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THE İMRALI POST

Heard His Name. Learn His Story. Demand His Freedom.

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Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan	2
‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan March’ to Gemlik kicks off.....	2
Many detained in police attack on participants of the ‘Freedom for Öcalan March’ in Van.....	3
People from Istanbul set off towards Gemlik to participate in the Freedom for Öcalan March.....	4
Freedom March to Gemlik: “Let’s solve the Kurdish question together”.....	5
Freedom March to Gemlik vows to continue the struggle until Öcalan is freed.....	6
Activists on vigil in front of the UN in Geneva call for enhanced struggle against isolation	7
Prisons in Turkey	8
Yusuf Aydın released after 30 years in prison.....	8
Seriously ill prisoner Tanboğa taken to Dicle University Hospital.....	8
Prisoner kept handcuffed in intensive care.....	9
ESP and SGDF members in custody go on hunger strike	9
28 prisoners being denied release.....	10
Military aggression and occupation	11
Car bomb explodes in Afrin, leaving dead and injured people.....	11
Three soldiers killed in actions by the guerrillas	11
Turkish army wants to establish a buffer zone in South Kurdistan	12
Turkey uses chemical weapons in guerrilla areas while the KDP works for the Turkish army	14
‘The Turkish state is stuck in its war against the guerrillas’.....	15
Remains of YPS member handed over to her family and reburied after 7 years.....	16
Attack on a village of Manbij injures 7.....	16
49 soldiers killed in guerrilla operation at Girê Amêdîyê	17
SDF captures ISIS mercenary in Raqqa.....	18
Turkish drones strike two cars near Qamishlo.....	18
HPG: Two Turkish soldiers were killed in Serhed.....	19
PKK, 45 years of great struggles and great achievements.....	19
Guerrillas: We will drive the enemy out of our areas	22
Cizire Autonomous Administration: Turkey tries to prevent the eradication of ISIS.....	24
Turkish attack in Ain Issa results in injuries.....	25
Guerrillas mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PKK.....	26
HPG pays tribute to guerrilla who died in Metina.....	27
HSM and PKK congratulate guerrillas on their revolutionary operation.....	28
Femicide	29
IHD report reveals continued violations of children’s rights in the Kurdish region of Turkey.....	29
Oğuz: The state fears the organized power of women	30
Kongra Star: Where is Warishe Moradi?.....	31
19 years ago the murder of 12-year-old Uğur Kaymaz.....	32
Violence against women in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan increasing day by day	32
TJK-E announces action plan for 25 November, calling for broad participation in demonstrations	34
Men demonstrate in Kobanê against violence against women.....	36

24-year-old woman murdered in Mardin	37
Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyan Azadi	37
89,000 women and girls killed across the globe in 2022.....	39
Men rally in Tabqa in solidarity with the struggle of women	40
Theater as a tool to talk about women’s struggle.....	40
Human Rights Violations	41
25 days without news from Roj News journalist Ehmed.....	41
Wecker: Germany is complicit in Turkey’s war against the Kurds	41
Floods leave 9 people dead, 11 others missing	43
At least 10 people taken into custody in Ankara.....	44
Police take co-chair of Socialist Party of the Oppressed into custody.....	44
KON-MED reiterates demand to lift ban on PKK	45
Supreme Court says acronym HEDEP cannot be used.....	46
Duhok Public Order Forces don’t allow lawyer to visit RojNews journalist Ehmed	46
At least 10 people taken into custody in many cities of Kurdistan and Turkey.....	47
Interview	48
Bayik: International campaign “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan” gives first results	48
Bayik: Turkey is waging a war with the support of the KDP	51
Bayik: Kurdish, Palestinian questions are the biggest issues and democratic dynamics in Middle East	57
Bayik: What we are seeing in Gaza right now is a genocide.....	62
Bayik: The real solution to problems in Middle East lies in policy of the democratic nation.....	65



Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan March’ to Gemlik kicks off

ANF | 18 November 2023

There has been no sign of life from Abdullah Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners, Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş on the prison island of Imralı for 32 months. The Turkish authorities have been blocking access to their lawyers from the Asrin Law Office, citing alleged disciplinary sanctions for years. Written or telephone communication with Imralı prisoners is also prevented. The complete isolation of prisoners is illegal under both Turkish law and international standards. PKK founder Abdullah Öcalan is considered the most important contact person for a political solution to the Kurdish question. There are worldwide calls for his release so that he can take part in talks for a solution under appropriate conditions.

To highlight this demand, the HEDEP (Peoples’ Party for Equality and Democracy), DBP (Democratic Regions Party), DTK (Democratic Society Congress), TJA (Free Women’s Movement), Peace Mothers Assembly, as well as many non-governmental organizations such as MATUHAY-DER (Marmara Assistance and Solidarity Association with the Families of Detainees and Convicts), ANYAKAY-DER (Anatolian Association for Assistance and Solidarity with the Families Who Have Lost Their Relatives) are organising a march to Gemlik, a town in the province of Bursa from where ships depart to the prison island of Imralı in the Sea of Marmara.

The march kicked off from four points and regions in North Kurdistan today and will continue in western Turkey on Sunday. People from a total of 122 places will make their way to Gemlik.

In the provinces of Şırnak and Urfa, the first participants departed for Gemlik on Saturday morning. HEDEP deputy Mehmet Zeki Irmez made a statement before the departure from Şırnak and said: “We are on our way to Gemlik. Mr Öcalan has been isolated for almost 25 years, and his fellow prisoners are also affected by this isolation. We are going on the offensive against this. This campaign will continue, and we will not let any obstacles stop us. As the people of Botan, we are turning towards Imrali. We demand an end to the isolation and call on all democratic organisations to support us. We are travelling to Gemlik for freedom and peace.”

The participants from Batman, Siirt and Urfa travelled to Amed (Diyarbakir), where the first stopover of the march is located.

In Amed, participants of the march gathered in front of the HEDEP office and marched to Koşuyolu Park in the central Yenişehir district. Those partaking in the march include Abdullah Öcalan’s brother Mehmet Öcalan, DTK Co-Chair Berdan Öztürk, HEDEP Co-Chair Tuncer Bakırhan, DBP Co-Chairs Başkanları Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar and Keskin Bayındır.

On the other hand, those who set off from Adana, Antep, Hatay and Osmaniye are gathering in Mersin where a press statement will be made before their departure to Gemlik.



Many detained in police attack on participants of the ‘Freedom for Öcalan March’ in Van

ANF | Van | 18 November 2023

There has been no sign of life from Abdullah Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners, Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş on the prison island of Imrali for 32 months. The Turkish authorities have been blocking access to their lawyers from the Asrin Law Office, citing alleged disciplinary sanctions for years. Written or telephone communication with Imrali prisoners is also prevented. The complete isolation of prisoners is illegal under both Turkish law and international standards. PKK founder Abdullah Öcalan is considered the most important contact person for a political solution to the Kurdish question. There are worldwide calls for his release so that he can take part in talks for a solution under appropriate conditions.

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The march kicked off from four points and regions in North Kurdistan today and will continue in western Turkey on Sunday. People from a total of 122 places will make their way to Gemlik. The participants from Batman, Siirt and Urfa travelled to Amed (Diyarbakir), where the first stopover of the march is located. On the other hand, those who set off from Adana, Antep, Hatay and Osmaniye are gathering in Mersin where a press statement will be made before their departure to Gemlik.

In the province of Van, police took action in an attempt to prevent the gathering of the participants of the march. The crowd was besieged and attacked while preparing to set off after a press statement at Sanat (Art) Street in the city centre. Many were taken into custody during the crackdown, including HEDEP provincial co-chairs Veysi Dilekçi and Gönül Uzunay, DBP provincial co-chairs Şengül Polat and Harun Okay, TUHAY-DER co-chair Çetin Polat, MEBYA-DER provincial co-chair Hanım Kaya, ousted mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, Mustafa Avcı, HEDEP İpekyolu district co-chair Çaçan Uzunay and HEDEP provincial administrator Ömer Işık. HEDEP deputies started a sit-in in protest at the detentions.

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/many-detained-in-police-attack-on-participants-of-the-freedom-for-Ocalan-march-in-van-70373>



People from Istanbul set off towards Gemlik to participate in the Freedom for Öcalan March

ANF | Istanbul | 19 November 2023

Another branch of the ‘Freedom March’ launched in Gemlik to end the absolute isolation imposed on Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has not been heard from in İmralı F Type High Security Prison for 32 months, is that coming from Istanbul.

Members of the People’s Democratic Congress (HDK), People’s Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP), Free Women’s Movement (TJA), MED Prisoner and Convict Families Federation of Law and Solidarity Associations (MED TUHAD-FED), Anatolian Assistance and Solidarity Association with Families Who Lost Their Relatives (ANYAKAYDER), Democratic Regions Party (DBP) and Asrın Law Office, Kurdish Studies Association and Mesopotamia Cultural Center (MKM) set off towards Gemlik by bus.

Bağcılar was one of the districts where people came together despite the bad weather conditions. The people gathered at different points and set out towards the meeting areas, chanting the slogan “Bijî Serok Apo”.

