

THE IMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

PYD: Freedom of Abdullah Öcalan is an urgent demand

ANF | 8 OCTOBER 2023

The Democratic Union Party (PYD) released a statement marking the 25th anniversary of the forced departure of PKK founder Abdullah Öcalan from Syria, which marks the beginning of the “international conspiracy” that led to the deportation of the Kurdish leader from Kenya to Turkey on 15 February 1999.

The statement pointed out that: “We consider this day in the context of the system of mass genocide against the Kurds and the cause for justice that should finally be resolved. No local or international party, regardless of their power, can avoid a democratic solution to this cause anymore. Leader Abdullah Öcalan has sought to build an ethical-political society based on the theory of a democratic nation and democratic Middle East confederalism, and the freedom and leading role of women. Thanks to self-organization, the Kurdish people have protected themselves from the policies of political, military and cultural genocide.”

The statement continued: “Leader Abdullah Öcalan exposed the secrets of the state that utilized the hegemonic system against the people’s will and tried to suppress their existence and their rights. For this rea-

son, international parties were also involved in the international conspiracy against Leader Abdullah Öcalan and targeted, in his person, the Kurdish people and their cause, as well as all democratic and peaceful forces.”

The PYD stated that they considered the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan as their fundamental duty, and condemned all those who planned and executed the conspiracy.

The party called on the international community, the United Nations and human rights organizations to put an end to the isolation of Öcalan. The PYD also called on the Kurds and all other peoples in the region to enhance their struggle for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, which, it said, is an urgent demand now.



KCK calls for increased struggle to defeat the international conspiracy and in its 26th year

ANF | BEHDINAN | 9 OCTOBER 2023

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council released a statement marking the 25th anniversary of the forced departure of PKK founder Abdullah Öcalan from Syria, which marks the beginning of the “international conspiracy” that led to the deportation of the Kurdish leader from Kenya to Turkey on 15 February 1999.

The KCK statement released on Monday includes the following:

“On its 25th anniversary, we once again condemn with all our hatred and anger the international conspiracy of October 9, 1998, which targeted the Kurdish people in the person of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. At the same time, we would like to greet with love Rêber Apo, who responded with great resistance to the conspiracy and the conditions of captivity. Also, facing this dirty conspiracy, we would like to respectfully commemorate the martyrs that lost their lives in the “You cannot darken our sun” campaign. Halit Oral, Selamet Menteş and Aynur Artan, who became a ring of fire in the face of this conspiracy and united around Rêber Apo. We reiterate our promise of loyalty to their memories, and we salute the resistance of our patriotic people and their international friends against the international conspiracy for 25 years and the level of supporting the Leadership.

The strategy of the colonialist Turkish state, which developed its existence based on the destruction and denial of the Kurds, caused the Kurds to be in constant rebellion and resistance throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. The greatest rebellion and resistance of the Kurds is the “war of existence and freedom” developed under the leadership of Rêber Apo and our heroic martyrs. The gains in favor of the Kurds in this long process of struggle, which defined itself as the “war of existence and freedom” led by the PKK, were seen as a great threat to the calculations and interests of the international colonialist-capitalist powers in the new century. The international capitalist powers, led by the USA, did not see it in their hegemonic in-

terests to enter the new century with an equal and free Kurdish entity. They saw the PKK-led Free Kurdishness as a major obstacle to their Greater Middle East Project. Therefore, in order to eliminate the obstacle, the international conspiracy of October 9th was processed. The biggest conspiracy of the 20th century was developed and Rêber Apo was forced to leave the Middle East.

The biggest goal of the conspiracy was to prevent the Kurds from entering the 21st century as an equal, free and strong-willed people, as a nation that has achieved its unity and integrity, and thus to reorganize the Middle East on the basis of its own colonial hegemonic interests. The second goal of the conspiracy was to liquidate the Kurdish people and the Kurdish Freedom Movement by cutting off Rêber Apo. Just like in the 20th century, it was their intention to leave the Kurds without identity, status and leadership in the new century. It was to make the Kurdish people lose another century just because it did not submit to the capitalist hegemonic world system and did not give up its will to struggle and surrender in the face of the colonialist genocidal Turkish Republic's policy of annihilation and denial. The third goal was to drag the Kurdish and Turkish peoples into a great blind war by making them break against each other. To prevent the solution of the so-called 'Kurdish question' and the democratization of Turkey.

The stance of our leadership in the face of this imperialist game was based on breaking the tragic fate of genocide that had been determined for the Kurds throughout the 20th century. It was on the basis of frustrating the dirty calculations of the conspiratorial powers on the Kurds and the Middle East. The way both our leadership and the Kurdish People and Movement responded to the development of the conspiracy as an attitude of great resistance and renewal. Thanks to the democratic transformation and the concept of democratic nation developed by Rêber Apo, the Kurdish and Turkish peoples were prevented from being dragged into a blind war against each other and from being at each other's throats.

Under all the burning reality of the hostage and absolute isolation conditions in Imrali, Rêber Apo responded to the international conspiracy with a great mental revolution and an approach towards a democratic solution. As a revolutionary people's leader, at times like a philosopher and sage, at other times like a political scientist, like a historical scientist, he has been in the intellectual, mental and physical resistance to change the tragic genocidal fate of his people. He presented the most advanced ideas and thoughts of the age to all peoples, women and all resisting oppressed groups. With the concepts and theories he developed, he created a new paradigm of a free and democratic society. With his theses on free life and free society, he responded to the greatest conspiracy of the age with the greatest defense of the age. His latest five-volume prison writings, the Democratic Civilization was a defense on behalf of all the oppressed, especially Kurds and women. These defenses he presented to the ECHR were a manifesto of free man and free society. The paradigm of a democratic ecological and women's libertarian society that he developed under the conditions of being a hostage and being under total isolation in Imrali has gained meaning as a new paradigm of life and struggle that will be sufficient to change the fate of all oppressed people in the 21st century. In this respect, the Imrali imprisonment process did not work as the conspiratorial forces intended. On the contrary, it was a process in which the idea of a democratic free society for humanity developed.

This great and historic resistance of Rêber Apo in Imrali constitutes the main center of our struggle against the politics and attacks of genocide. Because the sovereign politics being carried out in Imrali is a politics of isolation and genocide against all Kurds. At this point, the torture of absolute isolation has been imposed on Rêber Apo for twenty-five years. A great political, social, cultural and physical genocide attack is being carried out daily against the people of Kurdistan. All kinds of military attacks against the guerrillas

of Kurdistan, aimed at their destruction, continue daily and instantaneously. The geography of Kurdistan is under a great ecocide attack. Despite all these genocidal attacks of the colonialist genocidal Turkish Republic, Rêber Apo's democratic ideas and thoughts are beginning to flourish as the seed of a new social system in the four parts of Kurdistan and wherever Kurds live. It is turning into a new understanding of life and resistance. Life is beginning to regain its lost meaning. Society is in the process of regaining its lost moral and political character. All oppressed people, Kurds and women alike, are greatly inspired by this development. It is gradually turning into a great social enthusiasm and excitement on a universal scale, a great movement of hope.

The colonialist genocidal Turkish state wants to achieve what it failed to achieve in the past during the international conspiracy process, now through new attack concepts with more diversified extermination. The anti-Kurdish AKP-MHP fascist coalition and the collaborative forces it relies on, taking their international allies with them, aim to renew the conspiracy and surrender the Kurdish people's will. It re-imposes the old submissive, collaborative, self-denying Kurdishness. It wants to destroy the democratic gains that the Kurds have achieved in recent years with thousands of efforts and by paying invaluable prices, within the framework of the new liquidation and genocide concept it has developed. However, the Kurds have now reached the level of a conscious, honorable, political and organized people who will not kneel or bow down to any sovereign power. In fact, the greatest achievement of the Kurds as a result of fifty years of struggle is this conscious and organized people. Our people, thanks to the politically organized level they have reached, have more than ever the will to succeed in frustrating all impositions of annihilation and genocide.

The gains that have emerged today in favor of the Kurds, in favor of democracy and freedoms are developments that have emerged as a result of Rêber Apo's deep thought, great foresight, valuable labor and efforts. All the efforts of the colonialist Turkish state and its international supporters are aimed at leaving the Kurds without leadership again in the 21st century. Being without the leadership is one of the main reasons for the Kurds to remain without freedom for a hundred years. This is why Rêber Apo is nailed to the Imrali Cross. That is why, as the Kurdish gains grow, the Imrali torture system is deepened. Isolation is aggravated even more. Because the gains that grow day by day in favor of the Kurds, in favor of democracy and freedoms, are seen as a crime by the colonialist Turkish Republic and Rêber Apo is held responsible for this. It is as if they are saying "why did you awaken this people from slavery, why did you give them spirit, why did you bring them back to existence, why did you raise them up". For this, our leadership is punished with additional penalties.

Along with Rêber Apo, the Kurdish people have also been imprisoned in the Imrali coffin. However, at the current stage, the Kurdish people are in the process of defeating the international conspiracy and ending the Imrali imprisonment. Rêber Apo and the Kurdish people are an inseparable whole. This is precisely why our people say "No life without the Leader" every day in the streets and squares. Because our people's devotion to Rêber Apo is a devotion that is kneaded with both consciousness and love and faith. It has to be known that no power can come between Rêber Apo and our people. On this basis, from the first day of the international conspiracy to the present day, our people have been constantly on their feet and in action in order to prevent and frustrate the conspiracy from achieving results at every stage so far. Because the health, safety and physical freedom of Rêber Apo means the future of the Kurdish people, and the Kurdish people have now gained the will to claim their future. Our people, together with their international friends, have put the freedom of Rêber Apo on their agenda and carry out the struggle for this on a daily

basis wherever they are, with the campaigns they develop, in various ways and methods. We salute this organized, combative and activist stance of our people and their international friends.

The Freedom Guerrilla of Kurdistan, taking its basis for ideological, philosophical and organizational inspiration from Rêber Apo, has been the main force that prevented the international conspiracy from achieving its goals in the past twenty-five years thanks to its determined struggle and sharp will. It has an unbreakable bond with Rêber Apo. Thanks to this strength, morale and consciousness it receives from Rêber Apo, the Freedom Guerrilla continues to show its will to resist under all circumstances. The colonialist genocidal Turkish occupation army is currently using inhuman ways and methods against the guerrilla in an unprecedented way. It is using all of NATO's war capabilities against our guerrilla forces in a very brutal way. It is now using chemical and poisonous gases against our guerrilla forces, which it could not deter with the latest NATO technology. Seeing that chemical and poisonous gases have not achieved results and that the unprecedented resistance continues, it has now added tactical nuclear weapons and thermobaric weapons on top of them. All these inhumane ways and methods used by the colonialist Turkish army against the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla are all war crimes. They are crimes against humanity. This must be recognized by the relevant international institutions and the criminals must be tried. Because the Freedom Guerrilla has defended and will continue to defend not only Kurds and Kurdistan, but also all other brotherly peoples living in the region in the person of the Kurdish people and the values of democracy and freedom of the progressive humanity of the world. On this occasion, we once again salute the historic resistance of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla under the current difficult conditions.

The international friends of the Kurdish people have multiplied even more in the twenty-five years since the international conspiracy. Valuable friendships have been developed with the peoples of the Middle East, Europe and all over the world. Because the peace and brotherhood relationship that Rêber Apo wanted to develop between peoples, beliefs and cultures started to produce new values for progressive humanity, democracy and freedom. On the 25th anniversary of the international conspiracy, we call on all international friends to gather and to form the democratic unity of the peoples, to protest the conspiracy more strongly, and to scream "STOP" against the AKP-MHP fascist regime, which is the enemy of Kurds and at the same time the enemy of democracy and freedoms, and the absolute isolation concept it is implementing.

The process we are going through represents a turning point for our people and our struggle. It has a quality that will open the door to a new democratic era. In such a process, as the Kurdish people, movement and international friends, we are on the verge of a historic level of development in favor of democracy and freedom, in favor of the peoples and progressive humanity, defeating the international conspiracy and bringing the Kurdish struggle for existence and freedom to victory. More than ever, we have the ambition and determination to put this into practice. We are entering the 26th year of resistance against the international conspiracy with this fundamental goal and will and determination. In order to stop the genocide attacks centered on Imralı and to ensure the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, we call on our people living in all parts of Kurdistan, especially in North Kurdistan and abroad, under the leadership of women and youth, together with their dear international friends, to increase the resistance and raise the struggle until the international conspiracy is defeated in its 26th year."

Worldwide support for the campaign ‘Freedom for Öcalan, Political Solution to the Kurdish Question’

ANF | 10 OCTOBER 2023

A new international campaign demanding “Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question” has been launched today with 74 press conferences held around the world. 74 stands for the age of the Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan who has been held as a hostage on the prison island of Imrali since his handover to Turkey as a result of an international conspiracy that began on 9 October 1998, when he was forced to leave Syria and ended on 15 February 1999, when he was deported from Kenya to Turkey.

The main press conferences were held in front of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, Paris, Vienna, Brussels and Berlin. The campaign unites social movements, political parties, municipalities, unions, activists, intellectuals, and millions of Kurds and their friends worldwide around a shared goal: making a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's century-old Kurdish question possible by enabling Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's participation in a renewed dialogue. The most pressing immediate demand, however, is to bring an end to the total isolation that Öcalan has been subject to for almost three years.

The global campaign, which involves academics, journalists, NGOs, political parties, parliamentarians, activists, philosophers, Nobel laureates, women's organisations and representatives of indigenous peoples, was widely embraced in four continents where masses voiced their demand for an end to the war against the Kurdish people.

The joint statement for the campaign reads as follows:

“The international ‘Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution for the Kurdish Question’ campaign unites social movements, political parties, municipalities, unions, activists, intellectuals, and millions of Kurds and their friends worldwide around a shared goal: making a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's century-old Kurdish question possible by enabling Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's participation in a renewed dialogue.

Abdullah Öcalan is a Kurdish political leader seen by millions of Kurds globally as their political representative. In February 1999, he was abducted in an international intelligence operation and sent to Turkey. He has been in prison ever since, barred from all contact with the outside world for years at a time. He has been subjected to torture and other cruel and degrading treatment.

Despite this, the movement Öcalan built, and the people inspired by it are at the forefront of Kurdish struggles for self-determination and multi-ethnic, multi-religious movements for democracy in the Middle East. His theories inspire those fighting for self-determination, women's liberation, and an end to all forms of inequality and exploitation across the globe.

Turkey's unresolved ‘Kurdish question’—the conflicts and political instability deriving from the Turkish Republic's violent denial of fundamental civil and political rights to 20 million Kurdish citizens—has cost tens of thousands of lives, displaced millions, and empowered hardline nationalists, religious fundamental-

ists, and autocrats worldwide. It is linked to many of the most serious regional and global challenges impacting the lives and well-being of millions—occupation, racism, the oppression of women, religious intolerance, economic exploitation, and the destruction of the environment.

The campaign is international in part because the Kurdish question is an international problem. Kurdistan is divided between four states: Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. It was European powers, including Britain and France, who created these divisions a century ago. Turkey's ability to wage war on Kurds across the Middle East is the result of decades of unconditional support from the United States and other NATO members—and Turkey's new strategy of playing those powers off of other states, like Russia and Iran, to extract anti-Kurdish concessions from all sides.

It is also international because Öcalan's solutions are international. His framework for a political solution to the Kurdish question could end a century of war and oppression in Turkey and neighboring countries. The universal theories that provide the framework for his solutions and be a model for people everywhere seeking alternatives to the great crises of our time—from steepening inequality to climate change to the rise of far-right autocrats taking advantage of growing disillusionment with the system.

When Öcalan is free to participate in a political process to resolve the Kurdish question and to continue to develop his ideas, the result will be more freedom and more peace for all of us. Unfortunately, the authoritarian leadership in Turkey knows this and greatly fears this scenario—and so, with the support of the international community, it has kept Öcalan in isolation for nearly three years in order to maintain its hold on power and prolong its endless wars.

In Öcalan's last conversation with his lawyers, which occurred in 2019, he said that he could solve the Kurdish question in a week if given the chance—and that he had developed his ideas for a political solution to the Kurdish question even further since the Turkish government last abandoned peace talks. As Turkey expands its occupation of Iraqi Kurdistan and North and East Syria and its crackdown on dissent at home and abroad, the Kurdish people and other peoples of Turkey, the communities of the Middle East, and the world need a political solution now more than ever.

We are also more concerned about Öcalan's security and well-being than ever before. Isolation is internationally recognized as a form of torture. For this form of torture to go on for three years is extremely dangerous. We do not know anything about Öcalan's fate beyond the fact that he has recently received 'disciplinary measures' to block meetings on false pretenses and has allegedly been sent death threats.

This situation is unsustainable. For this reason, we make the following demand:

Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan must be allowed to meet with his lawyers and family and, ultimately, freed under conditions that allow him to play a role in finding a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's decades-old Kurdish conflict.”

