

THE IMRALI POST

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

Issue № 69 / 24 September 2023 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	2
Three Kurdish activists from Sweden take over the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg.....	2
Prisons.....	3
Women prisoners in Evin jail hold sit-in to pay tribute to Jina Amini.....	3
Female prisoners tortured in Patnos transferred to other prisons.....	4
Peri Municipality co-mayor released.....	4
Gökkan: I am in prison because I am a Kurdish woman.....	5
Human Rights Association exposes situation of ill prisoners Erol and Demirtaş.....	6
Military aggression and occupation.....	7
Turkish attacks leave thousands of students in Northern and Eastern Syria at home from school.....	7
Guerrillas: The enemy is stuck in the areas it occupied.....	9
Three YBŞ fighters killed in Turkish drone attack in Shengal.....	10
KDP escalates its military activities, reportedly preparing to attack guerrilla areas in Bradost.....	11
13 more Turkish soldiers killed in guerrilla actions.....	12
Two killed, eight injured in Turkish drone attacks in Qamishlo.....	13
Soldiers start a wildfire in the vicinity of the village under military siege for two months.....	14
KNK delegate killed in armed attack in Hewler.....	15
An attack helicopter and 7 positions of the Turkish army damaged in guerrilla actions.....	15
Three peshmergas died in drone attack on Sulaymaniyah airport.....	16
KNK: Attack on our office targets national unity.....	17
Iraq says the aircraft that attacked Sulaymaniyah's Arbat airport took off from Turkey.....	18
Turkish army bombs the village of Ormaniçi.....	18
KCK: Recent attacks in Southern Kurdistan are a result of collaboration and betrayal.....	19
Talabani: Attack on Arbat Airport is a crime and violation of borders.....	21
15 Turkish-backed mercenaries killed in HRE raid in a town of al-Bab.....	22
KDP's military deployment to Sidekan and Bradost continues.....	23
HPG reports ongoing guerrilla actions against the Turkish army.....	24
Turkish army launches operation in Yüksekova countryside.....	25
State terror in the village of Ormaniçi continues.....	25
HPG: 5 more Turkish soldiers killed in ongoing guerrilla resistance.....	26
Turkish state bombs villages of Shehba, Sherawa and Manbij.....	26
Still heavy presence of military security forces in Rojhilat.....	27
Turkish drone attack injures a civilian in Ain Issa.....	27
HPG: Nine soldiers were killed in guerrilla resistance against Turkish occupation.....	28
5 killed in successful retaliation operation in Manbij countryside.....	29
Child killed during clashes between Damascus forces and Difa al-Watani mercenaries in Heseke.....	30

12 Turkish soldiers killed in actions of revenge by the guerrillas.....	31
3 Turkish soldiers and 7 allied mercenaries killed in actions by Til Temir Military Council.....	32
11 more Turkish soldiers killed in ongoing guerrilla resistance against the Turkish army.....	33
Bayık calls on the KDP to stop acting as an agent for Ankara.....	34
Femicide.....	35
700 people detained during protests in Iran.....	35
'Attacks against women in Kurdish cities are no coincidence'.....	36
Woman murdered in Turkish-occupied Afrin.....	37
KJK calls for the expansion of struggle against Turkish fascism and KDP treason.....	37
Diary of Gurbetelli Ersöz published in French.....	39
Saturday Mothers attacked and detained again on the 965th week of action.....	40
Ecocide.....	41
Ecocide in Kurdistan.....	41
A forest fire is spreading on Mount Cûdî, in the province of Şırnak.....	44
Ecocide in Northern Kurdistan continues.....	45
Human Rights Violations.....	46
Court rejects appeal against deportation of Kurdish man to Syria.....	46
10 people detained in Hakkari.....	47
22 people detained in Antalya for remembering revolutionary leaders in Turkey.....	47
Çapraz: Policy of impunity in Hakkari means continuous human rights violations.....	48
Green Left Party delegation visits village under military siege for two months.....	50
Police take three people into custody in Istanbul.....	50
Mehmet Dizin taken into extradition custody in Italy.....	51
How the Kurds are politically oppressed in Germany.....	52
Interview.....	53
Karasu: The history of humanity is the struggle of women.....	53
Karasu: The behaviour of the KDP amounts to betrayal.....	55
Karasu: Effects of 12 September 1980 military coup still very big.....	59

— ★ —

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Three Kurdish activists from Sweden take over the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF|STRASBOURG|20 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil launched on 25 June 2012 in Strasbourg, to demand freedom for the Kurdish People's Leader and an end to the isolation imposed on him has reached week 587.

Three Kurdish patriots from Sweden took over the vigil this week. The vigil is the longest-running action of the Kurds in Europe.

The group includes Şehmus Çetinkaya, Ezîz Bamo and Ciwan Şahan.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Şehmus Çetinkaya stated that they were very concerned because they had not heard from the Kurdish People's Leader for about 3 years, and that all Kurds would be relieved if they received news as soon as possible.

Inviting all Kurds to stand up and work for the Kurdish cause, Çetinkaya said: "All Kurds should be united."

Another activist, Ezîz Bamo, said: "We have not heard any news from our leader for three years," and added that they participated in the protest to react against the isolation and the invading Turkish state.



Prisons

Women prisoners in Evin jail hold sit-in to pay tribute to Jina Amini

ANF|17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Seven political women prisoners in Iran's Evin jail said that they have been holding a sit-in in the prison courtyard since 14 September to protest the murder of Jina Amini and to salute the first anniversary of the 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' uprising.

According to JİNHA, the prisoners, Azadeh Abedini, Sepideh Qalian, Şakila Monfared, Golrokh Iraei, Narges Mohammadi, Mahbobeh Rezaei and Vida Rabbani, talked about their action in a message shared on the social account of human rights defender Narges Mohammadi.

The statement said: "We, female political prisoners in Evin Prison, have been holding a sit-in in the prison courtyard since 14 September to support our people and protest the government.

A year has passed since Jina Amini was killed by the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The anger we feel about the killing and execution of our country's boys and girls in the streets and in prisons, the blinding of protesters, the arrest, torture and imprisonment of those who stand up is an open wound, and a huge pain in our souls. We have the motivation and determination to continue the struggle until victory."

The statement continued: "As female political prisoners in Evin Prison, we support the Iranian people in their struggle for freedom and equality. We protest the violent, oppressive and cruel policies of authoritarian religious people. As of 14 September, we united with the Kurdish and Iranian people by holding a sit-

in protest in the courtyard of Evin Women's Prison. We ask all democratic people to be the voice of the Iranian people and the protesters.”

— ★ —

Female prisoners tortured in Patnos transferred to other prisons

ANF|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

Political prisoners Mizgin Atabey, Lale Kabişen and Nazlıcan Barışer, held in the L-Type Prison in Patnos district of Ağrı, were beaten by around 40 guards on 31 August and then tortured with the so-called pig shackles for four hours.

Mizgin Kayıtbey was transferred to the Women's Close Prison in Kayseri, and Lale Kabişen to the Women's Close Prison in Tarsus district of Mersin.

The female prisoners said that they had been subjected to violence by dozens of guardians for 40 minutes, and then held in pig shackles for four hours.

In a report about the incident, the Human Rights Association (IHD) Van Branch said that the prison authorities were also involved in the torture.

— ★ —

Peri Municipality co-mayor released

ANF|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Peri Municipality (in the province of Dersim) co-mayor, Orhan Çelebi, was held in Edirne L Type Closed Prison. He was released on Thursday.

Çelebi, who was taken into custody in Edirne on 13 July. He was released from Edirne F Type Prison as a result of an objection to his detention on 11 August, but was arrested again on 23 August upon the objection of the prosecutor's office and sent to Edirne L Type Prison.

— ★ —

Gökkan: I am in prison because I am a Kurdish woman

ANF|MARDIN|24 SEPTEMBER 2023

The first hearing in the newly reopened trial against the Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan took place in Nusaybin (Nisêbîn) on Friday. The spokesperson for the Movement of Free Women (Tevgera Jinên Azad, TJA) and former mayor of Nusaybin is a political prisoner in Sincan prison and has already been sentenced to decades in jail in several trials.

Gökkan was connected via video broadcast from Sincan and said in the hearing that 300 criminal cases had been initiated against her in the 65 days of her official term as mayor of Nusaybin. Gökkan is under trial because of her resistance to the construction of a wall on the Turkish-Syrian border in 2013.

In court, Ayşe Gökkan said she refused to pay for an interpreter when she spoke in her native language, Kurdish. Regarding the accusation that she damaged a wire fence at the border, the politician referred to international agreements and said: “At that time, all state authorities committed crimes, only my action was not a crime.”

Threats by soldiers

During her vigil against the planned construction of a wall on the border between Nusaybin and Qamişlo, Gökkan reported that she was exposed to threats and sexual violence. “It is always said that soldiers are people with honor and decency. However, a soldier played with his penis in front of me. They really were that dishonourable.” The proceedings initiated after their criminal complaint were discontinued after two months. The reason for the discontinuation was: “Our soldiers don’t do anything like that.”

“No one can stop my resistance”

Gökkan continued: “I have not harmed anyone, nor the public conscience and morals. They throw people out of helicopters and bomb places. I have never caused such harm to anyone. Why am I blamed and not them? They send mothers the bodies of their children in plastic boxes, they destroy cemeteries. I didn’t do that. I am accused because I am a Kurd, a woman from Kurdistan. But I will continue to fight in prison. Nobody can stop my resistance. Long live the resistance in prisons! I will not defend myself because I have not committed any crime.”

Trial adjourned to 22 December

Ayşe Gökkan’s lawyers requested her acquittal. The hearing was adjourned to 22 December. When the trial observers tried to make a statement in front of the courthouse after the hearing, they were surrounded by the police.

Human Rights Association exposes situation of ill prisoners

Erol and Demirtaş

ANF|24 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Human Rights Association (IHD) Istanbul Branch Prison Commission held the 600th “F Session” protest organized to expose the situation of ill prisoners. In this week’s action held in front of the IHD Istanbul Branch, attention was drawn to the health condition of Besra Erol, mother of Evrim Deniz Erol, who was held in Elazığ Women’s Closed Prison and lost her life in the Suruç Massacre.

The statement was read by Meryem Bars, member of the Prison Commission of IHD Istanbul Branch. Stating that prisons have turned into death houses for a long time, Bars added that the rights of ill prisoners are ignored and they are left to die. Speaking about the situation of Besra Erol, who is held in Elazığ Women’s Closed Prison, Bars said that the woman suffers from a herniated disc, sciatica, high blood pressure and high eye pressure, and that she has already undergone two surgeries due to herniated disc and should be released immediately.

Ankara

The Freedom for Ill Prisoners Initiative continued its action in front of the Human Rights Association (IHD) Ankara Branch in its 472nd week to draw attention to the situation of ill prisoners. HDP and Green Left Party provincial organizations and many human rights defenders attended the action.

IHD Ankara Branch co-chair Aslı Saraç spoke about the situation of 38-year-old Hasan Demirtaş, a prisoner in Tokat T Type jail and suffering from a severe form of Behcet’s disease.

Saraç said that Demirtaş’s illness worsened because of the negative conditions of the prison. Emphasizing that it would be difficult for Demirtaş to survive if there was no one with him, Saraç demanded the execution of his sentence to be postponed.

— ★ —

Military aggression and occupation

Turkish attacks leave thousands of students in Northern and Eastern Syria at home from school

ANF|QAMISHLO|17 SEPTEMBER 2023

The new academic year started on 10 September in Northern and Eastern Syria. Some 800,000 students started classes. However, thousands of students were deprived of their education due to the damage and destruction caused in many schools by the ongoing attacks carried out by the Turkish state and its mercenaries in the region.

The villages of Til Temir, Zirgan, Ain Isa, Manbij, Shehba canton and the villages of Shera and Sherawa in the province of Afrin canton are bombed every day by the Turkish army and its mercenaries.

A total of 31,502 students were deprived of education due to the attacks. In addition, mercenary groups turned dozens of schools into military bases in the villages they occupied. Despite all this, the Autonomous Administration did not give up looking for alternatives so that students could continue their education.

Til Temir and Zirgan

According to the data provided by the Til Temir and Zirgan Education Committee, 4,738 out of 7,000 students in all three grades in Til Temir were registered for the new year, while 2,262 students could not register due to the attacks. Since the start of the occupation of the villages of Til Temir and Zirgan, 1,460 out of 8,700 students have registered, while 7,242 have not been able to.

There are a total of 126 schools in Til Temir, but currently only 82 schools are working. 26 schools are under the control of the Turkish army and its mercenaries, while the other 15 schools are occupied by refugees from the city of Serêkanyê.

Til Temir School Administration allocated some houses for education so that students can continue receiving classes.

Gire Spî

Nearly 2,000 students in the villages of Girê Spî and Ain Isa, which are close to the war fronts, have been deprived of education for 5 years. Since the occupation of Girê Spî began in 2019, education has been stopped in 20 schools close to the war fronts in the western countryside of Girê Spî and the villages of Xalidiyê, Dibis, Koltep, Xirbe Beyda and Denayê in Ain Isa. These regions are constantly bombed.

Euphrates Region Education and Training Committee is working to continue education in schools in co-operation with the Gire Spî Canton Administration. It is trying to open new schools in the villages of Fatisa, Cedîdet Eyn Îsa, Kînana, Huriye, Bir Eli and Fatisa and the surrounding villages, where attacks are rare.

Regarding the schools close to the war fronts, Girê Spî School management spokesperson Cuman Isa told ANHA that the Turkish army and its mercenaries prevented the education process, and that families did not dare to send their children to school.

Isa pointed out that nearly 2,000 students have not been able to go to school for 5 years due to the attacks.

According to the data provided by the Euphrates Region Education and Training Committee, the number of students coming from Girê Spî Canton this year is around 9,000. Education is provided in 101 schools, and the number of teachers is 331.

Girê Spî School Administration opened a school in Grê Spî Refugee Camp and 1,500 students are currently receiving classes there.

Villages in Shehba, Shera and Sherawa

The Turkish army and its mercenaries continued their attacks with heavy and banned weapons against the villages of Shehba Canton and the Shera and Sherawa districts in the south of the occupied Afrin Canton. The villages of Bînê and Qeramîl in Sherawa were targeted in the attack, which also affected schooling.

Afrin and Shehba Canton Education and Training Committee is trying to continue its educational activities despite limited resources. In this context, many schools were renovated and some houses were converted into education centers.

There are 23 schools housing more than 5,0000 students in villages close to war fronts.

According to Fadıl Çawîş, co-chair of the Education and Training Committee of Afrin and Shehba Canton, “there are no special places that can protect students during attacks due to the weak infrastructure of the region.”

Çawîş told ANHA that during the attacks, teachers sent students home, schools were closed, and as a result, students were deprived of education.

Education stopped in 70 schools in Manbij

With the start of the new academic year, Turkey-linked mercenaries increased their attacks on the villages of Manbij. The Education and Training Committees in Manbij and its countryside stopped education in schools in the bombed villages.

Manbij Education and Training Committee co-chair Ibrahim Al Taha told ANHA: “In order to protect the safety of students and teachers, education was stopped in schools in villages close to war fronts. Due to

the incessant attacks by the Turkish state, education in 70 schools in the villages of Arap Hesên, Erima, Kawkili, Ilan, Mezeret El Seyada and Zenqel have been suspended.

Ibrahim Al Taha said that more than 20,000 students could not continue their education due to the suspension of education. The Education and Training Committee is looking for an alternative so that students can continue their education in schools far from the bombarded areas should the attacks not stop.

— ★ —

Guerrillas: The enemy is stuck in the areas it occupied

RUSTEM KURTALAN|BEHDINAN|17 SEPTEMBER 2023

The guerrilla forces of YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and HPG (People's Defence Forces) have been resisting the Turkish army's occupation attacks in the regions of Metîna, Zap and Avaşîn in Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) since 2021. ANF spoke to three guerrillas who are taking part in this resistance in Metîna.

