bring the fear regime created in the presidential election to a democratic transformation.”

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Temel: Voting for Green Left and protecting ballot boxes are historic responsibility

ANF - 10 MAY 2023

“Turkey will hold a very critical and historic election. It will be an election that will show whether democracy forces could organize their power as a third alternative and whether they could achieve a strong representation in the parliament,” said HDP Deputy Co-Chair Temel, who spoke to ANF about the May 14 elections in Turkey.

‘Democratization of Republic’

Temel stated: “There is constant propaganda in this election. This is very important. It is about “Century of Turkey”. In fact, both the Nation Alliance and the People’s Alliance endorse this propaganda. In other words, 2023 will mark the republic’s centenary. How will the republic, which promoted denialist policies and oppression of different identities, be shaped in its centenary? The elections are about this question. In general, will the regime be a democratic one or will it be a denialist, monist, oppressive and despotic regime that will persist in its second century? As the HDP, the Green Left Party and our alliance, we consider the elections as an opportunity to democratize the Republic. Every single vote on behalf of the third way politics will be a blow to the despotic, monist, oppressive and denialist policies of this regime, and an opportunity to thrive for the democratic forces.”

‘Let’s protect ballot boxes’

Temel continued: “That’s why we consider every single vote cast on behalf of the Green Left Party as a blow to fascism. For us, going to the polls and voting are a historical responsibility and duty. We urge all our voters to go to the polls.

Another issue is about the protection of the ballot boxes. It would be a mistake to think that this regime would easily abandon its despotic features without protecting the ballot boxes. Because this regime will not easily accept an election defeat. We are faced with a government that can resort to all kinds of tricks, plans and dark scenarios. Therefore, there will be frequent provocative statements and manipulations on election night. Our people, none of our voters and poll watchers should never trust or give credence to any claim, evaluation or comment disseminated by the AKP media. Because it will be their last night. Since it will be the last night of their power, they will seek any kind of election fraud. To avoid it, we made serious preparations. We have more than one poll watcher in each ballot box. We emphasize that these watchers should not leave their field of duty in any case. We think that it would be more correct for them to be informed by the Green Left and other opposition media. Our people should carefully follow the statements of our headquarters on the night of May 14.”

Batman city blockaded by police before Erdoğan's election rally

ANF - BATMAN - 10 MAY 2023

The Batman city has been besieged by police officers and soldiers before Erdoğan's campaign rally.

All avenues and streets in the city have been blockaded with armoured police vehicles and security barriers.

Photos of Erdoğan were forcibly hung on official public and civilian buildings along the route Erdoğan is expected to use.

As in Erdoğan's previous election rallies, civil servants in the city have been forced to attend the rally.

Village guards in rural neighbourhoods were also forced to get onto campaign vehicles early in the morning.

Hundreds of buses were mobilized in the Batman Airport region, carrying people brought from different cities for the rally.

The government-appointed mayor of Batman who replaced the elected mayor of the city hastily repaired the sidewalks on the Batman Airport Road that had been broken for years.

Athletes within the municipality have been forced to attend the rally in their civilian clothes.

— ★ —

AKP prepares for election fraud in Hakkari

ANF - HAKKARI - 10 MAY 2023

The AKP/MHP regime is under unprecedented pressure in the upcoming elections. In previous elections, the government relied on massive electoral fraud, ballot boxes disappeared, votes were thrown away or falsely counted. Evidence of similar fraud is mounting again in the run-up to the parliamentary and presidential elections on 14 May.

In the resistance stronghold of Hakkari with its 200,000 eligible voters, the AKP has hijacked lists of the election commissions that are supposed to control the 590 polling stations in the city. As usual, the provincial election committee selects people to work in the polling stations. This time, in a coup-like act, the list was seized by AKP provincial chairperson, Emrullah Gür, and the people on the list were replaced by AKP supporters. Through massive pressure on the electoral committee, the AKP politician managed to get his list accepted.