Activists from Munich take over the vigil for the freedom of Öcalan in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 13 OCTOBER 2023

Since 25 June 2012, groups from all over Europe have been taking turns to hold vigil in front of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in Strasbourg, demanding an end to the isolation and physical freedom of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan. The action, which has continued for 590 weeks, sets a worldwide record for continuous protest. This week, a group from Munich took over the vigil. The group includes activists Kemal Ekinçi, Nurettin İnci, Cihan Ekinçi, Tuncay Zengin and Nurettin Kazan.

The action is particularly topical in view of the ongoing worldwide campaign “Freedom for Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question” and the fact that there has been no sign of life from the prison island of İmralı for over two and a half years. The CPT is in a position to control Öcalan’s situation and to take action against this forbidden incommunicado detention. So far, the CPT’s engagement in this sense has been half-hearted at best. The CPT report from the last visit to İmralı in 2022 has not been published to date.

In a statement on behalf of the group, Kemal Ekinçi called on the Kurdish youth to stand up for their leader and tear down the AKP-MHP fascism.

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North-East Syrian People’s Initiative joins global campaign for “Freedom for Öcalan”

ANF | QAMISHLO | 14 OCTOBER 2023

The North-East Syrian People’s Initiative announced its participation in the international campaign “Freedom for Öcalan and a political solution for the Kurdish question” in Qamishlo on Saturday.

The campaign, which was launched simultaneously in 74 countries on 10 October, unites social movements, political parties, municipalities, trade unions, activists, intellectuals and millions of Kurds and people in solidarity with the Kurdish liberation struggle worldwide around a common goal: the participation of Abdullah Öcalan in a dialogue for a just and democratic political solution to the Kurdistan question in Turkey, which has remained unresolved for more than a century.

The press conference at the Qamishlo Stadium was attended by representatives and members of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), non-governmental organisations, political parties, notables from Kurdish and Arab tribes, members of women and youth organisations, TEV-DEM (Movement for a Democratic Society) and hundreds of people.

The press statement was read in Kurdish by Henaa Xelîl and in Arabic by Enwer El-Esir on behalf of the People's Council.

The statement pointed out that millions of Kurds as well as Arabs, Syriacs and various people all around the world see Abdullah Öcalan as a representative of their political will. Öcalan is considered to be a solution and will for peace by the oppressed peoples, ethnic groups, religious, denominational, social circles and defenders of equality and ecology, it noted.

The statement noted that the Kurdish leader has been held in aggravated isolation for 25 years, denied contact with his family, lawyers and the world, and subjected to torture and inhumane treatment. "Still, Leader Abdullah Öcalan's philosophy has inspired all circles. For this very reason, his struggle for freedom is a global cause and parties, organisations, institutions and individuals all around the world campaign for him."

The statement pointed out the Kurdish question is at the same time an international issue as the Kurdish people see their political and cultural rights violated, subjected to massacres and displaced in millions. It called on everyone to struggle for the achievement of Abdullah Öcalan's physical freedom and realization of peace "because Öcalan, with his powerful role and mission, can come up with a solution to the Kurdish question and other problems in the Middle East. For this very reason, the isolation imposed on him must be brought to an end and he must be granted physical freedom immediately."

The statement concluded with an appeal to all women and youth organisations, as well as political parties and institutions to join the campaign, and vowed that the struggle would be enhanced with determination through political, legal and diplomatic efforts.

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Prisons in Turkey

Bahri Dağ released after 30 years in prison

ANF | BISMIL | 12 OCTOBER 2023

Bahri Dağ was detained in the Kürdoğlu District of Bismil district of Amed on 11 October 1993. He was sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of "disrupting the unity and integrity of the state" and was released from Elazığ High Security Closed Prison No. 2 after 30 years.

Dağ was released on Wednesday and returned to his hometown, Bismil, where he was welcomed by his friends and family.

Dağ said: “I have been released from prison. I wish my other friends had been released as well. Individual freedom is not enough. We demand social freedom and peace. We hope for peace and brotherhood to come. I thank everyone.” Dağ ended his speech by saying: “Freedom will be ours.”

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Babur: There is torture and repression in prisons

ANF | VAN | 12 OCTOBER 2023

In an interview with ANF, Edibe Babur, co-chair of the Solidarity Association with the Relatives of Prisoners (TUHAY-DER), spoke about prison conditions and the situation of the Kurdish representative, Abdullah Öcalan. She said: “If there is no news from Mr. Öcalan, the war will continue to deepen.”

Babur pointed out that the isolation of Imrali had spread to the other prisons: “There has been no contact with a lawyer for 31 months given a family visit. There is no news from Imrali. This is a serious crime against humanity. Today, isolation is reflected in all prisons. Isolation manifests itself not only in prisons, but throughout society. Abdullah Öcalan must be able to see his lawyers and his family as quickly as possible. Due to isolation, prisoners cannot even receive books, they are not treated or given medicine when they are ill. Conditions in prisons are extremely bad. There is torture and arbitrariness in the prisons.”

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Jailed for 31 years, political prisoner denied release due to “lack of remorse”

ANF | 12 OCTOBER 2023

Izzetin Sevilgen has been in prison since 15 June 1992. After 40 days in police custody, he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the notorious Diyarbakır State Security Court for “membership of a terrorist organisation” and “disturbing the unity and sovereignty of the state”. An odyssey through the prisons of Siirt, Amasya, Izmir, Şırnak, Van and Erzurum followed. His last stop so far was the E-type prison of Giresun.

31 years under extreme prison conditions have left clear traces. Sevilgen is on the list of sick prisoners of the Human Rights Association (IHD). He suffers from repeated slipped discs, asthma, vision and hearing problems, heart disease, bronchitis and cholesterol problems. Despite intensive efforts by his family, Sevilgen’s request to be transferred to Batman High Security Prison was not granted, and instead he is being held in Giresun prison, over 700 kilometres away. For this reason, his family has not been able to visit him for three years.

Although Sevilgen’s life sentence ended on 15 June 2022, his release has now been postponed for the fourth time. The prison board requires a confession of remorse as a condition for his release. But for the

political prisoner there is nothing to repent of. Thus, the postponements of his release are implemented with longer and longer periods of time. At the first request, the release was postponed by three months, by four months at the second, by five at the third and by six months now.

Hüsna Sevilgen said her husband is in prison anyway without having committed any crime. The demand for a “confession of remorse” is therefore an imposition. “We do not accept it in any way and will never repent,” she said. “His older brother, Külünk Sevilgen, was also unwilling to make a confession of remorse and died after 16 years in prison. He resisted until his last breath and did not accept any form of repentance. Both served twelve years in the same prison. We stand behind the sacrifices they made and their struggle to the end. We will continue the struggle inside and outside the prison until the last drop of blood and never give up our Kurdish identity.”

Hüsna Sevilgen stated that she struggles outside and her husband inside. “He was transferred to prisons further and further away. When we wanted to visit him, we had to travel back and forth for days. The dangers on the road and the cost of the journey drove us into poverty. Because of the long distance, we have not been able to visit a prison for more than three years. The oppression and tyranny have never stopped, but we did not and will not bow down in any way.”

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HDP İzmir co-chair Berna Çelik subjected to strip search in prison

ANF | 12 OCTOBER 2023

HDP İzmir co-chair Berna Çelik, imprisoned in İzmir on alleged suspicion of membership in a “terrorist organisation”, has been subjected to strip search in prison, announced her lawyers Fatma Demirer and Sidal Bayrak on Thursday. The incident allegedly took place earlier this week at the closed Şakran Women’s Prison in Aliağa, north of İzmir. Because Çelik resisted the body search, which she described as “degrading”, she was also subjected to sexist insults by the prison staff. Her lawyers have filed a complaint with the public prosecutor’s office.

Berna Çelik is co-chair of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) provincial association in the Aegean province of İzmir. After three days in custody at the Turkish police’s counter-terrorism department, the politician was detained on Monday along with Çınar Altan, the male co-chair of the HDP provincial association, and the co-chair of the HDP in Buca district, Nihat Türk. The charge against all of them is membership of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

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Military aggression and occupation

RIC publishes report on ISIS sleeper cells for September

ANF | 9 OCTOBER 2023

The Rojava Information Center (RIC) published its September report on ISIS sleeper cells.

The report highlights said that “September was dominated by the Security Operation in Deir ez-Zor which saw clashes between SDF and militiamen loyal to ‘Abu Khawla’, former head of the Deir ez-Zor Military Council (which is under the SDF’s umbrella) who the SDF arrested on the 27th August, 2023. He was accused of ‘communication and coordination with external entities hostile to the revolution, committing criminal offenses and engaging in drug trafficking, mismanaging of the security situation, his negative role in increasing the activities of ISIS cells, and exploiting his position for personal and familial interests that violated the internal regulations of the SDF’.”

The report added: “Seizing upon these clashes, a scattered collection of tribal actors joined in the attacks on SDF posts in the region, expressing their frustrations with the security and economic situation. The violence was soon exacerbated by the attempts of Iranian-backed militias to stir up sectarian tensions and the crossing of hundreds of gunmen from the Syrian government’s side of the Euphrates to attack SDF positions.

The violence lasted several weeks and saw the deaths of 118 people, including 10 civilians, as well as at least 146 injured.”

The full report can be read here: <https://rojavainformationcenter.org/2023/10/september-sleeper-cell-report-uncsc-sets-end-date-for-united-isis-accountability-mission/>

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Turkey continues to bomb Northern and Eastern Syria

ANF | 9 OCTOBER 2023

Turkish warplanes bombed the headquarters of the Internal Security Forces in the village of Koçerat in Dêrik district in Qamishlo canton on Sunday night.

In a statement, the Internal Security Forces said that a group of its fighters fell as martyrs and others were injured in the attack. A more detailed statement will be made later.

Shehba's Til Rifet district, the villages of Ein Deqnê and Semûqa as well as the village of Soxaneke in Sherawa were also bombed on Sunday night. In the village of Soxaneke there is a post belonging to Damascus government forces. No information could be obtained regarding the outcome of the bombardment.

Many regions were subjected to attacks by the Turkish state throughout the day on Sunday. The occupying state has increased its attacks, especially since 5 October, and has directly targeted civilian infrastructure. Many civilians lost their lives in the attacks, while civilian infrastructure was heavily damaged. These include hospitals, electricity and water stations, gas stations, oil facilities.



AANES announces the martyrdom of 29 fighters in Turkish attacks, declares 3-day national mourning

ANF | 9 OCTOBER 2023

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) issued a statement announcing the martyrdom of 29 fighters as a result of Turkish attacks and declaring a 3-day mourning.

AANES stated that the Turkish state, which has been targeting the North-East Syrian territories for years, has escalated its attacks against the region in recent days, seeking to create chaos and destruction and to prevent the fight against terrorism by the people and their military and security forces.

The Autonomous Administration said that the Turkish state last night, October 8, carried out bloody attacks on several locations in Derik and Rimelan, including the Anti-Drug Forces Academy that works to protect society from the repercussions of drugs, as well as oil fields and civilian areas. The aggression also targeted the agricultural projects in the Dirbesiye countryside, and a number of workers were injured.

Yesterday's and today's attacks resulted in the martyrdom of 29 members of the Anti-Drug Forces, and the wounding of 28 others, some of them seriously, according to the statement.

The statement further included the following:

"This aggression comes in light of the international silence against the massacres committed by Turkey in our regions despite our previous warnings since the beginning of the aggression that continued international silence would encourage Turkey to commit more massacres, like what happened last night.

As this silence and turning a blind eye to what is happening increases the arrogance of the fascist regime, public opinion should act with moral responsibility regarding the acts of this regime against our people and our regions and abstain from the policy of hypocrisy. Turkey is exploiting the current developments in the region and, in parallel, carrying out massacres and targeting our people and our regions without any deterrent.

We, in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, condemn the Turkish crimes that are being committed in front of the whole world. We affirm that the accompanying international silence is considered clear support for Turkey in its aggression against our people. International powers should take a firm stand against Turkey's violations against our safe areas, our people and our military forces, which made thousands of sacrifices in the fight against ISIS and terrorism and contributed to protecting the entire world from ISIS and its criminal plans. Unfortunately, the international community today stands by and watches as these people are subjected to extermination by the forces that supported ISIS.

We will continue to protect our people and their gains, and we remain committed to our right to legitimate defense to protect the achievements of our people's democratic revolution, the will of our society and its insistence on living with dignity.

Denouncing this brutal aggression, we declare 3 days of general mourning for the souls of the martyrs of the Turkish aggression."



The outcome of Turkish aggressions on North-East Syria on 8 October

ANF | 9 OCTOBER 2023

For the fifth day in a row, the Turkish occupation continued its brutal aggressions and attacks against the regions of north and eastern Syria, causing more casualties and damage to the civic infrastructure, using warplanes and heavy weapons.

The Media Centre of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released the outcome of the fourth day of the Turkish aggressions in North-East Syria as follows:

Number of artillery and mortar attacks: 31

Number of airstrikes: 2

Number of shells: 55 shells, including 29 heavy artillery shells.

Number of DShK machine gun attacks: 1

Number of military points targeted: 3

Number of civilian casualties: 1

Number of facilities targeted: 1 oil rig

1-Derik and its countryside

At 6:00 PM, the Turkish occupation forces shelled the border village of Kurdemiya, north of Derik town, with 7 mortar shells, and the village of Ain Diwar with 10 mortar shells. Fortunately, the shells fell on empty land, resulting in no damage.

At 10:30 PM, a Turkish occupation warplane targeted the Martyr Nesrin Academy of the internal security forces, in the village of Hamza Bek, located 15 kilometers south of the city of Derik. As a result, several internal security members were martyred and injured.

2-Manbij

At 11:15 PM, the Turkish occupation forces targeted these villages situated along the frontlines of Manbij (Seyda, Hawshariya, Tukhar, Qarat, Faran – Aoun Dadat – Um Jelud) with 13 TOW missiles and mortar shells.

3-Ain Issa and its countryside:

At 10:49 PM, the Turkish occupation forces targeted the civilians' homes in the town of Ain Issa with heavy artillery.

At 10:49 PM, the Turkish occupation forces targeted a civilian house in the village of Al-Khalidiya with a mortar shell.

At 11:00 PM, the Turkish occupation forces targeted the Ain Issa camp with DShK weapons.

At 10:42 P.M, the Turkish occupation forces shelled our SDF positions on the frontlines of Ain Issa with 4 mortar shells and 3 artillery shells.

At 9:45 PM, Turkish occupation forces shelled this village:

Hoşan with 4 artillery shells.

Al-Khalidiya with 2 artillery shells.

One Military point with 4 shells.

4-Kobane and its countryside:

At 10:30 PM, the Turkish occupation forces shelled the villages of Zerbeshan and Jishan on the eastern front of Koban with 4 artillery shells.

At 10:15 PM, the Turkish occupation forces shelled the following villages located on the western side of Kobane:

Tel Sha'ear village with a mortar shell.

Salim village with a mortar shell.

Khar Khury village with a mortar shell.

Chalakhy village with a mortar shell.

At 11:00 PM, the Turkish occupation forces shelled the village of Zormegar with a mortar shell.

No damage caused.

5-Qamishlo and its countryside:

At 10:27 PM, a Turkish military warplane targeted an oil rig located approximately 3 kilometers away from Tirbesipiye city. As a result, one civilian was injured, in addition to material damage caused.

At 10:35 PM, Turkish occupation forces shelled with heavy artillery the village of Til Zîwan, located between Til Kef and Doban villages, 6 kilometers away from Qamişlo city. Fortunately, the shells fell in empty areas and caused no casualties.

At 00:35 AM, Turkish occupation forces shelled with mortar shells the village of Haram Sheik, 11 kilometers to the west of Qamishlo city.

No damage was caused.

6-Amuda and its countryside:

At 11:30 PM, the Turkish occupation forces shelled the town of Zarkan and the villages of Mashirfa, Tal Harmal Village, and Al-Rabihaat with mortar shells. No damage was caused.



Two children martyred, five women wounded by Turkish attacks on North-East Syria today

ANF | 9 OCTOBER 2023

This afternoon, the Turkish occupation forces targeted civilian homes in the Ain Issa town with heavy artillery, resulting in the martyrdom of two children, who were identified as nine years old Ali Ahmed Al-Ayash and ten years old Nadia Mohsen Al-Ayash.

On the other hand, the Turkish forces also targeted the cotton farmers in the Al-Bashiriya village, Derbasiya countryside, with heavy artillery and tanks. As a result, five female workers were severely injured while they were working in a cotton field. The injured women were identified as 50 years old Radsa Saleh Fawaz, 40 years old Khadija Aidan Al-Tamir, 25 years old Farah Adnan, 20 years old Zeina Hamoud and Jumana Hammad.

The SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) Media Center published images of the civilians targeted by Turkish attacks.



KCK commemorates victims of 10 October 2015 Ankara massacre

ANF | BEHDINAN | 10 OCTOBER 2023

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council issued a statement to commemorate the victims of the Ankara massacre of 10 October 2015. That day, a demonstration for labor, peace and democracy organized by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and many trade unions, civil society and democratic organizations, was attended by tens of thousands of people and was attacked. Two bombs were detonated outside Ankara Central railway station. With a death toll of 104 civilians.