HPG guerrilla Amed Azadî said that a relentless war is taking place in the Medya Defence Zones: "The war in Zap, Metîna and Heftanîn is a very big and comprehensive war. The Turkish state is attacking with all means. We are responding to these attacks with the limited means at our disposal. We are fighting with weapons in our hands. I have been in Metîna since the beginning of the Turkish invasion. The resistance in Zendûra alone was legendary and unique in the history of Kurdistan. Six comrades resisted chemical weapons and any form of technology for 51 days. This resistance showed us how to fight.

The war has spread to many areas, but the enemy is stuck in the places they occupy and cannot advance a step. There is footage of the army burning the bodies of its own soldiers. This state and its army are so far from morality that they burn the bodies of their soldiers. They do this to hide their losses from the public. However, the guerrillas are exposing what is happening to the Turkish army.

In this war, many of our comrades fell in courageous battle. They did not retreat one step and fought until the end. They did not complain for a day and fought the battle with the limited means they had and their own will. It is the fighting spirit of brave and sacrificial companions like Bager, Cesûr, Rojhat and Azad that will lead us to victory. We will drive the enemy out of Kurdistan, not even his shadow will remain behind. That is what we have sworn to do, and we will stick to it."

Bahar Goyî, a YJA Star guerrilla, is also in the war zone in Metîna. She said: "I have been taking part in this resistance since the beginning. We carry out actions against the enemy under difficult conditions. I have been involved in very effective actions. For us, defending our land against the enemy is the greatest success. As guerrillas, we are fighting for even greater successes."

Another guerrilla, Deniz Dalampêr, stated that the guerrillas carry out actions against the Turkish army every day: "Our people have been on their feet for many years, resisting cruel oppression. In the mountains of Kurdistan, the guerrillas continue this resistance. The enemy wants to show the exact opposite and

spreads false propaganda that the guerrillas are being destroyed. However, we see the actions of our comrades every day. Therefore, the enemy's special war methods are coming to nothing. The enemy is in distress in many areas. The centre of the war is in the Zap at the moment, but the struggle is taking place in all four parts of Kurdistan.”

— ★ —

Three YBŞ fighters killed in Turkish drone attack in Shengal

ANF|SHENGAL|17 SEPTEMBER 2023

A Turkish drone carried out a strike targeting a car near the Serdesht Camp in the Yazidi town of Shengal (Sinjar) on Sunday.

In a statement about the attack, Shengal Resistance Units (YBŞ) announced that three of their fighters were martyred.

The YBŞ statement said: “The invading Turkish state targeted a car of our forces at 13:50 local time today. The brutal attack claimed the lives of three of our comrades. The goal of the invading Turkish state’s attacks is to disturb the security and peace in Shengal and to prevent the return of displaced people. The enemy forces who think that we will be intimidated and take steps backward in the face of the ongoing attacks should know well that we will continue to follow in the footsteps of our martyrs. We will not give up on our struggle and our legitimate rights until we crown this cause with victory.”

YBŞ added that the ID information of the fallen fighters would be announced to the public soon.

Background

Turkish drone attacks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) have remarkably increased in recent months. Baghdad and Erbil usually ignore these attacks and the international community also lets Ankara have its way in its war in Kurdistan. Turkey’s drone war against the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria also goes largely unnoticed internationally.

On 5 September, a Turkish drone attacked the city hall of Binarê Qendîl. A city council van was hit in front of the building, causing significant damage to other local council vehicles and the city hall building.

On 27 August, a Turkish drone targeted a vehicle traveling on the Germkê road within the borders of Pêncewîn, in the province of Sulaymaniyah.

On 24 August, the Turkish state carried out another drone attack in KRI. The attack targeted a vehicle moving along a busy road and killed four civilians in Mergemîr in Bradost.

On 11 August, a drone of the invading Turkish state struck a civilian car on the move in the Pêncîwên district of Sulaymaniyah in South Kurdistan. The attack claimed the lives of three members of a family from Duhok.

At the end of May, Said Êşur (Said Ashor) was killed in a Turkish drone attack on a residential building in Xanesor. The Yazidi man, who lost numerous relatives in the ISIS raid in Shengal, had been working for the British NGO Mines Advisory Group (MAG), which works internationally on demining in crisis and conflict areas, since 2016. The Turkish state, on the other hand, claimed Êşur was a “terrorist”. At the end of February, two commanders of the YBŞ (Shengal Resistance Units), Pîr Çeko and Agir Cefrî, were killed in a drone strike. Two days later, Şêrzad Şemo Qasim from the leadership of the local security forces, Asayîşa Êzdîxanê, was killed, also by an air strike. Both organisations, the YBŞ and the Asayîşa Êzdîxanê, were founded under the impression of the genocide perpetrated by ISIS against the Yazidi community of Shengal in 2014.



KDP escalates its military activities, reportedly preparing to attack guerrilla areas in Bradost

ANF | 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

The cooperation of the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), with the Turkish state took on a new dimension with its deployment of troops and armored vehicles to the guerrilla areas in Bradost on 13 September. This was followed by an attack on the positions of the guerrilla forces in the area on 14 September.

While the military activity in the region continues, the KDP is preparing for an attack on guerrilla areas, according to RojNews agency based in South Kurdistan.

According to local sources, the KDP's latest attacks and activities against guerrilla areas are taking place on the demands of the Turkish state, which seeks to expand its occupation to Bradost.

Sources asking to be mentioned anonymously stated that the KDP has given 24 hours to the farmers, shepherds, nomads and local people in the uplands to leave the region.

Reports are also coming through of a risk of attack in the Sidekan area of Bradost.

After the evacuation of civilians from the area, KDP forces are said to be intending to attack the region together with Turkish soldiers. The KDP troops will reportedly move under the Iraqi flag and in the uniforms of border guards.

Reports suggest that the KDP and Turkish forces mean to attack the regions of Çiyayê Bolê, Girê Heyatê, Gewrûya Singê, Berbizînê, Girê Şemaşe and Sinînê. The mentioned areas are all located in the Bradost re-

gion and are strategically important. The KDP reportedly wants to surrender these areas to Turkish occupation. It grabs attention that the KDP troops stationed in the area are dressed in the uniforms of border guards affiliated to the Iraqi army. These forces are said to be gathering under the Iraqi flag and equipped with heavy weaponry. The Turkish air force will also take part in the occupation attacks, according to reports. In the meantime, the government of Iraq has not made any statement on the increasing military activity in the region.

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.

While the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) are calling for Kurdish unity to stop the genocide of the Kurdish people, to make their voices heard at the international level and to prevent an inner-Kurdish war, the Barzani-dominated KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) in South Kurdistan is working with the Turkish state and its secret service MIT and is doing the exact opposite.

Elî Ewnî, a member of the Central Committee of the KDP, openly called for the murder of leading PKK members during a TV appearance on a Barzani family channel in mid-August. Ewnî explained that the Turkish army and MIT are capable of targeting people with drones and questioned why the PKK leadership is not being eliminated with drones.

Elî Ewnî stated: “I say it to the leaders of the Turkish state. You can use drones, the airway and by means of the Internet to locate the members of the PKK in the tens of thousands of cars going to Ahmedawa and bomb them. Don’t you know the leaders and vanguards of the PKK who come and go to Turkey through Ranya, Derbindaxan, Qeladizê and Bradost?”

— ★ —

13 more Turkish soldiers killed in guerrilla actions

ANF|BEHDINAN|17 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 Sunday, 13 more soldiers of the Turkish army have been killed in guerrilla actions in the Zap region since yesterday.

The press centre gave the following information on the actions of the HPG and YJA Star guerrillas on 16 September and on the latest attacks by the Turkish army:

Girê Cûdî

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, guerrillas hit and damaged four positions of the Turkish invasion forces with heavy weapons on 16 September morning. In the afternoon, a soldier was shot dead by a sniper. Between 9.10 pm and 11.30 pm, guerrillas intervened with heavy weapons against Turkish military helicopters that were dropping more troops in the area. Late in the evening, YJA Star fighters gained control of a Turkish unit trying to advance towards a tunnel site, and carried out two successive sabotage actions, which left five soldiers dead. When the occupation troops then tried to deposit explosives in the tunnel, they were struck by the guerrillas with firearms. Six more soldiers were killed and the bodies of the soldiers are under the control of the guerrillas.

Girê Amêdî and Girê FM

At Girê Amêdî, the guerrillas continue to intervene against the construction of positions by the Turkish invading forces. On 16 September morning, the construction of one position was stopped by guerrilla strikes with semi-automatic weapons. Two other positions were damaged by YJA Star fighters with heavy weapons. Between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., guerrillas intervened four times against operations to airdrop more soldiers in the area. At 8.55 p.m., a sniper shot dead a soldier who was trying to set up a position with his unit. A short time later, a Turkish squad was struck with heavy weapons. A Turkish position was also damaged by heavy weapons in the Girê FM resistance area on Saturday.

Girê Ortê

In the resistance area of Girê Ortê in Metîna, YJA Star guerrillas hit the occupation forces with heavy weapons at noon on Saturday. Last night, the guerrillas intervened against helicopters over the area.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Girê Bahar resistance area in the western Zap region was bombed eight times by Turkish fighter jets on Saturday. Two more airstrikes were carried out on the Serê Metîna area in Metîna and Yekmal in Gare. The Zap region and Metîna were also attacked by helicopters and artillery.

Two killed, eight injured in Turkish drone attacks in Qamishlo

ANF|QAMISHLO|18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Two people were killed and eight others injured in several drone attacks by the Turkish state in the North-East Syria on Sunday. The victims were members of the Internal Security Forces who were on their way from Qamishlo to Amûdê when their vehicle was hit by a drone.

When people rushed to help, the same place was bombed again, according to the Internal Security Forces' statement on the attack. A total of eight civilians were injured, some of them seriously. They are in various hospitals, some of them in critical condition.

It is part of Turkey's psychological warfare to make it impossible for the people in North-East Syria to live peacefully and, above all, to have any perspective of doing so, with the help of an "unseen" war of attrition. An essential element in this is unmanned combat drones, which, on the one hand, target representatives of the Autonomous Administration of North-East Syria (AANES) structures and members of combat units, and on the other hand target the civilian population with the aim of driving them away. The USA and Russia, which control the airspace in northern and eastern Syria, ignore Turkish drone terror, as does the international community.

Turkey's drone war against AANES began in June 2020 with the murder of three representatives of the women's umbrella organisation Kongra Star in Kobanê. Since then, more than 200 further attacks have taken place. Since the beginning of this year alone, more than seventy people have been killed in over fifty drone attacks in North-East Syria, according to data from the independent media organisation Rojava Information Center (RIC). Fifteen of the victims were civilians, the others belonged to the Internal Security Forces and members of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which continue to fight against ISIS and resist the Turkish occupation attacks. Most recently, a commander of the Women's Defence Units (YPJ) and two fighters of the local Women's Military Council were killed in a drone strike in Manbij on Friday.

— ★ —

Soldiers start a wildfire in the vicinity of the village under military siege for two months

ANF|ŞIRNAK|18 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 take care of their gardens and fields.

On 15 September, the Governor's Office in Şırnak imposed a 15-day ban on entering and leaving 5 areas in the vicinity of the village.

Residents of the village are forced to send their cattle to another village due to the military measures implemented in the region.

According to Mezopotamya agency, Turkish troops bombed the area with heavy weaponry after the 15-day ban came into effect. The random bombardment started a wildfire in the rice fields in the lower parts of the village.

The fire has not been responded to yet and has already started to spread to a wider area, according to the report.



KNK delegate killed in armed attack in Hewler

ANF|HEWLER|18 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) Representative Office in Hewler (Erbil) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq was targeted by an armed attack on Monday.

The attack by unknown persons killed Deniz Cevdet Bülbül, a delegate of the KNK. Bülbül came from the Gever (Yüksekova) district of Hakkari.

An official statement by the security authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) on the attack is not yet available.

The KNK was founded in 1999 as an association of political parties and organisations from all four parts of Kurdistan. Its aim is to strengthen the national unity of the Kurds and to support the cooperation of political parties. The association was founded on the initiative of the Kurdish liberation movement. Its headquarters are in Brussels.



An attack helicopter and 7 positions of the Turkish army damaged in guerrilla actions

ANF|BEHDINAN|18 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).

The HPG Press Center statement on Monday gave the following information about the guerrilla actions on 17 September:

Girê Cûdî Resistance Area

YJA Star guerrillas struck the Turkish occupation forces with heavy weaponry at 08:00 and 12:00, damaging 2 positions.

The occupiers were targeted by the guerrillas with heavy weaponry at 14:50, 15:27 and 17:00, leaving 2 more positions damaged.

YJA Star guerrillas struck the Turkish forces with heavy weaponry at 18:00 and damaged a position.

One member of the occupation forces was shot dead by a YJA Star sniper at 20:00.

Girê Amediyê Resistance Area

The invaders trying to get stationed in the area were struck by the guerrillas with heavy and automatic weapons and at 13:15 and 16:16, and two positions were damaged.

Zap region

The occupation forces in Sîda Resistance Area were hit by the guerrillas with heavy weapons at 12:00 on 16 September.

Metîna region

At 20:40 on 17 September, guerrillas intervened against Turkish helicopter activity in Girê Ortê Resistance Area. One of the attack helicopters was hit with automatic weapons and damaged, forced to retreat from the area.

Guerrillas also intervened against a Sikorsky helicopter on a mission to airdrop troops in the area and had to leave the area.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Şehîd Delîl front in the west of the Zap region and Metina were targeted by attack helicopters and artillery attacks.

— ★ —

Three peshmergas died in drone attack on Sulaymaniyah airport

ANF|SULAYMANIYAH|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

South Kurdistan Anti-Terrorism Administration (CTG) announced that 3 Peshmergas lost their lives in the drone attack on Arbat Airport in Sulaymaniyah.

In a statement about the attack, the CTG said: “On Monday, Arbat Airport in Sulaymaniyah was targeted by a drone by the invaders and the forces that want to disrupt the security of the Kurdistan Region. Unfortunately, three of our heroic friends were martyred in the attack and one peshmerga was injured.”

The statement added that a comprehensive investigation on the issue was launched in coordination with the representatives of the countries with a presence in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq and the Coalition Forces. “Those who are complicit in this attack will not remain unpunished. It is our duty to avenge our martyrs,” the statement said.

The statement said that due to the security of the investigation, the details will not be disclosed to the public now but a detailed statement about the attack will be made in the coming days.

— ★ —

KNK: Attack on our office targets national unity

ANF|BRUSSELS|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) Executive Council condemned in a written statement the armed attack on its offices in Hewlêr, as a result of which Deniz Cevdet Bülbün was murdered.

The KNK pointed out that this attack was the result of a strategic decision and a message. “This attack did not just target an office, an employee, a KNK member. The aim of this attack was the national unity of the people of Kurdistan. These attacks showed how helpless and afraid our enemies are in the face of our unity. Every Kurd should see this fact and act accordingly.”

The KNK said that they “know the attackers” and added that the targeting of their representations was a continuation of the attacks carried out by the Turkish state and its collaborators in South Kurdistan, but also in Rojava, Shengal, Maxmur, Zap, Metîna, Avaşîn, Suleymaniyah.

The KNK Bashur Representation is in the middle of Hewlêr, and monitored 24 hours a day by the regional security and intelligence. There are dozens of cameras around it. Therefore, the KNK asked the Bashur government and the Hewlêr security forces: “If (the attackers) are not protected, how dare they use their arms in the middle of the day? Could they break into the KNK office and massacre people? How can MIT move freely in the region, organize spies and kill patriots? Who allows this?”

The KNK said that the regional government and the Hewlêr public order would be responsible for the massacre if the murderer was not caught as soon as possible and the instigators were not exposed and tried.

