

THE IMRALI POST

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

Issue № 61 / 30 July 2023 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	2
New “disciplinary penalty” given to Abdullah Öcalan.....	3
International campaign demands information about Abdullah Öcalan.....	6
Three Kurdish patriots from Normandy take over Freedom for Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg.....	9
KCK: The freedom of Öcalan and the struggle against the Treaty of Lausanne are inseparable issues	10
Prisons in Turkey.....	11
New S-Type prisons under construction.....	11
Political prisoner who served his sentence to remain in prison for another three years.....	12
2,572 children are in prison in Turkey.....	13
Journalist Arslan put in an isolation cell.....	15
104 writers, artists, intellectuals launch campaign demanding freedom for journalist Yanardağ.....	15
Military aggression and occupation.....	16
Guerrillas kill 8 soldiers, hit helicopter.....	16
HPG pays tribute to three fallen guerrillas.....	16
MIT installs GPS transmitters in clothing sent to KRI from Turkey.....	17
Kurds march against the Treaty of Lausanne.....	17
HPG: 16 soldiers killed, one helicopter damaged in guerrilla actions.....	18
KCK congratulates guerrilla forces on successful resistance.....	19
Historic Kurdish conference in Lausanne ends.....	20
Kurdistan Freedom Fighters kill one soldier in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area.....	21
Final declaration of the Kurdish conference in Lausanne.....	21
HPG reports ongoing actions against the Turkish army.....	25
Turkey-linked mercenaries kidnap 9 citizens in Girê Spî.....	26
Guerrillas hit two helicopters in Girê Cûdî.....	27
50 more refugees deported from Turkey and settled in occupied Gire Spi.....	27
Villagers terrorized during military operations in Yüksekova and Hizan.....	28
HPG: One helicopter was hit and damaged in ongoing actions by the guerrillas.....	28
4 civilians from Afrin kidnapped by Turkish forces, one other by Syrian forces.....	29
State terror in Nusaybin.....	30
HPG: Six soldiers were killed in Zap.....	32
Attack in Tirbespiyê: 3 dead, 2 injured.....	32
Governor bans entry and exit from 11 areas in Uludere.....	33
Turkey building a wall in occupied Afrin.....	33
HPG: 11 Turkish soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions in Zap.....	34
Turkish drone targets vehicle in the village of Rengîne in Chiwarta in South Kurdistan.....	35
SDF: 4 members of the Self-Defense Forces fell as martyrs in Turkish drone attack in Amude.....	35

Turkish army carries out dozens of attacks on Afrin and Shehba.....	35
Turkish army attacks guerrilla areas with KDP support.....	36
AANES: Turkish attacks intensify in parallel with international silence.....	37
People of Shengal salute the guerrillas and fighters who saved the Yazidis from genocide.....	38
Turkish bombardment injures three civilians in Til Temir.....	39
Femicide.....	39
Police attack Saturday Mothers, detain 24 people.....	40
Şenyaşar family not allowed inside the Ministry of Justice building.....	40
Şenyaşar family meets with deputy Minister of Justice in Ankara.....	41
Dozens detained in police attack on Saturday Mothers in Istanbul.....	42
Ecocide.....	43
Governor bans Kiğı Nature and Culture Festival in Bingöl.....	43
7 Kurdish activists injured extinguishing field fire in Mariwan.....	43
Thousands of trees cut down in Akbelen Forest.....	44
Green Left Party MPs attacked by soldiers in Akbelen.....	44
Gendarmerie takes HDP co-chairs into custody after attacking villagers protesting in Akbelen.....	45
Hasankeyf Coordination protests destruction of Akbelen forest.....	46
Hundreds get ill every day due to Turkish cutting off the flow at Alouk station.....	47
Vigil against deforestation in Akbelen continues.....	47
Human Rights Violations.....	48
Two sent to prison after Suruç massacre protest.....	48
DEDAŞ fires 50 workers in Urfa after they protested poor working conditions.....	48
Journalist Evrim Deniz detained in Amed.....	49
Kurdistan Journalists' Association condemns violations in Turkey and South Kurdistan.....	50
Police in Amed ban 5 books.....	51
Turkish soldiers attack and take 4 young people into custody in Hakkari.....	51
Police raid a house in Nusaybin.....	52
Over 137,000 web addresses blocked in Turkey in 2022.....	52
Kunt: Every year, more than 4 million Kurds go to work in the West of the country.....	54
DEDAŞ workers: The strike goes on!.....	55
Minors in traditional Kurdish dress targeted by the police.....	56
Interview.....	56
Karasu: Fighting Kurdish genocide and isolation means fighting for the democratization of Turkey	57

— ★ —

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

New “disciplinary penalty” given to Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | ISTANBUL | 22 JULY 2023

An application was made to the Bursa Execution Judge on 10 July with a request to allow a family visit for Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and other prisoners in Imralı, Hamili Yıldırım, Veysi Aktaş and Ömer Hayri Konar. All are kept in absolute isolation in Imralı Prison.

The judge, who rejected the application on 18 July, stated that there was a new “disciplinary sanction” imposed on Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the other prisoners who had not been allowed to meet with his lawyers and families for over two years.

Notifying the lawyers of the decision on 19 July, the judge did not provide information on the date and reason of the “disciplinary penalty”.

There has been no news from Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan since 25 March 2021.

Concerns over the situation of Öcalan increased after the Executive Council Member of the Kurdistan Democratic Communities Union (KCK), Sabri Ok, said in an interview on the Kurdish TV Channel Sterk TV on July 8 that threatening letters had recently been sent to Abdullah Öcalan anonymously via the Imrali prison administration.

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 debate emerged in Turkey recently, speculating about talks with Abdullah Öcalan in the run-up to the presidential and parliamentary elections on May 14. The Asrın Law Office, which represents Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners on the prison island, assessed 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 Asrın 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 minimal 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 earthquake.

* 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 Imrali

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 Imralı F Type High Security Prison was among the institutions it visited.

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

Conditions of extraordinary isolation

The Imralı 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 Yildirim, 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 Imrali 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 Imrali, 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.”



International campaign demands information about Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | BRUSSELS | 26 JULY 2023

Over 40 unions, parties, experts have today demanded action for the security and well-being of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan in a press briefing in front of the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday.

The press briefing highlighted the completely inadequate response by European governments, European Union (EU) human rights organisations, and the Council of Europe, and pointed out that their failure to act makes them complicit in this infringement and abuse of basic human rights.

The covenants of the press conference expressed their concerns that the institution in the Council of Europe that is responsible for monitoring the conditions of Öcalan’s incarceration, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), is not providing the public with sufficient information. Öcalan’s family, his lawyers, and the Kurdish people are requesting that action is taken to address this appalling situation.

The press statement released by the international campaign includes the following:

“In February 1999, Kurdish political leader Mr. Abdullah Ocalan was abducted from Kenya by Turkish security forces. He was on his way to South Africa, where President Nelson Mandela had granted him political asylum.

Since then, Mr. Ocalan has been held in a maximum-security prison on İmralı Island. For many years, he was the sole prisoner there. Today, there are three others.

Mr. Ocalan has effectively been held in total isolation for the majority of his time in prison. He is regularly denied contact with his relatives and legal team for months or even years at a time, in violation of applicable domestic and international law. The only exception to this policy was the period between 2013 and 2015, during which the Turkish state engaged in negotiations with the Kurdish political movement to find a political solution to Turkey’s decades-old Kurdish conflict.

As of today, it has been 28 months since Mr. Ocalan’s last contact with the outside world—a brief phone call in March 2021. The last time his relatives were allowed to visit him was in March 2020, and the last time his lawyers were able to visit was in August 2019. His last in-person meeting with one of the other three prisoners on İmralı took place in March 2020.

On July 8, 2023, it was reported that Mr. Ocalan had received threatening anonymous letters via the İmralı prison administration. These letters allegedly included death threats. We are even more concerned for his security and well-being following these extremely serious allegations.

On July 18, 2023, it was reported that a new “disciplinary sanction” was imposed on Mr. Ocalan and the other prisoners in İmralı. So-called “disciplinary sanctions” are not based on any applicable Turkish or European legal framework. These are politicized measures intended to prolong the policy of isolation. For example, one such disciplinary sanction was reportedly imposed because Mr. Ocalan had spoken too loudly with other prisoners.

These facts suggest that the Government of Turkey may be in violation of multiple key international legal frameworks. The United Nations ‘Mandela Rules’ include the following criteria concerning the definition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments. We are extremely concerned that these rules are being violated.

Rule 43

1. In no circumstances may restrictions or disciplinary sanctions amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The following practices, in particular, shall be prohibited:

(a) Indefinite solitary confinement;

(b) Prolonged solitary confinement;

(c) Placement of a prisoner in a dark or constantly lit cell;

(d) Corporal punishment or the reduction of a prisoner’s diet or drinking water;

(e) Collective punishment.

2. Instruments of restraint shall never be applied as a sanction for disciplinary offences.

3. Disciplinary sanctions or restrictive measures shall not include the prohibition of family contact. The means of family contact may only be restricted for a limited time period and as strictly required for the maintenance of security and order.

Rule 44

For the purpose of these rules, solitary confinement shall refer to the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact. Prolonged solitary confinement shall refer to solitary confinement for a time period in excess of 15 consecutive days.

We are also concerned about the position of the Council of Europe and in particular its Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT). The CPT has issued more than 30 reports on prison conditions in İmralı. These reports have consistently criticized Turkey's failure to meet binding domestic international legal standards and called on Turkish authorities to improve prison conditions. We support these recommendations and reiterate the call for their immediate implementation.

However, the CPT can and must do more to fulfill its mission in this context. The most recent CPT delegation visited İmralı prison in September 2022. The CPT published its General Report on the visit in March 2023.

We are concerned about the reliability of the information contained in this report. The CPT claimed to have met with Mr. Ocalan. However, the Turkish Minister of Justice claimed that Mr. Ocalan refused the visit. Therefore, we are requesting concrete information from the CPT as to the specific nature and details of the visit.

The aforementioned legal and institutional failures do not only concern the rights of one individual. The isolation of Mr. Ocalan negatively impacts efforts to peacefully resolve Turkey's Kurdish conflict—one of the longest-running and deadliest conflicts in the modern Middle East. It therefore impacts stability, security and human rights on a regional scale. In this context, we urge the immediate adoption of the following policy recommendations.

Policy Recommendations

To the Government of Turkey:

Implement, without delay, the previous recommendations of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the European Court of Human Rights (Ocalan No 2) regarding prison conditions in İmralı; including those regarding

- the right of prisoners to associate;
- the right of prisoners to meet with lawyers and family;

- effective legal remedies to challenge prison conditions; and
- the abolishment of the aggravated life sentence, which contravenes Article 3 of ECHR.

To the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

Discuss the Government of Turkey's persistent refusal to comply with the CPT's recommendations; and

Outline prospective next steps to hold the Government of Turkey accountable.

To the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):

Provide concrete information on the Committee's last visit to İmralı, including a) specific clarification as to whether its reported meeting with Ocalan took place and b) the details of this meeting.

To all relevant domestic and international political actors:

Work towards Ocalan's release under conditions that allow him to play a role in negotiations to find a lasting, just, and democratic political solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey."

— ★ —

Three Kurdish patriots from Normandy take over Freedom for Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 27 JULY 2023

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Initiative launched in Strasbourg on 25 June 2012 to ensure the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and to end the isolation imposed on him reached week 579.

This week, three Kurdish patriots from the Normandy region of France took over the action.

The group includes Mehmet Serhat, Hüseyin Çattı and Mustafa Durmaz.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Mehmet Serhat expressed his hope and expectation, arguing that on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, Kurds "stepped into a brighter history."

Serhat asked everyone to do their best to achieve the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

— ★ —

KCK: The freedom of Öcalan and the struggle against the Treaty of Lausanne are inseparable issues

ANF | BEHDINAN | 27 JULY 2023

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement on the occasion of the centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne and the conference organized in this context, as well as on the struggle for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

The KCK statement released on Thursday includes the following:

“On the centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne, a historically important conference for the Kurdish people and Kurdistan was organized by the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK). Many representatives of Kurdish organizations, intellectuals, historians, politicians, opinion leaders, international friends of the Kurdish people and people from different faiths, identities and ethnicities from Kurdistan participated in this conference. We would like to express that we attach great significance and value to this event.

The Treaty of Lausanne is an agreement that has denied the existence of the Kurdish people, divided their country and has paved the way for genocide for a century. All massacres that have taken place in Kurdistan carried out by the genocidal colonialist states were legitimized in front of the general public based on this treaty. The fact that the genocide and these massacres are approved or silently welcomed by the international forces, especially by the European states, is due to the promises and commitments made as part of this treaty. The signatories of it did not pursue justice and equity, but political and economic interests. As a result, all the peoples in Kurdistan and the Middle East, especially the Kurdish people, have been divided and subjected to the genocidal colonialist order created by the forces of the hegemonic capitalist system. Having the satellite states and collaborating regimes serving the interests of the signatories of the Treaty of Lausanne seems to be the main important goal of the treaty.

The Treaty of Lausanne is the result of imperialism's divide-and-rule policy and serves to ensure the domination of ruling powers over the Middle East. It is the continuation and completion of the treaty known as 'Sykes-Picot', which was secretly concluded between the hegemonic powers of the period during the First World War. Therefore, the Treaty of Lausanne has led to nothing else but genocide. It neither liberated the people nor it helped the formation of a political system in favor of the society. On the contrary, it is anti-democratic. Through it the peoples' struggle for freedom and liberation has been suppressed and the genocidal colonialist mentality and politics have been imposed on the peoples for centuries.

As emphasized during the conference, the Treaty of Lausanne can only be abolished by the unity of the Kurdish people, which will then create the basis for a new treaty. This is a very appropriate conclusion and a historical necessity. The most fundamental reality that has emerged in the course of the struggle of the Kurdish people against this treaty, is that national unity is the only way to achieve this. We, as the Kurdish Freedom Movement, have been acting in line with this consciousness while fighting against the genocidal colonialist order for half a century. And we continue to be in constant endeavor for this to happen. The efforts of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] to achieve this are well-known. Therefore, we consider the impor-

tant call for national unity during the conference as the right attitude. The approach to hold such a national conference is very important and we support all the issues mentioned in the final declaration.

On the other hand, we would like to state that we find it very significant that the physical freedom of Rêber Apo was emphasized at the conference and that this was reflected in the final declaration. Rêber Apo's struggle has a very important place in the liberation of the Kurdish people from extinction and in their struggle for their existence and freedom today. The international conspiracy against Rêber Apo and the establishment of the Imrali isolation and torture regime are directly related to his struggle for freedom of the Kurdish people as they are results of the Treaty of Lausanne. Therefore, it is extremely meaningful to embrace Rêber Apo in such a conference against the Treaty of Lausanne. We express our greetings, love and respect to the participants of the conference who approached it with this awareness and sensitivity.

Labor unions in Europe also held a press conference in Brussels protesting the isolation of Rêber Apo and calling for awareness and struggle against it. This has been an extremely significant and important approach. It is a very noble example of solidarity with the Kurdish people and supporting Rêber Apo. We respectfully greet all the friends who participated in this meeting. The support of workers, laborers, women, intellectuals, writers, artists, academics and those who seek democracy and freedom is quite essential for this cause. Rêber Apo has struggled and served not only for the Kurdish people, but for the oppressed and all peoples. His understanding of non-state socialism based on ecology and women's freedom is a powerful approach to exit from the system of capitalist modernity. The attitude of the forces of capitalist modernity, the international conspiracy and the Imrali isolation are the reaction to this approach of Rêber Apo. Therefore, it is very important that those who represent a democratic society and seek a free life have an attitude against this approach of the hegemonic powers. Of course, their approaches towards Kurds and Rêber Apo are unacceptable. We find the attitude of the friends in Brussels, which is the result of such an approach, very significant and we state that this approach should continue until the isolation of Rêber Apo is broken. In this respect, we once again call on the Kurdish people and their international friends to further strengthen the struggle against isolation and to continue it until results are achieved."