No organisation has ever claimed responsibility for the attack. The Ankara Attorney General stated that they were investigating the possibility of two cases of suicide bombings. On 19 October, one of the two suicide bombers was officially identified as the younger brother of the perpetrator of the Suruç bombing; both brothers had links to the Islamic State.

The KCK statement said: "We would like to strongly condemn this massacre, and respectfully commemorate those who lost their lives in the massacre. Also, we would like to once again commemorate all the martyrs of the revolution and of democracy, and we reiterate our promise that we will adhere to the memories of them.

The statement added: "In our hearts we carry the pain that was caused by this massacre as well as we carry the aspirations that millions of people shouted in the streets. They fought for the siblinghood of the peoples, for the democratic unity and coexistence of the Kurdish and Turkish peoples, for a democratic Turkey and a free Kurdistan. With this desire, they took to the streets that day and shouted for peace, siblinghood and equality, expressing it by doing halay [traditional dances] and folk songs. Our duty is to enlarge the halay [dance] they took and to singing the songs of siblinghood of the people and freedom with a even louder voice.

This attack, which resulted in the biggest massacre in the history of Turkey, was carried out within the scope of the 'çöktürme planı' [which means something like 'plan of forcing them to their knees'] by the

Turkish government. This massacre was planned and carried out as one of the cornerstones of the road to AKP-MHP fascism. With the ‘çöktürme planı’, the democratic solution to the so-called ‘Kurdish question’ and the solution to fundamental problems, especially the democratic solution to the ‘Kurdish question’, and the construction of a democratic life were prevented and, unfortunately, Turkey was dragged into a dark process again. The attack at the Ankara Train Station and the attacks and massacres in other places were carried out for this purpose. All these were carried out by the state and the government.”

The statement continued: “It is a complete deception to disguise the massacre as done by ISIS. It is the state, the AKP-MHP that committed the massacre. It is well known that ISIS has been under the direction of the state and the AKP from the beginning and that ISIS has been implementing the plans of the AKP-MHP. ISIS took its mentality and methods from the AKP-MHP government and acted to realize its goals. As a matter of fact, after ISIS was defeated by the struggle of the peoples and revolutionary democratic forces, the AKP-MHP government started to do what ISIS could not do. This is better seen and understood today. Today, all the attacks and actions of the AKP-MHP government, especially the attacks against Rojava, prove this fact.

Everything the fascist AKP-MHP government does is against the siblinghood of peoples, co-existence and democratization of Turkey. There is not a single word and practice that does not fall within this scope. To think that this is not the case, to justify some of the things done by the AKP-MHP government, is to go on the same path with fascism. It is seen that especially those who are within the system, who appear to be outside the system but cannot break away from it, try to show the AKP-MHP government’s attacks on the Kurdish people in this way. This is the understanding and approach that actually strengthens fascism. It is very important that the revolutionary democratic forces fight against this understanding and create the real democratic unity and organization of the peoples. This is the way to be committed to the struggle and memory of the martyrs and to realize them.”

In this context, said the KCK, “while condemning the massacre once again in its eighth year, we need to know that we are faced with the task of further developing the brotherhood and democratic unity of the peoples and raising the struggle against AKP-MHP fascism and we need to act with this consciousness. This is the mission that history imposes on revolutionary democratic forces.”

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Four soldiers killed, five wounded in retaliation operations by SDF

ANF | 10 OCTOBER 2023

On 9 October, the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) targeted, with more than 28 mortar shells, the Turkish occupation bases in the villages of “Um Shuaifa, Bab al-Faraj, Tal Muhammad, al-Dawudiya, and Abdul Hai” in the countryside of the Zarkan town.

According to the SDF Media Centre, the operations by the SDF within the framework of the right to self-defense resulted in the “elimination of four Turkish occupation soldiers and the injury of five others, raising the toll of eliminated soldiers to 15 and the wounded to 13 since the beginning of our legitimate retaliation operations recently.”

On the other hand, SDF reported that: “The President of the occupying Turkish regime has spread lies and false information regarding our sites targeted by their warplanes and the number of our martyrs, claiming that 162 of our fighters were martyred and 194 points were destroyed. We want to emphasize that these claims are repeated lies and disinformation. The targets attacked by the Turkish occupation were primarily civic service facilities that served the local population. This led to the martyrdom of about 45 people, including 11 civilians and members of the anti-drug forces, while they were at a training center on a non-combat mission at the time.”



Villages in Ain Issa and Gire Spi under Turkish attack

ANF | 10 OCTOBER 2023

Since last Thursday, the Turkish state has been carrying out a so-called “air-ground offensive” against north-eastern Syrian autonomous territory, justifying this aggression with an attack by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Ankara on 1 October, when two PKK guerrillas carried out a sacrificial action in front of the Turkish Interior Ministry in the highly secured government quarter.

The Turkish air terror, which Ankara justifies with the right to self-defence, is specifically targeting the vital infrastructure of the civilian population of northern and eastern Syria. More than two million people are currently cut off from basic services, and the energy infrastructure of Heseke, Qamişlo and Amûdê has been almost completely destroyed.

Attacks on the civilian population or civilian infrastructure constitute war crimes. The international community ignores this open breach of international law and lets Ankara have its way in its war against the Kurds without consequence. Not only in Syria, but also in Iraq, Turkey is given a permanent green light for war crimes.

According to reports from the ground, the Turkish army launched a wave of attacks on the rural areas of the Ain Issa district and the canton of Gire Spi this afternoon.

The aggression was directed against the M4 highway, the villages of Bîr Kino and Hurriyah to the west of the Gire Spi Canton, and the villages of Elîmat, Mestûra, Hoşan, Xalidiyê and Mileleq in Ain Issa.

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 al-

ready been destroyed and depopulated by Turkish military violence. A Turkish air offensive last November reduced large parts of the infrastructure to rubble and ash.

One of the areas occupied by Turkey in northern Syria is the region of Girê Spî. The formerly multicultural, self-governing region was occupied by Turkey in October 2019 and has been controlled by the Turkish intelligence service and jihadist mercenaries since. According to the Girê Spî Cantol Council, more than 100,000 people had to flee the region after the Turkish invasion. People loyal to the Turkish regime are resettled in their place as the Turkish state is pursuing an intensive settlement policy, systematically expelling the Kurdish population from the occupied areas.

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Turkish army desecrates cemetery in Şirnak region

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 11 OCTOBER 2023

The Turkish state has been carrying out a systematic desecration of Kurdish graves for decades. This practice gained an unprecedented dimension during the AKP-MHP rule.

This time, the Turkish army attacked the Martyr Rojhat Belûzerî cemetery.

Soldiers, who went on an operation in the region, brutally attacked the cemetery and destroyed the stones of nearly 60 graves.

In the images taken in the cemetery, gravestones can be seen broken and scattered around.

While people are prohibited from entering the region, the tree slaughter by the village guards continues.

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47 people, including 2 children, killed in Turkish attacks on North-East Syria in a week

ANF | 11 OCTOBER 2023

Since last Thursday, the Turkish state has been carrying out a so-called “air-ground offensive” against north-eastern Syrian autonomous territory, justifying this aggression with an attack by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Ankara on 1 October, when two PKK guerrillas carried out a sacrificial action in front of the Turkish Interior Ministry in the highly secured government quarter.

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Attacks on the civilian population or civilian infrastructure constitute war crimes. The international community ignores this open breach of international law and lets Ankara have its way in its war against the Kurds without consequence. Not only in Syria, but also in Iraq, Turkey is given a permanent green light for war crimes.

According to a balance sheet prepared by ANHA (Hawar News Agency), at least 47 people were killed and 59 others injured as a result of Turkish attacks between 4-11 October. The victims include 10 civilians, among them 2 children.

On 8 October, Turkish forces carried out bloody attacks on several locations in Derik and Rimelan, including the Anti-Drug Forces Academy that works to protect society from the repercussions of drugs, as well as oil fields and civilian areas. The attacks directed against the Anti-Drug Forces Academy in Derik resulted in the martyrdom of 29 members of the Anti-Drug Forces, and the wounding of 28 others.

An aerial attack in the Amude district in Qamishlo Canton claimed the lives of 6 members of the Internal Security Forces in North and East Syria and a member of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).



Four Turkish soldiers and three mercenaries killed in SDF operation

ANF | 11 OCTOBER 2023

The Media Centre of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement announcing the details of their latest actions against the occupation forces that have been carrying out a wave of genocidal attacks against North-East Syria since 4 October.

“As part of our legitimate right to respond, our SDF forces conducted yesterday an operation targeting two bases of the Turkish occupation in the occupied villages of Knehir and Arba’in, and northern Tal Tamir countryside,” said the SDF Media Centre.

According to the statement, the operation resulted in the elimination of 4 soldiers of the Turkish occupation and 3 of its mercenaries, while several others were wounded. With this operation, the death toll of the Turkish occupation forces has now reached 22, and dozens were wounded following a series of retaliation operations over the past days.

“Our forces will continue to respond to the attacks of the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries, within the framework of their legitimate right to defend and protect their areas and people, a right guaranteed by all international laws and legislation,” said the SDF statement.

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Families of martyrs in Rojava: We are united and will never give up our dignity and struggle

NUJIYAN ADAR | QAMISHLO | 11 OCTOBER 2023

Turkey is waging a murderous war of aggression against Rojava. Fighters and civilians die almost every day. Most recently, 29 members of an anti-drug unit were killed in an attack on an academy of the Internal Security Forces (Asayîş). In an interview with ANF, some of the relatives express their feelings and perspectives.

“This ground is soaked with the blood of the martyrs”

Mihyedîn Hesên is the father of a martyr. Remarking that the Turkish state’s attacks are aimed at breaking up the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), he said: “The people who are committed to the Autonomous Administration and participate at all levels are being tested by hunger. Water works, power plants, energy storage facilities, places that are the livelihood of the people and essential for the continuation of life, are being attacked. Our enemy murders children, women and old people without hesitation. The attacks are meant to drive people away. Our people have taken a stand against this policy of expulsion from the very beginning. Even if we only live on bread and water, we will not allow the enemy to succeed with his policy. Our people wave the flag of freedom. This soil is soaked with the blood of the martyrs and was liberated at the cost of countless sacrifices. All achievements have been won through the sacrifices of the martyrs. We will not turn away from this struggle and surrender our country to the enemy. We are united like a fist in the fight against the enemy. The enemy can neither strike us with hunger nor force us to flee. We will not retreat one step from now on. We will continue our journey by carrying forward the dream of the martyrs. No matter what they do, we will not abandon this country to Erdoğan and his mercenaries.”

“We will never allow our dignity to be trampled upon by the enemy”

Manal Fahri, the aunt of two martyrs, warned against the monistic racism of the AKP/MHP regime and stated: “The Turkish state is pursuing a policy of genocide against the peoples of the region. It pursues an attitude according to which there can only be one language, one identity, one flag and one nation. But the Turkish state should understand the following: it will not be able to occupy even one footprint of our land, it will not be able to take it. If it thinks that it can break our will with attacks, intimidate us and sow discord among the peoples, it is wrong. The more the attacks increase, the more intense the struggle becomes. The peoples of the region are wholeheartedly committed to the autonomous administration. This bond continues unbroken. We will never allow our dignity to be trampled upon by the Turkish state.”

“We will not deviate from the path of our martyrs”

Nêzîr Sofî, who lost his brother in the latest attacks, talked about the situation among the people, saying: “The people here are organised. Our people have fought a great battle in every attack. The most precious and valuable thing for a mother and father is their child. The mothers and fathers in Rojava have sent their children into the ranks of the resistance and taught them that their basic duty is to protect their land and preserve their language and identity. Such a people will never stop resisting, will not be broken and will not retreat in the struggle. We are dealing with a people that has its sights firmly set on its goals. We will continue on this path until victory. We will never give up our dignity. We will not deviate from the path of our martyrs, because their struggle is our struggle.”

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KCK calls on Muslim peoples to take a stance against Turkish bombing of mosque in Maxmur

ANF | BEHDINAN | 11 OCTOBER 2023

The People’s and Beliefs Committee of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) released a statement strongly condemning the Turkish state’s targeting of the mosque in the refugee camp in Maxmur [Makhmur] on October 7 and saluting the struggle of the people of Maxmur who are resisting since the 90s against the occupying and plundering attacks of the Turkish fascism and the forces partnering with dirty alliances such as the KDP.

The statement by the KCK People’s and Beliefs Committee includes the following:

“The fascist, colonialist Turkish state, which uses the religious feelings of the peoples, continues to intensify its genocidal attacks in Kurdistan. They carried out genocidal attacks against Rojava and Shengal [Sinjar], which we can also evaluate as an attempt to hide the blow they suffered after the sacrifice action in the heart of Ankara, to create the image of a strong state and to overcome the great shock they experienced. They also continued their operations and attacks against the south Kurdish areas of the Medya Defense Zones [by the Kurdish Freedom Guerilla controlled areas] by increasing the number of war crimes they commit and expressed that many cities such as Sulaymaniyah were in their targets by threatening them. These genocidal attacks are the continuation of the plan to deepen and continue the conspiracy against the leadership.

The Turkish state and its partners, who ban the Kurdish language and do not tolerate the Kurds’ self-governance and call their most humanitarian demands ‘terrorism’, both deny and slaughter the Kurds by using Islamic concepts in their language. They also shamelessly call for common sense in the war in Gaza and criticize the massacre of civilians, children and women as if they really cared. We would like to stress out that Kurds, like other Muslims, have the right to live on their mother and ancestral lands, in accordance with the principle of justice in religion. It is a requirement of their humanity that they use their language in every aspect of life. Like all peoples, they have the most natural right to govern themselves wher-

ever they live and to establish social institutions and organizations. It is necessary for them to voice their most human rights and demands. The ruling Islamist Turkish state politics and mind does not accept the Kurds to have a status, to have the opportunity to live humanely, to govern themselves with their language and culture on their mother and ancestral lands, and does not even tolerate the existence of a Kurdish entity on the face of the earth.

The people from Maxmur are a people known for their resistance against oppression throughout their history. For years, they have been trying to ensure their existence by creating life opportunities under the fascist, National-Islamic synthesist attacks of the Turkish state. It is a people who did not surrender to the fascist attacks of the Turkish state and turned to the Freedom Movement and were forced to migrate from Nehdara to Bihêrê, Etruş, Nineveh and finally to Maxmur under the most difficult conditions. For years, they have been subjected to all kinds of special warfare by the KDP and have not surrendered despite all kinds of torture and torture practices, including the embargo. With the spiritual strength they received from the leadership and the Freedom Movement, they have always stood by the freedom struggle with their deep-rooted social values and have carried out the freedom struggle with their unyielding stance. Despite all the will-breaking policies and surrender impositions of the KDP, they express the reality of a people who endured all kinds of difficulties in order not to surrender. In other words, there is a reality of a people whose will has been tested. They have built a waterless land like Maxmur, where the desert climate prevails, with their great belief in freedom and their unshakable will, and turned the place where they live into a paradise.

Our people in Maxmur know that their worship and obligations will be accepted by the Almighty, no matter where they are and under what circumstances, as long as their intentions are based on good and pure deeds. Everywhere is a place of worship when the struggle for rights and justice is being waged against injustice. The struggle against oppressors and hypocrites is the greatest of all acts of worship. The people of Maxmur have known these things for many years. Their struggle for freedom is also a struggle to protect and preserve the values of democratic Islam. In this sense, the bombing of their mosque can only hurt them as an attack on a sacred place. They know that it was Erdoğan and his cohorts, who pass themselves off as Muslims. With such an attack, the religious enmity of Erdoğan and his partners has once again revealed itself.

Erdoğan and his state, together with his partners, have proven that they do not recognize any values in their attacks on the people of Rojava, Maxmur and South Kurdistan [Northern Iraq]. For the sake of power, he does not hesitate to put all Islamic and humanitarian sacred values under his feet. It is developing genocidal attacks against the Kurds in Maxmur, against the Kurdish and Arab peoples in Rojava, and against all Christian, Alevi, Êzidî [Yazidi] and other peoples and beliefs living in North East Syria. Erdoğan, who never stops using such sacred terms as Allah, Islam, Quran, Prophet, Muslim brotherhood, denies the languages, cultures and different beliefs created by Allah by attacking democratic autonomy where all peoples and beliefs will live freely and imposing a state with a single identity. The Turkish Republic is practicing great cruelty by attacking women and children as well as attacking holy places. We call on Muslims of all ethnic identities, to take a stance against this enmity against religion, humanity and morality in a more organized and powerful way.

The reason why the AKP and all its partners corrupt religion and carry out genocidal attacks by using the words religion, Allah, prophet and Quran is the power they get from the lack of voices of the true religious people. For this reason, we call on Muslims from all peoples, all Muslims who believe with pure and clean

feelings, all scholars with conscience and morals to raise their voices against the genocide attacks. We call on Muslims, Alevis, Êzîdî youth and women of different faiths to participate more actively in the struggle for the physical freedom of the Leader of the Kurdish People. We call on everyone to fulfill their responsibilities for the period of work that will frustrate the conspiracy and build the free and democratic lives of the peoples of the region. We call on Muslim peoples to take a stance and show their attitude against these brutal genocide attacks.”