The KNK said that the Turkish state's attacks against Kurdistan continue, and underlined the attack on Erbet airport in Sulaymaniyah, which took place half an hour after the attack in Hewlêr. The KNK also said that the attacks on Rojava, Shengal and Medya Defense Areas, and said: “This war is not only against a Kurdish movement. It is aimed at all Kurds and all of Kurdistan. The Turkish state is not only attacking, but also forming alliances against our people and mobilizing other invaders. All Kurds and Kurdistan’s forces need to see this reality. Cooperation with the Turkish state, cooperation with enemies and occupiers means treason: it is a red line and no Kurdish or Kurdistan force should cross this line.”

Reiterating that the attack on the KNK office targeted the national unity of the Kurdistan people, the KNK Executive Council reaffirmed its stance and called on anyone to “strengthen the national line against this attack and attacks in general. All Kurdistan forces should unite. We call on all parties and organizations to not remain silent against these attacks, to protest and be one voice against the attacks. We will not step back against the attacks, we will stand against the attacks and we will further deepen the line of national unity.”

At the end of its statement, the KNK commemorated all the martyrs of Kurdistan, including martyr Deniz Cevdet Bülbün, the martyrs at Erbet airport, Shengal and Rojava, and expressed their condolences.

— ★ —

Iraq says the aircraft that attacked Sulaymaniyah’s Arbat airport took off from Turkey

ANF|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Iraqi General Staff Spokesperson, Major General Yahya Resul, made a statement regarding the attack on Arbat Airport in Sulaymaniyah.

General Yahya Resul said: “An unmanned aerial vehicle that took off from Turkey at 5pm on Monday 18 September, carried out an attack on Arbat Airport in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. Three members of the Anti-Terrorism Administration fell as martyrs and three others were injured in the attack.”

General Resul added: “This attack is a violation of Iraq’s sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, and a serious violation and threat to peace and security in the region and the world. It is also a violation of international law and United Nations treaties.”

Stating that the attack does not comply with the neighbourly relations between the two countries and threatens Iraqi citizens, General Yahya Resul added that Iraq has the right to put an end to these violations.



Turkish army bombs the village of Ormaniçi

ANF|ŞIRNAK|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

The military blockade in the village of Ormaniçi (Bana) in Şirnak’s Güçlükönak (Basa) district has been continuing for two months.

Military activity continues in the area and the surroundings of the village have been under bombardment since Monday.

On Tuesday morning, two helicopters began bombing the surroundings of the village. It has been reported that new military reinforcements have been sent to the region.

On Monday, a fire broke out when the vineyards and gardens came under fire randomly and a large area was burned.



KCK: Recent attacks in Southern Kurdistan are a result of collaboration and betrayal

ANF|BEHDINAN|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Co-Presidency of KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement about the recent attacks on the airport of Sulaymaniyah, on the office of the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) in Hewlêr [Erbil] and the attacks on Southern Kurdistan in general.

The statement also highlights the policy of collaboration and betrayal, saying: “The patriotic people of Kurdistan will definitely hold the enemy and the traitors who stand with the enemy responsible for all this.”

The KCK statement released on Tuesday includes the following:

“As reflected in public opinion, the attacks of the Turkish state have increased. Recently, attacks took place in Sulaymaniyah and Hewlêr [Erbil]. Two days ago, attacks were carried out in Rojava [Western Kurdistan/Northern Syria] and Şengal [Sinjar]. Many people were martyred as a result of these attacks. On the other hand, the Turkish state is already continuously attacking our movement and the guerrilla, which is putting up great resistance. We would like to respectfully commemorate all the martyrs of the revolution and democracy in the persons of those who were martyred in all these attacks, and we reiterate our commitment and promise of struggle to the martyrs. The patriotic people of Kurdistan will definitely hold the enemy and the traitors who stand with the enemy responsible for all this.

Unfortunately, treason is part of all these attacks. These attacks and martyrdoms do not happen as a result of the strength of the enemy, but with the support of betrayal. This is a bitter but true reality. The Barzanis’ relationship with the Turkish state is a clear betrayal and the reason for all these attacks and martyrdoms. If this situation is ignored any longer and the necessary actions are not taken, then we as a people will be in a more painful and worse situation. By not taking the necessary stance against betrayal, we pave the way for the system established through betrayal to function. There is no Kurd who does not know what this system is. It is the Turkish state’s plan to exterminate Kurds and Kurdishness through massacre and genocide. The Turkish state and the ruling AKP-MHP government are implementing this plan. It is very clear that this is the basic policy of the Turkish state and those who stand with it are also partners in this plan. We mention this for the following reason; while it can be easily seen that the Barzanis’ relations with the Turkish state are collaborationism and betrayal, this situation is not openly expressed and the necessary attitudes against it are not shown. This has certainly not been done until today. Thus, the development of a strong objection and reaction by the people against the betrayal has also been prevented.

The increase in the attacks came after Hakan Fidan [FM of Turkey] traveled to Iraq and South Kurdistan and held talks. The recent developments in the south Kurdish region of Bradost reveal that new plans are being made and that the Iraqi state wants to be included in this. In the Bradost region, attempts are being made to enter the areas where the guerrilla is based, and pressure is being exerted on the people to leave their homes. It is very clear that this is a preparation for an attack and a part of the Turkish state’s occupation plan. What is being done in Kirkuk is also part of this plan. These attempts are not to liberate Kirkuk, as the Barzanis want to project, but to hand it over to the control of the Turkish state in exchange for a share of the oil in Kirkuk. The plan for Kirkuk is a plan of the Turkish state. This is the reason why the Turkish state is passing this situation off with token reactions. Otherwise, the Turkish state does not have the approach of wanting Kirkuk to be a part of Kurdistan to solve its problems. The plan of the Turkish state is to completely occupy and annex South Kurdistan.

The Barzanis are fully engaged in the politics of the Turkish state. There is no need to explain the politics of the Turkish state and its approach to the Kurds. This reality is not seen sufficiently by thinking that the Barzanis and the ‘Kurdistan Democratic Party’ (KDP) they lead, are Kurds. This has also created a psychological situation. However, the Barzanis have no concern for Kurdistan. As long as they control a few cities in Kurdistan, rule them and use them to serve themselves, the rest is not important to them. The rest of

Kurdistan is a bargaining chip for them for the sake of eating the blessings of a few cities. If this was not the case, if they had a concern for Kurdistan, would they have welcomed Hakan Fidan with open arms? Hakan Fidan is a murderer. Every day he is calculating how to kill more Kurds. He is dripping with Kurdish blood. And the Barzanis welcome such a murderer with open arms and embrace him. This situation alone is more than enough to reveal the reality of the Barzanis.

We want to emphasize this. If the correct and necessary attitudes had been taken against the betrayal until today and the reaction of the people had not been prevented, the situation would not have reached this degree, the enemy would not carry out such an attack plan and there would not have been so much pain and losses. This is precisely because the necessary attitude against betrayal was not taken by organizations, parties and institutions; by intellectuals, writers and artists who are the conscience, voice and consciousness of society. This situation has encouraged the betrayal and deepened it day by day. If this reasoning is done in a carefree manner, everyone will reach this conclusion.

The attack in Hewlêr was against the office of the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) and, as a result of the attack, the KNK representative for South Kurdistan, Deniz Cevdet Bülbün, was martyred. It is extremely meaningful that the attack was against the KNK, as the KNK is making an important effort for the national unity of the Kurds. It has recently carried out important work in this direction. One of the most important ones was the conference it organized in the city of Lausanne on the centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne. Important discussions were held at this conference and important decisions were taken to ensure the unity of the Kurdish people. The Treaty of Lausanne means the division and dismemberment of Kurdistan, the denial and annihilation of the Kurdish people. In the centenary year of this treaty, it was extremely important to organize such a conference in the city where the treaty was made, to reveal the foundations of Kurdish enmity and genocide based on the Treaty of Lausanne and to put forward the will to establish Kurdish unity against this. However, the Barzanis did not attend this meeting. Because the Barzanis do not have any concerns and goals such as Kurdish unity. On the contrary, they have an approach that benefits from the Kurdish genocide and they want it to continue. If this were not the case, their hearts would be beating for Kurdish unity like all of us, they would be seeking for this to happen like all of us, and they would be excited about such initiatives. But this is certainly not the case with the Barzanis. Not because we say so, but because their deeds reveal what they are. It is time for everyone to put the truth as it is, no half-talk. We have to call treason treason. If we can do this, if we can call betrayal a betrayal and take a stance against it, we will prevent greater falls and disasters. This is how we will realize the unity of the Kurds. Otherwise, we will pave the way for greater betrayals and disasters. This will be the greatest evil to be done to the Kurds, to the cause of Kurdistan.

We would like to say the following about the attack in Sulaymaniyah. We do not yet have comprehensive and precise information about this attack. There is information that the attack was on an airfield and that there were martyrs. The attacks on Sulaymaniyah are aimed at intimidating the people of Sulaymaniyah, opening the south Kurdish region Soran to the Turkish state and the Turkish intelligence service like the Behdînan region, and ensuring that the 'Patriotic Union Kurdistan' (PUK), like the KDP, enters into collaborative relations with the Turkish state. Since the people in Sulaymaniyah and Soran region have not given up their patriotic stance until today, a new attack has been carried out. We strongly condemn this attack. We have no doubt that the people of Sulaymaniyah and the Soran region will continue their patriotic stance. The calculations of the Turkish state can be understood from the attacks against Sulaymaniyah and Soran and the plans it makes through these attacks.

We strongly condemn these attacks carried out by the Turkish state through the traitors. It is time for everyone to take a clear and strong stance against betrayal. The Turkish state carries out its Kurdish genocide policy and concept based on betrayal. This is clearly visible. The way to stop this policy and frustrate the concept is to stop the betrayal. If all patriotic Kurdish organizations, parties, intellectuals, writers and artists take a clear and strong stance against the betrayal and if the people of Kurdistan express their reaction strongly, then the betrayal will be stopped, limited and neutralized. We reiterate this call once again and call on all people in the country and abroad to take to the squares and express their reaction against the betrayal in a strong way and call on parties, organizations, institutions and personalities to lead this.”

— ★ —

Talabani: Attack on Arbat Airport is a crime and violation of borders

ANF|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Bafil Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), condemned the drone attack on the Arbat Airport in Sulaymaniyah that killed three peshmerga fighters on Monday.

Talabani defined the attack as a crime and violation of the borders of Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) and Iraq, and a part of plans to disturb peace and stability in Southern Kurdistan and mainly at the Sulaymaniyah border.

“It is the duty of all political parties in the Kurdistan region to defend Kurdistan against enemies and to fight together against threats and security gaps caused by repeated negligence,” Talabani said.

The PUK leader called on the Iraqi government to uphold its legal and national duty for the protection of the lands and airspace of Iraq and the Kurdistan region, and to not allow such attacks and violations under any circumstances.

Bafil Talabani called upon the friends of the Kurds, all countries and all libertarian people to adopt a stand against terror attacks of this kind, saying: “The Kurds, who have fought terror on the very front lines and paid heavy prices, should not be subjected to such terror attacks.”

Vowing to frustrate the attacks all together, Talabani stated that they would achieve peace in unity and solidarity and confront any and all attacks.

— ★ —

15 Turkish-backed mercenaries killed in HRE raid in a town of al-Bab

ANF|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) released a statement providing information about an action carried out by their fighters against Turkish-allied mercenaries.

HRE stated that their units continue carrying out effective actions against the occupation forces whose attacks on the region continue unabated.

According to the statement, HRE units conducted a raid on the mercenaries in the town of al-Abla in al-Bab on 18 September.

15 mercenaries were killed and six others injured as a result of the action. In addition, three positions, three motorbikes, one vehicle and one ammunition depot were destroyed.

HRE units also seized two assault vests with 12 magazines on them, six AK-47 rifles, one BKC gun, 1 B-7 gun, four hand grenades, one mobile phone and some identity cards.

The HRE was founded in 2018 after the occupation of Afrin by Turkey. With the aim of liberating the region from the occupiers, the resistance group carries out targeted actions against the Turkish troops and their jihadist mercenaries. The HRE wants to end the occupation of Afrin and acts as a part of the resistance against Turkish expansionism.

Until 2018, Afrin was administered according to the cantonal principle of Rojava and was considered the most peaceful region in Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the Turkish invasion. Many of them have since been living in tent cities in the neighbouring canton of Shehba, which has been declared by the Turkish state as the next target of occupation alongside Manbij.

— ★ —

KDP's military deployment to Sidekan and Bradost continues

ANF|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

KDP dispatched a convoy of dozens of armored vehicles to the regions of Sidekan and Bradost.

Footage published by RojNews on Tuesday shows the deployment of over 400 operational forces and a large number of armored vehicles to the mentioned regions.

The KDP had dispatched 200 military vehicles to Bradost and Sidekan on 13 September evening. At around 04:30 on 14 September, KDP troops attacked the positions of the guerrilla forces in the area, resulting in skirmishes between the two sides.

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.

While the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) are calling for Kurdish unity to stop the genocide of the Kurdish people, to make their voices heard at the international level and to prevent an inner-Kurdish war, the Barzani-dominated KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) in South Kurdistan is working with the Turkish state and its secret service MIT and is doing the exact opposite.

Elî Ewnî, a member of the Central Committee of the KDP, openly called for the murder of leading PKK members during a TV appearance on a Barzani family channel in mid-August. Ewnî explained that the Turkish army and MIT are capable of targeting people with drones and questioned why the PKK leadership is not being eliminated with drones.

Elî Ewnî stated: “I say it to the leaders of the Turkish state. You can use drones, the airway and by means of the Internet to locate the members of the PKK in the tens of thousands of cars going to Ahmedawa and bomb them. Don’t you know the leaders and vanguards of the PKK who come and go to Turkey through Ranya, Derbindaxan, Qeladizê and Bradost?”

— ★ —

HPG reports ongoing guerrilla actions against the Turkish army

ANF|BEHDINAN|19 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 Tuesday, , four soldiers of the Turkish invading forces were killed, while one helicopter and eleven positions of the Turkish army were hit and damaged in the latest actions carried out by the guerrillas, the details of which are as follows:

Girê Cûdî

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the western Zap region, Turkish military positions were targeted by the guerrillas with heavy weaponry. Nine positions of the Turkish forces were damaged, and two soldiers were killed on 18-19 September.

Girê Amêdîyê

In the Girê Amêdîyê resistance area in the western Zap region, the guerrillas continue to resist the Turkish troop deployment and carried out eight actions with heavy weapons, which left two soldiers dead and one position damaged on 17-18 September.

Girê FM

In the Girê FM resistance area, one position of the Turkish forces was hit with heavy weapons and damaged.

Girê Ortê

In the Girê Ortê resistance area in Metîna, a Turkish squad was struck with heavy weapons on 17 September.

On 18 September, the guerrillas intervened three times against helicopter movements over the area. One helicopter was damaged and forced to retreat.

Attacks by the Turkish army

On 18 September, Turkish fighter jets carried out two strikes on the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the western Zap region, and three strikes on the area of Gundê Şêlazê area in Metîna. On the same day, attack helicopters shelled the regions of western Zap and Metîna. The same areas were also targeted by artillery attacks.



Turkish army launches operation in Yüksekova countryside

ANF|HAKKARI|20 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish army has launched an operation in the countryside of the Yüksekova district in the Hakkari province, Northern Kurdistan.

According to reports from the ground, the operation covers the rural areas of Tiloran'a Jêr and Tiloran'a Jor villages.

Both villages were besieged by the Turkish troops and the bridge leading to the highlands in the area was blockaded with armored vehicles.

A large number of armored vehicles and hundreds of troops have been dispatched to the operation area since the morning.

On the other hand, reports are coming through of unmanned aerial vehicle activity over the region of Sipêrêz and Omerê mountains.