People from the boroughs of Silivri, Avcılar and Beylikdüzü also went towards the meeting area in the early hours of the morning.

People came together in the HEDEP building in Esenyurt and travelled towards Gemlik filling several buses.

Many people also moved from Bayrampaşa and Arnavutköy.



Freedom March to Gemlik: “Let’s solve the Kurdish question together”

ANF | Bursa | 19 November 2023

Since Saturday, people from 122 places in Turkey have made their way to Gemlik. The district in the province of Bursa is the starting point for boat traffic to the prison island of İmralı in the Sea of

Marmara, where Abdullah Öcalan and his fellow prisoners Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş are being held. The “Freedom March to Gemlik” was called by the HEDEP (Peoples’ Party for Equality and Democracy), DBP (Democratic Regions Party), DTK (Democratic Society Congress), TJA (Free Women’s Movement), Peace Mothers Assembly, as well as many non-governmental organizations such as MATUHAY-DER (Marmara Assistance and Solidarity Association with the Families of Detainees and Convicts), ANYAKAY-DER (Anatolian Association for Assistance and Solidarity with the Families Who Have Lost Their Relatives). They are calling for the release of Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question.

Hundreds of buses and cars were stopped by Turkish police on their way to Gemlik. A large group, including members of parliament from HEDEP, was stopped twenty kilometres from Gemlik. The co-chair of HEDEP, Tülay Hatimoğulları, made a statement there and repeated the demand for access to the İmralı prisoners.

Tülay Hatimoğulları pointed out that for days, demonstrations and events have been calling for Abdullah Öcalan’s isolation to be lifted in order to create the conditions for a dialogue on a solution to the Kurdish question. The police have been on high alert since yesterday and have stopped the rally to Gemlik everywhere. “Yesterday, many of our friends were detained, attacked and physically assaulted. Today, people from the Aegean region and Izmir province were stopped and detained. There were similar obstructions in Istanbul. Right now, people from all over Turkey want to come here in droves. We are facing serious pressure and obstructions from the law enforcement authorities,” said the HEDEP co-chair.

Tülay Hatimoğulları emphasised that a large part of the population is in favour of resolving the Kurdish question as quickly as possible by peaceful and democratic means and continued: “There is no way for the people of Turkey to live in a democratic environment without resolving the Kurdish question. In order to end the wars and conflicts in the Middle East, the Kurdish question must be resolved as soon as possible. The Kurdish people in Rojava must be given a status and regain their rights. As long as the Kurdish issue in Turkey is not solved with peaceful and democratic methods, as long as the isolation on İmralı continues and Mr Öcalan is not recognised as an interlocutor, we and all the peoples of Turkey will be victims of conflict, war and divisive politics for a long time.”

Tülay Hatimoğulları appealed to all democratic forces in Turkey and internationally to stand up for justice, law and fairness: “Let us work together to help solve this problem and ensure the freedom of Mr Öcalan.”



Freedom March to Gemlik vows to continue the struggle until Öcalan is freed

ANF | Bursa | 19 November 2023

The HEDEP (Peoples’ Party for Equality and Democracy), DBP (Democratic Regions Party), DTK (Democratic Society Congress), TJA (Free Women’s Movement), Peoples’ Democratic Congress (HDK), MEBYA-DER (Association for Assistance, Solidarity and Culture with Families Who Lost Their Relatives in the Cradle of Civilizations) and MED TUHAD-FED (Federation of Law and Solidarity Associations for the Families of Detainees and Convicts) organised a “Freedom March” at the weekend, calling for the release of Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question. As part of the action, 122 places in Turkey made their way to Gemlik. The district in the province of Bursa is the

starting point for boat traffic to the prison island of İmralı in the Sea of Marmara, where Abdullah Öcalan and his fellow prisoners Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş are being held.

Hundreds of buses and cars were stopped by Turkish police on their way to Gemlik. Despite repeated obstructions and adverse weather conditions, demonstrators managed to arrive in Gemlik where they repeated their demand for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question.

The gathering in Gemlik was followed by a press statement. Speaking here, DBP Co-Chair Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar pointed out that the isolation imposed on Abdullah Öcalan has turned into a regime.

Vowing to continue their struggle against the isolation of Öcalan, Uçar said: “We have completed our ‘Freedom March’ to Gemlik. Despite the police siege and obstructions by the state, our people continued their march for the establishment of democracy in the country and achievement of peace in the Middle East.”

Uçar continued: “We call out from Gemlik once again; the Kurdish question is one of the most important realities in this country and the government, with its policies of war and isolation, tries to turn the new century of the republic into a century of assimilation and massacres.”

Uçar concluded: “We will not allow isolation to turn into a regime and we will continue our struggle until the freedom of Mr Öcalan, the single person with a project for the achievement of democracy, equality and freedom in this country, is ensured. We thank all those who have contributed to this action which has achieved its purpose. Our struggle against fascism will continue.”



Activists on vigil in front of the UN in Geneva call for enhanced struggle against isolation

ANF | Geneva | 22 November 2023

A vigil by the Democratic Kurdish Community in Switzerland has been taking place in front of the UN headquarters in Geneva since 25 January 2021. Every Wednesday, activists stage a protest in front of the United Nations building to demand the release of Kurdish people’s leader Abdullah Öcalan. The action is carried out as part of the ‘Dem dema azadiye’ [Time for Freedom] campaign and directed against the isolation of the Kurdish leader on the Turkish prison island of İmralı, the Turkish occupation attacks on Kurdistan, the massacres committed in Kurdish territories and the silence of the UN.

Today’s vigil began with a minute of silence paying tribute to martyrs of the Kurdistan Freedom Struggle, after which Mustafa Altunbaş spoke on behalf of the ‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Committee’.

Altunbaş saluted the international campaign ‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, Political Solution to the Kurdish Question’ launched by the friends of the Kurdish people worldwide on 10 September 2023.

“The system of aggravated isolation and torture executed on our leader for 33 months is against basic human rights and international law. European institutions such as the UN and CPT, which are responsible for protecting human rights as per international law, maintain their silence against this isolation torture. The Kurdish people should enhance the struggle against the policy of isolation which seeks to subjugate the will of the Kurdish people in the person of leader Öcalan,” Altunbaş said.

Speaking after, Tuba Yılmaz, Co-Chair of the Democratic Kurdish Community Centre in Geneva, remembered the Mirabel Sisters and all the women killed by state and male violence, read the appeal of the Kurdish Women’s Movement in Europe (IJK-E) on the occasion of the International Day for the

Elimination of Violence against Women'. She called for broad participation in the activities to take place on 25 November.

After the speeches, activists staged a sit-in, chanting the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi'(Woman, Life, Freedom).



Prisons in Turkey

Yusuf Aydın released after 30 years in prison

ANF | İzmir | 20 November 2023

Yusuf Aydın was remanded in custody after being detained in the Bayraklı district of İzmir in 1993. Aydın was brought to the military court of the period and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Aydın was 32 years old when he was put in prison. He remained in Buca, Aydın, Bolu and Buca Kırıklar prisons during his long detention.

Aydın was released from Şakran T Type Closed Prison and was welcomed in front of the prison by his family and relatives, as well as the administrators of the Aegean Assistance and Solidarity Association with Detainee and Convict Families (EGE-TUHAYDER).

Aydın then went to his home in the neighbourhood of Yamanlar in Bayraklı, where he was welcomed by a large crowd.

Doves, symbols of peace, were flown into the air for Aydın. In his short speech during the welcome, Aydın said: "We paid a great price. We still continue to pay a great price. I am excited to be released, but I am sorry for the friends I left behind. I am saddened to leave behind my friends with whom I fought for years. It is difficult to express my feelings. Whatever I say would be incomplete."



Seriously ill prisoner Tanboğa taken to Dicle University

Hospital

ANF | Amed | 20 November 2023

Ismail Tanboğa (23), who was arrested during the self-government resistance in Şırnak's Silopi (Silopiya) district in 2015, was sentenced to 4 aggravated life imprisonment.

Tanboğa was diagnosed with stomach cancer some time after his arrest, but later tests reported that he also had advanced ulcers and gastritis in the stomach. Tanboğa's disease has not been fully diagnosed until now.

Tanboğa was taken to Dicle University Hospital in Amed 15 days ago due to his health condition getting worse. Yet, Tanboğa's family was informed a week after he was hospitalized.

The prisoner, who suffers from severe anaemia, sores in the mouth, throat and back pain, kidney disease, and intense vomiting, has been fed with formula for 3 years.

Tanboğa's mother, Kumriye Tanboğa, stated that she was not allowed to visit her son and called for public awareness.

Tanboğa is held in Diyarbakır T Type Closed Prison, and is on the list of seriously ill prisoners of the Human Rights Association (IHD).



Prisoner kept handcuffed in intensive care

ANF | Batman | 21 November 2023

Prisoner Yusuf Arslan (68) is held in Batman T Type Closed Prison. He suffered a brain haemorrhage and was taken to the Training and Research Hospital.