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Armed attack in Sulaymaniyah: The attacker, an alleged MIT officer, was killed

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 12 OCTOBER 2023

Sinan Demiryürek, who is stated to be an MIT officer in the town of Sengeser in the Pişder district of Raperîn, carried out an armed attack against a person from South Kurdistan on a motorcycle.

Alleged MIT member Demiryürek fired a gun at a person from South Kurdistan whose name was not known.

The seriously injured person killed the attacker with the gun he was carrying.

While the seriously injured citizen was taken to the hospital, it is understood from the documents and IDs obtained by Rojnes news agency that the attacker was born in Tokat in 1989 and has been residing in Sulaymaniyah for a while.

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‘Turkey is not building a border wall to keep out refugees, but to tear Kurdish society apart’

ANF | VAN | 12 OCTOBER 2023

The Turkish state is building a wall along its eastern border. Since 2018, the Turkish state has been building a huge bulwark along the 560-kilometre-long Turkish-Iranian border to prevent any uncontrolled border crossing. This wall separates the provinces and districts of Çaldıran-Van, Doğubeyazıt-Ağrı, Yüksekova-Hakkari in northern Kurdistan from eastern Kurdistan and is intended to break the connection between the parts of Kurdistan on Turkish and Iranian territory. So far, 185 kilometres of the wall have been completed. A three-meter high barbed wire is placed on the wall and trenches are dug around it.

The political project of the wall is clearly defined. The anti-Kurdish character of the bulwark is also shown by the fact that the border with Eastern Kurdistan (Iran) is completely walled in, while the 17-kilometre-

long border strip with Azerbaijan, which is closely allied with the Erdoğan regime, remains open. Turkey maintains trade relations with the autonomous region of Nakhichevan via the Dilucu border crossing. However, the Kapıköy and Esendere border crossings on the border with Eastern Kurdistan have been closed for many years and trade is strictly regulated.

Speaking to ANF about the effects of this policy, the chair of the Çev-Der environmental association in Van, Ali Kalçık, said : “Walls are being built in the mountains of Kurdistan, roads are being built in the forests for patrol and dams are being built in the valleys to cut regions off from each other. The valleys are being cut off from water. The main aim is to completely cut off relations between the Kurds and destroy nature there. They are interrupting the flow of life. There is no court in Turkey to which we can appeal, no judge who would object. All our complaints so far have been unsuccessful. Our people and the public need to be much more attentive.”

The borders that run through Kurdistan are artificial and were drawn between great powers. Turkey's eastern border largely runs along the eastern border of the Ottoman Empire, right through the middle of Kurdistan. While most of the borders through Kurdistan were only negotiated among the international powers in the Treaty of Lausanne or, before that, in the Sykes-Picot Agreement, this border was already established in the 1639 Treaty of Qasr-i Shirin after negotiations between the Ottoman Empire and the Safavid Empire, of course without involving the people of the region. Social networks remained in place, nomads migrated between the regions, and trade flourished between the villages on this side and the other side of the border. With the founding of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkification policy that accompanied it, the border began to become increasingly “hard”. Especially from the 1990s onward, the border strip was heavily fortified with military forts, and traffic between the regions became increasingly life-threatening. Finally, in recent years, it was almost only the load carriers, the kolbars, who dared to make their way over winding mountain paths. This often ended fatally, because both the Iranian border guards and the Turkish army repeatedly attacked the load carriers directly and killed them. Others fell into ravines and died. With the construction of the wall, entire regions, such as the plateau around Gever, are now simply cut through and passage is made virtually impossible.

Turkey cannot finance such a wall project on its own. Therefore, the AKP/MHP regime is taking advantage of the EU states' isolationist policies to have this wall financed. In 2022 alone, 1.235 billion euros flowed to Turkey as part of EU accession aid. Of this, 220 million euros were allocated under the item “Improvement of border controls on Turkey's eastern border”. The EU is thus indirectly financing a bulwark that is leading to more and more deaths of people on the run. More and more people freeze to death in the high mountains while fleeing, as they have to take increasingly dangerous escape routes due to the sealing off.

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HPG: 18 Turkish soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions

ANF | BEHDINAN | 12 OCTOBER 2023

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

cording to the statement on Thursday, 18 soldiers of the Turkish invading forces were killed in guerrilla actions, and four others were injured. The guerrillas shot down two drones loaded with explosives and destroyed two surveillance cameras installed by the Turkish army as well as three military tents and two positions. Two other positions were damaged in attacks. On the other hand, the Turkish army committed war crimes again and used banned explosives five times and chemical gases twice against guerrilla positions. In the Barzan region, troops were dropped from helicopters after massive bombardment. The guerrilla areas were bombed 27 times by fighter jets.

HPG gave the following details about the guerrilla actions and the attacks by the Turkish army:

Western Zap region (Şehîd Delîl)

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, two soldiers were killed on 11 October during attempted advances by the Turkish troops. Guerrillas of the Free Women's Troops (YJA Star) shot down a drone loaded with explosives on the same day. The drone and the explosives it was carrying were destroyed.

In the Girê Amêdî resistance area, a drone loaded with explosives was shot down and completely destroyed on 10 October. On Wednesday, two soldiers were killed and a position damaged in guerrilla strikes with semi-automatic weapons. Shortly before midnight, guerrilla snipers intervened against an attempted advance and killed four soldiers. Half an hour later, another soldier died from targeted fire.

Zap

In the resistance area of Saca, two soldiers were killed in an attack with semi-automatic weapons on Tuesday. On the same day, the guerrillas damaged an enemy position in the resistance area of Sîda in an attack with small arms. On Wednesday, the invading forces in Sîda were attacked with heavy weapons. At 7am today, YJA Star fighters attacked the occupying forces in Sîda with small arms.

Metîna

In the Girê Ortê resistance area, the occupation forces were struck by two flanks with assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons on Tuesday. Four soldiers were killed and two soldiers were injured, and a position and two tents were destroyed.

In the Girê Çarçel resistance area, guerrillas carried out a targeted attack with heavy weapons on Tuesday. On Wednesday, YJA Star guerrillas hit an enemy position with heavy weapons. The position was destroyed, two soldiers were killed and one soldier was wounded. On the same day, a military tent was struck with heavy weapons. Two soldiers were killed, the tent was destroyed.

Xakurkê

At Girê Şêxzade, two Turkish army surveillance cameras were destroyed by guerrillas on Tuesday.

Barzan

The Turkish army bombarded the Barzan region from the air and on the ground on 7, 8 and 9 October. On 8 October, troops were dropped from transport helicopters after the bombardment by attack helicopters.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army used prohibited explosives four times and chemical gases twice against guerrilla positions on Girê Ortê on 10 October. Positions on Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî were attacked eleven times with explosive-laden drones and once with prohibited explosives on 10 and 11 October.

The Barzan region was bombed nine times by fighter jets from 7 to 9 October. The Şehîd Bager area in Avaşîn was hit nine times by fighter jets on 10 October. On 11 October, the Ava Lolanê area in Xakurke was bombed twice and the Zap region seven times by fighter jets. The western Zap region, Metîna and Barzan were shelled by attack helicopters on 10 and 11 October. Artillery attacks were carried out in the Zap, West Zap, Xakurkê, Metîna and Barzan regions.

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SDF hits bases in the Turkish occupied zone of northern Syria

ANF | HESEKE | 13 OCTOBER 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) continued their retaliatory attacks against Turkish bases in the occupied areas of Rojava.

As the SDF press office announced on Thursday, its units recently attacked two bases in the area surrounding the district of Ain Issa. At least one soldier was killed and four other soldiers were reportedly injured. It is also said that the Turkish army's armaments were destroyed.

The SDF's retaliatory strikes targeted bases near the towns of Dibis and Seyda. Both villages are close to the line of contact with the town of Girê Spî (Tall Abyad) further north, which, like Serêkaniyê, was occupied by Turkey and its jihadist allies in October 2019.

According to the SDF, the attack near Seyda resulted in the death of one soldier and a second was injured. In addition, the base's radar system, camera surveillance system and a watchtower were destroyed. The attack on the base near Dibis left three soldiers injured, in addition to an unknown number of occupiers killed. "In addition, an armored vehicle and fortifications were effectively targeted," said the SDF.

The SDF's retaliatory strikes against Turkish bases come in response to Turkey's deadly airstrikes in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria, particularly the 29 members of the Asayîş security agency who were killed in bombings of their operations center in Dêrik (Al-Malikiya) on Sunday night.

According to SDF information, the retaliatory attacks carried out near Ain Issa took place on October 9th and 10th - on the anniversary of the start of the Turkish jihadist war of aggression against Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî.



KCK: The Palestinian and Kurdish question can only be solved by overcoming the nation-state mentality

ANF | BEHDINAN | 13 OCTOBER 2023

In view of the escalation in the Israel-Palestine conflict following the massive Hamas attack on Israel, in which thousands of civilians have been murdered or abducted, and the massive Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, in which countless civilians are also dying, the Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council calls for an immediate end to the clashes. According to the KCK, the conflict shows how important the model of democratic confederalism proposed by Abdullah Öcalan is.

The KCK statement released on Friday includes the following:

“Thousands of people both from the Israeli and the Palestinian people have lost their lives in the attacks carried out by Hamas and the subsequent attacks launched by the Israeli state against the Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip. The mutual attacks resulted in a complete massacre. We are deeply concerned and sorrowful about this situation. As the Kurdish Freedom Movement, we would like to express our condolences to both the Palestinian Arab people and the Jewish people of Israel. Not only what has been done so far, but also the scenarios that are being talked about for the future are extremely worrying. These are extremely wrong attitudes that deepen the problems and result in the massacre of peoples. First of all, these attitudes should be abandoned immediately and attacks have to be stopped.

Just as Hamas' methods are wrong, the attitude of the Israeli state is also unacceptable. The Israeli state must end the attacks and blockade against Gaza and must not resort to violence against the Palestinian people in any way.

The Palestinian problem cannot be solved through violence, but through democracy and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. The violent approach will only deepen the problems. The bitter picture that has emerged in the last few days is the result of the Palestinian problem being pushed to an unsolvable situation. The cause of this is the problem itself. If one is truly disturbed by this situation, it is necessary to focus on the solution to the Palestinian question. Every step to be taken, every attitude to be taken without discussing the solution to the Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people will lead to the deepening of the problems. The hundred-year-old Palestinian question has proved this fact time and again.

The developments in Palestine and Israel have once again demonstrated the importance of an approach in the frame of a 'democratic nation' by Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] for the solution of the problems in the Middle East. The statist mentality is the root of the problems faced by society and humanity. From

history to the present day, as the statist mentality has developed, the problems have increased. The fact that the state was first born in the Middle East has a decisive role in the fact that the problems in the Middle East are so numerous and deep-rooted. On the other hand, the problems deepened even more with the transfer of the nation-state system developed by capitalist modernity to the Middle East. All the problems in the Middle East today, including the Kurdish question, stem from the nation-state mentality. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also rooted in the nation-state mentality. All the problems in the Middle East, especially the Kurdish question and the Palestinian question, can only be solved by overcoming the nation-state mentality. This is the only way to correct the wrong course in the Middle East.

If there is to be a real change in the Middle East, this can only be achieved by overcoming the nation-state mentality, by the development of Leader Apo's system of 'democratic nation' based on the coexistence, equal and common life of peoples and, on this basis, by the democratic solution of the problems of the Kurdish and Palestinian peoples. Problems cannot be solved by establishing more states, as is often said. On the contrary, problems can be solved by strengthening society, developing democracy, and developing a life according to the 'democratic nation' life based on the free, equal, democratic self-government and will of the peoples. This is how the problems of both the Jewish people and the Palestinian people can be solved.

Jerusalem, which is considered sacred by three religions, and the ancient Palestinian and Israeli geographies can best be lived in freedom and peace with this model. Otherwise, nation-state models inevitably lead to conflict, war and mutual destruction. This is best seen in Arab-Jewish reality. The only method to eliminate this confrontational and destructive dilemma is the approach of a 'democratic nation'.

The cause of the Palestinian people is legitimate and nothing can deny the legitimacy of this cause. As the Kurdish Freedom Movement, we always stand by the just cause of the Palestinian people. The solution to the Palestinian issue is as important as the Kurdish issue for the solution to problems and the development of democratization in the Middle East. The state of Israel must see this reality and, above all, recognize the existence and democratic will of the Palestinian people. The solution to the Palestinian question is a fundamental condition for all Middle Eastern peoples, especially the Jewish people, to live in freedom, security and peace. On the other hand, a correct and respectful approach to the historical dramas and genocides experienced by the Jewish people absolutely requires this. Without a solution to the Palestinian question, the Jewish people cannot feel at ease in their conscience and cannot condemn and eradicate the treatment they have been subjected to. We believe that the Jewish people have enough of this consciousness, wisdom and will. The Jewish people are one of the ancient peoples of the Middle East and has a very important place and contribution to the formation of Middle Eastern culture and sociality. Just like the Kurdish, Arab, Persian, Turkish, Aramaic, etc. peoples of the Middle East, the Jewish people have the right to live in the Middle East, in the ancient geography where they have historically lived.

The Turkish state and the AKP-MHP government do not approach the Palestinian issue sincerely and honestly. They object to it entirely as an issue that can be exploited. The fascist chief Tayyip Erdoğan approaches the Palestinian question with this understanding and tries to use it as a bargaining chip to carry out his policies of Kurdish genocide. This is the only reason why they are interested in the Palestinian question. Otherwise, they are definitely not wholeheartedly on the side of the Palestinian people. If the Turkish state and Tayyip Erdoğan were sincere in what they say, first of all, they would not approach the Kurds like this and they would solve the Kurdish question.

Just as one cannot be right and democratic in Israel without seeing and recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people, one cannot be right and democratic in Turkey without seeing the Kurdish reality, without recognizing the rights of the Kurdish people, and without supporting the struggle of the Kurdish people. In particular, one can never stand by the just cause of others. The approach to the Kurdish people and the Kurdish question in Turkey is like a litmus paper. It is absolutely impossible for those who look at the Kurds with dark faces or ignore the Kurds to approach others correctly and stand by them. If this is being attempted, then there is a great distortion and hypocritical lie. This is what the AKP-MHP government and Tayyip Erdoğan are doing. In his speech, Tayyip Erdoğan, on the one hand, supposedly says that the attacks of the state of Israel are unfair and condemns them. But on the other hand, in the same speech, he talks with hatred about how he will attack the Kurds even more and kill more Kurds. Isn't this hypocritical dishonesty and deceiving the world? These are definitely crocodile tears. How can one talk about what is happening in Gaza and the suffering of the Palestinian people when what is being done to Rojava is obvious and will continue? In the air strikes of the Turkish state against Rojava, the entire infrastructure system in the area was bombed. Dams, power plants, oil wells, supply depots and many other facilities were hit. Dozens of people lost their lives in these attacks.

Those who do this to the Kurdish people cannot be expected to be sincere towards the Palestinian people and their cause. On the other hand, those who do not raise their voices against the attacks and massacres of the state and the AKP-MHP government against the Kurds and Rojava, and those who see this as right and support it, cannot be in a real approach. The tears shed by these groups are nothing more than the crocodile tears shed by Tayyip Erdoğan. Maybe they are not aware of how they look, but everyone in the world except them knows very well how they look.”

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Occupation forces continue their attacks on northern Syria

ANF | 13 OCTOBER 2023

The invading Turkish army bombed the Afrin region on Friday, targeting the village of Soxanekê, which is located in the Sherawa district in south-eastern Afrin, which is not fully occupied by the Turkish state. A vineyard where workers were staying was hit in the attack which has reportedly not resulted in casualties. Reports are coming through of reconnaissance activity over Sherawa.

Earlier today, the Turkish forces and allied mercenaries shelled a post of the Syrian government troops in the village of Şêx Îsa (Ash Shaykh Isa), barely five kilometres east of the centre of Tel Rifat. Three soldiers were injured as a result of the attack, according to reports from the ground.

On the other hand, attacks by the occupation forces carried out further attacks on the centre of Tel Rifat district as well as the villages of Hirbil, Til Cican and Til Mediq in the south-east of the region. Reconnaissance flights are taking place in the skies above the region.

The formerly self-governing canton of Afrin has been occupied by Turkey since March 2018. Since the beginning of the attack two months earlier, which was contrary to international law, human rights violations and war crimes have been on the agenda in what was once the safest region in all of Syria.

In addition to a classic colonial policy, Turkey also practices a policy of ethnic cleansing, which has already driven hundreds of thousands of people from their ancestral settlement areas. The demographic shift in favour of Turkey and its Islamist invasion corps, crimes such as kidnappings, torture, extortion and murders, as well as continuous artillery attacks happen every day and with the de facto approval of the international community.