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Racist attack injures Green Left Party voters in Lyon

ANF - 11 MAY 2023

The Green Left Party reported that they had received many threats against party poll watchers and representatives before the May 14 elections. The party revealed that “car tires of the party’s election vehicles were blown out systematically”.

On Tuesday, four Kurdish voters were subjected to racist attacks and injured as they left a campaign office in Lyon.

Polling stations in state-run DITIP offices

The AKP-MHP regime had placed the ballot boxes in state-run DITIB offices, putting election safety in jeopardy.

A criminal complaint has been filed by the four injured Kurds after they were taken to an emergency ward. The Provincial Directorate of Public Security initiated a legal procedure to investigate into the violence on the public road. One person has been detained for blowing out a car tire.

On April 3, 2021, a masked group attacked a Kurdish association.

The Green Left Party “strongly condemned these attacks that threaten democracy”.

French authorities should take precautions

The French Democratic Kurdish Council (CDK-F) released a written statement, saying that the attack was carried out by the Gray Wolves, a paramilitary racist organization backed by the Turkish state.

The statement said: “We condemn the establishment of ballot boxes in DITIB offices, a religious organization under the control of the Turkish government, in Lyon. This is an attack on the safety and democratic nature of the elections.”

The statement added: “Concerning the elections in Turkey, we call on the French authorities to protect Kurdish associations and their members in France. We are concerned that if the Erdogan regime loses these elections, our associations may be targeted by the Gray Wolves and sleeper cells of Turkish-controlled organizations in France. We call on the authorities to take action to end these attacks and bring those responsible to account.”

— ★ —

Interior Minister Soylyu admits that the dismissal of Kurdish mayors was ordered by Erdogan

ANF - 11 MAY 2023

On September 11, 2016, Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu made his first confession about the dismissal of the mayors of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP). A second confession by Soylu came on August 19, 2019 about the mayors of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

Soylu, who was appointed to the Ministry of Interior on August 31, 2016, after the AKP's return to the concept of war, replaced DBP mayors by government-appointed mayors on September 11, 2016. Soylu dismissed 96 mayors of the DBP out of 102.

On August 19, 2019, Soylu dismissed the co-mayors of 65 municipalities, 3 of which were metropolitan, 5 provinces, 45 districts, and 12 towns run by the HDP and appointed governors and district governors to replace them.

In a recent speech in Istanbul Gaziosmanpaşa, Soylu said: "After I became the Minister of Interior, our president called me, and said, 'Süleyman, I am uncomfortable with these HDP/PKK municipalities in Turkey's Southeast and East. You will dismiss them immediately'. I was eagerly waiting for this instruction anyway. Two days passed and I dismissed them all in a large-scale police operation at 08:00 in the morning."

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Muharrem Ince withdraws candidacy for presidential election

ANF - ANKARA - 11 MAY 2023

Turkish politician Muharrem Ince has withdrawn his candidacy for the presidential election on Sunday. Ince, who is the leader of the Memleket Partisi (Fatherland Party), made the announcement at a press conference in Ankara on Thursday.

According to forecasts, Ince could only have won between two and four percent of the vote. As the candidate of his former party CHP, he ran against Erdoğan in 2018 and lost. After his defeat, Ince left the party in dispute and founded his own.

Ince said he did not want the larger opposition bloc behind CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu to hold him responsible for a possible defeat. In recent days, allegations of corruption were made against Ince. About 850 members, including parliamentary candidates, resigned from the party.

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Votes cast abroad are already in Turkey

ANF - 12 MAY 2023

All of the votes cast in foreign representations for the Presidential and 28th term parliamentary elections were brought to Turkey.

The votes, election documents and envelopes were sent to Istanbul by diplomatic couriers. Votes cast abroad will be sent to Ankara by road.

The voters registered abroad were 3 million 416 thousand 98. They could cast their vote in 73 countries and 156 station polls. According to the official data of the YSK (Election Board), 1 million 691 thousand 531 people went to the polls and cast their votes since 27 April.

