

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	2
Öcalan's lawyers prepare to respond to Turkey's answer to UN.....	2
People's Initiative in Cizîrê Region launches campaign for the freedom of Öcalan.....	4
Group from PJAK takes over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg.....	5
Hundreds in Milan demand freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	6
"Sociology of Freedom" by Öcalan published in French.....	6
International Trade Unions approve call for the release of Öcalan.....	7
Prisons.....	7
Kurdish journalist Maroofian released on bail.....	7
Ill prisoner in Kırşehir S Type jail not taken to hospital.....	8
PKK and PAJK Committees call on people to protest torture in prisons.....	9
Imprisoned Kurdish politician Leyla Güven faces yet another lawsuit.....	10
Rights of prisoners and families constantly violated.....	11
Ill prisoner not treated in Ankara hospitals.....	12
Journalist Abdurrahman Gök remains in prison.....	12
Protest against torture of women in Patnos prison.....	14
Journalist Rojin Altay sentenced to prison.....	15
Prisoners in Aksaray jail denied treatment.....	15
Military aggression and occupation.....	16
Village in Beytüşşebap under blockade for 45 days.....	16
HPG reports ongoing actions against the Turkish army.....	16
Balance sheet of the mercenaries' foiled attacks and the legitimate responses in Manbij.....	17
HPG: Stuck in Zap, Turkish army launched a new attack to extend the occupation operation to Metina.....	20
12 September 1980, a never ending military coup.....	21
PJAK: Handing over our weapons is out of the question.....	23
Unexploded cannon ball shell injures two children in Manbij.....	24
HPG: 19 Turkish soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions.....	25
Village in Şırnak under military siege for nearly 2 months.....	26
UN: Turkey continues to kill civilians in air strikes.....	26
Villages of Til Temir have suffered over 300 attacks since August.....	27
Footage of action by YJA Star guerrillas in Sida Resistance Area.....	28
HPG: Guerrillas carried out 30 actions against Turkish troops in Zap, killing 7 soldiers.....	28
KDP sends 200 armored vehicles to Sîdekan.....	29
KDP forces attack guerrilla positions.....	29
Turkish military measures in the Kurdish region continue.....	30
HPG: 12 soldiers killed, 2 helicopters damaged in guerrilla areas.....	31

More restrictions for villagers in Bana.....	32
Turkish drone attack kills 3 YPJ fighters in Manbij.....	32
HPG: 4 soldiers killed, 2 helicopters damaged.....	33
HPG: 5 Turkish soldiers were killed in Zap.....	34
Femicide.....	35
Çubuk: The Green Left Party will strenghten its women's organization.....	35
Woman from Afrin tells of her 5-year ordeal.....	36
2 killed, 2 wounded as village guard attacks the family of his wife in Patnos.....	37
Co-founder of Rosa Women's Association sentenced to seven and a half years in prison.....	38
TJK-E calls on everyone to attend actions to mark the anniversary of killing of Jina Amini in Tehran.....	39
Kurdish activist Nesrin Akgül imprisoned again one and a half years after her release.....	41
Young Women's Union publishes 15-day action 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' program.....	42
Kongra Star calls for enhanced struggle until victory.....	42
Clip released on the anniversary of 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' uprising.....	44
People of Rojhilat go on general strike on the anniversary of the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini.....	45
Dozens detained in police attack on Saturday Mothers in Istanbul.....	46
Ecocide.....	47
Make Rojava Green Again: Ecocide in Kurdistan is the product of colonization.....	47
Village guards destroy forests in Şırnak countryside.....	47
Human Rights Violations.....	48
Atabay: We need to fight self-assimilation to increase rate of those speaking in Kurdish.....	48
At least 201 workers lost their lives in occupational homicides in August.....	50
Mercenaries take action to seize the olive groves of local people in Afrin.....	50
Green Left Party conference ends with resolutions for the future.....	52
85 Kurds and activists detained in Rojhilat in August.....	53
Father of Jina Amini taken into custody.....	53
Interview.....	54
Muslim warns against a reorganization of ISIS - PART ONE.....	54
Muslim: There is no rebellion against the Autonomous Administration - PART TWO.....	57
Opinion.....	60
Denial and silence continue one year after the Turkish army burned the bodies of its own soldiers.....	60
The truth of the Treaty of Lausanne and its historical impact.....	61



Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Öcalan's lawyers prepare to respond to Turkey's answer to UN

ANF | ISTANBUL | 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

In 2022, lawyers of the Asrın Law Office requested that the issue of family and lawyer denied visits to Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are

held in İmralı, be examined by the United Nations UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The UN Committee accepted the request for measures as a priority and in September 2022 demanded from the Turkish government an end to the incommunicado detention, and that the applicants be given immediate and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice. As it did not comply with this decision, the government was reminded of the urgent request in January 2023.

Turkey did not comply with them, using arguments that ignored these injunctions.

Abdullah Öcalan's lawyers are now preparing a response to Turkey's answer. Speaking to ANF, lawyer Ibrahim Bilmez from Asrın Law Office stated that they will send this answer soon, and that the UN will make a decision on the merits later.

Application to all institutions

Lawyer Bilmez explained why they brought this decision to international councils, saying: "We are faced with an unprecedented unlawfulness. We are doing our best to overcome this isolation. We apply to all institutions. Both national and international. We haven't heard from our four clients in İmralı, a prison affiliated to the Ministry of Justice, for two and a half years. This is not a situation we see in other countries, including those described as 'third world countries'."

The lawyer added: "For two and a half years, we had no news and were prevented from going and seeing them. No phone calls were allowed, no letters.

We have constantly brought this issue to the Council of Europe bodies. We've been doing this since '99. Many of our applications are still at the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers. But unfortunately, we could not get the result we wanted. That's why, in 2022, we decided to make an application to the United Nations. The UN also has a body called the Human Rights Committee, a sort of international court. But the authority for this is the whole world. In other words, it does not only include the member countries of the Council of Europe. It includes all the countries that are members of the UN in the world. He has authority over them. It deals with human rights violations and makes decisions. We decided to take this issue of isolation to the United Nations because we thought it was against human rights."

Turkey did not fulfil the requirements of the UN

Lawyer Bilmez said that all domestic remedies were exhausted when they resolved to apply to the UN, and added that Turkey did not comply with the many decisions taken in the process. "The United Nations has twin agreements. That's why we applied about the issue of isolation. First, we applied to the prison. Then we applied to the prosecutor's office, then to the execution judgeship. When we received rejection, we applied to the High Criminal Court. When we received a rejection from there, we applied to the Constitutional Court on 24 December 2021. We have made an application for an action request. The Constitutional Court rejected our request for an injunction on 12 January 2022."

Lawyer Bilmez said that “thus, domestic law was exhausted. Therefore, we applied to the United Nations Human Rights Committee for the first time on 29 July 2022. We applied for precautionary measures. We said that we had not heard from Mr. Abdullah Öcalan and our other 3 clients in Imrali since the phone call [made by Öcalan] on 25 March 2021. This means a violation of many rights that are also regulated by the Human Rights Convention. To us, it means torture. We say that according to the texts on which the UN is based, this type of execution regime, that is, not being able to reach or receive information from anyone, also means torture. This form of detention - in some of the previous decisions by the committee - is called something like ‘abduction’.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee requested a measure on this issue on 6 September 2022 and wrote to Turkey, asking the government to make sure that Öcalan can meet with his lawyers without any restrictions. But Turkey did not comply with this.”

The lawyers denounced this and again wrote to the UN that Turkey was not fulfilling its obligations. “That’s why – said the lawyer - we demanded the UN to intervene. In January 2023, the UN Human Rights Committee reminded the Turkish government of its obligations. After that reminder, we applied both to the execution judgeship in Turkey and to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office. We also submitted this request for precaution to the Constitutional Court. But none of these authorities did anything.”

Turkey ignores all obligations

Lawyer Bilmez said that the process is continuing, that Turkey has sent a presentation to the UN, and that the lawyers will soon submit their answers to the Committee. “The government sent its views to the United Nations. However, this government did not mention either our request for action or the UN’s response. It literally ignored it. It didn’t give him any answer. Because there is no answer it can give. We have now prepared our own response to the government’s submissions and are about to send it. After we submit it, the UN Committee will make a decision on the merits. But we don’t know yet how long this process will last.”



People’s Initiative in Cizîrê Region launches campaign for the freedom of Öcalan

ANF | QAMISHLO | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

The people of Rojava are following with great sensitivity the situation of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, who is imprisoned on the island of Imrali and is considered the mastermind of the radical democratic Project implemented in the region. The People’s Initiative in Cizîrê Region of North-East Syria has launched a series of actions under the slogan “The physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan is the prerequisite for peace and brotherhood in the Middle East”.

A two-day tent protest began on Sunday, with many hundreds of residents of the town taking part. The protest is taking place in front of the house of the Council of Martyrs' Families and will be followed a mass march. Representatives of civil society institutions as well as councillors from the surrounding towns are also taking part in the action.

Hisên Ramadan made the opening speech and said: "The isolation of our leader Abdullah Öcalan is against all humanity. We condemn the silence of all international human rights organisations and all forces involved. We will continue this struggle until we achieve the physical freedom of the Leader."

Mihemed Şerîf from the Council of Martyrs' Families said: "Leader Öcalan fought for the freedom of all the oppressed and dedicated his life to building democracy."

Şadiya Yûsif, a member of the executive committee of the Women's Movement, stressed: "In order to guarantee the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, we must trust in his philosophy, understand it and implement it in society."

The situation of Abdullah Öcalan is considered a yardstick for the actions of the Turkish state, especially against the Kurdish population. The Turkish state is doing everything it can to totally isolate the mastermind of a democratic Middle East and separate him from society. But despite isolation, there is a growing attachment to Öcalan and his philosophy, which is realised in the practical example of Rojava.

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Group from PJAK takes over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil was launched on 25 June 2012 in Strasbourg, with the aim of ensuring the physical freedom of the Kurdish People's Leader and ending the isolation in İmralı.

In its 586th week, the vigil, which is the longest-running Kurdish action in Europe, was taken over by a group from PJAK, East Kurdistan. The group consists of Rojhilat activists Ronak Febevi, Şoreş and Serbest.

Making a statement on behalf of the group, Ronak Febevi said that the Kurdish People's Leader has been in captivity in İmralı for almost 25 years and underlined that the Kurdish people have been holding a vigil in front of the European institutions in Strasbourg for 11 years demanding freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.

Ronak Febevi said: "Enough is enough. We have enough of the oppression against the Kurdish people and their leaders." He called on all supporters of freedom and democracy to show solidarity for the end of the isolation and the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan."

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Hundreds in Milan demand freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

SERKAN DEMIREL | MILAN | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

A panel and concert called “Time for Hope” was held in Milan to demand the freedom of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and all political prisoners, and to defend the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination.

The event was held in Delle Cascine di Chiesa Rossa park and saw the participation of hundreds of people. The event was organized by the Italian Kurdistan Information Office, Rete Kurdistan-Italy and the Rifondazione Comunista party.

The event started with a panel where the ideas of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the Rojava Revolution were discussed. The panel was moderated by Kurdish politician Hazal Koyuncuer, and attended by the famous Italian cartoonist Zerocalcare, who published several books on the Rojava Revolution and Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan. At the meeting was also Punto Russo publishing house editor Roberto Mapelli, who translated Abdullah Öcalan’s books into Italian, and journalist Giacomo Sini.

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“Sociology of Freedom” by Öcalan published in French

ANF | PARIS | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

“Sociology of Freedom”, the third volume of the Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan’s “Democratic Society Manifesto”, is now available in French. The book is published by Editions du Croquant publishing house.

Previously, the first two volumes of the “Democratic Society Manifesto” series, “The Age of Masked Gods and Veiled Kings” and “The Age of Unmasked Gods and Naked Kings”, were published in French.

Sociology of Freedom is the fascinating third volume of a five-volume work titled “Democratic Society Manifesto”. The general aim of the two earlier volumes was to clarify what power and capitalist modernity entailed. Here Öcalan presents his stunningly original theme of Democratic Civilisation, based on his criticism of Capitalist Modernity. Ambitious in scope and encyclopaedic in execution, The Sociology of Freedom is a one-of-a-kind exploration that reveals the remarkable range of one of the Left’s most original thinkers with topics such as existence and freedom, nature, and philosophy, anarchism and ecology. Öcalan goes back to the origins of human culture to present a penetrating reinterpretation of the basic problems facing the twenty-first century and an examination of their solutions. Öcalan convincingly argues that industrialism, capitalism, and the nation-state cannot be conquered within the confines of a socialist context.

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International Trade Unions approve call for the release of Öcalan

ANF | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 10, 11 and 12 September, the V Meeting of the International Trade Union Network of Solidarity and Struggles was held in the city of São Jose dos Campos, in Brazil. Representatives from all over the world attended the conference, supporting the international campaign for the release of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan and the thousands of Kurdish political prisoners in Turkey.

The meeting approved a statement proposed by the Socialist Revolutionary Movement of Brazil, a member of the Committee for Revolutionary Regrouping (CRIR).

The text of the statement is as follows:

“The political, social and cultural organizations of the Kurdish people have launched a new international campaign for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and thousands of Kurdish political prisoners in Turkey. This International Congress of Central Workers and Unions, meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil, expresses its solidarity with the fight for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, a political prisoner of the Turkish State held on the prison island of Imrali for 24 years. At the same time, we join the voices that denounce the confinement conditions to which he is subjected and that were confirmed by the European Court of Human Rights and the reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which said that “they constitute torture.”

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Prisons

Kurdish journalist Maroofian released on bail

ANF | 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Kurdish journalist Nazila Maroofian, who interviewed the father of Jina Amini, who was murdered by the Iranian regime in September 2022, was arrested for the fourth time on 30 August.

Journalist Maroofian, who was held in Evin Prison, was released on bail. Maroofian had been on a hunger strike since 1 September after denouncing that she had been sexually assaulted while in custody.

Background

The 23-year-old Kurdish journalist Nazila Maroofian has been arrested. She was first targeted by the regime authorities last October because of an interview with Amjad Amini, the father of Jina Mahsa Amini, whose violent death in police custody on 16 September 2022 ignited the popular uprising in Iran and East Kurdistan. Amini accused the authorities of lying about his daughter's death. According to official information, "health" problems led to the death of 22-year-old Jina Amini. Her family, however, said that she was killed by police officers who hit her in the head. This was also indicated by statements from the Tehran hospital to which Amini was admitted on 13 September 2022. By then she was already brain dead.

Maroofian was sentenced to two years in prison in January for "propaganda against the state" in connection with her reporting on the death of Jina Mahsa Amini. She had recently left prison on bail. She was imprisoned again in July because, among other things, she had written about cases of sexual assaults on female prisoners in Iran. In mid-August she ended up behind bars again, this time in Waramin, just 24 hours after her release. Maroofian, who, like Jina Mahsa Amini, comes from Seqiz in East Kurdistan and works for the media platform Rouydad 24, is also studying at Tehran's Allameh Tabatabai University.

After her recent release, she published several photos on social networks that showed her without the obligatory headscarf. According to the KHNR, Maroofian received repeated threatening calls from officials in the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, who asked her to stop her activities on social networks.

Maroofian's most recent detention was justified by the Iranian authorities with a post on X (formerly Twitter) in which the journalist expressed solidarity with the Iranian singer Mehdi Yarrahi. The musician was recently arrested by the regime for publishing a song in which he questioned the obligation to wear a headscarf. The "illegal song," as the mullahs' judiciary labelled the song, called 'Roosarito' (Your Headscarf), refers to the 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' revolution led by women. Yarrahi sings, among other things: "Take off your headscarf, let your hair free (...)."