Arslan, who was arrested in Mardin 5 years ago on the charge of "membership in an illegal organization", was sent to Batman 7 months ago.

The family, who came to the prison for a visit on Monday, was denied the visit by the prison administration. Zeynep Arslan, said that the prison administration did not inform them about the fact that her husband had been transferred to hospital. "We went to the hospital. We asked the nurses there about my husband. They told us that he was in intensive care. They informed us that he had a brain haemorrhage."

Noting that her husband was kept in intensive care in handcuffs, Arslan called for public awareness.



ESP and SGDF members in custody go on hunger strike

ANF | Amed | 23 November 2023

As part of an investigation launched by Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, five socialist activists and politicians were taken into custody in a Diyarbakır-based operation on Wednesday. The detainees are Beycan Taşkiran, the Deputy Co-Chair of the ESP (Socialist Party of the Oppressed), Satiye Ok, a member of the Central Executive Board of the Socialist Women's Assembly (SKM), Muhammet Altinkaya, a member of the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF), SGDF member Serhat Eren and Heja Kayan.

In the scope of the same investigation, ESP member Rıza Çimen were taken into custody in Bursa province, as well as Ela Deniz Albayrak and education union Eğitim-Sen Bursa Branch Secretary Murat Pınar. The detainees were taken to the anti-terror branch of the police.

ESP made a statement about the detentions in Diyarbakır today, accompanied by administrators from the DBP (Democratic Regions Party) and HEDEP (Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party).

Orhan Çelebi, the ousted co-mayor of the Akpazar Municipality, stated that lawyers have talked to the detainees today and reported that all of them have gone on hunger strike. According to Çelebi, the detainees are not provided with enough water and sugar.

HEDEP Diyarbakır provincial co-chair Pınar Sakık Tekin stated that women who disturb fascism are turned into a target by the system, remarking that these attacks against women and young people seek to suppress society. She vowed to increase their struggle against attacks.

DBP Diyarbakır provincial co-chair Sultan Yaray pointed out that the AKP has been pursuing the same policy for 23 years and said: “During this period of time, hundreds of writers, politicians and journalists were put in prison because of their thoughts and ideas. This is exactly why there can be no talk of peace and democracy in this country. Still, we will continue our struggle against the fascist attacks directed against the people.”

ESP Co-Chair Şahin Tümüklü stated that the government tries to restrict and impede the struggle through these attacks, vowing to continue their fight in response.

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28 prisoners being denied release

ANF | Amed | 24 November 2023

Lawyers for Freedom Association (ÖHD) Amed Branch and the Association for Assistance of Prisoners' Families (TUAY-DER) said that the release period of 28 prisoners in 13 prisons in Amed, Antep (Dilok), Elazığ (Elezîz), Ercincan (Erzîngan) and Erzurum (Erzirom) provinces was blocked. A report prepared on these violations was presented at a press conference held in the building of the Federation of Legal and Solidarity Associations of Med Prisoners and Convict Families (MED TUHAD-FED).

İmralı isolation is spread to all prisons

Speaking at the meeting, ÖHD Prison Commission member Zeki Binbir drew attention to the isolation imposed on Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan. Binbir said that the families of Abdullah Öcalan and prisoners Veysi Aktaş, Hamili Yıldırım and Ömer Hayri Konar have not been able to meet them for 4 years, 8 months and 21 days, and that the visit of a lawyer has been prevented for 4 years, 3 months and 17 days. Binbir said: "For 2 years and 8 months, the state of absolute lack of communication continues. The isolation imposed in İmralı is spreading to all prisons."

Binbir said that Prison Administration and Observation Boards act as “judicial mechanisms”, adding that “the concept of ‘good behaviour’, which directly affects the right to personal freedom and security, is left to the arbitrary approaches of these boards.”

Binbir said: “With this regulation, the Administrative and Observation Boards have become the decision-making authority in cases where only the judicial authorities can make a decision about the prisoner, in a way that even exceeds the powers of the judicial authorities. Prison administrations are abusing the powers given to them with the new regulation. This practice must be stopped immediately.”

Binbir continued: “Prisoners whose parole rights are denied due to the illegal approaches and decisions of the Administrative Observation Boards in the closed penal institutions we include in our report must be released immediately. With this report, we invite the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the Ministry of Justice and the Turkish Grand National Assembly Human Rights Investigation Commission to take action against the rights violations experienced by prisoners.”

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Military aggression and occupation

Car bomb explodes in Afrin, leaving dead and injured people

ANF | 19 November 2023

According to information provided by sources in the region, a car bomb exploded near the checkpoint of the so-called “Military Police” mercenaries linked to the Turkish state at the eastern entrance of the occupied city of Afrin.

Apparently, 3 mercenaries died and 19 people were injured.

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Three soldiers killed in actions by the guerrillas

ANF | Behdinan | 19 November 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).

In a statement on Sunday, the HPG Press Center once again denied media reports about massive losses in the guerrilla ranks in Kurdistan, saying: “The Turkish occupying army is bombing the guerrilla areas in Northern Kurdistan and the Medya Defence Zones without interruption from the air and from the ground. These attacks are failing due to the new movement and tactics of our guerrilla forces. However, the Turkish occupying army, which cannot achieve any results at all, and its special war media claim that these attacks have led to high losses of our forces. They even quote figures and circulate lies. We have not suffered any losses in attacks by the Turkish army in recent times. The fact that the Turkish state is resorting to special war lies in this way, shows its helplessness and the predicament it is in.”

The HPG Press Centre provided the following information on the latest guerrilla actions and attacks by the Turkish army in Medya Defense Zones:

Three soldiers killed in Zap

The guerrilla resistance against the Turkish occupying forces in South Kurdistan is focused on the areas of Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdîyê in the western Zap region. A total of three soldiers were killed by guerrilla snipers on 15 and 16 November. On Wednesday, the guerrillas intervened with light weapons against advancing troops at Girê Cûdî and the advance was stopped. From Wednesday to Saturday, the guerrillas carried out nine actions with heavy weapons against Turkish units. Three positions of the Turkish army were damaged.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army attacked guerrilla positions in Zap and Metîna with unconventional explosives and explosives-laden drones. On Wednesday and Thursday, HPG recorded two drone attacks in the Girê Çarçel area, 17 at Girê Cûdî and one at Girê Amêdî. The Turkish army used unconventional explosives 19 times against positions at Girê Ortê, and four unconventional explosives at Girê Amêdî.

During the same period, Turkish fighter jets bombed areas in the Zap, Metîna and Xakurke regions six times, targeting the areas of Girê Bahar, Serê Metîna and Şehîd Şerîf. The western Zap region was attacked by combat helicopters on Thursday. In addition, the Turkish army continues to carry out artillery attacks in the region.

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Turkish army wants to establish a buffer zone in South Kurdistan

Pirdogan Kemal | Behdinan | 20 November 2023

As is well known, the historical Kurdistan Region was divided into four parts. The respective regimes violently enforced a policy of Turkification, Arabisation and Persianisation in the parts of Kurdistan under their control. This was systematically accompanied by massacres. The Turkish state, notorious for its cruelty and expansionism, was given the biggest task. Immediately after the proclamation of the Republic, a policy of denial, extermination and expulsion was launched in Turkey. Since then, each successive government has made it its main task to consistently implement this concept of homogenisation and annihilation.

The Baathist regime in Syria tried to tear apart the Kurdish population in Rojava with the so-called “Arab Belt”. The Baathist regime in Iraq pursued the same policy against the population of South Kurdistan. The massacres in South Kurdistan (North Iraq) were accompanied by measures to change the population structure; even Uzbeks were resettled in Kurdistan for this purpose.

South Kurdistan has been systematically opened to the Turks

Kurdistan was surrounded on all sides by the colonial powers and most of the civilian areas were turned into military sites. If you visit many cities in northern Kurdistan (eastern Turkey) today, you will realise that the military installations are sometimes larger than the civilian residential areas. This has become a strategy. These military areas have been expanded both inside and outside the country, i.e. the borders of the occupying states between the parts of Kurdistan. Unfortunately, the same situation can currently be observed in South Kurdistan. Many regions have been completely depopulated over the years for the settlement of the Turkish occupation forces by the ruling party, the KDP, which collaborates with Turkish fascism. Since the 1990s, South Kurdistan has been systematically opened to the Turks.

The Turkish state under Erdoğan has maximised its attacks in recent years, obviously with the aim of completing the genocide. While the Turkish state continued its invasion attempts in the guerrilla areas, the establishment of a buffer zone was also planned. This was to extend from Northern Kurdistan to the border of Eastern Kurdistan. In order to realise this, the population was to be displaced by a comprehensive wave of attacks and the region was to be transformed into a purely military area. The Turkish state erected hundreds of kilometres of walls and carried out countless attacks to create a buffer zone 30 kilometres wide. The attacks are continuing on this basis.