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Thousands kept waiting at the border crossing before elections

ANF - 12 MAY 2023

Employees and drivers involved in transportation are kept waiting at the border crossing with southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) on the grounds of the presidential and parliamentary elections on Sunday.

A large number of trucks and vehicles have not been allowed passage through the Khabour Border Crossing in the Silopi district of Şırnak since May 11.

According to reports, around 6 thousand trucks and 30 buses are kept waiting at the border crossing.

Speaking to Mezopotamya agency (MA), drivers called for an urgent solution, saying: “We call on all MPs and deputy candidates in our region to take action and ensure passage from Iraq into Turkey.”

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An indomitable city: Hakkari

ANF - HAKKARI - 13 MAY 2023

Hakkari is one of the strongholds of the Kurdish freedom struggle and, at the same time, a region where the Turkish state's war policy is implemented most intensively. The province in the extreme south-east of Turkish territory is besieged from all sides and resembles an open prison. Unemployment, poverty, hunger, migration, oppression, death and arrests are the norm. Tribal culture is still widespread and recently the state has been trying to break the unity of the people of Hakkari by instrumentalising the tribes.

The province, whose historical name is Colemêrg, includes the districts of Yüksekova, Çukurca and Şemdinli (Gever, Çelê and Şemzînan). One side of the province borders Eastern Kurdistan (Rojhilata Kurdistanê) on Iranian territory and the other side borders Southern Kurdistan (Başûrê Kurdistanê) in Northern Iraq. There are 285,000 people living in the region. There is a strong outflow, almost 70,000 people from Hakkari live in other places. With almost 200,000 eligible voters, Hakkari remains the stronghold of

the Kurdish freedom movement. This stance has taken a heavy toll. People from the region have been brutally murdered by state forces in the streets and others along the border. Co-mayors and MPs elected by the people have been arrested and their communities confiscated.

Targeted by the state at all times

Leyla Güven, who was arrested as co-chair of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and taken to Diyarbakır Prison, was elected as an HDP MP in the elections in Hakkari on 24 June 2018. The HDP received 75 per cent of the vote in central Hakkari, 81 per cent in Yüksekova, 64 per cent in Çukurca and 50 per cent in Şemdinli, winning all three parliamentary seats. Due to stolen ballots and votes from abroad, one parliamentary mandate was given to the AKP. Leyla Güven was later taken as a political hostage and put in prison.

In 2015, the AKP and its state also targeted the administration of Hakkari. A trustee was appointed to the HDP-ruled municipality. The elected co-mayors Dilek Hatipoğlu and Nurullah Çiftçi were also arrested and have been held hostage in prison for about eight years.

Despite the arrests and the usurpation by the state, the people of Hakkari once again made their will known in the local elections on 31 March 2019 and elected Cihan Karaman as mayor. The HDP politician, like Hatipoğlu and Çiftçi, was arrested and the will of the people was overturned for the second time.

Destruction through trustee administration

Everyone you talk to in the city is angry at the AKP and its trustees. The government has turned the city into an open prison for about eight years. Despite the AKP's assimilation policies, bans and lawlessness, one hundred percent of the population still speak Kurdish. Hakkari can look back on a 10,000-year-old and deeply rooted tradition. However, no services are offered in Kurdish in the province. The native language of the population is intended to be eliminated through assimilation.

There are no services for women either. Many dirty measures have been and are being taken to confine women in their homes. With the confiscation of the municipalities, communal works were stopped. Projects and services introduced under the HDP were destroyed by the trustees. Many institutions for women, children and youth were closed. Women and young people who worked in these institutions were dismissed. Instead of serving the people, the trustees started to use these projects and facilities to assimilate the Kurdish population and destroy their culture and language. The trustees have ensured that almost the entire city has no access to clean water. The busiest streets and neighbourhoods are littered with rubbish.