— ★ —

Prisons in Turkey

New S-Type prisons under construction

ANF | 24 JULY 2023

While the prisons were emptied in terms of judicial crimes with the execution regulation passed by the parliament on 13 July 2023, the Turkish Ministry of Justice continues the construction of new prisons.

The S-Type prisons, which were first opened in 2021, are in fact revised F-Type in terms of isolation practices.

There are six S-Type prisons across Turkey, in Bodrum, Iğdır, Manavgat, Antalya, Samsun and Kırşehir. According to the Turkish Ministry of Justice's statement in January, 20 new prisons will be opened this year and it is estimated that there are new S-Type prisons among them. In the process of increasing deportation of political prisoners to S-Type prisons, ÖHD Istanbul member, lawyer Destina Yıldız spoke to ANF about the S-Type prisons.

Cells without ventilation

Stating that S-Type prisons bear great similarities with F-Type prisons in terms of physical structure, and that both prisons were established for the purpose of isolation, lawyer Destina Yıldız said: "My clients say that the prisons are three-storey and that the prisoners are taken to 6 other single-storey and single-person cells at the top, there are no ventilation cells.

At the bottom, there are 7 triple cells. The ventilation of one of them is used for the occupants of the single room and the unventilated cell above. The three-person cells at the bottom are no different from the F-type in terms of physical structure. The open gym, unlike the F-types, is between the blocks, so it is impossible to see outside. It is like a sports field surrounded by four walls."

Yıldız continued: "Besides the existing S-type prisons, there are some new ones that will be opened and are under construction. Y-type, S-type, high-security prisons are to be opened in the near future."

Heavy isolation

Lawyer Destina Yıldız emphasized that the lack of ventilation in single cells in S-Type prisons, which has a prisoner capacity of 552 people, constitutes an extra isolation for prisoners receiving aggravated life sentences.

Yıldız added: "S-type prisons have a history of only two years. My clients say that the prison administration are trying to take a tough stance. Prisoner profiles have also started to change. In Antalya S-Type prisons, the number of political prisoners was higher compared to the judicial ones. There are S-type prisons, which are currently in operation and will be opened."

— ★ —

Political prisoner who served his sentence to remain in prison for another three years

ANF | 24 JULY 2023

Abul Aziz Ok has been in prison in Turkey for thirty years and is currently in the Patnos L Type Closed Prison. He was arrested in Edirne in 1993 and sentenced to life imprisonment as a member of a separatist organisation before a state security court. The regular term of imprisonment expired on 19 July, yet the political prisoner is not being released. As with many others convicted before the now abolished state secu-

rity courts in the early 1990s, the Turkish authorities refuse to release him because he shows no remorse. Normally, release is delayed by three or six months, but Aziz Ok is to remain in prison for another three years.

His sister Inan Ok pointed out that her brother had been subjected to rights violations for thirty years: “There have been problems in all prisons, we have witnessed this during visits and phone calls. Patnos L-type prison is known for rights violations. The problems range from food to drinking water to bathrooms. Sick prisoners are not taken to hospital and cannot exercise any rights. And now my brother’s release is being denied on arbitrary grounds. The prison administration has told us that his release has been postponed until 2026 because he shows no remorse. We are trying to take legal action against this.”

— ★ —

2,572 children are in prison in Turkey

ANF | 28 JULY 2023

The AKP, which ruled the last 22 years of Turkey, followed a policy that prided itself on building prisons during its years in power. In this process, hundreds of new prisons and new isolation methods for the prisoners began to be tried and implemented. Turkey also reached the highest number of child prisoners in its history during AKP rule. To date, 2,572 children are in prison for various crimes.

The biggest discrimination against child prisoners is applied to those inside for political reasons. Although the exact number of juvenile prisoners arrested or convicted for political reasons is not known, some of these children are held in adult prisons, even if this is against the law. Political child prisoners staying in juvenile prisons are in complete isolation or are kept in the same place as judicial prisoners and have a life safety problem.

2,572 children are imprisoned in Turkey

Speaking to ANF, Cansu Şekerci, who takes part in the Civil Society Association in the Penal Execution System (CISST) Child Prisoner Studies, said that according to the July 2023 data of CISST, 2,572 children are in prisons on various charges. There are those who were inside on charges of theft and injury, as well as those who were detained on charges of violating the Anti-Terror Law. Regarding the children aged 0-6 who are in prison with their mothers, Şekerci stated that all the applications made by CISST to the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses were not answered and that therefore they cannot give an exact number.

Children are mostly kept in prisons within the scope of “crimes against property”, said Şekerci, adding that children who are exposed to long periods of detention are held on allegations of deliberate killing, looting and opposition to the Anti-Terror Law.

Şekerci said that children should stay in prisons specially built for them, but that is not how it works in Turkey, and continued: “As a rule, children are kept in juvenile prisons. If there is no juvenile prison where

the child was arrested, he can be held in the juvenile ward of an adult prison until he is transferred to the nearest juvenile prison. If the juvenile prisons are full, these children are kept permanently in the juvenile wards of adult prisons.”

Political child prisoners face more violations of rights

Şekerci said that political child prisoners were deliberately transferred to distant prisons. “I would like to especially mention the girls who make up 0.02 percent of the prison population. According to the latest statements, the total number of imprisoned girls is 101. There is only one education center in İzmir for convicted girls, while imprisoned girls are kept in women's prisons. Therefore, the opportunities for girls to benefit from a relatively more organized ward system, courses and activities for children are much more limited compared to boys held in juvenile prisons. We know that in some cases there were girls who were kept alone for months, as if in solitary confinement, because there were no other children.”

Children are sent to prisons away from their families

Şekerci said that prison conditions are not suitable for a child's right to life. Regarding the violations of rights against child prisoners, Şekerci said: “It is becoming more and more difficult for independent control mechanisms and civil society to carry out rights-based monitoring and advocacy in prisons. Therefore, we cannot answer the question of what the violations of rights are with comprehensive observation and statistics. However, based on the research we have done as CİSST and the monitoring we have tried to be as comprehensive as possible, I can say that the violations of rights fall in two categories: violations depending on the way the prison sentence itself is included in the law, and violations caused by practices in prison. When a child is imprisoned, the right to stay in touch with his family is realized within the limits of the law and under supervision. As long as the child is in prison, he or she is often withdrawn from formal education. Being able to play games, benefit from the courses, and do sports is subject to the time determined by the administration and limited equipment. As to visits, juvenile prisoners have the right to an open visit, once a week, with the family. However, if the family lives hundreds of kilometers away from the child, or has financial or health limitations, that visit can even take place once a year. It is not important for the ministry that the child is sent to a juvenile prison near the family or that the family receives support to visit the child.”

Torture of child prisoners

Şekerci said that “when we talk about prison, of course, we should also talk about torture and harassment. Many violations remain untold and covered up without being brought to justice. Violations of rights experienced by child prisoners are of a wide scale, from the violation of a child's right to live his/her childhood to the violation of the right to life, which basically means 'survival'.”

Journalist Arslan put in an isolation cell

ANF | ANKARA | 29 JULY 2023

Mesopotamia Agency (MA) journalist, Fırat Can Arslan, who was detained on 25 July as part of the political genocide operation carried out by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and was taken hostage on charges of "targeting public officials", was put in an isolation cell on the grounds that he did not write the "name of the organization in the file concerning him."

Arslan, in a meeting with his lawyer, said that he was first taken to the ward where the judiciary is located in Sincan Prison, and upon objection, he was put in an isolation cell.

— ★ —

104 writers, artists, intellectuals launch campaign demanding freedom for journalist Yanardağ

ANF | 23 JULY 2023

104 people, including journalists, artists and intellectuals, launched a "freedom for Merdan Yanardağ" campaign. TELE1 Editor-in-Chief Merdan Yanardağ was arrested on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" after he spoke about the isolation imposed upon Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Poet Tuğrul Keskin, who started the campaign, shared the text signed by 104 people. The text condemns the lynching attempt of the Editor-in-Chief of TELE1 Television based on the distortion of the speech made by Yanardağ on television. The statement said: "We see this arrest as a serious attempt against freedom of the press and expression, which is guaranteed by the constitution and international conventions. We call on the authorities to release Merdan Yanardağ. This persecution is motivated by cruelty and it is a violation of freedom of expression."

In a speech on TELE1, Yanardağ said: "The isolation of Abdullah Öcalan has no legal basis. It should be lifted. He is not even allowed to meet his family and lawyers. How is such a system of execution possible?"

— ★ —

Military aggression and occupation

Guerrillas kill 8 soldiers, hit helicopter

KURTAY SERHAT | BEHDINAN | 22 JULY 2023

The invasion attack launched by the Turkish army against the areas of Zap and Metina continues, but the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas are responding with effective actions.

According to the information obtained from guerrilla sources, they are carrying out effective actions against the Turkish army in the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area, part of the Martyr Delîl West Zap region.

According to the first information, at least 8 Turkish soldiers were killed and one Skorsky helicopter was heavily hit.

— ★ —

HPG pays tribute to three fallen guerrillas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 22 JULY 2023

Guerrilla commander Avesta Tekoşîn and fighters Bawer Arîn and Zinar Serêçiya died in attacks carried out by the Turkish state in Metîna.

The press center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) said in a statement: "Our resistance against the occupying Turkish army is continuing resolutely everywhere in Kurdistan, especially in the Medya Defense Zones. The Kurdish freedom guerrillas, who, with their selfless struggle, broke the enemy attacks, persevere in this resistance at unparalleled sacrifices to keep their promise to lead our people's worthy struggle to victory. In this epic struggle, commander Avesta Tekoşîn was martyred in action in June 2023 and our comrades Bawer Arîn and Zinar Serêçiya in July 2023. We express our condolences to all the patriotic people of Kurdistan, especially to the families of Avesta, Bawer and Zinar."

— ★ —

MIT installs GPS transmitters in clothing sent to KRI from Turkey

ANF | 22 JULY 2023

It is common knowledge that the Turkish secret service also persecutes opposition members abroad and carries out deadly attacks, especially in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The MIT works closely with Parastin, the intelligence organisation in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) and has built up a broad network of agents and informants. Since September 2021, five Kurdish opposition figures from Turkey have been murdered in targeted assassinations, including Jineolojî researcher Nagihan Akarsel.

The RojNews agency reported that a GPS transmitter was discovered in the clothing of a Kurdish patriot, revealing a new method for spying on civilians in southern Kurdistan.

The person concerned lives in southern Kurdistan due to political persecution in Turkey and wants to remain anonymous for security reasons. According to him, relatives living in northern Kurdistan sent him various items of clothing via the online mail order company Trendyol. He discovered the tracking device in a pair of jeans. "My family bought the clothes through the online mail-order company Trendyol, which is under state control. When the package arrived, I could feel a hard object inside a pair of trousers. I un-did the seam and found a hidden GPS."

— ★ —

Kurds march against the Treaty of Lausanne

ANF | LAUSANNE | 22 JULY 2023

On the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne, which formed the basis for the genocidal attacks against the Kurds in the last century, a two-day conference and a central march and rally is taking place today in the city of Lausanne.

Kurds from four parts of Kurdistan are joining the march to make their voices heard by the world and to state clearly that they do not agree. The march is taking place in parallel with a two-day conference that is attended by representatives of Kurdish parties and organizations and will discuss the consequences of the treaty at the Beaulieu Congress Hall. The final statement of the conference will be presented on Monday.

Kurds from Switzerland and several countries in Europe have been gathering in Lausanne since the early morning hours.

The demonstrators started their march from Place de la Navigation in front of the Château d'Ouchy on the banks of Lac Léman to Palais Rumine, where the partition of Kurdistan was sealed on 24 July 1923 by the Treaty of Lausanne.

Participants of the march are chanting the slogans "Bijî Serok Apo" [Long Live Leader Öcalan], "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî" [Woman, Life, Freedom], "Bijî Kurdistan" [Long Live Kurdistan] and "Fascist Erdoğan".

— ★ —

HPG: 16 soldiers killed, one helicopter damaged in guerrilla actions

ANF | BEHDINAN | 22 JULY 2023

The press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) issued a statement on the Turkish army's ongoing occupation attacks and the guerrilla resistance in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

"The Turkish occupation army is trying to capture the Girê Cûdî resistance area by dropping troops from helicopters. Our forces have carried out effective actions against the occupation attacks. In the actions carried out by mobile units at Girê Cûdî on 21 July, 14 occupants were punished, one occupant was wounded and a Sikorsky helicopter was hit. At the same time, a camera surveillance system, a grenade launcher and military and supply equipment of the occupiers were destroyed. In an action on 19 July in Metîna, two occupiers were punished and a position destroyed," said the HPG statement on Saturday.

Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region

Guerrilla actions against the Turkish occupation forces took place in the Girê Cûdî resistance area throughout the day on July 21, said the HPG, providing the following details:

YJA Star mobile guerrilla teams struck the occupiers with semi-automatic weapons at 08:00.

YJA Star mobile guerrilla teams hit the occupiers from two sides in a coordinated action at 08:30, in which two soldiers were killed.

Three soldiers were killed in strikes from close range with semi-automatic weapons at 08:50.

The Turkish troops trying to set up positions were struck by mobile guerrilla teams from close range at 09:30. Two positions were destroyed and six soldiers were killed, while a surveillance camera, a grenade launcher and army supplies were destroyed.

Three soldiers were shot dead by snipers while building up positions between 12:25 and 12:40.

YJA Star teams struck a Sikorsky helicopter dispatched to the scene to retrieve the dead and wounded soldiers at 13:20. The helicopter was damaged and had to leave the area.

Military equipment and supplies flown airdropped by helicopter were targeted and destroyed by the guerrillas at 17:50.

YJA Star mobile teams shot and injured a soldier whose unit was cutting down trees at 19:00.

Metîna region

In Metîna, two soldiers were killed in a close-range guerrilla action on the Turkish base in Kanîmasî on 19 July, and their position was completely destroyed.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army has carried out 55 airstrikes and dozens of artillery attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons on the Zap region in the past two days. The western Zap region was bombed 21 times by fighter jets and 32 times by attack helicopters, and two airstrikes were carried out by fighter jets on the Kurojahro resistance area.



KCK congratulates guerrilla forces on successful resistance

ANF | BEHDINAN | 23 JULY 2023

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council released a statement congratulating the guerrilla forces on their successful resistance against the invading Turkish army in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The KCK statement released on Sunday includes the following:

“Since July 19, 2023, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla has inflicted heavy losses on the occupying Turkish army by carrying out effective attacks. The guerrilla attacks in [the South Kurdish] areas Zap, Metîna and Avaşîn have dealt great blows to the occupying Turkish army. We heartily congratulate all HPG and YJA STAR fighters and commanders, especially our forces in Zap, Metîna and Avaşîn, on their effective attacks. In particular, we congratulate the guerrilla fighters who participated in the attacks on July 19, 20 and 21, 2023. On this occasion, we would like to salute the offensives ‘Cenga Xabûr’, ‘Şehîd Savaş Maraş’ and ‘Bazên Zagrosê’, the attacks carried out as part of these offensives, and wish all fighters involved continued success.