A large part of the former inhabitants of Afrin have settled in the neighbouring canton of Shehba. But even there, people are not safe from the aggression of the Turkish state and its Islamist militias.

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SDF strikes a Turkish base in Ain Issa

ANF | 13 OCTOBER 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) continue their legitimate operations in response to the Turkish occupation's aggressions and attacks against the people and areas in north and eastern Syria.

According to a statement published by the SDF Media Centre on Friday, SDF units conducted a targeted operation against a Turkish occupation base called Al-Mazraa in the countryside of Ain Issa on October 11.

"The number of Turkish soldier casualties remains unknown, along with the destruction of one tank and one military vehicle. Simultaneously, a military site belonging to the Turkish occupation was destroyed, including its camera surveillance system", said the SDF statement.

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HPG: 31 Turkish soldiers were killed in Zap and Xakurke

ANF | 13 OCTOBER 2023

The Press Office of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) reported that at least 31 members of the Turkish occupation forces have been killed in actions in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement on Friday, 29 members of the Turkish army were killed in a coordinated action by mobile guerrilla teams on the western front of Zap. Two other soldiers were killed in a sabotage action by YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) in Xakurke.

"The Turkish invading army has carried out intensive attacks in the past three years in order to achieve the aim of its occupation operation in Zap. Despite permanent bombardments of the Medya Defense Zones from the ground and from the air using all the war technology at its disposal, using prohibited explosives, chemical warfare agents and tactical bombs, and committing war crimes, the Turkish occupation army has

failed to achieve its goal. The Kurdistan Freedom Forces produced a selfless resistance with the spirit of Apoist sacrifice and successfully devoted themselves to the fighting style and tactics of the guerrilla of democratic modernity. They proved through their professional tunnel and movement warfare with mobile units that they could thwart any kind of attack and at the same time inflict heavy blows,” said the HPG statement.

The statement continued: “Especially in Zap, where the Turkish occupation army is stuck, several attempts of attack were answered by the guerrillas and repelled with effective measures. In a last unsuccessful attempt, the invaders used special forces on Thursday evening (12 October) to advance to the war tunnels in the Girê Cûdî resistance area. The occupiers worked their way in from three sides, but it remained an attempt that faced an effective response from the guerrillas. 29 attackers were punished and another four injured. The Turkish army, which suffered a heavy defeat, concealed its losses as usual and only acknowledged the death of a senior military officer.”

Regarding the details of the action, HPG explained that the soldiers involved in the attempted attack on the tunnel facility in the Girê Cûdî resistance area were struck from several wings.

Initially, mobile units with light small arms and sniper teams struck the first front of the invading forces at 21:30, killing 11 soldiers and injuring 4 others.

At 21:40, guerrillas targeted the other two fronts of the advance attempt, which consisted of 16 occupants in total. In addition to guerrilla rifles, hand grenades were also used in the assault, and none of the soldiers survived. The Turkish units that started to move after the strikes by the guerrillas were again targeted by the sniper units and two more soldiers were killed.

HPG stated that the Turkish army reacted to the heavy losses with massive bombardments of the battle area by helicopters before evacuating its casualties from Girê Cûdî.

YJA Star action in Xakurke

In the Xakurke region, two soldiers were killed as YJA Star guerrillas carried out a sabotage action on 9 October targeting the Turkish units moving between the Girê Şehîd Axîn and Girê Şehîd Şahan areas.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Regarding the attacks of the Turkish army on the guerrilla areas in southern Kurdistan, HPG stated that Girê Çarçel in Metîna was bombed twice on 11-12 October with prohibited explosives and with drones which were also loaded with prohibited explosives. The Turkish army also carried out six attacks with drones loaded with prohibited explosives in Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdî on 12 October. On the same day, HPG recorded four airstrikes by fighter jets and several helicopter attacks on the western front of Zap, Xakurke and parts of Metîna. Tank and artillery attacks by Turkish ground forces targeted the regions of Zap, Şehîd Delîl Western Zap, Xakurkê and Metîna.

14 areas in Şirnak declared “Temporary Special Security Zone” for 15 days

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 14 OCTOBER 2023

Şirnak Governorship announced that 14 areas including Şirnak center, Cizîr (Cizre), Silopiya (Silopi), Qileban (Uludere), Basa (Güçlükönak) and Elkê (Beytüşşebap) were declared “Temporary Special Security Zone” for two weeks.

The statement said that “Cûdî Mountain Region, Bestler Dereler Region, Kurt Mountain Region, Kureşin Region, Karaçalı T. Region, Kel Mehmet D. Region, Serin V. Region, 2088 Rk T. Region, Küçük Su Y. Region, Gabar Mountain Region, "Altın Mountain Region, İncebel Mountain Region, Oymakaya Region, Tanin Region have been declared 'Temporary Special Security Zone' between 13 October (included) 2023 and 27 October (included) 2023.”

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5 Turkish soldiers and 2 mercenaries killed in HRE actions

ANF | 14 OCTOBER 2023

In a statement on Saturday, the Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) announced that several members of the Turkish army and allied mercenaries were killed and wounded.

“The Turkish state continues its extermination attacks on our territories as part of its occupation policy. We are responding to these attacks on the basis of our right to self-defence,” said the HRE.

According to the HRE statement, one soldier of the Turkish occupation forces was killed in an action in al-Bab on 9 October. Three mercenaries were wounded, and one vehicle was destroyed during the course of the action.

On 11 October, HRE fighters targeted the Dabiq base in Azaz, where three soldiers were killed and four soldiers were wounded, and a military vehicle was destroyed.

On the same day, HRE fighters repelled an attack by the paramilitary Sultan Murad Brigade on the village of Medyona in Shehba, and three jihadists were wounded.

On 12 October, HRE units carried out an action against a Turkish base in Azaz, killing one soldier and wounding another.

On the same day, a mercenary was killed in a sniper attack in Azaz. In the village of Enabê in Afrin's Shera district, two soldiers were injured in an action that targeted a Turkish base.

“In total, five soldiers of the Turkish occupation forces and two gang members were killed, eight soldiers and six gang members were wounded, two military vehicles were destroyed in the actions against the occupiers. Our actions will continue as long as the attacks aimed at genocide and annihilation continue,” HRE said.

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HPG: 10 Turkish soldiers were killed in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 14 OCTOBER 2023

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

According to the HPG Press Center statement on Wednesday, Turkish attacks on guerrilla areas continue, facing effective response from the guerrillas.

HPG detailed the latest actions by the guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army as follows:

Şehîd Delîl Western front in the Zap region

On 13 October, two soldiers were killed as a result of strikes by guerrilla snipers in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area.

On 13 October, YJA Star guerrillas intervened twice against helicopter activity in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area.

On 13 October, two soldiers were killed as guerrillas struck the occupation forces with medium automatic rifles in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area.

On 14 October, guerrillas hit the occupation forces in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area with medium automatic rifles, and five soldiers were killed. The Turkish forces used smoke bombs to prevent further losses in their ranks.

Zap region

On 13 October, one soldier conducting surveillance activity was killed by a YJA Star sniper in Sîda Resistance Area.

Attacks by the Turkish army

On 13 October, the battle positions in Sîda Resistance Area in Zap were bombed with prohibited explosives.

On 12-13 October, the battle positions in Girê Çarçel Resistance Area were bombed twice with drones loaded with explosives.

On 13 October, the battle positions in the resistance areas of Şehîd Delîl, Girê Cûdî and Girê Amediyê were bombed eight times with drones loaded with explosives and once with prohibited explosives.

On 13 October, Turkish fighter jets carried out six strikes on the area of Şehîd Îbrahîm in Zap, and the areas of bölgesinin Şehîd Şerîf and Kendakola in Xakurkê.

On 13 October, the regions of Zap, Şehîd Delîl and Metîna were shelled by attack helicopters. The same areas, as well as Xakurke, were also targeted by artillery attacks.

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Feminicide

Syrian Democratic Council calls for international investigation into the killing of Hevrîn Xelef

ANF | 13 OCTOBER 2023

The Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) called for an international investigation and punishment into the murder of Hevrîn Xelef. The body said on Thursday that it has so far been waiting in vain for justice for the Kurdish politician, who was seen as the beacon of hope for a diverse, democratic Syria.

Hevrîn Xelef was Secretary General of the Syrian Future Party (Hizbul Suri Mustakbel), which is guided by a grassroots democratic initiative principle. On October 12, 2019, the 34-year-old was killed along with her driver near Qamişlo as part of a war of aggression by Turkey. The MSD calls for action by the international judiciary and criticizes that investigations by the International Criminal Court (ICC) into the case are long overdue. The organization emphasizes that the murder of Xelef constitutes a war crime and a particularly brutal femicide.

Members of the so-called “123 Battalion” of “Ahrar al-Sharqiya” were responsible for the murder of Hevrîn Xelef (also spelled Hevrin Khalaf). The jihadist militia belongs to the SNA (Syrian National Army) - a coalition of reactionary, Islamist and fundamentalist militias that is paid, equipped and trained by Ankara and, as a proxy force of the Turkish NATO partner, maintains the occupation of parts of northern and northwestern Syria.

A medical report available to ANF lists numerous injuries inflicted on Xelef by the SNA jihadists. She had multiple gunshot wounds to her head, face and back and had broken bones in her face, skull and legs. Her

scalp was partially peeled off because her hair had been pulled. According to the results of the autopsy, she must have still been alive when she was mutilated. Even after her death, her body was violated.

MSD: Justice for all victims of the Turkish occupation and its war crimes

“In addition to Hevrîn Xelef, the MSD also called for justice for all other victims of the Turkish occupation and its wars in Syria,” the MSD said.

The body also called for a comprehensive system to prosecute human rights violations and war crimes in the region, including the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to prosecute perpetrators, avoid impunity, compensate victims and prevent further abuses by Turkey and its allies. “Of course, we also call on the international community, governments and parties to pay more attention to ending the Turkish occupation of Syrian territory and liberating Syria from the clutches of terrorists,” the MSD continued. This concern primarily includes the demand that Turkey and its partners be prosecuted for their crimes against the population of the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria, which have been ongoing since 2018, including the targeted destruction of infrastructure.

The UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria had already pointed out in a report in 2020 that Turkey should be prosecuted for war crimes in Rojava and that responsible commanders of the militias under the command and control of Turkish troops should also be prosecuted. For the report, the investigative commission conducted interviews with 233 affected people and collected, reviewed and analyzed satellite images, photos, videos and medical records. She also used data from governments, NGOs and the United Nations. Those who failed to take measures to prevent such crimes could also be liable. Nothing like that has happened yet.

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Many detained in police attack on Saturday Mothers in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 14 OCTOBER 2023

Turkish police once again violently prevented the weekly demonstration by Saturday Mothers in Galatasaray Square in Istanbul. For the 968th time since its foundation in 1995, the initiative wanted to make a statement on "disappearances" in state custody and demand punishment for the perpetrators on central Istiklal Avenue. As in previous weeks, the sit-in was prevented on the basis of a ban on assembly issued by the district governor's office at the instigation of the Ministry of Interior.

When the group nevertheless approached the square in front of the Galatasaray High School, which was cordoned off by barriers and bars, they were immediately surrounded by police anti-riot units. Among them was former HDP MP Musa Piroğlu, who has been confined to a wheelchair since an accident. However, the politician was taken to a separate cauldron. Using tactical shields, the police squeezed the rest of

the chained people close together. Members of the media who were observing the events were obstructed in their documentation of the police action and forcibly pushed out of the square.

Lawyer Eren Keskin, who is also co-chair of the Human Rights Association (IHD), criticised the actions of the police. She also criticised the security authorities for ignoring a ruling by the Constitutional Court by banning the Saturday Mothers' vigil. Turkey's highest court had ruled in February that the bans on demonstrations against the initiative ordered since 2018 were unlawful and rejected objections by the Interior Ministry, which justified the restrictions on freedom of assembly and demonstration by claiming that the Saturday Mothers posed a threat to public order. Since April, the group's vigils have therefore again taken place on İstiklal Avenue instead of in a small side street in front of the IHD branch. The police ignore the Constitutional Court's ruling and break up the protest week after week.

Human rights activist Maside Ocak Kışlakçı, who was successful with the constitutional complaint in favour of the Saturday Mothers, said the following under police siege: "Decisions of Turkey's highest court are binding on all organs of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, and non-compliance with constitutional provisions is a serious violation of the principle of the rule of law and the constitutional order on which this principle is based. Yet, for the past six months, we have repeatedly observed that the security authorities of this country disregard the Basic Law and declare decisions of the Constitutional Court null and void. This is a picture of shame."

At least 24 members and supporters of the Saturday Mothers were detained by the police and taken to a nearby police station. Among them are 71-year-old Hanife Yıldız, whose son Murat disappeared in police custody in İzmir in 1995 at the age of nineteen, and 72-year-old Mikail Kırbayır, whose brother Cemil was tortured to death by the military junta in 1980. The detainees are facing charges for allegedly violating official regulations.

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Kongra Star remembers Hevrîn Xelef

ANF | 14 OCTOBER 2023

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A medical report available to ANF lists numerous injuries inflicted on Xelef by the SNA jihadists. She had multiple gunshot wounds to her head, face and back and had broken bones in her face, skull and legs. Her

scalp was partially peeled off because her hair had been pulled. According to the results of the autopsy, she must have still been alive when she was mutilated. Even after her death, her body was violated.

On the fourth anniversary of her murder, the Kurdish politician was remembered by Kongra Star, the women's umbrella organisation in North-East Syria.

Kongra Star also paid tribute to Eqîde Eli Osman (Mother Eqîde), a 53-year-old woman who died in a Turkish attack on a civilian convoy heading to Serêkaniyê on 13 October, 2019. The attack resulted in 11 dead and 74 wounded.

The Kongra Star Assembly denounced the ongoing attacks on North-East Syria by the Turkish state, which, it said, employed brutal methods and banned weapons in its genocidal campaign marked by barbaric aggressions.

Kongra Star pointed out that the Turkish state committed war crimes through its forced displacement of people from Serêkaniyê, Girê Spî and Afrin, changing of the demography of the region, constant occupation and extermination attacks that also target the civilian infrastructure. The organisation said that through these attacks, the Turkish state seeks to revive ISIS, which was defeated thanks to a selfless struggle by the people and military forces of North-East Syria.

Kongra Star called on the people and women's organisations to enhance the struggle against the genocidal campaigns and policies directed against the regions of North-East Syria.

Hevrin Khalaf

Havrin Khalaf was born in 1984 in Dêrik city in northern Syria. She grew up as a child in a socially and politically engaged family. Four of her brothers and Havrin's sister, Zozan, joined the liberation struggle and fell in the ranks of the Kurdish freedom movement.

Her mother Sûad participated in many popular assemblies of Abdullah Öcalan. What she learned here also had a great influence on the education and personality development of Havrin. After completing her education in Dêrik, Havrin studied agronomy in Aleppo. After completing her studies, she returned to Dêrik. With the beginning of the revolution in Rojava, Havrin participated in the struggle for freedom and in the work of the youth movement. A short time later, she began organizing civil society development activities and took on senior roles in the Qamishlo Economic Council. With the proclamation of the Democratic Autonomous Administration, she took over responsibility as deputy co-chairperson of the Energy Committee of the Democratic Self-Government in the Canton of Cizîre. In 2015, she played an important role in improving and strengthening the energy supply and economic work in the canton of Cizîre.

Her work paid particular attention to the economic needs of women and the development of women's economics. In 2018, Havrin participated in the process of setting up and founding the Syrian Future Party with the aim of advocating for the interests of all Syrian population groups and a democratic renewal of Syria. At the founding of the Syrian Future Party on March 27, 2018 in Raqqa, she was selflessly committed to the task of Secretary General. Speaking on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the popular uprising in Syria, Havrin expressed her conviction that the political crisis in Syria cannot be resolved by war.

She said, “Eight years have passed. The popular uprisings against the crisis and the struggle of the peoples of Syria have been widely sacrificed and turned into a war. The ongoing crisis in Syria, which is the reason for the displacement and murder of the population, cannot be settled without a political solution.”

In each of her speeches, Havrin emphasized the importance of dialogue among the various Syrian political forces and communities. She insisted that the peoples should determine their own future and shape their own political and social life together. Through her political struggle, Havrin called on all circles of society and political actors to participate in a democratic solution to the crisis in Syria.

With the beginning of the Turkish occupation war against the territories of the Democratic Autonomous Administration in northern and eastern Syria on October 9, 2019, Havrin resolutely continued her political struggle. In an ambush by members of a jihadist killer gang allied with Turkey, she was executed.

Havrin Khalaf has played an unforgettable role in the women's revolution of Rojava and the community of peoples with her life and work. To commemorate her is to defend more resolutely than ever the women's revolution in northern and eastern Syria and to continue her sparks in all the countries of the Middle East and the world.

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Human Rights Violations

HDP İzmir and Buca co-chairs sent to prison

ANF | İZMİR | 10 OCTOBER 2023

The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) İzmir provincial co-chairs Berna Çelik, Çınar Altan and HDP Buca district co-chair Nihat Türk, who were taken into custody during a police raid in İzmir on the morning of 6 October, were sent to the courthouse after their statements were taken at the police station on Monday.