City under siege

The entrance to the city is under state blockade. All people and vehicles entering or leaving the city are detained and searched, often for hours. During the road checks and searches, people are insulted and sometimes detained. Ditches and barricades have been erected on all other roads into the city. People are forced to pass through the Depin checkpoint at the entrance to Hakkari.

Trade is prohibited

Although there are border crossings in Yüksekova, Şemdinli and Çukurca, people cannot engage in border trade. Cross-border trade is prohibited. Prohibitions prevail in the province and there are no public services. Many traders have had to close their shops and workplaces. Thousands of people have migrated to the big cities due to unemployment and poverty. As the state has declared plateaus, pastures and mountain villages as security zones and closed them down, people raising livestock in the villages have had to sell their animals. Through this policy of the state, the rural population, the farmers, who used to be producers, have become consumers.

Great hope in the elections

The entire population is affected by the bans imposed by the AKP and its state in Hakkari. Today, Hakkari is eagerly awaiting the elections on 14 May. People are following developments closely and have high hopes for the elections, which could lead to the fall of the Erdogan regime. The fact that the HDP is not even contesting due to the ongoing ban proceedings against it and is instead supporting the Green Left Party does not seem to matter much to the people. "It doesn't matter who the candidates are, if the party chooses them, we will support them," people say. The Green Left Party candidates are young, dynamic, educated and experienced people from the region. The Green Left Party has a good chance of winning all three seats in Hakkari.



Polling stations open in Turkey

ANF - 14 MAY 2023

The voting process for the Presidential Election and 28th Term Parliamentary General Election started at 8 am throughout Turkey and will continue until 5 pm.

60 million 697 thousand 843 voters will vote in the election.

From the prisons, 53,172 voters will also cast their ballots.



Thousands rally in Amed ahead of the elections

ANF - AMED - 14 MAY 2023

The final rally organized in Amed by the Greens and the Left Future Party (Green Left Party) ahead of the 14 May elections saw the participation of tens of thousands of people.

HDP co-chair Mithat Sancar said: “Amed has taken its decision. Amed is ready. Amed is ready to lead change in this country. Amed will show it in the ballot boxes. All our comrades who are held as political hostages, Selahattin Demirtaş, whose message you heard, Selçuk Mızraklı, Figen Yüksekdağ, Gültan Kisanak, Sebahat Tuncel, and hundreds and thousands of our comrades in prison, will regain their freedom with your votes will and struggle.

Başak Demirtaş addressed the people, saying that “there is no oppression that they have not done to us for years. Let's be together with the national unity. Let's meet under our Green Left Party tree.”

The voice message sent by imprisoned HDP former co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş to the voters was read. In his message, Demirtaş called everyone to go and cast their vote and said: “Be sure: we will win. We will definitely win.”

Democratic Society Congress (DTK) co-chair and Amed deputy candidate Berdan Öztürk said, “I am proud of Amed. Isolation will be lifted. Mr. Öcalan is the way of peace, the way of democracy.”

— ★ —

Over a hundred thousand people attend Green Left Party rally in Van

ANF - VAN - 14 MAY 2023

The Green Left Party held its final rally in Van. Over a hundred thousand people attended the meeting on Saturday ahead of today's elections.

The rally started with a minute's silence, and then HDP co-chair Pervin Buldan, KKP chair Sinan Çiftiyürek, HDP co-chair Tayip Temel and PIA deputy chair Ahmet Kaya addressed the crowd. Artists Özlem Bağlayan and Ali Jiyan ended the rally with a concert.

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Over 400 international observers monitoring elections in Turkey

ANF - 14 MAY 2023

Since the opening of the polling stations at 7.00 a.m. local time in the morning, the international delegations have also started their work of observing the elections. At the moment, 403 OSCE observers are in Turkey. In Northern Kurdistan, however, civil society is also observing the elections. There are independent election observation delegations consisting of 175 parliamentarians, party representatives, civil society representatives, lawyers, academics, scientists, journalists and activists who will document violations.