Due to its guerrilla performance, striking capability and strategic and tactical depth, the Central Headquarter of the People’s Defense Forces has forced the occupying fascist enemy forces into a helpless situation and has made their plans fail. With these attacks, the guerrilla has not only dealt a great blow to the enemy, but has also given great morale and joy to the patriotic people of Kurdistan. That is why these attacks are very meaningful both in terms of timing and scope. We would therefore like to congratulate the Central Headquarter of the People’s Defense Forces and send our greetings and respect.

The genocidal colonialist Turkish state has launched a new occupation offensive against South Kurdistan [North Iraq] on July 12, 2023, including comprehensive attacks in the Zap and Metîna areas. These new attacks once again show that the genocidal colonialist Turkish state wants to occupy South Kurdistan as a whole. The guerrilla carried out its attacks against the genocidal colonialist Turkish state's new operation in the Zap and Metîna areas. The whole resistance of the guerrilla, including its most recent attacks, means the defense and protection of South Kurdistan against occupation. This reality needs to be well understood. Everywhere the guerrilla defends, fights and resists for Kurdistan and the gains of the Kurdish people. The guerrilla's resistance must be supported by all patriots, and a strong attitude must be taken against the treasonous and collaborative forces that work with the enemy and support the Kurdish genocide. This is what every patriot is required to do. The defense and liberation of Kurdistan and its national unity can only be achieved through this patriotic attitude.

The guerrilla, due to the depth it has reached in strategy and tactics and the level of its Apoist sacrificial stance, has once again demonstrated with its great attacks that it is undefeatable and that it will defend Kurdistan, which is covered with the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs, under all conditions. Thus, it has demonstrated the most meaningful loyalty to all martyrs. This is a highly honorable, meaningful and admirable stance. We would therefore like to once again congratulate all HPG and YJA STAR commanders and fighters on their successful attacks and express our greetings and respect. We respectfully commemorate the martyrs of Zap, Metîna, Avaşîn and Xakurkê and thus all the martyrs of revolution and democracy, and reiterate our promise of success and victory to them.”

— ★ —

Historic Kurdish conference in Lausanne ends

ANF | LAUSANNE | 23 JULY 2023

In addition to a central march, the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) organized a two-day conference in Lausanne to mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne, which divided Kurdistan into four parts and formed the basis for genocidal attacks against the Kurds in the last century.

The conference held under the title “The stance of the people of Kurdistan on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne” was attended by 600 representatives of political parties, organizations and institutions, as well as intellectuals, artists, politicians and faith groups from Kurdistan.

During two days of the conference, Kurdish parties expressed their thoughts and stance on the treaty and discussed its consequences for the Kurds and the peoples in the region.

Participants taking the floor voiced their proposals for the policies to be pursued by the Kurds in the new century.

A commission was formed to prepare the final declaration in line with the discussions and proposals, and the organizing committee was given a reward for its efforts for the conference, which is of historic importance.

The decisions made at the conference will be announced to the public during a press statement to be made in front of Château d'Ouchy at 10:00 on July 24, Monday.

— ★ —

Kurdistan Freedom Fighters kill one soldier in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area

ANF | BEHDINAN | 24 JULY 2023

According to the information received from guerrilla sources, the guerrilla actions continue in the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area of Martyr Delîl West Zap region. In the latest action, one soldier was punished and one surveillance camera system was destroyed.

— ★ —

Final declaration of the Kurdish conference in Lausanne

ANF | LAUSANNE | 24 JULY 2023

The results of the two-day conference organised by Kurdish representatives on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne were announced in Lausanne at the Beaulieu Congress Centre. More than 600 delegates from the four parts of Kurdistan participated in the conference, which was held at the weekend under the slogan "We Kurds are here on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne and reject the agreement". The final declaration was presented at a press conference in front of the Château d'Ouchy on Monday.

The final declaration stated that the Treaty of Lausanne was signed against the will and acceptance of the Kurdish people and that the Kurds have been fighting against it for a hundred years. Before reading the declaration, the organisers of the conference thanked the Mayor of Lausanne, Grégoire Junod, for his support. Ahmet Karamus, co-chair of the KNK (Kurdistan National Congress), introduced the conference by saying: "For four days, representatives of Kurdish parties discussed this treaty with intellectuals and artists in Lausanne. At the conference, there was a broad legal and political debate on the consequences of the treaty. The fate of the Kurdish people took a decisive turn a hundred years ago. We, the Kurdish people, are here to correct this historical injustice."

KNK co-chair Zeyneb Murad said: "As a result of the Kurdish people's struggle, we are here today making our voice heard in the world. Our people have been resisting for a hundred years in the four parts of Kurdistan. They are resisting to defend their land and their identity. They are resisting for democracy and peace."

The final declaration, which contains proposals and resolutions that relate to the regional, national and international levels, is as follows:

“On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, the Kurds and other peoples of Kurdistan took part in the Lausanne Conference.

The process of the sinister Treaty of Lausanne was discussed in detail. 100 years ago, the leaders of the Turkish state and certain European states (Great Britain, France, Italy, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Portugal, Belgium, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, the countries that later became Yugoslavia) and Japan (all the states of the Western world) sat around a table and decided the fate of Kurdistan.

In the process of forming this sinister treaty, which is a black stain on history and confirms the negation of our nation, the Kurds were not seen, they were not mentioned, they were not listened to, and the Kurds were not given the opportunity to express their wishes, to elect their representatives and to become a party to the treaty.

Faced with this reality, we, the Kurds and the other peoples of Kurdistan, reject the Treaty of Lausanne from the outset, recognising it as illegitimate and null and void!

Although 100 years have passed since the Treaty of Lausanne was adopted, its destructive consequences for the peoples of Kurdistan are still fresh and painful. Kurdistan has been suffering for exactly 100 years... It is also exactly 100 years that our people have been waging a very difficult historic struggle against colonialism and this fragmentation. In each part of Kurdistan, which was divided by the Treaty of Lausanne, a national liberation struggle has been waged and is still being waged. This struggle resulted in the martyrdom of hundreds of thousands of our sons and daughters, whom we commemorate with respect and to whom we confirm our loyalty. Similarly, in our historic struggle for national liberation, dozens of pioneering leaders were massacred and captured. While commemorating the murdered leaders, we support the struggle for the release of the captured leaders, in particular Abdullah Öcalan.

Although the great suffering began with the first treaty of division, the Treaty of Kasr-ı Shirin, signed between Iran and the Ottomans, it was intensified by the Treaty of Lausanne. The Iranian state implicitly supported the Turkish state in the re-division of Kurdistan, although it did not do so explicitly in the Lausanne Treaty process.

The Turkish State, in turn, by all immoral and inadmissible means, created the Lausanne Treaty process and achieved its inhuman racist objective.

The signatory states of the Western world together victimised the Kurds and all the peoples of Kurdistan and divided the territory of Kurdistan on the Ottoman map into three parts and gave it to the Turks and Arabs as a gift.

We, the Kurds and peoples of Kurdistan, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of this unjust and denigrating treaty, strongly condemn the State of Turkey and the other European States and Japan that are parties to this treaty.

The injustice done to all the peoples of Kurdistan continues today in other forms, and unfortunately, the policy of genocide is still supported by the signatory countries.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, the Turkish state is pursuing a Lausanneist policy and occupying the parts of Kurdistan that lie within the official borders of Iraq and Syria, section by section, and fragmenting Kurdistan within itself once again. In Northern Kurdistan, it is using every means and method to disrupt the demographic structure and wants to wipe Kurdistan off the map of the Middle East and even the map of the world. Today, the Turkish state, with its Lausanne policies and military violence, wants to expel the Kurds and all the other peoples of Kurdistan from their lands and liquidate Kurdistan both politically and physically.

On the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, the signatory states of the Western world are facing a moral test of conscience. They must take a stand against the new Lausanneist policies of the Turkish state and make amends before history and in the hearts of the Kurds and all the peoples of Kurdistan.

In this context, we, the Kurds and peoples of Kurdistan, hope and desire that the signatory states of the Western world will cancel their signatures, declare this openly and support Kurdistan and its just struggle in the present circumstances.

In this context, we, the participants in the Kurdistan Conference in Lausanne, would like to share these wishes and desires with the public on behalf of all the peoples of Kurdistan.

Today, on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, we, the Kurds and all the peoples of Kurdistan, are here in Lausanne and we firmly reject, do not recognise and do not accept the Treaty of Lausanne!

We do not accept the dismemberment of Kurdistan in any way whatsoever and we consider the policies of dismemberment to be a great crime against humanity.

Whichever state has participated in this disintegration, we do not forgive it in conscience or morally.

The Kurds, like all peoples, have the right to self-determination. Unfortunately, this legitimate right of the Kurdish people has not been recognised either yesterday or today. It was with this mentality that the Treaty of Lausanne was imposed on the Kurdish people and the other peoples of Kurdistan.

Despite this fact, in the realpolitik of today's world, we, the Kurds and the other peoples of Kurdistan, would like to insist on this point:

1. The Treaty of Lausanne must be annulled in its entirety within a reasonable period of time.

2. Until the Treaty of Lausanne is annulled,

- A. The parts of Kurdistan that remain within the borders of the states of Turkey and Syria must be officially called Kurdistan and their self-determined status within Turkey and Syria must be recognised.

B. The part of Kurdistan that remains within the borders of the Federal Republic of Iraq must also be officially recognised as Kurdistan and recognised as a self-determining part of Turkey and Syria and the territories that have been separated from the borders of Kurdistan must be reunited with Kurdistan.

C. The eastern part of Kurdistan has been occupied by Iran since the Treaty of Kasr-i Shirin. Although Iran is not officially a party to the Lausanne Treaty, it has always supported the dismemberment of Kurdistan and, in this position, has acted de facto as a party to the Lausanne Treaty. Therefore, the Iranian state must recognize and implement the right of the people of Eastern Kurdistan to self-determination as its status.

D. This autonomous status of Kurdistan must be internationally recognised and represented within the United Nations system.

3. The state parties to the Treaty of Lausanne must pay compensation for the grievances of the peoples of Kurdistan. A High Commission should be established within the UN system for this compensation.

4. The United Nations, the European Union, the United States and the world democratic and humanitarian community should press the Turkish state to grant a general political amnesty and to fully implement the provisions of the Treaty of Lausanne, which are relatively favourable to the Kurds and non-Muslim minorities.

5. As an integral part of the Kurdish nation, the Yazidis, who consider themselves to be the oldest Kurds and who are non-Muslim Kurds, should be recognised as “non-Muslim minorities” and the rights accorded to Armenians and Assyrians-Chaldeans should also be accorded and applied to Yazidi Kurds.

6. An international commission should be created under the auspices of the United Nations, including representatives of the Kurdish people, and this commission should establish a dialogue with the States parties to the Treaty of Lausanne, and a dialogue and peaceful means should be found and implemented in practice for a short-term solution.

7. To achieve all these objectives, the Kurdish people and all the peoples of Kurdistan must form a political unity at the highest level, and the weaknesses and deviations that are developing internally must be overcome. The stranglehold that the enemies have placed around the neck of the Kurdish people can only be broken by establishing a great national unity. On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the sinister and negationist Treaty of Lausanne, this great conference of the Kurds and all Kurdistanis calls loudly and clearly on the vanguard and leadership of the Kurds and other Kurdistanis to fulfil their national and territorial duties without apology, to form the great alliance of Kurdistan and to convene a Kurdish national conference to this end.

8. A coordination committee will be set up to deal with these requests.

9. A committee of experts will be set up and authorised to create a common Kurdistan diplomacy.

II. The decisions

100 years after the Treaty of Lausanne, the decisions of the Lausanne Conference

The Lausanne Conference took these decisions with one voice and one heart:

1. A committee or commission of experts will be set up to monitor the conference's decisions and ensure that they are implemented in practice.
2. Diplomatic relations will be established with the States parties to the Treaty of Lausanne, other than the Republic of Turkey, and the historical injustices committed against the Kurds and other peoples of Kurdistan will be mentioned and support will be sought from them for their redress.
3. Active work will be done towards an alternative international treaty.
4. The Turkish state is urged to keep its promises to non-Muslim minorities, in their entirety and without discrimination.
5. As members of the Kurdish nation, the Yazidis, who are recognised as the oldest Kurds and who are non-Muslim Kurds, should be recognised as “non-Muslim minorities” and the rights accorded to Armenians and Assyrians-Chaldeans should be recognised and applied to Yazidi Kurds.
6. The Kurdistan Regional Government and the leadership of Western Kurdistan are invited to set up an office to study the Treaty of Lausanne, its consequences and the redress of grievances.
7. The National and Territorial Union of Kurdistan will be created as a consultative, guidance and warning body with the participation of all dynamics.
8. The political leaders of South Kurdistan and West Kurdistan are invited to remove all barriers between them and to establish high-level political, economic, social and cultural relations between them.
9. The creation of a common organisation for the joint conduct of Kurdistan’s diplomacy on the international stage.
10. The Turkish State is invited to release all hostages, prisoners and political detainees, in particular the leader of the KCK, Mr Abdullah Öcalan.
11. The Turkish, Iranian and Syrian governments are invited to dialogue with the representatives of Kurdistan in order to work out democratic solutions and to recognise the legitimate rights of Kurdistan.
12. The Government of Baghdad is called upon to respect the rights of the Kurdistan Region guaranteed by the Federal Constitution of Iraq and to restore to the Kurdistan Region the areas that have been separated from it.
13. The Government of Baghdad is requested to recognise Shengal as an autonomous Yazidi region.
14. The United Nations is asked to deploy a peacekeeping force between Western Kurdistan and Turkey.

15. The United Nations is invited to open an office to represent Kurdistan.”

— ★ —

HPG reports ongoing actions against the Turkish army

ANF | BEHDINAN | 24 JULY 2023

The press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) has released a statement providing information about the Turkish army's occupation operation in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), which has been ongoing since 20 July. According to the statement, the guerrillas continue to put up massive resistance. While two soldiers were killed in counter-attacks by the guerrillas on July 23, the guerrillas have not suffered any casualties.

“The effective resistance of our forces against the occupation attacks of the Turkish army continues. Our forces are striking blows at the occupiers at every opportunity with creative tactics and preventing the capture of the resistance areas. Because the occupiers are helpless in the face of the resistance of our forces, our areas are bombed from the air and on the ground. The Turkish state does not achieve its aim and is hit badly. This fact is concealed by it and not made public. Misinformation is also being spread about alleged guerrilla casualties. We have not suffered any casualties so far in the attacks launched on 20 July centred on Girê Cûdî. We just have no contact with one of our comrades at the moment. The Turkish special war media report about alleged losses, which did not take place. At the same time, the Turkish army's losses are being concealed. The public is presented with a scenario based on lies. These reports by the Turkish special war media should not be heeded. All confirmed information about the enemy attacks and the resistance of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla will continue to be shared with our people and the public as before,” said the HPG statement on Monday.

According to the statement, the guerrilla resistance continues to focus on the Girê Cûdî area in the western Zap region, from which the Turkish army withdrew in flight at the end of last year. On July 23, the guerrillas intervened with various actions against the army's attempts to deploy troops and establish positions in the area. Fighters from mobile units of the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) struck the Turkish forces throughout the day using various tactics, injuring one soldier.

Two other soldiers were shot dead by HPG snipers, and a camera surveillance system was destroyed. Last night, the guerrillas prevented four attempts by the army to airdrop soldiers in the area. The shelling forced the transport helicopters to abort the airdrop operation.