The piece is "dedicated to the noble women of my homeland who are courageously at the forefront of the 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement."

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Ill prisoner in Kırşehir S Type jail not taken to hospital

ANF | ANKARA | 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Ill prisoner Şervan Serkaya, who was deported from Maraş Türkoğlu L-Type Prison to Kırşehir S-Type Closed Prison after the earthquake last February, said in a phone call with his family that he vomited blood and although he reported this to the prison administration officials, he was not transferred to the hospital.

Sertkaya's father, Bahattin Sertkaya, said that his son had undergone surgery for appendicitis a few months before the earthquake and therefore had health problems for a while.

Sertkaya said: "My son called his mother yesterday and told her he had been vomiting blood for a few days, but the prison administration did not take him to the hospital. We want our son to be given treatment."



PKK and PAJK Committees call on people to protest torture in prisons

ANF | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

After the serious case of torture in Patnos prison, the PKK and PAJK called for protests. Political prisoners Mizgin Kayıtbey, Lale Kabişen and Nazlıcan Barışer were beaten by around 40 guards on 1 September and then tortured with the so-called pig shackles for four hours. The prison authorities were also involved in the torture.

This torture means people are tied together at the neck, legs and arms under tension on their backs in a curved position. Every stretch reflex leads to strangulation. Pig shackle is a torture method used by Islamists in particular to punish "infidels" and is a direct reminder of the crime of Malatya, when three Christians were tied with pig shackles by Islamists in 2007 and then had their throats cut like cattle for slaughter. This method was systematically used in the 1990s by the so-called Turkish Hezbollah, a para-state terrorist group.

The PKK and PAJK Committee said in a statement that this latest attack on prisoners constituted "an attack on the movement's freedom line, and especially on the women's freedom line as well as on Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. Everyone must take a serious stand in the face of these crimes."

"Prisons are laboratories of the system of power"

The statement said: "Prisons are the laboratories of the system of power. For this reason, prisons are always the first place to test special warfare methods. Depending on the success of the measures tested in this laboratory, the state will attempt to apply them to society. When it comes to prisons, what the enemy fears most are organized structures."

"Organized structures should be destroyed"

The statement added: "The AKP-MHP fascism is trying to achieve results by trying to destroy our organized structures in prisons. Special warfare methods are used to break the resistance of our comrades, keep them away from the fight and make them regret their choices. The enemy knows that organizing is the basis for resistance because it promotes the socialization of people. Therefore, the organization in the prisons should be eliminated and our comrades weakened."

But the enemy was not successful in this plan. Since they were unable to achieve their goal, this time they tried to target our comrades individually. Although the prison sentences of many of our comrades have been served, the denial of their release and reprisals in prison are intended to force them to regret their political actions. The Hizbulkondas (Turkish Hezbollah) serve as enforcers for the AKP-MHP regime.”

“If there are no mass protests, this torture will spread to society”

The statement continued: “In the 1990s, the state murdered many of our people using the Hizbulkonda organization. These people were tortured to death with pig shackles. Now the AKP-MHP fascism has revived this brutal torture method from the 1990s. It had our comrades Nazlı Barışer, Mizgin Kayıtbey and Lale Abişer tortured with pig shackles by guards in Patnos Prison. We see this as part of the special war policy against our comrades in jail, as an attack on Rêber Apo and the line of free society embodied in free women. Everyone must take a serious stand about what was done to our comrades in Patnos Prison. The AKP-MHP fascism is experimenting on our comrades with its special war policy. If there are no serious protests against these practices, they will try to further develop this special war policy and apply it to society. This can then no longer be prevented. Rêber Apo says: ‘The liberation of women is the liberation of society.’ For this reason, the ruling powers turn against Rêber Apo.”

The statement went on to quote Abdullah Öcalan, who said: “Since human life only has meaning when it is free, the place where one lives without freedom is always a dark prison.”

The PKK and PAJK called on “our people and the families of prisoners to be vigilant and sensitive to the oppression and injustice suffered by our comrades in prisons and by Rêber Apo.”



Imprisoned Kurdish politician Leyla Güven faces yet another lawsuit

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

The public prosecutor’s office of Silopi district of Şırnak has filed a lawsuit against Kurdish politician Leyla Güven, accusing her of incitement of the people and demanding a prison sentence of between one and three years. The background to the charges is a speech in which Güven reiterated her demand for accountability for massacres against the Kurdish people.

Güven gave the speech in question in December 2020 at a memorial service for Taybet Inan in Silopi. The 57-year-old woman, who was called “Mother Taybet” during her lifetime, was shot dead by the Turkish army in the street during the curfew declared on 14 December 2015 in the district. Inan’s death was particularly dramatic because the body of the mother of eleven could not be recovered for seven days. The Turkish security forces shot at anything that moved. Her brother-in-law, Yusuf Inan, was also shot while trying to evacuate Inan’s dead body.

Leyla Güven, who was arrested a few days after the commemoration, had participated in the commemoration as co-chair of the grassroots movement Democratic Society Congress (DTK). In a speech at the time, she stated: “The struggle for justice for Taybet Inan and all other people who have been victims of the genocidal policies of the Turkish state continues resolutely. We will demand accountability from the murderers who continue to commit massacres against Kurdish society today in order to destroy the people.”

The prosecution considers Güven’s words to be hate speech. “Especially the inflammatory statements ‘accountability’ and ‘resistance’ are suitable to incite hatred against a part of the population, to attack the human dignity of others thereby and to disturb the public peace,” says the indictment, which has already been accepted by the 3rd Criminal Chamber of the Silopi District Court. The trial is scheduled to open on 31 October.

Background

Leyla Güven has been behind bars since 21 December 2020, currently in a high security prison in Elazığ. She was sentenced to 22 years and three months in prison in Amed (Diyarbakır) for alleged PKK membership. In the person of Leyla Güven, the court stylised the matriarchal early history of the peoples of Mesopotamia as an enemy image for the security of the Turkish state. A few months earlier, Güven had been deprived of her parliamentary mandate. In June 2021, the prison sentence was confirmed.

Last October, Güven was again sentenced to many years in prison, also in Amed, but this time for “propaganda for a terrorist organisation”. She received eleven years and seven months imprisonment for her statements in three different speeches she had made as a member of parliament. About a year earlier, a court in Hakkari had imposed a five-year prison sentence on Güven for the same charge. However, this is not the first time she has been in prison.

Leyla Güven was first arrested in 2009 as part of the internationally criticised “KCK operations” and was only released after five years. At the time of her arrest, she was mayor of the Viranşehir district of Urfa. In January 2018, Güven was again remanded in custody, this time for her criticism of Turkey’s war of aggression against Afrin in northern Syria. At that time, she initiated a 200-day hunger strike in prison in November for the lifting of solitary confinement conditions for PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been imprisoned on the prison island of Imralı since 1999. In June 2020, Leyla Güven was arrested again, only a few hours after the parliament in Ankara had revoked her mandate and thus also her immunity. The reason given was the now legally binding verdict in the KCK trial. In addition to the trial for the alleged incitement of the people, other trials against Güven are also pending.

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Rights of prisoners and families constantly violated

ANF | MERSIN | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Nevzat Aslan travelled hundreds of kilometres to go and visit his daughter Nurcan Aslan, who is held in Mersin Tarsus T Type Women’s Closed Prison.

The right to see his daughter turned into a series of violations, as Aslan himself explained. “Our visit was scheduled for 1 pm. But we were arbitrarily kept waiting at the point of control. When I asked why they didn’t take us through, they said that the guards were on their lunch break. They let only some families in. It was 1.15 pm when they let us through. The guards attacked me because I protested this situation. Even though there were cameras inside, they also filmed with cameras at close range. We came from far away to see our children for one hour, and they think even one hour is too much for us. They punish not only the prisoners but also their families.”

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Ill prisoner not treated in Ankara hospitals

ANF | ANKARA | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Ill prisoner Gürbüz Topçu was transferred from Bodrum S Type Prison to Sincan No. 2 F Type High Security Closed Prison Execution Institution to receive an eye prosthesis.

The ill prisoner, however, was sent back to prison without treatment after visiting three different hospitals.

The prisoner was first transferred to the Eye Polyclinic department of Ankara Etlik City Hospital. There, however, he was turned down, after being told that “his condition is not suitable for a prosthesis”.

The prisoner was later transferred to Ankara Bilkent City Hospital, but was not treated for the same reason and was then transferred to Ankara University Faculty of Medicine. The result did not change. The prisoner was taken back to Sincan Prison without treatment.

According to the lawyers, Topçu was put in a single cell in Sincan F Type Prison on the grounds that he did not accept the standing count.

Lawyers said that Topçu’s request to be sent back to Bodrum S Type Prison was not accepted.

Ill prisoner Topçu hasn’t seen anyone since 3 August and has not been given a single book in prison.

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Journalist Abdurrahman Gök remains in prison

ANF | AMED | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 25 April, coordinated dawn raids in Turkey targeted homes and offices of over a hundred people, including journalists, lawyers, rights defenders, political activists and artists in 21 provinces, based on unclear charges.

128 people were taken into custody, including 10 journalists who were referred to court after giving their statements to the police in the scope of an investigation launched by Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

The detained journalists included Mesopotamia News Agency (MA) editor Abdurrahman Gök and reporters Ahmet Kanbal and Mehmet Şah Oruç; editor-in-chief of Yeni Yaşam daily newspaper Osman Akın; the publisher of the only Kurdish print newspaper in Turkey, Xwebûn Weekly, Kadri Esen; JinNews reporter Beritan Canözer, and journalists Mehmet Yalçın, Mikail Barut, Salih Keleş and Remzi Akkaya.

After their referral to court, Abdurrahman Gök, Beritan Canözer, Mehmet Şah Oruç and Remzi Akkaya were sent to prison in Amed on 27 April on charges of “membership in a terrorist organization” and “spreading propaganda for a terrorist organization”. Canözer was released on 23 June, after the indictment against her was accepted.

The first hearing in the case against Abdurrahman Gök was held at Diyarbakır 5th Heavy Penal Court on Thursday.

The Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association and Mesopotamia Women Journalists' Platform made a press statement in front of the courthouse before the hearing, to the accompaniment of journalists, relatives of Gök, Green Left Party deputies Serhat Eren, Cengiz Çandar ve Meral Danış Beştaş, CHP (Republican People's Party) MP Sezgin Tanrıku and representatives of political parties and civil society organizations.

Speaking here, DFG Co-Chair Serdar Altan said, “Journalists will not remain silent. They will continue writing the truth.”

MKGP Spokesperson Roza Metina stated that journalists were unlawfully imprisoned, while Green Left Party MP Cengiz Çandar said: “Freedom of the press is dntrodden in Turkey.”

CHP MP Sezgin Tanrıku stated: “The children and successors of Musa Anter have never given up the struggle for truth in this geography.”

The court ruled for the continuation of Gök's detention and adjourned the hearing until 5 December.

Abdurrahman Gök is a photo reporter and is also internationally known for his journalistic work, as it was only thanks to his efforts that the public learned that the death of the young art student Kemal Kurkut, who had been shot dead by a police officer on the fringes of the Newroz celebrations in Amed in March 2017, was in fact a premeditated murder. Gök had pressed the shutter release of his camera eight times and documented that the official version, according to which Kurkut was a “suicide bomber”, was only invented by the police. Nevertheless, the shooter was acquitted.

Protest against torture of women in Patnos prison

ANF | AGRI | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

In front of L-Type Prison in Patnos district of Ağrı, members of the solidarity associations TUHAY-DER and MEBYA-DER, Free Women's Movement (TJA), the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) and the Green Left Party and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) issued a statement on the torture of political prisoners Mizgin Atabey, Lale Kabişen and Nazlıcan Barışer, which came to light last week. The demonstration was attended by MPs Gülcan Sayyigit, Sırrı Sakık, Heval Bozdağ, Gülderen Varlı, Zülküf Uçar, Mahmut Dindar and Newroz Uysal Aslan from the Green Left Party, as well as relatives of the tortured women.

Behind a banner of the TJA and TUHAY-DER with the inscription "We condemn the isolation regime and the systematic torture of women", slogans were shouted: "Bijî berxwedana zindanan" (Long live prison resistance), "Political prisoners are our dignity", "Jin, Jiyan, Berxwedan" (Woman, Life, Resistance), "Repression cannot intimidate us", "Bijî berxwedana Imrali'ya" (Long live Imrali resistance), "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî" (Woman, Life, Freedom).

Green Left Party MP Newroz Uysal stated that repression and torture prevail in all prisons in Turkey and Kurdistan: "Every day there are reports from a prison about torture, bans on visits, disciplinary sentences or extended prison terms. Sick prisoners are denied the right to medical care, and, most recently, Şakir Turan lost his life. There are hundreds of sick prisoners who are not treated. In the prison we are standing in front of today, three women were tortured on 31 August. They were held in a room for hours with the pig shackle reminiscent of the 1990s and later taken to hospital accompanied by abuse."

Newroz Uysal is a lawyer by profession and visited the tortured women in prison together with her group colleagues Sırrı Sakık and Heval Bozdağ after the incident became known. "They want us to stand by their side and follow the legal process against torture," she said and continued, "The torture system in prisons is meant to break the will of prisoners. The measures of 12 September [1980, military coup in Turkey] can be seen today in Imrali, Patnos and Sincan. If the statements of the prison management are sincere, all those involved in the crime must be suspended. We will continue to follow up on isolation and torture in all prisons. As long as isolation and torture continue, there can be no peace, freedom and hope in this country."

After Newroz Uysal, the mother of Mizgin Atabey and the brother of Lale Kabişen spoke. Seyhan Atabey said that her daughter has been in prison for six years and the situation is unbearable: "Our children are abused and killed, and visits are prevented. I come here from a long distance and cannot see my daughter. When she wanted to speak about the torture, the phone call was cut off. I demand that the prison director and guards be dismissed from their posts."

Cevdet Kabişen stated that the will of the prisoners is wanted broken and their relatives are punished as well.

Journalist Rojin Altay sentenced to prison

ANF | ISTANBUL | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Rojin Altay, a journalist the daily newspaper Yeni Yaşam, has been sentenced to one year and three months imprisonment at the 22nd Heavy Penal Court in Istanbul. The journalist had been detained in January 2023 at Istanbul's Sabiha Gökçen airport as an alleged member of a terrorist organisation and taken to Vatan police headquarters in Istanbul's Fatih district, which is notorious as a torture centre. As is customary in political trials in Turkey, she was deprived of access to lawyers for 24 hours and the file was placed under secrecy.

Rojin Altay was initially charged only with “propaganda” for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Her “offence” was a tweet with a photo of Sakine Cansız, murdered by the Turkish secret service in Paris in 2013, and the text “Resistance means life”, which Rojin Altay shared on her Twitter account. The defendant did not attend the first main hearing in the trial and was defended by lawyer Özcan Kılıç.

Kılıç pointed out that the investigation against his client for alleged PKK membership has not yet been concluded and the accusation of “terror propaganda” is listed in the file as evidence. In this respect, he said, there was a procedural error and the offence was time-barred.

The court did not accept the arguments of the defence and sentenced Rojin Altay to one year and three months in prison. The sentence was based on the fact that the minimum sentence for “organisational propaganda” is one year. Because the crime was committed on Twitter, the offence was aggravated and punished with one and a half years imprisonment. The defendant's “good conduct” was taken into account as a mitigating factor, which is why the sentence was suspended.

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Prisoners in Aksaray jail denied treatment

ANF | ISTANBUL | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

Ahmet Göksu and Nusret Kaya, two prisoners in Aksaray T Type Prison, talked about the unlawfulness they were exposed to in a phone calls with their families. The prisoners said that they were not particularly taken to the hospital and that the medications prescribed in the infirmary were given late.