International Election Observation is a joint task of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

The observer's mission has a total of 403 observers, of which 264 are experts, short-term and long-term observers appointed by ODIHR.

101 were appointed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and 38 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Devriş Çimen, the European representative of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), warned that: "Due to the atmosphere in the run-up to the elections, a fair, free and democratic election can hardly be expected. Erdoğan has control over the judiciary, the media and all political institutions of the state and used them in the election campaign. Looking back at the 21 years of [AKP] government, everyone sees that an authoritarian regime has been created." In light of this, various international organisations have sent official and independent observation missions.

Çimen highlighted the likelihood of massive attacks on the elections by the government and, in light of this, underlined the importance of the election observation delegations: "They will be observing and reporting on the ground because they know that, on the one hand, change is possible through elections, but that, on the other hand, in order to prevent this, all possible forms of fraud, repression and manipulation will be used."

The HDP plays a key role in politics in Turkey, said Çimen, who sees this as the cause of the massive repression against the party: "It is known that Erdoğan is trying to prevent [the HDP] from taking this role with the help of systematic repression, arbitrary and political trials, the imprisonment of thousands of members [of the HDP] and the closure process that has been taking place since 2021. It is known that Erdoğan has operated this as a comprehensive electoral fraud and has put pressure on the judiciary accordingly. Since it is known that the HDP received high shares of votes in the past elections and that this time even more votes will go to the Green Left Party, it can be assumed that anti-democratic practices and methods will be used in the Kurdish provinces, as in past elections. In this respect, the security of the elections is too important to be left solely to institutions under the control of the Erdoğan regime."

Çimen reported that the independent election observation delegations in Northern Kurdistan consist of 175 participants. They come from France, Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. The delegations will be deployed in Northern Kurdistan in Diyarbakır, Bingöl, Muş, Urfa, Mardin, Siirt, Şırnaka, Hakkari, Ağrı, Kars, Ardahan and Malatya, but also in Istanbul. Çimen continued: "The delegation consists of 175 parliamentarians and representatives of left, socialist, green and social democratic parties, representatives of trade unions and civil society organisations, lawyers, scientists, academics, journalists and activists who will be on the ground in the Kurdish provinces for observation."

Çimen explained that the HDP Europe Office is in contact with the election observation delegations and pointed out that the information from the delegations will be fed into the liveblog on the page of HDP Europe. The hashtag #ObservingTurkey is used for this.

[LIVE TICKER: Turkey at a turning point? Election observation, obstacles and developments | HDP Europe.](#)

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Buldan: The country's destiny can change today

ANF - VAN - 14 MAY 2023

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) co-chair Pervin Buldan cast her vote in Ipekyolu, in the province of Van.

Buldan said: "It's time for everyone to be rewarded for their hard work. 82 million people have hope from today's elections. Today, we are making this call to all of Turkey, with the hope that it will lead to peace, brotherhood, and democracy.

Tonight, with great hope, with the hope that Turkey's destiny will change, we will open the ballot boxes. There is great hope and excitement. Every person in Turkey needs to feel this hope and excitement. Because people have been pessimistic for a long time. There is an evil order and this order must end today. I wish everyone success and I believe wholeheartedly that we will win."

— ★ —

Şenyaşar family: We vote for a democratic change

ANF - URFA - 14 MAY 2023

The Şenyaşar family cast their votes at Fethi Şimşek Girls' Anatolian High School in Pirsûs (Suruç).

Ferit Şenyaşar, who is also a candidate for the Green Left Party in Urfa, said after voting: "We have fulfilled our duty for justice and a democratic future. No office or position is more important than human life. Our hope is to get through this election without incident and bring about change."

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 also 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.



Live blog on the elections in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan

ANF - 14 MAY 2023

15:42: Massive electoral fraud by the AKP in Istanbul

In Istanbul's 1st constituency, it was discovered that the ballot papers for ballot box number 1290 at Yıldız Has Oğlu Primary School in Tuzla had already been stamped for Erdoğan before the elections. The violation was recorded.