Regarding the recent attacks by the Turkish army, HPG reported eleven bombings by fighter jets in the Girê Cûdî and Girê Bahar resistance areas in the western Zap region, as well as in the Gundê Şêlêzê and Golka areas in Metîna. The area of Girê Cûdî was bombed 21 times by attack helicopters. In addition, the areas of Zap and Şehîd Delîl Western Zap were targeted by dozens of cannon attacks.

— ★ —

Turkey-linked mercenaries kidnap 9 citizens in Girê Spî

ANF | AIN ISSA | 25 JULY 2023

The mercenaries linked to the Turkish state kidnapped 9 citizens in Girê Spî and demanded ransom from their families in order to release them.

According to information obtained from local sources, the mercenaries who identified themselves as “Fight against Terrorism” kidnapped 9 citizens in the neighbourhood of Til Ebyed.

It was learned that the abducted people were taken to Kubwan, where the mercenaries have a base.

The mercenaries demanded ransom from the families of the abducted to release them.

— ★ —

Guerrillas hit two helicopters in Girê Cûdî

ANF | BEHDINAN | 25 JULY 2023

According to the information provided by guerrilla sources, in the actions carried out in the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area, a helicopter was repelled 15 times, while two Sikorsky helicopters were hit. Three Turkish soldiers were killed.

— ★ —

50 more refugees deported from Turkey and settled in occupied Gire Spi

ANF | 25 JULY 2023

While the Kurdish population in particular is being systematically expelled from the areas occupied by Turkey in northern Syria, the Turkish state is pursuing an intensive settlement policy.

One of these occupied areas is the region of Girê Spî (Tal Abyad). The formerly multicultural, self-governing region was occupied by Turkey in 2019 and is now controlled by the Turkish intelligence service and jihadist mercenaries. According to the Girê Spî Cantol Council, more than 100,000 people had to flee the region after the Turkish invasion.

People loyal to the Turkish regime are now being resettled in their place. According to the ANHA news agency, Turkey has settled more than 22,000 refugees in the occupied Girê Spî Canton since April 2022.

Citing local sources from Girê Spî Canton, ANHA reported that the colonialist Turkish state settled 50 Syrian refugees in the areas under its control after arranging their crossing via the border gate in the city.

The refugees from various parts of Syria were reportedly handed over to the so-called Local Council of Girê Spî controlled by Turkish-backed mercenaries.

According to ANHA, 250 Syrians have been settled in the occupied Girê Spî Canton this month.

On the other hand, as many as 300 people have been settled in the occupied areas of Serekaniye (Ras al-Ain) in July alone.

The Turkish state has repeatedly concluded agreements with Russia and the Syrian regime to take over jihadists and their relatives and settle them in the areas it has occupied. For the takeover of jihadists from Eastern Ghouta, for example, Turkey received the green light for the invasion of Afrin.



Villagers terrorized during military operations in Yüksekova and Hizan

ANF | 25 JULY 2023

The Turkish army launched a military operation in a rural area in Yüksekova (Gever) district of Hakkari province on July 24, Monday. The villages of Tiloran'a Jêr, Tiloran'a Jor, Pagê, Mitirban, Meşkan, Mûşan, Kendalok and Wargenima are located in the area of the operation, for which hundreds of soldiers were deployed to the surrounding high mountain pastures of Tajdîn, Sipêrêz, Omerê Dağı, Pagê and Topizava in armoured cars and helicopters.

On Monday evening, massive sounds of fighting could be heard, especially from Sipêrêz. According to information from the region, many so-called village guards were also brought into the area.

People from the village of Tiloran were stopped by military personnel when they wanted to milk their sheep on the pasture. The soldiers said that access to the grazing areas is prohibited until further notice. One shepherd was forcibly taken to the operation area due to an alleged criminal record. Another herder, Şiyar Demir, is reported to be stuck in the operation area and cannot be reached. Concerned villagers were prevented by military personnel from searching for the herdsmen in the mountain pasture. According to reports, the shepherds have been mistreated by soldiers. In addition, hundreds of sheep have escaped and cannot be rounded up again.

Another Turkish military operation is taking place in the Hizan district in the province of Bitlis. The villages of Xûlepûr and Kekulan were declared a special security zone on 14 July for an initial period of two weeks. Since then, the area has been constantly bombed by attack helicopters and fires have broken out in some places. Cultivated fields have been damaged by the Turkish troops and surveillance cameras and photo traps have been installed everywhere in the region. Today, there are also reports of heavy helicopter bombardments in the vicinity of populated areas. Residents say that they are under continuous fire and that the operation is now focused on the village of Best.

— ★ —

HPG: One helicopter was hit and damaged in ongoing actions by the guerrillas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 26 JULY 2023

The Press Office of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) reported that the guerrillas continue to put up massive resistance against the invasion of the Turkish army in the Zap region of the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement on Wednesday, guerrillas continued their actions against Turkish troops in the Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region.

Details of the latest actions by guerrillas carried out on July 25 are as follows:

Guerrillas from the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) struck the occupation forces moving in the Gire Cudi Resistance Area at 09:30.

The Turkish forces trying to get stationed in Gire Cudi Resistance Area were hit by the guerrillas at 10:40.

The occupation forces moving in the Gire Cudi Resistance Area were struck by YJA Star guerrillas at 12:40.

From 17:40 to 18:15, YJA Star guerrillas carried out three actions against the occupation forces trying to get stationed in Gire Cudi Resistance Area.

At 19:15, a grenade launcher of the occupation forces in Gire Cudi Resistance Area was hit and destroyed by the guerrillas.

Amidst intense helicopter activity over Gire Cudi Resistance Area from 23:40 on July 25 to 01:40 on July 26, a Sikorsky helicopter was targeted by mobile guerrilla units while on a mission to airdrop troops in the area at 00:30. The helicopter was heavily damaged and forced to leave the area without completing the mission.

HPG also reported continued attacks by the Turkish army. Accordingly, the Turkish army carried out 8 airstrikes on the resistance areas of Gire Cudi, Gire Amediye and Gire Bahar on July 25.

On the same day, the Gire Orte Resistance area was bombed twice by kamikaze drones. The bombing started a fire at the site, which continues to rage.

On the other hand, the regions of Zap, Metîna and Xakurke were targeted by dozens of artillery attacks.



4 civilians from Afrin kidnapped by Turkish forces, one other by Syrian forces

ANF | 26 JULY 2023

According to local sources, Turkish state forces kidnapped four civilians from the Jindires district of Afrin.

The kidnapped civilians, whose aftermath is unknown, were identified as Xalid Resûl Gul Xelo (25), Cûma Mistefa Elwan (27), Mihemed Mistefa Binefş (31), Ebdurehman Hisên Elîko (35).

On the other hand, Syrian forces kidnapped a civilian from the village of Xilalka in Afrin's Bilbile district.

According to reports from the ground, 36-year-old Seydo Şêx Qenber was stopped at a checkpoint of Damascus forces in Aleppo while on his way back to Shehba, and taken to an unknown location.

The Damascus forces have been imposing an embargo on the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah neighborhoods of Aleppo, and the Shehba Canton for a long time. Stationed at the entrance of the two neighborhoods and the canton, not allowing the delivery of fuel, medicine, supplies and other provisions.

The Human Rights Organization Afrin-Syria reported on June 1 that the Turkish state and its mercenaries (police, civilian police, al-Jabha al-Shamiya and al-Amshar gangs) had kidnapped at least 53 people, including 4 women, for arbitrary reasons in May. Thousands of dollars in ransom were demanded for the release of the abductees.

Afrin Canton was the westernmost canton of Rojava and North and East Syria, home to 200,000 ethnic Kurds. Though the population was overwhelmingly Kurdish, it was home to diverse religious groups including Yazidis, Alawites and Christians alongside Sunni Muslims.

On 20 January 2018, Turkey launched air strikes on 100 locations in Afrin, as the onset of an invasion they dubbed 'Operation Olive Branch.'

The Turkish Airforce indiscriminately shelled civilians as well as YPG/YPJ positions, while a ground assault was carried out by factions and militias organised under the umbrella of the Turkish-backed National Army.

By 15 March, Turkish-backed militias had encircled Afrin city and placed it under artillery bombardment. A Turkish airstrike struck the city's only functioning hospital, killing 16 civilians.

Civilians fled and the SDF retreated, and by 18 March Turkey was in de facto occupation of Afrin. Between 400 and 500 civilians died in the invasion, overwhelmingly as a result of Turkish bombing. Other civilians were summarily executed in the field.

Prior to the Turkish invasion, Afrin had been one of the most peaceful and secure parts of Syria, virtually never seeing combat during the civil war bar occasional skirmishes between YPG/YPJ and jihadi forces on its borders. As a result, Afrin offered peaceful sanctuary to over 300,000 internally displaced people from elsewhere in Syria.



State terror in Nusaybin

ANF | MARDIN | 27 JULY 2023

After the night raid in Nusaybin (Nisêbîn) on Tuesday night, resulting in one dead and two arrested, the Turkish authorities continued the state terror throughout the day. During further searches in the city, several people were taken into custody, accused of being supporters of a terrorist organization. Those taken into custody were taken to the police headquarters in the provincial capital, Mardin (Mêrdîn).

Five of the seven people taken into custody were released late on Tuesday night.

What happened?

On Tuesday night, an apartment on Sakarya Caddesi in the center of Nusaybin was stormed by paramilitary “police special forces for countering terrorism” (PÖH). After the officers forcibly entered the apartment, an explosion is said to have occurred, witnesses told the media. A woman allegedly linked to the Associations of Free Women (YJA Star) - the PKK's autonomous women's guerrillas - died during the raid. However, it is unclear in what way.

According to the Turkish Ministry of the Interior, the woman, whose identity has not been released, has been “neutralized”. Allegedly, a patrol was initially deployed on Sakarya Caddesi because, following a tip, it was assumed that a “person behaving suspiciously” was staying in the apartment in question. “Just” an identity check should have taken place, but allegedly the stranger opened fire on the officers. As a result, a PÖH unit was called in, which finally carried out an “operation”. The patrol officers were “miraculously” unharmed.

According to the Interior Ministry, a subsequent search of the apartment, which is said to belong to the former co-chair of the district branch of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), Bedia Adıgüzel, allegedly found several silencers, weapons, hand grenades and ammunition. A review of “seized documents” is said to have finally revealed that “the terrorist” had planned a “sensational action” in Nusaybin and is said to have already spied out various places such as public facilities for a possible attack. Residents, however, denied this information.

According to them, there were no shots from the apartment at patrol officers. Only the sound of a detonation was heard after PÖH people entered the apartment. “Everything indicates that the state was planning an extrajudicial execution,” said one person, whose name was withheld for security reasons. Since the weekend, significantly more police and military officers than usual have been present in the city center of Nusaybin. The unknown woman was not “neutralized” but apparently killed herself. The PKK has not commented on what happened yet.

At least seven arrests were carried out in connection with the raids. Ex DBP co-chair Bedia Adıgüzel was taken into custody immediately after the incident this morning together with an unknown person who is said to have been injured when the apartment was stormed.

During the day, the police stormed other houses in Nusaybin. Four members of a family - mother, father, daughter and son - as well as Remziye Bayhan, who replaced Adıgüzel as DBP co-chair were arrested. What they are specifically accused of is not known. The authorities refuse to give any information.



HPG: Six soldiers were killed in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 27 JULY 2023

In a statement about the ongoing war in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), the Press Centre of the People’s Defence Forces (HPG) reported that at least six members of the occupation forces in the Zap.

According to the statement, the spectacular action by the guerrillas was carried out last Sunday and was directed against a military camp built on the outskirts of the guerrilla area of Karker.

The guerrillas involved in the action struck the Turkish forces from two sides. While one wing machine-gunned a team tent, the second attack front infiltrated the camp and targeted the occupants from close range with light weapons. According to the HPG, the Turkish army responded to the raid with massive shelling by attack helicopters on the Karker resistance area to evacuate its dead and wounded members.

The guerrillas also took action against occupation forces on the western front of the Zap. Members of HPG and YJA Star (Free Women’s Troops) struck the Turkish forces a total of five times around Girê Cûdî on Wednesday alone. Several attempts by the Turkish army to advance were thwarted. Then, on Thursday

night, YJA Star guerrillas targeted a transport helicopter with airborne troops on board that was moving over the resistance area. The aircraft was hit, damaged and had to turn around.

The HPG said that the Turkish army suffered heavy losses in its occupation operation in Zap, which has been ongoing since 20 July, and is carrying out intensive bombardments on guerrilla areas in response, also using outlawed weapons.

The guerrillas' defensive positions in Sîda were attacked once yesterday with tactical bombs. Further attacks by the occupying forces have been directed against Girê Amêdî and Girê Bahar in the past 24 hours. HPG reported 14 air strikes by fighter jets in these areas. In addition, dozens of tank and artillery attacks hit the western front in Şehîd Delîl and various areas in the Metîna and Xakurke regions.

— ★ —

Attack in Tirbespiyê: 3 dead, 2 injured

ANF | 27 JULY 2023

The Northern and Eastern Syria Internal Security Forces Press Liaison Center announced that 3 people were killed and 2 people were injured in an attack on two vehicles on the road to the village of Xezne in Tirbespiyê and the town of Til Merûfê.

The statement said: "As part of the invading Turkish state's ongoing attacks on our regions, on Thursday 27 July the Turkish state's armed drones targeted 2 vehicles on the road between Xezne village and Til Merûfê town. As a result of the attack, 3 people were killed and 2 people were injured."

The Internal Security Forces stated that they would make a more comprehensive statement in the coming hours.

— ★ —

Governor bans entry and exit from 11 areas in Uludere

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 28 JULY 2023

Entry and exit from 11 areas in Uludere (Qileban), in the province of Şırnak were banned between 27 July and 10 August.

In a written statement, the governor said: "In order to ensure that citizens who are considered to be able to go to the areas of Mujili Ridge, Gilatte Creek, Dolap Tepe, Meme Tepe, Berereş Tepe, Uç Tepe, Kel Tepe, Beyazsu Tepe, Çalı Tepe, Meşkul Tepe and Dona Tepe in Uludere are not harmed by illegal elements and

the measures to be taken against them, entry and exit and all civil activities are prohibited between 7pm on 27 July 202 – and midnight on 10 August 2023.”

— ★ —

Turkey building a wall in occupied Afrin

ANF | 28 JULY 2023

In a written statement on Friday, the Human Rights Organisation Afrin-Syria reported that the Turkish army was building a 5 meter long and 3 meter high wall between the villages of Kimare and Berade to the south of Afrin.

Citing local sources, the organisation stated that the occupation forces transported concrete blocks by heavy vehicles to the villages in the Sherawa district.

On the other hand, Turkish troops are being deployed to the bases in the village of Kimare, from where they carry out attacks against Afrin IDPs in villages in the Shera and Sherawa districts and the nearby Shehba canton.

The Human Rights Organisation Afrin-Syria reported the Turkish army installed wire, towers with thermal cameras, infra-red cameras, night vision glasses, radar and wireless anti-signal devices as well as weapons systems and special lasers on the walls it built in the territories it occupied in northern Syria.

According to the organisation, the Turkish army built walls around the villages of Kîmar, Beradê, Mêremîn and Cilbirê, which are located on the frontlines, on 19 April 2019. The purpose of the construction is to separate the affected areas from Syria.

The organisation said that the Turkish state sought to invade and annex parts of Syria.