The guerrillas were largely able to thwart the attacks through their resistance, but the collaborators did not fail to hand over to the Turkish army on a silver platter each time what they could not manage on their own. Over the past three years, KDP troops have repeatedly personally led the Turkish army into guerrilla areas. Starting from Behdinan, the KDP set up dozens of bases for the Turkish army and began to drive the population out of these areas. In particular, the villages near the guerrilla areas were directly targeted.

Hundreds of villages evacuated

Almost 100 civilians have died in the Turkish state's attacks on these civilian areas. Hundreds of villages have been evacuated and turned into Turkish occupation zones. These areas are closed to the civilian population. Neither the civilian population nor their animals are allowed to come within a few hundred metres of these areas. The most shameful thing is that it is the KDP forces that are denying people access to these areas and ensuring the security of the Turkish bases.

The people who earn their living by growing grapes and gardening in the region are reduced to poverty. They are not allowed to enter their gardens. The people in the region, who have already been in a very precarious economic situation, are facing even more difficulties as a result. While some of them migrate to the cities, the young people try to reach Europe. Many of them die on the way. While the KDP and the Barzani family, who are trying to appropriate every square centimetre of South Kurdistan in the interests of the Turkish state, are getting richer day by day, the people of South Kurdistan are condemned to hunger and misery.

From Behdînan to Bradost

In the last two years, in particular, the Turkish state, with the help of the KDP, has attempted to connect many areas from which the civilian population has been displaced and to create a buffer zone along the border of South Kurdistan. This area stretches from Behdînan to Bradost. Numerous bases have been established along the Amêdiyê front. Although these are ostensibly KDP forces, there are Turkish troops in these bases. The Turkish army, which recently established a new base in the Bradost region, is trying to further increase its activities in this region. It has established many new bases in the Balekayetî region. The KDP forces have made all preparations for this. The Turkish state has also established new bases in the Mehmudiye region on the borders of Rojava with South Kurdistan as well as on the borders of Zaxo and Batûfa. The aim is to expand this buffer zone and prepare a hinterland for a new invasion operation against Rojava. Those who oppose the occupation are attacked and murdered on the basis of intelligence provided by the KDP troops.

The KDP sacrifices South Kurdistan

At present, attempts are being made to completely encircle the Medya Defence Zones in South Kurdistan and create a military buffer zone with these bases and bases that have already been built before. It is known that in the last two years, runways for the Turkish state's reconnaissance aircraft have been built in the areas controlled by the KDP. Many military land and airborne units used in the invasion attacks against guerrilla areas are deployed from these areas. The KDP is completely sacrificing South Kurdistan to the Turkish occupation just to harm the guerrilla struggle. It is therefore particularly important that all people in South Kurdistan unite and participate together in the Kurdish guerrillas' self-sacrificing struggle for freedom.

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Turkey uses chemical weapons in guerrilla areas while the KDP works for the Turkish army

Amargi Arhat Ba | Behdînan | 20 November 2023

Footage obtained by ANF shows the Turkish state's employment of chemical weapons in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). The video, taken on 4 November 2023, proves the use of chemical weapons in the Şehid Pirdoğan battle tunnels of the guerrillas on Amediye hill. The footage shows intense gas emerging from the guerrilla tunnels, while the KDP forces, in parallel, work with construction equipment to pave a way to the tunnels.

The Kurdistan Freedom Movement is putting up historic resistance in the Girê Amediye battle tunnels in the Şehid Delîl Western Zap region.

As part of the occupation operation it launched in the Western Zap region on 25 May 2022, the Turkish army airdropped troops in the area of Girê Amediye. The Turkish troops have committed numerous war crimes in the area since, violating all moral principles. The guerrilla forces in the area, including mobile

units, have not only protected the hills in the area but also managed to repel the Turkish army from these hills.

The Turkish army suffered a historic defeat and was forced to retreat from the Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region, including the areas of Girê Cudî and Girê Amediye, in December 2022. With substructure and logistics support from the KDP, the Turkish army made another attempt at occupation in September 2023. The KDP built roads for the Turkish army, provided assistance for Turkish troops' deployment next to their own bases and smoothed sites for airdrop missions by Sikorsky helicopters.



'The Turkish state is stuck in its war against the guerrillas'

Ruken Tolhildan | Behdînan | 20 November 2023

The Turkish state continues its massive attacks on the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), which are particularly focused on the Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna regions. While the Turkish army is mobilising all its resources and war technology, the guerrillas are resisting with determination and undermining the technology.

Speaking to ANF about the situation on the ground, Êriş Koçer, a guerrilla in the ranks of the HPG (People's Defense Forces), said: "The Turkish state is attacking us with all its power and the most advanced technology, but so far it has not been able to achieve the desired result. It is stuck in this war."

The HPG guerrilla stated that the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) have a decisive influence on the progress of the war with their particularly strong actions against the Turkish army, prepared to make any sacrifice. "These self-sacrificial fighters have sworn to protect their country at all costs. Like Zîlan and Bêrîtan, they are fighting against the enemy and the traitors. This resistance of our comrades is decisive for the defeat that the enemy has suffered. The will and resistance shown by our women friends in this war today is a source of morale and strength for us. This is not only for us, but for the people of Kurdistan and the whole world."

Koçer continued: "Our comrades are hitting the enemy hard with their actions and at the same time preventing them from achieving their goals. The enemy is suffering a heavy defeat in the face of this."

Commenting on the current situation and the support of actors in South Kurdistan for Ankara, Êriş Koçer said: "In addition to the war and the attacks of the Turkish state, there is also a great betrayal. Betrayal and resistance are very tangible. Collaborators are fighting alongside the enemy, which has never succeeded in defeating us. But as long as the Apoist spirit exists, the Turkish state and the collaborators will never be able to achieve their goals here."

"Many of our comrades died in the war against the fascist state and its collaborators, but it is clear what these sacrifices were made for. Of course, these sacrifices have a purpose. These comrades sacrificed themselves, without even thinking of themselves for a moment, to guarantee the physical freedom of our Leader [Abdullah Öcalan] and to create a free Kurdistan. As long as we live, this self-sacrificial path will continue. Because we live for our people."

The HPG fighter concluded with the words: "The freedom guerrillas will sacrificially pursue their cause to the last drop of blood and are determined to emerge victorious from this war. For this reason, they express that they will never give up their fight, no matter what happens, no matter what the conditions. We are determined to live to the end for the freedom of the Leader and a free Kurdistan. Finally, I wish

all our friends who are currently fighting on the front line against the enemy every success. Victory will be ours.”



Remains of YPS member handed over to her family and reburied after 7 years

ANF | Amed | 20 November 2023

Seven years after her violent death, Bahar Göktekin (Roza) was given a dignified burial in her native village of Karamûs in Amed (tr. Diyarbakır). It took that long for her body, which was buried in the section for the “nameless” in the Yeniköy Cemetery by order of the state, to be exhumed and handed over to her family. Göktekin was a member of the Civil Defence Units (YPS) and died in April 2016 in a battle in the Nusaybin district of Mardin during the curfew that was still in place at the time. She had previously been involved in the resistance for self-administration in northern Kurdistan.

Bahar Göktekin’s identity was confirmed in the year of her death by a DNA comparison with her parents. Despite the fact that the samples had already been taken in July 2016 at the state hospital in Nusaybin, the Turkish authorities took more than seven years to certify the positive DNA match and ultimately arrange for the body to be exhumed. It was only yesterday that the family was able to receive Göktekin’s mortal remains and bury them with dignity.

The reburial of Bahar Göktekin, whose nom de guerre was Roza, was accompanied by family members and members of MEBYA-DER, a solidarity organisation for people who have lost relatives in the Kurdish liberation struggle. Co-chairman Mehmet Emin Kılıç noted that countless young men and women had lost their lives in the conflict over the Kurdish question. In order to prevent further deaths, this problem must finally be solved, said Kılıç and vowed to continue their struggle to this end.



Attack on a village of Manbij injures 7

ANF | Manbij | 21 November 2023

The invading Turkish state forces carried out a bombardment on the village of Awn Dadat to the north of Manbij last night.

According to reports from the ground, 7 people were injured as a result of the attack and hospitalized.

The names of those injured are as follows: Fatima El İbrahim, İmad El Ubêd, Abdullah Şêx Hesên, Hisên El Ehmed, Mihemed Zekeriya El Mewas, Hesên El Hecî and Ehmed El Fewaz.

Manbij is located 30 kilometres south of the Turkish border and occupies a key strategic position in Turkey's plans to expand its illegal occupation zone in northern Syria. The city, which is administered by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), is located on the important M4 motorway, which runs through northern Syria like a lifeline and was already a strategic supply route for ISIS.

Turkey is bombing the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria on an almost daily basis. The attacks, both from the ground and from the air, are carried out with the de facto approval of the international community.

In 2022, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan named Manbij, along with Tel Rifat, as the first target for a new Turkish invasion of northern and eastern Syria. Attacks on the town and neighbouring villages, which are carried out by jihadist militias loyal to Ankara as well as the Turkish army, have been taking place for years. The Tuesday before last, two people, including a minor, were injured in a drone attack on a settlement north of Manbij.