At Emlak Konut Cemil Meriç Primary and Secondary School in the same district, it was found that the election official had voted at two different ballot boxes. The incident was recorded.

At Fındıklı Gokan Soylu Primary School and Esenkent Secondary School in Ümraniye district, the persons appointed by the Green Left Party as observers to the election committee were not allowed into the building because their names were allegedly not on the list.

Ballot papers with “yes” stamps on Erdoğan's photo were discovered at ballot box No. 2020 of Kaptanoğlu Primary School.

In Kınalıada primary school in Adalar district, ballot envelopes were found to have a “yes” stamp instead of the High Election Committee's seal.

In Ataşehir and Üsküdar, people wearing orange badges resembling AKP emblems were seen in several schools.

At Imam Hatip Girls' Secondary School in Küçükçekmece, a police officer was reported to have voted without the necessary document (“142 belgesi”).

At Mehmet Akif Ersoy Primary School, a polling station attendant reportedly stamped the ballot paper of an elderly woman who wanted to vote for the CHP as an AKP vote. A complaint was filed.

In Zeytinburnu, a fight broke out between AKP and CHP members at Abdülhak Hamit Secondary School. Police used pepper spray after representatives of the Green Left Party intervened.

Istanbul CHP Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu reported: “The board of an election committee in Istanbul was suspended after the committee chair tried to stamp the ballot paper he had given to a voter himself.”

15:34 Locals prevented from casting their votes in Hakkari

In the polling station in the Otluca village of Hakkari, residents are prevented from casting their votes on the grounds that soldiers from the Mountain Commando Brigade will cast their votes.

15.32: IHD reports violations in several cities

The Human Rights Association (IHD) stated in a report on today's elections that votes were cast en bloc for the ruling AKP in many cities.

15.29: AKP mayor in Mersin visits polling stations with armed men

The mayor of Akdeniz district in Mersin province, Muhammet Gültak of the AKP, visits polling stations in the district with a squad of armed bodyguards. The Green Left Party deputy candidate Ali Bozan called the procedure illegal and provocative and filed a complaint with the Election Committee. The police at the polling stations did not intervene.

15.20: AKP supporters attack Green Left Party and CHP members in Adana

At a polling station in the Seyhan district of Adana, clashes broke out between AKP supporters who wanted to cast votes en bloc and CHP members. The AKP supporters insulted and physically attacked the CHP members.

At another polling station in Seyhan, at the Mekan Secondary School, AKP supporters attacked election observers from the Green Left Party who opposed groups of people visiting the polling stations without registering as observers. Ferhat Genç, an election observer from the Green Left Party, was injured in the neck.

15:11 Earthquake survivors in Malatya vote in containers

People are casting their votes in containers in the province of Malatya. In the city, where the most devastating effects of the two Maraş-centered earthquakes were heavily felt on 6 February, many people lost their lives as a result of the government's policies. The districts and villages of Malatya, where Alevis and Armenians live, were ignored by the government, which left the people to die.

15:06: CHP election commissioner attacked with boiling water in Urfa

In the Akçakale district of Urfa province, an election official of the CHP was targeted by a serious attack. A group of 40-50 people allegedly demanded to cast votes en bloque at the polling station in the Gündaş neighborhood. When the CHP member of the election committee at the polling station refused, he was allegedly doused with boiling water.

Lawyer Rohani Paydaş, a member of the CHP's legal commission in Urfa, reported that he was also attacked. Paydaş stated that there were people in military uniform among the attackers. While the CHP election official was hospitalised, Paydaş reported that the multiple voting could not be prevented.

14:55: Village guards attack Green Left Party observers in Şırnak

In the town of Şenoba in Şırnak's Uludere district, village guards attacked the polling staff of the Green Left Party.

