

# THE İMRALI POST

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

Issue № 66 / 2 September 2023 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

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# Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

## Protest against the isolation of Öcalan in Gire Spi

ANF | GIRE SPI | 29 AUGUST 2023

The Democratic Union Party (PYD) Youth organized a march in the northern Syrian canton of Gire Spi (Tal Abyad) in protest at the isolation of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Hundreds of people attended the march, after which Girê Spî PYD Youth Organization Co-Chair Sebrî Nebo addressed the crowd and denounced the aggravated isolation imposed on the Kurdish leader. Nebo called for an enhanced struggle for the freedom of Öcalan, who has been held in incommunicado detention and has not been heard from for 29 months.

Condemning the international silence on the isolation of Öcalan, Nebo called on international powers to uphold their duties and responsibilities regarding Öcalan.

Concerns over the situation of Kurdish leader Abdullah 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."

On the other hand, residents of the Ain Issa district made a statement in front of the Council of Martyrs' Families.

Reading the press statement, Nûra El Ehmed, an executive member of the Council, condemned the inaction and silence of the CPT and all other concerned international organizations regarding the violations of the rights of Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners on the prison island of Imrali in Turkey. The group called for further struggle for the freedom of the Kurdish leader.

## Asrın Law Office calls on CPT to “visit İmralı urgently”

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2023

There has been no news for 3 years from Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the other prisoners in İmralı, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş.

Asrın Law Office made an application to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) regarding the developments covering 30 April 2023 and 31 July 2023.

In the application, it was reminded that no news has been received from Abdullah Öcalan, Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş since 25 March 2021.

### **Right to communicate through letter denied**

The application stated that lawyers and family visits were blocked, and added: “The right to communicate by letter is also prohibited. The applicants, who have been deprived of all their rights protected by the law, including access to a lawyer, the right to defense, and the right to a fair trial, are kept in complete and absolute isolation, with no communication with the outside world. This application to the CPT includes our information and requests regarding the current absolute isolation and incommunicado status, which carries the risk of all kinds of violations. It also denounces the conditions of detention that systematically violate the prohibition of torture.”

### **37 applications without answers in three months**

Emphasizing that the “incommunicado” status has deepened, the application underlines that 25 requests for lawyers' visits and 12 for family visits were made in the 3-month period from 30 April to 31 July 2023, but all of them went unanswered.

The lawyers also noted that the fate of the letters sent to İmralı is unknown.

### **Disciplinary punishments**

The lawyers said that new “disciplinary punishments” continued to be given in the past three months, and added that despite the completion of the execution of the last 3-month “disciplinary punishment” given on 30 June 2023, the applications for family visits made as of July were rejected.

The lawyers pointed out that they learned that a new “disciplinary punishment” with an unknown date was given as they presented the application made to the Bursa Execution Judge on 10 July.

The application said that the lawlessness was tried to be covered up with this new “disciplinary punishment”.

Lawyers emphasized that all administrative and judicial ban decisions lack both material and legal basis.

### Very serious concerns

The application said: “It has been clearly stated that the practice of not meeting with a lawyer since 27 July 2011 is a political decision that is not based on international and domestic law. (...)”

The application also said that there were “concerns about Abdullah Öcalan’s life, health and legal safety” and that these concerns “have reached the highest level”. The application also noted that the AKP government did not fulfil the CPT’s determinations and recommendations, advocated unlawful acts and tried to achieve political benefits.

The application also stated that the committee should abandon its attitude of operating the usual procedures, and warned that “tomorrow may be too late”.

### Urgent request for visit

ASRIN Law Office said that the CPT should visit İmralı as a matter of “urgency” and listed its demands as follows:

- \*A Committee’s urgent visit to the İmralı Island Prison [is needed], together with the urgent public disclosure of the CPT’s report and findings regarding its last visit,
- \*Immediate execution and continuation of lawyer visits, and the elimination of their obstruction by unlawful court decisions,
- \* Carrying out and ensuring the continuity of family and guardian visits, and ending the prevention of unlawful disciplinary punishments,
- \*In parallel with the establishment of visiting rights, ensuring that the applicants use their routine telephone rights to call their families and relatives,
- \*Ensuring that all obstacles to communication with the outside and with lawyers by letter, telegraph and fax are eliminated,
- \*Ensuring that the actual or illegal practices related to newspapers, magazines and books are ended,
- \* Taking coercive measures to eliminate torture, inhuman and ill-treatment conditions and incommunicado. The application of the procedures regulated in Article 10/2 of the Convention is requested immediately.

## Strasbourg vigil for Öcalan's freedom on its 584th week

ANF | STRASBOURG | 30 AUGUST 2023

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil was launched on 25 June 2012 in Strasbourg, to demand freedom for Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and an end to the isolation imposed on him in Imrali.

The vigil continues in its 584th week and has been taken over by three patriots from a humanitarian relief organization in France.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Süleyman Kule noted that Öcalan had not been heard from for 29 months. Concerns over the situation of Kurdish leader Abdullah 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.

Kule criticized the silence of the CPT (Committee for the Prevention of Torture), the European Parliament and other European institutions and called for international action to stop the unlawful treatment of the Kurdish leader.

The activist vowed to keep the freedom vigil going until Öcalan is freed.

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## Strasbourg rally demanding “Freedom for Öcalan” kicks off

ANF | STRASBOURG | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

Imprisoned for more than 24 years in the island of Imrali, the Kurdish people's leader, Abdullah Öcalan, has been held incommunicado for 29 months now, without any contact with the outside world. The complete lack of information regarding the situation of Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners – Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş – raises growing concerns about their safety and health. Countless requests for visits filed for years by the lawyers and families of Imrali detainees have gone unanswered.

Kurds are taking to the streets in Europe, Canada and Australia to demand the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question.

The central demonstration today is taking place in Strasbourg with participants from France, Switzerland and southern Germany.

The demonstration kicked off with a march from Place de la République after a gathering from 10 a.m. The march will be followed by a rally at Avenue de l'Europe.

The demonstration is promoted by the Kurdish Democratic Societies Congress in Europe (KCDK-E), the Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe (TJK-E), the Revolutionary Youth Movement ((Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger, TCŞ) and the European Democratic Forces Union (ADGB).

France (La France Insoumise) Deputy Emmanuel Fernandes, Abdullah Öcalan's lawyer Ömer Güneş, KCDK-E Co-Chairs Zübeyde Zümrüt and Engin Sever, Selma Sürer of the TJK-E) and Baz Mordem Koçer of the Kurdish youth movements in Europe will address the crowd at the rally.

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# Prisons in Turkey

## Human Rights Association: 313 prisoners denied release

ANF | ANKARA | 29 AUGUST 2023

The Human Rights Association (IHD) held press conferences in many cities to protest the systematic prevention of the release of prisoners by the Administration and Observation Boards.

During the press conference held at the IHD branch in Ankara, co-chair Ömer Faruk Yazıcı said that the Administration and Observation Boards evaluate whether the prisoners are behaving well or not every 6 months.

Yazıcı said: "It has been decided that the Board, which will evaluate good conduct in accordance with the third paragraph of Article 89 of Law No. 5275, will be chaired by the Chief Public Prosecutor or the Public Prosecutor to be determined."

The human rights defender said that prisoners whose releases were prevented by the decisions of the Administration and Observation Board, their lawyers and their families sent numerous applications to the IHD, and added: "As far as the IHD has been able to determine, the release of at least 313 prisoners has been prevented more than once since the beginning of 2021, when the relevant regulation began to be implemented, and even the release of some prisoners in this group of prisoners continues to be prevented. Again, as far as we could establish, 48 of these prisoners were released after one or more decision to extend their execution. We would like to emphasize that 88 of the prisoners whose release was prevented are on our list of ill prisoners, and 42 of them are listed as seriously ill prisoners. Hayrettin Yılmaz, who was one of the seriously ill prisoners whose first parole was prevented in the year the regulation began to be implemented, unfortunately died in prison due to his illnesses."

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## 70-year-old political prisoner Şakir Turan passes away in Erzincan

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2023

70-year-old political prisoner Şakir Turan lost his life in Erzincan L-type prison. He had been sentenced to six years in prison in Turkey for supporting the PKK. Diagnosed with throat cancer in prison, Turan lost 35 kilograms in weight within four months. Despite his serious illness, he was not released. Most recently, 20 days ago, a medical report stated that there was no reason to suspend his prison sentence. Turan remained in hospital in Erzincan for a week, where he died early this morning.

Turan's family was informed by the prison management about his transfer to the hospital. Only when fellow prisoners informed the family did his son Abdurrahman Turan go to Erzincan on 25 August. As the son reported, he could not see his father and was not given any information about his health. A lawyer managed to get a visit on 28 August.

“My father weighed 75 kilos when he went to prison. When I visited him, he weighed only 40 kilos. He could not walk and could hardly speak. My request to be his caregiver was refused,” said Abdurrahman Turan. During his last visit, his father said goodbye to his family, saying: “He was kept in a damp place in the basement of the hospital. It was difficult for him to speak and there were six or seven gendarmeries with him. His feet were freezing. I wanted to put my stockings on him, but I was not allowed to. The gendarmerie kept watch as if my father wanted to escape. My father said goodbye to us and said: ‘Take good care of yourselves and stick together. I’m leaving with my head held high, because I didn’t take one step back.’”

The Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) had demanded Turan's immediate release in July after a visit to the prison. The then HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu brought the case to parliament last March in a question to the Turkish Minister of Justice. The question was not answered. Şakir Turan's funeral will take place in Savur district of Mardin.

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## Diyarbakir City Protection and Solidarity Platform says Prison No. 5 should be “Human Rights Museum”

ANF | AMED | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

Diyarbakir City Protection and Solidarity Platform held a press conference about Diyarbakir Prison, No. 5, which is intended to be turned into a museum.



Amed Bar Association president, Nahit Eren, read the joint statement, underlining that Diyarbakır Military Prison No. 5, which was opened on 4 July 1980 [just before the 12 September 1980 military coup], was the centre, especially after the coup, of serious human rights violations that will never be erased from the memory of the Kurdish people.

Eren said: “Diyarbakır Military Prison No. 5 is one of the most important places that will mediate the truth and confrontation mechanism in the country.”

Eren said: “This prison, where people who think differently, especially Kurds, were imprisoned, is a living memory center where human rights violations occurred. Therefore, it is essential to keep this memory alive in order to expose the reality of what went on there, ensure confrontation and build a right approach based on human rights.”

Pointing out that the idea of turning Diyarbakır Prison into a museum was brought onto the agenda from time to time by the ruling authorities in the past, Eren said: “We have recently learned that the prison was tendered to a private company to be converted into a ‘Memorial and Ethnography Museum’.”

Eren continued: “Civil society, professional and business organizations demand that Diyarbakır Military Prison No. 5 be transformed into a ‘Human Rights Museum’, based on its historical reality and as a place of truth and confrontation. For this purpose, we want those who witnessed and lived those years, victims and civil society organizations in the city to be included in the project phase.”



## Solidarity cards for journalists in prison to mark World Peace Day

ANF | AMED | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

Mesopotamia Women Journalists Platform (MKGP) and Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) sent peace cards to journalists in prison to mark 1 September, World Peace Day.

MKGP and DGF members gathered in front of the PTT in Amed’s Ofis district and read a statement. Green Left Party Amed MP, Sevilay Çelenk, attended the event.

### ‘Free press will continue to write’

MKGP spokesperson Roza Metina underlined that journalists, writers and human rights defenders are in prisons in a country where there is no democracy and law, and added: “No matter what government comes to power in Turkey, it first targets the free press. Today, thanks to the many laws passed by the government, it is not people who harm society that are arrested, but those who defend human rights and journalists. They are detained in prisons unfairly and unlawfully.”

DFG co-chair Serdar Altan said: “The free press cannot be silenced, the free press will continue to write and speak out.”

After the speeches, the journalists sent the cards they prepared to their prisoner colleagues.

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## Military aggression and occupation

### Turkish drone bombs a vehicle in Pêncewîn, South Kurdistan

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 27 AUGUST 2023

The Turkish state targeted a vehicle traveling on the Germkê road within the borders of Pêncewîn, in the province of Sulaymaniyah.

The car was hit by an armed drone. No information was available on the results of the bombing.

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### SDF launches new security operation against ISIS cells in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | QAMISHLO | 28 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the launch of “Operation Security Reinforcement” on Sunday evening.

The statement released by the SDF Press Office said: “Due to ISIS terrorist acts targeting innocent civilians, local leaders, and security personnel in the Deir ez-Zor area, and following the continuous efforts between the general command of our SDF forces, tribal leaders, and community dignitaries, especially recent meetings that have yielded recommendations and calls to urgently pursue ISIS terrorist cells and eliminate their sources, and to fulfill their national and moral military duties, our SDF forces supported by the international coalition forces, have launched today at exactly 08:00 PM “Operation Security Reinforcement” on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River, specifically in the Deir ez-Zor region.

This operation, with well-defined objectives, is a completion of prior operations in the Al-Jazeera and Raqqa areas. Its primary goals encompass eradicating the ISIS terrorist cells, thwarting their potential at-

tacks, and pursuing criminals responsible for perpetrating injustices against the local population. It also aims at tracking down smugglers who exploit the populace's livelihoods.

This operation is one of the advanced stages in the joint fight against ISIS led by our forces and supported by the international coalition forces, and it will last until its specified objectives are met. The participating units are committed to establishing security and stability in cooperation with the civil administration and local leaders, relying on the populace's awareness of the dangers of terrorist cells and criminal elements. Our forces will spare no effort in executing their tasks and striking with an iron fist the terrorists and murderers, along with anyone who shelters them.”

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## Entry and exit ban imposed in parts of Heseke Canton due to the SDF operation

ANF | HESEKE | 28 AUGUST 2023

The local security forces (Asayish) imposed an entry and exit ban on several cities in North and East Syria on Monday because of the “Operation Security Reinforcement” launched by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) against ISIS cells in Deir ez-Zor region on Sunday evening. The ban covers the city of Heseke as well as the districts of Hol and Shaddadi.

The offensive launched by the SDF in cooperation with the international anti-ISIS coalition under the name “Operation Security Reinforcement” late on Sunday night aims to track down and root out terror cells in order to stop potential attacks. The background is an increase in ISIS attacks against the civilian population, security personnel and local government employees. The operation is also directed against organised crime and smuggling networks.

The area of operation includes areas east of the Euphrates, but primarily the Deir ez-Zor region in eastern Syria. It is not yet clear how long the operation will last. However, the entry and exit bans are not to be lifted until the operation is over.

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## Deir ez-Zor Civil Assembly calls on people to unite around the SDF

ANF | DEIR EZ-ZOR | 28 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launched “Operation Security Reinforcement” against ISIS cells in Deir ez-Zor region late on Sunday night. The offensive launched by the SDF in cooperation with the international anti-ISIS coalition aims to track down and root out terror cells in order to stop potential attacks. The background is an increase in ISIS attacks against the civilian population, security personnel and local government employees. The operation is also directed against organised crime and smuggling networks. The area of operation includes areas east of the Euphrates, but primarily the Deir ez-Zor region in eastern Syria.

As the operation continues, the Democratic Civil Assembly of Raqqa released a statement calling for support for the offensive, the primary goals of which are to eradicate ISIS terrorist cells, thwart their potential attacks, and pursue criminals responsible for perpetrating injustices against the local population, as well as to track down smugglers who exploit the populace’s livelihoods.

The Assembly called on all peoples to “unite around the Syrian Democratic Forces that fulfil their moral and political duty of defence”, and to “support the efforts to reinforce the security and stability of the region”.

The statement pointed out that: “As the Democratic Civil Assembly of Raqqa, we support all the efforts made to reinforce the security and stability of the region. At the same time, we reiterate our promise to continue serving our administration and our democratic project.”

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## 4 mercenaries killed, 12 others arrested in SDF operations in July and August

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launched “Operation Security Reinforcement” against ISIS cells late on Sunday night. The area of operation includes areas east of the Euphrates, but primarily the Deir ez-Zor region in eastern Syria.