49 soldiers killed in guerrilla operation at Girê Amêdîyê

ANF | Behdinan | 21 November 2023

According to the Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG), the guerrillas carried out several actions against the Turkish occupation forces in the Girê Amêdîyê resistance area in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) on Monday. The HPG and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) dedicated the actions to the upcoming anniversary of the founding of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the campaign for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question. According to the HPG, 49 Turkish army soldiers were killed in simultaneous actions at three different locations within the Girê Amêdîyê region in the western Zap region. During the actions, 21 military tents and twelve positions of the invading troops were destroyed, while guerrillas Ciwan and Andok died.

The HPG Press Office provided the following information on the details of their actions at Girê Amêdîyê:

Operation in the Şehîd Cesur area

Guerrilla units infiltrated the Turkish troops and attacked with light and semi-automatic weapons. Three positions and eight tents were destroyed, and nine soldiers were killed. The surviving soldiers abandoned their positions and fled. At the same time, another position was attacked with semi-automatic and heavy weapons, destroying two more positions. Guerrilla commander Ciwan, who bravely and sacrificially led the attack group, was martyred in action.

Operation in the Şehîd Cemre area

The guerrillas hit the occupying forces from two sides with light and semi-automatic weapons and advanced into a military camp. 25 soldiers were killed, eight tents and five positions were destroyed. The commander of the assault group, Andok, was martyred in a courageous and sacrificial battle.

Operation in the Şehîd Pirdoğan area

The guerrillas hit the occupation troops from three flanks from close range with hand grenades and light weapons. The first attack group struck soldiers in the field, which left four soldiers dead and two positions destroyed. Strikes by the second and third groups killed eleven soldiers in a twenty-minute battle and forced the Turkish army to partially retreat.



SDF captures ISIS mercenary in Raqqa

ANF | Raqqa | 22 November 2023

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Center said in a statement that an ISIS mercenary was captured in an operation carried out in the rural region of Raqqa.

The SDF said: "As part of our ongoing operations against ISIS remnants, our Anti-Terrorist Units (YAT) carried out an operation. The operation took place on Monday in the town of Kerama in the

eastern countryside of Raqqa, with air support from the International Coalition forces. As a result of the operation, our forces captured a terrorist called Mihemed Mehmûd Hemade.”

It was reported that the captured mercenary took part in the smuggling of ISIS families in Eshbal El Xîlafe from the camps to the occupied regions of Northern and Eastern Syria, especially Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî.

The SDF statement added: “Our forces will continue security operations against the ISIS terrorist organization until its financial and weapon resources are destroyed and the security of the region is ensured.”



Turkish drones strike two cars near Qamishlo

ANF | Qamishlo | 22 November 2023

Two cars were bombed by Turkish drones near Qamishlo in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria on Wednesday. According to initial information, the attacks resulted in injuries. The airstrikes took place on the road between Qamishlo and Tirbespiyê, in the town of Til Meruf.

On Wednesday morning, an armed Turkish drone attacked a civilian service facility in Rimêlan in the canton of Qamishlo, also resulting in injuries. On Monday evening, numerous civilians, including women and children, were injured in an attack by mercenary groups commanded by Turkey on the village of Awn-Dadat. They were admitted to various hospitals, some with serious injuries.

In the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria, people are repeatedly dying as a result of drone attacks carried out by Turkey in violation of international law. The attacks are targeted against representatives of the autonomous administration structures, members of combat units and the civilian population and are carried out by drones travelling unchallenged in Syrian airspace controlled by the USA and Russia. The international community is ignoring Turkey's anti-Kurdish drone war, which began in June 2020 with the murder of three representatives of the women's umbrella organization, Kongra Star, in Kobanê. Since then, well over 200 further drone strikes have been carried out by the invading Turkish state. One of these targeted attacks killed SDF commander Ferhad Dêrik at the end of October. The Turkish state also used killer drones during an air offensive between 4 and 10 October, which led to the destruction of eighty per cent of the infrastructure in northern and eastern Syria. Almost fifty people were killed in the attacks and dozens more suffered injuries, some of them seriously. Turkish drone terror also continues to claim lives in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).



HPG: Two Turkish soldiers were killed in Serhed

ANF | Behdinan | 22 November 2023

The Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) issued a statement providing information about the latest actions by the guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army in Kurdistan. According to the statement, the guerrillas carried out a coordinated action against a Turkish military base in the Gundê Derê area in the Çaldıran district of Van on 4 November. The guerrillas operated with two attack groups. The first group employed sniper tactics and killed two soldiers, while the second group used semi-automatic weapons and destroyed two positions.

HPG also reported a heavy weapons attack by the guerrillas against the Turkish occupation forces in the Girê Amêdiyê Resistance Area in the Zap region of South Kurdistan on 21 November.

According to the statement, Turkish fighter jets bombed the Sinînê, Kendakola, Goşînê, Girê Berbizina, Girê Rostê and Girê Şehîd Hawar areas in the Xakurke region in the Medya Defence Zones eight times today.



PKK, 45 years of great struggles and great achievements

ANF | Behdinan | 23 November 2023

On November 27th, the PKK celebrates its 45th founding anniversary. On the occasion of this historic date, the PKK called for the coming year to be the year of the liberation of the Kurdish representative Abdullah Öcalan, jailed in Imralı, and the resolution of the Kurdish question. The statement from the PKK Executive Committee said: “We are now celebrating the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PKK, our pioneer in the fight for freedom. As a movement, a people and democratic humanity, we enter the 46th year even stronger and more determined on the basis of the global freedom campaign. We are convinced that this year we will achieve important achievements to guarantee the physical freedom of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan].

The 45th year was a year of great struggle and great achievements

With this in mind, we congratulate all our comrades, especially Rêber Apo, our patriotic people and our revolutionary-democratic friends on November 27th, the celebration and founding day of the party. We remember with deep respect, love and gratitude all of our courageous martyrs, starting with Heval Haki Karer up to those who died in the 45th year, whom we would like to remember here by naming comrades Leyla, Axîn, Rojhat and Erdal. For the 46th year of the PKK, we announce that we will fight even harder on the line of apoism and the martyr and achieve even greater victories.”

The statement continued: “As is well known, Rêber Apo and the PKK were not born into active, ongoing resistance, nor did they inherit the possibilities of such resistance. On the contrary, the PKK emerged and developed as a modern national liberation, freedom and democracy movement in an environment in which the classic uprisings had been completely crushed, all momentum had been stifled and the Kurdish people were almost annihilated on the basis of a cultural genocide brought to the brink of extinction. The PKK emerged and developed solely thanks to the creative efforts of its leader Abdullah Öcalan and the great courage and sacrifice of the Kurdish people, led by young people and women. For this reason, every moment was a moment of intense struggle. Each year witnessed much more extensive resistance and war than the previous, and everything from a few words to a free life was achieved through great sacrifice by the fallen. The PKK's 45th year was also a year of great struggle and full of successes.

Apoism became global

Everyone today knows and accepts the fact that the Kurdish people, through the great struggle led by Rêber Apo and the PKK, overcame the cultural genocide and won everything for their survival and freedom through the struggle led by Rêber Apo and the PKK. With the struggle of the last half century, the Kurdish slave mentality and the threat of extinction have been overcome and a free Kurdish identity has been created, an identity in which people have the strength and will to pay any price for their freedom. Kurdistan has transformed from a bastion of reaction to a bastion of the freedom struggle. A place that inspires all oppressed humanity. Kurdish society became aware of the apoist ideology of freedom and organized itself. She led the most important war of freedom in history. On the basis of such a struggle,

apoism was globalized and the Kurdish freedom struggle became a fire lighting the path of all oppressed humanity.”

The 21st century has become the century of women’s liberation

The statement added: “The PKK’s struggle in its 45th year has brought all of these developments to a climax. The guerrilla resistance led by the struggle in the Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna areas and the brave struggle of our people and our friends in the four parts of Kurdistan and abroad have dealt severe blows to the AKP-MHP fascism and brought it to the brink of collapse. The comprehensive revolutionary people’s war and resistance for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and against the isolation, torture and extermination system on Imralı has reached a strength that also influences the agenda of regional and global politics. The Kurdistan Free Women’s Movement, which developed on the lines of ‘Jin Jiyan Azadî’, has impressed women all over the world with its ideological and practical struggle and has already made the 21st century a century of women’s freedom. The Kurdish youth movement is a pioneer in building a global youth movement as an alternative of democratic modernity to capitalist modernity. She has the will to shape the future with her own hands.

A new global democracy movement has begun

We welcome the guerrilla, popular, women and youth resistance in the 45th year of the PKK, which is following the trail of resistance in all areas from dungeons to the mountains, from the four parts of Kurdistan to all places in the world developed by Imralı; We congratulate their success and honor all those who died in the process. We believe that all this self-sacrificing resistance will become even more successful and stronger in the 46th year and wish everyone much success in this regard.