— ★ —

HPG: 11 Turkish soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 28 JULY 2023

The guerrillas continue to resist the Turkish occupation operation in the Zap region. According to the daily statement of the People's Defence Forces (HPG), at least eleven soldiers have been killed in actions in the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the past 24 hours. The majority of the actions were carried out by guerrillas from the Free Women's Troops (YJA Star). Regarding the details of Thursday's actions in the Gire Cudi Resistance Area, the HPG Press Centre stated the following:

-At 6.40am, the occupants who started to move at the time came under fire with heavy weapons. One of them was killed and two others were injured.

-At about 7.00 a.m. the next action by YJA Star fighters with heavy weapons killed two occupants.

-At 9.40 a.m., a strike by a YJA Star sniper left one soldier dead.

-At around 11.30 a.m., soldiers who started to move in the area were struck by the guerrillas with heavy weapons and one of them was killed.

-At 5.50 pm, the occupants were targeted by the guerrillas with automatic weapons and two soldiers were killed.

-At about 6.30 pm, occupiers were observed trying to establish a position in the area. One soldier was shot dead by a YJA Star sniper.

-At 7.05pm, the occupation forces again attempted to establish positions. YJA Star guerrillas intervened with heavy weapons and three soldiers were killed.

On Friday night, the YJA Star intervened several times between 2.15 and 3.30 a.m. against the transport of airborne troops into the Girê Cûdî area. A helicopter with soldiers on board was targeted a total of five times by the guerrillas with heavy weapons.

Regarding the latest attacks by the Turkish army, which also focused on the Zap region, HPG reported that an attack with unconventional bombs took place last night on the western front in Şehîd Delîl. According to the HPG, the attack was directed against guerrilla positions on the Girê FM massif. Since yesterday, several combat helicopters have been bombing the resistance areas of Şehîd Delîl and Girê Cûdî. Parallel artillery attacks are being carried out from the ground. This morning, fighter jets bombed Girê Amêdîyê.



Turkish drone targets vehicle in the village of Rengîne in Chiwarta in South Kurdistan

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 29 JULY 2023

The Turkish state targeted a vehicle with a drone in the village of Rengîne in the Chiwarta district of Sulaymaniyah.

Making a statement regarding the attack, Chiwarta District Governor Şaho Osman said that the identity of the citizens traveling in the vehicle could not be established and added that a fire broke out in the region because of the attack.

Osman said that civil defense teams, firefighters and paramedics were displaced to the scene.

— ★ —

SDF: 4 members of the Self-Defense Forces fell as martyrs in Turkish drone attack in Amude

ANF | AMUDE | 29 JULY 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Center made a statement regarding the air attack carried out by the Turkish state on the village of Xirbê Xwê in the Amude district.

The statement said: “The invading Turkish state’s attacks against Northern and Eastern Syria continue. The invading Turkish state aims to disrupt the peace in the region with these attacks. That’s why it attacks our regions at every opportunity. A new attack took place on Friday. At around 7pm, an unmanned aerial vehicle attacked the village of Xirbe Xwe in the Amude district. As a result of this attack, 4 fighters of the Self-Defense Forces fell as martyrs. Detailed information will be given at a later stage.”

— ★ —

Turkish army carries out dozens of attacks on Afrin and Shehba

ANF | 29 JULY 2023

The Turkish army has carried out more than 40 artillery attacks on several areas in the northern Syrian cantons of Afrin and Shehba throughout Saturday, according to ANHA.

According to reports from the ground, the villages of Til Medîq, Misrifê, Şêx Îsa and Bêlûniyê and the district of Til Rifet in the Shehba Canton were targeted by at least 30 howitzer and mortar attacks. A civilian named Azad Hisên Guldedo was injured in the aggression on Til Rifet.

On the other hand, over 10 artillery attacks were carried out on the village of Merenaz in Afrin’s Shera district.

Tel Rifat is located 35 kilometres north of Aleppo in the canton of Shehba, where thousands of people displaced from Afrin by the Turkish invasion in 2018 live. According to the autonomous administration, the town is currently home to around 1,660 families from the shattered canton of Afrin and 35 more from Idlib. The number of Tel Rifat's own inhabitants was decimated in the course of wars under occupation from originally more than 20,000 to less than 5,000. Tel Rifat was named in 2022 by Turkish head of state Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, along with Manbij, as the first target for a new war of aggression against northern

and eastern Syria. According to the wishes of the government in Ankara, both cities are to become bridge-heads for the invasion of a 30-kilometre-wide strip along the Turkish-Syrian border.

— ★ —

Turkish army attacks guerrilla areas with KDP support

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 JULY 2023

The press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) released a statement providing information about the ongoing war and the latest developments in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

In response to the large-scale attack launched by the Turkish army in the guerrilla areas on 20 July, guerrillas from the HPG and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) are putting up fierce resistance.

Especially in the Girê Cûdî resistance area west of the Zap, mobile guerrilla groups are continuously carrying out actions against the occupation forces.

In Metîna, the Turkish army, supported by the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party), has launched a ground operation after troops were airdropped into a base of the KDP dominated by the Barzani clan.

The HPG provided the following details regarding the actions by guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army:

Zap

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, YJA Star guerrillas destroyed a surveillance camera installed by the Turkish army and damaged two emplacements of Turkish forces on 28 July. In the afternoon, the occupation forces were struck three times with heavy weapons, and two soldiers were killed. An army solar installation was destroyed by the guerrillas with semi-automatic weapons.

Metîna

Following helicopter activity last night, soldiers were dropped from helicopters three times at a KDP base at Girê Ortê in Metîna. A ground operation was launched by the troops deployed here. The advancing soldiers were struck by the guerrillas with firearms.

Xakurkê

In Xakurke, YJA Star guerrillas struck the Turkish occupation forces at Girê Şehîd Axîn with heavy weapons on 29 July.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Turkish fighter jets bombed Girê Cûdî in the western Zap region, Girê Ortê in Metîna and Kanîsarkê in Gare seven times on 29 July. Artillery attacks were carried out in the regions of Zap and Metîna.

— ★ —

AANES: Turkish attacks intensify in parallel with international silence

ANF | 30 JULY 2023

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) released a statement denouncing the increasingly ongoing attacks by the Turkish state and vowing to protect their people's gains at any cost.

The AANES statement on Sunday criticized the silence of the International Coalition and guarantors of the ceasefire in the face of the never-ending Turkish attacks.

"The series of Turkish attacks on the regions of North and East Syria, carried out in the form of genocide against our people, continues in conjunction with regional and international developments, while Turkey is suffering from domestic and foreign political cracks, including in economic aspects," said AANES.

The statement pointed out that the targeted attacks carried out in Qamishlo, Amude and other areas during the month of July reflect the hidden hatred and immorality of the Turkish state and contradict all efforts to achieve stability and fight terrorism.

AANES stressed that the Turkish state also engaged in efforts to create strife, unrest, chaos and incite sectarian conflicts in the region to eliminate the project of the people.

"We extend our sincere condolences to the families of those martyred as a result of Turkish attacks in the month of July and wish recovery for the wounded. We affirm our total rejection of these ongoing crimes amid the silence of the international coalition and the guarantors of the ceasefire, which we hold responsible for the continuation of the Turkish attacks which are escalated in parallel with the silence of the international powers, which will have a direct influence on the joint activities carried out in the region."

The Autonomous Administration vowed to struggle together with the people against such instigations, to protect their gains and to prevent any harm coming to them at any cost.

— ★ —

People of Shengal salute the guerrillas and fighters who saved the Yazidis from genocide

ANF | SHENGAL | 30 JULY 2023

The people of Shengal are organizing events to mark the anniversary of the 3 August 2014 genocide perpetrated by ISIS in the Yazidi city in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Residents of the city staged a march through the 'Humanitarian Corridor' opened by the guerrillas and fighters, through which they had been enabled to cross into Rojava at the time of the genocide.

Kurdish guerrilla forces and fighters from Rojava (North Syria) opened up a humanitarian corridor between the villages of Digue and Duhol and transferred thousands of Yazidis to Rojava through it. The Yazidis call this corridor the 'Freedom Path'.

The crowd chanted slogans and carried banners expressing their reactions to the betrayal of the ruling KDP, the peshmergas of which ran away even before ISIS stormed the city, and saluting the guerrillas of the Kurdistan freedom struggle who ran to their aid and saved them from genocide.

Xelil Heci read out a statement on behalf of the Shengal People's Assembly and called the 'Humanitarian Corridor' as the 'Path of Humanity' for the Yazidis. "Children, mothers and families survived firstly thanks to God, then Leader Öcalan. We send our greetings from Mount Shengal to Imrali. We salute HPG, YJA-Star, YPG, and our people in Rojava and South Kurdistan. We, the Yazidi people, will not forget the good and bad done to us."

Speaking about the KDP's betrayal against the Yazidis, Xelil Heci said: "ISIS perpetrated a mass slaughter against our people, which was supported by the Turkish state, as well as by Iraq and Syria. Mount Shengal stood against them. The Yazidi youths and the followers of Leader Öcalan stood against the enemy, who couldn't seize even a single stone from Mount Shengal. August is the month of resistance, vengeance and heroism."

Speaking after, Hisên Sedo from the Autonomous Administration of Shengal noted that the humanitarian corridor had been opened up thanks to the sacrifice of martyrs and freedom fighters. "We will not forget the martyrs and heroes. Thousands of our people escaped genocide thanks to this corridor. On that black day, nothing was left on the earth in the name of humanity. It was only the followers of Leader Öcalan that opened up that path and showed what humanity is. We thank the fighters who saved the Yazidis from genocide."

Turkish bombardment injures three civilians in Til Temir

ANF | 30 JULY 2023

The Turkish state forces and allied mercenaries launched an attack on the rural areas of Til Temir district in Heseke Canton on Sunday.

According to reports from the ground, the village of Tal al-Laban was targeted by howitzers in the afternoon.

Three civilians, Omer Sadiq Şêx Elî, Mehmûd Mihemed Meyof and Ehmed Mihemed Elî, were injured as a result of the attack which also caused damage to civilian property.

The strategic position of Til Temir

Til Temir holds a key position in Turkey's occupation plans because the M4 passes through the district. The international traffic route is considered the lifeline of northern Syria, because it connects the Euphrates and Cizîrê regions with each other. Since the invasion of Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî (Tal Abyad) by Turkey, in October 2019, more than thirty villages near Til Temir have already been occupied.

Attacks in the region occur almost daily, with phases of high intensity alternating with phases of low intensity. 27 villages in the Khabur valley are directly on the front line. Five of all Assyrian villages in the region have already been depopulated by Turkey's attacks. Scores of people have been killed in the attacks and dozens injured. The Syrian troops stationed in Til Temir and the Russian military are not fulfilling their function of complying with a de-escalation and ceasefire agreement agreed between Ankara, Moscow and Washington in the course of the 2019 war of aggression.

— ★ —

Feminicide

Police attack Saturday Mothers, detain 24 people

ANF | ISTANBUL | 22 JULY 2023

Saturday Mothers have continued their action in Istanbul for their relatives who disappeared in state custody and the punishment of the perpetrators for the 956th week. Despite a contrary ruling by the Turkish Constitutional Court, the initiative was again denied access to their ancestral rally site in front of the Galatasaray High School on İstiklal Avenue.

The Galatasaray Square in front of the high school of the same name in the central district of Beyoğlu, where the Saturday Mothers' sit-in was to take place, was widely cordoned off by police barriers. Galatasaray Square is considered a symbolic place for the struggle for human rights in Turkey.

Presidents of 16 bar associations have attended this week's vigil by Saturday Mothers, as well as the Green and Left Party Istanbul MP Özgül Saki, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Central Executive Board member Musa Piroğlu and Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) Istanbul MP Ahmet Şık.

The activists marching to Galatasaray Square with carnations in their hands were prevented by the police on the grounds of an official ban on assembly in the area. The crowd protested the police siege with victory signs. 24 people were detained in the crackdown, including Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair and lawyer Eren Keskin.

Journalists covering the protest were also battered and forcibly removed from the area.



Şenyaşar family not allowed inside the Ministry of Justice building

ANF | ANKARA | 27 JULY 2023

Green Left Party Urfa MP, Ferit Şenyaşar, and his mother Emine Şenyaşar walked towards the Ministry of Justice building to meet with the ministry's officials. However, the police prevented the family from entering.

The family, bypassing the police blockade, marched towards the Ministry, trying to enter the building. The people in the ministry stated that the minister and his deputy were not in the building and closed the door to prevent the family from entering.

Early on Tuesday morning, the Şenyaşar family held a press conference in the Parliament about their Justice Vigil, and said: "If justice is not provided, we will continue our struggle in Ankara."

Emine Şenyaşar underlined that she was holding a vigil against persecution. She added: "My son should be released. They killed my family, they put my son in jail. They murdered my husband before my eyes. If they don't let my son free, I will continue my sit-in in front of the Ministry of Justice."



Şenyaşar family meets with deputy Minister of Justice in Ankara

ANF | ANKARA | 27 JULY 2023

On the second day of their vigil in Ankara, Green and Left Party MP Ferit Şenyaşar and his mother Emine Şenyaşar went to the Ministry of Justice after their failed attempts to meet with authorities yesterday.

Kept waiting outside the building for a long while, Emine and Ferit Şenyaşar were finally admitted into the building to meet with the Deputy Minister of Justice, Ramazan Can.

Details of the meeting, held closed to the press, will be shared after the talk.

Security measures around the ministry building have been intensified and journalists removed from the area.

Background

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 severely injured and hospitalized. Relatives and supporters of AKP MP Yıldız killed Celal and Adil Şenyaşar in hospital, and their father Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar, when he went to the hospital to see his sons. He was brutally murdered, being lynched in front of his wife, Emine Şenyaşar.

Fadıl Şenyaşar, a survivor, received an almost 38-year prison sentence for killing the assailant, Mehmet Şah Yıldız, despite the fact that it was relatively quickly proven that the man was killed by his own men. To make matters worse, the trial was split into two parts. The incidents in the shop are being tried in Malatya, the events in the hospitals in Urfa.

More than five years have passed since the massacre. Yet neither Ibrahim Halil Yıldız nor the majority of his companions have had to answer for their deeds in court. The Turkish judiciary's handling of the lynchings is particularly perfidious. While only one of dozens of identified assailants has been sentenced so far, albeit to a symbolic sentence of 18 years, the court considered it mitigating that the act had happened “spontaneously out of an escalating quarrel”.

Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit had been holding a Justice Vigil in front of the Courthouse of Urfa since 9 March 2021, demanding those responsible to be brought to account.

On the 846th day of the vigil in front of the Courthouse in Urfa, the Şenyaşar family ended their protest for the time being, announcing that they would move to Ankara if there was not “a hint of justice” at the hearing to be held in Malatya on July 18.

The 2nd hearing of the case in Malatya indeed did not see justice served as the court board rejected the request for the release of Fadıl Şenyaşar, considering the “strong suspicion of crime” and set the next hearing for October 6.

Fadıl Şenyalar, who has been detained in a solitary cell in Elazığ Prison for more than 5 years, said at the hearing: “I have been detained for 5 years, I do not accept this. I am being held here unjustly. I do not accept the accusations. There is no gun, but I am under arrest. If a gun were found, it would be confirmed that I did not shoot. They are hiding the gun because I did not commit the crime. I repeat my previous defenses and demand to be freed pending trial.”