Villagers in the area are denied access to the highlands where they graze their cattle.

— ★ —

State terror in the village of Ormaniçi continues

ANF|ŞIRNAK|20 SEPTEMBER 2023

The village of Ormaniçi (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 there is a ban on entering and leaving the village. The residents are not even allowed to leave their homes and call on human rights organizations to take action.

On 15 September, the Governor's Office in Şırnak imposed a 15-day ban on entering and leaving 5 areas in the vicinity of the village, which has been bombed from the air and land since Tuesday.

In parallel with the bombardment, reports are coming through of military deployment to the area. Soldiers stormed several houses in the village and carried out meticulous searches on Wednesday.

— ★ —

HPG: 5 more Turkish soldiers killed in ongoing guerrilla resistance

ANF|BEHDINAN|20 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, five more soldiers of the Turkish army were killed in guerrilla actions on 19 September.

HPG stated that five soldiers were shot dead by snipers from HPG and YJA Star in the Girê Cûdî, Girê Amêdî and Girê FM resistance areas, located in Şehîd Delîl in western Zap region.

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, six Turkish positions were struck and damaged by the guerrillas with heavy weapons. At Girê FM, a unit of YJA Star destroyed a video surveillance system installed by the Turkish army through targeted fire.

According to the HPG statement, Turkish fighter jets bombed the western Zap region and Metîna a total of seven times on 19 September. The targets were Girê Cûdî and Girê Bahar, as well as the surroundings of the villages of Gundê Dergelê, Gundê Bazê and Gundê Bêşîlî. Further attacks were carried out by attack helicopters and artillery.

On the other hand, HPG reported that HPG guerrilla Rênas was martyred on 17 September in a clash with Turkish forces near the village of Bana in Şîrnak's Güçlûkonak district, which has been besieged by the Turkish army for two months. The statement added that details of his identity will be published at a later date.

— ★ —

Turkish state bombs villages of Shehba, Sherawa and Manbij

ANF|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

According to information received, the villages of Til Cican in Shehba, Birc Qasê in Sherawa and Seyade, Um Edese and Dendeniyê in Manbij were bombed by the Turkish state on Wednesday night.

It was learned that the bombardment lasted for an hour.

— ★ —

Still heavy presence of military security forces in Rojhilat

ANF|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

There is still a high presence of military security forces in cities in Rojhilat, the eastern part of Kurdistan. Over the weekend, many cities were besieged by a massive deployment of police, military and Revolutionary Guard units to prevent protests and commemorations on the anniversary of Jina Amini's death. The 22-year-old Kurdish woman from Seqiz (Saqqez) died on 16 September 2022 as a result of a state femicide in Tehran.

People in her hometown wanted to mark the first anniversary of her death with a memorial service at her grave in the Aichi Cemetery, but the entire city was under siege. Jina Amini's father was temporarily taken into custody and the entire family was placed under house arrest.

According to a report by the Kurdish Human Rights Network (KHRN), military security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran remain stationed with light and semi-heavy weapons at the entrances to Seqiz and Bikan (Bukan, West Azerbaijan Province) and are closely monitoring the movements of the civilian population. In both cities, security forces and special police units remain on the streets and in the main squares.

According to civil society organizations, more than 500 demonstrators were killed by Iranian regime forces in the wave of protests following the death of Jina Amini, and seven men were executed in connection with the protests. The Iranian regime wants to violently suppress the commemoration of the dead. KHRN reports that the anniversary of the deaths of Reza Lotfi in Dêwlan (Dehgolan) and Fereydoun Mahmoudi in Seqiz could not be celebrated as expected due to pressure from the security forces. In Dêwlan, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards blocked all roads leading to the city's cemetery and prevented people from visiting the grave of Reza Lotfi. Drones were spotted in the airspace monitoring the area around the deceased's house.

Reza Lotfi and Fereydoun Mahmoudi were shot by Revolutionary Guards on 19 September 2022 during the protests in Dêwlan and Seqiz.

Similar reports of repression are coming from other cities. The authorities and the secret service continue to ask the relatives of those who died not to hold any memorial events. People from every family are summoned to various security services or arbitrarily arrested and put under pressure using all means possible.

— ★ —

Turkish drone attack injures a civilian in Ain Issa

ANF|AIN ISSA|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

An unmanned combat drone of the invading Turkish state attacked the village of Safawiya in Ain Issa district on Thursday.

The attack injured 29-year-old Qibin Eziz El Xelil, who was taken under treatment in Raqqa Hospital.

Largely unnoticed by the Western public, Turkey is waging an open war against northern and eastern Syria, bombing civilian settlement areas, autonomous administration facilities or units of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on a daily basis.

Ain Issa is located south of the Turkish occupation zone in northern Syria and is of strategic importance as a link between the self-governing Euphrates regions with Kobanê in its center and Jazira. Since 2019, the city has been in the crosshairs of Turkey and its Islamist proxy forces as part of a war of attrition, with phases of high intensity alternating with phases of low intensity.

Dozens of villages in the region have already been destroyed and depopulated by Turkish military violence. A Turkish air offensive last November reduced large parts of the infrastructure to rubble and ash.

The Turkish state has been carrying out violent attacks against Manbij, Til Temir and Ain Issa since the launch of the SDF Operation Security Reinforcement against ISIS and criminal elements in Deir ez-Zor region on 27 August. Attacks have remarkably intensified after the successful completion of the operation on 8 September.

— ★ —

HPG: Nine soldiers were killed in guerrilla resistance against Turkish occupation

ANF|BEHDINAN|21 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, nine more soldiers of the Turkish army have been killed in guerrilla actions in the regions of Avaşîn, Heftanîn, Metîna and Zap.

"The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla continues to deal effective blows to the Turkish occupation army from Avaşîn to Heftanîn and Metîna to Zap in all the places it wants to occupy in the Medya Defence Zones. As a result of actions by our forces, nine occupants have been punished and two occupants have been wounded. At the same time, one A4 gun, two surveillance cameras and two positions were completely destroyed, and two other positions were damaged," said the HPG statement.

Regarding the details of the guerrilla actions and the latest attacks by the Turkish army, HPG gave the following information:

Avaşîn

The occupation forces at Girê Şehîd Munzur in the Mamreşo resistance area were struck by the guerrillas from two flanks with assault rifles and heavy weapons on 16 September. Three soldiers were killed in the action. An operation launched by the Turkish army in the area on 17 September was withdrawn without results.

Heftanîn

Two soldiers were killed in an action with heavy weapons directed against a Turkish position at Girê Şehîd Silava on 19 September. The position, an A4 weapon and two surveillance cameras were completely destroyed. On the same day, a sabotage action was carried out against a moving Turkish army van near Gundê Rûsê in Bektorya. Two occupants were killed in the action and one was injured.

Metîna

In the Girê Çarçêl resistance area, a Turkish unit trying to establish a position was struck with heavy weapons on 20 September. On Wednesday evening, the guerrillas intervened against helicopter movements over the area. At 6.30am today, an advancing squad was hit with semi-automatic weapons and one soldier was killed.

Şehîd Delîl in Western Zap region

Two soldiers were shot dead by YJA Star and HPG snipers in the Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî resistance areas on Wednesday. Four positions of the Turkish army were hit with heavy weapons, one of which was completely destroyed.

Attacks by the Turkish army

On 20 September, the Turkish Air Force bombed a civilian vehicle belonging to a resident of the region in the Enzê area in the Qandil region. On the same day, areas in the Zap and Metîna regions were shelled by attack helicopters and artillery fire.

— ★ —

5 killed in successful retaliation operation in Manbij countryside

ANF|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

In retaliation for the martyrdom of the fighters from the Women's Military Council, Commander "Shervin Sardar," along with her comrades "Nojan Ojlan" and "Janda Judi" in a Turkish attack on 15 Sep-

tember, the Manbij Military Council conducted an operation yesterday against Turkish-backed mercenaries in the countryside of Manbij.

A statement issued by the Media Center of the Manbij Military Council confirmed that the retaliatory operation specifically targeted positions held by the Sultan Murad mercenaries, situated between the villages of “Tal Ali” and “Al-Suhayb” in the Manbij countryside.

The statement further verified the elimination of five Turkish-backed mercenaries and the injury of seven others. Additionally, three enemy outposts were successfully neutralized, various weapons, including a DShK, RBC, and other medium-grade armaments were confiscated, and two military vehicles were destroyed.



Child killed during clashes between Damascus forces and Difa al-Watani mercenaries in Heseke

ANF|HESEKE|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Clashes between forces affiliated with the Damascus government and Difa al-Watani (also known as National Defence Forces, or NDF for short) have been going on for two days in the security zone of Heseke.

During the clashes, a two-year-old child named Zedan Mihemed died as a result of a rocket hitting a house in the borough of Kelasê.

The family of Zêdan Mihemed is from Deir ez-Zor and came to Heseke to live with relatives in Heseke after the clashes there.

According to data from the human rights organizations operating in the regions of Afrin-Shehba, Cizre and Euphrates in North-East Syria, at least 41 children have been killed by the Turkish state forces and allied mercenaries from 1 January to 2 September, 2023.

In addition, 32 other children were wounded, 4 subjected to sexual assaults, 9 arrested and 8 kidnapped, including a baby.

Part of the northern Syrian city of Heseke is under the control of the Assad regime. Due to the fighting that broke out early on Wednesday morning in a neighborhood controlled by the government in Damascus, many people are seeking refuge in the areas under the control of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES).

The NDF is actually a militia of the Syrian regime. In mid-August, clashes broke out in Heseke after the local NDF commander Abdul Qadir Hamo physically attacked Sheikh Abdul Aziz Muhammad al-Meslet, a leader of the Jubur tribe, and his nephew. The members of the tribe then took to the streets and de-

mandated Hamo's extradition by the Syrian government. Government troops later seized NDF posts. Since then, there has been tension between the two parties in government-controlled neighbourhoods. In a widely circulated video, Hamo called on his militiamen to attack government forces until they are handed back their posts in Heseke. "You are not soldiers of the state. The state is your enemy," the NDF commander told his militiamen.

— ★ —

12 Turkish soldiers killed in actions of revenge by the guerrillas

ANF|BEHDINAN|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

The HPG (People's Defence Forces) and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) continue the resistance against the Turkish invasion in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq).

According to the statement released by the HPG press office on Friday, 12 soldiers of the Turkish army were killed and four others injured in the Zap and Metîna regions on 21 September. The guerrillas also destroyed two surveillance cameras installed by the Turkish army, while one armoured vehicle and 15 positions were damaged in the actions which were carried out as revenge for fallen fellow combatants.

"The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla continues its historic resistance with Apoist spirit of sacrifice and way of life, following the line of the martyrs. In order to pursue the aims of the martyrs and to keep their flag high, and in order to avenge our companions who died in Amed and Botan, our commander, Axîn Mûş, and comrades Egîd, Rohat, Demhat and Rênas, many actions were carried out. In these actions in memory of our great martyrs, twelve occupants were punished, four occupants were injured and two surveillance cameras were destroyed. In addition, one armoured vehicle and 15 positions were damaged. Our legendary resistance and freedom struggle will continue unconditionally until victory and will definitely be successful," said the HPG statement.

Regarding the guerrilla actions and the Turkish occupation attacks since Thursday morning, HPG stated the following:

Şehîd Delîl, Western Zap region

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, guerrillas struck and damaged ten Turkish army positions with heavy weapons. Two soldiers were shot dead by snipers, another was wounded. The guerrillas with heavy weapons also intervened against helicopter movements in the area.

In the Girê Amêdî resistance area, eight soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions with hand grenades, assault rifles, sabotage tactics, semi-automatic weapons and snipers. Two surveillance cameras were destroyed by targeted fire and four positions were damaged in the guerrilla actions with heavy weapons.

In the Girê FM resistance area, an armoured vehicle was struck and damaged with semi-automatic weapons.

Metîna

In the Girê Ortê resistance area, an advancing unit of the Turkish army was hit first with sabotage tactics and then with semi-automatic weapons, leaving two soldiers dead and three others injured. The guerrillas also hit a helicopter, which then left the area.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Turkish fighter jets bombed Girê Bahar in the western Zap region and the areas of Gundê Şêlazê and Gundê Bêşîlî in Metîna four times. In the regions of Zap and Metîna, the Turkish army carried out attacks with helicopters and artillery.



3 Turkish soldiers and 7 allied mercenaries killed in actions by Til Temir Military Council

ANF|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Til Temir Military Council carried out actions against the Turkish army and allied mercenaries.

“The invading Turkish army and allied mercenaries continue their attacks against our territories, mainly targeting our people living in the region. In response to these attacks, our forces carried out a series of retaliatory actions in the month of September,” said a statement released on Friday, announcing the details of the actions and their results as follows:

“On 4 September, an action was carried out on a position of the invading mercenaries in the village of al-Aziziya, resulting in the killing of 3 mercenaries.

On 7 September, our forces targeted an armored vehicle near the Menagh Air Base, located north of Til Temir and controlled by the invading Turkish army, killing 3 Turkish soldiers and wounding another.

On 10 September, our forces carried out an action against a position of mercenaries in the village of al-Dawudiyah to the north-west of Til Temir, resulting in the killing of 2 mercenaries and the wounding of two others.

On 14 September, our forces carried out an action against mercenaries in the village of al-Rihaniya north of Til Temir, resulting in the killing of 2 mercenaries and the wounding of another.

On 19 September, our forces carried out an action against a position of mercenaries near the village of Qamisiyah in Til Temir region. The results of the action could not be clarified.

The actions left 3 soldiers and 7 mercenaries dead, and one soldier and 3 mercenaries wounded in total.”

— ★ —

11 more Turkish soldiers killed in ongoing guerrilla resistance against the Turkish army

ANF|BEHDINAN|23 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, the guerrillas continue their retaliatory actions in memory of guerrilla commander Axîn Mûş and guerrilla fighters Egîd, Rohat and Demhat who fell alongside her in Amed's Lice district on 17 September.

HPG stated that eleven soldiers of the Turkish occupation forces were killed and 15 others were injured in the Zap region on Friday. A tent with military equipment and two surveillance cameras installed by the Turkish army were destroyed, and eleven positions were damaged with heavy weapons.

Regarding the details of the guerrilla actions and the attacks by the Turkish army since Friday morning, HPG gave the following information:

Şehîd Delîl, Western Zap region

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, YJA Star guerrillas struck and damaged eleven enemy positions by targeted fire with heavy weapons. In addition, a Turkish army soldier was shot dead by a sniper.

In the Girê Amêdîyê resistance area, the guerrillas targeted a Turkish unit with heavy and semi-automatic weapons. A tent with military equipment went up in flames and was destroyed as a result of strikes by the guerrillas, which left eight soldiers dead and 15 others wounded.

In another action, guerrillas carried out an attack on a Turkish unit trying to advance in the Girê Amêdîyê resistance area. Strikes with assault rifles and hand grenades left two soldiers dead, the body of one of whom remains under the control of the guerrillas.

A surveillance camera of the Turkish army was destroyed by targeted fire.

Between four and five this morning, guerrillas intervened 15 times against helicopter movements.

Xakurkê

In the Xakurke region, YJA Star guerrillas hit the Turkish occupation forces at Girê Şehîd Derwêş with heavy weapons.

Metîna

In Metîna, the guerrillas intervened twice against helicopter movements last night.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Turkish fighter jets bombed the Zap and Xakurke regions eleven times on Friday. The targets were areas on the Zap shore, the western Zap region and the areas of Sinînê, Girê Şehîd Şerîf and Ava Lolanê. In addition, the Turkish army carried out bombardments by attack helicopters and artillery attacks in Zap and Metîna.