‘They do not take you to the hospital, they give medicines after 20 days’

Ahmet Göksu said that he went to the infirmary with a complaint of throat infection, and added that the doctor should have referred him to the hospital. Instead, he had to wait for a long time before been referred. In addition, Göksu said that the medicines prescribed by the infirmary doctor were given to him 20 days later.

Göksu's family also said that the prison administration increased their arbitrary practices and psychological pressure on prisoners and added that many detainees were put in isolation.

Nüsret Kaya is also held in Aksaray. He denounced similar problems. The family said that Kaya waited nearly two years before been sent to the hospital. The family also noted that he requested many times to be transferred to Idir, where they live, but received no answer.

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Military aggression and occupation

Village in Beytüşşebap under blockade for 45 days

ANF | **ŞIRNAK** | 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

The blockade and de facto ban imposed by the Turkish army in the village of Bilbês in Beytüşşebap (Elkê) continues on its 45th day.

Turkish soldiers were deployed all around the village, and randomly bombed the rural part of the village, especially in the evening hours. Entry and exit to the village is allowed after a security check.

The ban, which was declared twice by the Şırnak governorship, ended on 23 August, only to be replaced by a de facto ban, which meant that people were unable to continue their daily lives. According to information received from local sources, people cannot take their animals out of the village or go to their vineyards and gardens. The people in the village where military air activity and bombing took place said that the aim of the attacks and pressures is to force people to migrate from the village.

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HPG reports ongoing actions against the Turkish army

ANF | **BEHDINAN** | 10 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 Sunday, the guerrillas carried out 19 actions against the occupation forces in Zap, Metina and Xakurke.

HPG Press Office announced the details of the latest actions as follows:

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

On 8 September, YJA Star guerrillas struck the occupation forces 8 times during the day and damaged 8 positions.

On 8 September, guerrillas struck the Turkish forces twice in the morning and damaged two positions with heavy weapons.

On 9 September, strikes by the YJA Star guerrillas with heavy weapons left 4 positions damaged.

On 9 September, one Turkish soldier was shot dead by a YJA Star sniper.

On 10 September, YJA Star guerrillas struck the Turkish forces with heavy weapons and damaged 2 positions.

Metîna region

On 10 September, guerrillas hit an advancing unit of the Turkish army with semi-automatic weapons.

Xakurkê region

On 9 September, YJA Star guerrillas destroyed two Turkish positions at Girê Şehîd Axîn with heavy weapons.

Attacks by the Turkish army

From 7 to 9 September, the Zap region, the areas of Gundê Şêlazê and Gundê Dergelê in Metîna as well as Ava Lolanê in Xakurke were bombed a total of six times by Turkish warplanes. While the area of Girê Cûdî was attacked by combat helicopters, artillery attacks were carried out on the Zap, Metîna and Xakurke regions.

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Balance sheet of the mercenaries' foiled attacks and the legitimate responses in Manbij

ANF | 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Manbij Military Council released a statement providing information about the outcome of the latest wave of attacks on the region. The statement released on Sunday includes the following:

“The Turkish occupation and its mercenaries took advantage of the SDF’s preoccupation with Operation Security Reinforcement, which targeted ISIS cells and the intruding mercenary groups in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor. They launched several attacks on various areas (Manbij, Ain Issa, Tal Abyad, Tal Tamir, and Zarkan). Following the successful completion of the Operation in Deir ez-Zor, the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries escalated their aggressions in an attempt to alleviate pressure our SDF put on terrorists and mercenary groups, destabilize the security and stability of Manbij, and stir up strife and divide their components.

The Turkish occupation and its mercenaries employed all dirty tactics, especially media warfare, to undermine the will of our people and the resistance of our fighters. They also used all types of heavy weapons in these attacks, which resulted in civilian casualties and caused massive destruction to their properties and the infrastructure in the areas targeted by the barbaric rocket and artillery bombardment.

Despite facing large-scale attacks that specifically targeted safe civilian areas, resulting in the tragic loss of innocent lives, including children and women, our courageous fighters of the Manbij Military Council demonstrated exceptional valor. They successfully thwarted all the mercenaries’ attempted infiltration, inflicting substantial losses on them. Notably, among the casualties were members of ISIS, which was confirmed by the badges on their clothing.

When our forces effectively foiled all the attempted infiltrations, the Turkish-backed mercenaries turned to treacherous tactics against our comrades. They cowardly targeted the vehicle of our fellow fighter, “Bozan Osman,” a member of the Military Relations Office in our Manbij Military Council, resulting in his martyrdom.

We stand in solemn respect for the sacrifices made by our fighters and their extraordinary courage in opposing the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries. They serve as shining examples of heroism and selflessness, inspiring us all.

We wholeheartedly thank the people of Manbij for their courageous and moral support to our forces. We are also grateful to our steadfast tribes whose contributions played a significant role in foiling the schemes of the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries. Additionally, we commend the youth of Manbij for joining the resistance against the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our armed forces. They serve as a shining example of young individuals fiercely protective of the honor and dignity of their community.

We, the Manbij Military Council, along with the other defending forces (Revolutionaries Army, the Kurdish Front, the Northern Democratic Brigade, and the al-Bab Military Council), reiterate our unwavering dedication to our people and martyrs. We stand as a steadfast stronghold and vigilant guardian, committed to safeguarding the security and stability of our region. We are resolute in preserving the dignity and freedom of our people against any attempts to compromise or disrupt it. We have full confidence that Manbij and all areas in northern and eastern Syria will continue to be free, secure, and stable, thanks to the sacrifices made by its people.

The recent series of attacks yielded the following outcomes:

Losses inflicted by our forces on the ranks of mercenaries:

53 mercenaries neutralized

127 mercenaries wounded

9 armored vehicles destroyed

6 DShK weapons destroyed

61 mercenary positions targeted by our forces

5 neutralized bodies of mercenaries in the hands of our forces

1 reconnaissance drone downed

Weapons and ammunition seized by our forces:

7 Ak-47 weapons, 2 BKC weapons, 1 B7 Launcher, 1 VHF device, 3 B7 shells, 1 VHF radio, 5 AK-47 magazines, 1 BKC weapon bullet box, 1 LAV weapon, 2 drones

Losses sustained by the Syrian regime forces:

1 Syrian regime soldier was killed, 4 others wounded

Civilian casualties at the hands of mercenaries:

5 civilians were martyred, 4 injured and 2 kidnapped by mercenaries

Casualties among our forces:

3 of our fighters were martyred and 6 others wounded.

The targeted villages include Kawkli, Um Adasa, Al-Yashli, Arab Hassan, Mohsenli, Aoun Al-Datat, Alaqana, Yalni, Buiheg, Al-Bogaz, Al-Sayada, Muhaimida, Al-Tukhar, Al-Jat, and Kohiok.

During the attacks on the Manbij countryside, an IED detonated in a car belonging to the Internal Security Forces while on routine patrol in the villages, resulting in the martyrdom of four members.”

HPG: Stuck in Zap, Turkish army launched a new attack to extend the occupation operation to Metîna

ANF | BEHDINAN | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

In a statement providing information about the ongoing war in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), the Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that the Turkish army, which is stuck in Zap, is trying to extend its occupation operation, which has been ongoing in the region since July, to Metîna.

According to the HPG statement on Monday, the Turkish army has carried out intensive air and ground attacks since Saturday on the western front of Şehîd Delîl and parts of Metîna with the aim of expanding the area of occupation operation along the Girê Amêdî line. In parallel, troops have been airdropped in various areas and clashes have occurred between the guerrilla forces and the Turkish troops. While the clashes are continuing, it is obvious that the occupation army is taking this route in order to overcome the blockade it is experiencing in Zap, said the HPG.

HPG stated that the Turkish army had handed over its positions to the forces of the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, during its forced withdrawal from the upper areas in Amadiya city last night. "The invading army airdropped troops on 9-10 September night in these positions and nearby locations. There are KDP forces at all points where the Turkish state has positioned its troops. They have been deployed side by side. Our patriotic people and the public should know that the freedom guerrillas of Kurdistan will react fiercely to this attack by the Turkish army and expand their resistance to the occupation," said the statement.

Regarding the latest actions of the guerrillas against invading Turkish forces on the western Zap front, HPG stated that the guerrillas carried out a total of eight actions with medium-weight weapons and artillery on Sunday, targeting the Turkish positions in the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area on 10-11 September. The strikes by the guerrillas left eight positions of the Turkish forces damaged. In addition, guerrillas of YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) intervened five times against attack helicopters bombing the Girê Amediyê Resistance Area. On the other hand, a Turkish soldier was shot dead by a guerrilla sniper at Girê Amediyê Resistance Area this morning and his body remains in the hands of the guerrillas.

In the region of Zap, YJA Star guerrillas targeted the occupation forces at Kokerê Resistance Area on 8 September.

HPG also reported continued attacks by the Turkish army. Accordingly, Turkish fighter jets carried out six air strikes on 10 September against the resistance area Girê Amêdî in the western Zap region. Another air strike targeted Girê Bahar. In addition, Girê Cûdî, Girê Amêdî and Metîna were bombed by attack helicopters. Artillery attacks by ground troops hit various areas in Zap, Metîna and Xakurke.

12 September 1980, a never ending military coup

ANF | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

Turkey suffered various military coups: 27 May 1960, 12 March 1971, 12 September 1980, 17 April 1993, 28 February 1997, 27 April 2007. In the past years, this process of soft coups has been continuing under Erdogan, and included an “attempted” coup in 2015 which provided Erdogan with the best “excuse” to sent to prison thousands of opposition politicians and activists as well as “purging” the army, the police, schools, universities.

On 12 September 1980, a National Security Council which brought together the chief of General Staff, general Kenan Evren, and chiefs of staff of army and security forces took power by proclaiming a state of siege throughout the country. Politicians, from Ecevit to Demirel, Erbakan, Turkes are arrested, the National Assembly is dissolved and the activities of associations and trade unions are banned. The junta extends to a retired admiral, who becomes Prime Minister, Bulent Ulusu.

In the eight and a half months that followed the massacre of Maraş, in late December 1979, there were at least 3856 dead. That of 12 September 1980 was the third coup in Turkey in thirty years. The first was that of May 27, 1960, the second that of March 12, 1971. Between 1971 and 1984, violence and repression against the Kurds and against the left reached its peak. A generation is essentially destroyed.

The tragic outcome of the 12 September coup:

650,000 people were under arrest.

1,683,000 people were black-listed.

230,000 people were tried in 210,000 lawsuits.

7,000 people were recommended for the death penalty.

517 people were sentenced to death.

50 of those given the death penalty were executed (26 political prisoners, 23 criminal offenders and 1 Asala, an Armenian militant).

The files of 259 people which had been recommended for the death penalty, were sent to the National Assembly.

71,000 people were tried by articles 141, 142 and 163 of the Turkish Penal Code.

98,404 people were tried on charges of being members of a leftist, a rightist, a nationalist, a conservative, etc. organization.

388,000 people were denied a passport.

30,000 people were dismissed from their firms because they were suspects.

14,000 people had their citizenship revoked.

30,000 people went abroad as political refugees.

300 people died in suspicious circumstances.

171 people died of torture.

937 films were banned because they were found objectionable.

23,677 associations had their activities stopped.

3,854 teachers, 120 lecturers and 47 judges were dismissed.

400 journalists were recommended a total of 4,000 years imprisonment.

Journalists were sentenced to 3,315 years and 6 months imprisonment.

31 journalists went to jail.

300 journalists were attacked.

3 journalists were shot dead.

300 days in which newspapers were not published.

303 cases were opened against 13 major newspapers.

39 tonnes of newspapers and magazines were destroyed.

299 people lost their lives in prison.

144 people died in a suspicious way in prison.

14 people died in hunger strikes in prison.

16 people were shot while fleeing.

95 people were killed in combat.

PJAK: Handing over our weapons is out of the question

ANF | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

The deadline set by Iran for the Iraqi central government in Baghdad to disarm Kurdish groups in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq will expire next week. According to its co-chair, the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) will vehemently defend itself against this. “Handing over our weapons is out of the question,” Siamand Moini told Westga News, adding: “If Iran attacks, we will stand united against it together with the other Kurdish parties.”

Iran has long been demanding that Iraq expel or disarm opposition parties from East Kurdistan that it classifies as “terrorist” and “separatist.” In addition to PJAK, the disarmament request also includes the parties PDK-I, Komala and PAK, which are based in Hewlêr, Sulaymaniya and Asos. The two countries had already concluded an agreement in March to step up action against these groups. In August, Baghdad agreed to disarm the Kurdish parties by 19 September and end their presence in the north of the country. Under no circumstances would Tehran agree to a postponement of the deadline, a spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry threatened two weeks ago. If Iraq misses the deadline, they will “assume the responsibility of ensuring the country’s security.”

Dead and injured in Iranian missile attacks

The mullahs’ regime accuses the Kurdish parties in the neighbouring country of involvement in attacks against its troops and accuses them of inciting the protests of the ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ movement triggered by the state femicide of Jina Amini in September 2022, as well as having smuggled demonstrators into the country. Shortly after the protests began, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard fired rockets and drones several times at the PDK-I, Komala, PJAK and PAK, which also operate civilian facilities such as schools and retirement homes in their base camps and care for displaced people. In September, at least fourteen people were killed and 58 others were injured, some seriously.

“In Iran, shortly before the first anniversary of the death of Jina Amini, the tension within the fascist regime is increasing,” said Moini. The PJAK chair underlined that the Iranian regime has always pursued an uncompromising policy towards Kurds and has used strategies that amount to ethnic cleansing. However, since the ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ movement has shaken the foundations of the state and power, the regime is now escalating its anti-Kurdish repression machine. “The deepening of this policy of extermination has recently been reflected in an increase in extrajudicial killings, waves of arrests and other intimidation measures. Attacks on our forces have also increased. In doing so, the regime wants to demoralize society and make it clear that it will not allow the liberation and revolution of the people, especially the Kurdish people, under any circumstances.”

Esmail Qaani, commander of the Revolutionary Guards’ Quds Brigade, even threatened a ground offensive in Iraq in November if Baghdad did not secure the common border from the Kurdish groups. However, the Iraqi central government has stated in the past that this is failing because of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Hewlêr.

In July, the Iraqi Interior Ministry unexpectedly announced the deployment of a brigade on the border with Iran in coordination with the authorities in the Kurdistan region.

PJAK: Strengthen national unity and solidarity

It is still unclear whether Iraq will actually take any action against the Kurdish opposition groups in its own country as the Iranian regime wants. Iran's military option to solve its "Kurdish problem" has also been seen as the sword of Damocles for years. In any case, the PJAK is determined to hold on to its resistance. Moini said: "We will formulate and develop our party's roadmap according to the demands of our people and the 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' revolution, not according to the threats of the Iranian state. With the support of our people, we have built a strong organization in our country. Our position is that all Kurdish parties should put national unity and solidarity with each other at the center of their work instead of giving in to the regime's demands. A joint fight will prevent the enemy from achieving their goals. For this reason, we and the other Kurdish forces will support each other in the event of an attack by Iran."

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Unexploded cannon ball shell injures two children in Manbij

ANF | MANBIJ | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

An unexploded cannon ball shell fired by the occupation forces injured two children in Manbij on Tuesday.

The two children, Mewas Hisên El Mistefa and İyad Mihemed Xêr El Mistefa, suffered injuries after the explosion of a cannon ball shell while grassing sheep to the north of the city.

The children reportedly suffered slight injuries and were taken under treatment.