While the campaign continues, the SDF Press Office provided information to ANHA about the operations carried out by the SDF against ISIS cells in July and August. Accordingly, the Anti-Terrorism Units (YAT) and commandos of the Syrian Democratic Forces, with the participation and cooperation of the

International Coalition Forces and the Counter-Terrorism Group (CTG) in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, have carried out 8 joint security operations from July 19, to August 24, 2023.

Details of some of the SDF operations are as follows:

**July 19:** SDF Anti-Terrorism Units (YAT), supported by the International Coalition and with active participation by the Counter-Terrorism Group (CTG) in South Kurdistan, conducted a successful security operation against a 3-terrorist ISIS cell in the town of al-Dashisha, al-Shaddadi area. The three terrorists were deeply involved in terrorist activities that aimed at disrupting the security and stability of the Deir ez-Zor region and posing a serious threat to innocent civilians.

The operation resulted in the elimination of two terrorists, and one was successfully apprehended. Additionally, several weapons and ammunition were seized, which included 2 AK-47 rifles, 2 cell phones, 1 pistol, 1 hand grenade, 8 AK-47 magazines, 3 pistol magazines, 1 quiver, 1 rifle.

**July 20:** SDF carried out an operation against an ISIS cell in the town of Mansoura in Raqqa, arresting 3 mercenaries and confiscating their weapons and communication equipment.

**August 4:** SDF units backed by commandos targeted an ISIS cell in Al-Izba, north of Deir ez-Zor, arresting a leader of ISIS mercenaries and confiscating a number of documents, 2 electronic communication devices and a Kalashnikov rifle.

**August 15:** SDF Anti-Terrorism Units (YAT), supported by the International Coalition and with active participation by the Counter-Terrorism Group (CTG) in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, conducted a security operation in the heart of Raqqa city, targeting the terrorist Ibrahim Al-Ali aka Abu Mujahid, the ISIS official of the Eastern region.

Supported by air surveillance from the International Coalition Forces, the SDF successfully stormed the building where the terrorist was hiding. A clash erupted as he adamantly declined to heed the call for safe surrender, resulting in his neutralization. Various weapons and military equipment were confiscated during the operation, including 1 AK-47 rifle, 7 AK-47 magazines and ammunition, 4 smartphones, 1 laptop, Wi-Fi router and personal IDs.

**August 18:** The Special Units of the Syrian Democratic Forces conducted a security operation, dismantling an ISIS terrorist cell in al-Ozba town, in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor. The operation was supported by air surveillance and ground support by the international coalition forces. SDF units successfully apprehended one of the ISIS leaders who was involved in transporting explosive materials, weapons and ammunitions to the ISIS cells in the al-Hol camp and providing ISIS families with forged IDs. He was also linked to other terrorist "Emirs" in the Turkish-occupied Serekaniye (Ras al-Ain).

**August 24:** SDF arrested an ISIS cell consisting of 3 mercenaries, who were working to collect funds to finance the terrorist operations of the mercenaries in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor.

## SDF arrests 13 people in Deir ez-Zor during “Operation Security Reinforcement”

ANF | DEIR EZ-ZOR | 29 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) arrested thirteen people in Deir ez-Zor during the “Security Reinforcement” operation. Among them are five suspected members or supporters of the Islamic State, the SDF press spokesman, Ferhad Shami, told Ronahî TV on Monday night.

The other eight arrested are suspected of being drug dealers. In addition, three armed men were killed trying to attack security personnel involved in the operation. So far, there are no clues as to the identity of the unknown attackers, said Shami. However, initial findings pointed to ISIS members.

Operation “Security Reinforcement” was launched on three fronts simultaneously on Sunday evening to counter the increase in attacks by ISIS on the civilian population and security personnel in the autonomous region of Northern and Eastern Syria (AANES). The operation, which is being carried out in cooperation with the international anti-ISIS coalition, focuses on areas east of the Euphrates with a focus on Deir ez-Zor.

The main objective is to track down and dismantle terrorist cells in order to stop potential attacks. It is also about the pursuit and detection of criminal structures such as smuggling networks. According to Shami, the operation in the west of the region is almost complete. The offensive continues at high speed on the northern and eastern fronts from Baghouz to Raqqa.

### Entry and exit ban in Heseke lifted

An entry and exit ban imposed on parts of the canton of Heseke in parallel with the civil protection operation was meanwhile lifted on Monday evening, the internal security authority Asayîş said. In addition to the cantonal capital of Heseke, the measure also affected Hol and Shedade. Both cities are considered hubs for jihadists and frequent targets of attack.

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## 14 areas in Şirnak closed for “security” reasons

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 29 AUGUST 2023

14 regions between Şirnak (Sirnex), Cizre (Cizîr), Silopi (Silopiya), Uludere (Qileban), Güçlükonak (Basa) and Beytüşşebap (Elkê) have been declared “temporary special security zones” for 15 days on “security” grounds.

The Governorship of Şirnak said in a statement that the regions have been declared as 'Temporary Special Security Zone' between 29 August (included) and 12 September 2023 (included)."

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## Turkish drone strikes a village in Shera, Afrin

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2023

An armed drone of the Turkish state shelled the village of Merenaz in the Shera district of the occupied Afrin Canton.

Further details about the attack were not immediately available.

On August 23, a Turkish drone in Syria's Kurdish-controlled northeast hit a car belonging to the all-female broadcaster JIN TV, killing worker Najm el-Din Faisal Haj Sinan and wounding journalist Dalila Agid.

Turkish drones move unchallenged in the airspace over Syria controlled by the USA and Russia. In the last three years, Turkey has carried out around 200 attacks by unmanned aircraft in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria. From Derik to Shehba, there was hardly a place that was not bombed by armed drones. The attacks targeted representatives of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), members of combat units as well as the civilian population and claimed well over a hundred lives. In addition, at least 46 members of the Syrian government forces were killed by the Turkish army in attacks on their bases in AANES.

In a [balance sheet](#) of the crimes and violations committed by the Turkish occupation army and its mercenaries against the regions of North-East Syria during July 2023, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) reported on 10 August that the Turkish occupation army persistently violates the airspace of NE Syria, utilizing warplanes and UAVs to target both civilian and military locations, including cars on public roads. "These attacks have resulted in the loss of lives among our fighters and civilians. The warplane violations alone have reached 58, while the drones targeted areas 10 times, with 7 of those attacks conducted by the Turkish occupation army and 3 by its mercenaries. Disturbingly, the use of suicide drones in these attacks has been reported."

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## PJAK: KDP's Anti-Terror Unit acts like an offshoot of Turkish MIT

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2023

The Foreign Relations Committee of Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) released a statement regarding the Anti-Terror Unit of the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which spreads manipulative information regarding the systematic attacks of the invading Turkish state on the region.

The statement released by PJAK Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday said the following:

“The KDP-affiliated Anti-Terror Unit reported that three of our guerrilla fighters had been killed as a result of the most recent Turkish [attack](#) in Pêncewîn. Denying this false report, we would like to call attention to the dirty work of this institution.

It has been learned that three people killed in the Turkish attack on Pêncewîn-Nalparêz road on 11 August were employees of Asia Cell and came from Mosul, residing in Duhok. The Anti-Terror Unit of the KDP reported that the victims were 3 guerrillas, including a high-ranking fighter. Asia Cell released a statement immediately after and refuted the false report.

This vicious KDP institution has a history marked by mafia-like attacks against citizens, activists and journalists. In addition, it acts like an offshoot of the Turkish intelligence service MIT. Spreading fabricated news hastily after every attack, it reveals the fact that it has indeed turned into an offshoot of MIT.

These practices of the institution in question are not a surprise to us, since it is affiliated to a party that displays the photos of Humeyni but not of martyrs. Still, we felt the need to make this statement in response to false reports. Our people should know well that the KDP's Anti-Terror Unit has turned into a news service of MIT. We call on media outlets not to lower themselves to the level of this institution. Even if they have to publish the statements of this institution, they should not forget that all those statements are proven lies. Journalists should turn to us to find out the truth in the face of such false news. This is a moral responsibility of journalism.

We are going through a revolutionary period and informing our people about every positive and negative development concerning resistance. On this basis, we call on our people to act with sensitivity towards false reports and to rely on the official statements of our movement.”



## AANES establishes Missing Persons Committee in North and East Syria

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2023

Since 2011, Syria has been the scene of a global proxy war that has claimed the lives of more than 500,000 people. Another 13 million have either fled the country or been displaced within the country's borders. Over 100,000 people are also listed as missing. The unknown fate of the disappeared is one of the greatest tragedies of the Syrian war.

To deal with finding missing people, the United Nations wants to create a new institution. The formation of the "Independent Institution for Disappeared Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic" was decided at the UN General Assembly in New York. The organization is thus complying with demands from affected families and human rights groups. After 12 years of conflict and violence, little progress has been made to alleviate the suffering of the families. These expected answers about the fate and whereabouts of the missing are stated in a corresponding resolution, which was adopted by the General Assembly by 83 votes in favor, 11 against and 62 abstentions.

The establishment of the new UN mechanism was positively received in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria.

The Syrian Democratic Council (MSD or SDC) released a statement welcoming the decision of the United Nations General Assembly and expressing its full readiness to provide all kinds of support for all endeavors that would end the Syrian crisis.

The Committee of Displaced Persons from Serêkaniyê (Komîteya Koçberên Serêkaniyê) hailed the resolution as a "long overdue but welcome step" towards justice, saying: "It is extremely important that an international institution is formed that focuses on the whereabouts of the missing Syrians. At least as important is the promotion of a serious, impartial and transparent investigation so that the fate of the missing can be clarified and those responsible can be found and punished."

The Foreign Relations Department of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) announced the establishment of Missing Persons Committee in North and East Syria on Tuesday.

According to the AANES statement, the decision to establish the committee was made in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution [A/77/L79](#).

AANES believes in the necessity of resolving humanitarian issues that were an inevitable result of the ongoing conflict on Syrian land, and the issue of missing persons for 2 main reasons:

The first reason is the extent of the pain that the families of missing persons experience at every moment of the loss of their loved ones, the rights of these missing persons and their families and to clarify their fate.

The second reason is the importance of resolving the issue in accordance with the necessity of resolving the Syrian crisis in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution No. 2254 of 2015, as well as Resolution No. 2474 of 2019.

“The Committee on Missing Persons in North and East Syria consists of a group of lawyers and a central committee based in the city of Qamishlo and sub-committees in various AANES areas. The committee coordinates and cooperates with the concerned authorities to search and follow up the fate of missing persons from the areas of the AANES since the beginning of the Syrian crisis with the parties to the conflict in Syria, without discrimination of gender, nationality, religion or sect,” said the AANES statement, adding that the date of the start of the committee's work and how to communicate with it will be announced later.



## Commander of Deir ez-Zor Military Council dismissed from duty

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2023

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement about the dismissal of Ahmed Al-Khubail, Aka Abu Khawla, from Deir ez-Zor Military Council.

The Deir ez-Zor Military Council, with the consent of the SDF Military Council, has decided to dismiss the commander of Deir ez-Zor Military Council, Ahmed Al-Khubail, from duty along with four other individuals within the council, directly involved in crimes and violations, said the SDF Media Center.

According to the statement released on Wednesday, the decision was made following a period of monitoring and considering numerous reports and complaints from the local populace, and based on an arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecution in North-East Syria due to his involvement in multiple crimes and violations, including communication and coordination with external entities hostile to the revolution, committing criminal offenses and engaging in drug trafficking, mismanaging of the security situation, his negative role in increasing the activities of ISIS cells, and exploiting his position for personal and familial interests that violated the internal regulations of the SDF.



## Lilwa El Ebdullah: People support the SDF operation in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | DEIR EZ-ZOR | 30 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the launch of “Operation Security Reinforcement” on Sunday evening due to ISIS terrorist acts targeting innocent civilians, local leaders, and security personnel in the Deir ez-Zor area, and following the continuous efforts between the general command of SDF forces, tribal leaders, and community dignitaries, especially recent meetings that have yielded recommendations and calls to urgently pursue ISIS terrorist cells and eliminate their sources, and to fulfill their national and moral military duties.

The primary goals of the operation encompass eradicating the ISIS terrorist cells, thwarting their potential attacks, and pursuing criminals responsible for perpetrating injustices against the local population. It also aims at tracking down smugglers who exploit the populace’s livelihoods.

Lilwa El Ebdullah, one of the commanders of Deir ez-Zor Military Council, stated that local people appreciated and supported the operation, which she defined as “a positive step in terms of people’s will and self-determination”.

Speaking to ANHA, Ebdullah pointed out that the operation is conducted in cooperation with the International Coalition against ISIS and supported by all the forces in North-East Syria. She noted that the operation had a positive impact on the local people who complained about turmoil in the region where ISIS cells are still present.

Thanking the people of Deir ez-Zor who support the operation, Lilwa El Ebdullah called on the locals to provide contributions so that the current process ends up in success and the goals of the operation are achieved in a greater way. “This will be a success for the people themselves more than the fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria,” she added.

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## People in Cizire region remember the HPG guerrillas killed in KDP ambush

ANF | QAMISHLO | 30 AUGUST 2023

A guerrilla group consisting of seven people was attacked by KDP forces at approximately 2:30 a.m. on the night of August 28-29, 2021 while traveling from Qandil to Behdinan. The group was fired upon directly from four sides with heavy weapons as it crossed the Zap River without prior address or warning shots. Five of the guerrillas were definitely killed in the attack, and one of them is believed to have been

captured injured. HPG member Haki Zilan, who was part of the guerrilla group, was able to leave the area unharmed after a while. He was able to save himself alive and reached the guerrilla forces. Through his account, many aspects of the KDP attack were clarified.

Members of the councils of martyrs' families from the Cizire Region of North-East Syria took to the streets today and made statements denouncing the KDP's cooperation with the invading Turkish state. The actions took place in Heseke, Shaddadi, Serekaniye Camp, Til Temir and Dirbesiye.

In the Qamishlo Canton, the councils of martyrs' families staged actions in the city center, Derik, Til Hemis, Çilaxa, Til Kocher, Til Berak, Amude and Tirbespiyê.

The council in Qamishlo city highlighted the bravery of the guerrillas who, they said, responded to their call and fought the Turkish state that sought to put the peoples of the region through genocide.

The statement denounced the Turkish state's use of banned and chemical weapons against the guerrilla forces, the international silence and the KRI government's cooperation with the Turkish state.

Remarking that the KDP had been engaged in spying activities for the enemy, the council defined the KDP's actions as betrayal against the historical values of the people.

The statement noted that guerrillas have fought and died in a relentless struggle across South Kurdistan (North Iraq) since the emergence of ISIS, from Hewler (Erbil) to Zakho, from Kirkuk to Shengal (Sinjar).

The council called on the government of South Kurdistan to abandon their wrong course and to stop cooperating with the Turkish state against the guerrillas.

The statement ended with a call upon the KDP to deliver the bodies of the guerrillas to their families and to apologize to their families.



## SDF pays tribute to 6 martyrs of Operation Security Reinforcement

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Liaison Center confirmed in a statement that 5 fighters of the Al-Shamal Democratic Forces fell as martyrs during the Operation Security Reinforcement launched by the SDF against ISIS mercenaries and drug dealers in the Deir ez-Zor countryside.

The statement said: "The Operation Security Reinforcement launched by our forces to dismantle ISIS cells and drug dealers' nets in the eastern and northern regions of Deir ez-Zor continues with determination. The operation started upon the call of regional leaders, following the increased mobility of ISIS cells,

smuggling, and violations of citizens' rights and public security. Many components of our forces are participating in the operation.”

The statement continued: “During the operation, 5 fighters belonging to the Al-Shamal Democratic Forces fell as martyrs in a historic resistance against the cells of the terrorist organization, smugglers and criminals.

We offer our condolences to the families of our martyrs. Our determination to achieve the goals of the martyrs and protect the security of the region and our citizens increases day by day.”

In a separate statement, the North and East Syria Internal Security Forces Press Center announced that one of its members, Enes Al-Rehal, fell as a martyr during the Operation Security Reinforcement in Deir ez-Zor.