A former chief of village guards, Şehmus Babat, and his son Metin Babat were warned by the Green Left Party staff as they were voting openly in Feyzi Türkeri Primary School. The Babat family then attacked the Green Left Party group and perpetrated violence, after which a large number of soldiers were deployed to the scene.

14.15: AKP group attacks TİP member

AKP poll watchers attacked a member of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) in Fatih district of Istanbul after they tried to enter the polling booths together with voters but were prevented by observers. While the violation was recorded, AKP election commissioners physically assaulted a member of TİP, which is a member of the Labour and Freedom Alliance.

13.52: Violence in Mardin

Violent clashes have occurred at polling stations in the districts of Kızıltepe and Artuklu in Mardin.

In the rural neighborhood of Miqbila Jêr in Artuklu, there was a brawl due to a multiple use of votes. While the police and lawyers intervened, one person was slightly injured.

In Kızıltepe, tensions arose when men tried to vote for their wives in Tumuk a Jor neighborhood. When prevented from doing so, they attacked election officials, and one lawyer was beaten.

In the rural neighborhood of Eşme in Kızıltepe, AKP candidate Faruk Kılıç wanted to vote for his family. Election officials from the Green Left Party intervened and were then attacked by dozens of AKP supporters. Havas Güngör and Kemal Erbey were injured in the attack. The incident was recorded.

13:33: Ewa Ernst-Dziedzic, Austrian MP as an observer in Ağrı

“At the next polling station, the police with their hands on their guns prevent us from entering the polling station and talking to people. Scientist Amy Austin Holmes is forced by them to delete her photos.”

Source: [Twitter](#)

13:20: Electoral fraud in Urfa

Another voting fraud was spotted in the province of Urfa, a video from which shows a person voting in a large number for Erdogan.

Source: [Twitter](#)

13.11: Soldiers at polling stations in Amed

In the district of Kulp in Amed (Diyarbakır) province, voters are under siege. At Bayır Primary School, it is reported that about 20 soldiers and 20 pro-government paramilitaries, so-called village guards, are at the polls despite the ban and putting pressure on the voters at the polling station.

12:54: Ballot papers pre-marked in Istanbul

In a polling station in Istanbul's Sultangazi district, ballot papers have turned up with the name of former presidential candidate Muharrem Ince marked with a cross or crossed out. Ince had withdrawn his candidacy on May 11. Lawyers took note of this violation and lodged an objection with the Election Committee. Votes on ballot papers that are marked in any way are invalid.

12:36: Fraud in Antep

In Antep, up to a thousand voters of the Green Left Party are believed to have been appointed as Vatan Party election observers against their will. Members of the electoral committees can only exercise their right to vote with a certain document ("142 belgesi") in the polling stations where they are officially mandated. This mainly affects older people who cannot read or write. The HDP and the Green Left Party intervened and the violation of rights was recorded.

12:25: Over 70 electoral violations recorded in İdil

In İdil district of Şırnak, it was reported that the police went to the polls. The lawyers recorded more than 70 violations of the electoral law in the first hours of the election.

In the village of İkizce, at least one soldier voted without being on the electoral list. Only after the intervention of election observers was the vote cancelled.

In a village near Silopi, it was reported that unsealed bags of ballot papers were transported to the polling stations. The bags were exchanged only after objections were raised.

12:17: Violations in Şırnak

Observers complain that the police enter polling stations at the Vatan School in Cizre district of Şırnak. This is an illegal way of exerting pressure on voters, which is prohibited under Turkish law. Despite the protest, the police continued to insist on their illegal practice. Only after massive intervention at the administrative level did the police have to retreat.

At Menderes Primary and Secondary School in Cizre, the Green Left Party representatives officially responsible for the polling stations were prevented from entering the school by the police. Only after persistent objection was it possible to enter the school.

Heavily armed police were also present in the corridors of the polling stations at the Mithatpaşa school in Cizre. When the illegality of their actions was pointed out to them, they insisted that the police would be on every floor of the school.