Manbij has been under attack by jihadist proxy forces affiliated with Turkey since 1 September. On 5 September, four members of the Security Forces of North and East Syria (Asayîş) were killed in fighting. In a large-scale attack on 1 September, four siblings aged ten, fourteen, fifteen and seventeen were killed by Turkish artillery fire. On 2 September, a 70-year-old woman was killed and other people were injured in a village on the north-western front. A commander of the Manbij Military Council, Bozan Berkel, lost his life after the detonation of a bomb placed in his car in Manbij on 6 September.

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HPG: 19 Turkish soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions

ANF | BEHDINAN | 12 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 Tuesday, at least 19 soldiers have been killed and others injured as a result of guerrilla actions in the past 48 hours.

“With great will, conviction, an Apoist spirit of sacrifice and courage, our forces carried out various actions and dealt heavy blows to the invaders, skillfully employing various tactics. The actions were dedicated to Taybet Inan, who was shot dead in the street by the Turkish army at the age of 57 during a curfew declared in the Silopi district of Şırnak in December 2015, and her daughter Heznê Inan. The 22-year-old died in February 2016 in one of the notorious “death basements of Cizre”, also at the hands of the Turkish army. Her burnt and torn clothes were delivered to her family in three envelopes a few days ago. “As long as the genocidal colonial state of Turkey continues its inhuman attacks, the liberation struggle of our people will continue to grow. The Freedom Guerrilla of Kurdistan will take its historical responsibility in this struggle and bring the murderers to justice,” stated the HPG.

The actions in Zap were carried out by mobile small groups of HPG and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) in the Girê Amêdî and Girê Cûdî resistance areas. Such teams are more flexible in decision-making and tactics compared to normal armies and can move faster. A total of seven attacks on Turkish occupiers, each resulting in one death, were carried out by snipers.

Sixteen actions with medium weapons and heavy artillery were directed against both already established Turkish army positions and military units moving in open terrain and trying to reposition themselves. Three soldiers were killed when the guerrillas prevented an attempted advance from close range, and six others died in two attacks with hand grenades and small arms that were directed against dugouts still under construction.

According to the HPG, the guerrillas again sabotaged several planned troop reinforcements. In Girê Amêdî as well as in Girê Cûdî, the guerrillas hit helicopters with airborne troops on board and forced the aircraft to turn around by means of artillery fire. In the Xakurke region, the guerrillas carried out a sabotage action between the Girê Şehîd Derwêş and Girê Lêlikan hills two days ago. Three soldiers were killed and four others injured.

Regarding the latest attacks by the Turkish army, the statement said that fighter jets carried out seven air strikes on the Zap region on Monday. According to the statement, Girê Amêdî, Girê Bahar and places around the Great Zap were hit. Girê Amêdî and parts of Metîna were also bombed by attack helicopters. In addition, artillery attacks by ground forces hit various areas of Zap, Metîna and Xakurke.

Village in Şırnak under military siege for nearly 2 months

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

The village of Ormaniçi (ku: Bana) in the Güçlükönak district of Şırnak has been besieged by the Turkish army since July.

The village was besieged after the eruption of skirmishes between the Kurdish guerrillas and Turkish soldiers in July. Turkish forces then stormed several houses and detained many residents.

A de facto state of emergency has been in place in the village since, and the residents are not even allowed to irrigate their gardens and fields.

Villagers are allowed access to their gardens only after a criminal record check, but are constantly subjected to pressure by the state forces to remain in their houses.



UN: Turkey continues to kill civilians in air strikes

ANF | GENEVA | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The United Nations (UN) Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria published its Syria report covering the period between 1 January and 30 June 2023, at a press conference held at the UN Geneva Office. The report will be discussed at the 53rd Human Rights Sessions, which started at the UN Geneva Office on 11 September and will continue until 13 October.

War crimes continue

Commission President Paolo Pinheiro spoke at the press conference and pointed out that violence in Syria is escalating while the economic crisis is deepening. Pinheiro said: “Before Syria plunges deeper into escalating violence and economic decline, we call on the key actors to cease attacks on civilians and respond to their dire needs, and urge the government in Damascus to take heed and to respond positively to Syrians’ legitimate aspirations and rights as key to ending the conflict.”

Pinheiro added: “We commend States who since January have repatriated over 2,000 women and children, and call for such repatriations to continue. We also call on States to bring home male adult citizens detained in northeast Syria, and to hold alleged perpetrators among them accountable for Da’esh war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in proceedings compliant with fair trial standards.”

Following the devastating earthquakes in February, the report documented how the Syrian government and other parties (Turkey among them) needlessly hindered life-saving aid, and continued shelling targets in the earthquake-affected area.



Villages of Til Temir have suffered over 300 attacks since August

ANF | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish state and its mercenaries have intensified their attacks on the villages of Til Temir district of Heseke Canton in recent weeks and used all kinds of heavy weapons and armed drones in these attacks.

Based on information from military sources, ANHA prepared the balance sheet of the attacks carried out by the Turkish state from the beginning of August until 12 September.

Since the beginning of August, the Turkish army has been attacking the villages of Ebûş and Şêx Elî Dildare in the north of Til Temir, the villages Um El Kêf, Til Tewîl, Til Cuma, Til Girê Bît and Deşîşe in the west, as well as the villages of Til El Leben, Mezret Şiwêş, Mezret Şiwêş, in the southwest. They also bombed all the villages on the war front, such as Gozeliyê and Um El Xêr.

As a result of the bombardment of the village of Ebuş, 5 citizens were injured.

Another citizen was injured in the bombardment of the village of Um El Kêf. In addition, more than 5 soldiers belonging to the Damascus army died as a result of the attacks and bombardments on the villages of the district.

The attacks by the Turkish state and its mercenaries on the region increased after the Security Strengthening operation launched by the Democratic Syrian Forces (SDF) in Deir ez-Zor on 27 August against ISIS cells and drug dealers.

The Turkish state and its mercenaries, said ANHA's balancesheet, launched land attacks against the villages of Til Temir district on 3 September. These attacks were responded to by the Til Temir Military Council. As a result, mercenaries were hit hard and had to retreat.

A military source said that 25 gang members were killed and 20 injured.

The Turkish state carried out 8 attacks by armed drones. One of these attacks was aimed at a point belonging to the Damascus government forces. A civilian vehicle was also targeted, resulting in material damage. A military source said that their forces suffered no damage in these attacks.

The same source said that the Turkish state targeted the villages of Til Temir district with more than 300 artillery attacks.

He also said that these attacks were the most severe and severe attacks carried out since the beginning of the year.



Footage of action by YJA Star guerrillas in Sida Resistance Area

ANF | BEHDINAN | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The online portal Gerila TV published footage of an action in the Sida area in the Zap region of the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

During the action carried out at 09:40 on 30 July, guerrillas from YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) struck a position of the Turkish occupation forces where a rocket launcher and three soldiers were stationed.

According to the Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG), the position was hit precisely and completely destroyed. The three soldiers in the position were killed and the rocket launcher was destroyed.

You can watch the video from here: <https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/footage-of-action-by-yja-star-guerrillas-in-sida-resistance-area-69289>



HPG: Guerrillas carried out 30 actions against Turkish troops in Zap, killing 7 soldiers

ANF | BEHDINAN | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and HPG (People's Defence Forces) continue the resistance against the Turkish invading forces in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG Press Center statement on Wednesday, guerrillas have carried out 30 actions against the Turkish occupiers in the Zap region since Tuesday using different tactics. Seven soldiers have been killed and eleven enemy positions damaged. "The Turkish army, which is trying to establish itself in the resistance areas through continuous and massive bombardment from the air and ground, has been stopped by effective guerrilla actions," the HPG said.

Regarding the details of the guerrilla actions and the attacks of the Turkish army, the HPG stated the following:

Girê Cûdî

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the western Zap region, eleven Turkish positions were hit in guerrilla actions with heavy weapons, most of which were carried out by the YJA Star guerrillas. On Tuesday afternoon, female guerrillas hit a Turkish squad with semi-automatic weapons. Last night, the YJA Star inter-

vened seven times with heavy weapons against transport helicopters that were airdropping troops in the area.

Girê Amêdiyê

In the resistance area of Girê Amediyê in the western Zap region, the guerrillas took action against the deployment of Turkish troops with heavy weapons. One soldier was shot by a sniper, two other soldiers were killed in sabotage actions. Guerrillas of YJA Star stopped an advance of the Turkish army with a coordinated guerrilla action from two flanks. They struck the occupiers with hand grenades and firearms, killing three soldiers. At the same time, another soldier from another unit was killed in another strike.

Sîda

In the resistance area of Sîda, YJA Star guerrillas hit a Turkish army unit with firearms last night.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Turkish fighter jets bombed the Girê Bahar resistance area in the western Zap region twice on 12 September. Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî have been attacked several times by combat helicopters since yesterday. In addition, artillery attacks were carried out on the regions of Zap and Metîna.

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KDP sends 200 armored vehicles to Sîdekan

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

According to information received from local sources, approximately 200 tanks, panzers, trucks and other vehicles with military equipment such as cannons belonging to the KDP were sent to Sîdekan district in the region of Bradost.

It is claimed that the KDP could attack Goşînê, Sînga Strait and Berbizinê Strait using military vehicles sent from Deşta Heyatê and Desta Herîrê.

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KDP forces attack guerrilla positions

ANF | SIDEKAN | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Forces affiliated with the KDP were dispatched to the Sidekan area in Bradost region with 200 vehicles and heavy weaponry on Wednesday evening.

According to local sources, a part of the KDP force attacked the positions of the guerrillas at Gewriya Zîne in the Goşîne area at around 04:30 local time this morning.

The attack was followed by clashes with the guerrillas, according to reports.

Reports are coming through of ongoing tension in the area.

The KDP, controlled by the Barzani family, is largely dependent on and closely allied with the AKP/MHP regime. The Turkish state is trying to use the KDP as a tool to trigger an internal Kurdish civil war. The current deployment of troops by the KDP shows the extent of the danger. In recent years, the KDP has repeatedly set up ambushes against the guerrillas, marked targets for Turkish airstrikes, captured guerrillas and even “disappeared” them. The KDP’s intelligence service Parastin supports the Turkish intelligence service MIT in its attacks against Kurdish activists in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). So far, a major escalation could only be avoided thanks to the patient attitude of the guerrillas, who are trying to build a Kurdish unity. However, as the Turkish army seems to be on the defensive again in its current large-scale attack on the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones, a relief attack by the KDP is becoming increasingly likely.

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Turkish military measures in the Kurdish region continue

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Governor’s Office in Şırnak imposed a 15-day ban on entering and leaving 5 areas in the Güçlükönak district of Şırnak.

According to the related statement released by the Governor’s Office, entry, exit and all civilian activities have been banned in the areas in question from 15 September to 29 September.

The banned areas include the village of Ormaniçi, which has been under a military siege since July after skirmishes between the Kurdish guerrillas and Turkish soldiers. A de facto state of emergency has been in place in the village since, and the residents are not even allowed to irrigate their gardens and fields. Villagers are allowed access to their gardens only after a criminal record check, but are constantly subjected to pressure by the state forces to remain in their houses.

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HPG: 12 soldiers killed, 2 helicopters damaged in guerrilla areas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and HPG (People's Defence Forces) continue the resistance against the Turkish invading forces in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG Press Center statement on Thursday, at least twelve members of the Turkish invading forces were killed and seven others injured in several actions carried out by the guerrillas in the last 48 hours. The guerrillas also targeted several helicopters carrying airborne troops and forced the aircraft to turn around, damaging two of them. At least eleven positions were attacked and some severely damaged.

Most of the actions took place on 13 September on the western front of the Zap region, primarily in the Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî resistance areas.

A sniper unit of the YJA Star shot down a drone loaded with explosives and managed to fatally hit several soldiers moving in the terrain. One of them was shot dead while trying to install a surveillance camera. The YJA Star guerrillas also hit two military tents, which were completely destroyed by artillery. At Gire FM, the expansion of enemy positions was stopped by the guerrillas striking the construction machinery used in the process.

The HPG and YJA Star guerrillas also carried out several actions in Metîna. Near Girê Çarçel, the guerrillas infiltrated a shelter of Turkish troops and struck three military personnel inside from close range with light arms. According to HPG, one of the military personnel was fatally shot, and the other two were injured. In addition, two transport helicopters were hit and damaged by the guerrillas with heavy weapons in Metîna.

In Xakurke, two soldiers were killed in a guerrilla sabotage action in the Ermûş area. According to the HPG, the guerrillas did not suffer any casualties in any of the actions mentioned in today's statement.

Regarding the attacks by the Turkish army, HPG said that the Gare region was bombed at least eleven times by warplanes on Wednesday. According to the statement, the targets were the areas surrounding the villages of Gûzê, Ergenê, Kanîsarkê, Xêrê, Bilindbazê and the Deştâ Kafya area.

Further attacks by Turkish attack helicopters were directed against Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî in Zap and parts of Metîna. The Turkish army also carried out artillery attacks on Zap, Şehîd Delîl and Metîna regions.

More restrictions for villagers in Bana

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Entry and exit to 5 regions of Güçlükönak district has been prohibited for 15 days.

According to the statement made by Şırnak Governor, entry and exit and all civilian activities in the rural areas between Tepe, Ormaniçi Creek, north of the Tigris River, and east of the village of Ormaniçi are prohibited between 15 September 2023 and 29 September 2023.

The village of Bana, where many people were detained in house raids at the beginning of July, has been under military blockade for about two months.

Currently, soldiers carry out heavy security checks at the entrance and exit of the village. Villagers were also prohibited from going to their gardens in the afternoon.

According to MA's news, the villagers reacted to the constant introduction of new bans and stated that they were subjected to pressure from the soldiers who told them that they won't be allowed to take out their animals until the ban was over.

The bans severely affect the daily lives of both villagers and the animals that are their source of income.

Villagers stated that the soldiers made an announcement from the village mosque on Thursday evening. "The soldiers stated that it is forbidden to go out of the village and graze the animals. We have been questioned for more than a month when entering and exiting the village. These prohibitions have damaged the psychology of our children."



Turkish drone attack kills 3 YPJ fighters in Manbij

ANF | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish state, which commits war crimes in North-East Syria, has carried out yet another drone attack on Friday.

According to Manbij Military Council, a Turkish drone struck a car on the move on the road to the village of Hetabat in southern Manbij.

The attack resulted in the death of three fighters of the YPJ (Women's Defense Units).

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. In late August, 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.

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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HPG: 4 soldiers killed, 2 helicopters damaged

ANF | BEHDINAN | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and HPG (People's Defence Forces) continue the resistance against the Turkish invading forces in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG Press Center statement on Friday, four more members of Turkish invading forces were killed in the latest actions by the guerrillas on 14-15 September.

The guerrillas have been fighting the occupying forces in Southern Kurdistan practically without interruption. The focus is on the resistance areas of Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî on the western front of the Zap, from which the Turkish army had to withdraw last winter after suffering heavy losses. Eight Turkish military positions were targeted and damaged with heavy weapons yesterday and today, when three sniper actions were also carried out. In addition, a helicopter carrying airborne troops was taken under artillery fire several times and forced to retreat.

Several attempts by ground troops to position themselves in the area were also thwarted by the guerrillas. The guerrillas also struck a group that was transporting military equipment in the direction of Girê Cûdî and subsequently stopped military activities. At Girê Amêdî, a military unit was overrun by the guerrillas with hand grenades and small arms.

In Metîna, the guerrillas responded with heavy fire to two attack helicopters flying over their areas. According to the HPG, both helicopters were damaged and forced to retreat from the area.