— ★ —

Dozens detained in police attack on Saturday Mothers in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 29 JULY 2023

Turkish police have once again prevented the weekly Saturday Mothers’ vigil in Istanbul. According to the initiative, at least 47 members and supporters of the Saturday Mothers have been taken into custody today. Among them are Eren Keskin, co-chair of the Human Rights Association (IHD), Ümit Efe from the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), journalist Arat Dink and lawyer Meriç Eyüboğlu from the Media and Law Association (MLSA). The detainees are accused of non-compliance with official orders.

The Galatasaray Square in front of the high school of the same name in the central district of Beyoğlu, where the 957th sit-in of the Saturday Mothers was to take place today, had been widely cordoned off by barriers and bars since early morning. Riot police were deployed with a large contingent and prevented the group from approaching the square, which is considered a symbolic site for the struggle for human rights in Turkey. The reason given was a ban on demonstrations issued by the Beyoğlu district governor's office.

Human rights activist Eren Keskin protested against the action and pointed to a ruling by the Constitutional Court that had declared bans on Saturday Mothers’ gatherings unlawful. “Decisions of the Constitutional Court are final and binding on all organs of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The district governor is not superior to the Constitutional Court. Such an action cannot be taken in a state of law. We just demand that the law be respected,” Keskin said.

Background

In 1995, women in Istanbul took to the streets for the first time to draw attention to relatives who had been arrested and then disappeared. Since a large-scale attack on the Saturday Mothers ordered by the Ministry of Interior in the summer five years ago, Galatasaray Square has been a no-go zone for the Saturday Mothers. But this is contrary to the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration, ruled the Turkish Constitutional Court on 22 February 2023, rejecting the ministry’s objection that the Saturday Mothers threatened the “protection of public order”. “Everyone has the right to take part in unarmed and

peaceful assemblies and demonstrations without prior permission,” says Article 34 of the Turkish Constitution, which the security authorities violated by banning the Saturday Mothers' forcefully dispersed action in August 2018 and all subsequent ones. The blockade of the square is therefore invalid, said the court ruling. The Turkish Interior Ministry and the Istanbul police ignore the ruling and continue to violently crack down on Saturday Mothers.

— ★ —

Ecocide

Governor bans Kiğı Nature and Culture Festival in Bingöl

ANF | 23 JULY 2023

The Kiğı Nature and Culture Festival, organized by the Kiğı Associations Union (KI-DEB) in the Gêxî (Kiğı) district of Bingöl (Çewlîg), and planned for 12 and 13 August, was banned by the district governor's office.

Making a statement regarding the ban decision, the Festival Organizing Committee said that the festival was banned on the grounds that there is no festival area in the district.

The organizers said: “We would like to state that the excuse used for banning the festival shows the bad faith of the decision. It is actually a decision against the people and shopkeepers in Kiğı. Our aim was to get together, sing Kurdish songs together, dancing together. It is just badness what drives the decision to ban such activities in Kiğı.”

— ★ —

7 Kurdish activists injured extinguishing field fire in Mariwan

ANF | MARIWAN | 25 JULY 2023

7 Kurdish activists were seriously injured while responding to a field fire in the city of Mariwan in Rojhilat (East Kurdistan) in Kurdistan province of Iran.

According to reports from the ground, the field fire raging in the region of Kaniya Mîran for days was started by ‘Revolutionary Guards’.

7 Kurdish activists, 5 of whom were identified as Barzan Piruzi, Madeh Nikpey, Burhan Makki, Aram Keyvan and Sivan Nikpey, who went to the region to join efforts to extinguish the fire, were seriously injured as a result of a land mine explosion.

The activists were taken to hospitals in Mariwan and are reported to be in critical condition.



Thousands of trees cut down in Akbelen Forest

ANF | 26 JULY 2023

The cutting of trees to make space for the coal mine in Akbelen Forest in Muğla continues despite the protests by the citizens with the active support of the government.

It was reported that a quarter of the forest was cut under the supervision of soldiers, who prevented people from entering the area.

Environmentalism Bahadır Altan said that because there is no coal on the surface, the company decided to enter the forest.

Altan said: "The big trees in the area were cut down. They do not cut down small trees. They will turn this area into a hellhole like the area where the current mine is located. What they are cutting is our future."

While the people were waiting in the area, a group of environmentalists from Istanbul reached Akbelen to support the resistance.

It has been announced that new groups from Izmir and Çanakkale have set out for Akbelen.



Green Left Party MPs attacked by soldiers in Akbelen

ANF | MUĞLA | 26 JULY 2023

Local people and environmentalists continue their protest in the Akbelen forest, in the village of İkizköy in Muğla, against the building of a coal mine.

The protest began after YK Energy, co-owned by Limak Holding and İÇTAŞ operating the Yeniköy and Kemerköy thermal power stations, had obtained the necessary permissions to open 740 decares of land within the Akbelen forest in İkizköy to convert it to an open coal mine providing lignite for the thermal power stations. The company, however, met with the resistance of the İkizköy villagers.

A tree logging team from the Forest Administration entered the Akbelen forest at 6am on 17 July 2021, and cut nearly 30 trees before the İkizköy villagers reached the spot. The villagers have been keeping a vigil in the forest ever since.

Deputies from the Green Left Party went to the forest today to stand in solidarity with those resisting the ecocide in Akbelen.

The Green Left Party delegation was made up of Co-Spokesperson İbrahim Akin and deputies Burcu Gül Çubuk and Perihan Koca.

The deputies and the people were attacked by the gendarmerie with pressure water and pepper spray. Protests in the area continues.



Gendarmerie takes HDP co-chairs into custody after attacking villagers protesting in Akbelen

ANF | MUĞLA | 27 JULY 2023

Green Left Party spokesperson İbrahim Akin and Member of Parliament Perihan Koca came to Akbelen to support the resistance of the people of the region against the mine that is wanted to be opened in Milas Akbelen Forest by Yeniköy-Kemerköy Energy. Akin and the citizens were subjected to the gendarmerie's water cannon and tear gas attack.

In the attack, Akin and Koca as well as many people were affected by the tear gas. After the attack, Akin and Koca started a sit-in with the people in front of the military barricade. CHP MPs Orhan Sarıbal and Cumhuri Uzun also participated in the sit-in. After the protest, the gendarmerie attacked for the second time with batons and pepper spray as the crowd started to march towards the forest. At the same time, the gendarmerie sprayed gas into the eyes of the public at close range and threw gas canisters into the forest area.

HDP İzmir Provincial co-chair Çınar Altan and HDP Marmaris District co-chair Güven Göknaar were taken into custody during the attack. MUÇEP Hinge Council Member Ferah Gümüş and photographer Selahattin Kaya were also taken into custody.

On the other hand, ecologist Deniz Gümüşel, who was taken into custody on Tuesday morning, was released by the Milas Criminal Judgeship of Peace, with a ban on leaving the country and a ban on entering Milas district borders.



Hasankeyf Coordination protests destruction of Akbelen forest

ANF | 28 JULY 2023

While the Akbelen Forests, located in İkizköy, in the Milas district of Muğla, continue to be plundered by Limak Holding, which is known for its closeness to the government, there has been a five-day resistance against it. Local people, environmentalists and Green Left Party representatives and members, are taking part in the resistance.

State forces attacked people who resisted.

A response to the attacks on the people and the felling of trees came from the Hasankeyf Coordination, which struggled to save the now flooded millenary city of Hasankeyf.

In a written statement, the group said: “We know from Hasankeyf and Tigris Valley those who massacred the forest for mining in Akbelen and those who protected them.”

The statement continued: “As a result of state policies, all parts of the country are in danger of destruction. Every day, a different living space is destroyed for the benefit of capital. It is clear that there are separate projects for each region. This predatory approach, which manifests itself with HEPPs and dams in Kurdish provinces and the Black Sea, takes the form of the destruction of natural habitats for energy and mining fields in the Aegean region. Those who defend life and living spaces against these projects face obstacles, oppression and violence by the state.

The Hasankeyf Coordination stands by the defenders of life who are fighting for their environment in Akbelen. It is our demand to stop the cutting down of trees as soon as possible and to cancel the mining project planned in the forest area.”

Hasankeyf

The flooding of Hasankeyf began in July 2019. The cultural site, whose roots reach back to the Bronze Age, is a unique place in human history: twenty Eastern and Western cultures have left their traces here. 5,500 caves, hundreds of previously discovered monuments and a fascinating interweaving with rocks and the Tigris give the site global significance.

According to experts, Hasankeyf and the surrounding Tigris valley - one of the last remaining major river ecosystems in Turkey - met nine out of ten criteria for inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and provided a livelihood for up to 100,000 people.

Hundreds get ill every day due to Turkish cutting off the flow at Alouk station

ANF | HESEKE | 28 JULY 2023

The Turkish state has cut off the water of Heseke and its villages since it occupied Serêkaniyê in 2019. Alouk station is the main and only source of drinking water for the city and the Hol, Serêkaniyê, Washukani and Erisha camps.

Residents use wells for water supply. However, drinking that water causes various diseases.

Heseke residents, due to the pollution of water resources, have started to suffer from vomiting, poisoning, skin diseases and kidney diseases.

Ehmed Ferhan, Head of the Ambulance Department of Heseke People's Hospital told ANHA that "100 people suffering from poisoning and skin disease come to the hospital every day due to water pollution in Heseke."

Ferhan stated that the water in hospitals for kidney patients should be disinfected, so the water cuts also affect the hospitals to a great extent.

Ehmed Ferhan urged international and human rights organizations to find quick solutions to water supplies and the Alouk station.



Vigil against deforestation in Akbelen continues

ANF | MUĞLA | 30 JULY 2023

The resistance against the deforestation of the Akbelen forest in Muğla continues, but a large area of forest has already been cleared. On Saturday, the police and gendarmerie used water cannons and tear gas against the protesting residents from the village of İkizköy and activists from other parts of Turkey. The demonstrators repeatedly blocked roads in the district of Milas on the Mediterranean coast. The people of İkizköy, who have been able to prevent the planned clearing of the forest for lignite mining for years with a protest camp, continue to show their determination despite the state's superior force. "We are not giving up, we will stay here until the last tree remains," said one woman.

In the meantime, the clearing has almost reached the protest camp. The Turkish state is using jammers to prevent the activists from communicating with the outside world. On Saturday, 24 people were detained during the protests, including lawyers İsmail Hakkı Atal and Leyla Bilgen. While the detainees were released, four of them were banned from travelling abroad for resisting the police.

Background

YK Energy, co-owned by Limak Holding and İÇTAŞ operating the Yeniköy and Kemerköy thermal power stations, has obtained the necessary permissions to open 740 decares of land within the Akbelen forest in İkizköy to convert it to an open coal mine providing lignite for the thermal power stations. The company had, however, met with the resistance of the İkizköy residents.

A tree logging team from the Forest Administration entered the Akbelen forest at 6am on 17 July 2021, and cut dozens of trees before the İkizköy villagers reached the spot.

The villagers have been keeping a vigil in the forest ever since.

— ★ —

Human Rights Violations

Two sent to prison after Suruç massacre protest

ANF | ISTANBUL | 22 JULY 2023

Two young people who attended the march held in Istanbul on the anniversary of the Suruç (Pîrsûs) Massacre, were first taken into custody and then sent to prison.

29 of the 33 youths who were detained during the march in commemoration of the 8th anniversary of the Suruç Massacre in Kadıköy, in Istanbul, were released, while 2 were released on condition of judicial control.

Yakup Bulut and Ramazan Canpolat were sent to prison on charges of “opposing the law numbered 2911” and “resisting the police”.

— ★ —

DEDAŞ fires 50 workers in Urfa after they protested poor working conditions

ANF | URFA | 25 JULY 2023

Workers in 6 cities where Dicle Elektrik Dağıtım A.Ş. (DEDAS) operates organized a 2-hour stoppage on 21 July against the poor working conditions.

It was learned that at least 50 workers who participated in the action and went to resume work on Monday in Urfa (Riha) were dismissed. The workers who went to the Provincial Directorate of the institution in the Eyyübiye district of Urfa in the morning were not allowed into the building and were told that they had been fired. The workers were informed by SMS that they were dismissed.

— ★ —

Journalist Evrim Deniz detained in Amed

ANF | AMED | 25 JULY 2023

Journalist Evrim Deniz has been taken into custody in Amed (tr. Diyarbakir), bringing the number of journalists detained today in an investigation led by the Diyarbakir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office to five. Deniz was summoned to the police station for questioning and was detained there.

In the same case, Bianet editor Evrim Kepenek, T24 editor Sibel Yüklér and Mezopotamya Agency (MA) correspondents Fırat Can Arslan and Delal Akyüz have been detained and their homes searched in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara earlier today.

The background to the case is reports of a political trial against 18 colleagues in Amed. 15 of the accused journalists, who work for Kurdish media, were held in pre-trial detention for over a year on vague "terror charges" in what was obviously a contrived trial without charges and were released on the first day of the trial a fortnight ago. The long detention was based on the false testimony of an anonymous witness.

The investigation against the journalists detained on Tuesday was triggered by Arslan's report, which brought attention to the marriage between one of the judges overseeing the Diyarbakir-based case against 18 Kurdish media workers and the prosecutor who prepared the indictment.

Following the release of the 16 journalists from prison on July 12, after a year in pretrial detention, the married judge and prosecutor were relocated from Diyarbakir to Samsun, according to Arslan's report.

Arslan had shared his report on Twitter, and the other three journalists retweeted it, leading to the current investigation by the Diyarbakir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

Lawyer Resul Temur told Bianet that the journalists are being accused of “revealing the identity of a public official” and “marking a counterterrorism official as a target.”

He said that he had met with the prosecutor, but they had not yet obtained detailed information about the content of the case file.

After the questioning of Yüklér and Arslan concluded at the police station, the lawyer representing them, Nuray Özdoğan, told Bianet that the police officers had asked them why Arslan posted the original tweet and why they had retweeted it.

In response to these inquiries, the journalists firmly asserted that the retweeted post held significant news value and was a part of their journalistic activity, according to the lawyer. They maintained that the information shared in the post was not confidential but rather a public decision from the Council Judges and Prosecutors (HSK). The journalists denied any intent of targeting or endangering anyone through their retweets.



Kurdistan Journalists' Association condemns violations in Turkey and South Kurdistan

ANF | 25 JULY 2023

The Kurdistan Journalists' Association released a statement strongly condemning the violations of the freedom of the press and freedom of thought in Turkey and southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The association defined the mass detention of journalists in Turkey on Tuesday as a concrete manifestation of the fact that Turkey has turned into a prison for journalists. It stated that the unlawful raids on journalists' houses and their detention as a violation of the rule of law and the freedom of the press.

The association also spoke against the unlawful treatment of journalist Sherwan Sherwani, who was sentenced by a criminal court in Hewlêr (Erbil) to four years in prison last week for an alleged forgery of documents. The reason for the charge was an application for the conditional release of several journalists and activists from prison. Sherwani is also alleged to have signed the document on behalf of his colleague Guhdar Zebari because the latter was in solitary confinement and could not sign it himself. Although Zebari repeatedly stated during the trial that he had explicitly given Sherwani the authority to sign on his behalf, his testimony was ignored by the court.

According to the association, the sentencing of Sherwan Sherwani to an additional four years in prison made matters worse with regard to the freedom of the press in the region and it was unacceptable and unlawful that he was sentenced to prison for signing a document on behalf of a colleague of his.

Referring to the reactions of national and international press organizations and institutions against the increasingly ongoing attacks on journalists, the Kurdistan Journalists' Association noted that the [Committee to Protect Journalists](#) (CPJ) also called for the release of Sherwani, stating, "With the latest decision to extend his imprisonment by four years, Iraqi Kurdish authorities are showing their determination to tell the world how vicious they can be against journalists."