The co-chairs were accused of “membership in an illegal organization” and were asked questions about the press statements and events they attended.

The co-chairs, who were first taken to the hospital after their statements to the police, were kept handcuffed inside the courthouse for hours.

The co-chairs were then brought to the İzmir Courthouse in Bayraklı and after their statements to the prosecutor's office, they were referred to the court with a request for arrest. HDP İzmir provincial co-chairs Berna Çelik and Çınar Altan, who appeared before the İzmir Criminal Court of Peace, were remanded in custody on the allegation of “membership in an illegal organisation”.

After the arrest decision of Altan and Çelik, a protest was held in the courthouse corridors with applause and chants.

HDP Buca district co-chair Nihat Türk was also remanded in custody after giving his statement at the Magistrate's Office.

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DBP Vice Co-Chair imprisoned in Amed

ANF | AMED | 10 OCTOBER 2023

The Vice Co-Chair of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), Zekiye İlbasan, was subjected to violence and taken into custody during the police crackdown on a demonstration staged in Amed (Diyarbakır) on 9 October in protest at the international conspiracy against Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, which began with his forced departure from Syria on 9 October 1998.

The Kurdish politician was referred to court today and remanded in custody for "resisting the police". She was then taken to the Women's Closed Prison in the city.

In a statement on X, DBP defined the arrest of İlbasan as an attempt of political annihilation directed against the determination of their action.

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Police attack protest of construction workers

ANF | ISTANBUL | 11 OCTOBER 2023

Six construction workers working at the Finance Central Bank Construction Site affiliated with Limak Holding carried out a protest by blocking the entrance to the construction site because they could not receive severance pay and overtime.

The protest of the workers organized by the Construction Workers Union (İnşaat İş), Devrimci Yapı, Construction and Road Union (Dev Yapı İş) was attacked by private security guards at the construction site, and the police were called.

Yunus Özgür, General Secretary of the Construction Workers' Union, told the police that their rights were usurped and their action was legitimate.

The workers were dragged to the ground and taken into custody.

Among those detained are six construction workers, as well as Dev Yapı İş General Secretary Nihat Demir and Construction Workers Union General Secretary Yunus Özgür.

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At least 31 people detained in 9 cities

ANF | 11 OCTOBER 2023

Mass detentions continue in Turkey after the attack in Ankara on 1 October. According to the Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya, more people were taken into custody in Urfa, Mardin, Van, Adiyaman, Izmir, Isparta, Malatya and Manisa on Wednesday. They are accused of being members of a terrorist organisation or of supporting, propagandising or financing it.

Four people were detained during house searches in the districts of Lice and Yenişehir in Amed (Diyarbakir). In the neighborhood of Kayacık in Lice, Velat Yalçın and the brothers Mustafa and Yahfur Çelik were taken into custody for supporting the PKK. The number of detentions is expected to increase. In Yenişehir, Fuat Yalçın, a former HDP member of Yenişehir City Council, was detained on the same charge.

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4-day ban on activities in Dersim

ANF | DERSIM | 12 OCTOBER 2023

The Tunceli Governorship announced that it imposed a 4-day ban on demonstrations and events in Dersim.

In the statement, the Governor said that statements made in open and closed places within the scope of the freedom to express and spread ideas are among the fundamental rights and freedoms, but noted that they could be banned when deemed necessary.

The statement added that the prohibition will begin at 00.01 on 12/10/2023 and end at 23.59 on 15/10/2023.

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9 detained in Muş as police attack demo against Turkish attacks on North-East Syria

ANF | MUŞ | 12 OCTOBER 2023

The Green Left Party Youth Assembly organized a demonstration in Muş province in Northern Kurdistan in protest at the Turkish attacks against North-East Syria.

The police prevented demonstrators from making a press statement at Kobanê Square, citing a ban by the governor's office. The crowd was surrounded and attacked by the police, and 9 people were taken into custody.

Those detained include DBP (Democratic Regions Party) Muş provincial co-chair Selamettin Yılmaz, HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) provincial co-chair Bermal Nergiz, Green Left Party Executive Board member İbrahim Boz, HDP provincial board members Çiçek Tutuş, Ömer Koç and Ümit Göktürk, Youth Assembly member Maruf Çelikel.

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Police in Ankara take at least 20 people including lawyers into custody

ANF | ANKARA | 13 OCTOBER 2023

As part of an investigation launched by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, many houses were raided in the morning.

The police detained at least 20 people, including Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Ankara Branch President Bilgi Topçu and its members Ceren Yılmaz and Fatih Gökçe.

The reason for the investigation was not disclosed. Those detained were taken to Ankara Police Department.

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Kurdish man sentenced to ten years imprisonment for applauding at rally in Hakkari

ANF | HAKKARI | 13 OCTOBER 2023

Kurdish citizen İlhan Kaynak has already spent eight years in prison for a 2015 rally in Hakkari. Although the Constitutional Court overturned the sentence on 6 June 2023 as a “violation of the law” and stopped the execution, the case was reopened and Kaynak was sentenced to ten years in prison for “committing a crime on behalf of an illegal organisation without being a member of the organisation” and “public incitement to commit a crime”. The basis for this trial is solely the fact that he applauded at the rally to promote the self-government of Kurdish cities. Now he has been sentenced again for the same “offence”.

Commenting on the case, Kaynak’s lawyer Servet Özkan stated: “In 2019, when the court’s decision was confirmed by the Court of Cassation and became final, we filed an individual application with the Constitutional Court. The right to a fair trial for our client was violated by the local courts during the trial, as the trial was held exclusively by video, without our client ever appearing in court in person. Since 5 November 2015, we have demanded the lifting of the detention and the release of our client. The court granted our request and decided to release our client on 6 June 2023. Regrettably, the 2nd Heavy Penal Court of Hakkari broke the law and made the same decision as the local court.”

The lawyer pointed out that: “There is no longer an independent judiciary in Turkey anyway. We have seen this again here. The local courts have made it their business to permanently disregard the constitution and override the rulings of the Constitutional Court. There is a peculiarity here. My client was convicted of two separate offences just for participating in a press statement and applauding. Although the Constitutional Court speaks of violations of the law, the local court unfortunately ignored this decision.”

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Kobanê Trial to continue on Monday with new hearing

ANF | ANKARA | 14 OCTOBER 2023

A new hearing in the Kobanê Trial will take place on Monday. At Friday’s hearing, attention was drawn to the unlawfulness of the case.

Lawyer Çiğdem Kozan emphasized that her client Ayla Akat Ata was wiretapped illegally while she was an MP, and that the prosecutors and judges who decided to wiretap statements that did not contain criminal elements were dismissed on the grounds that they were FETO members.

The last session of the 36th hearing of the Kobanê Case, in which 108 politicians, 18 of whom are imprisoned, are under trial, was held on Friday.

Politician Ayla Akat Ata attended the trial held by Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court in the courtroom on Sincan Prison Campus. Sebahat Tuncel and Lawyers Association for Freedom (ÖHD) lawyers also attended.

Figen Yüksekdağ was also connected to the hearing via Audio and Video Information System (SEGBİS).

The court adjourned the hearing until Monday at 10 am.

The Kobanê Case

The Kobanê Case was filed in 2020 against 108 people, including the HDP's former co-chairs, Mr Selahattin Demirtaş and Ms Figen Yüksekdağ, current co-chair Ms Pervin Buldan, several current and former HDP deputies and mayors, and all the members of the HDP's Central Executive Board of 2014.

This case was launched as a counter move by the Turkish government just two weeks after the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights made its final judgment demanding the immediate release of Selahattin Demirtaş. The indictment in the Kobanê Case is based on a Twitter message posted by the HDP on 6 October 2014. This called for democratic protests in solidarity with the people of Kobanê, the Kurdish town in Northern Syria that was fighting against the attacks of ISIS, and also against Turkey's embargo on the town. The prosecutor is calling for all the defendants to be given aggravated life sentences (without parole) 38 times for the crimes of "destroying the unity of the state and the integrity of the country" and "premeditated murder" of the people who lost their lives in the Kobanê protests. Seventeen politicians are currently being held in pre-trial detention for this case.

The Kobanê case is closely linked with the closure case filed against the HDP, for which it serves as a pretext. In the closure case, the prosecution is mainly based on the alleged role and responsibility of the HDP in the murders that occurred during the Kobanê protests in 2014.



Police detain people following raids on containers in Hatay

ANF | HATAY | 14 OCTOBER 2023

This morning, the police raided the containers housing earthquake victims in Defne, in Hatay. It was stated that the goods inside the containers were scattered and the container doors were destroyed during the raids.

Many people, including Human Rights Association (IHD) Hatay Branch Board Member Salman Altınöz, were taken into custody during the raids. The detainees were handcuffed behind their backs and beaten.

In addition, the police raided Eğitim Sen Samandağ Branch in Samandağ, as well as some containers. A number of people were taken into custody.



15 European youths detained in Urfa and sent to Repatriation Center

ANF | 14 OCTOBER 2023

Fifteen young people who came to Turkey from different European countries to attend the congress of the Greens and Left Future Party (Green Left Party) in Ankara on October 15 were taken into custody in Urfa on 12 October during a demonstration against the Turkish state's ongoing genocidal campaign against North-East Syria, according to the Mezopotamya agency (MA).

According to MA, the detained European activists have been sent to the Repatriation Center today. Their names are as follows: Ariel Castagnieri, Federico Pastoris, Francesca Fabozzi, Luigi Botta, Lucia Troiani, Caroline Förster, Marin Nathan Gutierrez, Friederike Gilhaus, Kim Aileen Utsch, Thao My Nguyen, Fridolin Wagner, Laura Schölzel, Sarah Marisa Baecker, Marvin Brinkmann, and Taraneh Sanaei Parvar.

Before being sent to the Repatriation Center, the group was initially taken to the Emin Çavuş Police Station in the Haliliye district. They were kept in police vehicles with their hands cuffed behind their backs for three hours.

The activists reportedly filed complaints against the police officers who allegedly used violence against them during their statements at the police station. Ariel Castagnieri claimed that a police officer stole his gold necklace during the onslaught.

Caroline Förster stated that the police officers who assaulted her caused her injury by removing the glucose monitoring device from her arm.



Interview

Kalkan: The Imrali system was created to continue the international conspiracy

ANF | BEHDINAN | 9 OCTOBER 2023

In this extensive analysis, Duran Kalkan, a member of the KCK Executive Council, writes about the international conspiracy of 9 October 1998. Kalkan also writes about the interconnection between the conspiracy, the Imrali system and the approach of capitalist modernity to prevent a solution to the so-called 'Kurdish question'.

Kalkan opens up the historical context of the conspiracy and points out, that the mentality of genocide within the Turkish state, not only affects the Kurdish people, but also the Armenian, Greek and Assyrian people.

On the occasion of the historical international conspiracy against Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] that started on October 9, 1998 and the 25th anniversary of the great struggle against this conspiracy, I will try to evaluate some essential aspects. Undoubtedly, these issues have been evaluated a lot. Rêber Apo himself has made the most comprehensive and concrete statements. However, it may be useful for those who are interested and want to understand the subject better to summarize them in connection with each other and in a holistic manner.

In this context, first of all, I would like to salute the architect of the resistance against the Imrali system, Rêber Apo, and all those who joined him in this struggle. I would also like to salute those who have been resisting the international conspiracy for 25 years with the slogan "You cannot darken our sun" and who managed to form a ring of fire around Rêber Apo. Also, I would like to respectfully commemorate all heroic martyrs that struggled for the aim of destroying the Imrali system with love and gratitude.

Again undoubtedly, the most accurate and deep understanding of Rêber Apo's reality is through understanding his resistance. In order to understand the Imrali resistance correctly, it is necessary to understand the Imrali system correctly. Therefore, in order to understand the characteristics of the resistance correctly and adequately, it is necessary to understand the power against the resistance, that is, the Imrali system.

It is very well known, that the Imrali system was created to continue the international conspiracy. When the international conspiracy could not succeed with other methods, it materialized as the system of Imrali, and torture, isolation and genocide were integrated. This is now continuing for 25 years. Of course, the international conspiracy attack is also connected to the realization and execution of the so-called "Kurdish question". In other words, it can be stated that it is a method of attack that was created to prevent the solution of the "Kurdish question", to perpetuate it. In this respect, it is necessary to understand the so-called "Kurdish question" correctly. It is very well known, that the division of Kurdistan into four parts is the placing of the Kurdish people under a severe colonialist, genocidal system of oppression, exploitation

and extermination. The “Kurdish question” means the existence and aggression of a genocidal mentality and politics that denies the existence of the Kurdish people and sets out to destroy them.

‘What kind of logic is this?’, ‘What kind of mentality is this?’, ‘What does it mean?’ It is necessary to be able to answer these questions. When the problem is considered in this way, it can clearly be defined as a genocide. It is the mentality, politics, attack and logic of destroying all others for its own existence. This should be considered a crime against humanity, as the right to life for anyone other than itself is not accepted. The oppressors only assume themselves, they see themselves as sovereign, they try to take everything for them and they see it as their right to destroy others in the name of their own existence. But they are still talking about democracy, brotherhood or humanity. Now that really is the face of genocide.

If an eye is thrown at the rulers of the Turkish state, it can easily be seen which kind of racist, fascist, colonialist, chauvinist ideology has been given to society by the administration. They insult, attack and curse everything except Turkishness. Therefore, they not only deny the Kurdish existence, they try to destroy it. They say that everything must be destroyed for Turkish existence. As a matter of fact, they attribute the history, languages, cultures and mosaic of peoples such as Anatolia and Mesopotamia to Turkishness only, as one language, one nation, one state. They say that everyone who is not Turkish must either die or become Turkish. They do not leave open any third way and say that there is no possibility, no opportunity for life other than Turkishness.

It can also be said that this is not only an attack on the Kurds, but for more than a hundred years they have been directing such a genocidal attack on the Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians; in other words, on all these languages, cultures, peoples and realities that Anatolia and Mesopotamia have produced for thousands of years.

Still, there is a difference between the genocidal attack against other peoples and the one against the Kurds. The difference is, that the Turkish state does not deny their identity. They physically destroy them, exile them, but they accept their identities. But they do not recognize the Kurdish identity. They impose a very extreme assimilation, cultural genocide. At the center of the genocide imposed on Kurds is cultural genocide. They consider Kurdishness as Turkish, they say it will become Turkish. They see it as the raw material for Turkish nationalization. They aim to create a Turkish nation by destroying Kurdishness. Such a mentality and such a politics is unique in the world.

There have been attacks based on this ideology for more than two centuries. But in the first quarter of the 20th century, the conflicts that followed the First World War and the ‘Kurdish decision’ that was finally brought about by the Treaty of Lausanne on July 24, 1923. It was an agreement between mainly Britain, France and the Turkish state, and other states accepted it. The League of Nations of that time, and the League of Nations after the Second World War, accepted this mentality and policy as it was. The global system of capitalist modernity that materialized in the Turkish State, the League of Nations and the United Nations was formed on the basis of Kurdish genocide. Not only Kurdish, but genocidal mentality and politics in general.

They have been attacking and trying to crush all forms of resistance ever since. The most comprehensive stand against these developed with the struggle, effort, organization and action of Rêber Apo. His approach is completely against such a colonialist, genocidal mentality and politics. It is an approach that

aims to destroy this mentality from history, and to replace it with an understanding of the democratic nation, a mentality and politics that envisioned siblinghood, living side by side freely and equally.

At the very beginning of the 1970s, they wanted to prevent this approach of Rêber Apo, but they failed. On September 12, 1980, they tried to prevent the further spread of it with the fascist military coup; they also failed. Later, they tried to crush and prevent this development with the 1987 State of Emergency rule; and they failed at that too. They could not crush nor the guerrilla, nor the Kurdish people as a whole. Finally, they saw the ceasefire declaration of September 1, 1998 as a pretext of opportunity for themselves, and on the basis of actively involving the South Kurdish [North Iraqi] administration in this work, they launched the aforementioned international conspiracy attack aiming at the destruction of Rêber Apo on October 9, 1998. In other words, the international conspiracy attack was a plan to bring the Kurdish genocide to success.

As a result of the failure to crush the emergence of the Rêber Apo, the development of the PKK, the resistance of the guerrilla, and the failure to eliminate the Kurdish people's resistance, this attack was planned and carried out with a strategy directly aimed at the destruction of Rêber Apo. Based on this, it was to liquidate the PKK, and based on these, it was to complete the Kurdish genocide. It was to bring the cultural genocide in Kurdistan to bring it to a conclusion, thus solving the 'Kurdish question' by destroying Kurdishness and achieving genocide. This was how they would secure the world system, the world system built on genocide. They were aiming to this exterminate in one day, and now 25 years have passed. They are still attacking for the same purpose, but they have failed. They attacked Rêber Apo on this basis for more than four months. When they saw, that they have failed again, this time they brought about the conspiracy of February 15. In other words, they wanted to abduct Rêber Apo with a conspiratorial plan and hand him over to Turkey, take him to the Imrali isolation system and execute him. All this was done by the global system that created the 'Kurdish question' at the beginning. In other words, England and France, as the victors of the First World War, started this. America was added to this, and also Israel was added. The US administration put the conspiracy finally into practice. In fact, the American society needs to hold the current administration to account. But there is no such questioning and consciousness in this society. And the current state can do what it wants because of this.