Bayık calls on the KDP to stop acting as an agent for Ankara

ANF|24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Cemil Bayık, co-chair of the Executive Council of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union), said in an interview with the South Kurdistan publication Shar Press, that the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) provides intelligence support and passes on information to the Turkish state. Bayık said: “The KDP is using the flag of South Kurdistan to hide the occupation by the Turkish state. If the KDP continues this partnership with the Turkish state, war is inevitable, even if we do not support it.”

“Relationships are based solely on profit”

The Kurdish people must be aware of the relationship between the Barzani clan and the Turkish regime, emphasized the KCK chair, adding: “The Barzani family's relationships with the Turkish state are based exclusively on the logic of profit. The KDP supports the Turkish army in every way. The KDP identifies locations for the Turkish state, informs it about them and provides it with logistical support. It provides information about the areas where the guerrillas are located.”

“The Barzanis meet all the demands of the Turkish state”

Referring to Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's recent meeting with the Barzani family, Bayık explained that the Barzanis' support for the Turkish state increased afterwards. “Isn't it strange that Baghdad does not accept any demands from the Turkish state, but the Barzanis have met all of them,” Bayık asked, adding: “The KDP uses the flag of South Kurdistan to protect and hide the occupying soldiers of the Turkish state. What happened in Bradost and Sîdekan is the continuation of the Turkish state's invasion

attacks against the Medya Defense Areas. It seems that what happened in Bradost is a product of the meeting between Hakan Fidan and the Barzanis.”

“They want to intimidate the people of Sulaymaniyah”

Speaking about the Turkish drone attack on Arbet Airport in Sulaymaniyah on 18 September, Bayık said: “The purpose of the attack on Arbet Airport is to scare the people of Sulaymaniyah and Soran. Just as the Behdinan region has become the center of the Turkish occupying state and MIT with the support of the KDP, they want to bring this area under the control of MIT by intimidating people. They also want to scare the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) and make it a partner of the Turkish state like the KDP. The people of Sulaymaniyah and Soran have not given up their patriotic line. For this reason, the Turkish state repeatedly organizes attacks there. We have full confidence that the people of Sulaymaniyah and Soran will keep their patriotism to the end.”

— ★ —

Feminicide

700 people detained during protests in Iran

ANF|17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Yesterday marked 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 the arrest of tens of thousands, while 4 people were executed.

Masses took to the streets on Saturday to mark the anniversary of the killing of Jina Amini. Iranian police staged violent crackdowns on the protests across Iran, mainly in Saqqiz, Sine, Urmia, Tehran, Balochistan and Sistan. At least 700 people were taken into custody. According to reports from the ground, families have not been provided with information about the aftermath of detainees.

The people who turned to the police station in Tehran were attacked by the regime forces while waiting to hear about their detained family members. Many people were reportedly injured during the attack.

— ★ —

‘Attacks against women in Kurdish cities are no coincidence’

ANF|ANKARA|18 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Women’s Platform in Ankara held a press conference denouncing the increasingly ongoing attacks on women in the Kurdish region of Turkey.

Speaking here, Sibel Göktaş, a member of the platform, commemorated the anniversary of the murder of Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini in police custody in Tehran on 16 September 2022 and stated that her death became a turning point in the freedom struggle of women in Iran.

Göktaş commended the Iranian women’s struggle against the headscarf law, and problems arising from social gender inequality, and their demand for an egalitarian and libertarian justice.

Special war policies against Kurdish women

Sibel Göktaş pointed out that the AKP-MHP government in Turkey systematically implemented policies of special war against Kurdish women. She continued: “Especially since 2015, attacks and efforts to hinder the women’s struggle in Kurdish cities have increased. Cases of sexual abuse and sexual assault by law enforcement forces against Kurdish women have also increased in parallel.”

Göktaş also spoke about the methods employed by government-appointed trustees in Kurdish cities and towns, saying: “The first act of trustees to Kurdish municipalities was to close women’s associations and solidarity centres affiliated to municipalities. Men were appointed to such institutions and employees of institutions to combat violence against women were detained and imprisoned. In addition, femicides, disappearances, rape and various forms of violence against women have increased remarkably in the Kurdish region in recent years. It is no coincidence that the perpetrators of such acts are mainly village guards, specialized sergeants or male members of some political parties and government institutions.”

“It is no coincidence that the father of Zaynal Abarakov, the perpetrator in the case of Gülistan Doku who has been missing since 5 January 2020, is a police officer. It is no coincidence that the perpetrator in the case of İpek Er, an 18-year-old woman from Batman, who was driven to suicide on 16 July 2020 after being raped, is specialized sergeant Musa Orhan, who is yet to be imprisoned after he was sentenced for “qualified sexual assault” but saw the sentence reduced to 10 years due to “good conduct”. It is no coincidence that the perpetrator in the case of Firdevs Babat, who was reported missing but turned out to have been raped and killed in Şırnak on 18 August 2022, is a village guard.”

None of us is safe

Göktaş continued: “While the special war policies against Kurdish women continue, the male perpetrators of femicide in western Turkey are set free by the male-dominated judiciary on various pretexts. Perpetrators of sexual assault or femicide either receive reduced sentences or get freed. Wearing suits and making remarks that raise nationalist feelings are considered factors to reduce a prison sentence, offering a way out for perpetrators through the misogynist government.

As long as the perpetrators of violence and attacks against women go unpunished, and as long as the state stands behind them, none of us is safe. In response to this organized violence, we must enhance the struggle of women and stand with all women who have been subjected to violence. We will stand in solidarity and continue our struggle for peace, justice, freedom and equality. Encouraged by the memory of Jina Amini and Iranian women's determination to keep their struggle going, we will continue to fight together for our future, whether in Turkey, Iran or anywhere in the world."

— ★ —

Woman murdered in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF|AFRIN|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Afrin-Syria Human Rights Organisation reported that a woman was murdered in the Mabata district of the Turkish-occupied Afrin.

According to the report, the 40-year-old victim was killed in the village of Avraz. Her body was found in an olive grove on 18 September.

The woman, who came from the village of Qergole in Bilbile district, was buried in the village of Zadiya.

According to the Afrin-Syria Human Rights Organisation, over a thousand women have been kidnapped since the Turkish invasion of Afrin in 2018 and the aftermath of many of them is unknown. During the same period of time, 99 women have been murdered. 9 committed suicide under suspicious conditions. 74 other women have been subjected to sexual assault and rape. In addition, the organization reported several cases of forced marriage and underage marriage under pressure and coercion.

— ★ —

KJK calls for the expansion of struggle against Turkish fascism and KDP treason

ANF|BEHDINAN|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Coordination of the Kurdistan Women's Community (KJK) released a statement calling for a struggle against the collaboration of the ruling KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) in Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) with the Turkish state and calls for Kurdish unity to be strengthened in view of the Turkish attack on Arbat airport in Sulaymaniyah and the assassination of KNK representative Deniz Cevdet Bülbün in Hewlêr (Erbil).

“We must confront the attacks on our lives, our nation and our identity everywhere with our organised will. As Kurdish women, we must defend our existence, our land and our identity against the plans for the complete destruction of Kurdish identity in the 21st century. We must not allow betrayal and genocide,” said the KJK statement released on Thursday, which included the following:

“On the same day that Deniz Cevdet Bülbün was killed in the attack on the KNK representation in Hewlêr in Southern Kurdistan, three peshmergas of the PUK's (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) anti-terrorist unit were killed in the attack on the Arbat airport in Sulaymaniyah. We respectfully remember our friend Deniz and the three peshmergas of the PUK who died in these attacks and offer our condolences to their families and the Kurdish people. It should be clear to all that we will not tolerate these attacks in any way and will step up our fight against treason and colonial fascism and bring those responsible to justice.

Our friend Deniz has made great achievements for the development of democratic national unity in Kurdistan. Through the attack on him, the KNK's valuable work for Kurdish unity has been targeted. Comrade Deniz was a pioneering example of the national consciousness, vast experience and inclusive cultural structure on which the struggle for Kurdish unity is based. Remembering Deniz means breaking the betrayal and expanding the work for democratic and national unity. He fell for the democratic unity of the Kurdish nation. By targeting the work of comrade Deniz and thus of the KNK, the enemy is essentially concerned with destroying national unity and restoring the colonial status of a hundred years ago. Our response to this can only be to strengthen national unity and end the betrayal. Only in this way can its commemoration be met.

The attack on Sulaymaniyah airport was intended to extend the line of betrayal that the Turkish state has developed over the KDP in Southern Kurdistan and to guarantee its supremacy. An offensive has begun with the aim of subjugating all the forces in Kurdistan that insist on and fight for their identity to the Turkish state. The attacks on Rojava, Shengal, Bradost, Sulaymaniyah and Hewlêr in recent days are an expression of this offensive. The KDP has long been the vanguard of the Turkish state's invasion attacks in the Zap and Metîna areas. The fact that the KDP has recently tried to invade the guerrilla areas in Bradost and has taken a warmongering stance, as well as the fact that the above-mentioned attacks were carried out immediately afterwards, clearly show that the source of these attacks is the KDP's collaboration with Turkish fascism.

These attacks came after the visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, on whose hands there is so much Kurdish blood, to Iraq and Southern Kurdistan. This leaves no doubt as to who is behind the attacks. Turkish fascism is committing genocide against the Kurdish people. The KDP and the Barzani family are guilty of this genocide against their own national identity. The most important response is for the Kurdish people to take a clear stance against the treachery of the KDP and the Barzani clan and the attacks of Turkish fascism, to strengthen the resistance and to advance the struggle for Kurdish unity.

The current offensive is aimed at liquidating the Kurdish achievements of the last fifty years. Everything is happening openly. The Turkish state with its genocidal attacks and the KDP with its treachery have reached the highest level of perfidy. Both are actively and openly acting together. Our people and Kurdish women must recognise the line taken by the KDP against its own people, against the guerrillas, the democratic institutions and parties that resist. The KDP aims at destroying the Kurdish achievements and handing them over to the enemy. Everyone must oppose this. Southern Kurdistan, Hewlêr and Kirkuk are not the property of anyone; they do not belong to the Barzani family. The fate of the Kurdish people, Kurdish

women and Kurdistan must not be determined by the line of betrayal. Today is the time of resistance and victory over surrender and betrayal. In the 21st century, the Kurdish people will only win if they strengthen the resistance against fascism and betrayal. There is no other way to protect and preserve Kurdish achievements.

“The peoples of Iraq are also targeted”

The peoples of Iraq are also the target of these attacks. The same war crimes are being committed against the Iraqi people. In Kirkuk, Shengal, Maxmur, Sulaymaniyah and Hewlêr, chaos is meant to be caused by provocations. Behind this is the Turkish state’s plan to occupy certain regions of Iraq starting from Southern Kurdistan and to gain supremacy there. The Turkish fascist state’s constant talk of respecting the Kurdish people and the Iraqi people and fighting not against them but against ‘PKK terrorism’ is a cover under which it tries to hide its dirty hegemonic plans. Our movement is fighting for the democratic unity of Kurdistan, the peoples of Iraq and the peoples of the Middle East in general. It is the Turkish state and its collaborators that are dividing, fragmenting and spreading terror. It is important that the Iraqi government and especially the peoples living in Iraq see through this far-reaching plan and take a stand.

“Stand against betrayal”

In Kurdistan, the philosophy of ‘Jin Jiyan Azadi’ (Woman, Life, Freedom) has developed as the philosophy of free women and new life, and this philosophy has become universal. The will of women in Kurdistan manifests itself in life, identity and the creation of a democratic Kurdish unity. The basis of a democratic national unity in Kurdistan is based on the will of women. In this sense, we as Kurdish women have to stop Turkish fascism and the KDP, which is the vanguard of the line of betrayal with its collaboration and strengthen our struggle. We have to fight everywhere with our organised will against these attacks on our life, nation and identity. As Kurdish women, we must defend our existence, land and identity against the plans for total annihilation and not give in to betrayal and genocide. We call on all women workers, peasants, intellectuals, academics as well as all Kurdish women’s organisations in all parts of Kurdistan and abroad to develop a process of common struggle and to play our historical role. Kurdish women must take this responsibility. We must not allow history to repeat itself. In this sense, we appeal to all Kurdish forces, especially Kurdish women, to intensify the struggle and build Kurdish unity on the line of resistance.”



Diary of Gurbetelli Ersöz published in French

ANF|20 SEPTEMBER 2023

The book “I engraved my heart on the mountains” by Gurbetelli Ersöz has been published in French translation by [Les Éditions d'En Bas](#) in Switzerland. A book launch will take place on 29 September at Le Pavillon in Lausanne. Speakers will include Pascal Cottin and Jean Richard from the publishing house Les Éditions d'en Bas and Bernard Fibicher, former director of the Musée des Beaux Arts.

Background

Gurbetelli Ersöz was born in the Akbulut village of Elazığ's Palu district. When she was born, her father was a worker in Germany and that's why she was named Gurbetelli (foreign place). When she was a third-grade student at primary school, her difference with her friends and teachers was her language. She began to ask why, how at that time. She studied chemistry at Çukurova University. Later, she worked as an assistant at Çukurova University. She began to get involved actively in politics.

Gurbetelli Ersöz then became a journalist and she was detained on December 10, 1990. She was kept in detention for 15 days and tortured. After being kept in detention for 15 days, she was sent to Malatya Prison and held in prison for two years. After being released, she kept doing journalism. On April 23, 1993, she began to work for Özgür Gündem Newspaper. Then, she became the editor-in-chief of the newspaper and became Turkey's first female editor-in-chief.

On December 10, 1993, the building of the newspaper was raided by hundreds of police. Gurbetelli Ersöz was one of the detained journalists. After being kept in detention for 13 days, she was sent to Sağmalcılar Prison. She was released from the prison when the first hearing of the trial opened against her was held in June 1994. She kept working as a journalist for a while but then she decided to wage her struggle in another field. She joined the armed struggle. On October 8, 1997, she fell as a martyr in a clash with the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP). With her stance against male language and mentality, she wrote a path for today's female journalists.

In the mountains, she kept a diary between 27 July 1995 until her death on 8 October 1997, which was published by Mezopotamien Verlag in Neuss in 1998 and Aram Publishing House in Amed (Diyarbakır) in 2014. The book is a personal account of her life and thus, at the same time, a contemporary document that reflects a fraction of the war in Kurdistan that has been going on for forty years. It remains banned in Turkey, and in Germany it was confiscated along with tens of thousands of other works in 2019 as part of the ban on Mezopotamien Verlag by the then Federal Minister of the Interior Horst Seehofer.

— ★ —

Saturday Mothers attacked and detained again on the 965th week of action

ANF|ISTANBUL|23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Turkish police have again attacked the Saturday Mothers at Galatasaray Square in Istanbul. The initiative wanted to make a statement for the 965th time on "disappearances" in state custody and demand punishment for the perpetrators on İstiklal 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 İstiklal 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 Şırnak, Ayşegül Doğan, Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) MP Ahmet Şık.

The Saturday Mothers and human rights advocates were besieged by the police after starting to march to the square in two groups. One of the groups managed to overcome the barriers and make it to the square, where they were immediately blockaded by the police on the grounds of a “ban”.

Despite the objections by the group, a number of human rights advocates were handcuffed and taken into custody. Journalists covering the demonstration were battered and dragged away from the scene.

In 1995, women in Istanbul took to the streets for the first time to draw attention to relatives who had been arrested and then disappeared. Since a large-scale attack on the Saturday Mothers ordered by the Ministry of Interior in the summer five years ago, Galatasaray Square has been a no-go zone for the Saturday Mothers. But this is contrary to the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration, ruled the Turkish Constitutional Court on 22 February 2023, rejecting the ministry's objection that the Saturday Mothers threatened the “protection of public order”. “Everyone has the right to take part in unarmed and peaceful assemblies and demonstrations without prior permission,” says Article 34 of the Turkish Constitution, which the security authorities violated by banning the Saturday Mothers’ forcefully dispersed action in August 2018 and all subsequent ones. The blockade of the square is therefore invalid, said the court ruling. The Turkish Interior Ministry and the Istanbul police ignore the ruling and continue to violently crack down on Saturday Mothers.