Regarding the continued attacks of the Turkish army on Southern Kurdistan, HPG said that the areas of Xêrê and Girê Zengil in the Gare region were bombed by Turkish fighter jets on 13-14 September. On the other hand, parts of Zap and Metîna were attacked by combat helicopters. The Turkish army also carried out artillery attacks on Zap, Şehîd Delîl, Metîna and Xakurkê.

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HPG: 5 Turkish soldiers were killed in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and HPG (People's Defence Forces) continue the resistance against the Turkish invading forces in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG Press Center statement on Saturday, five more soldiers of the Turkish army have been killed in guerrilla actions since yesterday as the guerrilla resistance against the Turkish occupation forces in the Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî areas in the Şehîd-Delîl section in the western Zap region continues.

Girê Cûdî

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, guerrillas hit and damaged seven enemy positions with heavy weapons on 15 September. Four of the actions were carried out by units of the YJA Star. In addition, a cable car system set up by the Turkish army was struck and damaged by the guerrillas with heavy weaponry. On Friday evening, helicopter movements took place in the region until shortly before midnight, against which YJA Star fighters intervened twice.

Girê Amêdî

In the Girê Amêdî resistance area, the guerrillas continue to prevent stationing attempts by the Turkish army. On Friday morning, an enemy position was attacked and damaged by the YJA Star guerrillas with heavy weapons. A little later, a soldier was shot dead while his unit tried to establish a position in the area. In the evening, the guerrillas carried out six more actions with heavy weapons against the occupying forces. At 6.40 pm, an advancing Turkish squad was targeted with semi-automatic weapons, and two soldiers were killed. At the same time, another army unit attempted an advance, and one soldier was shot dead as a result of guerrilla strikes. At 5.20 am today, a soldier was shot dead by a sniper while trying to install a surveillance camera in the area.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Turkish fighter jets bombed the areas of Girê Zengil, Girê Reşîd, Gundê Şikêra and Gundê Girê in Gare five times on Friday. On the same day, Metîna and the Zap region were attacked by attack helicopters and shelled with artillery.

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Feminicide

Çubuk: The Green Left Party will strengthen its women's organization

ANF | 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Izmir MP Burcugül Çubuk spoke about the Green Left Party Women's Conference and said that women expressed their discomfort especially with the rise of male dominance within the organization.

Çubuk pointed out that they are faced with problems such as the attempt by men to direct the work women carry out locally, and said that for this reason, it has become difficult for women to be in the party with women's consciousness and feminist consciousness.

Çubuk said: "At this point, we aim to strengthen our own organization. We saw this need from the high attendance at the conference. Too many women want to speak up, have their say and argue. This is a very different situation from previous years. It shows women discussing their own existence."

Fascism is specifically directed against women

Çubuk said that the problems faced by women in Turkey and Kurdistan have reached much more serious dimensions under the AKP-MHP fascist government. "Fascism is much stronger and has increased its focus specifically on women."

We will strengthen our organization

Çubuk underlined that issues such as alimony, steps to be taken for disabled women, torture against women, attacks on female prisoners and isolation were also discussed at the conference, and added: "In the context of these discussions, there are actually a few things we put before us. Strengthening our organization within the party and expanding women's organization. While empowering women, it is necessary to produce mechanisms that will enable women to participate more actively in both women's and party work, and to enable disabled women to participate actively."

Drawing attention to the problems experienced by female workers in many places in Turkey and Kurdistan, Çubuk said: "We talked about the difficulties and shortcomings in our work with seasonal agricultural workers, or with women working in formal and informal areas, as well as in insecure environments. We talked about what we can do about it."

Çubuk said: "We want to carry out more street work. We want to get out of a system where only deputies can take action against a police officer. We can actually prevent all of these through social organization. We will have a two-day mixed conference and there we will report on our women's conference. Our next goal

is to strengthen our own organization. We will not stop countering male dominance both within the party and in the streets.”

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Woman from Afrin tells of her 5-year ordeal

ANF | SHEHBA | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

52-year-old F.O. is from Afrin. When the Turkish state and its mercenaries occupied the region (in 2018), she wanted to leave the city with her family, but was unable to do so and faced pressure and all kinds of violence from the mercenaries.

5 years later, F.O. managed to leave Afrin with her son and reach Aleppo, last July, and then Shehba, where most refugees from Afrin have settled. She is now living in Serdem Camp.

Mercenaries kidnapped her daughter

F.O. told ANHA News Agency about her experiences and the brutality of the mercenaries. The woman has 3 daughters and 2 sons. Her husband died a while ago. Her eldest daughter was able to leave Afrin and move to Aleppo in 2020. However, she lost her life in a fire that broke out here. Her middle daughter got married in Afrin. There has been no news from the girl, who was kidnapped by gangs in 2018. Her other two sons also reached Shehba.

F.O.'s daughter could only speak to her uncle's family by phone twice, after being kidnapped. However, so far, she has not been able to talk to her mother, who has no information about her.

5 years of torture

F.O. said that the oppression, pressure and torture carried out by the Turkish state and its mercenaries did not stop from the beginning of the occupation of Afrin until the day she left.

F.O. said: “First they took my son's children, and then they kidnapped my little daughter. They were beaten and tortured. My elder daughter was arrested twice, and we could not get any information from her. My son and I were kidnapped and tortured twice. They surrounded our house and eventually we were taken away as a family. They arrested me and tortured her for 8 hours because they wanted me to make a statement. In the end, they kidnapped my little daughter. According to the information we received, they kidnapped another woman along with my daughter. All kinds of torture and oppression were carried out against her. Even those who were not kidnapped were oppressed and shot.”

Release my daughter

F.O. and other members of the family were arrested and tortured many times, but her little daughter was never released after being subjected to these tortures. Additionally, the mercenaries demanded a ransom from the family. According to F.O., the mercenaries demanded a very high amount of money, but they

could not pay it because their financial situation was bad. Therefore, they tried to get her released through lawyers and the courts, but they were faced with the same demand for money. All efforts were in vain, and F.O. was not able to get her daughter released. She believes that she is being kept in the mercenary torture house in Mare.

They target women most

F.O. said that the Turkish state and its mercenaries have turned life into hell for all the people in the occupied regions, and that torture, robbery, theft and murder occur every day. F.O. added that people's property was confiscated, and underlined that women are the most targeted group. "Women are faced with murder and brutality that goes against humanity every day. In the neighbourhood of Eşrefiye, a woman called Ufê Şêx was killed, all her jewels were stolen and her house was burned. Hundreds of women like Ufê were subjected to this brutality and then killed."



2 killed, 2 wounded as village guard attacks the family of his wife in Patnos

ANF | AGRI | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

27-year-old village guard Metin Tunç attacked the house of his wife, 24-year-old Birsal Tunç, in the Patnos district of Ağrı.

The armed attack came after Metin Tunç's wife was subjected to systematic violence by her husband, left home and returned to her family house.

The village guard attacked the family of his wife, intending to kill the whole family.

Birsal Tunç, her brother Fecri Tunç and his wife Nuriye Tunç, and the mother of the family, Hatun Tunç, were seriously wounded as a result of the attack.

Fecri Tunç lost his life at the scene, while Birsal Tunç died shortly after being taken to hospital.

The village guard is on the loose after the massacre.

Village guards

Village guards are paramilitary units used in Kurdistan against guerrillas and unwelcome opposition members. They consist to a considerable extent of tribal leaders, large landowners, families, and individuals who have often worked with the state for decades in an attempt to advocate for the state's interests in Kurdistan. Some of the village guards join this system voluntarily, while others are threatened with murder, arrest, and expulsion and must become village guardians under pressure. The Hamidiye regiments in the Ottoman Empire are considered the historical model of the village guards. Today's village guard system came

into being in 1985, a year after the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) launched its armed struggle. At that time, the Turkish government under Turgut Özal began recruiting and arming Kurdish tribes and clans in the war against the PKK. Thousands of Kurdish villages that rejected the village guard system were burned and razed to the ground by the state in the 1990s.

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Co-founder of Rosa Women's Association sentenced to seven and a half years in prison

ANF | AMED | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

Narin Gezgör, a linguist and women's rights activist, has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison by a Turkish criminal court in the province of Amed (Diyarbakır) on charges of membership of a "terrorist organisation". The sentence is related to a trial against the Rosa Women's Association, of which Gezgör is a co-founder, which has been ongoing for over three years. In the first trial in November 2020, the court sentenced her to seven years and six months in prison. However, the Court of Cassation overturned the sentence due to incomplete investigations and ordered a retrial.

The Rosa Women's Association fights against violence against women and has been the focus of repression for years. The association was founded as a civil society organisation in Amed at the end of 2018. The association supports women affected by violence and campaigns for gender justice, environmental protection and a democratic culture of peace in society. After the state-imposed closure of all municipal women's institutions in the wake of the coup attempt in 2016, it is now the only institution in Amed to which women can turn for advice and support.

The first wave of arrests against Rosa began in May 2020, and by June of that year ten women had been arrested for "membership in an armed terrorist organisation". At the time, it was said that the association was founded to recruit members for a terrorist organisation - meaning the PKK - by using high-profile issues such as femicide and violence against women. Among the women imprisoned was Narin Gezgör, who was released after three months. In the second wave of repression in April 2021, the association was broken into by the police and searched. Since then, several activists have been sentenced to prison terms of varying lengths, including journalist Nurcan Yalçın and Peace Mother Hayriye Türkekul.

The prosecution against Gezgör was mainly based on the testimony of a prosecution witness who stated in the first trial that he had met the activist in 2014 at the HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) in Suruç district of Urfa as a "PKK militant". Gezgör's lawyers Elif Tirenç Ipek Ulaş and Semra Balyan rejected the claims and submitted evidence to the court showing that the party's district association in the city was only founded in 2015 and that their client became a member of the HDP much later, in 2018. In addition, she had been working as an employee of the municipality at the time. The alleged witness is said to be a former PKK member who benefited from the Turkish repentance law in order to avoid his own punishment. According to Gezgör's lawyers, his statements could not be used at all under Turkish law.

Among other things, the prosecution wanted Gezgör's membership of Rosa, her involvement with the association, interviews she gave on women's issues and her participation in press statements, rallies and funerals to be punished as "terrorism". The lawyers accused the prosecution of classifying a legal association as "illegal" and of seeking to punish Narin Gezgör for her work against patriarchal violence. The lawyers demanded acquittal for their client, who did not attend the trial. The verdict is not yet final.

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TJK-E calls on everyone to attend actions to mark the anniversary of killing of Jina Amini in Tehran

ANF | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The first anniversary of the killing of Kurdish young woman Jina Mahsa Amini, is approaching. On 16 September 2022, Jina Amini died in Tehran at the age of 22 as a result of severe beatings by the so-called Iranian morality police. Her death sparked nationwide protests that spread from her hometown of Segez in Rojhilat (East Kurdistan) to the whole of Iran with the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' (Woman Life Freedom).

The Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe (TJK-E) said: "The murder of Jina Amini by the regime in Iran a year ago triggered a historic process of resistance by women and the entire society. The fight against the politics of oppression and massacres of women has reached a new level. On the anniversary of Jina Amini's death, we once again remember with love and respect all the women who have been killed throughout history by the policy of femicides promoted by the patriarchal system. We salute all women who do not bow to these policies and, as representatives of the strongest freedom movements in history, carry the torch of resistance from the past through the present into the future."

When man turned into a ruler

The statement continued: "Today there is a major crisis in the Middle East, which has its origins in the structural problems of the patriarchal and capitalist system. Although this crisis may seem like a recent problem, it is fundamentally a problem that stems from the system of exploitation that began with the repression of the values created by women over millennia through the use of violence and deception. In other words, it was a crisis that arose when man turned into a ruler who, starting with woman, used violence against the entire society."

Freedom must be fought for

The statement added: "Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] is trying to overcome this crisis that threatens all of humanity's values with the paradigm of democratic civilization. This is a paradigm of freedom advocating a free life being built for all of humanity, especially for women. With their women's liberation struggle and their uncompromising line of self-defense, the Kurdish women are reclaiming all given values, definitions and structures and, with their resistance, are showing women of the world the hope that freedom is possible through struggle. By questioning the values, culture and life created by the male-dominated

mind-set, women have further strengthened their fight for a new life based on the principles of freedom. In Kurdish society, this women-led revolution within a revolution has brought about social change.”

Dynamics of change

The statement underlined that “for years, women have been fighting a bitter battle to be themselves. This historic experience, from the mountains to the cities, from the workplaces to the schools, is still in full swing. The uprisings erupted after 16 September 2022, i.e. after Kurdish woman Jina Amini was tortured and murdered by the morality police in Tehran because her hair was visible under her hijab, have opened a new page in the Iranian Kurdish resistance tradition and created a new unity of women’s liberation movements worldwide.”

Political prisoners must be released

The statement stressed that “hundreds of people died during this uprising. We remember these people who died for freedom with great love and respect. Thousands of women, young and old, have been arrested by Iran’s state special forces. They are put under pressure and tortured. The fate of many of them is not even clear. All detained women and political prisoners, especially Zeynab Jalalian, must be released immediately.”

From Kurdistan to the whole world

The statement said: “The idea of Jin, Jiyan, Azadî and the dynamics of this idea producing a change - a transformation - is a reality that has been experienced throughout the world and in Kurdistan in particular for more than 40 years. It is known from the free mountains, and the experience of North Kurdistan and Turkey, and has recently become a de facto reality in the women’s revolution in Rojava. Jin, Jiyan, Azadî is a magical slogan that fundamentally summarizes the truth of Rêber Apo’s democratic, ecological and women’s liberation paradigm. As he himself said, the 21st century will be the century of women’s freedom. Unlike other centuries, the potential for freedom struggle that this century carries is embodied in women’s movements. In almost all parts of the world, women’s movements are resisting with more active and, above all, more result-oriented struggles than ever before.”

For my sister, for your sister, for our sister...

The statement continued: “In Rojhilat, young women with long hair, holding hands, wrote a one-sentence on a school blackboard: For my sister, for your sister, for our sister... These words reveal the spirit and form of a self-developing woman’s struggle and express the reality of the Jin Jiyan Azadî uprising. The spirit of the free women’s paradigm draws its strength from historical-social reality and weaves a free future for women around the women’s revolution. Now in the 1st year, we celebrate 16 September with the universal philosophy of Jin, Jiyan, Azadî. Women all over the world are uniting under this slogan and moving closer to one another. This is very exciting and gives all of us hope.”

With Jin, Jiyan, Azadî to the women's revolution

The TJKE called “on people to take part in the actions that will be organized across Europe on the anniversary of Jina Amini’s death as part of its campaign “With Jin, Jiyan, Azadî for the Women’s Revolution”. We women insist on liberating and beautifying life with our mind, our resistance and our colors. We are determined to win the battle that will define this century. And we say: let’s fill the streets for my sister, for your sister, for our sister and expand the fight for freedom.”

Activities have been announced in Belgium, France, Switzerland, England, Scandinavia, Germany and the Netherlands.



Kurdish activist Nesrin Akgül imprisoned again one and a half years after her release

ANF | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Kurdish activist Nesrin Akgül, who had been released in February 2022 after fourteen years in prison in Turkey, has been imprisoned again.

On Wednesday morning, Akgül was arrested in Kocaeli on the basis of a conviction in another trial and brought before a magistrate. After the arrest warrant was read out, she was transferred to Gebze women’s prison.

Nesrin Akgül is a Kurdish Alevi from Muş. In 2008, at the age of 27, she was arrested in Van and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for PKK membership. Before that, she was active in the HADEP youth association for a long time. During her many years of imprisonment, she was held in prisons in Amed (tr. Diyarbakir), Şakran in İzmir, Bakirköy in Istanbul and most recently in Kandira. Together with fellow prisoners in Şakran, she wrote letters to Abdullah Öcalan and received a reply in 2014 addressed to all imprisoned women on her behalf.