## PUK: The KDP has not learned from its betrayal 27 years ago

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2023

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Politburo released a statement marking the anniversary of the KDP betrayal on 31 August 1996 when tanks of the Baath regime led by dictator Saddam Hussein entered Hewler (Erbil), the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Remarking that the KDP paved the way for the Baath regime's move, PUK said: “The Baath regime occupied the capital of the freedom dream and the institutions of our country, doing fatal and unforgettable damage to our national values.”

The statement noted that the Kurdish people rose up to the atrocities of the Baath regime for five years and managed to take some parts of their lands under control. “The KDP, using the balance of power in the civil war as an excuse, cleared the way into Hewler and Kurdistan for the army that perpetrated the Anfal campaign and chemical weapons attacks. Hundreds of peshmergas and Iraqi opposition members fell as martyrs, while hundreds of others were taken prisoner or disappeared. The weapons of the chauvinist army hurt the honour of Kurdistan people's elected parliament.”

PUK remarked that the KDP maintained the same policy today instead of taking a lesson from the 31 August betrayal. “They still accuse and slander the patriots. Instead of healing the wounds in their history of treachery, they have indeed legitimized it.”

The statement concluded: “We should try to clear the traces left behind by such disasters throughout history rather than holding a grudge and seeking vengeance. For the sake of righteous national policies, we are ready to ignore the events of August 1996, and to fight to this end. On the occasion of this black day, we remember all our martyrs and victims with respect, including our heroes who resisted the occupation of the capital of Kurdistan.”



## SDF takes additional measures to pursue armed groups that infiltrated villages

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launched “Operation Security Reinforcement” against ISIS cells in Deir ez-Zor region late on Sunday night. The offensive launched by the SDF in cooperation with the international anti-ISIS coalition aims to track down and root out terror cells in order to stop potential attacks. The background is an increase in ISIS attacks against the civilian population, security personnel and local government employees. The operation is also directed against organised crime and smuggling networks. The area of operation includes areas east of the Euphrates, but primarily the Deir ez-Zor region in eastern Syria.

In a statement on Thursday, SDF Media Center said: “Our forces are taking additional measures to pursue armed groups that infiltrated villages in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor coming from the west bank of the Euphrates River. These groups began mobilizing to attack our forces positioned in the eastern countryside. Yesterday evening, supplies were sent from security agencies affiliated with the Syrian regime in an attempt to cause civil strife that serves their agendas of pressure and threatening the notables of the region.”

SDF confirmed that the ongoing Operation Security Reinforcement in Deir ez-Zor was launched based on the demands of the people and notables of the area, as our forces informed the region’s tribal leaders and notables in advance about the operation and its objectives.

“While we thank our people in the region for cooperating with our forces, we call on everyone not to be drawn into the voices calling for sedition, which will only benefit the external parties lurking in the region in light of the increasing activity of terrorist cells,” said the statement.

The statement added: “We confirm that the forces participating in Operation Security Reinforcement, led by the Deir ez-Zor Military Council, will continue their tasks in pursuing ISIS terrorist cells and criminal elements, especially infiltrators from areas west of the Euphrates.”



## Turkish soldiers attack an abandoned house in Özalp, killing two people

ANF | VAN | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish state carried out a military operation in the village of Çamurlu (Çamilî) in Özalp (Qelqelî), in the province of Van on Thursday afternoon. An abandoned house in the village was hit by soldiers. The village itself was blockaded by a large number of gendarmerie and armored vehicles.

According to the Mesopotamia Agency, two people lost their lives in the attack on the house. The bodies of those who lost their lives were removed from under the rubble with work machines. There was no information about who the two people were and where their bodies were taken.

Entry and exit to the village was not allowed for hours. It was reported that the house next to the scanned house was also raided and after the search, Ömer Kılıççeken and his son Sami Kılıççeken were taken into custody and taken to Özalp Gendarmerie Station.

Following the incident, a delegation consisting of Green Left Party Van MPs Gülcan Kaçmaz Sayyigit, Sinan Çiftyürek, Mahmut Dindar and Zülküf Uçar, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) representatives, Van Bar Association members, lawyers for Freedom Association (ÖHD) Branch and Human Rights Association (IHD) members set out to go to the village at night. The soldiers did not allow the delegation to enter. The delegation was forced to leave as no entrance was granted.

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## Turkish-linked mercenaries kill 4 children in Manbij

ANF | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

Ankara-affiliated gangs carried out land attacks on many villages in the north and west of Manbij early on Friday morning, World Peace Day. The Manbij Military Council immediately responded to the attacks at all points and clashes began.

It was reported that 4 children were killed in the first attack on the village of Mihsenli, located in the North East of Manbij.

Speaking to ANHA agency, Manbij Military Council Spokesperson, Şervan Derwîş, said that the attacks against the village of Ewn Dadat, North of Manbij, were repelled.

Derwîş said that clashes continue in the villages of Muhsenlî, Ereb Hesenû, Um Cilûd, Seyade and Den-deniyê, in the North East of the city.

These attacks took place while the operation launched by SDF against ISIS gangs and drug dealers in Deir ez-Zor continued.

Military sources said that the groups attacking SDF forces in Deir ez-Zor received direct instructions from areas occupied by the Turkish state, such as Serêkaniyê, Jerablus, Bab, Girê Sipî.

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## Turkey carried out 51 attacks on Afrin and Shehba in August

ANF | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Press Office of Afrin and Shehba Military Forces released a balance sheet of attacks against the two regions in northern Syria in the month of August.

According to the statement released on Friday, the invading Turkish state carried out at least 51 attacks on Afrin and Shehba from 3 to 31 August.

The attacks were directed against 33 villages, towns and districts.

256 mortar shells, 164 howitzers, 6 missiles and 6 drones were used in the attacks which caused material damage.

During the mentioned period, the Turkish state also shelled posts of Syrian government forces 4 times, leaving 10 Syrian soldiers injured.

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## Were guerrillas executed extrajudicially in Silvan?

RUSTEM SINCER | AMED | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 26 August, the Turkish military brutally attacked a nomad family in the Bameydan hamlet near the village of Hêlin in the Silvan district of Amed (tr. Diyarbakır). The family's tent was burnt down, and several members were severely beaten. Pictures shared by soldiers on social media show two male family members in their underwear with their hands tied behind their backs near the rear wheels of a wheeled tank. This demonstrates the ferocity of the attack. Several guerrilla fighters were apparently also killed in the attack. Photographs circulated on X by soldiers show three yellow body bags. ANF investigated on the ground and tried to obtain information about the incident.

Initially, a group of villagers tried to reach the site of the incident. However, as the hamlet had been sealed off by the military, this was not possible at first. Throughout 26 August, both residents and journalists



tried to obtain detailed information. However, it was not possible to draw reliable conclusions from the reports at that time.

On 27 August, media professionals were able to examine the crime scene together with a delegation of the Green Left Party MPs and civil society. Here, a picture of horror presented itself. As can also be seen in the footage, part of the area was set on fire. It could be seen that the tent and some animals of the nomad family had been burnt. There were no traces of clashes at the site. Neither cartridge cases nor bullets were to be found anywhere. Therefore, the question clearly arises whether the guerrillas were executed extrajudicially.

The fire at the tent was also apparently not caused by a skirmish but was set by the military. After visiting the scene, MP Adalet Kaya stated that there were no traces of clashes. Although much is unclear, the signs point to a massacre. After visiting the scene, the delegation went to pay condolences to the family of one of the fallen guerrillas. The delegation demanded immediate investigation of the case. The bodies of three guerrillas are currently in the Diyarbakir Forensic Medicine Institute. It is still unclear if and when they will be handed over to the families.



## 3 killed in SDF campaign targeting the movements of mercenaries and criminal elements in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launched “Operation Security Reinforcement” against ISIS cells in Deir ez-Zor region late on 27 August night. The offensive launched in cooperation with the international anti-ISIS coalition aims to track down and root out terror cells in order to stop potential attacks. The background is an increase in ISIS attacks against the civilian population, security personnel and local government employees. The operation is also directed against organised crime and smuggling networks. The area of operation includes areas east of the Euphrates, but primarily the Deir ez-Zor region in eastern Syria.

In a statement providing information about the campaign, the SDF Media Center said that the forces participating in Operation Security Reinforcement targeted last night the movements of mercenaries and criminal elements who infiltrated into the areas of Jadid Bakara and Jadid Ukaydat coming from the western bank of the Euphrates River, which is under the control of the regime forces. On Thursday morning, the forces also clashed with the mercenaries in the villages of Al-Shuhail and Dhiban. The operation is heading to be firmer after the mercenaries intimidated the local populace, destroyed and looted the civic services.

The statement said: “The security forces successfully concluded the search operation in Al-Dahla village and various segments of Al-Basira town earlier this morning, during which three mercenaries affiliated with ‘Nawaf Al-Bashir’ were neutralized subsequent to their infiltration into the region. The ongoing search operation remains dedicated to tracking down mercenary groups that deliberately orchestrate at-

tacks within civilian areas and exploit private residences as concealment sites to obstruct the progress of the security campaign and delay the timely resolution.”

“The ‘Security Reinforcement’ task force operating in Deir ez-Zor reaffirms its unwavering commitment to purging the region of mercenary groups and ISIS terrorist cells until the operational objectives are fully realized. It is imperative to underscore that the forces are resolute in their determination to target these mercenaries, leaving no room for their illicit activities or any potential harm inflicted upon civilian populations. The forces unequivocally declare that clemency shall not be extended to mercenaries endeavoring to undermine the prevailing security and stability, and they shall employ lawful military means to eradicate such threats”, said the SDF Media Center.

The statement added: “Simultaneously, within the region of Manbij, groups of Turkish-backed mercenaries attacked the village of Al-Muhsinli. In response, the Manbij Military Council decisively countered this terrorist aggression. The situation was ultimately stabilized following intense clashes, resulting in the elimination of several mercenaries.”

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## Images from the village where soldiers executed two people after hours of shelling

ANF | VAN | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

On Thursday afternoon, shots began to echo through the village of Çamilî (Çamurlu) in the Özalp district of Van province. Turkish soldiers entered the village and surrounded it with armoured vehicles before they began shelling an empty house with heavy weapons. The shelling continued for a few hours. The soldiers were also reported to have fired indiscriminately around the village.

Two people were reportedly killed in the house. The bodies of those killed were pulled out from under the completely smashed house with heavy work equipment. It is not yet known who the two people were and where their bodies were taken. The village remained under curfew until night and under military siege until Friday afternoon. The house targeted by the violent aggression was leveled to the ground.

Following the incident, a delegation consisting of Green Left Party Van MPs Gülcan Kaçmaz Sayyigit, Sinan Çiftyürek, Mahmut Dindar and Zülküf Uçar, Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) representatives, Van Bar Association members, lawyers for Freedom Association (ÖHD) Branch and Human Rights Association (IHD) members set out to go to the village at night. Prevented from entering the village, the delegation was forced to turn back. Another delegation is expected to visit the village today.

You can watch a video and see some images from this link:

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/images-from-the-village-where-soldiers-executed-two-people-after-hours-of-shelling-69098>



## 48-hour curfew in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Center said in a statement on Friday night that a 48-hour curfew had been declared in Deir ez-Zor.

The statement said: "Due to the precarious security situation in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor, caused by the regime's security forces and the efforts of ISIS cells to spread chaos, the Deir ez-Zor Civil Council and Internal Security Forces declared a curfew in the city."

The curfew began at 5am today, Saturday, and will be in place for 48 hours.

The statement added: "The SDF will continue to take every precaution to protect the lives and property of civilians from armed mercenaries and won't allow mercenaries to hide among civilians."

On 27 August, the SDF launched an operation called 'Security Reinforcement' targeting ISIS cells in the region.



## HPG releases war balance sheet for August

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

The HPG Press Contact Center said: "In August, we celebrated the 39th anniversary of the Glorious August 15th Initiative and entered the 40th year of struggle. The Turkish occupation and destruction attacks continued."

The statement added: "The Turkish state has been unfortunately repeating the same 'music' for 40 years, claiming that it will end the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas and achieve its goal. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas, which started out as a few military units, have today become a force and truth that has a decisive impact not only on the borders of Bakurê [North] Kurdistan and Turkey, but also in the entire Kurdistan and the Middle East, and inspires all the oppressed peoples of the world. This force, which neither the Turkish state nor the international hegemonic powers could liquidate for 40 years, will march to victory thanks to the heroic epics written in Kurdistan and to the 40 years of experience of the just and legitimate freedom struggle. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas are determined to achieve victory more than ever."

## **Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas have proven their innovativeness**

The HPG statement underlined: “Equipped with the knowledge and experience of 40 years of struggle, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas have brought a brand new breath to guerrilla warfare. This new stage is also referred to as the guerrilla of democratic modernity. It has proven its invincibility by achieving skills of movement, action and undertaking that can defeat the advanced war technologies, by using competent guerrilla tactics and by showing the skill of applying them with great creativity on the battlefield. The performance of our forces during the 15 August anniversary, in particular, clearly demonstrated this. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas show how committed we are to the tradition we come from by following the line of martyrs.”

The HPG said that “the colonialist, genocidal Turkish state continued its attacks and operations uninterrupted, especially in North Kurdistan, in August. Many operations were carried out, especially in Garzan, Dêrsîm, Serhed, Mêrdîn, Botan and Amed. Most of these operations were in vain. The Turkish state again hid its losses as a result of guerrilla actions in North Kurdistan, and only confessed the death of one of its soldiers. As seen in the resistance of our comrades Ardem and Bêrîtan in Garzan, our forces in North Kurdistan responded to the enemy attacks with the Apoist sacrifice spirit, wrote historical epics of resistance and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.”

## **Bombing, use of banned bombs, attacks against civilians**

The HPG added: “While the occupying Turkish state continued its attacks in Bakurê Kurdistan by organizing comprehensive operations, it has also continuously bombed the Medya Defense Areas from the air and on the ground. Those areas were bombed 113 times by warplanes, 40 times by combat helicopters, and hundreds of times by howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

Turkey attacked our positions in the Resistance Areas once with a tactical nuclear bomb and twice with banned explosives. In addition, it deliberately bombed the settlements and vehicles of the people of the region in South Kurdistan from land and air, killing civilians. The South Kurdistan Regional Government remained silent and did not react to the attacks, becoming complicit in this inhumane war crime of the Turkish state. It did not speak out against the killing of our civilians.

## **323 actions, 134 soldiers killed**

In the month of August, our forces carried out 323 actions. As a result of these actions, 134 soldiers were killed and 23 injured. In addition, a lot of military equipment was destroyed, confiscated and damaged.

## **10 guerillas fallen as martyrs**

In August, 10 of our comrades who fought with the spirit, consciousness and belief of the historic 15 August Operation fell as martyrs. In North Kurdistan, our leading YJA Star commanders and fighters Ardem Ararat (Sultan Oruç), Gulbahar Mercan (Şekirnaz Kaplan), Eylem Munzur (Emine Kaplan), Dicle Eylem (Leyla Gülcü) and Bêrîtan Sîser (Gurbet Kaymaz) fell as martyrs. In Medya Defense Areas, our comrades Rêzan Botan (Rêzan Güngen), Bawer Botan (Bekir Kına), Çiya Agirî (İsmail Por Mahmud), Mesken Nisêbîn (Zeynep Kaya) and Kawa Çekdar (İbrahim Demir) fell as martyrs. Our comrades, who fought

with great determination, self-sacrificing spirit and unshakable faith from Garzan to Mêrdîn, from Amed to Zap and Metina, joined the caravan of martyrs by following in the footsteps of our immortal commander Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz).”

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## SDF: We remain committed to safeguarding the region against any attempt to incite discord

ANF | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

The General Command of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement calling on peoples not to be swayed by instigations and manipulative schemes in the face of the intervention of various external actors seeking to exploit the SDF’s Operation Security Reinforcement as an opportunity to realize their own agendas.