— ★ —

Ecocide

Ecocide in Kurdistan

ANF|ŞIRNAK|18 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish state is destroying the forests in Kurdistan. Thousands of trees in the regions of Cûdî, Gabar and Besta are being cut down to protect military posts. Images from Şênê document the extent of the destruction.

Countless trees are cut down in North Kurdistan every day and forests are set ablaze. This attack on nature is part of the scorched earth policy to deprive the guerrillas of retreat, but also to open up new areas to

mining companies and give profits to collaborators. For this special war, the AKP-MHP regime accepted the most severe environmental destruction.

“The Turkish state is committing ecocrimes”

The deforestation takes place under the eyes of the security forces and the fires are set by them, said Menekşe Kızıldere, co-spokesperson of the Ecology Commission of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). “The Turkish state is a climate criminal. If the last forests of Mesopotamia are destroyed, every single tree that can still protect us from the climate crisis will be at risk.”

Even after the end of the summer heat, forest fires are breaking out in Kurdistan “for unknown reasons”. Throughout the summer, massive amounts of forests were cut down in the regions of Cûdî, Gabar, Besta, Geliyê Godernê and Şenyayla (Şênê). Due to the lack of protest, the destruction is increasing. Pictures taken in Şênê show the dramatic extent of the destruction. There the trees were cut down “for security reasons” – for a military post that was under construction.

Şênê – entire area devastated

Until a few years ago, the Şênê region still belonged to Kulp (Pasûr) and was therefore within the provincial borders of Amed. In March 2021, Turkish head of state Recep Tayyip Erdoğan separated the region from Kulp by decree. Since then, Şênê has been part of Mûş. The area is famous for the beauty of its nature, and in the summer months it supports the animals of many nomadic families.

With the separation from Amed, the army began building a base there, with several outposts and a station for the gendarmerie with the help of so-called village guards. The militarization of the region meant that a wide swath was cut into the mountainous region for a military road right at the start of construction work. Afterwards, all the trees in the area were cut down – “for safety reasons,” as it was said. The nomads in the region protested against the decision because they feared that there may soon be no trees left on the slopes. However, their objection was ignored and the deforestation continued.

Cûdî – deforestation and forest fires

Everyone now knows that the forest areas on the Cûdî massif in Şîrnak (Şîrnex) province burn summer after summer. Intensive clearing work has also been taking place there for three years. The trees are felled by village guards, brought to the west of Turkey and sold there for a profit. Forest areas on private property are also affected. Owners are given the choice of either cutting down the trees in the area themselves or leaving the clearing to the state. A year ago, thousands of people took part in demonstrations in Cûdî to protest against deforestation. The Şîrnak Bar Association repeatedly filed criminal complaints in this matter and called for the forest destruction to be stopped. While all protests, applications and complaints were unsuccessful, photos show the extent of the destruction. The forest fires are adding to the devastation.

Besta – Village guards and army devastate the region

The Besta region is considered a link between the provinces of Şîrnak and Siirt (Sêrt). Heavy clearing work has taken place there for months. The forests are cut down by village guards despite the resistance of the village population. Trees that are privately owned are also cut down illegally before being hauled from the

mountainous area by tractor, loaded onto trucks and taken away. The soldiers and village guards involved make no secret of the fact that there should no longer be any forests in Besta.

Geliyê Godernê – dam and clearing

A dam is currently going into operation in the Geliyê Godernê area near Silvan (Farqîn). Large areas of land have been flooded as a result. Since the beginning of the year, large areas of forest have been cut down by village guards. A military base is to be built in the gorge between Hezro and Kulp to control passage through the gorge. At the entrance to the gorge, all the way to Kulp, thousands of trees were felled. Along the route between Kulp and the gorge, an entire area of land is now drying out. There is no reforestation work taking place.

Eight fires in Lice, seven fires in Cûdî

In addition to systematic deforestation, forest fires have also reached threatening levels. In the past three months alone, eight forest fires broke out near Lice, in the province of Amed, and seven forest fires in Cûdî. Soldiers repeatedly prevented the village population from extinguishing the fire. Videos posted on social media show that the fires broke out as a result of rocket and machine gun fire.

Deforestation in the heart of Cûdî

Menekşe Kızıldere said: “This valley where deforestation is taking place is in the heart of Cûdî. It is a valley with lots of surface water, young, moist forests and an extremely fertile soil. The last forests of drought-stricken Mesopotamia spread out from this valley. When we made our observations in the Cûdî region, people complained about every tree that was felled.”

“The region is being prepared for huge ecological overexploitation”

Kızıldere warned that this deforestation is a preparation for even greater destruction. “Talking with the villagers, we were told that the fires were started by the security forces. An oil exploration well was located in the area where the fires were most severe. Tree felling was also concentrated in certain areas. We had information that massive mining licenses were issued for Şirnak. The areas of clearing show that the region is being deforested for mining companies. With the help of military fortresses built under the pretext of security, the region is being prepared for a huge ecological devastation.”

The last forests of Mesopotamia

Kızıldere issued a serious warning regarding deforestation policies: “Deforestation is an attempt to destroy all life in this region. This ancient region of Mesopotamia, where man first practiced agriculture, is experiencing a severe drought, and the forests of North Kurdistan are the last forests in Mesopotamia. These forests are the last protecting Kurdistan and Turkey from heat waves, which are increasing in strength and intensity every year. Given these attacks on nature, these areas must be restored and expanded to secure the future of trees and nature.”

“Turkey is committing a climate crime”

Kızıldere pointed out that Turkey is committing a climate crime, an ecocide in Kurdistan. She called on the United Nations to “put this on the agenda.” She added: “The destruction of these forests is a crime against all living beings and future generations in Kurdistan and Turkey. According to local people, the logging is carried out under police supervision and the fires are set by the police. This makes the Turkish state a “climate criminal”. Deforestation is not just a matter of national public concern, but affects the entire world.”

“Time to do something”

Kızıldere underlined that silence actually means the approval of these environmental crimes and called for action: “Society must urgently understand what this overexploitation means and solidarity mechanisms must be created. Environmental and ecological associations, platforms, democratic organizations and legal institutions must put this clear-cut on their agenda and raise their voices. ‘Security’ is just an excuse to benefit capital. This fact must be exposed and the minds poisoned by racism must be freed from it. Finally, it must be stressed again and again: if the last forests of Mesopotamia are destroyed, every single tree that will protect us from the climate crisis will be at risk.”



A forest fire is spreading on Mount Cûdî, in the province of Şırnak

ANF|ŞIRNAK|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

A forest fire is spreading further and further on Mount Cûdî in the northern Kurdish province of Şırnak. Due to restricted military areas, the fire cannot be stopped.

The forests have been burning in Northern Kurdistan for two months. Almost every day, a new area is added where the vegetation is on fire. The fires usually break out directly at military bases.

On Wednesday morning, a fire was discovered in a forest area near the village of Cifane on Mount Cûdî. The fire has been spreading unhindered ever since. The burning area is one of the many military exclusion zones.

Military prevents extinguishing work

Another military base is to be built in the area and entry and exit from the area is only possible with special permission. The fire brigade and the municipality's firefighting teams were not given permission by the military to fight the fire. This approach shows once again that the fires are not coincidences, but rather a targeted form of warfare.

Large areas around military bases in particular are being deforested by fire in order to deprive the guerrillas of freedom of movement. At the same time, widespread clearing work is taking place to destroy the remaining vegetation and to give collaborators the profits from the sale of wood.

The fertile region of Northern Kurdistan is to be transformed step by step into a desert that is hostile to life.



Ecocide in Northern Kurdistan continues

ANF|ARDAHAN|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

A delegation of the Green Left Party visited the Kurdish village of Demirkapı in the Göle district of Ardahan province, which is suffering a large-scale ecocide at the hands of the Turkish state.

Green Left Party MP for Kars, Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit, made a statement in the village and denounced the ruling AKP's policy of ecocide in the Kurdish region. She stated that a large-scale deforestation campaign is being implemented in the village where forests and even young trees are brutally destroyed.

Koçyiğit pointed out that the AKP has been waging a war against nature for many years and left no tree standing. "A policy of ecocide is being implemented in the strictest sense, for opening mine sites in some places, for security reasons in other places like Cudi, and for mining in Akbelen. In Göle, they are destroying forests under the pretence of regeneration. The AKP is still hungry for destroying our trees, forests and drying out our streams."

Koçyiğit stated that the AKP sought to destroy all the living spaces, adding: "We have to stand up for our nature against a mindset that targets forests, water and natural richness. We will fight against it and protect our land. The ecocide executed in this region seeks to depopulate the people from this region. We know only too well that this is a policy of depopulation and ecocide. We call on everyone to raise their voices against these policies."



Human Rights Violations

Court rejects appeal against deportation of Kurdish man to Syria

ANF|İZMİR|18 SEPTEMBER 2023

According to a court ruling, Abdulmenaf Osman, a Kurd from Rojava, is to be deported from Turkey to Syria because he does not have international protection. With this reasoning, published on Monday, Edirne 2nd Magistrates' Court of Peace rejected an application filed by the 58-year-old man's defence lawyers against the Turkish Interior Ministry's deportation order, which had been confirmed by the Manisa 1st Administrative Court. The same court also rejected an objection against Osman's placement in a deportation centre. His lawyers fear that he could be deported "at any moment".

The case caused a stir after Abdulmenaf Osman had been deported from prison to a deportation centre. The geologist and author, born in 1965 in Heseke, spent more than half of his life in Turkish custody. In 1993, Osman was arrested in the Kurdish province of Batman and sentenced to life imprisonment by a State Security Court (DGM) in the same year for "destroying the state unity of Turkey". He was accused of being a member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). He was 28 years old at the time.

After stays in various detention centres in the country, Osman was last in Akhisar high security prison in the province of Manisa, from which he was released at the beginning of September. Instead of being set free, he was taken by the gendarmerie (military police) to a local station and then to the Edirne deportation camp without a court order on the grounds that he was not entitled to stay in Turkey because he had no status. Before his detention, he had a permanent residence in Batman and was integrated into his family, which had been living in Northern Kurdistan for decades. The authorities handled the case "legally impeccable and absolutely clean", the Edirne District Court ruled.

In contrast, Osman's lawyer speaks of an unlawful, disproportionate and inhumane ordeal to which his client is being subjected. He wants to turn to the United Nations to prevent the deportation of Abdulmenaf Osman to Syria. Deportations from Turkey to Syria are exclusively to the zone of occupation. Whether to Idlib, which is controlled by the terrorist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or to other regions of northern Syria such as Afrin, Serêkaniyê, Girê Spî or Azaz, which are controlled by Turkish troops and the Ankara-controlled SNA (Syrian National Army) - a coalition of reactionary, Islamist and fundamentalist militias, Abdulmenaf Osman's life would be in great danger.

10 people detained in Hakkari

ANF|HAKKARI|19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Turkey continues to tighten the repressive screw against the Kurdish population. In Hakkari, at least ten people were taken into custody on Tuesday. In a concentrated large-scale operation, the police simultaneously stormed several flats in the city centre in the morning and carried out meticulous searches. The operation was conducted under the label “counter-terrorism”.

While the detainees are accused of being members of a “terrorist organisation” and of carrying out propaganda for it, the concrete context of the accusations was not disclosed. All those taken into custody, including a woman, are being held at the provincial police headquarters.

The detentions came after a demonstration in the district of Yüksekova on Monday, organised by civil society groups and political parties in protest at the KDP’s attack on the PKK guerrillas in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Kurdish circles fear a new fratricidal conflict provoked by the Turkish state and have staged demonstrations in various cities in recent days. The action in Yüksekova was broken up by the police using tear gas and water cannons, and many were taken into custody. Several MPs of the Green Left Party then initiated a sit-in, but they were also targeted by police. Green Left Party politician Gülderen Varlı, who was sitting on the ground, was mauled by the police. Some youths who retreated to the side streets after the police attack on the demonstration continued their protest.

— ★ —

22 people detained in Antalya for remembering revolutionary leaders in Turkey

ANF|ANTALYA|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

In the southern Turkish province of Antalya, 22 people were taken into custody during house searches on Thursday due to a memorial service held for Deniz Gezmiş, Yusuf Aslan and Hüseyin İnan in front of the Attalos Monument in Antalya on 6 May 2023. The detainees are accused of “organisational propaganda” and have been taken to Antalya police station. A total of 30 people are wanted for arrest.

Those detained include the EMEP chairperson in Antalya, Hasan Alkan, and the president of the education union Eğitim Sen branch in Antalya, Nurettin Sönmez.

Deniz Gezmiş, Yusuf Aslan and Hüseyin İnan were among the most important representatives of the revolutionary movement in Turkey. They were active in the Workers’ Party of Turkey (TİP) from the mid-1960s and distinguished themselves through militant actions in particular, such as participation in the

protests against the US 6th Fleet, which was anchored in Istanbul at the time, against the US forces stationed in Turkey. At that time, young people in many countries were protesting against the established institutions and forms of rule. The story of Gezmiş and his companions is therefore inextricably interwoven with the political conditions of the time, which made him and others within the divided Turkish left choose the path of militant resistance. On 6 May 1972, Deniz Gezmiş, Yusuf Aslan and Hüseyin İnan were executed in Ulucanlar prison in Ankara.



Çapraz: Policy of impunity in Hakkari means continuous human rights violations

ANF|HAKKARI|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish state continues to implement the state of emergency laws in Hakkari (Colemêrg), and the measures lead to an increase in deaths, detentions and torture. The Turkish state has banned all kinds of democratic actions and events for approximately 7 years, and recently announced that actions and activities such as sit-ins, press statements, demonstrations and stands were banned for 7 days between 18 and 23 September.

Hakkari is a region with heavy violations

Human Rights Association (IHD) Hakkari branch co-chair Sibel Çapraz said that the region has been one where human rights violations have been very heavy since the past. She said that the main problem is that the region is in a strategic position both sociologically and geographically. “What I mean by strategy is: firstly, it is located on the border of two countries. There is a reality of people facing the full range of violations in border areas. Because there are people within and outside those borders who have not broken ties with each other and have kinship relations. Unfortunately, every individual on these border lines where Kurds live has suffered their share of the state's security policies.”

Violations at border

Stating that impunity policies cause more violations to occur, Sibel Çapraz added: “There is an attitude that turns this impunity policy into an opportunity. Those committing crimes have an understanding that nothing will happen to them. In addition, the fact that people living on the borders also have the right to a living space is ignored. Who are the people living along the border? Kurds. Previously, they cited border smuggling as the reason for all sorts of mistreatment. Now people face the same treatment at the border gates where they officially enter and exit. At the borders, people queue to get through the gate in temperatures below -40 degrees. They are in a tight security circle. There is even a quota for one kilo of tea purchased from abroad for one's own home. They face constant restrictions and limitations.”

Perpetrators are caught and released

Çapraz stated that they received complaints about the house of Pınar Yılmaz, the wife of [Seferi Yılmaz](#), the owner of the Umut Bookstore, which was bombed in Şemdinli in 2005, and also a member of the Board of Directors of IHD, was monitored for a long time. “This situation - she said - caused great fear and panic in the neighbourhood where the Yılmaz family was living. They even started keeping watch at night. After public awareness emerged, the suspect seen in the same place was caught by the residents of the neighbourhood. This person, who said he was a petty officer, was handed over to the police by the residents of the neighbourhood. He was released after his statement was made. What was it? He did not commit any criminal act. Was action to be taken after harming someone?”