In Bakirköy women’s prison, she took part in the hunger strike initiated by the imprisoned Kurdish politician Leyla Güven against the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan in November 2018. Nesrin Akgül participated in the hunger strike from mid-January 2019 and converted the form of protest into a death fast at the end of April the same year. The mass hunger strike ended on 26 May 2019 after lawyers were finally granted a visit to Öcalan on the prison island of Imralı.



Young Women's Union publishes 15-day action 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' program

ANF | QAMISHLO | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Young Women's Union made a statement in Qamishlo to present the events for the 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' initiative. The statement was read by Lîlav Ehmed, spokesperson of the Young Women's Union Cizre region.

The statement said that women, young people, children and the population of Rojava oppose the ongoing war and the attacks carried out by the Turkish state. The statement pointed out that women suffered the most in this war and added: "Women lose their children, mothers, sisters and brothers, as well as their neighbourhoods, streets and lives. Attacks against their gender and national identities are increasing every day."

The government is afraid of organized women

In its statement, the Union said that violence and war against women are crimes against humanity and added: "The governments have made life difficult for women and society. The occupying Turkish state also commits all kinds of crimes in Kurdistan."

The statement pointed out that they are afraid of organized women and that they commit all kinds of crimes against women and society.

The Young Women's Union launched a 15-day action plan against violence against women with the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi'. The program will include workshops, film screenings, seminars, painting and sports competitions, street theater, brochure distribution and marches.

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Kongra Star calls for enhanced struggle until victory

ANF | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

The North-East Syrian women's umbrella organization, Kongra Star, released a statement marking the first anniversary of the uprising in Iran and Rojhilat (East Kurdistan) following the killing of Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini in police custody in Tehran on 16 September 2022.

The Kongra Star Assembly pointed out that the killing of Jina Amini kindled the anger of people and turned it into a demand for freedom.

The statement continued with the following appeal: “Support the resistance against the Iranian regime and enhance the struggle. Expressing our condolences to the families of the martyrs of the uprising, we celebrate the first anniversary of the revolt and reiterate our promise that 21st century will be the century of women. The ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadi’ uprising is the revolt of all of us. For this reason, we, women, should organize ourselves more powerfully until we achieve victory.”

Background

The state femicide of Jina Mahsa Amini triggered a revolution under the motto “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” (Woman, Life, Freedom) across the country. The women-led uprisings that spread from Rojhilat to the whole of Iran have created an irreversible revolution in people’s minds, resulting in the deaths of at least 500 people and injuries to thousands more. Despite the family’s complaint against those responsible for Amini’s death, no action has been taken so far.

On the anniversary of the killing of Jina Amini, demonstrations will be organized in many cities around the world on Saturday, 16 September 2023.

Parties and political movements from Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan/Western Iran) have called for a general strike in Kurdistan on the first anniversary of the “Jin Jiyan Azadî” resistance on 16 September.

The HDKÎ (Democratic Movement of Kurdistan-Iran), Komele (Communist Party of Iran), PJAK (Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan), Sazimanî Xebat (Organization of Iranian Kurdistan Struggle), PAK (Freedom Party of Kurdistan) and Komeleya Zehmetkêşên Kurdistanê (Community of Labourers of Kurdistan) released a joint appeal on 6 September calling for a general strike in the whole of Kurdistan on 16 September, when all shops, markets, businesses and administrative centres should remain closed.

Defining the rebellion that broke out a year ago as the largest and longest-lasting uprising in the history of the Islamic Republic, the Kurdish organisations and parties called on “the fighting people of Kurdistan” to remember the martyrs of this new revolution, show their support to the political prisoners and keep the political movement alive.

The Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) and the Movement for Freedom and Democracy in Rojhilat (KODAR) also released a statement calling for strong participation in the general strike and underlining that the “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” uprising is a cultural and mental revolution for the whole society in Iran.

“The ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ revolution is a cultural and mental revolution of the whole Iranian society. It is the duty of everyone to engage and fight against the dictatorship and the fascist Iranian system. The willingness to do so paves the way for freedom and democracy. The freedom of the Kurdish people is linked to the freedom of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan],” said the appeal by PJAK and KODAR.

Clip released on the anniversary of ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadi’ uprising

ANF | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Bêstûn Culture and Art Committee released a clip marking the first anniversary of the uprising in Iran and Rojhilat (East Kurdistan) following the killing of Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini in police custody in Tehran on 16 September 2022.

In the clip dedicated to the popular uprising, the Kurdish revolutionary anthem “Çerxa Şoreşê” is sung in the Sorani dialect of Kurdish, with scenes from the revolt.

Background

The state femicide of Jina Mahsa Amini triggered a revolution under the motto “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” (Woman, Life, Freedom) across the country. The women-led uprisings that spread from Rojhilat to the whole of Iran have created an irreversible revolution in people's minds, resulting in the deaths of at least 500 people and injuries to thousands more. Despite the family's complaint against those responsible for Amini's death, no action has been taken so far.

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You can watch the music clip here: <https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/clip-released-on-the-anniversary-of-jin-jiyan-azadi-uprising-69325>



People of Rojhilat go on general strike on the anniversary of the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini

ANF | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

Today marks the first anniversary of the uprising in Iran and Rojhilat (East Kurdistan) following the killing of Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini in police custody in Tehran on 16 September 2022.

The state femicide of Jina Mahsa Amini triggered a revolution under the motto “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” (Woman, Life, Freedom) across the country. The women-led uprisings that spread from Rojhilat to the whole of Iran have created an irreversible revolution in people’s minds, resulting in the deaths of at least 500 people and injuries to thousands more. Despite the family’s complaint against those responsible for Amini’s death, no action has been taken so far.

Parties and political movements from Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan/Western Iran) have called for a general strike in Kurdistan on the first anniversary of the “Jin Jiyan Azadî” resistance on 16 September. Defining the rebellion that broke out a year ago as the largest and longest-lasting uprising in the history of the Islamic Republic, the Kurdish organisations and parties called on “the fighting people of Kurdistan” to remember the martyrs of this new revolution, show their support to the political prisoners and keep the political movement alive.

The parties calling for a strike include Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK), the Movement for Freedom and Democracy in Rojhilat (KODAR), the Democratic Movement of Kurdistan-Iran (HDKÎ), Komele (Communist Party of Iran), Sazimanî Xebat (Organization of Iranian Kurdistan Struggle), PAK (Freedom Party of Kurdistan) and Komeleya Zehmetkêşên Kurdistanê (Community of Labourers of Kurdistan).

Shops remain closed and people do not go to work in Eastern Kurdistan today. The strike is taking place in several cities, including Saqiz, Sine, Diwander, Meriwan, Boka, Bane, Kamyaran, Kirmaşan, Urmiya, Mahabad, Dehgolan.

According to reports from the ground, the town of Saez, especially the area around the Amini family’s residence and the roads leading to the Aichi cemetery, are besieged by heavily armed security forces and military personnel. The military presence has also been greatly increased in other Kurdish localities.



Dozens detained in police attack on Saturday Mothers in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

Turkish police have again attacked the Saturday Mothers at Galatasaray Square in Istanbul. The initiative wanted to make a statement for the 964th time on “disappearances” in state custody and demand punishment for the perpetrators on Istiklal Avenue. But despite a contrary ruling by the Turkish Constitutional Court, the blockade of their ancestral rally site was not lifted today either. The Galatasaray Square on the central Istiklal Avenue was widely cordoned off by barriers and grids in the early morning, with patrol cars and prisoner transport vehicles parked in the side streets. Riot police were deployed with a large contingent to prevent the group from approaching the square.

On their way to Galatasaray Square, the Saturday Mothers were accompanied by numerous human rights defenders, including the Human Rights Association (IHD) President Eren Keskin, Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Representative Ümit Efe, Green Left Party MP for Ağrı, Heval Bozdağ.

From different starting points in the central district of Beyoğlu, the participants and people in solidarity marched along Istiklal Avenue to the front of Galatasaray Square. However, the area was widely cordoned off by barriers and grids.

A large contingent of riot police surrounded the group to prevent the symbolic site for the struggle for human rights in Turkey from being entered by the Saturday Mothers. Over forty people were handcuffed and taken into custody, some with their hands tied behind their backs.

Green Left Party MP Heval Bozdağ described the police action as torture and said that there was no reason to carry out forcible detentions, as there was no resistance on the part of the people concerned. Bozdağ also criticised the security authorities for ignoring a ruling by the Constitutional Court by banning the Saturday Mothers’ vigils.

— ★ —

Ecocide

Make Rojava Green Again: Ecocide in Kurdistan is the product of colonization

ANF | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Make Rojava Green Again, the ecological campaign of the [Internationalist Commune](#), has published a new article called “Ecocide in Kurdistan: A product of colonization”.

The [article](#) argues that “usually, if there is a natural catastrophe or a destruction of the ecosystem happening against a whole land, against a whole society, a reaction from environmentalists, climate activists and NGOs is being shown. But that is not the case if the existence of a land and a society is denied or ignored – just like it is in the case of Kurdistan. Without being noticed by the public, we are today witnessing a large ecocide all over Kurdistan.”

The article says that “to hold effective ecological resistance, it is necessary to understand the roots of the ecological crisis carried out by capitalism that we are facing today. Capitalist modernity rose in the context of colonization. Genocides and slavery have been the condition of massive looting of resources and destruction of lands and vice-versa. Ecocides and exploitation of nature, women and society as a whole went hand in hand for thousands of years. The capitalist system brought this logic onto a constant increasing scale, and pursues its way to making the earth inhabitable. Colonialism is nowadays still the very basis of capitalism, providing most of the raw materials and cheap labor. Also, the system’s mindset is giving so little value to life that, also in the context of Kurdistan, ecocide is launched not only for looting resources, but also for the sake of destruction of any kind of resistance, in ignorance of the complexity of relations of different life forms that make life itself possible.”

— ★ —

Village guards destroy forests in Şırnak countryside

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Village guards have started to cut off trees in the Kuştiyan area in the vicinity of Mount Gabar in Şırnak countryside.

According to reports from the ground, the destruction of trees in the area began 10 days ago under the watchful eye of soldiers.

The Turkish army has been destroying forest lands in the Gabar, Besta and Cudi regions of Şırnak systematically for many years.

Trees have been cut down massively by village guards in the past three years. The ecocide in Kurdistan territory is spreading to larger areas every day.

Destruction of Kurdistan's forests

The destruction of Kurdistan's forests is a direct continuation of the village destruction policy of the 1990s. The fires in the region are often started by the Turkish army to make sure that the guerrillas are deprived of cover through a scorched earth policy and the rural population that supports the guerrillas is driven out. In many cases, forest fires have political-military causes, and even if they break out due to the drought, extinguishing them is prevented for military reasons. The fauna and flora of the region are exposed to destruction. While news of forest fires in western Turkey in general, and especially in holiday regions, reaches the European public, a systematic special warfare is being waged in Kurdistan with forest fires, against which, however, no reactions are raised.



Human Rights Violations

Atabay: We need to fight self-assimilation to increase rate of those speaking in Kurdish

ANF | VAN | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

The academic year has started in Kurdistan and Turkey. Just like every year, millions of Kurdish children are starting school and are forced to leave their mother tongue outside the class.

Eğitim-Sen, the education trade union Van Branch co-chair Murat Atabay, said that with the start of the academic year, Kurdish children once again have to receive education in a language other than their mother tongue.

'Mother language is important for children's psychological development'

Atabay said: "Why is education not given in one's mother tongue, why shouldn't children receive education in their mother tongue? We have been demanding this for years."

Atabay added that Kurdish children face many difficulties because they cannot receive education in their native language, as demonstrated by scientific and pedagogical data, because "when children do not receive education in their native language, they start school disadvantaged and experience serious psychological

problems. When they receive education in a language they do not know or know little, they do not feel comfortable with it and cannot express themselves comfortably. We will see this psychological reflection in their self-confidence or academic failure in the future. This is a huge problem in the field of education right now. There are many different languages in Turkey that need to be dealt with. Kurdish is the most dominant language among them in terms of population, and it is the language used by the majority of the people. At this point, it is very important to provide education for Kurdish people and to remove the barriers in front of them.”

‘Serious self-assimilation’

Atabay said that there has been serious self-assimilation in recent years, and added: “Our families have been seriously implementing self-assimilation in recent years. Families have started to speak less Kurdish with their children because they were afraid of the consequences. At this point, we need to look back at ourselves as much as we criticize the state’s assimilation policies. Why don’t we reclaim our mother tongue? Why don’t we carry out work in our mother tongue? Or why do we not speak our mother tongue at home, at work, on the street, in the market? At this point, we need to be a little self-critical. It is certainly a big problem that most children go to school hungry during the academic year because of the economic crisis, but I think that the fact that Kurdish children go to school and are denied education in their own mother language, is an even bigger problem.”

‘We need to promote Kurdish language among the population’

Atabay said that there should not be an official language definition in Turkey, and added: “The Turkish constitution states that the language of the state is Turkish. In fact, there is a very serious problem in the establishment of the state and the writing of its constitution. A state does not have a language. A state has an official language. But we understand what they wanted to do in that article. There is a very serious assimilation policy regarding the Kurdish language that dates back not to 30 years, but to the establishment of the republic. There is an assimilation policy that has been very successful. While 90 percent of Kurds spoke Kurdish in their homes and on the streets in the 1920s, unfortunately, today, speaking Kurdish has dropped to 7-8 percent in Kurdish provinces. Under the AKP government, the assimilation policy suffered by the Kurdish language has turned into auto-assimilation and continues to this day. This is not just a policy applied to Kurdish provinces, it is applied to all other languages spoken in Turkey, although Kurdish is the language that suffered the most.”

Atabay said that the importance of the language should be explained to the people well and added: “Institutions struggling in this field of languages should go to the streets promoting courses and explaining our language.”

At least 201 workers lost their lives in occupational homicides in August

ANF | ISTANBUL | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Occupational Health and Safety Observatory (ISIG) released its monthly occupational homicide report and underlined that at least 201 workers lost their lives in August.

According to the report, the highest number of workplace homicides occurred in Istanbul, where 30 workers died.

26 percent of occupational homicides occurred as the result of traffic accidents and 12 percent occurred as a result of electric shock.

When considered according to business branches, the highest number of workplace homicides occurred in the construction sector with 53 people.

It was determined that 10 of those who lost their lives in workplace homicides were children and 11 were refugees or immigrants.

At least 1272 workers lost their lives in 8 months

The report underlined that occupational homicides have experienced a significant increase compared to the previous months, considering that 182 workers lost their lives in July and at least 159 in June.

The number of workers who lost their lives in the first eight months of 2023 was at least 1272.



Mercenaries take action to seize the olive groves of local people in Afrin

ANF | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

ANHA reported that the mercenary group Ebû Hesên El Muwalî (Abu Hassan al-Mawali) formed groups to levy a tribute on local people and seize their olive crops in the districts of Rajo, Jindires and Shiye in the occupied Afrin canton.

According to the report, the mercenary group tasked these groups from the Al-Mawali tribe to confiscate the local people's olive groves and crops, which are to be shared among the Turkish-backed mercenaries.

The new imposition was reportedly arranged to avoid a conflict between the occupation groups over sharing the property of people.

On the other hand, the so-called ‘Military Police’ gangs kidnapped a civilian named Hashim Xezal from the village of Bablite in Jindires district on 6 September. The man was taken to an undisclosed location.

Over 200 people kidnapped in seven months

According to the Afrin-Syria Human Rights Organization, 208 citizens, including 24 women and a child, have been abducted since the beginning of 2023. During the same period of time, at least 13 people, including 3 women, were killed. More than 16,000 trees were cut down, over a thousand trees were uprooted and over 70 hectares of land were burned.