The association stated that all these events proved the fact that basic democratic rights such as the freedom of the press and the freedom of thought were threateningly restricted in Turkey and South Kurdistan.

The Kurdistan Journalists' Association called for the immediate release of detained and jailed journalists and defence of the freedom of the press. "Journalism is not a crime but a right that should be safeguarded under all circumstances," it said.



Police in Amed ban 5 books

ANF | AMED | 26 JULY 2023

Within the scope of an Amed based political police operation, five books - "Angry Climate", "Bese Anuş", "Critique of Syndicalism and Democratic Labor and Confederalism", "A Lost Passenger in the City of Şahmeran" and "Children with a Sun Look" - published by Aram Publishing House were confiscated at homes and at workplaces. It was revealed that the books in question were confiscated without a formal decision of "Prohibition of Printing, Distribution and Sale".

The prosecutor carrying out the investigation applied to the Diyarbakır 2nd Criminal Court of Peace and requested a ban order for the books, that the judge's office promptly issued.

A copy of the decision dated 12 July was communicated to Aram Publishing House. The motivation for the confiscation was "propaganda for a terrorist organization, inciting the people to hatred and enmity, praising crimes and criminals".



Turkish soldiers attack and take 4 young people into custody in Hakkari

ANF | HAKKARI | 26 JULY 2023

Turkish soldiers attacked a group of young people who were taking their sheep to drink water on the highland in the village of Bêruh in the Navberojan region of Derelik (Rûbarok), in Hakkari (Colemêrg).

16-year-old Serhat T. was taking his sheep to the stream 500 meters below the village to drink after grazing them, when soldiers from the Yeşiltaş Police Station asked him what he was doing there and started attacking him.

4 young people taken into custody

Serkan T., who was next to Serhat T., Ercan Ö. and Selah T. asked the soldiers to stop beating Serhat T. and recorded the events. The 4 young people were beaten and taken into custody.

It was reported that the soldiers, who confiscated the young people's phones during the detention, insulted them even more after seeing the photo of HDP former co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş, behind one of the boys' phones. The young people were taken to the Derecik district Gendarmerie Station.



Police raid a house in Nusaybin

ANF | MARDIN | 26 JULY 2023

According to the Mesopotamia Agency (MA), police raided a house on Sakarya Street in the neighbourhood of Kışla in Nusaybin (Nisêbîn), in the province of Mardin (Mêrdîn) on Tuesday evening.

According to the news, a woman, allegedly a YJA Star guerrilla, died in the house where gunshots and explosions were heard. Another person was injured. After the incident, many houses were raided in the district.

Former Democratic Regions Party (DBP) District co-chair Bedia Adıgüzel was detained.

The body of the woman whose identity could not be learned was taken to the morgue, while there was no news about where the injured person and Adıgüzel were taken.



Over 137,000 web addresses blocked in Turkey in 2022

ANF | 26 JULY 2023

The Freedom of Expression Association (İFÖD) released its annual Blocked Web report for 2022, shedding light on internet censorship in Turkey. According to the report prepared by Prof. Dr. Yaman Akdeniz and Researcher Ozan Güven from Istanbul Bilgi University's Faculty of Law, over 137,000 URLs faced access restrictions in Turkey within a year.

The report provides insights into the magnitude of access restrictions imposed by various state institutions in response to their requests.

Since 2006, a total of 814 different state institutions and judiciary bodies have issued 616,239 access blocking decisions. Consequently, 712,558 addresses were blocked from access.

During this period, the Information Technologies and Communication Authority (BTK) blocked 496,476 addresses, and the Telecommunications Communication Presidency (TİB) blocked 129,164 addresses until its closure in August 2016. Other notable contributors to access blocking include the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) with 22,585 blocked addresses, the Ministry of Health with 10,020 blocked addresses, and the Capital Markets Board (SPK) with 6,159 blocked addresses.

The report highlights that censorship practices in 2022 exceeded the record set in 2021. The number of internet sites subjected to state-imposed censorship increased by 28% compared to the previous year, with a total of 137,000 domain names being blocked.

“Violations of the right to privacy”

In recent years, one of the most common justifications for blocking news content has been “violations of the right to privacy.” In 2022, a total of 6,528 news reports, deemed to have public interest, were blocked due to decisions related to “violations of the right to privacy.” NEws sites removed 5,388 of those articles.

Most of the 954 different court decisions, issued by 270 different peace judgeships, were granted in response to requests from high-level public figures, certain public institutions, and companies close to the government.

Regarding this issue, the report states, “Peace judgeships continued to neglect freedom of expression and press freedom, the public's right to access information, and the public interest, while acting as guardians of the reputation, honor, and dignity of high-level public figures.”

Outlets facing censorship

In 2022, the internet site of the government-friendly newspaper Sabah had the highest number of news reports blocked. A total of 304 reports from Sabah were censored, and the newspaper voluntarily removed 291 of them (96%) from its website.

Following Sabah, the news site Haberler.com ranked second with 247 reports blocked, of which 245 (99%) were removed from its website.

Cumhuriyet newspaper ranked third with 235 reports blocked, of which 185 (79%) were taken down from its website.

Other news outlets like Sondakika.com with 229 blocked reports, Takvim with 225 blocked reports, and Milliyet, Hürriyet, Habertürk, T24, BirGün, soL Gazete, Sözcü, Yeniçağ, Patronlar Dünyası, Mynet.com, Gazete Vatan, A Haber, Yeni Akit, Gazete Duvar, CNN Türk, Gerçek Gündem, Onedio, Ensonhaber.com, Diken, and Halk TV also faced blocks on their reports.

Criticism against the Constitutional Court

The report highlights that the “Law on the Regulation of Publications on the Internet and Combating Crimes Committed through These Publications,” in effect since 2006, has undergone 19 revisions. However, they point out that the loopholes in the law persist.

The report also criticizes the Constitutional Court to which appeals against access restrictions are made. It asserts that the Constitutional Court has remained ineffective. In their report, the two researchers state:

“The title of the 2022 Blocked Web report, a continuation of the 2018-2021 EngelliWeb reports, is designated as ‘Under the Shadow of Peace Judges: The Constitutional Court.’ As seen in the report, thousands of news articles and content deemed to serve the public interest have been subjected to access blocking, removal from publication, censorship, and deletion from archives due to decisions based on ‘violations of the right to privacy,’ just like in previous years.

“Despite identifying ‘structural problems’ concerning Article 9 of Law No. 5651 in October 2021, the Constitutional Court failed to implement its own ‘pilot decision’ and has not issued any rulings on Article 9 applications in 2022. This clearly shows that the ongoing issues have become part of an ineffective domestic legal remedy.”

Note: In Turkey, peace courts, the Information Technologies and Communication Authority (BTK), and the Association of Access Providers (ESB), along with relevant ministries, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), the Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet), the High Election Board (YSK), the Capital Markets Board (SPK), the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK), the National Lottery, the Turkish Jockey Club, the Spor Toto Organization Presidency, the Turkish Football Federation, and the Tobacco and Alcohol Regulation Authority, as well as enforcement offices, have the authority to impose access restrictions.



Kunt: Every year, more than 4 million Kurds go to work in the West of the country

ANF | ANKARA | 28 JULY 2023

MP for the Green Left Party, Dilan Kunt, denounced the racism and unworthy living conditions suffered by these seasonal workers and called on parliament to adopt regulations to solve the problems they experienced.

Kunt referred to the death of Esmanur Solmaz, a 4-year-old girl, whose family came from Urfa to Bursa to work in the fields, who was run over by a tractor as they slept near it. She said it was not an accident and that the girl died because seasonal workers do not have any social protection. Kunt also said that the cul-

prits for these deaths was the parliament because it had not made regulations or laws in favor of the workers.

At least 4 million seasonal workers

Pointing out that at least four million workers from Kurdistan travel to Western cities for work and experience various problems, Kunt said workers lack legal rights and guarantees. Kunt added: “The AKP government never puts this problem experienced by the inhabitants of the region on the agenda, and the elected officials remain deaf to the problems of seasonal workers, as they do for all other problems. It is not said for nothing that this government is the government of the rich.”

Racist discrimination and attacks

Pointing out that there are at least one million child workers across Kurdistan and Turkey, and that half of them are employed in agriculture, Kunt drew attention to discriminatory and racist attacks and practices against seasonal workers. Kunt continued: “In addition to their working and living conditions, fascist and racist attacks against seasonal workers are experienced every year and have increased in recent years with the rise of nationalism and anti-Kurdish discriminatory discourse. Seasonal workers in Afyon, Sakarya, Ankara and Bartın, have been victims of racist attacks because they spoke Kurdish and were Kurdish. They were seriously injured and no effective investigation was carried out against the perpetrators. The basis of these attacks is that the government and politicians are spreading hate speech against Kurds and that these workers are not considered equal citizens of this country.”

— ★ —

DEDAŞ workers: The strike goes on!

ANF | AMED | 30 JULY 2023

The war policies implemented by the Turkish state continue to deepen the economic crisis, causing employers to underpay or lay off workers. Dicle Electricity Distribution Corporation (DEDAS) workers went on strike in 6 cities demanding a raise in their wages below the hunger limit. The workers on strike in Amed stressed that they will continue their protest until their rights are achieved.

The workers who have been in solidarity with their dismissed colleagues and have been protesting for days in front of the DEDAŞ campus have also been fired from their jobs. Becet Barut, co-chair of DISK Genel İş Branch No. 2, spoke to ANF about the resistance.

Call on the government to address the demands of the workers

Becet Barut said that DEDAŞ workers, who could not get their rights, said: “Workers have been demanding their union and personal rights for years. They live below the poverty line and so they went on strike. We are struggling to survive in the economic crisis created by the state. They cannot ignore the demands of our workers. Our call to the government is to see and address these injustices as soon as possible. We

promise that we will stand by our friends' resistance and that we will not leave here until they succeed in their actions.”

Fired for supporting the strike

Azad Kaya, one of the resistance fighters, said that they were unlawfully dismissed and added: “We were fired because we called the strike. The wish of those on strike was to be unionized and not be crushed by the economic crisis. We will continue our action until we achieve this. They fired us based on Article 49. However, our aim was to demand our right to be unionized. Although our job was so difficult, we were paid low salaries. We have workers who fix all the electrical faults and lack of electricity in the region. While doing these, there are those of us who die or become crippled as a result of electric shock. We will not accept this lawlessness. Our struggle will continue.”

The company receives support from the government

Mazlum Barış, who joined the strike from Şırnak, emphasized that they will continue their action and will not give up until they get their rights. He said: “My job was terminated on 21 July. We were fired without good reason. We are here today with our friends to exercise our legal right to strike. We will continue to struggle. It is obvious that the company fired many of our colleagues with support from the government. But we will not give up, we will continue our struggle. Because workers are valuable. It is the worker who makes everything beautiful, without them nothing happens. There will be no production. There is no society. We hope that they will turn away from this mistake and give us our rights.”

— ★ —

Minors in traditional Kurdish dress targeted by the police

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 30 JULY 2023

According to reports from the ground, B.C. (14), B.C. (12), B.C. (16), B.C. (17) and S.C. (17) were stopped by the police after attending a wedding in the neighborhood of Aliçavuş in Beytüşşebap district of Şırnak.

The five minors were forced to stand up against the wall and subjected to a criminal record check (GBT), which is an identity document verification technology introduced by the Turkish police in 2002. It is a database containing information on wanted persons as well as criminal and suspicious activity reports from the police and gendarmerie. This includes information on existing arrest warrants, previously executed arrests, suspensions from leaving the country, refusal of military service, and tax evasion. The system also contains subjective notes by the police without legal significance on the persons concerned. The GBT system also records information on supposedly “suspicious” persons who are not under criminal investigation.

A resident recorded the incident on camera, showing a police officer threatening the minors, saying: “You shall have your ID cards with you while passing through a checkpoint. Otherwise, I will take criminal action.”

Eyewitnesses stated that four of the minors had their ID cards with them, while only one of them, aged 12, didn't.

Reports say that the minors were subjected to violence before being forced to stand up against the wall.

— ★ —

Interview

Karasu: Fighting Kurdish genocide and isolation means fighting for the democratization of Turkey

ANF | BEHDINAN | 29 JULY 2023

Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the latest developments in Kurdistan, the Middle East and the world, including the current situation of Abdullah Öcalan's physical isolation, the continuing genocide against the Kurdish people, the Turkish state's war of occupation in South Kurdistan/North Iraq with the help of the KDP.

The Kurdish Freedom Movement is facing all kinds of attacks. One of the most significant is the isolation of the leader of the Kurdish people, Abdullah Öcalan. What can you tell us about his current situation?

An attack against the struggle of a people is always first and foremost directed against its leadership and political organization. Because without destroying them, a people's struggle for freedom and democracy cannot be prevented and a people cannot be subjected to genocide. Since the resistance of Şêx Said and the people of Dersim, it was always the leaders who were massacred. Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] has always considered the execution of Şêx Saîd as the beginning of the Kurdish genocide. In this respect, the struggle against the Kurdish genocide and the struggle against the isolation of Leader Apo are intertwined. Therefore, the policy of isolation pursued against Rêber Apo in the prison of Imrali is part of the policy of the Kurdish genocide. A reality that must be well recognized by the Kurds is, that without an effective struggle against the isolation, there can be no effective struggle against the Kurdish genocide. A people always fights together with its leaders, its political movement and its organization, and thus gains its own power. Now that there is a genocidal attack against Rêber Apo, there of course has to be a struggle against this. This struggle has been continuing for nearly 25 years now. Today, unions, municipalities and intellectuals all over the world have joined the struggle for the freedom of Rêber Apo, because his freedom is not only in the interest of the Kurds or the democratic forces in Turkey, but has become the interest of humanity as a whole.

Nevertheless, the Turkish state persistently continues its policy of isolation and genocide. For example, Merdan Yanardağ [editor-in-chief of the Turkish television channel 'Tele 1'] recently commented on Rêber

Apo's stance in İmralı. He said that no prisoner in the history of Turkey had ever experienced such a system. He is a political leader who has been imprisoned longer than anybody else [in Turkey]. Merdan Yanardağ said this himself. He also stated that there was no legal basis for this in Turkey. Why is Rêber Apo not allowed to meet with his lawyers? Why is the way to get him out of prison blocked, even though he has been imprisoned for so long? Yanardağ criticized this and actually made an assessment as to why Turkey does not obey its own laws. In response to this, he was immediately arrested. In the past, there have been similar cases, e.g. Şebnem Korur Fincancı who was arrested because of a statement relating to the use of chemical weapons [by the Turkish army].

Because the link between democracy in Turkey and the Kurdish question has still not been established, democratization is not making any progress in Turkey. Without establishing the link, there wouldn't be any development. Those who call themselves leftists, democrats or liberals but do not stand up against the isolation of Rêber Apo are only deceiving themselves. Undoubtedly, the struggle against the Kurdish genocide and isolation is the struggle for the democratization of Turkey. Therefore, this topic must not be taken off the agenda. This struggle needs to be fought constantly. It needs to be seen as part of the struggle for democracy and freedom. It is important that stopping the Kurdish genocide and fascism becomes the highest priority of our struggle.

For several years now, the Turkish state has been waging an intensive war in the South Kurdish Medya Defense Zones. A new offensive was launched just a few days ago. What can you tell us about the latest situation in the area?

Just like in 2015, they [the Turkish army] recently launched a comprehensive attack on the day of the anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne with the intention of occupying the [South Kurdish/North Iraqi] areas of Zap, Metîna and Avaşîn. Symbolic days like this are very important to the Turkish state.