The SDF statement released on Saturday includes the following:

“Our forces have initiated Operation Security Reinforcement against the ISIS terrorist cells and other criminal elements. However, subsequently, various external actors intervened and sought to exploit this operation as an opportunity to realize their own agendas, particularly in the past three days. Clashes have erupted between our SDF and the Deir ez-Zor Military Council on one side and mercenaries with affiliations to certain elements within the regime’s security apparatus on the other. These mercenaries infiltrated the region via the Euphrates River and the al-Salhiya line, with the sinister intent of sowing discord and fomenting strife among the region’s diverse populace. Furthermore, they have propagated a distorted narrative, falsely portraying these confrontations as being between the SDF and the indigenous population of Deir ez-Zor. It is imperative to emphasize that these claims amount to baseless and misleading media propaganda. That is because Operation Security Reinforcement was conducted at the explicit request of the people of Deir ez-Zor, including the esteemed sheiks and tribal leaders, who were intimately acquainted with its intended objectives and execution. We assert emphatically that there is no discord or tension between the inhabitants of Deir ez-Zor and our SDF forces. On the contrary, everyone is aware that the SDF is the force that liberated the people of the region from the oppression of ISIS and is the one that protects the region’s peoples and achieves security and stability to this day.

The deliberate dissemination of propaganda, aimed at portraying the ongoing developments on the ground as a conflict between our forces and Arab tribes, is a calculated effort intended solely to foment discord and fracture the unity of the Syrian Democratic Forces and the local populace. Additionally, some hostile entities seek to depict these events as an inter-ethnic dispute between the Kurdish and Arab communities. This stratagem has persisted since the inception of the Syrian revolution, as it has consistently been employed to redirect the course of the revolution and frame it as a conflict rooted in religious, sectarian, and ethnic divisions.

Since 2013, numerous parties have endeavored to depict the SDF's war against ISIS as a conflict between Kurds and Arabs, and these divisive policies persist to this day. In reality, there exists no disagreement between the Arab and Kurdish communities. Instead, they have coexisted harmoniously and securely for many years, fostering a climate of mutual respect and stability. Moreover, the institutions comprising the Autonomous Administration and the Syrian Democratic Forces have been established for eight years now by collective efforts of individuals hailing from diverse backgrounds, including Arab, Kurdish, Syriac, and Armenian communities, who have shed their blood on this soil to secure the liberation of these territories from the clutches of mercenary forces.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, in essence, stand as a compelling testament to the unity forged among the region's peoples, notably exemplifying the harmony between the Arab and Kurdish communities. Consequently, with such propagandistic intentions, they endeavor to manipulate the sentiments of the region's populace and incite them against one another. We remain confident, however, that our populace possesses the discernment to recognize and reject such manipulative tactics. The stance of the Syrian Democratic Forces, in this regard, remains unwavering: to safeguard the region's integrity in all its diverse components. This steadfast commitment serves as our resounding response to all attempts at sowing discord and orchestrating subversive maneuvers.

Furthermore, the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries attempted to exploit this situation to their advantage. Consequently, they launched attacks from five different axes on the defensive lines of the Manbij Military Council. However, the fighters of the military council displayed exceptional valor and successfully thwarted all of these assaults. Moreover, they managed to expel a group of mercenaries who had managed to reach a point held by the council. Through a counteroffensive, they thoroughly combed through this village and inflicted substantial losses upon the mercenaries affiliated with the Turkish occupation. This stands as the most resounding response by the SDF against anyone attempting to provoke the region's peoples and their security.

In light of this, we earnestly appeal to all the peoples of the region, especially our people in Deir ez-Zor, not to be swayed by such instigations and manipulative schemes. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) serve as the protective force for all the region's peoples. Contrary to what is being propagated, the ongoing clashes are between the SDF and the mercenaries of the Turkish occupation, as well as elements affiliated with the regime's security agencies. There exists no conflict between the SDF and the indigenous tribes of the region. We maintain an unwavering line of communication with these esteemed tribal entities. It is of the utmost importance to underscore that our sacrifices are solely dedicated to enhancing security, stability, and peace for the region's populace."

## Civil Administration of Manbij calls for an end to Turkish crimes, vowing to struggle until victory

ANF | MANBIJ | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Democratic Civil Administration of Manbij made a statement about the increasingly ongoing Turkish attacks, which claimed the lives of 4 minors from the same family only yesterday, September 1.

The victims of the attack in the village of Muhsenlî to the north-west of Manbij were identified as Amir Xalid El Ferc (15), Amir Fehed El Ferc (10), Malik Fehed El Ferc (18) and Zeyneb Mihemed El Ferc (14).

The press statement by the Democratic Civil Administration of Manbij was made to the accompaniment of representatives of political parties, tribal sheikhs and notables.

Reading the statement, Ebdulbasit El Şiwêx, Coordinator of the Councils in Manbij and its countryside, reported that occupation attacks against civilian settlements have increased for the past two days. He pointed out that the invading Turkish state and allied mercenaries carried out attacks on North-East Syria even on 1 September, World Peace Day, seeking to kill and displace the local people and disturb the stability and safety in the region.

“We call on peaceful forces and humanitarian organizations to stop these inhumane crimes committed in the region. We recall the fact that the governments of all the states currently present in our territories are responsible for the attacks. We will follow in the footsteps of our martyrs until the occupied territories are liberated and victory is achieved.”

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## Drone attack on a vehicle in Qamishlo

ANF | QAMISHLO | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

A vehicle was bombed by an unmanned combat drone of suspected Turkish origin on a road connecting the cities of Girkê Legê and Dêrik in Qamishlo Canton on Saturday. The attack at around 15:30 local time reportedly resulted in casualties. Confirmed information about the full extent of the attack was not initially available.

Drones of the Turkish state move unmolested in the airspace over Syria controlled by the USA and Russia. In the last three years, Turkey has carried out around 200 attacks by unmanned aircraft in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria. From Dêrik to Shehba, there was hardly a place that was not bombed by armed drones.

The attacks targeted representatives of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), members of combat units as well as the civilian population and claimed well over a hundred lives. Last week, a Turkish drone hit a vehicle belonging to the women's channel Jin TV near Amûdê. The driver, Necmeddîn Feysel Hec Sînan, was killed in the attack and correspondent Delîla Egîd was seriously injured.



## HPG: Three soldiers were killed in guerrilla resistance against the Turkish army

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

Resistance continues unabated to the Turkish invasion of the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). According to the statement released by the Press Office of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) on Saturday, three soldiers of the Turkish army were killed and seven positions destroyed during actions by the HPG and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) guerrillas.

The guerrillas suffered no casualties in the massive air attacks by Turkish fighter jets in the Qandil region during the night from Thursday to Friday. The HPG press office's statement also includes a clarification of false information spread by the Turkish media about the fallen guerrilla fighter Rêzan Botan.

### Metîna

In the Girê Ortê Resistance Area in Metîna, guerrillas stopped a Turkish army advance with semi-automatic weapons on 1 September morning. In the afternoon, guerrillas carried out another action against the occupation forces with heavy weapons.

### Gire Cudi Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl, in western Zap region

In Girê Cûdî Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl in the western Zap region, the guerrillas carried out twelve actions against the Turkish invading forces from 7 am on 31 August until 3.30 am on 2 September. Heavy and semi-automatic weapons were used in the actions, which also involved snipers. Three soldiers were killed and seven positions of the occupation forces were damaged as a result of the actions.

### Attacks by the Turkish army

The areas of Qalatuka, Sîrê, Kortek, Girê Roj, Şehîd Harun and Sûredê in the Qandil region were bombed 17 times by Turkish fighter jets on 31 August. Another air strike on the same day targeted the Zap region. The guerrillas suffered no casualties in these attacks.

In addition, HPG reported artillery attacks on the Zap, Metîna and Xakurke regions.



## False reports in Turkish media

The HPG statement said: “The Turkish army, which is in a serious tactical deadlock in the face of guerrilla resistance, unable to achieve results and whose plans have been thwarted, frequently and ruthlessly resorts to special war lies. Although the Turkish special war media can no longer be taken seriously, we would like to share some facts in order to inform our patriotic people and the public of the facts. As the Turkish media cannot report success stories, they distort information published by us about our martyrs and add lies. Most recently, lies were spread about our companion Rêzan Botan (Rêzan Gûngen), whose death as a martyr we had reported. The statements of these special war media are completely fabricated. As we have already explained, our comrade Rêzan and his family had to leave their homeland due to the attacks of the fascist Turkish state. Comrade Rêzan joined the ranks of the guerrillas as a reaction to the fascist state and its practices. The fact that a young comrade who has just joined the guerrillas and has not even been trained is exalted like this clearly shows what the Turkish state has become and how low it has sunk.”

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# Feminicide

## IFJ condemns Turkish attack on JIN TV: “Crimes against journalists must not go unpunished”

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2023

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) released a statement about the Turkish drone attack that targeted a vehicle belonging to the women’s channel JIN TV on the road between Qamişlo and Amûde in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria on August 23. The targeted attack killed the driver, journalist Necimedîn Feysel Hec Sînan, and injured a Jin TV correspondent, Delila Ağît.

IFJ urged Turkish authorities to launch an immediate investigation and to hold the perpetrators accountable. The Federation restated the demand that journalists and media workers must not be targeted and they should be allowed to perform their work without interference.

IFJ recalled that another journalist had been killed in a similar Turkish attack in the countryside of Heseke last December.

Jin TV driver Faisal Haj Sinan is the 17th media worker to be killed in 2023 so far, according to IFJ data.

IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said: “We are deeply saddened by the killing of media employee Faisal Haj Sinan while performing his work, and wish a speedy recovery to our colleague Dalila Agid. The

IFJ demands an independent investigation into this attack. Crimes against journalists must not go unpunished.”

Bellanger insisted that “more protection is needed at the international level to ensure that journalists and media workers are not targeted. That is why the IFJ [is campaigning](#) for the adoption of a new international convention at the UN level to enhance journalists’ safety.”

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## MP Güneş warns of a massive increase in femicides and violence due to the new prison law

ANF | ANKARA | 30 AUGUST 2023

With the new bill passed by Parliament, those who have committed crimes against women and children can be released because of “good social behaviour”. The member of parliament for the Green Left Party, Beritan Güneş, spoke to ANF about the background of the law and its consequences.

The MP saw the law in the context of a frontal attack by the AKP-MHP regime on women's rights and announced parliamentary and social resistance.

### “AKP regime de facto decriminalizes violence against women”

Güneş underlined that the AKP government intends to deepen gender inequality rather than eliminate it. She said: “Since civilization existed, people have had a variety of oral and written rules to organize social life and prevent crime and acts that may constitute crime. In today’s Turkey, however, we are dealing with a legal system that deviates from this historical purpose. In concrete terms, this means that violence against women is unfortunately not one of the crimes that the AKP government wants to prevent. On the contrary, by doing nothing about it, it de facto decriminalizes these acts.”

Güneş added: “In current laws and their implementation, sentences for perpetrators of violence against women remain symbolic. This is especially true if one takes into account the reductions in sentences due to ‘good social behaviour’ by the courts. This means that the AKP government is deliberately allowing violence to escalate instead of preventing it. Gender inequality is deliberately deepened, rather than reduced, and discrimination against women is amplified, rather than minimized.”

### ‘Women should be turned into objects’

Güneş saw this further confirmed by the increasing numbers of violence against women and femicides under the AKP government. She said: “We are dealing with the most far-right and misogynistic parliament in Turkey’s history. One must not forget that the alliance built on misogyny has the majority in parliament. The members of this coalition are united in their opposition to the Istanbul Convention, the right to maintenance, coeducation in schools, Law No. 6284. Their intention is to remove women from public

spaces and confine them at home. They see the woman as an object that has to serve the man. All this and the policy of impunity mean that femicides and violence against women are increasing day by day.”

### **‘The new law contradicts the Constitution’**

The deputy stated that the prison law contradicts the Constitution and justified this as follows: “It is contrary to the constitution’s principle of equal treatment and the prohibition of discrimination enshrined therein to allow the new prison law to apply to criminals but to exclude political prisoners.”

### **‘Like a horror movie’**

Güneş continued: “With these and similar regulations, the AKP government is trying to create a new social order. It seeks to establish a social order in which violence against women increases, women are enslaved, women are confined to their homes, women do not feel safe in society, they are stripped and deprived of their rights, and at the same time harassment, rape, femicide, sexualized violence against children and child marriages are legitimized. The new century of the AKP means a catastrophe for Turkey. We can say that the order they want to establish is reminiscent of a horror movie, but I have to say that we will never allow that horror movie to be shown.”

### **‘The pressure on women will continue to increase’**

Güneş warned: “It is foreseeable that the pressure on the democratic forces and women will increase in parallel with the systematic dismissal of woman murderers, abusive men and rapists. In particular, the perpetrators imprisoned for violence against women will be released from prison in a short time under this regulation, and the danger to life and limb of women will increase considerably, especially if the women concerned are not informed about this situation. It is clear that the patriarchal-statist spirit is trying to create a new social order. A time is coming when violence against women will be decriminalized and attempts will be made to cut women off from society.”

### **‘Women will not relent in their struggle’**

The deputy announced that the Green Left Party’s Women’s Council would take up the fight against the new prison law and concluded by saying: “We know that we are dealing with a coalition based on misogyny. While the parliamentary components of this alliance are large and small parties in parliament, they are supported in social life by various sects and religious orders. They see women’s struggle as the most important obstacle to the male-dominated system they want to create and perpetuate. On this point, they are not wrong. We know very well what we are dealing with.

### **‘The women’s resistance will reach its strongest form’**

Repression and oppression make women’s resistance ever more necessary and legitimate. These days, when women’s organizing is vital, the women’s struggle can reach its greatest form and breadth. This opens up a historic opportunity for us.

Therefore, it is very likely that every word and step that women take against this femicide-based ‘Turkey’s new century’, which seeks to smash every achievement of women, will be successful because women are

constantly confronted with it in life. It is a fact that women have never stopped fighting in the streets, in the squares, at home, in Parliament and everywhere, and they will continue to do so in the future.”

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## Preparations underway for demonstrations to mark the anniversary of the killing of Jina Amini

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2023

The “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” revolution is the largest wave of protests that the Islamic Republic of Iran has seen since its founding in 1979. The trigger was the killing of Jina Mahsa Amini while in police custody. The 22-year-old Kurdish woman from Seqiz died on 16 September 2022 in a hospital in the Iranian capital Tehran. Before that, she had been arrested by the so-called morality police and beaten at a police station. The women-led uprisings spread from Rojhilat, the eastern part of Kurdistan, to all of Iran in a few weeks.

A year after the murder of Jina Amini, demonstrations will take place worldwide. The European organization of the Community of Free Women in East Kurdistan (Komalgeha Jinên Azad a Rojhelatê Kurdistan, KJAR) called for participation in the solidarity actions to be organized in various cities.

The joint appeal from various organizations said: “Almost a year has passed since the Iranian state assassination of Jina Amini and the beginning of the revolutionary uprising of the people of Iran for freedom, to overthrow the Islamic Republic and to overcome all oppression, tyranny, discrimination and exploitation. During that time, the Islamic Republic's criminal rulers have imprisoned tens of thousands of protesters, killed more than 500 people.”

The statement added: “Despite all the repression and countless crimes committed by the regime, women, the queer community, the feminist movement, workers, students, oppressed peoples, teachers, writers, journalists, pensioners, nurses, farmers and environmental activists continue to fight against oppression, discrimination, inequality, injustice, the compulsory hijab, gender and sexual discrimination and environmental degradation.”

The statement continued: “From 16 September 2022, ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ became the slogan of a nationwide popular uprising for justice, freedom, equality and to overthrow religious rule and all structures of exploitation and injustice.

On the anniversary of the assassination of Jina Amini, demonstrations will be organized in many cities around the world on Saturday, 16 September 2023. We invite all freedom-loving people, all associations and organizations of women, students and workers, all environmental and human rights activists to attend our worldwide actions. Jin Jiyan Azadi! Down with the Islamic Republic! Resistance, solidarity, equality, liberation!”

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## Iranian authorities rearrest journalist Nazila Maroofian

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2023

Iranian journalist Nazila Maroofian, 23, was arrested again on Wednesday, August 30, this time at her home in Tehran, IranWire reported.

The arrest was carried out by a group of security agents who violently entered her home and broke down the door. According to accounts from neighbors, security forces also subjected Maroofian to a severe beating during the arrest.