Some rights violations in recent years

- In 2020, Şerali Dereli (61), father of 9 children, living in the village of Avyan in Bajêrgan (Esendere) town, was murdered by a fire opened lit a few meters away from his house by Turkish soldiers. 5 soldiers who were detained within the scope of the investigation into Dereli's death were released after their statements were taken.
- Misleh Qasimî from Rojhilat lost his life as a result of fire opened by Turkish soldiers while he went to the village of Koranê in Urmiyê, located on the border, on 31 October 2020, while his brother Mislim Qasimî was injured. The soldiers did not receive any punishment in this incident.
- On 25 July 2023, 16-year-old Serhat T. and 3 shepherds, who took their animals 500 meters below the village to graze in the village of Bêruh in Rubarok (Derecik), were subjected to beatings, threats and insults by the soldiers and were unlawfully detained. The victims were punished, not the Turkish soldiers who tortured them.
- The military operation launched on 25 July 2023 against the Topizava, Gîlêşîna, Xidrok and Sêraz plateaus was considered a justification, and women were prevented from going to the plateau to milk their animals, and a shepherd was tortured. The shepherd named Murat Çarık was forcibly taken to the area where the operation took place.
- S.Ç and C.S., who graze their animals in the village where the Warkevik Military Base Area in Yüksekova (Gever). The shepherds were called to the base area, tortured, threatened and insulted.
- Dozens of young people were detained in house raids in Yüksekova city center on 29 May 2023. Turkish special operations police broke the windows and doors of the houses during the raids and tortured the people in the houses for hours. Many people who were hit by Turkish police with gun butts, kicks and punches were later detained.
- 20 people detained in Yüksekovat on 26 June 2023 were taken to the area where a military operation was carried out after being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. Lawyers Harika Günay Karataş and Fırat İke, who went to the District Gendarmerie Station, were removed from the police station by the gendarmerie using physical violence.

- On 7 June 2023, a 5-year-old child named E. A., who was hit by a vehicle driven by a Turkish specialist sergeant in Yüksekova, died. The specialist sergeant, who hit E.A and dragged him 50 meters, was released on condition of judicial control.

— ★ —

Green Left Party delegation visits village under military siege for two months

ANF|ŞIRNAK|21 SEPTEMBER 2023

Green Left Party delegation visits village under military siege for two months

The village of Ormaniçi has been under a military siege since July after skirmishes between the Kurdish guerrillas and Turkish soldiers.

A delegation of the Green Left Party visited the village of Ormaniçi, in the Güçlükönak district of Şırnak province.

The village has been besieged by the Turkish army for two months after clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish guerrillas.

Deputies were part of the delegation that visited the village for the second time today. The delegation visited every house in the village and listened to the problems of the residents.

The delegation will prepare a report about the violations in the village.

— ★ —

Police take three people into custody in Istanbul

ANF|ISTANBUL|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Police took three people into custody following house raids in Istanbul in the morning.

The Law Office of the Oppressed (EHB) said in a post on X (formerly Twitter), that a detention order was issued for another of their clients, Semiha Şahin.

The EHB said that computers and phones were seized during the raids, and added that the operation was carried out following the statements of a witness.



Mehmet Dizin taken into extradition custody in Italy

ANF|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Turkish state uses Interpol as a means to expand its repression globally and to intimidate and persecute unpopular people. This is also proven by the current case of Mehmet Dizin, who has lived and worked in Germany since 1980. During his holiday in Italy, he was detained due to an extradition request from Turkey and is currently under house arrest after 40 days in custody. Although the politician from Karakoçan district of Elazığ has not entered Turkey since 1980, the Turkish state justifies its extradition request by claiming that he participated in “bombings of military bases” and “kidnappings” in Dersim between 1988 and 2019.

In a first court proceeding after 40 days of detention, his release was ordered. However, shortly afterwards, he was informed by email that he would have to appear in court again so that a new decision could be made on Turkey's extradition request. At the same time, house arrest was ordered. His trial is expected to take place in the next 30-40 days.

Stateless since 1985

The Turkish state's accusations are completely fabricated. As early as 1985, Dizin's Turkish passport was confiscated by the consulate because of investigations against him, and a few months later he was officially expatriated along with 124 other people. He was therefore given a passport for stateless persons by the German authorities. Between 1981 and 1993, he worked for a company. During this time, Dizin visited the Turkish consulate several times to take care of official matters for his children and wife. When his wife died in 2012, he also used the services of the consulate without any problems.

In May 2017, Dizin went to the Turkish consulate again to register his new marriage. He was advised to apply for a Turkish identity card. Within a month, he received a Turkish identity card, even though he had already become a German citizen.

First detention in Denmark

On 6 December 2018, Dizin was detained during an identity check while driving a lorry to Denmark as part of his work, and was subsequently released. In the process, he learned that Interpol was looking for him because of an operation in Dersim in 1988. At the time, Dizin was working in a factory.

Turkey constructs new accusations

In the summer of 2023, Dizin went on holiday to Italy with his wife. In the middle of the night, their accommodation was stormed by the police and Dizin was taken into custody. Now he is accused by Turkey of being involved in bombings and kidnappings between 1998 and 2019.

Dizin explained that he was not in Turkey at the time of the incidents and that after his release by Denmark, Turkey confronted Interpol with a new accusation: ‘On 5 April 2019, it was suddenly alleged that I had kidnapped people, planted bombs and carried out attacks with dynamite in Dersim.’ When the Turkish state could not get a result to the letter it had sent to Denmark through Interpol, it obviously turned to Interpol with this new accusation. That’s how I found out about it.”

“Such scandalous practices must come to an end for all Kurds”

Dizin reported that after 40 days in detention, he had been told that the trial would be reopened and that he would be under house arrest. He said, “I don’t know how things will go. My hope is that these unjust and vile lies and such scandalous procedures will come to an end not only for me but for all Kurds.”



How the Kurds are politically oppressed in Germany

ANF|23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Mazhar Turan has spent almost a decade of his life in prison, including almost seven years in Turkey and two and a half years in Germany. The Kurdish activist was convicted of membership of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) at the Koblenz Higher Regional Court and released from prison in December 2021 after serving his full sentence. Since then, he has been under supervision. He is no longer allowed to leave his place of residence and has to give a signature to the police four times a week. His passport was confiscated, his unlimited right of residence cancelled. The residence has to be renewed every month.

According to the daily newspaper Yeni Özgür Politika, Turan has a heart condition and needs permission even to visit a doctor because he has to leave his place of residence to do so. He is not allowed to visit Kurdish associations or contact certain activists. He also has to pay 64,000 euros for court costs.

The measures against Mazhar Turan will remain in place for five years. “I am being isolated. Like the whole trial against me, these conditions are not a legal decision, but a political one,” says Turan. Nevertheless, he is trying to defend himself through legal channels. According to the report, he has filed a complaint against the conditions at the Administrative Court in Gießen. The hearing took place this week, and the judgement is expected within a month.

As is usual in PKK trials in Germany, Mazhar Turan was not accused of any individual offence or acts of violence. The Koblenz court took into account in the defendant’s favour that he had neither used violence nor exerted pressure in his activities. There were also no indications that he had planned or carried out attacks or had been involved in such attacks.



Interview

Karasu: The history of humanity is the struggle of women

ANF|BEHDINAN|22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council spoke about the first anniversary of the 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' uprisings in East Kurdistan and Iran, as well as the isolation of Öcalan.

It is the first anniversary of the 'Jin Jiyan Azadî' Serhildan that started in East Kurdistan and Iran and spread all over the world. These Serhildans had a great impact. How do you evaluate this Serhildan?

First and foremost, I can say that the most valuable struggle in the world and in the history of humanity is the struggle of women. It is a very valuable and meaningful struggle. On this occasion, I would like to respectfully commemorate both Jîna Amînî and all women martyrs with gratitude. With the murder of Jîna Amînî, women rose up. Because women want freedom. That this occurred in Iran is actually related to the history of the country. The uprising of Kurdish women today is also related to Kurdish history. Kurdistan is the territory of a neolithic society and Iran is also part of it. Kurdistan and Iran are the territory where women have played an important role in human history. In this respect, women in Iranian society have always been more inclined to freedom than women in other parts of the Middle East. It has a history open to free life.

Kurdish and Iranian peoples have such a characteristic. This is actually a very valuable feature of Iranian history and society. Those who are involved in politics in Iran, those who deal with sociology, those who are part of the reality of Iranian society, those who are connected to Iranian history, should respect and value this women's uprising. To oppose the women's uprising is to oppose Iranian history, to oppose Iranian reality, to fight against its own reality. The Islamic Republic of Iran is actually fighting with its own reality. A negative approach against the women's liberation system should be considered as a negative approach against its own history.

The women's revolts in Kurdistan and Iran are based on socialism. It is not an understanding of freedom based on individualism, based on the petite bourgeois, like in Europe. The women's liberation line is a line of freedom that is based on society, that defends society, that embraces not individualism, not materialism, not the values created by capitalist modernity, but the socialist values that capitalist modernity has destroyed. It is also meaningful in this respect. It is the beautiful, bright face of the Middle East. Therefore, all the peoples of the Middle East should be honored. The peoples of Iran should also be honored. The Iranian regime should approach the women's issue differently. No one can prevent women rising up in Iran by suppressing them. Iran will change, it has to change. With the women's liberation line, it has become inevitable for Iran to change. It is a mistake for the Iranian state to attribute this uprising to the influence of foreign powers. It is necessary to produce the right policies and solutions by addressing the situation of women with the right approach.

The isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan continues. The campaign called 'Time to end isolation, fascism and occupation, time to ensure freedom' with the aim of breaking the isolation and ensuring Abdullah Öcalan's physical freedom, has completed its 3rd year. What would you like to say about the progress of this campaign?

Before evaluating the issue, I would like to express my condolences to the people of Morocco and Libya for the thousands of people who lost their lives due to the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya.

I would also like to respectfully remember and thank Beytöcan who has made big efforts for the survival of the Kurdish people's culture and in the struggle against colonialism. He will not be forgotten by the people of Kurdistan. His place in Kurdish culture and art will always be remembered. People in the field of culture and art are really valuable to Kurds. In this respect, the Kurdish people should value their artists, support them and provide opportunities for the development of art. For a people and a nation that has been subjected to genocide, culture and art are the most important activities. In this respect, cultural and artistic work expresses a great struggle against genocide.

Our people are struggling against the captivity and isolation of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], and are trying to ensure his physical freedom. It is necessary to see that the Turkish state follows a genocidal and colonialist policy. In this respect, also the policies against Rêber Apo are genocide policies. I want to emphasize, that it would be a mistake to compare our struggle against this state or the state's policy against the Kurdish people to the national liberation struggle anywhere else in the world.

Our people are waging a struggle for freedom against this state. Ensuring the physical freedom of Rêber Apo is the most important part of this intertwined struggle. The Kurdish people and their internationalist friends seem to grasp this reality better every day. While struggling for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, there is also a development of consciousness. The struggle for freedom on the right basis is developing more and more every day. Not only the Kurdish people, but also the peoples of the world, the democratic forces, socialists and revolutionaries realize what the physical freedom of Rêber Apo means for humanity. They are also making great efforts and labor, which we see as very valuable.

Recently there were several concerts in Italy, in which we saw how Rêber Apo has affected the peoples. Because all humanity wants to get rid of capitalist modernity and Rêber Apo shows a possible way for this. First and foremost, he shows the way to get rid of the capitalist system on the basis of women's freedom. This, of course, opens a new era in the struggle against capitalist modernity led by women, youth and ecologists, and reveals new horizons. It will develop further, as no one can isolate the thoughts and ideas of Rêber Apo. They are trying to minimize his impact on the Kurdish people and humanity through imprisonment, but this is futile. Rêber Apo's thoughts have already spread all over the world.

In this respect, Rêber Apo's struggle for freedom is getting stronger. As a matter of fact, in a recent big meeting of world trade unions, they called for the freedom of Rêber Apo. They said they would make efforts to ensure his physical freedom. These are very valuable statements that we pay respect to. Everyone now realizes that the Kurdish people are of great value to humanity. It will become difficult to keep Rêber Apo in captivity and isolation for a long time. The democratic forces, the peoples of the world and the Kurdish people together will definitely ensure the freedom of Rêber Apo.

Another historic action against the system of torture imposed on the prison island of Imrali took place in Mersin last year. How should the action organized by Sara Tolhildan (Dilara Ürper) and Rûken Zelal (Emel Feremez Hisên) be understood?

First, I would like to commemorate comrades Sara and Rûken with gratitude. Actions like theirs have great meaning. There were police officers killed in the action, but it is insufficient to see the action only in this aspect. There, in the person of Sara and Rûken, Kurdish women showed what the reality of Kurdish society is, what kind of a struggle they are taking part in against genocidal colonialism, how insistent they are on freedom, and how they will sacrifice everything for the sake of a free life. This is the stance of the Kurdish people and the guerrillas personified in Rûken and Sara. Of course, their stance is not an individual one, it is part of the guerrilla fighting in [the south Kurdish regions] Zap, Metîna and Avaşîn today. The same spirit of sacrifice is fighting against colonialism in the Medya Defende Zones [areas controlled by the guerrilla forces].

In the Medya Defense Zones, we also see how the self-sacrificing fighters fearlessly go against the enemy, but the action of comrade Sara and Rûken was different, as it was in an area completely dominated by the enemy. It has great value that they did this action without fear and sacrificed their lives. This is very meaningful and valuable. All Kurdish women and youths should look at this militant stance, this militant spirit. Everyone should reflect on themselves by fighting against the colonialist state. Also, how the colonialists can be defeated should be seen in the person of these martyred friends.

— ★ —

Karasu: The behaviour of the KDP amounts to betrayal

ANF|BEHDINAN|23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council spoke about the continuous attacks by the Turkish state against Kurdistan, the betrayal by the KDP and the criticism of CHP MP Tanrıkulu's statements.

The fascist Turkish state continues its invasion attacks centered on Zap, Metîna and Avaşîn. The guerrillas managed to deal some heavy blows against the enemy. However, it seems that the 'Kurdistan Democratic Party' (KDP) will come to the rescue of the Turkish army. They have therefore increased their military reinforcement to the south Kurdish area of Bradost and the KDP is again carrying out attacks on guerrilla positions. What would you like to say about these developments?

Firstly, the resistance in Zap, Metîna and Avaşîn is a resistance against the genocidal colonizers. It has to be seen as part of the general struggle of the Kurdish people, who show a great sacrificial stance against genocidal power. This stance will continue by becoming even more effective. In this respect, it is not possible for the colonial enemy to gain any results. On the contrary, the sacrifice of resistance and militancy, increases the resistance power of the Kurdish people. We have evaluated the stance of the KDP many times now. As a Kurdish party, their actions have to be considered as betrayal. It is not possible to soften this, or to even find a justification for it. The attitude towards this has to be clear and unambiguous. There is not enough being done against the attitude of the KDP. This shows a weakness of the Kurdish people.

The Kurdish people will have to take a stance against betrayal to gain freedom. Without a clear stance against betrayal, without a clear stance of the Kurdish people, the struggle for freedom cannot be successful. Like I said, not taking an adequate stance against the KDP is a weakness of the Kurdish people. You can still find approaches that look like they try to normalize the KDP's attitude. But without effect, as the broad majority of the Kurdish people see this betrayal. The ones that remain silent do so, because they themselves benefit from the KDP's attitude. The problem is not a question of protecting the positions gained. As a result of so many years of struggle, the Kurdish people managed to create and protect their identity and existence in the world, in the Middle East. The KDP will not be able to crush and destroy this.

It is the decades of struggle that brought about the Kurdish gains. Without our struggle, the reality of South Kurdistan would not have emerged. I am not saying that our people in South Kurdistan never struggled. Of course they did, but that struggle led to such gains and positions as a result of the environment created by our struggle. This reality needs to be seen. Then the reality of the 'Kurdistan Worker's Party' (PKK) and Rêber Apo needs to be understood and protected correctly. The gains and achievements of the Kurdish people can be preserved by protecting them.