It is clear that we will enter the 46th party year with the campaign ‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a solution to the Kurdish question’ announced on 10 October. This global freedom campaign was initiated by our friends and is supported by our people and all of humanity. Now there are actions in every region and every day demanding the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and the solution to the Kurdish question. Our people and our friends are entering the new year of the party with this broad and effective mobilization. Women and young people are leading this campaign on a global scale. Freedom-minded and democratic people of all genders, nationalities and social classes are taking part in this campaign. A new global fight for freedom and democracy has begun. This great struggle, which is developing for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and on the basis of the adoption of his democratic, ecological and women’s liberation paradigm, shows that a new ‘global democracy movement’ has indeed begun.”

Participate in the Freedom Campaign

The statement added: “It is clear that the PKK’s 46th year will make this active freedom campaign its basis. All struggles, from guerrilla to women’s, youth and popular resistance, will unite in this global freedom campaign. Our movement, our people and our friends will fight and win against the fascist dictatorship of Tayyip Erdoğan and his alliance through this campaign. In the 45th year of the struggle, the foundations of the murderous system were shaken and a process was initiated in which all balances were disturbed. In the 46th year, the freedom struggle will complete this development and destroy AKP-MHP fascism.

On this basis, it will open the way for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and a solution to the Kurdish question. In this context, we call on all comrades, our patriotic people and our democratic friends to properly understand the meaning of the global freedom campaign launched on 10 October, to participate fully and strongly in it and to use it in diverse and creative ways to lead forms of fighting to victory.”

The path is open, the light lies before us

The statement remarked: “Our goal for the 46th year, our aspirations and will to succeed are based on this. Based on the global freedom campaign, no violence, no invasion, no massacre, no persecution and no deception will be able to prevent us from moving further towards the physical freedom of Rêber Apo

and a solution to the Kurdish question. The people of Kurdistan will never allow themselves to become victims of regional and global conflicts of interest, like the people of Gaza. The liberalism of capitalist modernity, as well as the nationalism, fundamentalism, sexism and positivist scientism that these wars give rise to, will be strongly and effectively combated in all areas. Efforts are being made to ensure that all oppressed groups and peoples develop consciousness and organize themselves to wage a common struggle based on democratic confederalism. Democratic confederalism is based on democratic autonomy and democratic nationhood. On this basis, the line of development and strengthening of the strategic alliance with the freedom and democracy struggles of all oppressed groups and peoples and the use of all kinds of tactical relationships will be pursued.

It is clear that in the 46th year our path is open and leads into the light. It is clear where, what and how we should act. Let us understand these realities more accurately and deeply, internalize the apolitical paradigm of freedom more, participate more in the global freedom campaign, and fight with more creative methods in every field and lead the campaign to victory! Let's make the 46th year of the PKK the year of Rêber Apo's physical freedom and the solution of the Kurdish question!

On this basis, we once again warmly congratulate Rêber Apo, all our companions, our people and our friends on November 27th, the day of the party, and call on everyone to celebrate the founding day of the PKK with a variety of actions. We will reconnect it with the global freedom campaign to celebrate with great enthusiasm!

Against all forms of patriarchy

We would also like to remember 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. We condemn all forms and dimensions of patriarchy. We believe that the revolution for women's liberation will be further strengthened by developing the fight against violence against women. We declare that both men and women should participate in activities on this basis, and we welcome all actions that develop on the basis of the women's liberation revolution and wish them great success."



Guerrillas: We will drive the enemy out of our areas

Amargi Arhat Ba | Behdinan | 23 November 2023

On 20 November, the guerrillas launched a major offensive against the Turkish army in the western Zap region in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

In this context, the HPG (People's Defence Forces) and the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) carried out a series of actions on Monday at three locations in the Girê Amêdîyê region in western Zap, killing 49 soldiers. In addition, 21 military tents and twelve positions of the invading forces were destroyed. ANF spoke to the guerrillas involved in the operation.

HPG guerrilla Hewrê Çiya said: "An autumn offensive against the enemy was launched in the Şehîd Delîl area in the western Zap region. The aim of the offensive is to drive the Turkish occupation army out of our areas. The organisation has given us the opportunity to take part in this offensive and we are participating in actions in the attack column. As guerrillas, our focus is on realising this goal. The Girê (Hill) Amêdîyê, in particular, has great symbolic significance for us. Many of our comrades have fallen on this hill. They took part in the fortification of the summit and in the preparations for war. If the Girê Amêdîyê today stands like a fortress against the enemy and causes the enemy great concern, it is thanks to the efforts of the martyrs."

“Full of feelings of revenge, we overrun the enemy”

The HPG guerrilla continued: “A moral spirit has been awakened in us. We overrun the enemy in this spirit and we are full of feelings of revenge. With our actions we want to support our comrades who are resisting in the battle tunnels. The enemy’s advance in the field has been stopped. Now we want to send them back to where they came from. On the other hand, there are also forces that are loyal to the Turkish state and are trying to hinder us, but the defeat of the Turkish state also means their defeat. They can exist because the Turkish state is here. Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] said about the Turkish state: ‘It is in our hands whether they live or die on this land. This applies both to the Turkish state and to those who are its slaves.’”

“This is our land”

YJA Star guerrilla Sakine Rojîn said that the main aim of the offensive was to respond to the policy of isolation and to support the guerrillas in the tunnels. She stated: “The enemy has been attacking the Girê Amêdîyê area since last year. The enemy is doing everything it can, including the use of chemical weapons and tactical nuclear weapons, to break the tunnel resistance here. We have decided to launch such an offensive to thwart these attacks. As YJA Star guerrillas taking part in the operation, we are aware of our responsibility. The women fighters are leading this war. The resistance continues in many areas in the Western Zap region, and we are part of the attack column in the offensive that has begun. As many of our martyrs have said, we no longer have any tolerance for this enemy. The land is our land, and the enemy is trying to colonise us in our own land. We are prepared to do whatever it takes to break this policy. The action of our goddesses of freedom, comrades Sara and Rûken, has made a great impression on all of us, and our comrades Rojhat and Erdal have become their successors. We, too, will fight in the spirit of our sacrificial comrades and we will win.”

“It will seal their defeat”

HPG guerrilla Egîd Heskê said that the guerrillas were prepared to drive the Turkish army out of the region against all odds: “The enemy was defeated in these positions last year and had to retreat. They could not muster the will to fight against the guerrillas. This year they want to try their luck here again, but we are determined to drive the enemy out of our mountains, no matter what. We believe that in this way we can do justice to the work and trust that the party has placed in us. The destruction of the enemy in these mountains will seal the defeat of the Turkish army. Foreseeing this dishonour, it is trying to force its forces to fight against us. For this reason, attacks will be intensified with all the technology at its disposal, especially from the air. Every day, at least two or three Turkish army soldiers are killed in this area. The Turkish army suffers around 50 casualties in each comprehensive operation. These losses are either concealed from the Turkish people or it is claimed that the soldiers died in accidents.

An unjust, brutal war is being waged against the guerrillas. Even war has certain rules and limits. However, the Turkish army is using all kinds of weapons against us because it has suffered a major defeat against us. Nevertheless, we cannot speak of a success for the Turkish army. Victory was always ours and will always be ours. The war also has another dimension, that of the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party]. We cannot understand why an organisation that claims to be Kurdish and to be responsible for the protection of Kurdistan does not raise its voice while enemy forces invade its territory. It allows the Turkish army to enter its territory unhindered. Without the PKK, the KDP would not exist today. It is only because of the PKK that the name KDP is even mentioned today. The KDP says they are friends of Turkey, but how can a power that even burns its own soldiers be your friend?”

Cizire Autonomous Administration: Turkey tries to prevent the eradication of ISIS

ANF | 23 November 2023

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of the Cizire Region in North-East Syria released a statement condemning the increasingly ongoing Turkish attacks against the region.

Two cars were bombed by Turkish drones near Qamishlo in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria on Wednesday. The attacks, on the road between Qamishlo and Tîrbespiyê, in the town of Til Meruf, left two people dead and five others injured.

The Autonomous Administration stated that the Turkish state sought to prevent efforts to ensure the safety of the region and to eradicate ISIS after the successful operations carried out by the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) to this end.

The statement pointed out that targeted attacks against the service facilities and infrastructures in the region in an attempt to undermine the work and activities of the AANES (Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria) constituted a war crime.

The Autonomous Administration offered condolences to the families of the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery, condemning the policies of terror and genocide pursued by the Turkish state in the region.

The Autonomous Administration of the Cizire Region also condemned the international silence against the crimes committed by the Turkish state and called for a serious stand to be taken to prevent these attacks.

The statement ended with a call upon the people to enhance their struggle and solidarity to protect the gains.

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Turkish attack in Ain Issa results in injuries

ANF | 23 November 2023

The invading Turkish state launched an attack in the Ain Issa district in North-East Syria on Thursday.

The attack with artillery and mortars targeted a car in the village of Qurfilê and reportedly resulted in injuries.