In a statement on August 10, the organization stated that, “The invading Turkish state systematically violates human rights by carrying out crimes such as massacres, kidnappings, violence, ransoms, confiscation of people’s properties, reselling the confiscated materials in the market and plundering the environment.”

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

Green Left Party conference ends with resolutions for the future

ANF | ANKARA | 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

The two-day conference of the Green Left Party at the Nazım Hikmet Congress Center in Ankara ended on Monday evening. The Green Left Party initiated a restructuring process immediately after the elections and organized popular assemblies, workshops and working meetings to receive criticism and suggestions. After the women's conference on 8 and 9 September, these criticisms were brought together at the general conference and corresponding resolutions were made.

The fight against isolation

The total isolation imposed on Abdullah Öcalan was a central theme of the debate, together with issues such as the Kurdish question, the war, the trustee administration in the cities, the politics of the third way and the possibilities of democratic politics.

The conference said that one of the biggest obstacles to democratization in Turkey is the absolute isolation in İmralı that has lasted for 24 years. In this sense, it was repeatedly emphasized how important it was to permanently fight for an end to Öcalan's isolation and his physical freedom.

The candidates are chosen by the people

The conference also discussed the distribution of places on the list for the elections. In response to criticism of the previous candidate selection process, the conference delegation made an important decision in the spirit of direct democracy. It was decided to use a grassroots democratic, pluralistic selection process in which the people can express their choices for candidates. Party members, religious figures, intellectuals, mass democratic organizations, civil society organizations, mothers of peace, associations of the families of the martyrs, elements of the democratic opposition and election officials should take part in this process. For this purpose, a regulation for the selection of candidates and a corresponding guideline should be developed.

Discussion about a new name

Among many other topics, the conference also discussed the new names proposed for the party at the people's assemblies. About 20 names were suggested at those meetings. The names containing the word "democracy" predominate. The Peoples' Democratic Party (DHP) was one of the most suggested names. But there were also proposals such as the Party for Equality and Democracy of Peoples (HEDEP), Party for the Equality of Peoples (HEP), Party of Free Society (ÖTP), Party of Free Life (ÖYP) and Party of New Life (YYP).

The conference adopted a total of 24 resolutions that will be presented to the Congress in October.

85 Kurds and activists detained in Rojhilat in August

ANF | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

In a statement, the Kurdistan Human Rights Network said that 7 Kurdish citizens named Hêro Qedim, Ahmed Mueziz, Umêd Tuti, Kadir Fethulahi, Tahir Sultani, Hesên Çekoç and Hüseyn Çekoç were detained by Iranian forces in the cities of Seqız and Boka in the past few days.

The human rights association said that it is not yet known where the detained citizens are being held.

According to figures shared by the Kurdistan Human Rights Network, at least 85 activists and Kurdish citizens were detained by security forces in August 2023.



Father of Jina Amini taken into custody

ANF | 16 SEPTEMBER 2023

The father of Jina Mahsa Amini has been taken into custody outside the family home in Saqez by Iranian security forces and taken to an unknown location. The house had previously been surrounded by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards and the family was placed under house arrest. When Amjad Amini left the house anyway, he was immediately taken away.

The parents of Jina Amini, a Kurdish woman murdered by the Iranian regime on 16 September 2022, had publicly announced previously that they would mourn at her grave in the Aichi cemetery on the anniversary of their daughter's death. The death of Jina Amini triggered nationwide uprisings a year ago, which spread from Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan) to the whole of Iran with the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadî" (Woman Life Freedom).

In the run-up to the anniversary, the regime has increased pressure on relatives of those killed in the uprisings. Families were told not to hold commemoration ceremonies and dozens of relatives were arrested. Amjad Amini has also been summoned for questioning and pressured at least four times by various security agencies in recent weeks. Two other relatives were taken into custody by the intelligence services and remain in detention with uncertain status.

The town of Saqez, especially the area around the Amini family's residence and the roads leading to the Aichi cemetery, are besieged by heavily armed security forces and military personnel. The military presence has also been greatly increased in other Kurdish localities. Parties and political movements from Rojhilat, including PJAK and KODAR, have called for a general strike on the first anniversary of the "Jin Jiyan Azadî" revolution on 16 September. Closed shops can be seen in videos published by various human rights organisations.



Interview

Muslim warns against a reorganization of ISIS - PART ONE

HIVDA HEBUN | HESEKE | 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Between 27 August and 8 September, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) carried out a major operation against Islamic State (ISIS) cells, corruption and drug trafficking in Deir ez-Zor. There were clashes with dead and injured on both sides. In particular, the deposition and arrest of the corrupt commander of the Deir ez-Zor military council, Abu Khawla, who collaborated with the Syrian regime, and several accomplices led to an escalation in fighting. The regional powers, above all Turkey and the Syrian regime, inflamed the conflict and portrayed the fighting as a “Kurdish-Arab conflict”. The Western media readily picked up on this portrayal and spread it.

In an interview with ANF, the co-chair of the Party of Democratic Unity (PYD), Salih Muslim, spoke about the importance of the operation and its process.

Operation against ISIS resurgence

On 27 August, the SDF launched an operation in Deir ez-Zor. The Turkish state and the regime in Damascus tried to portray the ensuing clashes as a war between the SDF and the Arab tribes. What is happening in Deir ez-Zor?

First of all, we need to understand how the “Security Reinforcement” operation came about. There were many complaints about Abu Khawla and some people who worked with him. These reports came from the local population, the leaders of the tribes and from employees of the Military Council. Abu Khawla and his men were members of the Deir ez-Zor Military Council. Of course, the military council is much larger than these few people, but they were the most influential members of the association.

There have been many incidents in the region, including crimes such as assassinations, kidnappings and drug trafficking, which have become widespread. This was due to the weakness and toleration of the military council. It was necessary to put an end to this. ISIS has carried out many attacks in the region. Therefore, the “Security Reinforcement” operation was launched.

The operation had to begin with those people who had received the most complaints. On this basis, they were questioned and found guilty. At the same time, they were removed from all their positions. In addition, their relationships with various people and forces were uncovered, including their contact with regime militias active west of the Euphrates, in particular with Difa al-Watani (also National Defense Forces, or NDF for short).

Criminal networks have become mobile

Furthermore, these people belonged to criminal networks or had contact with them. As was expected, when they were arrested, these networks also mobilized. They all rose at once. As justification for this uprising, they claimed that the SDF had used violence against them. However, the people of the region knew this was not true and did not believe them. These criminal networks gradually began to widen their rebellion. On the third day of the operation, they ferried troops and weapons from regime-controlled areas west of the Euphrates. They occupied some villages on the river bank and tried to incite the population.

The population does not support the mercenary groups

We know the population of Deir ez-Zor very well. We know that they have nothing to do with these criminal activities. We have good relationships with the people there. As a party, we also have relationships with the leadership of the SDF. The people there do not accept these gangs because they are involved in drug trafficking and commit murders. On the second and third days of the operation, it turned out that it was in fact a much larger and more comprehensive plan. Many people were caught in this context and made statements that made the connections even clearer. It turned out that the Turkish state was also involved in this plan.

Attacks had already been planned in advance by Turkey and Damascus

These attacks were discussed, planned and organized under the leadership of the Turkish state.

This also emerges from the four-way conversation in Astana. What was the plan? That was already said openly at the 20th session: the aim was to overthrow the Autonomous Administration and to remove the coalition forces from the region. At the end of the second day of the operation, waves of attacks began in the north. The attacks on Til Temir, Manbij and other regions are related to this. The propaganda that the tribes in Til Temir had rebelled and conquered the villages clearly showed this.

Some audio recordings have emerged in Deir ez-Zor. The Turkish state has apparently assured these groups that it will attack from the north, parallel to the attacks in Deir ez-Zor, from five different points. This is clear from the audio recordings. The Turkish state and the Syrian regime have tried to put people one against each other. However, the people in the region did not believe them and did not support them in any way. These mercenary groups were led by men named Ibrahim al-Hafl and Nawaf al-Bashir. The region is being combed and the results will be announced today or tomorrow.

The Turkish state is waging a propaganda war against the Autonomous Administration

With the start of the offensive in Deir ez-Zor, attacks on Manbij, Til Temir and Ain Issa also began. What is the connection between these attacks?

Since the war for Kobanê, the Turkish state has been waging a permanent propaganda war together with its mercenary groups who call themselves the “opposition” and are actually Turkey’s agents. From the beginning, the Autonomous Administration was viewed as the enemy. The justification that the Turkish state

has always put forward was that the Kurds would establish a democratic order in Northern and Eastern Syria and this would also strengthen the Kurds in North Kurdistan. The Turkish state cannot accept that.

Democracy and coexistence of all peoples in northern and eastern Syria

A real democratic structure has been established here. Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians and all peoples live together here. And there is a system, a democratic model, that they created together. This model could also be a solution for all of Syria. For this reason, the Turkish state was against this model of a solution from the start because it was afraid of it. Because the peoples who live here are everywhere. They are in Turkey and many other countries. A democratic system that is built here will also have an impact there. And that should be prevented. For this reason, the Turkish state is working around the clock to stop this. Turkey is ready to enter into all possible alliances in order to stop our model from being implemented.

The USA and Europe watch in silence

The Turkish state is blackmailing many countries, including in Europe. Does the US still not know or see what is going on here? Of course they know it, but they don't speak out against the Turkish state. They hide behind the justification that the Turkish state is a member of NATO and, although they know all of its machinations, they remain silent. Europe behaves the same way. On the one hand, the EU allows itself to be blackmailed by the Turkish state. On the other hand, it is only pursuing its own interests.

ISIS spread from Deir ez-Zor

Why Deir ez-Zor?

Deir ez-Zor is of great importance to us. This place used to be the heartland of ISIS. Al-Baghuz was ISIS's stronghold and its last retreat. The final blow was dealt to ISIS in that area. There are still remnants of ISIS in the region. Where did ISIS first develop? It developed in Deir ez-Zor and spread from there. From Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa was occupied and made the capital of ISIS. We will not allow ISIS to develop again. So something has to be done. But we can only do something with the people on the ground, by supporting them and working with their military and civilian self-government structures.

ISIS and other mercenary groups have their focus on Deir ez-Zor

In this sense, Deir ez-Zor is of great importance for the security of the region. Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa and other places must not fall into the hands of ISIS. These groups are currently focused on Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa. All mercenary groups and ISIS cells supported by the Turkish state have their origins there. In this sense, Deir ez-Zor is very important for us. The people there are our people. We live together. We are intertwined. While part of the tribe lives here with us, another part cannot live there under the control of ISIS or the Turkish state. They cannot be under the control of the Turkish state. They can't go over to the other side and let these mercenaries attack us. What we are trying to do here is live together.

Muslim: There is no rebellion against the Autonomous Administration - PART TWO

HIVDA HEBUN | HESEKE | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

In the second part of this interview, Salih Muslim, co-chair of the Party of Democratic Unity (PYD), says that there is no rebellion against the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria.

Some tribal leaders have made statements against the SDF. What can you say about that?

Tribes or clans are not political organizations. Tribes are based on blood ties. In this sense, tribes have no political position. They can never be a political party. The problem, however, is that tribal leaders often work for their own interests. They exploit tribesmen for their own interests. However, when these people wake up or become politicized, they stop listening.

Tribes are being politically abused

What we are trying to do in these regions is to build a moral and political society. We come into contact with the people in the tribes. We are trying to create awareness among them. We want them to at least have political representation. And this representation cannot be the tribal structures. If you look at the situation, there are three brothers on three different sides. One of the brothers is on the side of the Turkish state, one brother is on the side of the government in Damascus and one brother is on our side. In other words, they have no political stance or point of view. They act in a way that suits their individual personal interests.

Nawaf al-Bashir, for example, has changed sides several times. At first, he sided with the Syrian regime. He then fled to the Turkish state and joined its side. From there, he fled to Syria. Then he went to Iran. And now he is trying to mobilize the Shiites from there. It's a question of self-interest. It has become a business. In this sense, the tribes cannot be considered a political structure and there are forces that exploit them.

The Autonomous Administration takes care of the people

As for people, they live in a system. People are connected to the Autonomous Administration. Who do they ask when they need something? The Autonomous Administration, naturally. So a lot depends on the Autonomous Administration here. And that's how it should be anyway. People elect an Autonomous Administration in their village, in their district and in their region, and this administration takes care of the needs of the people. This system leads to self-government based on autonomy. In this sense, the people are far removed from the interests of the tribal leaders.

For example, members of the Okaidat tribe are active in the SDF today. The same applies to the Baqaras. Then someone stands up and says they don't accept that. But of course, people here won't tolerate something like that. This also applies to many other tribes in the region. Most of them participate in the SDF and the Military Council. For this reason, people stay as far away as possible from those who are controlled from outside and are involved in crimes and do not want to have anything to do with them.

There is no rebellion against the Autonomous Administration

There is an attempt to portray what is happening as an uprising against us, but there is no such thing. If people don't accept them, then they have no basis. The people there support the Autonomous Administration. They will not fall for this propaganda and they stand with us. For example, Hajj al-Bashir, Nawaf al-Bashir's cousin, is a very popular figure. He is respected by everyone and is on the side of the people. He did not allow Ankara and Damascus to drag him into this game. The situation is similar with the Hidil family from the Okaidat tribe. Among them there are many cousins and siblings who work with us. They are also part of the Deir ez-Zor Military Council. For this reason, these people will not listen to or approve of those who collaborate with foreign powers, or the Turkish state and who are involved in drug trafficking and many other crimes.

The Turkish state uses mercenaries

The Turkish state in particular is once again trying to portray the clashes as resistance by the Arab population against the SDF. But isn't a large part of the SDF made up of young Arabs?

The fascist Turkish state will try all sorts of tricks, but it will not succeed. They are the Arab sons and daughters who fought against the SDF in Serêkaniyê, Girê Spî and many other areas attacked by the Turkish state. They come from Deir ez-Zor and fought against the Turkish state here. Of course, among all peoples and tribes there are people who are ready to sell themselves.

Who are the members of Ahrar al-Sharqiya and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham? The vast majority of them are Arabs. Who are they murdering? They massacre their own people. The Turkish state is making them attack the Kurds. It lets them attack Manbij, Til Temir, Girê Spî. There are such people not only among the Arabs, but also among Kurds. Today there are people who have settled in Afrin for money. The Turkish state is taking advantage of this. This is not what we want in Deir ez-Zor. Those who attacked in Deir ez-Zor were nothing but mercenaries. The Turkish state sends them wherever it wants. It sends them to Azerbaijan, Libya and Armenia. What are you doing here? They go for the money. These mercenaries would go anywhere. Their only goal is money. The Turkish state is doing the same in Serekaniye and other occupied territories. Just as the Ottomans used to say that wherever they sent Janissaries they could do whatever they wanted for three days, today the Turkish state allows these mercenary groups to operate. The Turkish state cannot openly call them mercenaries. In order to legitimize them, it has to find a cover for them, and so the argument is the presence of the PKK and the Kurds. But that doesn't work in Deir ez-Zor. Because we have been living there together for eight years. We have a common system. We share our worries and problems and find solutions together.

The democratic system does not suit many forces

What is the attitude of the local people? How do they face the SDF offensive?

There is a democratic system here that we have created, and this system is developing within the framework of the project of the democratic nation. This project is based on the principle of brotherhood and coexistence between peoples. This project is nothing new: it has been fought for theoretically and intellec-

tually for years. When the time came, we tried to make it happen. However, this does not suit many people and powers today.