In [the north Kurdish city of] Silopî, the Kurdish people took a clear stand against the KDP's betrayal, the Turkish state attacks and is preventing them. Within the Turkish state it is known that they cannot succeed in Kurdistan without collaboration and the betrayal of the KDP. This is also the reason why the Turkish state still survives in Northern Kurdistan. It is because of the KDP. It is the KDP that has supported the Turkish state so much to enable their attacks. The Turkish state officials tend to say; 'We're not against the Kurds, look, we have relations with the KDP.' This is how it deceives Kurdish society and the world. If it would liquidate the PKK, the KDP and other organizations would also not exist any longer. In this respect, what the KDP has done is obvious, and the right attitude must be taken against it. Otherwise, we would really end up in the situation of the Laz who, upon being executed, had said: 'This should be a lesson for me'. When Rêber Apo was evaluating the reality of the Kurds in the early days, he said that Kurds do not know how they die even when they are dying. Now we know how the Kurds lose and how they will win. The reality of the KDP is as if they still want to make the Kurds suffer from this situation.

The Turkish army continues to abuse the bodies of fallen guerrilla fighters. The bodies are sent to their families in boxes. Again, attacks on guerrilla cemeteries continue. The attitude of the martyrs' families against these attacks is very clear. What is the importance of this attitude of the martyrs' families in the struggle?

First of all, I would like to respectfully greet the families of the martyrs. They reveal a very respectable and historical stance with their attitude. They reveal what the attitude of the Kurdish people should be. By saying, "We gave our son, but this is our attitude," they are showing everyone what the approach towards the genocidal enemy should be. These practices have no other meaning as their wish to erase every trace of the Kurds. Not even their graves, not even their names, not even their history should remain if it is up to them.

This is the result of a genocidal mentality. In this respect, the attitude of the martyrs' families is valuable. But the families of martyrs also have to be supported by the people, everyone has to support them. They give their children, but they do not give up their stance. They say that the greatest pain is being inflicted on them, and the way to relieve this pain is to struggle. It is not enough just to cry over the pain. Martyrs' families show that it is not just crying in the face of pain, but taking a stance and fighting. They are al-

ready the value of our struggle. If the struggle of the Kurdish people has not been liquidated until today, then it is because of the stance of Kurdish mothers and martyrs' families. These people will be the subject of novels, all kinds of music and art. This needs to be understood and acted upon by everyone.

While the inhumane attacks of the fascist Turkish army have been exposed by many documents, 'Republican People's Party's' (CHP) MP Sezgin Tanrikulu's mere mention of an 'European Court of Human Rights' (ECHR) ruling in the press caused an uproar in Turkey, so to speak. Tanrikulu was close to be lynched by a fascist mob, but there was no ownership of his own party. There was no serious reaction from the opposition either. How should this situation be understood?

It is an approach related to the Kurdish genocide. They are hostile to everything that will shake, decipher and expose this genocide policy. Because they are committing the gravest crime in the world, the crime of genocide. There is no greater crime than this. When Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Merdan Yanardağ, Sezgin Tanrikulu and other intellectuals expose this genocide crime of the Turkish state, they see them as the biggest enemy. The issue is not what Sezgin Tanrikulu says. This is a basic policy. It is to threaten all democrats, intellectuals, everyone. They want to say that in Turkey there will be no intellectuals, no democrats, no socialists, no one will speak the truth. They are saying that only our genocide policy will be approved. What needs to be understood from these facts is that the Turkish state's policy of genocide against the Kurds is unlike any other policy anywhere in the world.

There are national liberation movements in other parts of the world. They say that the problems there have been solved in this way, and that this is how they will be solved here, but it is not true, it is wrong to think like that. When we were in Oslo, a very valuable person, a democrat who fought in the Republic of Ireland, told us how they negotiated with the UK during the Oslo talks and how they came to a conclusion. They have had experiences, they have made great efforts, but the Kurdish reality is different from that. In fact, the reason why the intellectuals in the world and the intellectuals in Turkey cannot fully grasp the Kurdish reality is because they compare it to other events in the world. Everyone needs to get rid of this. There are also those among us who think like this. This is a very serious misconception.

The solution to the Kurdish question under the conditions of the Turkish state is through struggle. It is through a determined struggle against genocide. If the genocidal will is not broken through this struggle, the Kurdish problem cannot be solved. Approaches such as if we take a soft approach, if we behave like this, the Turkish state will come to faith, it will show a democratic approach, there will be progress for a solution, is self-deception. If you don't struggle, you will be subjected to genocide. The Kurdish problem cannot be solved without struggle. So no one should deceive themselves. The situation of the state is understood by no one better than Rêber Apo and he takes a clear stand. They do not let him meet with anybody because of his stance against the AKP-MHP government. In this respect, everyone should know very well why the Turkish state attacks Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Merdan Yanardağ, Sezgin Tanrikulu and other intellectuals like that. Some Kurdish intellectuals, some Kurdish politicians are really not aware of where they live. They have not grasped the reality of the Turkish state. We expect them not to loosen the struggle of the people, but to radicalize it even more and take a firm stance.

While the 'Peoples' Democratic Party' (HDP) is holding its congress, the 'Green Left Party' is also preparing for its congress. While these congresses are taking place, the municipal elections are already being discussed. There is talk about how the Green Left Party will proceed in the municipal elections. How do you see these discussions?

The HDP and Green Left Party are doing an electoral accounting, making self-criticism and evaluations. These are good steps, but the opposition needs to see some realities. For example, there was an earthquake, hundreds of thousands of people died, 13-15 million people were affected. It was forgotten as if it had never happened, as if the AKP-MHP government was not responsible. Even this shows how ineffective the opposition is. Of course, socialists and Kurdish democracy forces should also play a more effective opposition role. The policies of the third way mean this. The third way means organizing among the people and waging the struggle decisively. The third way means an approach to create a more correct opposition against this government, that cannot find a solution to Turkey's problems. It is an understanding of organization, an understanding of struggle. It means what kind of a Turkey, what kind of a Kurdistan, what kind of a Middle East we envision. It is necessary to concentrate on this, on the question of how much the third way has been put into practice.

Some discussions are discussions of diverting the third way. Saying that it was done a certain way in the last elections or not is a separate situation, it has nothing to do with whether it is suitable for the third way or not. Every party, every politician uses tactics when necessary, struggles, utilizes the contradictions within the system while struggling. These have nothing to do with the concept of the third way. In this respect, the third way has indeed been weakened and distracted from its real meaning by squeezing it into the past elections. The third way is the way of struggle, the way to fight more effectively, to wage a bigger war for freedom, to resist more, to organize more, to fight together with the people. It is the way to get rid of the influence of capitalist modernity. It is the way to get rid of the middle class and petite bourgeois influence, and conformism. What are you going to do when the other side is pursuing a policy of genocide? The third way is the way of struggle against genocide.

The Kurdish people are a conscious people, and the Kurdish movement has great experience. It is not a political movement that can be influenced from here and there. Because it is a movement that emerged out of the Serhildans [popular uprisings]. The Serhildans of 1989 and the early 90's created such a democratic political movement. It has such a foundation. There was a struggle, an environment was created, a democratic and social revolution took place and a political space emerged. And this space was created by the guerrilla movement. The people stood up, the youths and women stood up, as a result of the guerrilla struggle. Any political power that is not based on its history weakens and melts away. In this respect, I believe that the Kurdish political movement and the Kurdish people will draw conclusions from the shortcomings and enter into a stronger struggle.

Karasu: Effects of 12 September 1980 military coup still very big

ANF|BEHDINAN|24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council spoke about the effects of the 1980 military coup and the dropping of the case on the Madimak massacre.

43 years have passed since the fascist military coup of September 12, 1980. What are the effects of the coup in Turkey and Kurdistan until today?

The effects of the military coup were very big. A very strong democratic accumulation, a left-socialist accumulation has emerged in Turkey. When we look at it today, socialists and democrats in the Black Sea region have been rendered unable to work, whereas it was an important area of revolutionary struggle. The youth of the Black Sea region were very effective in their revolutionary struggle. We also had comrades from this region in our group, Haki [Karer] and Kemal [Pir]. Then September 12 came. They wanted to create a new Turkey by crushing the left and the democratic forces, crushing the Kurdish people, and they wanted to get rid of the 'Kurdish question' by executing a genocide on the Kurds. One of the methods they used for this, was to develop so-called 'political Islam'. In the early periods, the Republic of Turkey followed a policy that kept the Islamists out of the system and went after them. But from September 12 onwards, they saw that the Kurdish people could not be suppressed and that the left could not be neutralized by the existing policies. For this, they saw it as necessary to bring political Islam as a new-old method into the system.

At the moment, the 'Justice and Development Party' (AKP) is a product of September 12. The coup paved the way for Fethullah Gülen and his followers, as well as for the political Islamists. They wanted to integrate them into the system and unite with them to execute the genocide of the Kurdish people and crush the leftists as well as socialists. Because until then, the Islamic section was not a partner in the genocidal policy of the Turkish state. There were some who supported it, but in general, those with Islamic values stayed away from the genocidal policy of the Turkish state. The 12 September coup made both the Islamists section and the Muslim people accomplices in this genocidal policy. This is perhaps the greatest evil done to the Muslim people and to the Islamic section in Turkey. It was September 12 that created this. They also pressured the socialists to stay away from the Kurds.

That's why, before 12 September, the most fundamental agenda of the leftists, of all revolutionaries, was the Kurdish question. They didn't call it an independent Kurdistan, they didn't consider it appropriate, but they all had in their programs the Kurdish people's right to self-determination. They said federation, autonomy. If you have a look at it now, some people who call themselves left-socialists are distancing themselves from the Kurdish question, saying that the state shouldn't mess with them. This was also a result of September 12. Therefore, the coup did a great disservice to the peoples of Turkey; it liquidated the democratic accumulation, narrowed and limited the power of thought, created enemies of art, and enemies of intellectuals. Turkey was going through a kind of 'renaissance' before 12 September. There had been problems for sure, but it was a period of enlightenment. But then, as 12 September came, Turkey was dried up.

Now Turkey has become the center of Middle Eastern reactionism. That is why it is attacking the Kurdish Freedom Movement, which plays a central role in the democratization of the Middle East.

When talking about the military coup of September 12, the prison of Amed [Turkish name Diyarbakir] comes to one's mind. Today, the responsible of the fascist ruling AKP-MHP want to turn the prison of Amed into a museum to cover up the attack it is carrying out there. However, at the same time, we see that the AKP-MHP has turned all Turkish prisons into prisons like Amed. How do you evaluate the plans to turn the famous prison of Amed into a museum and to showcase the attacks against prisoners?

By looking at the current situation, we can see that the attacks on Kurdish prisoners have surpassed the ones from 12 September. In the context of 12 September, there was crude physical torture every day, but now the attacks on prisoners have increased in a multidimensional way. For example, when they were in Amed, all their families used to come and see their children, but now prisoners are sent far away from Kurdistan so that they cannot see their families. This is a conscious policy. There was torture in the prison of Amed. People resisted it and lost their lives. Now they are creating such an environment that everyone gets sick and people are dying of illness. On September 12, there were not so many prisoners, there were around three thousand in all prisons. But now it has increased a lot. They are imprisoning not only militants and cadres but also all patriots.

In this respect, the AKP's claim that Amed will become a museum is a mockery of the Kurdish people. Kurds want it to be a museum of human rights, but that is not what the AKP thinks to do. It will make it part of the Kurdish genocide. There is a great resistance against the attacks in the prisons. Because the enemy wants to destroy the PKK completely, political prisoners are being attacked the most. The enemy is thereby focusing the most on Rêber Apo, because he created consciousness and awareness within the people and organized them. It is a situation that needs to be well evaluated and people should support the prison resistance in every possible way.

The fascists of AKP-MHP want to make their own constitution using the argument that the September 12 constitution is a coup constitution. Why does this fascist government, which has not even enforced the coup constitution until today, feel the need to make a new constitution?

One has to laugh at the AKP's claim that they will make a civilian constitution and get rid of the military constitution. The constitution they will make will be more backward than the current constitution, that's for sure. They will make a constitution of genocide against the Kurds. They will make a constitution of intimidation on revolutionaries. After the 'Ararat Rebellion' [1926], there was a cartoon in the Milliyet newspaper, "The imaginary Kurdistan is buried here". This constitution is a kind of imaginary Kurdistan, imaginary socialism, imaginary democracy. That is why, as we have stated before, no one should participate in these constitutional debates, no one should take them seriously. None of the opposition should take it seriously, the Kurdish democratic movement should not take it seriously. We have stated before that the Turkish state has a one-article constitution, the constitution for the genocide of the Kurds. Now they will make it more systematic. A constitution that does not recognize the existence of the Kurds cannot be a democratic constitution, a civil constitution. It would be a constitution of genocide. It cannot be a democratic constitution, because democracy is being opposed, so that the Kurds cannot benefit. In this respect, a democratic constitution can only be a constitution that recognizes the existence of Kurds.

No one should get involved in constitutional debates. It should be said that you are making fun of the people, you are demagoguing, you will make a constitution worse than the military constitution, you will make a constitution resembling the one of Hitler. In this respect, the approach to the constitution should be measured and approaches such as those can be discussed and debated should be avoided.

In 1993, the case of the massacre in Madimak [33 Alevi intellectuals were burned alive in a hotel in Sivas] was dropped on the grounds of the statute of limitations. Alevi institutions and organizations reacted against this. What message does the dismissal of this case carry for Alevis?

First of all, I would like to respectfully commemorate those who were martyred in Madimak. The Madimak massacre is an issue that needs to be evaluated very comprehensively. It is said that IS [Islamic State] first emerged there. IS in mentality, method and practice. The Madimak massacre was an attack by IS. The state watched this and even directed it. That is also why Erdoğan established such close relations with IS. Why Hakan Fidan became the boss of IS and is the one who manages Turkey's relations with IS. In fact, it was Fidan who ensured that IS leaders were sheltering in the places occupied by Turkey. He is actually a man with an IS mentality. The Sêwas [Turkish name Sivas] massacre is the most concrete example. I know Sêwas very well, since I grew up there, I have even passed by the Madimak building almost every day. That is the neighborhood I know best in Sêwas. I sold a lot of stamps at the post office there in my childhood.

There is indeed religious bigotry in Sêwas. It is a society that believes in religion, but it is political Islam, the political mentality that makes them attack Alevis like this. Otherwise, only a religious society would not attack, but there has always been Sunni-Alevi tensions in Turkey. Whoever wants to create a problem or stage a coup, immediately provokes such incidents. One of the most important things in the realization of 12 September coup was the massacre of Mereş [Turkish name Kahramanmaraş]. The statute of limitations on the Madimak massacre case clearly tells Alevis that they can kill you. Or reactionaries are being told that you can kill and destroy Alevis. Not just a few people were killed there, all Alevis were killed, all Alevis were burned, all Alevis were attacked. The dismissal of the case reveals how reactionary and inhuman the Turkish state is. It is an approach to a society of at least 20 million people. It is the same approach as to the Kurds. It is said that Alevis can be killed and nobody will be held accountable, Kurds can be killed and nobody will be held accountable.

This is why Alevis is easily attacked. They were attacked in Mereş, Meletî (Turkish name Malatya), Sêwas, and tomorrow they may be attacked elsewhere. Because these attacks always go unpunished. This issue needs to raise awareness among Alevis. As long as Turkey is not democratized, these incidents will continue. In this respect, Alevis need to take an active part in the democratization of Turkey. Alevis' freedom of belief also comes with democracy. Whoever keeps Alevis away from the struggle for democratization is an enemy of Alevis. He is the one who does not want to remove the grounds for Alevis to be subjected to such attacks. The statute of limitations on the Madimak massacre case should also be evaluated correctly by Alevis.

— ★ —

Contact e-mail: imralipost@freeocalan.org

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