The reasons for her arrest are still unclear, but it is believed to be related to her work as a journalist.

Maroofian has been a vocal critic of the Iranian government and has written extensively about human rights abuses in the country.

She was previously arrested in 2022, following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini. Maroofian had interviewed Amini's father and her reporting on the case led to her arrest.

In recent months, Maroofian has also written about cases of sexual assault on female inmates in Iran. Her reporting on this issue has led to her being targeted by the government.

The arrest of Maroofian is the latest in a series of crackdowns on journalists and activists in Iran.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a media freedom NGO, Iranian authorities have arrested at least 95 journalists since September 2022, when the death in morality police custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini sparked nationwide protests.

### Background

Nazila Maroofian studies at Tehran's Allameh Tabatabai University and currently works for the independent media platform Rouydad 24. She is originally from Saqiz in Eastern Kurdistan, the hometown of Jina Mahsa Amini. The violent death of the 22-year-old in the custody of Iran's moral police last September sparked the "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" [Woman, Life, Freedom] revolution - the largest wave of protests the Islamic Republic of Iran has seen since its founding in 1979.

On 19 October, Maroofian published an interview with Amini's father, Amjad, on the website Mostaghel. In it, Amjad Amini rejected the official information that his daughter's death was caused by an illness.

The title of the interview, which was removed shortly after publication, was clear: "Mahsa Amini's father: 'You are lying!'" A few days later, Maroofian was arrested in Tehran and taken to Evin prison for the first time. There she was subjected to threats during interrogations and psychological torture. She was put in an isolation cell and suffered two mild heart attacks right at the beginning of her imprisonment.

Finally, at the end of January, Maroofian was sentenced to two years in prison, suspended to five years' probation, for "propaganda against the regime" and "publishing lies with the intention of disturbing public opinion".

The Revolutionary Court in Tehran also imposed a fine and a five-year ban on leaving the country. At the time, Maroofian had already been released on bail for 600 million toman. In June, just weeks before she was arrested again, she was beaten by "security forces" in Tehran and barred from public service for disobeying the regime's dress code, as she did not wear a hijab.

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## Saturday Mothers: We will continue to demand justice and not give up Galatasaray Square

ANF | ISTANBUL | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

Turkish police have again attacked the Saturday Mothers at Galatasaray Square in Istanbul. The initiative wanted to make a statement on "disappearances" in state custody and demand punishment for the perpetrators on Istiklal Avenue. As in previous weeks, the demonstrators were faced with a police crackdown and at least 32 people were taken into custody by force, and hands tied behind their backs.

In addition to members of the Saturday Mothers and relatives of the disappeared, those detained include supporters of the initiative and civil society activists. Two women, Maside Ocak Kışlakçı, the sister of Hasan Ocak, who was tortured to death in prison in Istanbul in 1995, and Besna Tosun, the daughter of Fehmi Tosun, who was also abducted by armed civilian police in Istanbul the same year and has been missing since, managed to get past the barriers and throw carnations onto Galatasaray Square. "This place belongs to us. We will not give up Galatasaray Square and will continue to demand justice and clarification of the fate of our missing here," Tosun shouted towards the police.

The Saturday Mothers have been demanding information about their relatives who have disappeared in state custody during the notorious 1990s in Galatasaray Square since 1995. Their weekly meetings are considered the longest-running action of civil disobedience in Turkey. Since a massive police raid in August 2018, rallies in the square have been banned. By order of the Ministry of Interior, a new ban order is issued every week for gatherings of the group. However, according to a ruling by the Turkish Constitutional Court on 22 February 2023, this contradicts the right to freedom of assembly. Maside Ocak Kışlakçı was successful with the constitutional complaint against the ban.

Since April, the Saturday Mothers and their supporters have been demanding the implementation of the ruling in Galatasaray Square. However, the Ministry of Interior and the police are still preventing the initiative from gathering in their traditional square.

You can watch the video here: [https://1649452211.rsc.cdn77.org/2023/09/2023-09-02-istanbul-cumartesi-anneleri-962-hafta-yine-gozalti-ve-iskence\\_2.mp4](https://1649452211.rsc.cdn77.org/2023/09/2023-09-02-istanbul-cumartesi-anneleri-962-hafta-yine-gozalti-ve-iskence_2.mp4)



## The 6th Children's Festival kicks off in Kobanê

ANF | KOBANE | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

The 6th edition of the Children's Festival kicked off in Kobanê on Saturday. The festival is jointly organized by Baqî Xido Culture and Art Center and the Women's Culture and Art Movement, Kevana Zêrin (Golden Crescent), under the motto "Children are the hope for our free future".

Following a statement on behalf of children, participants of the festival staged a march from the Free Women's Square to Baqî Xido Culture and Art Center.

The festival began with a minute of silence in memory of the Kurdistan Freedom Martyrs, after which Arîn Kobanê, a member of the Euphrates Coordination of Kongra Star, the umbrella organization of women in North-East Syria addressed the crowd.

Arîn Kobanê wished a happy festival to children, saying: "We have come to these days thanks to Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan). We congratulate him and all the children on this day. We will avenge our martyrs and claim their cause. In light of Rêber Apo's words 'I did not betray my childhood dreams', we must embrace our children further."

The groups that have performed at the festival today are Koma Şehîd Şîlan of Hîlala Zêrîn, Şehîd Şîlan Folklore Group of Baqî Xido Culture and Art Center, Şehîd Mistefa Theater Group, Şehîd Esmer music band of Hîlala Zêrîn, Kobanê Gulên Pêşerojê, Koma Peymangeha Vejîn, Şehîd Sakîne Theater Group, Koma Barîn Music Band, Tîrêja Rojê, Şehîd Dicle Theater Group.

The festival will continue tomorrow with the participation of 10 groups of art.

You can watch video from this link: [https://1649452211.rsc.cdn77.org/2023/09/2023-09-02-kobane-festivala-zarokan-despekir\\_1.mp4](https://1649452211.rsc.cdn77.org/2023/09/2023-09-02-kobane-festivala-zarokan-despekir_1.mp4)



# Ecocide

## Turkish army cuts down trees to build an outpost in Bingöl countryside

ANF | BINGÖL | 28 AUGUST 2023

The Turkish army cut down the trees in forest land in the countryside of the Riz village, in the Genç district of Bingöl, to build a Kalekol (fortified outpost).

The area, where road-building work has already started, was fenced off with wire and will be lightened up.

The local people, who have returned to their villages that were evacuated and burned down in the notorious 90's, are worried.

Speaking to Mezopotamya agency, the villagers said: “We are also citizens of this country. We harmed nobody. We live here and we need to grass our sheep and cattle, which disperse all around in the evening and need to be gathered together. We are told not to bring our cattle and grass them there. How can we live under these circumstances?”

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## Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2023

The medieval city walls of Amed, more than five kilometers long and built by Assyrians five thousand years ago, and the eight thousand years old Hevsel Gardens are meant to be added to the List of World Heritage in Danger.

A draft report on the “State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List”, which is expected to be finalized at the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee to take place from 10 to 25 September 2023 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, gives wide coverage to Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape.

According to Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre ICOMOS and ICCROM, the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property reported that the property, its buffer zone and setting have



undergone significant change since the inscription on the World Heritage List in 2015. Most of these changes are directly due to projects implemented by the State Party.

Highlights from the draft report include the following:

The absence of archaeologists during work on the City Walls and bastions, such as the adaptive reuse of the upper rooms of the towers, resulted in the loss of important fabric which could have contributed to the knowledge of the property. An 'illegal' neighbourhood and other legal infrastructure in the Citadel were demolished to create a public park, without any impact assessment study or investigation, such as to relocate the Roman amphitheatre previously reported in this vicinity, having been undertaken. Likewise, the demolition of poor-quality constructions from the 1930s at the Hz. Suleyman Mosque (Içkale) to develop a landscaped area was undertaken without archaeological surveys being undertaken.

Other projects since inscription have significantly eroded the OUV of the property, including numerous construction, landscaping and infrastructural projects, some reportedly illegal, in the setting of the TenEyed Bridge, resulting in the loss of its OUV.

Planned changes at the Anzele Spring may negatively impact the property's OUV and, as with all projects that may affect the OUV of the property, they should be subject to a thorough assessment and details of the proposals and their associated impact assessments should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any decision on their implementation which may be difficult to reverse.

The consolidation of land parcels of the Hevsel Gardens and the restructuring of the historic city inside the City Walls, with the consequent social impact, has resulted in the severing of the connection between the Gardens and the city they once nurtured, seriously damaging the OUV of the property. The mission cautions that other planned changes, such as the ongoing restructuring of the field patterns facilitating a change in the types of crops grown, will further threaten this key attribute, that urgent action must be taken to prevent further harm and that the relationship between the Hevsel Gardens, the City and its inhabitants should be reinstated.

Implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan has continued despite the Committee's repeated requests to the State Party to revert to the 2012 version of the Plan and to halt all projects that may affect the OUV of the property until the recommendations of the requested Reactive Monitoring mission are known and adopted by the Committee.

The mission reports that approximately 40% of Suriçi, the buffer zone component located inside the City Walls, has been demolished since inscription, resulting in further severe erosion of the property's OUV. This erosion, through the implementation of untested projects, including the occasional invasive restoration of historic monuments, has taken place despite the Committee's repeated concerns and in the absence of appropriate OUV-focused impact assessment procedures.

The recently constructed Vehicle Road and Touristic Tour Route has further disrupted the relationship of Suriçi and the City Wall.

The Reactive Monitoring mission concludes that the management system for the property is no longer effective and needs to be reviewed and re-established. It recommends the 2012 Urban Conservation Plan should be reinstated, as repeatedly requested by the Committee.

The mission concludes that the property is faced with imminent danger due to a significant loss of integrity, cultural significance and supporting historic urban fabric. The OUV of the property remains in danger from lawfully designed developments permitted under existing planning controls. The property faces a specific and ascertained imminent danger, including a serious deterioration of architectural and town-planning coherence and of the urban and rural space. The property is also faced with threats, such as the lack of a functioning conservation policy and the threatening effects of town planning, which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. The vulnerability of the integrity of the property has also been further exacerbated by the earthquake. All these factors combined lead the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to maintain their view that the property continues to face ascertained and potential danger as defined in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore, recommend its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Committee expresses its deep concern that the State Party has not halted all projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and has not reverted to the 2012 Conservation Plan, as repeatedly requested by the Committee, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to halt all projects that could affect the OUV of the property, including further demolitions and developments in its buffer zone, and to halt the continued implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan.

The Committee also expresses its deep concern about the changes brought about by the implementation of projects in the property and its buffer zone since its inscription, which have severely eroded its OUV, in particular:

- a) In the functioning and morphology of the Hevsel Gardens, an integral part of the property and an essential attribute underpinning the property's OUV,
- b) The implementation of construction, landscaping and infrastructural projects in the immediate setting of the Ten-Eyed Bridge and the Tigris riverbanks, both within the property and its buffer zone,
- c) The large-scale demolition and reconstruction or conversion of urban neighbourhoods in the property and its buffer zone, which has also led to a virtual destruction of the social relationship of the traditional local communities with the Hevsel Gardens and, despite this being a fundamental relationship that contributed to the OUV at the time of the inscription,
- d) The construction of the Vehicle Road and Touristic Tour Route around the inner periphery of the City Walls,
- e) The occasional inappropriate and invasive restoration of the monuments.

The Committee further reiterates its request to the State Party to:

- a) Carry out independent Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects, as well as construction and restoration projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and its setting, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context.
- b) Ensure that all projects are guided by suitable professional archaeological and conservation oversight, which should be fully integrated into all works to ensure good practice and effective outcomes.
- c) Submit details of such projects and the associated HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decision on their implementation which may be difficult to reverse.

The Committee notes with great concern that the Management Plan for the property is still not fully implemented and has resulted in a range of disparate projects, some of which have and continue to undermine the OUV of the property.

The Committee considers that the property faces significant cumulative ascertained and potential threats, in particular due to a significant loss of integrity and cultural significance as well as a severe loss of the supporting historic urban fabric and a management system which has failed to maintain the attributes that convey its OUV.

The Committee decides to inscribe the Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as well as a set of corrective measures, informed by the 2022 mission, including a timetable for implementation, to reverse the interventions on the property and its buffer zone and help mitigate the negative impacts that have resulted from development projects implemented since inscription, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session;

The Committee finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

# Human Rights Violations

## Nomad family tortured and detained amid military operation in Silvan

ANF | AMED | 26 AUGUST 2023

In the rural area of Silvan district in Amed (Diyarbakır), a nomad family was forcibly detained by the Turkish military. At least five members of the family, aged between nine and forty-five, were taken into custody by the Turkish forces on suspicion of “terror” and taken to the gendarmerie station in Silvan. While the 9-year-old child has been placed in the care of relatives, the adults, including a woman, will reportedly be transferred to the gendarmerie command in Amed after a compulsory health check.

The incident took place on Saturday in the village of Bameydan (Yuva), east of the centre of Silvan, after fighting between the guerrillas and the Turkish army, according to reports. According to unconfirmed reports, three guerrillas lost their lives during the confrontation.

After the clashes, the Turkish army launched a military operation in Bameydan, and the area was completely sealed off. The area of operation also includes the area where the Kurdish nomad family, originally from the province of Batman, had pitched their tent. Hardly anything is left of the tent, as it was burnt down. However, it is still unclear whether it went up in flames during the fighting or was set on fire by soldiers afterwards.

Several social media accounts suspected of being close to the Turkish army circulated photos showing two men stripped down to their pants and lying next to an armoured vehicle with their hands tied behind their backs. According to the Batman branch of the Human Rights Association (IHD), a relative identified them as members of the nomad family and filed a complaint of torture.

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## CPJ: Turkish authorities should immediately investigate drone attack targeting journalists in Rojava

ANF | WASHINGTON | 27 AUGUST 2023

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in a statement that the Turkish authorities should immediately and thoroughly investigate a recent drone attack targeting journalists.

On Wednesday, August 23, a suspected Turkish drone strike in Syria's Kurdish-controlled northeast hit a car belonging to the all-female broadcaster JIN TV, killing worker Najm el-Din Faisal Haj Sinan and wounding journalist Dalila Agid, told Dijla Eito, a member of JIN TV's board, to CPJ.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic drone attack that killed driver Najm el-Din Faisal and injured journalist Dalila Agid while they were working in northeastern Syria," said Sherif Mansour, CPJ Middle East and North Africa program coordinator, in Washington, D.C., adding that "Turkish authorities should swiftly launch an investigation into this attack, determine who was responsible and if the reporting team was targeted, and hold the perpetrators to account."

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## Human Rights Organization calls for international action to stop Turkish crimes in North-East Syria

ANF | KOBANE | 27 AUGUST 2023

The Human Rights Organization in the Euphrates Region of North-East Syria released a statement condemning the Turkish drone attack that targeted a vehicle belonging to the women's channel JIN TV on the road between Qamişlo and Amûde on 23 August. The targeted attack killed the driver, journalist Necimedîn Feysel Hec Sînan, and injured a Jin TV correspondent, Delila Ağît.

The statement pointed out that the targeted attack on journalists was part of the systematic policy against North-East Syria and aimed to obstruct the documentation of Turkish crimes and massacres in the region and to prevent the free press from conveying the truth to the public.

The organization called for respect for human rights, journalists' right to report and protection of journalists and media employees.

The Human Rights Organization in Euphrates Region condemned the international silence on the increasingly ongoing crimes committed by the Turkish state in the region and called for urgent international intervention to stop the attacks and crimes against people in North-East Syria.

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## HDP holds its 4th Extraordinary Congress in Ankara

ANF | ANKARA | 27 AUGUST 2023

The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) held its 4th Extraordinary Congress in Ankara on Sunday. Sultan Özcan and Cahit Kırkazak were elected as the new co-chairs of the party. The congress was held in mem-

ory of the peace mothers Adalet Safalı and Perişan Akçelik and their son Cihan Akçelik, who died in an accident in Hakkari on 22 August. A minute's silence at the beginning of the event also commemorated all the other people who lost their lives in the struggle for democracy and freedom.