There are certain things we can rely on: the organization of the people and the development of society within a ethical-political framework. Why did the international coalition want to work with us? Because we organized our people and were able to defend ourselves. In this case, the more we can organize ourselves, the stronger we become and the better we can implement our project. In other words, if you consider yourself a subject, someone will certainly make an effort to cooperate or ally with you. Just like the International Coalition does. It's a matter of self-interest. Their interest is to fight against terrorists. The coalition has benefited from this situation, and so have we.

Defense capability increases with organization

The more a society strengthens its own organization and the more politicized the people in that society are, the better it can defend itself. We want to strengthen and develop what has been achieved to a certain extent in Kurdish society. We would like to implement it in the same way in Arab society and in other societies. Of course, the desired result has not yet been achieved. There are still some aspects missing. If there are still some problems today, it is a sign that improvements are still needed in some areas. So it requires further effort and work.

Actually, it's a question of mind-set. The more we can evolve and change mind-sets, the stronger the outcome will be. For years, our society was ruled by the Baath system with a chauvinistic mentality. This chauvinistic attitude that believes in military solutions still exists. We will change that. We talk about democracy, about the dignity and honor of people, about living together and coexistence. For example, the changing position of women in society has changed the entire form of government.

Arab women are the strongest advocates of our system today

Today it is Arab women who are the strongest advocates for our system and join us, because they are the ones who are most oppressed in their own society. In this sense, the question of attitude requires perseverance, time and sincerity. I think we will be successful, as today's practice shows. Today, the people of Deir ez-Zor are no longer just concerned with self-interest, but with questions of principle. This shows that there are successes in changing the mind-set. But that's not enough.

Opinion

Denial and silence continue one year after the Turkish army burned the bodies of its own soldiers

KURTAY SERHAT | BEHDINAN | 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 11 September 2022, the guerrillas managed to document a war crime committed by the Turkish army against its own soldiers in the Şehîd Delîl area in the western Zap region. The guerrilla forces encircled the Turkish invading forces who had tried to advance into the resistance area and inflicted heavy blows on them. The Turkish state was particularly affected by the fact that corpses of several soldiers and their weapons came under the control of the guerrillas, making it almost impossible to cover up their own losses. The bodies could be identified by the guerrillas on the basis of their identity cards. The corpses that remained under the control of the guerrillas were that of Turkish soldier Melih Bozkurt in the Şehîd Şahîn resistance area, those of Naci Kaygısız and Nurettin Tokyürek in the Girê Amêdî resistance area, and that of Mustafa Bazna in the Girê FM resistance area.

The Turkish media and the Turkish state tried to deceive the public by putting up empty coffins for some of the soldiers and denying that the bodies were in the hands of the guerrillas. The death of some others was completely concealed. The Ministry of Defence, ministers and MPs kept saying that the soldiers had succumbed to their injuries in hospital. This was an open lie, as the bodies of the soldiers were in the hands of the guerrillas. The house of cards of lies collapsed when the HPG published the images of the killed soldiers.

To prevent this from happening again, the Turkish army began a particularly inhumane practice in the Girê Cûdî resistance area on 11 September 2022. Since it was unable to remove the bodies of its own soldiers due to the guerrilla resistance, it began to burn them. In this way, the army tried to cover up any hint of their own losses. However, they could not count on the guerrillas meticulously documenting their crimes. The resulting images were like a cinematic summary of the Turkish army's cruelty. Unfortunately, this was not fiction, but reality.

Of course, as usual, the Turkish special war media ignored this bloody, brutal incident and the state denied and covered up this crime. Any admission of its own crimes would mean dishonouring the state. Therefore, the media closed their eyes, ears and conscience and ignored these facts.

Although a year has passed, traces of the crime are still present at the crime scene in the Girê Cûdî resistance area; burnt military clothing, water canisters and some medical supplies. Mobile phones and radios were also burnt by the soldiers and their remains are still visible. Gun scopes, bulletproof vests and bulletproof shields are lying around.

The soldiers must have burned the bodies in a panic, because everything on them was set on fire. After a while, the ammunition exploded on the bodies, scattering its fragments everywhere. Half-burnt, bullet-proof protecting plates were thrown out of their steel vests by the explosion. A half-burnt magazine of rigid plastic lies right next to it.

Right next to the half-burnt magazine, a small detail catches the eye. It is a military badge belonging to the brigade or battalion to which the dead soldiers belonged, more than half of which has been burnt.

Magazines and scattered bullets can be seen under the burnt military clothing. Some of them exploded, while some bullets are still intact.

A smoke bomb also catches the eye. It thus turns out that the soldiers used smoke bombs to restrict the visual angle of the guerrillas.

Although exactly one year has passed since the Turkish army burned its soldiers, the destruction, the denial and the silence continue. The traces of this atrocity are still as vivid as on the first day.



The truth of the Treaty of Lausanne and its historical impact

ANF | 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

The land described in the holy books as paradise and the Garden of Eden, where the four rivers, including the Euphrates and Tigris, flow, this land called Kurdistan was divided into four parts among the states of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria under the leadership of Great Britain in Lausanne on July 24, 1923, where a policy of denial and annihilation was started. Thus, through the treaty that was set up in Lausanne, the Kurdish question became a universal problem, and Kurdish society found itself surrounded by genocidal politics. The reason why the Kurdish question does not fit into any of the classical, new and post-colonial definitions is, that the Treaty of Lausanne is a unique international genocide treaty. In this sense, the description of the Lausanne Treaty needs to be adjusted. Instead of describing it, as is often stated in world literature, that the Treaty of Lausanne was 'the agreement of the Western states to divide and split up the Ottoman Empire', and to correct it as the agreement of the Turkish State and Britain for the Kurdish Genocide and to split up Kurdistan.

Until the 19th century, when the Ottoman Empire tried to halt the process of its dissolution with the 1st and 2nd Constitutional Era, the Committee of Union and Progress, CUP and the regular army, the Kurdish people enjoyed an autonomous status. With the nation-state building of the Ottoman state, the policy of eliminating Kurdish autonomy came into effect and the 200-year-long history of Kurdish revolts began. Until the end of the First World War, the conflict with the Entente states was not based on protecting the Ottoman borders, but on finalizing the existing dissolution with a nation state. The current Turkish state's mind realized that the time of the classical empires was over and started to build a nation state. It was this attitude that led it to cede Egypt to France in a compromise, to withdraw from the Balkans and Arab countries, and mainly to try to preserve its sovereignty in Kurdistan and Armenia. In reality, the con-

tradition is between the Pan-Islamistic Ottomanists, who favored the continuation of the Ottoman state, and the nationalist CUP, which wanted to establish a Turkish nation state on the basis of the ideology of Turkishness, in agreement with Britain and the US. Likewise, the main contradiction of the European states was not with the Ottoman state, but with the conflict between them over which of them would emerge from this dissolution as the hegemonic power. For these reasons, when the Ottoman Empire was officially dissolved in 1918 through the Treaty of Mudros, Turkish political forces and public opinion did not see the treaty as a surrender, but rather as 'the fact that a state, even if it has shrunk in size, has survived such a calamity by maintaining a political existence and national unity must be considered the greatest political achievement.' According to the agreement, except for Kurdistan, the Ottoman state would not claim any rights in the straits, the Mediterranean, the Balkans and the Arabian peninsula.

The great tragedy for the Kurdish people began in the 19th century when Britain, France and Russia competed to share Kurdistan. For the Unionists, this was an opportunity to gain new international alliances in order to create a Turkish nation state out of an Ottoman state that was in the process of spontaneous dissolution. For the Kurds, it meant the beginning of an era of physical and cultural genocide in which the western states would agree with the Turkish state in its denial and extermination. This dark age, as a result of the Turkish state's diplomacy with the US and the British, instead of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the division of Anatolia, the US President Willson's 'homogeneous Turkish State' and Britain's 1915 'report for the protection of imperial interests: Asiatic Turkey' in 1915, the option of leaving the Ottoman Empire as a state in Anatolia came to the fore. In this process, Britain, France and Russia occupied Kurdistan and Kurds started to resist on the basis of independence or autonomy. The most famous resistances in this regard are the Sheikh Mahmoud Berzenci rebellion, the Simko uprisings and the popular resistance against the occupation of Northern Kurdistan, which were suppressed as a result of direct attacks by the British air force.

Although Mustafa Kemal had reached a compromise with the British and US governments on a new Turkish state, since the European states were not in agreement, he went to Kurdistan in order to gain the support of the Kurds. In August 1919, he convened the Congress of Erzirom [Turkish name Erzurum], consisting mostly of Kurdish delegates, and explained what he wanted to do on behalf of Turks and Kurds and asked for their support. With the support of these delegates, the Congress of Sêwas [Turkish name Sivas] was held on September 8, 1919. A month later, on October 22, 1919, there was the meeting in Amasya, where Mustafa Kemal emphasized that the struggle was the common destiny of the Kurdish and Turkish people and promised autonomy to the Kurds. The Sêwas and Erzirom congresses were the congresses where the Kurds agreed with Mustafa Kemal on the principle of a common homeland and a common republic. The national borders were formalized in the Declaration of Amasya as the common Kurdish-Turkish borders that would emerge in the event that the Kurds joined the Republic of Turkey on the condition that their autonomy and representation in the Republic of Turkey were ensured.

For this reason, despite the article 'For the Kurdish Region; a local administration will be established in the Kurdish provinces east of the Euphrates; after 1 year, Kurds can apply to the League of Nations for independence if they wish' in the Treaty of Sèvres in 1920 when Kurdistan was divided between Britain, France and the Turkish state, the Kurds did not favor the Treaty of Sèvres which envisaged the division of Kurdistan and acted on the basis of not fragmenting Kurdistan.

However, even if the name of the Kurds, whose autonomy-independent state status was included in the Sykes-Picot and Sevres agreements, they are not even mentioned anymore in the Lausanne Treaty. The dis-

regard and denial of even the name of the Kurds and their assimilation began with the Treaty of Lausanne. The Kurdish people were outraged by the Treaty of Lausanne and reacted to it with major uprisings in every part of the country, using their right to self-determination. Of the 28 Kurdish uprisings, Sheikh Sait, Seyit Riza, Zilan, Agri, Sason, Simko, Mahabat, Sheikh Mahmut Berzenci and Ahmet Berzenci were the most prominent ones. These uprisings were violently suppressed as a result of joint Turkish-Iranian operations and Britain's military and international political support for the Iraqi state. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds, 90,000 in Dêrsim [Turkish name Tunceli] alone, 70,000 in Zilan and 30,000 at Mt. Ararat, were massacred between 1923-40. Re-occupation campaigns were carried out in the context of a state of emergency, the so-called 'independence courts' had been formed, deportation operations, the Kurdish names of the provinces, cities and villages were banned, and assimilation policies were implemented on the basis of Turkification. Between 1940-45, the government of İsmet İnönü presented the assimilation project for the Turkification of the Kurds to the British government and the British government approved it. Thus, the Turkish state broke its agreement with the Kurds on the basis of an autonomous Kurdistan-Democratic Republic in Lausanne in exchange for a Turkish Nation State, shared the Kurdish territories with Britain and assumed the central role of the Kurdish Genocide Regime.

The powers that made the Treaty of Lausanne agreed on the genocide of the Kurds, and since they knew by the very nature of things that a people would be in a constant uprising against fragmentation and annihilation, they desired exactly such a situation and divided the Kurds into four parts. The British state, which built four nation states in the Middle East with the Kurdish problem in its bosom, would thus use the Kurdish problem to design these states as it wished. In this context, the Turkish state was welcomed into NATO in 1950. Most importantly, while maintaining their historical enmity, all four states were to act jointly against the Kurdish question. No matter what kind of struggle the Kurds would resort to, they would find such a regional and international alliance against them. The plan to use the current state of fragmentation and denial of the Kurds to sustain the world hegemony and the nation-state system in the Middle East was to force the Kurds to deny themselves and accept Turkification, Arabization and Persianization, either in the form of 'extreme loneliness' or 'surrender to another reality'. For the world, they would spread threats as centers producing and spreading fascist states and radical religious regimes.

For this reason, the First World War has never ended for the Kurds. Kurdistan has been in a state of WWI for a hundred years because of the Treaty of Lausanne. For the world, this means that the third World War is centered in the Middle East. The genocidal Anfal operation [genocidal attacks by the Iraqi Ba'ath regime against Kurds between 1986-1989] and the Halabja massacre in Iraq, the burning of more than 4 thousand Kurdish villages in Turkey, the displacement of 3 million Kurds and the killing of nearly a hundred thousand Kurds are just a few examples of the Kurdish genocide carried out in the last 30 years. Nationalism and religionism have been used as the most effective ideological weapons against the Kurdish people. Against the revolution of Rojava [Western Kurdistan/Northern Syria], IS, the most horrific expression of radical religionism, was put into action by the Turkish state to be used directly against the Kurds. It should not be seen as a coincidence that IS first captured the Kurdish city of Mosul, kidnapped Ezidi [Yazidi] Kurdish women in Şengal [Sinjar] and declared war on the revolution of Rojava, and also that the Turkish state invaded the cities of Afrin, Serê Kaniyê, and Girê Spî together with the IS. This meant that the Turkish state would respond with extermination wherever the Kurds gained presence.

In accordance with the Treaty of Lausanne, the Turkish state gains the power to fight-exterminate the Kurds with an international concept with the NATO alliance, and today, with the "Neo-Ottomanism Moderate Islam project", it is spreading to the borders of Misak-ı Millî [National Pact] to complete the

Kurdish Genocide. It appears a lot like a modern version of the situation with Hitler. The European states, which turned a blind eye to the genocide of 6 million Jews because Hitler fought against Soviet Russia, today give all kinds of support to the Turkish state in its war of genocide against the Kurds, because it is in the interest of the Turkish state in the Middle East. For this reason, the Kurdish people's struggle for existence under the leadership of the Kurdistan Worker's Party, PKK, for the last 40 years has been defined as a 'terrorist movement' by the NATO states. The leader of the Kurdish People, Abdullah Öcalan, was handed over to the Turkish state with the support of the US, and all kinds of technical and intelligence support were provided to the Turkish state in the war against the Kurds. Turkey is now attacking the Kurdish Freedom Fighters with all kinds of violence, including chemical weapons, with the weapons and intelligence support of NATO. It is perhaps the greatest irony of history that the honorable resistance of a people subjected to unprecedented international terrorism and held in the grip of genocide is defined as a 'terrorist movement'. Dividing a country and a people between four states, assimilating them and even destroying their name is the most brutal act of terrorism in history.

In this sense, the parties of the Treaty of Lausanne should morally and politically correct this historical mistake. It is very painful, a people facing genocide is looking for an interlocutor. A people is looking for those responsible for its genocide. Because the Kurdish question is the question of a people, with a population of up to 50 million, being subjected to a genocide approved by the world. The problem is that the Turkish state today wants to continue the Kurdish Genocide by completing it with the NATO alliance and receives NATO support in this regard. In this sense, Lausanne is a process that has never ended, a form of genocidal rule that is very much alive and constantly in practice.

Nietzsche, called up on humanity in the name of the prophet of the Zagros mountains, Zarathustra, 'any phrase that truly communicates an inner state, that does not pretend to be contrived, is good. My instinct is infallible in this matter, and I assume that there are listening ears for this work, and people who have the power to hear the same passion.' We have always addressed the world with the belief that there are people with 'the power and the same passion' to hear a people's cry for existence and freedom, because truth is always good. And we think it is better for humanity to hear every word that proclaims the truth. The gates of hell that open before the world are always closed by the political will of those who think well, speak well and do well. We have seen this most recently in humanity's resistance for Kobanê. The Kurdish people's struggle to protect their existence and gain status against the evil fascist nation states of the age is good for the world.



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