11:45: Delegation from Italy prevented from observing elections in Mardin

A delegation from Italy observing elections in the province is being prevented from completing its mission and is being intimidated. The police demanded that they stop the observation.

11.25: French delegation witnesses fraud and obstacles in Iğdir

“We observed some irregularities in several polling stations we were able to enter. We entered 20 polling stations and observed disturbances between the officials and the voters. In all the offices, discrepancies were observed between the number of voters and the number of ballot papers in the polling stations. We are also noticing a heavy military presence everywhere. We can no longer enter the schools.”

11:15: Italian delegation in Mardin stopped by the police

Anna Camposampiero: “The police stopped us and identified our Italian delegation outside of a school where people were voting. They caused problems with our documents. They followed us for a time.”

Source: [*Twitter*](#)

11:00, High military presence in Kurdish cities

There is a heavy police and military presence outside polling stations, especially in Kurdish areas. The military is also present in the polling stations themselves. In some cases, there is talk of up to 20 military personnel being present in the polling stations and intimidating the population with their presence.

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IHD documents numerous electoral frauds and assaults

ANF - 14 MAY 2023

In an interim report on the conduct of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Turkey, the Human Rights Association (IHD) pointed to numerous cases of fraud and manipulation. The report, published together with the Independent Platform for Election Observation, also includes reports on incidents of violence and assaults at polling stations, mainly in the Kurdish areas.

Adıyaman

In the province of Adıyaman, which was affected by a series of earthquakes in February, the brothers of the AKP provincial chairman voted openly in the village of Eskitaş in Kahta in the presence of members of the gendarmerie (military police).

Ankara

At a polling station in the Gülen Muharrem Pakoğlu Secondary School in Çankaya, Ankara, an election agent of the Green Left Party was denied presence at the ballot box number 1174 despite having received confirmation from the Supreme Election Board (YSK). The reason given was that the person's name was not on the electoral board's list.

Amed

In Amed (Diyarbakır), around 200 people were unable to exercise their right to vote because they were appointed election officials without their knowledge and consent. Members of election committees can only exercise their right to vote with a specific document (“142 belgesi”) in the polling stations where they are officially mandated.

Antep

In Antep, 4,084 cases were confirmed in which voters were involuntarily appointed as ballot box attendants of the Fatherland Party (Vatan Partisi) of the right-wing populist politician Doğu Perinçek. Those affected only found out about this at their polling stations. Since they were also missing the document with the number 142, they could not vote.

Giresun

Pre-stamped ballot papers have turned up in Giresun. In all cases, the crosses were placed for the incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

İstanbul

In İstanbul, an election official of the Workers’ Party of Turkey (TİP) was beaten up by AKP ballot observers at a polling station in the Neslişah Imam Hatip School in the Fatih district.

Mardin

In Kızıltepe district of Mardin, members of the AKP parliamentary candidate Faruk Kılıç attempted to cast votes en bloc in the neighborhood of Eşme. After an intervention by the Green Left Party election observers, the opposition party members were attacked by a mob of government supporters. Green Left Party observers Havas Güngör and Kemal Erbey were injured in the attack and were hospitalized in Kızıltepe.

Urfa

In the Alacali neighborhood of Harran district in Urfa, men were observed voting instead of their spouses.

In Siverek district, according to information from former HDP MP and Green Left Party candidate Mehmet Rüştü Tiryaki, an open vote took place in Çinhisar Primary School.

In the district of Akçakale, a CHP election official was doused with boiling water. The attack at a polling station in the Gündaş neighborhood, suspected to have been perpetrated by supporters of the ruling AKP, was preceded by a refusal to allow the group of about 50 people to vote collectively. In addition to the water attack, the election commissioner was also insulted and physically assaulted.

Şırnak

In Uludere district of Şırnak province, IHD activist and independent election observer Fevzi Kara was attacked by Hazım Babat, head of the paramilitary Babat clan, and his followers. Kara was slightly injured.



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