The previous co-chairs, Pervin Buldan and Mithat Sancar, had announced after the parliamentary and presidential elections in Turkey in May that they would not run again. In their combative farewell speeches, the two politicians referred to the history of the HDP and explained that the basic idea of the party is still valid and cannot be destroyed by banning procedures and mass arrests.

Pervin Buldan stated: "Up to this point, our struggle has endured through operations, trustee appointments, fabricated trials, and closure lawsuits. We want them (AKP and MHP) to see and understand that we stand firm against all of these tactics. Our fight extends everywhere—on the streets, in the fields, within prisons, and in courtrooms; it permeates every aspect of life. I express my infinite gratitude to those who have stood by me as comrades, supported me throughout my tenure, and provided guidance—especially our friends in prison, my fellow women comrades, the Peace Mothers, my people, and all my friends. I assure you that I will always stand by your side. This honorable struggle will undoubtedly prevail."

Speaking after, Mithat Sancar said: "This congress does not mark the end of the process; rather, it represents one of the milestones of the process we initiated after Turkey's 14 May elections. Going forward, we will channel our experience and strength into the Green Left Party, but the HDP will continue to exist both in spirit and as an institution. The determination that will guide this country out of the cycle of violence and the dark abyss resides within us. As a member of this struggle at every level, I will continue to make every effort, together with our people."

After the elections, Sultan Özcan and Cahit Kırkazak were elected as the new co-chairs. HDP also elected its party assembly and other central organs.

The newly elected co-chair Sultan Özcan said in a speech that she considered it a great honour to be nominated for this post. "The HDP is based on an idea and cannot be closed like a building. The strength of the party is based on the revolutionary-democratic values from Mesopotamia to Anatolia to Thrace and a long experience of struggle," she said.

Since the HDP has been subject to a ban for over two years, the Green Left Party contested in the May elections and won 62 deputy seats in the Turkish National Assembly. After the elections, both parties started a joint process of criticism and self-criticism, discussing the mistakes and failures with the grassroots in all committees and at local meetings. The parties agreed that the HDP should continue to exist but pass on its competences to the Green Left Party, which will adopt a changed constitution and give itself a new name at its own congress at the end of September.

## MP Kaya denounces torture and attack against civilians in Silvan countryside

ANF | AMED | 27 AUGUST 2023

In the rural area of Silvan district in Amed (Diyarbakır), a nomad family was forcibly detained by the Turkish military on Saturday. At least five members of the family, aged between nine and forty-five, were taken into custody by the Turkish forces on suspicion of “terror” and taken to the gendarmerie station in Silvan. While the 9-year-old child was placed in the care of relatives, the adults, including a woman, were transferred to the gendarmerie command in Amed after a compulsory health check.

The incident took place in the hamlet of Bameydan (Yuva), east of the centre of Silvan, after fighting between the guerrillas and the Turkish army. According to reports, three guerrillas from the HPG (People’s Defense Forces) lost their lives during the clash, after which the Turkish army launched a military operation in Bameydan. The area of operation also includes the site where the Kurdish nomad family targeted by soldiers had pitched their tent.

A delegation conducted an examination at the scene today. The delegation was made up of members of the DTK (Democratic Society Congress), MEBYA-DER (Association for Assistance, Solidarity and Culture with Families Who Lost Their Relatives in the Cradle of Civilizations), TJA (Free Women’s Movement), HDP (Peoples’ Democratic Party), DBP (Democratic Regions Party), Green and Left Party, politicians from Amed, Muş, Batman, Bingöl and Mardin, DTK Co-Chair Berdan Öztürk, Green Left Party deputies Adalet Kaya, Ömer Faruk Hülakü, Sümeyye Boz and Kamuran Tarhan.

The delegation first examined the site where the tent of the nomad family had been found. Speaking here, MP Adalet Kaya stated that they encountered no evidence of clashes, as villagers also told them.

According to Kaya, state forces carried out an attack against civilians in an area where nomads feed their sheep and cattle. The MP spoke of torture, citing social media posts showing two men stripped down to their pants and lying next to an armoured vehicle with their hands tied behind their backs.

“Prohibition of torture shouldn’t be violated under any circumstance. Today we witness here a return to the practices of the notorious 90’s. We strongly reject attacks on civilian settlements.”

Kaya added that the delegation’s report would be shared with the public later on.

In the meantime, three bodies have been brought to the Institute of Forensic Medicine (ATK) in Amed today. The bodies are said to be of the three guerrillas who reportedly died in the course of clashes with the Turkish army in the countryside of Hêlînê neighborhood on Saturday.

According to as yet unconfirmed information, one of them is said to be a person named Rahim Saygı. His parents have contacted the Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office in Diyarbakır to provide a DNA sample in order to establish his identity.

Meanwhile, detained members of the nomad family are still in the custody of the gendarmerie. The family, originally from the neighbouring province of Batman, had set up a tent and shelter for a herd of animals near the scene of the fighting. The suspicion against them is apparently “supporting terror”. It is unclear if and when they will be transferred to a public prosecutor’s office.

The Human Rights Association (IHD) branch in Batman stated that the detentions were conducted by force and that several people from the family were mistreated and the tent of the family was burnt down by soldiers.

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## Turkish state forcibly settles Syrian refugees in occupied Girê Spî

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2023

A local source in Girê Spî Canton reported that the Turkish state handed over 65 Syrian refugees from Turkey to Military Police gangs to settle them in the homes of the citizens who were forcibly displaced from the canton.

The number of refugees settled in the occupied canton since the beginning of August has increased to 1,273.

The Turkish state forcibly removed the Syrian refugees from Turkey and settled them in the occupied Girê Spî Canton. At the same time, it sends many refugees from Turkey through the Bab El Hewa and Bab El Selam gates to the occupied regions of Syria, Jarablus, Afrin, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spi. So far the number of Syrian refugees who were forcibly settled in the occupied regions of Syria from Turkey has reached 12,600.

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## Intellectuals release a declaration against the unlawful Kobanê trial

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2023

The hearing in the show trial known as the “Kobanê trial” against leading politicians of the HDP (Peoples’ Democratic Party) will resume in the Sincan prison complex in Ankara on 4 September. In the Kobanê trial, which has been ongoing since April 2021, a total of 108 personalities from politics, civil society and



the Kurdish liberation movement have been charged with terror offenses and dozens of murders in connection with the protests during the ISIS attack on Kobanê in October 2014.

193 intellectuals from Turkey released a statement titled “Kobanê trial is unlawful, and we stand against it”.

The statement released on Monday said: “We follow with great concern the Kobanê Trial, in which 108 people stand trial, including 18 in prison, on the grounds of the 6-8 October 2014 protests against the ISIS attack on Kobanê which was condemned by the international community without hesitation. Despite the ECHR Grand Chamber ruling of a violation, the case witnesses a violation of all constitutional rights, mainly the right to fair trial, engagement in political activity and freedom of expression.”

The intellectuals pointed out that: “As persons of arts and ideas, we declare our stand against this open unlawfulness and we call for an immediate abandonment of the attitudes that move our country away from law, peace and democracy.”

## Background

The Kobani Case was filed in 2020 against 108 people, including the HDP’s former co-chairs, Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, several current and former HDP deputies and mayors, and all the members of the HDP’s Central Executive Board of 2014.

The case was launched as a counter move by the Turkish government just two weeks after the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights made its final judgment demanding the immediate release of Selahattin Demirtaş. The indictment in the Kobani Case is based on a Twitter message posted by the HDP on 6 October 2014, which called for democratic protests in solidarity with the people of Kobanî, a Kurdish town in Northern Syria that was fighting against the attacks of ISIS, and also against Turkey’s embargo on the town.

The prosecutor seeks all the defendants to be given aggravated life sentences (without parole) 38 times for the crimes of “destroying the unity of the state and the integrity of the country” and “premeditated murder” of the people who lost their lives in the Kobani protests. Seventeen politicians are currently being held in pre-trial detention in the case.

The Kobani case is closely linked with the closure case filed against the HDP, for which it serves as a pretext. In the closure case, the prosecution is mainly based on the alleged role and responsibility of the HDP in the murders that occurred during the protests for Kobanê in 2014. The Grand Chamber of the ECtHR has already examined these allegations in the case of Selahattin Demirtaş and concluded that neither Demirtaş nor the HDP had any responsibility for the murders.

## Memorial on the first anniversary of killing of Kurdish author Suheyl Xurşîd Ezîz

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2023

A year ago, the Kurdish author and historian Suheyl Xurşîd Ezîz was shot dead by a killer allegedly employed by the Turkish secret service. To date, the perpetrator has not been caught.

A year ago, Suheyl Xurşîd Ezîz was gunned down in the South Kurdish Germiyan region by a killer suspected to have been hired by the Turkish secret service. To date, the perpetrator has not been caught. In front of Ezîz's house in Kifrî, the scene of the murder, relatives, friends and companions paid their respects to him on the first anniversary of his death.

Suheyl Xurşîd Ezîz was an author, historian and member of the General Assembly of the Movement for a Free Society in Kurdistan (Tevgera Azadiya Civaka Kurdistanê). The 62-year-old, affectionately known as 'Mamosta Şemal', also worked for the Kifrî Agricultural Authority. He was there shortly before the crime. The Germiyan police have yet to identify the killer. According to the Azadî movement, the Turkish government's opposition to the Kurdish grassroots organization, which Ankara classifies as close to the PKK and treats accordingly, was decisive for the murder order.

"For us, Mamosta Şemal was a symbol of resistance against any dictatorship and the revolution of our people," said activists at the memorial. The mourners had brought roses, 62 of them, which they laid in front of Suheyl Xurşîd Ezîz's house.

A sculpture in memory of the writer was also unveiled. The sculpture, made by artists from the Kifri Fine Arts Institute, was placed in the "Square of Civilization" in the center of Kifrî.

Activists also planted several memorial trees. "Trees are symbols of life. They will now grow and find their roots in the ground." It was decided that each anniversary of Suheyl Xurşîd Ezîz's death should be commemorated by planting trees.

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## Three nomads sent to prison in Silvan

ANF | AMED | 30 AUGUST 2023

In the rural area of Silvan, in the province of Amed, a nomad family was forcibly detained by the Turkish military last weekend.

R.D. (54), S.D., H.D. (24), H.D. (28), M.S. (45) were taken into custody and referred to the court for their arrest after the prosecution proceedings at the Silvan Courthouse.

Of those referred to the court, R.D. and M.S. were released, while the three others were sent to prison on the allegation of "being a member of a terrorist organization".

## Background

At least five members of the family, aged between nine and forty-five, were taken into custody by the Turkish forces on suspicion of "terror" and taken to the gendarmerie station in Silvan. While the 9-year-old child has been placed in the care of relatives, the adults, including a woman, will reportedly be transferred to the gendarmerie command in Amed after a compulsory health check.

The incident took place on Saturday in the village of Bameydan (Yuva), east of the centre of Silvan, after fighting between the guerrillas and the Turkish army, according to reports. According to unconfirmed reports, three guerrillas lost their lives during the confrontation.

After the clashes, the Turkish army launched a military operation in Bameydan, and the area was completely sealed off. The area of operation also includes the area where the Kurdish nomad family, originally from the province of Batman, had pitched their tent. Hardly anything is left of the tent, as it was burnt down. However, it is still unclear whether it went up in flames during the fighting or was set on fire by soldiers afterwards.



## N/E Autonomous Administration hopes to approve new version of Social Contract by December

ANF | QAMISHLO | 30 AUGUST 2023

The General Council of Autonomous Administration of Northern and Eastern Syria (AANES) has announced that a new social contract will be adopted by the end of the year. Elections will then take place.

Since 2021, a committee made up of representatives of the Autonomous Administration, political parties, women's and youth organizations, and civil society organizations have been working on a new version of the current Social Contract. The difficult situation in the region because of the attacks by Turkey and the economic crisis, led to a postponing of the committee's consultations with the various population groups in Northern and Eastern Syria.

The aim of the Social Contract is to create the framework for a decentralized administrative system in Northern and Eastern Syria. This applies in particular to the separation of powers and the protection of human rights. The Social Contract is not an obstacle to the Autonomous Administration proposal for a political transition in Syria, said Farid Atti, co-chair of the General Council of the Autonomous Administration.

Atti said: “The Social Contract is not a constitution but rather a community contract. There is an article that provides for the possibility of changing it if there is a rapprochement with Damascus or an agreement with the central government on a new constitution in Syria.”

Around four million people live in Northern and Eastern Syria, including many internally displaced refugees. The Autonomous Administration was founded in September 2018, after ISIS was pushed back. It includes seven regions that go beyond the predominantly Kurdish area of Rojava.

The currently valid Social Contract approved in 2016 can be found:

<https://rojavainformationcenter.com/storage/2021/07/2016-Social-Contract-of-the-Democratic-Federation-of-Northern-Syria.pdf>



## Activists in Celle call on people to attend first hearing in trial against Mehmet Çakas

ANF | CELLE | 30 AUGUST 2023

The application for asylum presented by Mehmet Çakas, who is on trial under article 129/b of the German Penal Code, was rejected. Çakas, who sought asylum in Italy, was arrested in December 2022 at the request of Germany, on the grounds that he was working as a PKK member in the Bremen-Hannover region. Çakas was extradited to Germany in March, and is being held in Hannover Prison.

The Celle Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office accuses Çakas of engaging in activities such as organizing political meetings and demonstrations under article 129a/b of the Penal Code. The 4th Criminal Senate of the Celle Higher Regional Court approved the indictment and started the main trial on 16 August.

Women Defend Rojava and Defend Kurdistan called on people to attend the rally in front of OLG Celle on 4 September at 9am. Activists will then follow the hearing that will start at 10am.

The organizers of the action said: “War, oppression and massacres continue in different parts of Kurdistan. By violating international law, Germany is prosecuting people that defend human rights instead of those who violate them. We do not accept that the German state criminalizes the pursuit of freedom. For this, we stand in solidarity with Mehmet Çakas and everyone who has been subjected to state oppression.”



## 12-year-old hit and severely injured by an armored vehicle in Şırnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 31 AUGUST 2023

A 12-year-old child named Tajdin was hit by an armored police vehicle in the center of Şırnak city on Thursday.

The boy was severely injured and taken to Şırnak State Hospital, from which he was referred to a private hospital in Batman.

The boy is kept in intensive care and is reported to be in a life-threatening condition.

Time and again, there are alleged accidents caused by armoured police and military vehicles in Kurdish cities. According to a tally by the Human Rights Foundation Turkey (TIHV), at least 19 people have died in so-called armoured accidents in the Kurdish region between 2018 and 2022, including nine children and young people. Another 50 people were injured, 14 of whom were under the age of 18. The perpetrators are not held accountable, and soldiers and police officers generally do not fear criminal consequences.

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## Economist Müftüoğlu warns of an impending further deepening of poverty

ANF - 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

The new economic leadership of the AKP government, like its predecessors, pledges to "fight against inflation". However, inflation remains high and the cost of living in Turkey is increasing day by day due to aggressive interest rate hikes, new taxes and price increases. The collective agreements that came into force in July and additional wage increases lag far behind the rising cost of living.

### Hunger levels keep rising

According to the results of a monthly survey by Türk-İş, a trade union association, in August 2023, the hunger limit for a family of four rose to 12,198 liras (approx. 421 euros). The poverty line was calculated at 39,733 liras (approx. 1,337 euros). The "cost of living" of a single worker is 15,813 liras (approx. 546 euros) per month. As a result of this worrying development and rapid inflation, protests and work stoppages broke out in many factories, especially in Antep (Dilok), as happened in January 2022. Even health workers walked out for a day to protest the lack of pay rises as pay rises planned for civil servants were not realised.