By launching this attack, they openly show that it is their essential interest to complete the Kurdish genocide and achieve the real purpose of the Treaty of Lausanne. This applies to all Kurdish forces, including the KDP and PUK, to all four parts of the country, i.e. also Rojava and East Kurdistan [West Iran], and in general to everyone. The attack on the anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne is an attack against all Kurds. It is not only an attack against the Kurds of North Kurdistan. Because the Treaty of Lausanne is an agreement to carry out the Kurdish genocide. This is how it should be understood. That's why we say that the attack is very comprehensive.

Of course, there is also a big and historical resistance against this policy. Despite the fact that the Turkish army has been waging this war since 2021 and despite the fact that they are using all kinds of military equipment, strategies and techniques, they have not been able to achieve any results.

Of course, this war was discussed during the recent NATO summit. The NATO representatives keep saying: 'We understand the sensitivities of the Turkish state', thus ignoring the fact, that by doing so they legitimize the genocide of a people, namely the Kurdish nation.

The Turkish state tries to legitimize its war by repeating the following: 'We are not against the Kurds. We are fighting terrorism' and 'We are not against the Kurds. Look, we have relations with the KDP'. So they use their relationship with the KDP to cover up their genocidal policy. NATO is doing the same thing. It also claims not to be against the Kurds and refers to its relations with the KDP as proof. So it has to be ac-

knowledge that NATO is an active partner on the Turkish side in this war. Of course, the KDP is supporting them since the war is taking place in the areas that are formally under the KDP's military control. The KDP limits the movement of the guerrilla forces and tries to divide the areas in order to prevent any support for them. This must also be understood as KDP support for these attacks.

It is clearly not enough to simply observe these attacks. Nor is it enough just to point out the heroic and sacrificial resistance of the guerrillas. The people as a whole, especially the young people and women, have an essential role to play in this resistance. The fascist Turkish state pursues a policy of genocide, including the elimination of the guerrillas as an essential part of it. That is why a broad anti-fascist struggle is necessary. Therefore, I call on all the people, intellectuals, political parties and all those who call themselves Kurdish to stand up and reveal the real face of the Turkish state.

On what kind of other methods does the Turkish state rely in its war against the Kurdish people?

One of the most common methods that the Turkish state is currently using to suppress the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom is spying on people. The state tries to buy people and if they refuse to spy, they start to oppress them, threatening their families, threatening to ruin their business or telling them that they will be thrown in prison and never get out. The most basic method of special warfare that the Turkish state is currently waging against the Kurds is spying. It is the greatest enmity to pressure people to become spies.

The public must see that this state is an enemy of the Kurdish people, which does not even recognize the Kurds as human beings. The only good Kurd is a scoundrel, spy and traitor in their eyes. This has become very widespread and must be condemned by society. Treason and spying are the world's greatest evils. This is immoral, unscrupulous and deserves to be called every kind of name. That is why we call on everybody to be very sensitive regarding this topic. Yes, there is a lot of pressure from the state, but it is no option to surrender. Even death is better than this. And for the people who have surrendered and committed betrayal in the past, the only way to regain their humanity is to admit their guilt and show regret.

You have already mentioned several times that the Turkish state is carrying out a genocide against the Kurds and that it is an essential goal of Turkey's government to bring this to a conclusion. What exactly do you mean by this? What is Kurdish society faced with at the moment?

When we talk about a genocide carried out against the Kurdish people, what we really mean is cultural genocide. This is not about physical elimination, which means that all Kurds will just be slaughtered. Cultural genocide is even worse because it was a social massacre, a mass murder. With a physical massacre, you can kill 50,000 or 100,000 people. With cultural genocide, you can carry out a genocide of millions.

Kurds who turn Kurdish folk songs and traditional music into Turkish songs and who call themselves Turkish artists are part of this genocide. They are more guilty than those who have killed hundreds of people. As a Kurdish society, we must be sensitive with regards to cultural genocide, especially the Kurdish youth. At the moment, the Kurds are being subjected to genocide mainly at the cultural level. They want the Kurdish identity to cease to exist. In this regard, not only Kurds but all people must take a stand. In particular, artists, authors and intellectuals need to play an essential role.

It is necessary to declare those who go to festivals [that serve the cultural genocide] as active supporters of the Kurdish genocide. Whether they are Turkish artists or Kurdish artists, leftists or whatever, if they become part of it, then they become perpetrators of the Kurdish genocide. These festivals are not organized to make Kurds and the Kurdish youth cultural and social. They are part of a special warfare strategy. Whether an attack on the Kurdish people with atomic bombs or a cultural attack on such festivals, this is the same thing and far from being something innocent. This is more dangerous than weapons because weapons that kill are easily recognizable. Everyone should be sensitive with regards to this issue and take a stand against such festivals. Those who attend these festivals should be condemned, isolated and exposed.

In a few days, it will be the anniversary of the genocide against the Yazidis. What would you like to say on this occasion? And what are the perspectives of Yazidi society today?

Nine years ago, one of the most brutal crimes in history was carried out in Şengal. They tried to completely wipe out the Ezidi society. But this was prevented in the last second by the HPG guerrilla forces. Separating a people from its own geography constitutes a genocide. Every culture flourishes on its own soil. Every flower gives its most beautiful color and fragrance when it grows on its own soil. The group of guerrillas that came to Şengal was a really small group, but they immediately started to resist against the genocidal ISIS fighters. Later, the YPG and YPJ fighters arrived and managed to open a corridor for the civilians to escape. Thus, the Ezidi society was saved from this genocide. They still remember this very well. What many do not know is that Rêber Apo had already warned of the arrival of IS and called for the protection of the Ezidi society. This was an order given directly by Rêber Apo and fulfilled by the HPG and YJA Star guerrillas, as well as the fighters of the YPG and YPJ.

Today, the Yazidis continue to return to their homeland. After all they have experienced, this people needs to be allowed to be free and autonomous. So many different identities and cultures in the world have shown that you can only protect your existence and freedom through autonomy and self-administration. In this respect, on this anniversary of the genocide perpetrated against the Ezidi society by IS, all the peoples of the world and all the forces of democracy and humanity must support the struggle of the Ezidi society for freedom, democracy and its very existence. The best way to express your love for the Yazidi society is to accept its self-administration. Otherwise, they will hardly be able to survive. Especially under the conditions of capitalist modernity, cultures, identities and beliefs can only survive through self-administration. Otherwise, in the age of capitalist modernity and the nation-state, the fate of all identities and beliefs is genocide.

The 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne is just a few days away. It was a historic day whose effects are still being felt today. Can you tell us more about the background of this treaty?

The Treaty of Lausanne has had a huge impact not only on Kurdish society, but also on all the peoples of the Middle East. This treaty is the basis for a genocide. In fact, two congresses were held in the [North Kurdish/East Turkish] cities of Erzurum and Sivas before it was signed in Lausanne. As a result of them, the Misak-ı Milli [National Pact] was declared, i.e. the goal to establish one homeland and one government together as Turks and Kurds. The Kurds supported this goal to establish a free and independent country. But what happened later? While the existence of the Kurdish people was acknowledged in the constitution of 1921, they started to deny it with the declaration of the new constitution in 1924. This denial is based on the Treaty of Lausanne.

This treaty is basically about the following: The British demanded the Turkish state to leave Mosul and Kirkuk to them. In return, they promised to allow the Turkish state to carry out a genocide against the Kurds within its own borders. Both the Turkish state as a whole and the Kemalist government in particular accepted this. In other words, Lausanne is a Kurdish genocide agreement.

The British and the French state are just as responsible for this as the United Nations. The Turkish government obtained the right to carry out a genocide against the Kurds with the approval of these states by leaving Mosul and Kirkuk. The nation-state created by capitalist modernity is in itself a tool of genocide. Not only in this region. If we look at history, we will see that many different people and cultures have been subjected to genocide with this tool.

In this respect, it is not only the Treaty of Lausanne and the policy of genocide that must be opposed, but rather the nation state itself. The mentality that is created by the nation state leads to genocide. The Turkish will to create their own nation state has led to genocide against the Kurdish society. The same goes for the Persians and the Arabs who established their own nation states based on cultural genocide. But the Turkish state is the most concrete example.

The Turkish state received the right to carry out a genocide against the Kurds in Lausanne. And as if this were not enough, it now wants to turn the entire Kurdish geography, which it calls Misak-ı Milli, into the expansion area of Turkish nationhood by crushing the Kurdish Freedom Movement. It wants to take Rojava and South Kurdistan under its hegemony and establish Turkish nationhood there too. All this can not be seen as independent of the Treaty of Lausanne.

A few days ago, a conference was held in Lausanne on the centenary of the signing of the treaty. This is very important. Talks about Kurdish national unity took place in the city where Kurdistan was divided into four parts a hundred years ago. But when we talk about national unity, we need to be realistic. Talking about national unity without seeing the current situation of the KDP means not going any step further. Because this is an essential topic. There is this perception that there cannot be national unity without the KDP. Obviously, it would be best if the KDP joined the efforts of national unity, but they have shown that they do not want to. They want to dominate the whole nation and seize all the political power. There was a time when they wanted to talk. This was during the ceasefire of 2012 and 2013. After the ceasefire was declared and the war had stopped, the KDP came running to us and wanted to talk. But when Turkey broke the ceasefire and restarted, the KDP pulled back immediately. National unity is important. All Kurdish groups and parties should come together. Today, the KDP constitutes an obstacle to national unity.

The Treaty of Lausanne was signed and Kurdistan was divided. But there is still an opportunity to stop this genocide. This is not about creating an own Kurdish state. Much more than that, it is about the prevention of this ongoing genocide and the protection of Kurdish existence.

National unity will ensure Kurdish self-administration in all parts of Kurdistan. Important steps have been taken and a lot of progress has been made in this regard. There is significant progress in Rojava and South Kurdistan, but also in North and East Kurdistan the struggle of the Kurdish people is strong. The main achievement is that there is a strong acknowledgment of the Kurdish existence. The struggle being waged in the four parts of Kurdistan has made this possible.

Recently, there have again been a lot of discussions about the revolution in Rojava, both about the perspectives that have emerged from it and about problems in building structures for society. Have you been able to follow these discussions? What do you think about them?

First of all, the Rojava Revolution is a great revolution. In the Middle East, there are many essential problems and open questions regarding nation, faith, culture, women, democracy and much more. Through the Rojava Revolution, the right solutions have been found to all of these problems. In a way, it is not only a revolution that solves the Kurdish problem, but a revolution that puts forward a solution to the problems of the whole Middle East. There is the understanding of the democratic nation, of democracy, of different faiths living side by side and of women's freedom. This means leaving sectarian, national and power conflicts aside and obtaining rights as part of democracy instead of power struggles and of seeking a state. It is about solving problems without adapting a mentality of power. This is very important, because it is the mentality of the state and power that creates all problems and makes them unsolvable. The moment you enter into the sphere of state and power, you lose the ability to solve problems.

The people of Rojava have shown that they understand this well. It is the practical implementation of the perspective created by Rêber Apo. But I would also like to point out that the paradigm of Rêber Apo has still not been fully implemented in Rojava. Despite this, everyone has seen how important and valuable even this inadequate implementation is. In this respect, the Rojava Revolution is a field of freedom, a model in the environment of oppression and persecution in the Middle East. We believe that the Rojava Revolution and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria will be a model.

Can there be any other solution for a new Syria while all these gangs and groups affiliated with Turkey try to gain power in the country? No, there can't. Can stability be achieved in Syria without changing the current regime's understanding? No. The only common denominator for the stabilization of Syria are the social and political principles put forward by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria. The leadership of North and East Syria is capable of reaching a compromise. But how can you achieve reconciliation with gangs, with groups that are under the influence of Turkey? Unless the regime changes itself, it cannot provide stability and a solution, and a compromise will not be possible.

On the other hand, the Rojava Revolution has played an important role in uniting the democratic forces of the Middle East. It has created an Arab-Kurdish alliance in Syria against the Turkish state's aggression. These are really important developments, not only for Syria but for the whole Middle East. I would therefore like to salute this revolution. We believe that the Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians and Circassians will protect this revolution against all kinds of attacks on the basis of the idea of a democratic nation. This revolution is a very beautiful revolution, although it may have its shortcomings. The existing problems stem from the fact that the paradigm of Rêber Apo has not been fully implemented. But even in its current state, it is a revolution that has the support of all peoples and will be an example for the Middle East. I therefore respectfully salute all those who have contributed to this revolution.

Recently, a NATO summit took place in Vilnius, where it was announced that Turkey gave the green light for Sweden to join the alliance. In this context, the interests of the Turkish state in terms of foreign policy were discussed intensively. How do you evaluate Turkey's alliance policy?

Kurds in all four parts of Kurdistan are faced with the threat of genocide. To finalize the genocide, Turkey uses every opportunity to blackmail the international powers. They do this with refugees, their NATO

membership and their relations with Russia. The Turkish state and government functions work based on this mentality of blackmailing. It is not a democratic country at all. It persecutes the Kurds. When they ask the European Union (EU), which calls itself democratic all the time, for help in their genocide policy, the EU immediately complies. The stance of the EU is really hypocritical and shameless. No state should negotiate with Turkey and use the struggle of the Kurdish people for freedom as a bargaining chip.

What exactly does the Turkish state do now? Allegedly, Sweden and some other countries were not willing to give Turkey certain weapons, because they said that the Turkish army would misuse them and turn them against the Kurds.

They said that Turkey was not using these weapons in the right way and that it was using them against the Kurds instead. But now they are saying that they will sell these weapons to Turkey. This has always been the main aim of the Turkish state. Then there is also the demand of Turkey to have a number of Kurds handed over to them. Turkey is using pressure to achieve this. But the basic goal of Turkey is to get political support for the genocide. That is what they want these weapons for and NATO is willing to provide them.

The Turkish state forms all kinds of alliances, relations, institutions, e.g. NATO and the EU. The only reason is to carry out the Kurdish genocide. It forms these alliances in order to get support for the Kurdish genocide. If these alliances demand them to stop the genocide, Turkey would not stay in them for a second.

Now the Turkish state is again trying to become a member of the EU. This is not because they really want to enter. They only want the benefits of EU membership. They will try to get them after they finalize the Kurdish genocide. Turkey will not seriously try to enter the EU until the Kurdish genocide is not completed. Because the EU has its own criteria, measures, the local autonomy charter, etc.. When Turkey becomes a member of the EU, it has to give up its Kurdish genocide policy. But it only wants to use the EU for the Kurdish genocide. At the moment, Turkey has no interest in joining the EU. That is a fact no one should deceive themselves about.

In this respect, both NATO and the EU have become institutions that the Turkish state uses for the Kurdish question. As Kurds, we would like to warn these institutions not to support this genocide. They say that they understand the sensitivity of the Turkish state, but I want to ask them where their sensitivity is while Rojava is being bombed every day; where their sensitivity is regarding all the Kurdish political prisoners in Turkey.

In short, the recent NATO summit was a really shameful meeting. Negotiations between the Kurds and the PKK took place there without the Kurds being involved. In this respect, all Kurds really need to take a stance against NATO and against this attitude of the EU. NATO and the EU should not be partners in the Kurdish genocide, but they currently are. Just like they were partners in the past in the Armenian genocide. The policies and conflicts of that period led to the Armenian genocide. Now, they are becoming complicit in the genocide of the Kurds. They need to give this up as soon as possible.

— ★ —

Websites: freeocalan.org | ocalanbooks.com | Videos: vimeo.com/freeocalan