Ain Issa is located south of the Turkish occupation zone in northern Syria and is of strategic importance as a link between the self-governing Euphrates regions with Kobanê in its center and Jazira. Since 2019, the city has been in the crosshairs of Turkey and its Islamist proxy forces as part of a war of attrition, with phases of high intensity alternating with phases of low intensity. Dozens of villages in the region have already been destroyed and depopulated by Turkish military violence. A Turkish air offensive last November reduced large parts of the infrastructure to rubble and ash.

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.

Earlier this month, Turkey launched a so-called “air-ground offensive” against north-eastern Syrian autonomous territory, justifying the 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, specifically targeted the vital infrastructure of the civilian population of northern and eastern Syria. More than two million people have since been cut off from basic services, and the energy infrastructure of Hesekê, 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.



Guerrillas mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PKK

ANF | Behdinan | 24 November 2023

Despite constant air strikes, the guerrillas marked the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PKK with an open-air ceremony in the Medya Defense Areas.

The PKK was born in difficult times

Under the flags of the PKK, HPG and YJA Star, a large group of fighters and commanders gathered for a military ceremony. Gulçin Umut, one of the commanders of the Free Women’s Associations (YJA Star), gave a speech and explained that the moment the PKK lit its spark occurred at a time when Turkish fascism believed it had the will for freedom of the Kurdish people completely destroyed.

But at this point, Abdullah Öcalan and six other people initiated the steps to form the party. Umut stressed that the peoples of the world are now united in this struggle under the paradigm of creating an egalitarian, democratic and free society. “When people say that they do not accept any other life than a free life, this is in line with the paradigm Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan].”

“Convinced of a free, egalitarian and democratic society”

Commander Gulçin Umut further explained that the PKK, believing in a free future, fights against the attacks by the fascist Turkish state, which is supported by the hegemonic powers: “We believe in a free, egalitarian and democratic society. Today we remind the enemy of this, who repeatedly claims in his special war propaganda that he has destroyed the PKK and that there is not a single person left to resist. The fight will continue in these mountains, even if there is only one person left in Kurdistan and the Middle East whose heart beats for freedom. The resistance against fascism will always continue in these mountains, it will never give in.”

Afterwards, the fighters shouted “Bijî Serok Apo”, “Bê Serok jîyan nabe”, “Jin, Jîyan, Azadî” and “Bijî Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan”, lit a fire, sang and danced Govend.

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HPG pays tribute to guerrilla who died in Metina

ANF | Behdinan | 24 November 2023

The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) has published information on the identity of the fighter who died on Monday in a guerrilla operation against the Turkish occupying forces in Girê Ortê in the southern Kurdish region of Metina.

The guerrilla has been named as Egîd Kobanê. Twelve Turkish army soldiers were killed in the coordinated attack on 20 November. The HPG announced on Tuesday that guerrilla Egîd Kobanê led the attack and died in a courageous and self-sacrificing fight.

The HPG expressed its condolences to the family of Egîd Kobanê and the people of Kurdistan: "As his comrades, we give our word to intensify our fight in order to do justice to his march for freedom, which is carried out on the line of willingness to sacrifice."

The HPG provided the following information regarding the identity of the fallen guerrilla:

Code name: Egîd Kobanê

First and last name: Mahmud Ibrahim

Place of birth: Kobanê

Names of mother and father: Mediha – Ibrahim

Date and place of death: 20 November 2023 / Metina

Egîd Kobanê was born in Kobanê and belonged to the Kêtikî tribe. His family is close to the Kurdish liberation movement. Because close relatives of his joined the guerrillas, he knew about the PKK since he was a child. With the Rojava revolution, he got to know the movement even better and began reading Abdullah Öcalan's analyses.

In 2014 he became active in the revolutionary youth movement. In 2018 he decided to fully dedicate his life to the revolution. After years of working in various places in Northern and Eastern Syria, he went into the mountains and joined the guerrillas. In doing so, he made his childhood dream come true.

It wasn't difficult for him to adjust to life in the mountains. Due to the intensity of the war, he quickly became familiar with the tactics of guerrilla warfare and learned how to use various weapons. He participated with great energy in building underground defenses and was convinced of the tactics of tunnel warfare. At the same time, he dealt with the paradigm of a democratic and ecological society based on women's liberation and established unbreakable relationships with his fellow fighters in the PKK.

The Turkish state's occupation attacks on the Medya Defense Areas caused him great anger and he persistently demanded to go to the war zone and fight on the front lines.

He wanted to avenge his fallen comrades and became part of a mobile unit. The HPG describe Egîd as a sincere and humble person who was known for his youthful dynamism and willingness to make sacrifices and who played a major role in the success of the operation against the occupying troops stationed at Girê Ortê.



HSM and PKK congratulate guerrillas on their revolutionary operation

ANF | Behdinan | 24 November 2023

In a written statement, the command of the People's Defence Centre (HSM) congratulated the guerrillas involved in the "Revolutionary Operation" to expel the Turkish army from the western Zap region in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The HSM statement said: "First of all, we would like to congratulate Rêber Apo [Leader Abdullah Öcalan], our patriotic people and you, dear comrades, on the 45th anniversary of the founding of our party, the PKK. We commemorate our beloved martyrs with respect and gratitude. These comrades, from Haki Karer to the youngest martyrs, comrades Andok, Ciwan, Botan and Egîd, are the ones who can truly claim the 45th anniversary epic of the PKK with their work, with their sacrifice. We reaffirm our commitment and promise to our martyrs to pursue their dreams, to lead their goals to victory and to keep their memory alive with the freedom of Rêber Apo and a free Kurdistan."

The HSM statement continued: "It was very meaningful to welcome the 45th anniversary of the official foundation of our party, the PKK, and the beginning of its 46th year with revolutionary operations of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. The victorious spirit of the PKK, which was carried into today with great effort and non-stop struggle, is reflected in the successful actions. On 20 November, the occupying forces of the Turkish army in Zap and Metîna were targeted by the revolutionary operation and a heavy and devastating blow was struck against them. The occupation forces stationed in three different parts of the Girê Amêdiyê Resistance Area in the Western Zap region were attacked in a comprehensive revolutionary operation. It is a very important success that all three places were infiltrated by the revolutionary units, they penetrated into their positions and the operation developed from the first to the last moment under the initiative of the guerrillas. After reaching the enemy with the masterful application of infiltration tactics, a great military feat was achieved, with the guerrillas taking on the enemy with great courage and Apoist spirit of sacrifice, killing 49 occupiers and destroying 21 tents and 12 positions. On the same day, the guerrillas carried out a coordinated raid against the invading forces in the Girê Ortê resistance area in the Metîna region, killing 12 of the occupiers, destroying two positions and a surveillance camera.

The fact that many wings acted simultaneously in the comprehensive revolutionary operation, that they used guerrilla tactics skillfully and in a coordinated manner, and that they overcame all enemy countermeasures, shows the professional level that the guerrilla warfare with highly mobile units has reached. The fact that the unwavering sacrifice of our comrades Rojhat Zîlan and Erdal Şahin, who followed the path of Zîlan with their action in Ankara, has now been demonstrated again in the form of a revolutionary operation in the mountains, is a message. This message is: The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla will continue its struggle tirelessly everywhere in this spirit."

PKK congratulates the guerrillas

We greet with love and respect all commanders and comrades who have welcomed the anniversary of the founding of our party with such powerful revolutionary operations and actions and who have entered the new party year with a spirit of sacrifice and great determination to fight. We congratulate all those who have contributed to the realization of these successful results, who have personally done pioneering work, participated and worked for success at every stage. In its message to our command, the Executive Committee of the PKK first congratulated all guerrilla forces on the party congress, warmly greeted all commanders and fighters who participated in and worked for these successful revolutionary operations and actions, and expressed the greetings, love and wishes for success of our entire party leadership.

We once again greet all comrades in Zap and Metîna, who have fought with Apoist sacrifice and dealt a heavy blow to the enemy, with the sincerest revolutionary feelings. We believe that they will have even greater successes in the new party and struggle year, and we wish them great victories.”

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Femincide

IHD report reveals continued violations of children’s rights in the Kurdish region of Turkey

ANF | Amed | 20 November 2023

The Human Rights Association (IHD) branch in Diyarbakır presented its Report on Child Rights Violations in South-East Anatolia Region for 2022-2023 on the occasion of World Children's Rights Day on November 20.

Presenting the report, IHD administrator Jiyan Ormanlı stated that children in the Kurdish region continued to be exposed to violence, detention, arrest and massacres.

Jiyan Ormanlı listed the violations suffered by children in the Kurdish region as follows:

Three children lost their lives as a result of extrajudicial execution by law-enforcement officers.

Four children lost their lives and 254 others were injured in various ways as a result of official failure/negligence.

Three children were seriously injured as a result of the detonation of mines and explosives left behind in conflict zones.

19 children lost their lives under suspicious circumstances, with Urfa, Mardin, and Şırnak being the most affected provinces.

10 children driven to suicide lost their lives and 4 others engaged in suicide attempts, with most of the cases taking place in Şırnak and Mardin. One child was driven to suicide in prison.

At least four children lost their lives and one was injured as a result of domestic violence. Two children were exposed to domestic sexual abuse.