## **Minimum wage below the starvation line**

Economist Özgür Müftüoğlu assessed these developments in an interview with ANF. He stressed that in the current conditions, where inflation is rising and purchasing power is falling, increased protest is necessary. Instead, there are only a few protests in Turkey, especially with regard to price increases, Müftüoğlu said, adding: “The rapid increase in inflation and the rapid decline in purchasing power have led to dramatic impoverishment. Turkey is currently experiencing the fastest increases in housing and food prices in the world. The rising costs of housing, food, health care and education pose serious problems. This impoverishment means that workers are increasingly in competition with one another. People fear losing what little they have. This forces some workers to work under increasingly poor conditions. Wages continue to fall. The so-called minimum wage is below the hunger line. Nevertheless, this minimum wage now accounts for almost 50 percent or even more of the average wage. A considerable number of employees are now even working below the hunger line. And this without counting retirees as they are at the bottom end of the scale.

## **‘Willingness to protest in relation to price increases is low in Turkey’**

In such a situation, protests are only natural. In comparable situations, loss of income, deteriorating working conditions and rising expenses would lead to social unrest. In Turkey, on the other hand, the willingness to protest remains limited. In other places, like Latin America, rising fuel and food prices are causing serious social conflict. So far, there has been no such mobilization in Turkey. This is due to various sociological reasons. Since the AKP took over the local government, it has not relied on a social program to guarantee social rights, but on a faith-based hand-out system. In my opinion, this represents the most important factor in the AKP’s 21-year reign. Which is why such protests are less pronounced in Turkey.”

## **‘Protests are taking place outside of union organisations’**

Müftüoğlu pointed out that some of the current protests, as happened in 2022, are taking place in rather unorganized places. However, he predicted that rising poverty will see workers break free from the grip of bureaucratic unions and move towards class-based organization. “January 2022 was marked by workers’ protests. At that time, however, contrary to our expectations, there was no resistance in the metals sector, where we felt the unions were stronger and better organised. On the contrary, a path was taken there to come to terms and reconcile with the system and, quite frankly, to soften the momentum and take the pressure off.

Today we have reached the point where there is fighting in Antep, especially in the industrial bases where organizing is being hampered. On the other hand, there are protests calling for additional wage increases as people either don't get their wages on time or their wages are very low due to high inflation. Similar to January 2022, it is not the big organizations, not the big unions, that are fighting, but self-organized struggles that started from the workers themselves and whose voices are getting louder and louder.”

## **‘Unions don’t fight adequately’**

Müftüoğlu continued: “We are also closely monitoring collective agreements in the metal sector, which affect around 150-160,000 workers. There is talk of a temporary increase of around 30 percent. However,

this increase will be allowed and later deducted. In other words, what is given now will be taken later. There are actually a number of fraudulent practices that will result in long-term loss of workers in this field. But it turned out that the unions agreed, so I don't think they will fight a serious fight. This applies not only to Türk Metal or Çelik-İş, but also to Birleşik Metal, since these are bureaucratized structures.”

### ‘Workers need to organize themselves on a class basis’

Müftüoğlu said: “With poverty so widespread, workers need to organize, but at the same time they should challenge existing organizations. As part of this challenge, the next phase is for workers to disengage from these organizations and find a union in which to truly organize. This is undoubtedly achieved through a class-based form of fighting. I think they will try. The problem we face today is not limited to the metal sector, the textile sector or to places like Antep, Kayseri or Istanbul. We are facing a social crisis affecting all sectors, all areas, all of Turkey and all sections of society. Such a crisis can only be resolved through general mobilization. Regional workers’ struggles must become full-scale mobilizations to be effective. The workers in the public sector should also be involved. In the absence of any serious mobilization in the public sector against the current collective bargaining agreement, only healthcare workers have walked off the job for a day.”

### ‘Solid ideological foundation is crucial’

Müftüoğlu underlined that the upcoming struggle needs a solid ideological basis, and said: “We have seen what happened in the elections and realized that the National Alliance and the Republican Alliance are no different. Therefore, any struggle to be waged now must have a solid ideological foundation. In other words, every individual must now take sides. As one side becomes incredibly wealthy and the capital makes huge gains, it creates more inequality and imbalance in a variety of ways. This will continue for the foreseeable future. The government’s medium-term program will be announced soon. New taxes will most likely be introduced and these taxes will be borne by most of the population. The costs will continue to rise. In that regard, it can be expected that the struggle today will last longer than in the past.”

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## Bones of HPG guerrilla handed over to family in a box

ANF | SIIRT | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

HPG guerrilla [Yılmaz Uzun](#) (Tolhildan Tekman) fell a martyr together with 5 of his comrades as a result of a Turkish airstrike in the countryside of Siirt province in 2020.

Despite the fact that the Uzun family gave a blood sample after the death of their son for the identification process, the fallen guerrilla was buried in the Cemetery of the Nameless.

The bones of the HPG guerrilla were handed over to his family in a box after three years.

Father İbrahim Uzun said: “My son lost his life in 2020. Then I went to Siirt and gave a blood sample. The result came out in 2021 but we were not informed. Then we submitted a petition and his remains were finally handed over to us.”

The remains of the HPG fighter will be buried in the Bastok village in the Tekman district of Erzurum.

Turkish soldiers have already taken restraining measures ahead of the burial, calling the village headman and banning the imam from performing a funeral prayer at the mosque.

This is not the first time a family has received the dead body of their family members in a storage box. The Turkish state systematically uses the bodies of guerrillas in its war against the Kurdish people. Hundreds of guerrilla graves have been destroyed in recent years. Sending the remains of fallen guerrillas is intended to increase the impact of state brutality and maximise the pain and anger of families and Kurdish society. The aim is to create a collective feeling of helplessness. The aim is to traumatise relatives in an extreme way and thus force them to surrender by breaking their will to resist and their fighting morale.

[Hakan Arslan](#) died in 2016 during the siege of the old district of Sur in Amed (tr. Diyarbakır). Friends buried him next to a church, where his bones were found in 2021. Despite DNA matching, it took almost another year for the state to release the body. The Diyarbakır Chief Prosecutor's Office handed Ali Rıza Arslan his son's mortal remains in a bag on 29 August 2022. That same evening, the burial could finally take place in a cemetery in his home village in Erzurum province.

The body of [Zindan Yedi](#), who died in a clash in the Dicle district of Amed (Diyarbakır) in September 2021 was given to his father, Hasan Yeni, in a storage box eight months later.

[Mahsum Aslan](#), whose nom de guerre was Firaz Paramaz, was martyred in a Turkish air strike in the province of Dersim on June 2, 2018. Only a few weeks later, his family living in Ergani district of Amed was ordered by the responsible authorities to provide a DNA sample. The authorities took a full three years to conduct a comparison. It was not until July that the parents of the fallen fighter were informed that the results of the DNA analysis were available. They then went to the public prosecutor's office to receive the remains of Mahsum Aslan. There, however, it was said that the authorities would take care of the handover themselves.

On August 2, the Aslan family finally received a telephone call from the Turkish police authorities in Ergani asking them to collect their son's remains. At the police station in the district, Mahsum Aslan's parents found that their son's bones had been handed over in a box by the Erzincan prosecutor's office via postal delivery. The relatives were prohibited from informing the public about the burial. The burial in the village of Yayvantepe, therefore, had to be carried out in the darkness of night.

The remains of [Agit İpek](#), who joined the guerrilla ranks in 2010 and died in a clash in Dersim on 23 May 2017, were sent to his mother in a plastic box by cargo in May 2020.

His family was first told that there was no corpse, then they were called in May 2019 and told that the corpse had been found. The family then went to Dersim and gave a blood sample for a DNA test, which revealed that the corpse belonged to İpek. The remains of İpek were sent from the Forensic Medicine Institute to Tunceli Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, which then sent them to the Chief Public Prosecutor's



Office in Diyarbakır where the family lives. The remains of the Kurdish fighter were then sent in a postal package to his family living in the central Bağlar district.

Mother Halime Aksoy said: “While I was waiting for the official documents, they showed a package lying on the floor and told me, ‘Your bones have arrived’. I was petrified. They delivered my son's bones by post. I took the package after signing the official papers and went home by taxi.”

A few months after the package delivery, Aksoy’s house was raided by the police on December 24, 2020. Her house was messed up, and photos of her children were confiscated.

On March 4 and May 18 in 2022, Aksoy was detained after being subjected to violence and later released.

The Turkish government, the judiciary and the police did not find this much pressure and torture sufficient.

Aksoy was among those who were detained in the Amed-based police operations carried out in 21 cities on April 25, 2023. On April 28, she was arrested along with her daughter Mızgin Karataş on the charge of “being a member of a (terrorist) organization”.

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## World Peace Day rally in Amed calls for an “equal and free life for social peace”

ANF | AMED | 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

The World Peace Day rally in Amed (Diyarbakır), organized by the Green and Left Future Party (Green Left Party) and the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) under the motto “Equal and free life for social peace” kicked off at the İstasyon Square in the afternoon.

Green Left Party Co-Spokesperson Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, DPB Co-Chair Saliha Aydeniz, deputies Adalet Kaya, Halide Türkoğlu, Newroz Uysal and members of the Free Women’s Movement (TJA) marched to the rally site behind a banner reading “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” (Woman, Life, Freedom) and “Freedom for women prisoners”.

People chanted “Leader of peace is in Imralı” as they entered the area after a police search at two points.

Those attending the rally include Democratic Society Congress (DTK) Co-Chair Berdan Öztürk, Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Saliha Aydeniz, Green Left Party Co-Spokesperson Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, deputies and thousands of residents. The event began with a minute of silence in memory of those who fell in the struggle for freedom and democracy, after which the Kurdish resistance song “Çerxa Şoreşê” (The Wheel of Revolution) was loudly sang together.

DTK Co-Chair Berdan Öztürk saluted the crowd and stated that 1 September would be meaningful in a country where there is peace.

Speaking about the history of World Peace Day and the struggle of the Kurdish people for freedom, Öztürk denounced the aggravated isolation regime imposed on Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, who, he said, gave hope to peoples in Turkey and the Middle East and was subjected to isolation by the AKP-MHP government seeking to crush this hope because of their hostility to democracy and peace.

Öztürk pointed out that the economic crisis experienced in Turkey today is a result of the anti-Kurdish war which has brought democracy to an end and seeks to cover up the regime's fascist mentality and vicious policies.

Öztürk criticized the opposition parties' attitude with regard to the massive violation of human rights, the Kurdish question and isolation and asked them to raise their voices to come up with a solution to these problems.

"The mentality of Hitler endures in Kurdistan, where people are subjected to atrocities. It is not possible to finish us off with war, death and torture. Turkey must achieve an honorable peace, which is the only solution," he said.

Referring to the importance of Abdullah Öcalan, Öztürk said: "Öcalan's ideas have spread all over the world today as he resists this fascist mentality. We set out for an honorable peace. We have paid a huge price and will continue to pay it to the very end, until freedom is achieved. The Kurdish question concerns not only Turkey, but the entire Middle East today. Should it be resolved in Turkey, it will also be resolved in the Middle East. Fascism is the reason why people can't afford bread today. Hold the hand extended by Öcalan for peace. If you do that, peace can be achieved. Our struggle will continue until an honorable peace is achieved."

Speaking after, Green Left Party Co-Spokesperson Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said: "We are against those who impose a world with wars. We are the people who know peace and war best. The state mindset has long sought to assimilate and isolate the Kurds, facing resistance from the Kurds for a hundred years. This resistance continues to keep our will for peace strong."

Uçar criticized the Turkish state's efforts to get external support for its ongoing war against the Kurdish people, saying: "The government poisons society. In response, we will unite and build peace with our own hands. All the policies pursued by the government against the Kurds since 2015 have been frustrated by resistance. They have failed, and they will fail again."

Uçar also criticized the usurpation of municipalities in the Kurdish region, the persecution of political prisoners, the attacks against the Kurdish population and the policies of impunity, vowing that the Kurdish people will still continue to raise their voice for peace.

"The peace to be built here is a great step towards a democratic republic and co-existence. Now is the time for peace. Now is the time to win," she said.

## Family waits for five years before being allowed to get remains of their son

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

As a result of clashes that broke out in the region of Besta in Şırnak in 2018, HPG guerrilla Diljar Hazar fell as a martyr. Hazar's body was taken to the Şırnak State Hospital morgue.

Despite the DNA test performed by his family for identification purposes, Hazar's body was buried in the cemetery of the nameless in the city center.

The family went to the police on Friday and was told that, in fact, the DNA test performed five years ago, matched the sample from the body.

The family was able to recover Hazar's remains from the cemetery of the orphans, and brought them to Idil (Hezex) to bury them there.

The funeral eventually took place at Şexhesen Cemetery and was attended by MEBYA-DER members and HDP district administration.

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## Opinion

### The multiple faces of the revolution, a comment by the Internationalist Commune of Rojava

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2023

The [Internationalist Commune of Rojava](#) is running a series of comments from internationalists visiting Northern and Eastern Syria.

In the new article, the authors wrote: "It's sometimes hard to put feelings into words, when you are faced with something that is hard to understand. Sometimes, even when you were unable to believe something like this before. Because it's an understanding that is coming from your heart, deep down inside of you."

When we talked about cooperatives, I thought about the collective farms I know in France. When we went to Jinwar – the women's village – I thought about the village of Umoja in Kenya... We don't have the same experiences, the same methods, the same views. We try to resist with our strengths and weak-

nesses, with our mistakes and successes, we try to build resistance in our own different way. We are all sharing the same drive, the same desire for solidarity, for freedom, for taking our future into our own hands.”

The authors added: “We talked with many people, in families, in the structures of the autonomous administration. Everyone has lost someone, a close relative, a friend, a child... sometimes much more. Thousands made sacrifices so that others could have a chance to build a better world. Against these people that try to create a free life, the Turkish state is launching drone strikes, organizing armed clashes, occupies, leading a war on water that is heavily impacting the humanitarian situation, agriculture, electricity and clean water supply. In addition, the embargo is slowly eroding the economy and daily life, and the threat of ISIS is still strong. Yes, despite the fact that most of the world seems to see it as a problem from the past, ISIS is here, still with support, a lot of weapons at its disposal and a lot of fighters.”

The authors underlined that “the people of Rojava and North-east Syria gave a lot of sacrifice, struggled so much and built so much with their own hands. They are connected to this revolution in such a way that it’s a part of them. They made Öcalan’s philosophical and political vision their own. They will never back down. They show a determination that is not only necessary, but also admirable, with a humility that commands respect in view of all they have achieved.”

The authors visited the Black Stadium of Raqqa, a stadium turned into a prison by ISIS where civilians were imprisoned, tortured, murdered by beheading or hanging. “In the midst of this heavy atmosphere and the smell of death clinging to the walls, - they wrote - our guide casually smoked a cigarette, explaining that when ISIS occupied Raqqa, if you were caught smoking a cigarette, you will have your fingers cut-off.”



## MP Çiçek reflects about the current restructuring phase of the Green Left Party and the HDP

ANF | ISTANBUL | 29 AUGUST 2023

The process of criticism and self-criticism within the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) and the Green Left Party after the election victory of the AKP-MHP regime last May continues. Although the democratic opposition had done well despite fraud and manipulation by Erdoğan’s camp in Kurdistan, it fell short of expectations overall. In recent months, numerous people meetings have taken place, to collect the criticism, opinions and suggestions of the voters. Now consequences are being drawn. Speaking to ANF, Green Party Left Istanbul MP and co-spokesman for the HDK (Democratic Congress of Peoples), Cengiz Çiçek, pointed out that a significant criticism of the HDP concerns its development into a middle-class party.

“In fact, this criticism was not voiced for the first time, and it did not only come from the population,” explained Çiçek. “There have been perceptions and discussions in this direction within our organized structures for some time. However, relative electoral success prevented these discussions from deepening and

criticism from becoming visible. We reject this focus on election results. Election results are definitely not the only yardstick for the struggle. We will derive our next steps from this criticism.”

**“The process of criticism and self-criticism paves the way for us and gives us strength”**

Çiçek underlined that the people themselves have made immense sacrifices and that the people themselves are political subjects. The demands of the people are clear. “It is a fact that we have long had difficulties in establishing direct relationships with our people. Public assemblies are extremely important in this process, especially in view of the principles on which the new phase of the struggle will be built. The popular assemblies and discussions are practical criticism of the previous phase. If we take this attitude as a basis and stick to it, it will make a historical contribution to our struggle in the medium and long term.”