In the end, when they failed with the execution, this time they turned the Imrali system, into a system of torture, isolation and genocide aimed at the ideological and political defeat of Rêber Apo by placing him under complete isolation, which they call the policy of decay. It can be said, that they have also lost in the Imrali struggle. In the most difficult conditions, in an environment where there were no opportunities at all, Rêber Apo researched, analyzed, evaluated, questioned, and produced new ideas. Just as he frustrated extermination and execution, he also frustrated the policy of decay. With his paradigm shift, he showed the path to liberation for all the oppressed. He revealed the democratic nation solution to the 'Kurdish question' and concretized it on a theoretically, as well as on an ideological and political level. He created it as a concrete strategic and tactical planning.

Upon this, they increased the pressure even more and applied many tricks and methods of oppression within the Imrali system. But in the end, none of them succeeded. Rêber Apo managed to evolve thoughts under the most difficult conditions. With the scarcest means, he managed to put his thoughts in writing and deliver them to all humanity. Thus he broke the walls of Imrali. He realized a paradigm shift and revealed methods for a democratic solution. Methods against all social problems created by the five thousand years of power and state system, especially for the 'Kurdish question' and the women's oppression.

Rêber Apo appropriated these for all humanity. He shattered the Imrali system of torture, isolation and genocide. He shattered the walls of Imrali as everyone is discussing Rêber Apo everywhere. Rêber Apo once said; "I am wherever my prison writings are." Now his writings can be found everywhere, so also Rêber Apo can be found everywhere.

The international conspirators still insist on carrying out the Kurdish genocide. They are stubborn. They are mobilizing all their means here. They are afraid that if the 'Kurdish question' is solved, that what they have done will be judged. They are afraid of being held accountable before history. They are afraid that they will be thrown into the wastebasket of history. Because that is what they see in the solution of the 'Kurdish question'. The genocidal mentality and politics, which has been directed against the 'Kurdish question', the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek peoples for more than a century, sees its own death in Kurdish freedom, in the solution of the 'Kurdish question'. That is why they are doing everything to prevent the solution of the problem, to prevent democratization, to further develop and support the fascist oppressive dictatorship. They still see their existence in the destruction of the Kurds. Therefore there is also a new dimension of revenge that is playing a role for them. They want to take revenge on Rêber Apo.

The Imrali system is almost 25 years. Rêber Apo has been 24 years, 8 months and 10 days in that system. Let's say 4 months are left until he will complete his 25th year in that system. Therefore, it is necessary to consider and evaluate it holistically. The international conspiracy perpetuates itself as the system of Imrali. The so-called 'Kurdish question' is kept alive and unsolved through the Imrali system. The genocidal attack against the Kurds is organized and directed on the basis of the Imrali system. Because the Kurdish will for existence and freedom is represented by the Rêber Apo they attack him first and the hardest. It is not a person put on Imrali, nor is it organization, it is the will of a people for existence and freedom, the will of the Kurdish people for existence and freedom that has been put on Imrali. It is also the will for the existence and freedom of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek people. It is the will for freedom of women and youth, it is the will for freedom of humanity. The general rule that one who oppresses another cannot be free, shall not be forgotten. So a system that oppresses the Kurd so much cannot be free.

As long as the Kurd are being oppressed, no one can be free, no one can live free. You live under slavery as long as slaves exist. This can not be called freedom, it is called domination, it is called genocidal aggression, it is called fascist extermination. The Imrali system represents the colonialist genocidal attack system imposed on Kurdish society. With that mentality, politics has turned itself into the Imrali system and produces all its tactics and politics there. It is directed against Rêber Apo, the PKK, it is directed against all Kurds, it is directed against all women and youth. It is directed against all peoples, against humanity.

If the international conspiracy is to disappear, then the Imrali system will disintegrate. We cannot say that the conspiracy has disappeared while the Imrali system exists. Nor can we say that the 'Kurdish question' has been solved while there is a conspiracy attack. With the Imrali system, they have created an until then unknown system of oppression, persecution, isolation, torture and destruction. And they are applying it directly on Rêber Apo. If someone wants to know what the Imrali system means, this person just needs to look at what these colonialists have done to Kurdish society for 25 years, or what they have done in the last century. How it attacks women, how it attacks the people, how it burns villages, how it destroys graves, how it throws people's bones into wells, how it dissolves them with acids, how it put people in cars, dragged their bodies, insulted them, raped them... Looking at all the special war methods that have been developed and practiced for these 25 years is inevitable.

All these practices constitute the Imrali system, they are not detached from it. The Imrali system is already a system of isolation and suffocation from the beginning. By cutting the Rêber Apo off from the world, it could not prevent him from producing thoughts. They were calculating that if the Leadership and the PKK were neutralized, that they could have easily achieved the Kurdish genocide. This was the aim and goal of those who planned and carried out this international conspiracy attack.

There is torture in Imrali at an unprecedented level. There are the most refined methods of all kinds of physical and psychological torture. Imrali is the place where the special warfare is practiced in the most current and deepest way.

In the 1990s, some French organizations made a statement. I was in prison in Germany at the time, but I remember exactly what they said. They stated: "We are studying Apo, we are researching and evaluating Abdullah Öcalan, we are conducting negotiations regarding him." I guess they were trying to understand how to successfully carry out this genocidal attack, this conspiracy. They were assessing the weak and strong points of the Movement and were working on the ways to further deepen the weaknesses and eliminate the strong points. The international conspiracy came after such statements and should have been the result of such investigations.

The Imrali system is a system of genocide, a system of extermination. They wanted to eliminate Rêber Apo on October 9th via unaccounted for murder. If he would have agreed to return to Syria from Greece, which was planned, the Greek government would have refused to let him enter the borders of Greece despite all the invitations. They would have forced him to go back. If Rêber Apo had returned, they would have shot and killed him over the Mediterranean and no one would have ever known. Those who planned this would have done it so secretly that there would have been no information about what had happened. That was actually the plan. The US should confess. It is not that incomprehensible as everything has been revealed. It is necessary to face up to the crimes, and if possible to seek forgiveness. Otherwise, there can be no right and future-creating life in this world.

Then they created the February 15 conspiracy for execution. What did Kenan Evren, chief of the September junta, leader of the fascist military coup, said, "Should we feed him or not hang him?" He envisioned hanging. So this was NATO's top general. He ruled Turkey for nine years and established the basis of today's system. The international conspiracy is being carried out and managed by the system established by Kenan Evren.

Some people were wrong then. They did and are doing something in Imrali to solve the 'Kurdish question'. They put forward illogical, preposterous, surrenderist ideas such as those who are doing this want to solve the 'Kurdish question'. It has nothing to do with reality. They wanted to execute him, but they failed. Rêber Apo revealed that the conspiracy was also a major attack against Turkey. It affected both the Turkish society and the state. In the end, they saw execution as more harmful for themselves than the policy of decay. On this basis, they preferred to continue the Imrali system. The Imrali struggle emerged.

Kurds are killed, but does anyone ever question why Kurds are killed? The Turkish state shoots wherever it wants, it shoots in France, it shoots in Germany, it shoots in Sulaymaniah, it shoots in the Middle East, it shoots all over Kurdistan. Nobody says why are you shooting Kurds? They look at who was shot. If it is a Kurd, it is okay. Why? Because he might be a PKK member.

What was the logic behind the Dersim [Turkish name Tunceli] genocide? What was written in the decree? It said, "Anyone who might carry the Kurdish ideal in their minds and hearts in the future should be killed." The child in the womb, for example; how will you measure this? The child three years of age, how will you measure it? How will you know what he will do when he grows up? Every Kurdish child can carry the ideal of Kurdishness in their minds and hearts from the age of thought. So they issued an edict that they were all potential criminals and should all be massacred. The Dersim massacre happened on the basis of such an edict.

Now, for example, the law doesn't work as well. In other words, there is no such thing as rights or justice in Turkey. There are so many massacres, humanity is trampled underfoot, human bones are being destroyed, human bodies are being dragged, graves are being opened, buildings are being built on graveyards. There is no respect left for the living, no respect left for the dead, no respect left for anything human. This AKP-MHP fascism, the Turkish state has left no humanity in Kurdistan.

Turkish society does not demand accountability for them, doing all these in their name. Neither does any state in the world. They even support and encourage them. Those who benefit from the Kurdish genocide keep it alive and rebuild it. They made a coup d'état. They put Kenan Evren and later Tayyip Erdoğan in charge, they commissioned them. Tayyip Erdoğan is not a party, he is not a leader, he is not a political power; he is an official assigned by the US to carry out this political conspiracy and lead it to success. For 22 years, he has been trying to fulfill this task for the forces he depends on. And they keep him alive. They say, "He has surpassed Mustafa Kemal and İnönü in Turkey. The one who has been in power the longest." So how is it that a person can stay in power for so long at the head of a state in the process of collapse and destruction? Did God send this person? It is the forces behind him that have made him what he is. He is trying to fulfill the task given to him. That is why he stays standing. That is why many sycophants gather around him. Everyone has seen that behind him are those who told him to walk.

There is a system of genocide is a system of extermination. This is what is imposed on Rêber Apo 24 hours a day, every second for 25 years. And this is imposed on all Kurds. The İmrālî system needs to be seen in this way. This so-called 'Kurdish question' is managed by the ones managing the İmrālî system. After dividing Kurdistan, they gave each part to a state, but there was always a jointly-administered hegemonic system over Kurdistan. The four states that dominated Kurdistan and the states that established this world system first established a pact called the 'Sadabat Pact'. France, England, then America entered this pact. The powers that lead this global capitalist modernity system rule Kurdistan under a joint administration. First they established the 'Sadabat Pact'. When that didn't work, they established the 'Baghdad Pact'. That didn't work either. After the Second World War, those who established NATO for the world in general established CENTO specifically for the administration of the Kurds. The military, these states and also the pioneers of the global capitalist modernity system took part in it. There is such a joint administration.

For many years they ruled jointly with the CENTO Military Pact. With the fall of the Shah's rule in Iran and the Iran-Iraq war, this rule broke down as Iran withdrew from it. Therefore, this joint administration became unworkable. So in 1987 they declared a state of emergency. The state of emergency was also a system of administration. They wanted to manage the Kurdish genocide with a state of emergency. This was, in fact, the management of Turkey and the Middle East in general. When the state of emergency failed, they put the international conspiracy into action. They created the İmrālî system of torture, isolation and genocide.

For 25 years now, this system, like the 'Sadabat Pact', like the 'Baghdad Pact', like CENTO, like the State of Emergency governorate system, is a common management system that manages the 'Kurdish question' and implements Kurdish genocide. Therefore, every practice in Imrali is directed against the Kurds, it is Kurdish genocide. They rule the Kurds according to the Imrali system. The genocidal attack on the Kurds is carried out by the Imrali joint administration.

Rêber Apo once said, "When I arrived, I found the ['European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment'] CPT in front of me." It was the global system that took him there. "The USA gave Öcalan to me." Bülent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister at the time said. Also, "I couldn't understand why America gave Apo to us." He was thinking about these things, trying to understand.

But now, the Imrali system does not only impose isolation and genocide on Rêber Apo; all attacks against the Kurdish society are linked to the Imrali system. This fascist dictatorship in Turkey, the fascist dictatorship that has led to such a severe economic, political, cultural, social crisis, depression and collapse, is due to the practices in Kurdistan. It stems from the genocidal mentality and politics imposed on Kurds. The genocidal mentality and politics imposed on the Kurds, when it comes to Turkey, becomes a strict racist, nationalist, chauvinist, fascist dictatorship. The racist, chauvinist fascist mentality becomes politics.

This was back then carried out by the September 12 junta and now the AKP-MHP fascist dictatorship is carrying it out. If you pay attention, the Turkish governments have all been fascist dictatorships. The Kurdish genocide is reflected in Turkey as a fascist dictatorship. The development of so much racism in the world was supposedly due to the defeat of Hitler's fascism in the Second World War, the victory of democracy, democratic development everywhere. Was there democracy? On the contrary, private war fascism has become dominant in all states. The United Nations system of a special warfare. A nation state means a private war rule. This is what is imposed on the world.

The Imrali resistance, which is the reality of Rêber Apo, is a resistance against such a system, a system of genocide, an attack by genocidal mentality and politics. It is necessary to see the system in its entirety. It is not enough to say that there is torture in Imrali. It is not enough to say that there is isolation in Imrali. It is also not enough to say there is genocide. There is also a management of this system there. Therefore, it is necessary to fight against the system.

It is said that there should be a meeting with Rêber Apo. There were times when there were meetings, but it didn't mean much. As long as the Imrali system exists, as long as Rêber Apo, as the will of the Kurdish people for existence and freedom, is under such a system, that is to say, isolation cannot be lifted one by one, and there cannot be a situation without isolation, there cannot be a situation without torture, there cannot be a solution to any problem. Therefore, if you oppose isolation, you will oppose torture, you will oppose the Kurdish genocide, you will oppose the international conspiracy attack, you will oppose the 'Kurdish question', you will want a solution to this problem. Eliminating the Imrali system, ending isolation means ensuring the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Without the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, the Imrali system cannot be abolished. Therefore, the international conspiracy will not end completely. Therefore, the 'Kurdish question' will not be solved. The physical freedom of Rêber Apo, the disintegration of the Imrali system, the end of the international conspiracy and the solution of the 'Kurdish question' on the basis of Kurdish freedom are interconnected and intertwined. It expresses a structure that is connected like fingernails.

It cannot be that the isolation will be lifted, while Rêber Apo still being on Imrali. There can be no talks with the Imrali system still existing. They were trying to have talks in 2014 and 2015. Actually, it was a beginning, that is, it was about to be taken outside. Otherwise, this cannot happen in Imrali. As long as Imrali, the system of torture, isolation and genocide exists, there will be no solution to the 'Kurdish question', and a struggle aiming to solve the 'Kurdish question' and to destroy the international conspiracy will not yield results. Those who have expectations that there will be a solution with Rêber Apo still being on Imrali, are wrong. They should correct their stance. The solution of the 'Kurdish question' will be based on the complete defeat of the international conspiracy, the destruction of the Imrali system and the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. All of this depends on the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. The lifting of isolation, the end of torture, the acceptance of the only Kurdish existence and freedom, the democratization of Turkey, and the liberation of humanity from this colonialist, genocidal mentality and politics will all be possible through this. Therefore, the struggle should not be limited to isolation, but should be linked to the goal of eliminating the entire system of torture, isolation and genocide in Imrali, which renders the 'Kurdish question' unsolvable, which brought the international conspiracy into existence, and the goal of ensuring the physical freedom of Rêber Apo.

We have to continue the struggle against the international conspiracy, against the Imrali system of torture, isolation and genocide on the basis of this goal also in the 26th year of its existence. We have to continue the resistance against isolation as a struggle based on the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Everyone should fight for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and the solution of the 'Kurdish question' by mobilizing all the means at their disposal wherever they are. Only then can the massacres, genocides and war in Kurdistan be prevented. Only then can the way for democratization in Turkey be paved. Only on that basis can Turkey make a new constitution, a democratic constitution and discuss these issues.

Can a new constitution be made with a colonialist, genocidal, fascist mentality and politics that ignores and wants to destroy the Kurdish people and carries out all kinds of attacks for this purpose? Tayyip Erdoğan is calling for a new constitution. They said, "There cannot be a new constitution with the old mindset." This is true. What will he say that is new beyond the existing September 12 coup constitution? What will he add to the existing constitution?

He is hostile to Kurds, hostile to women, hostile to laborers, and does not envision the existence and life of anyone other than himself. What will this person, this mentality propose? Which democracy, siblinghood and freedom will he bring so that he can make a new civilian constitution? He will change one or two words and try to deceive the people that he has made a new one.

The democratization of Turkey and the liberation of humanity from this genocidal mentality and politics depend on the acceptance of the existence and freedom of the Kurds. This depends on the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and the dismantling of the Imrali system of torture, isolation and genocide. It depends on its destruction. If this happens, the Armenian genocide will be stopped, the Greek genocide will be stopped, and Anatolia and Mesopotamia will become a paradise of languages and cultures, as they were in history. The hell of a century, two centuries will disappear and it will become a paradise again. Everyone who wishes will have the right to live. Everyone will live in siblinghood and freedom. There will be strength, support and solidarity.

Therefore, for the freedom of the Kurds, for the democratization of Turkey, for the development of democracy in the Middle East and the world, we say that in the 26th year, against the international con-

spiracy, against the system of torture and isolation, and for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and on the basis of the solution of the ‘Kurdish question’, let us all raise the struggle together in all areas and save humanity from this mentality and politics that brings massacre and extinction.