**“People have made enormous sacrifices and have become political actors themselves”**

Referring to the tragic death of two Peace Mothers who recently died in a traffic accident on their way back from interrogation in Yüksekova, Çiçek said: “The reality of people in our country is just as painful as those of the Peace Mothers who recently died in a traffic accident. People have an enormous responsibility. They have made great sacrifices and have become political actors themselves. What they expect from their party is matching behavior. While the people cling to the rightness and legitimacy of our struggle, they criticize the state of alienation from its reality. The core of the criticism is directed at the understanding and approach of ‘sociality without community’. There is a serious criticism of the way we have organized the electoral process and our decisions, but it is not limited to that. Above all, the criticism also concerns our shortcomings in relation to the moral and political values of the Kurdish people, especially with regard to the total isolation of Abdullah Öcalan. People have made suggestions as to how we can get out of this situation.”

**“Criticisms are now implemented in the congress phase”**

Çiçek emphasized that the criticisms would now be implemented in the congresses after the phase of the popular assemblies. He reported on the developments in the HDP and the Green Left Party, but also criticized the fact that certain problems persisted. “We are currently in the congress phase. We want all the forces that make up the party, give it character and support it, to participate in this congress process and organize themselves in it. We are aware that a healthy and consistent process of self-criticism after the elections will only be possible in this way. Even if there are still some problem areas - which is quite normal - we can say without a doubt that we are experiencing one of the most democratic and qualified congress processes. Even if this process is not free from weaknesses, it shows the determination to overcome the deficits identified.”

**“Poor implementation of participation led to elitism and bureaucratization”**

According to Çiçek, an important point of the criticism was the inadequate implementation of participation rights in the party. “The criticisms come not only from the population, but also from our committees and from the workers of the party. First of all, we as members and individuals have an obligation to collectively define this rule and determine its practical implementation. As mentioned, while we have had a very productive discussion process, that does not mean that we agree on all issues. But our common understanding is growing compared to the past. In addition, we can no longer avoid criticizing an understand-

ing that is limited to the participation of social components or individuals from the party; instead, a right to the participation of peoples and social subjects must be created.”

### **“It’s about how we can develop resistance”**

Çiçek continued: “This previous way of implementation led to the often criticized alienation, elitism, bureaucracy and arrest in representative politics. At present, the right to participate means forming an alliance of social struggles and enforcing their demands. For this reason, the criticism should not be understood as a criticism of our strategic battle line, the alliance policy, but as a criticism of its practical inadequacies. Besides, nobody thinks that we shouldn't form an alliance against the system, that we shouldn't wage a common struggle, and nobody ignores the sacrifices that each organization as well as individuals are making in this struggle. The minimum to do justice to this is to create a collective among us to defend and develop the political and social positions and values that we have acquired over the years. In this context, the question for us is not whether we resist or not, but how we can develop the resistance.”

Çiçek also responded to the criticism that the Green Left Party had not advertised itself sufficiently, saying that “there are two reasons why the Green Left Party was not sufficiently publicized during the electoral process. The first is that the election campaign had to be conducted in a very short period of time. If any other party had run for elections for the first time in such a short time, it would be questionable whether they could have received so many votes at all. This is also a positive point, showing the degree of development of our people’s political consciousness. Of course, this is not a new finding for us. However, it is worth recalling this in this grim environment. The second reason is that the lack of publicity shows an organizational weakness. We self-criticize that we did not face this organizational reality, which has long been shrinking and weakening under the influence of objective and subjective conditions. We cannot withdraw from this self-criticism using the argument of repression and persecution. Because we must not forget that a state of emergency is our normal state. Therefore, we have no choice but to remain an organization strong in its ideological, political and social values under all circumstances.”

### **“Relative success in the elections has prevented criticism from taking hold”**

Çiçek also commented on the criticism of the HDP’s development into a “middle-class party”. He said: “Indeed, this criticism was not voiced for the first time and it was not limited to people. Within our organized structures there have been discussions and criticisms along these lines for a long time. The relative electoral successes prevented these discussions from deepening and criticism from becoming visible. From this point of view, we criticize the fact that election results are almost the only criterion of the struggle. For the rest, it is not about ignoring the electoral processes or regarding them as unimportant. If the electoral successes mask our organizational reality and the problems of the struggle, then we are making a serious mistake and an ideological aberration. With the HDP’s victory in the elections on 7 June 2015, the balance between elections and social struggle began to go in favor of elections. However, elections should not be viewed as a process of struggle in itself, but as a stop on the road to democratic revolutionary struggle.”

### **“The victory will be a victory of revolutionary politics”**

Çiçek continued: “The narrowing of the social struggle to electoral processes also prevented us from taking timely measures against the development of fascism. As this misguided state persisted for a long time, instead of a revolutionary, democratic, legitimate understanding of struggle, a perspective narrowed to the

areas in which the system imprisoned us emerged. What was the result? While the system attacked us from all sides, unloading its ideological and coercive apparatus on us in every conceivable way, the way out was seen in a “superb performance” by our parliamentary group and the party leadership. On the contrary, an organized, resistant and popular reality was not considered necessary, it was almost not on our agenda. The fact that the role of the HDK, which is often criticized today, has been downplayed and de facto overridden, is also related to this attitude and culture of struggle inherent in the system. Therefore, we must offer a factual critique of our recent history. We must remove the distortion of electoral success, which distracts us from the tasks of the struggle and the organizational character that builds on it.

The final victory will be the victory of revolutionary politics. The victory lies in the slogan ‘elections are one thing, but not everything’.”



## Elfriede Jelinek and Konstantin Wecker: Peace is more than a dream

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2023

On the occasion of Anti-War Day on 1 September, we publish the appeal of the Austrian Nobel Prize for Literature laureate Elfriede Jelinek and the Munich singer-songwriter Konstantin Wecker to desert from all wars of aggression.

This text is published in solidarity with the International Kurdish Cultural Festival on 9 September 2023 in Frankfurt am Main in German, Kurdish and Turkish.

“Suddenly, at night, we heard screams, as if a person was suffering terrible pain. Then it was quiet. Someone must have been hit to death, we thought. After an hour, we heard screams again, and now it didn’t stop. All night a person was screaming. All day a person was screaming. More and more plaintive, more and more helpless. (...) He screamed like an infant screams, naked, without words. He screamed for four days and four nights. For us, it was four years. We stuffed paper in our ears. It didn’t help. Then it became quiet.

Not the enemy. The human being. Man screamed. (...) In such hours, when one, how shall I put it, descends to the groundwater, one asks oneself: Why all this? What is it all for? Would you ask the same question?

In all countries, people pondered the same question. In all countries, people gave themselves the same answer. For gold, for land, for coal, for nothing but dead things, people die, starve, despair, was the answer. And there and there the bravest of the people stood up, shouted their hard no to the blind, wanted this war to stop and all wars, fought for a world where all children would have it good.

This story from the First World War, “which happened, which I was there for”, is what the writer Ernst Toller had his protagonist Karl Thomas tell in his play *Hoppla, wir leben!* Only six years later, on the day

his books were burned in Germany, Toller wrote: “In the tornado of war, which threatens to announce itself with rising armaments stocks, Europe is plunging into the abyss of suicide. (...) To be honest, one must know. To be brave, one must understand. To be just, one must not forget.”

### **Killing every day**

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, which violates international law, has already lasted almost 20 months. People are being killed and maimed every day. Just as in all imperial wars such as that of the NATO state Turkey against the people in Kurdistan and in the self-governing regions of Rojava in northern Syria or the war of Saudi Arabia in Yemen, as well as in past wars such as those of NATO against the Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999, against Afghanistan in 2001 or in the war of the US-led “coalition of the willing” against Iraq in 2003.

The prospects for an early end to the war against Ukraine are poor; the war has become a “war of attrition”. It will not be won, but, as so often in world history, will end far too late. We should understand in order to act.

These imperial wars must end immediately: the war against the people in Ukraine as well as the war against the Kurds in Turkey, in Northern Syria, in Iran. Likewise, the threat of even bigger wars must be prevented. As long as people around the world can still manage it. We have not forgotten what the Austrian author Karl Kraus wrote in 1917: “When the word ‘peace’ was spoken for the first time, a panic arose on the stock exchange. They cried out in pain: We have earned! Let us have the war! We have earned the war!”

A better life for all people in our world is possible - to dream about it, to write about it, to sing about it, to insist on it and to commit to it together, that is what we all want to do individually and together: on Global Anti-War Day on 1 September, and everywhere and every day worldwide.

We will never stop dreaming of a world free of domination, without wars, fascism, racism, patriarchy, without the destructive exploitation of people and nature.

As artists, as a writer and a musician, we insist on what Ernst Bloch formulated in his work *The Principle of Hope*: “It is important to learn to hope. (...) The effect of hope goes out of itself, makes people wide instead of narrowing them (...). The work of this effect requires people who actively throw themselves into the becoming, to which they themselves belong. (...) How richly people have always dreamed, dreamed of the better life that would be possible.”

The uprising in Iran after the murder of the Iranian Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini has given rise to hope for a global feminist perspective: Jin, Jiyan, Azadî - Woman, Life, Freedom! This visionary position has a long history in the Kurdish feminist movement for gender justice.

The warlords and politicians of this world cannot forbid our dreams, nor can they permanently prevent our attempts to make them a reality. Neither in Ankara nor in Tehran, neither in Moscow nor in Washington, Beijing or Berlin.”



## Preparations for a new invasion attack?

SELAHATTIN ERDEM | 31 AUGUST 2023

After the rigged elections, the results of which were already known in advance, the fascist head of state Tayyip Erdoğan said: “We will strengthen the fight against terrorism and on this basis we will give more space to diplomatic activities”. In fact, he formed his new cabinet accordingly and increased fascist terror at home and invasive attacks abroad. In parallel, he also accelerated diplomatic activities.

First, he went to Astana and tried to achieve what he could. Then he went to NATO and negotiated Sweden’s NATO membership, again taking advantage of the Ukraine war and even talking about joining the European Union. And he asked for support for the genocidal war he is waging in Kurdistan. In response, the Secretary General of NATO issued a statement denouncing the PKK and the post of Special Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism was established within NATO. Within this framework, Erdoğan has not yet found approval and support for a new invasion attack against north-eastern Syria, but he has created the necessary environment for continuous air and artillery attacks. And he has reassured himself of the pre-existing support for the occupation attack on the Medya Defence Zones (guerrilla areas in northern Iraq). On this basis, he has tried to escalate military attacks by all means and methods, including the use of prohibited weapons.

These were his essential actions, but it was also necessary to ask for help from the Arab states to alleviate the economic crisis caused by the war and to find financial support for the war. In fact, he visited many Arab states and tried to get hot money by marketing Turkish resources. Although not all states made the hoped-for commitments, he managed to get partial new support from the powers to whom he had sold the Black Sea and Istanbul.

After all this, Tayyip Erdoğan’s fascist-genocidal government has now taken on Iraqi diplomacy. Hakan Fidan, the former MIT undersecretary, Tayyip Erdoğan’s “black box” and the new foreign minister, shuttled back and forth between Baghdad and Hewlêr [Erbil] for days. The press said that there was no leader in Baghdad and Hewlêr whom he had not met. He tried to embrace his interlocutors, especially the Barzanis, and pretend to be sincere. It is also rumoured that fascist leader Tayyip Erdoğan will also visit Iraq. Obviously, Iraqi relations are important for Tayyip Erdoğan’s government and, on this basis, it wants to realise its new plans.

Of course, we cannot know exactly what was discussed and debated at the intensified Turkish-Iraqi talks and what results were achieved. The media reported that various trade issues were discussed, in particular the water of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers and oil and gas. It is also said that the issue of the “joint struggle against the PKK” was put on the agenda by Turkey and dealt with intensively. It is said that the situation in the Iraqi territories occupied by Turkey was assessed. While there is not much about the Baghdad talks in the press, after the talks in Hewlêr, both sides thanked each other “for their contribution to the joint struggle against the PKK”.

There is no doubt that the Turkish-Iraqi talks have an important economic and trade dimension. This can also be expressed in the short and medium term. We all know that behind the conflicts and wars in the region is the question of who will exploit the economic resources. It is well known that it is primarily about

the struggle for economic interests and exploitation, and on this basis countless projects compete and fight with each other.

Although this is the common issue of all who meet and do politics on the ground, it is not the first priority of the Turkish state and the fascist AKP/MHP government. Their first priority is to crush the guerrillas, liquidate the PKK and, on this basis, complete the genocide of the Kurds. In other words, their main agenda is the genocidal war against Kurdish existence and freedom. It is certain that they put this on the agenda at every opportunity and try to get everyone's support on this issue.

And what does the Tayyip Erdoğan government want in this context? According to some statements, it is trying to annex the areas it has occupied in Xakurke, Avaşîn, Zap, Metîna and Heftanîn, i.e. to put them under its permanent sovereignty, and to get more support in attacks against the PKK guerrillas. However, it does not seem logical at the moment that the issue of annexation is at the top of the agenda. After all, this problem was solved with the agreement on a "buffer zone" between Turkey and Iraq in 1985. Also, the Hammer Force operation of 1991 and the joint attack of October 1992 showed that the Hewlêr government also accepted this solution. The Baghdad and Hewlêr governments have not resisted the occupation attacks of AKP/MHP fascism since 26 August 2016 and are therefore not in a position to resist the annexation.

What remains in this case are the extermination and liquidation attacks against Kurdish existence and freedom under the name of fighting the PKK. In this respect, Iraqi airspace has already been open to the Turkish state since 1991. There is no problem. Also, the Turkish state receives the desired intelligence support from both Iraq and the government of Southern Kurdistan. There is no serious problem in this regard. That is, it is not what the Tayyip Erdoğan government wants from the governments in Baghdad and Hewlêr, there is no need for such intense negotiations. So there must be other demands behind these new efforts.

So, what does the fascist-genocidal Erdoğan government want from Baghdad and Hewlêr? Is it making new occupation plans for areas like Metîna Summit and Gare and asking for support for them? Is it also planning new attacks on Maxmur and Shengal? Apparently, it does not seem politically possible for it to carry out an attack on Shengal that goes beyond the present one. The attack on Maxmur, on the other hand, was carried out some time ago and has been completed. What remains, therefore, is an attack on new regions within the Medya Defence Zones. In this respect, the region of Gare stands out and it is believed that the fascist AKP/MHP government is trying to prepare an invasion attack on Gare.

Undoubtedly, it cannot carry out a military attack on the area in question on its own. In this regard, the consent and support of the US and Iraqi governments is required. Above all, the KDP must participate in the war. Even if the Turkish state conquers Gare, it cannot hold it for the time being, but must leave it to the KDP. It should be noted that a possible attack on Gare is only possible if the KDP enters the war and eventually takes over the leadership of Gare. It is obvious that this would mean an open war between the KDP and the PKK without any discussion. So, the situation is serious and the Tayyip Erdoğan government is playing a dangerous game. It is trying to involve the KDP directly in the war against the PKK. The statements after the talks in Hewlêr show that the KDP also supports such a plan.

It is clear that the KDP is playing with fire and wants to take the collaborative traitor line it has been following for years to the extreme. Therefore, the people and the political forces of Kurdistan and Iraq must

be attentive. They must not allow this attitude. The peoples, the women and the youth as well as the democratic and socialist forces of Turkey, who are really for the Turkish-Kurdish fraternity, must also oppose this attack by fascist Tayyip Erdoğan and the People's Alliance government aiming at occupation and genocide. Because waging a war of extermination against the Kurds at a time of the approaching anniversary of the battle of Malazgirt, which was largely won with Kurdish support, harms Turkey's society as much as it harms the Kurds. Therefore, it is necessary to develop and win the struggle for freedom and democracy together against the fascist terror and genocidal attacks of the AKP/MHP.

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Contact e-mail: [imralipost@freeocalan.org](mailto:imralipost@freeocalan.org)

Websites: [freeocalan.org](http://freeocalan.org) | [ocalanbooks.com](http://ocalanbooks.com) | Videos: [vimeo.com/freeocalan](https://vimeo.com/freeocalan)