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Bayik: There is a special relationship between the Kurdish people and their leader Öcalan

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KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council Co-Chair Cemil Bayik analyzed the relationship between the Kurdish people and their leader Abdullah Öcalan.

He wrote about the main goal of the failed international conspiracy, which was the separation between the people, their leader and their struggle.

One of the main characteristics of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] is the very tight relationship he has formed with the Kurdish people. This is so strong that the Kurdish people cannot imagine their existence without Rêber Apo, as they define and give meaning to their existence through this relationship. They understand their own existence and freedom as the existence and freedom of Rêber Apo. On the other side, Rêber Apo has made himself completely belong to the people. Since this is seen and known by the people, their approach to Rêber Apo is in this way and that is why they identify themselves with him. This can be clearly seen in the actions and discourses of the people. They say: “Bê Serok Jiyan Nabe”, a life without Rêber Apo is impossible. With this slogan and the meaning it expresses, the Kurdish people struggle and live every day. Slogans are essential, as they have an ideological, political meaning. They have a close relationship with sociality, with the existence and freedom of a society. Slogans are discourses in which the desire for freedom finds expression. Therefore, it is the expression of an idea the people.

The Kurdish people are under the threat of genocide. They want to eliminate this threat, to live their language, identity and culture freely, and live their will freely. This is what they are struggling for and what they have paid a great price for. Without struggle there can be no freedom. The Kurdish people know this best. That is why they do not give up the struggle at any cost and this also why the people put Rêber Apo at the center of this.

Understanding how this bond between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo has developed is very important in terms of understanding the Leadership, understanding the political philosophy. In fact, without understanding this relationship, it is not possible to understand Rêber Apo correctly and in its entirety. Because this relationship has had a decisive impact on all developments. This relationship also has a very decisive impact on the way the freedom struggle developed.

Establishing real ties with the people is nothing ordinary or easy. Especially in the Kurdish reality, it is very difficult if you want to achieve this. The fear, corrosion and alienation caused by colonialism, on the one hand, and the influence of the individualistic lifestyle of capitalist modernity, on the other, are serious hin-

drances to the development of such a relationship. Overcoming all these, confronting the fear, oppression and impositions of genocidal colonialism and rejecting the individualistic life possibilities of capitalist modernity, taking the reality of the people as a basis and preferring its life and culture is not something that can be easily decided and overcome. This requires a determined and principled approach. That is why there are not many examples of such deep relationships between a Leader and his people. Especially in today's world such relationships do not exist anymore. The likes of this are mostly seen in history. It is already happening, that the Kurdish people intensively make Rêber Apo the subject of their folk songs, epics, culture and art. These are very important issues and their meaning for a society needs to be emphasized, and made comprehensible.

Rêber Apo evaluated the reality of the people and for him it was clear, that is necessary to take their reality as the basis for his struggle. There are deep historical and social meanings in this approach. Taking society and people as the basis for one's own thinking and practice expresses a way of an idea and an approach. Rêber Apo is someone who always tries to have deep thought about what he is working on, always focusing and structuring his own personality to according what results he gets. He has formed his personality and life accordingly. Many people, including those who see themselves as leaders, talk a lot about the people, but they don't live accordingly. Their life, their personality, their focus is not according to this. Their rhetoric and their lives do not match. They do not form their personality in the way they express it in their words. Of course, the people also see and evaluate this and approach them accordingly. This is the point that the people pay the most attention to and care about. People care about the harmony between words and life. This is the most basic measure of evaluation. This is how they distinguish between right and wrong and this is what determines who to approach and how to approach them based on this. The Kurdish people also approached Rêber Apo accordingly. Because they see this harmony in him, they believe in him, accept him as a leader and became his followers.

If we pay attention, this measure, that is, the relationship and harmony between words and life, is the a fundamental principle of Rêber Apo. He always told us this and wanted us to be like this. He severely criticized and analyzed our characteristics that prevented us from being like this and stated that we must overcome them. This approach is so tangible in Rêber Apo that even those who oppose him not deny this, they had to admit it.

Rêber Apo is a person who grew up among the people and came out of the people. It would not be wrong to say that this characteristic determines everything. Maybe this can be said for many people, but to deepen in this reality and live accordingly is a different situation. Many people may have come out of the people, but the important thing is to live according to this, to be able to live according to this. For this to happen, principle, approach and a great commitment are required. Without great principle, without great commitment, it is not possible to achieve this. Why is this so necessary, why is it so difficult for people to live as they are, that is, to live according to the reality in which they were raised? Because life has been made problematic. All the elements of life have been made problematic, relations of domination have been created between people. A mentality and culture has been developed to establish superiority over each other, to exploit each other, to make the weak dependent on the strong. Starting from ancient times, the rulers have developed such a system and have constantly tried to spread it in society.

There is the reality of genocide that the Kurdish people live under the system of denial and annihilation. While it is so difficult to defend the values of the people, to reject the relations of sovereignty, to take the principles of freedom as a basis, it is much more difficult to defend the Kurdish people, to defend its exis-

tence and freedom, to pursue this goal and to think of fighting for it. This is what Rêber Apo does and where he is succeeding. The understanding of the dialectic relation between Rêber Apo and the Kurdish people is essential if one wants to understand this struggle. Some people do not understand the people or see them as acting with emotional judgments. This is an extremely wrong approach. It is a complete deviation. The people are definitely the ones who know and determine what is right.

It is important to understand the situation of Kurds as a people and society. At the time when Rêber Apo started the struggle, the situation of the Kurds was very bad. Denialist and genocidal politics had completely disrupted the sociality and caused great damage. Even today, Kurdish society has not fully recovered and overcome the effects of genocidal colonialism. As a people, we are still under the threat of extinction by the AKP-MHP government. As a people, we are resisting and struggling against this. Of course, we do this on the basis of all our experiences and developments of the last years. The Kurdish people have gained consciousness and rebuilt themselves from the ashes. At the time when Rêber Apo started the struggle, none of these realities existed. The Kurdish people were on the verge of extinction. He described the reality we were living as a people as the brink of extinction. This is exactly the reality that the Kurds have experienced. Genocidal colonialism had created such a situation. As it has always been said, the enemies of the Kurdish people believed that Kurdishness was over. The Turkish state chiefs stated that they buried Kurdishness in Mount Ararat and by this they meant that Kurdishness was over. Kurdishness was made so weak that the Kurdish people fled from their own reality, as if fleeing from the plague. It was under such conditions that Rêber Apo decided to start the struggle.

In this process, also others talked about freedom and struggle. However, those who expressed these thoughts at the beginning could not maintain this attitude. Either they gave up at the very beginning, or when they faced difficulties, they could not resist and gave up the struggle. It is very difficult to face the Kurdish reality, to form oneself accordingly and to take steps. First of all, whatever was to be done could be done with this people. Nothing was unthinkable except the power and will of this people. As many people saw that this was the case, as they realized this, they changed their attitude and gave up the struggle. Rêber Apo, on the other hand, completely believed, trusted and relied on the people. He believed that no matter what happens, if the people are relied on and if efforts are made, results will be achieved. He created himself in order to unleash this power and to bring the people to a state where they could struggle and ensure their freedom. This is also how he formed the PKK.

This approach of the Rêber Apo has been very decisive for the future of the Kurdish people. If this approach had not been taken as a basis, no development could have been achieved. As a matter of fact, those who do not take such an approach as a basis have not been able to make any progress, despite their rhetoric of freedom and struggle. I do not want to just talk about others, there are also those who were close to Rêber Apo at that time and fell into this situation. It is not easy for a Kurdish individual to maintain an attitude of freedom and struggle after grasping reality. Many people, including some who were close to Rêber Apo at the beginning, found it difficult to come to Kurdistan, to live and struggle here and did not do so. For some, returning to the people, coming to Kurdistan was understood as going backwards. For such people, being in Ankara at that time, being in other metropolises of Turkey, studying at school or getting a job was seen as salvation, because they chose the path of individual salvation. For the Kurdish individual, this can only be possible by breaking away from the people, by breaking away from Kurdishness, by giving up their own reality, by accepting genocidal colonialism. This is the inevitable end of individual liberation.

The opposite was the case with Rêber Apo. He described coming to the city as a troublesome process for him. In his prison writings, it is known how Rêber Apo described the city, the machines, the lights of the city and the first moments he encountered them. The longer he stayed in the city and the more closely he saw city life, the more he developed this opinion. Because city life has a reality that is more distant from the reality of the people, from Kurdishness. In later processes, Rêber Apo's subjecting the capitalist modernity system to strong analysis and revealing its reality is very closely related to this approach of his. For example, at that time, many people and organizations considered the development of capitalism in Kurdistan as positive. Rêber Apo, on the other hand, stated that this was not positive, that it disrupted the social relations and fabric, and that it served the Kurdish genocide. At that time, as early as the 1970s, Rêber Apo made such observations which were included in the PKK's first program. The fact that Rêber Apo had such deep contradictions with urban culture and capitalist modernity, that he revealed the reality of this civilization system through historical analyses, is the result of the fact that he saw folk culture correctly and valued it. In other words, the basis of Rêber Apo's contradiction with the state system is his approach and commitment to the people. Those who were not like this during that period quickly tried to find a place in the state system and blend into it. This was a path to the Kurdish genocide. Everything the rulers prepare for the Kurds is a trap that leads to genocide. Rêber Apo saw that this was a trap from the beginning and did not enter into it. He explained and proved to all of us, to the people, to history that this was a trap. He did this by initiating the struggle and enabling the emergence of all these developments that we have today.

In terms of way of life, Rêber Apo has based his life entirely on the culture and values of the people. The fact that there is such a strong relationship between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo and that they identify with each other is closely linked to this. In the formation of this relationship, the dimension of struggle, the ideological and political dimension is emphasized. But still it would be incomplete to think of the strong relationship between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo only in terms of these dimensions. Rêber Apo found the way of life of the people more correct, realistic and liberating and lived accordingly. The way he lives, sits, eats, sleeps, talks, uses his language and style is always according to the culture of the people. Rêber Apo never valued what others admired and valued, and always criticized and rejected wannabe approaches. It is known that even many revolutionaries considered it a development to move away from the culture of the people and to live according to the culture of the ruling classes. But Rêber Apo saw that as the basis of all wrongs and opposed it. He always explained this fact to us and wanted us to realize that we should avoid it. The Kurdish people have taken the approach in question because they have seen and recognized this reality of Rêber Apo. The fact that they see themselves so close to him is very closely linked to this reality. This has a decisive role in the strong relationship between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo.

Everything Rêber Apo has ever done, he has done for the Kurdish people. More precisely, as a son of this people, he did everything he could do for his people. He did this by devoting his life entirely to the people, to the struggle, and by forming his life and personality accordingly. Rêber Apo did not seek a personal life. He did not seek a house, property or possessions. He thought entirely about the struggle, the development and success of the Kurdish Movement. His life measures are all within the framework of the people's cause and freedom. They are not things that can be done and achieved easily. The Kurdish people know this reality very well. Since the Kurdish people know that all the developments that have been achieved are rooted in Rêber Apo's deep commitment and freedom measures, they are attached to him with great passion and faith. In other words, the Kurdish people approach Rêber Apo in the same way as he approaches them. So much so that the Kurdish people tried to understand everything that Rêber Apo said. They have

thought about how to understand his ideas, how to apply them, and have endeavored to do so. For example, even though Rêber Apo is in prison, even though he has been kept on the island of Imrali for nearly 25 years, the Kurdish people have made a great effort to understand and live by every word that Rêber Apo says. Why? Because the Kurdish people know that Rêber Apo thinks entirely for the people. The Kurdish people have seen and experienced this hundreds, thousands, millions of times. Women, youth, people and society, the Kurdish people with everything have experienced this and come to such a conclusion.

The bond between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo has also determined the relationship between the freedom struggle and the people. Rêber Apo has formed the PKK entirely according to the reality of the people, according to the measures of struggle and freedom. The Kurdish people approached the struggle for freedom in the same way as they approached Rêber Apo, they became attached to him and joined him. If the character of the Kurdish revolution is to be defined, it can be expressed in the form of the unity of people-leadership-struggle.

For those who are not sufficiently aware of this reality, it is difficult to comprehend why the Kurdish people care so much about Rêber Apo. They should be told that in order to grasp this, they need to understand this bond between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo. If they understand this bond, they will understand this reality.

As the world gets to know Rêber Apo, as they learn about his ideas, people start to make efforts for the freedom of Rêber Apo. They start to stand with the Kurdish people. This number is increasing day by day. These are very important developments and should be highly valued. Especially against the enemy's attempts to break and weaken the relationship between the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo, the development of such an attitude by oppressed peoples, women, those who seek democracy and freedom in the world is very meaningful. As a dimension of the Kurdish genocide, the enemy is trying to separate the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo from each other. Some people are trying to do this by questioning this relationship, supposedly saying that this is wrong, that the freedom of the Kurdish people and the freedom of Rêber Apo are not the same, that one should stop reacting against isolation. As if, if the Kurds do this, all their problems will end, the so-called 'Kurdish question' will be solved, the Kurdish genocide will end. This is a complete lie and distortion. The truth is the opposite. The aim is for the Kurds to give up their struggle for freedom and accept living under the genocide system. Therefore, those who are engaged in this kind of activity are either the enemies of the Kurdish people themselves or personalities who have surrendered to the enemy, who benefit from the genocide of the Kurdish people, who make money and wealth from it. Such people cannot even be called Kurds. Those who develop these discourses are those who side with the power and the state, live in wealth, and have not lifted a finger for this struggle. It is very clear that they are more hostile than the enemy. The closer the Kurdish people get to Rêber Apo, the more they identify with him, the more they become free. Since the enemy is aware of this reality, they are engaged in a great activity to eliminate this and are putting special war methods into use. This is the essence of what is happening.

We have now entered the 26th year of the international conspiracy. We are trying to understand the reality of the international conspiracy against Rêber Apo and we are struggling against it. It is noteworthy that it was the Kurdish people who understood the international conspiracy the best and the fastest and developed an attitude against it. When the international conspiracy came into play, the Kurdish people started the "You cannot darken our sun" protests and clearly demonstrated what kind of stance should be taken

against the international conspiracy. This was the declaration and attitude that life without the Leader will never be accepted.

Undoubtedly, the Kurdish people's immediate understanding of the international conspiracy and their support of Rêber Apo is the result of their strong ties. In fact, the international conspiracy was carried out to break these. This is what the enemy and international forces aimed for with the conspiracy. However, the Kurdish people showed a reaction and attitude far beyond what was expected and frustrated this expectation of the conspirators. While the enemy and conspiratorial forces tried to separate the Kurdish people and Rêber Apo from each other with the international conspiracy, on the contrary, this relationship has strengthened even more. The Kurdish people have strengthened their bond with Rêber Apo by taking a stand against the international conspiracy and by constantly taking action for his physical freedom. In this respect, the Kurdish people have prevented the international conspiracy from achieving its goal with a clear and strong stance.

On the other hand, the same attitude was also developed by Rêber Apo. Aware that the main aim of the international conspiracy was the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom, Rêber Apo utilized his imprisonment in Imralı to deepen the Kurdish people's idea and stance on freedom. By going to the historical roots of the state and civilization, he has deciphered all the exploitation, slavery and conspiracies in history. By developing the system of democratic modernity against the system of capitalist modernity that erodes human reality, eliminates sociality and makes life and nature uninhabitable, it has shown the way to salvation not only for the Kurdish people but for all humanity. Again, by revealing the place of Kurds in the creation of universal history and human values, it has given them the value they deserve and made them realize their own reality. This is undoubtedly the most valuable work. This is Rêber Apo's attitude towards the international conspiracy and the Imralı system of imprisonment.

The attitude of the Kurdish people towards the Imralı isolation and torture system has also been clear. The Imralı isolation and torture system was developed as part of the international conspiracy. However, the Kurdish people have frustrated this aim of the enemy and conspiratorial forces by taking uninterrupted action in the four parts of Kurdistan and wherever they are. For 25 years this attitude of the Kurdish people has continued. It has done this with many campaigns, demonstrations, conferences, a continuous attitude and action. On the other hand, the actions of embracing and supporting Rêber Apo have spread more and more, and those who see themselves as friends of the Kurdish people all over the world have taken action against the isolation of Rêber Apo and for his physical freedom. Thus, the cause of the Kurdish people for Rêber Apo has spread all over the world and has received support from all over the world. This is of course a great development.

Now the Kurdish people have demonstrated their will to uproot and end the international conspiracy by stating that they aim for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and that they will not give up on this and by initiating such a process. This attitude of the Kurdish people is enthusiastically supported by the oppressed peoples, women and all democratic forces in the Middle East and the world. The Kurdish people and their international friends are discussing how to further advance this process with a new breakthrough and bring it to a conclusion. Definitely, this attitude will ensure the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and end the international conspiracy completely. As a movement, we will support this attitude until the end. What we need to do against the enemy's imposition of absolute isolation is to further develop this attitude and put it forward in the strongest way.



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