At least eight children lost their lives and thirteen others were injured due to violence in the public sphere. At least 279 children were subjected to sexual abuse and attack in the public sphere, and three were forced into prostitution.

As a result of violations against the freedom and safety of children, at least 191 were taken into custody and three were imprisoned. At least 19 children experienced torture and ill-treatment, including two in detention, one in prison, and 16 outside detention centers.

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Oğuz: The state fears the organized power of women

ANF | 21 November 2023

Everywhere in North Kurdistan, preparations are in full swing for 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. On 17 November, the Free Women's Movement (TJA) in Kızıltepe district of Mardin launched an eight-day campaign of meetings and events, that will culminate in a large demonstration in the province of Mardin on 25 November.

The co-chair of the HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) in the district of Dargeçit, Yüksel Oğuz, who is involved in the TJA campaign, spoke of a special war policy that is particularly directed against women in Kurdistan and is also reflected in increasing patriarchal violence. After the destruction of Kurdish cities during the military siege in 2015, the Turkish state did everything in its power to minimize the participation of women in the fight.

Yüksel Oğuz emphasized that, on 25 November, they will organize a grave visit to Pakistan Öner, who was murdered by her husband, and Garibe Gezer, who was murdered by torture in prison.

Oğuz said: "A police vehicle is parked in front of our district office. They follow us from our daily work to public gatherings, they drive us to visits to people's homes or funeral ceremonies. There are policies of oppression and intimidation applied to society at large, but complex policies are being pursued against women. This has developed increasingly after the struggles for self-government. The state is afraid of the organized power of society and women. This policy is primarily directed against young women. In response, we have decided to reach out to as many young women as possible during the 25 November events and involve them in the organized struggle."

Drug use is encouraged by the state

An important issue that the women's movement has to deal with is drug use, said Oğuz, adding: "In Dargeçit we are observing that attempts are being made to increase drug use. This is part of the special war and is particularly aimed at neighborhoods where there was strong resistance during the struggle for self-government. We are dealing with the issue. One of the areas where there are many young men and women is the textile workshops. We learned that organizations like TUGVA (Youth Foundation of the Turkish State) go there under the guise of fighting drugs and trying to talk to young people and win them over. One of our activities as part of our program for 25 November will be a visit to these workshops."

Preparations for local elections

Yüksel Oğuz also said that the politics of the trustee in Dargeçit, who was appointed in place of the HDP mayor in 2016. He not only closed the women's facilities, but also confiscated all of their property. The AKP won the 2019 local elections, but the Green Left Party received 5,000 more votes than the AKP in the May elections. Oğuz is therefore counting on the local elections, which are expected to take place in March 2024. In particular, preparations for the elections will be strengthened after the activities on 25 November so that women will once again take a strong place in the city administration after the elections.



Kongra Star: Where is Warishe Moradi?

ANF | 21 November 2023

The women's umbrella organization Kongra Star once again demanded the release of Warishe Moradi. Moradi is a member of the Community of Free Women of East Kurdistan (KJAR) who was forcibly disappeared by the Iranian regime over 100 days ago.

The activist was abducted by Iran's security forces on 1 August. Despite ongoing efforts by her family, there's been no news about her wellbeing or whereabouts since her abduction.

Varishe Moradi, also known as Ciwana Sine, was arrested during a police check near her hometown of Sine (Sanandaj) and taken to an unknown location. The activist, who is a member of KJAR, the umbrella organization of the Kurdish women's movement in Iran, was committed to women's political and feminist issues such as protection from violence, equality and self-determination and worked towards positive social transformation in many places with targeted projects, much to the displeasure of the mullahs' regime.



19 years ago the murder of 12-year-old Uğur Kaymaz

ANF | 21 November 2023

On 21 November 2004, twelve-year-old Uğur and his father, Ahmet Kaymaz, were shot dead by Turkish security forces in Kiziltepe, Mardin province.

The murder took place in front of the family home. Uğur was wearing slippers on his feet at the time of his death. Thirteen bullets were found in his body and eight bullets were found in his father's body, as the autopsy revealed.

The governor of Mardin said after the murder that terrorists were involved in planning an attack. To support this claim, a Kalashnikov was placed next to the bodies and the scene was photographed. The gun was almost bigger than the twelve-year-old boy.

It was only through the efforts of the family that an investigation was finally opened. As usual in such cases, the perpetrators were protected by the Turkish judiciary.

For Uğur's mother, Makbule Kaymaz, the pain is unforgettable even 19 years later. "He was murdered with his father on the doorstep of our house for no reason. The perpetrators have never been held accountable," she said in an interview some time ago.

"After Uğur, Ceylan Önkol, Enes Ata, Berkin Elvan and so many other children were murdered. Nothing has changed in these 16 years," she added.

A memorial to Uğur Kaymaz and his father Ahmet erected in Kiziltepe has been demolished on the orders of the administrator of the district town, and a clock tower has been erected instead.



Violence against women in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan increasing day by day

ANF | 21 November 2023

As 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, approaches, violence against women in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan is increasing day by day. Violence is not only physical, but also manifests itself in the deprivation of rights. Women in the earthquake regions are in a particularly difficult situation.

The Kadın Cinayetleri (Femicides) initiative records and publishes the number of femicides. According to this, 2,534 women were murdered by men in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan between 2010 and 2020. However, femicides are often disguised as suicides and go unpunished. If this figure is added, there were 4,197 cases between 2010 and 2020. According to the platform's database information, 280 women were

murdered by men in 2021; 217 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances. In 2022, 334 women were murdered by men; 245 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances. Although the annual report for 2023 is not yet available, 253 women were murdered by men and 194 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the first ten months of the year.

In most cases, husbands are the murderers and the home is the crime scene

According to statistics from 2021 and 2022, women are usually murdered by their husbands or partners. Most murders take place in the home.

In 2021, 124 women were killed by their husband, 37 women by their unmarried partner, 24 women by an acquaintance, 21 women by their ex-husband, 16 women by distant relatives, 13 women by their ex-boyfriend, 13 women by their father, 11 women by their son, 6 women by their brother, 3 women by strangers and one woman by a stalker. In the case of 11 women, the relationship between the person and the perpetrator could not be established. Of the 280 women murdered by men in 2021, 178 were murdered at home. This means that 64 per cent of women were murdered in their home.

Of the 334 women murdered by men in 2022, 154 were murdered by their husband, 35 by their unmarried partner, 27 by their ex-boyfriend, 26 by more distant relatives, 19 by their ex-husband, 19 by someone they knew, 17 by their father, 10 by their son, 6 by their brother, 4 by a stranger, one by a stalker, one by her patient, one by her employer and one by her stepfather. For 13 women, the relationship of the persons who caused the death could not be determined. In 2022, 209 out of 334 women were murdered at home.

Similar conclusions can be reached by analysing just one month in 2023. In May alone, 40 women were murdered by men. Of these 40 women, 12 were murdered by their husband, 8 by an acquaintance, 7 by their boyfriend, 3 by their ex-husband, 3 by their ex-boyfriend, 3 by their sons, 2 by their brothers, 2 by their relatives. 30 of these women were murdered at home, 7 in the street, one in a car and one in a deserted place. In the case of one woman, the crime scene could not be determined.

Catastrophic situation of women in the earthquake region

After the two earthquakes on 6 February 2023, which affected 11 provinces, countless people were left homeless. Women in particular, who have been living in tents or containerised settlements ever since, suffered incidents of violence. The women's organisation "Mor Çatı" (Purple Roof), which produced two reports five months after the earthquake, writes that despite the time that has passed, not even the women's basic needs have been met and that the women in the camps have no access to violence protection mechanisms.

The report gives the following example: "The living conditions in tent cities make women's experiences of violence even more dramatic. A migrant woman who lived in a tent city with her children and obtained a restraining order prohibiting her husband from approaching her reported that she continued to be subjected to violence by her husband in the tent. In response to the assault in the tent, a new restraining order was issued by entering the tent number in the tent number log and issuing a decision that the man could not approach the tent. The man did not comply with the restraining order, nor did the threats against the woman cease. The woman was unable to obtain assistance from an interpreter, could not reach the police and could not be relocated due to her status as a migrant and the number of children she had. She remained in the tent city."

According to a report published by the Turkish Medical Association (TİTB) in August, women in the camps had no access to their right to health care and 2,000 cases of violence against women were reported to the Social Services Directorate in Hatay alone.

Call for the abolition of the law against violence

While violence against women continues at home, on the streets and in earthquake areas, the elections of 14 and 28 May took place amid discussions about Law No. 6284. This law regulates the protection of

women and the punishment of perpetrators, including a ban on approaching perpetrators of violence and protective measures for victims. Measures ranging from material support to a new identity for women are defined.

In its coalition talks with the AKP, the Yeniden Refah Partisi (YRP) demanded the abolition of Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence against Women and entered into an alliance on this condition. The Islamist HÜDA PAR, also an ally of the AKP, also issued a public statement on the issue: “We have already told the press that the Istanbul Convention destroys the roots of the family and that Law No. 6284, even though it is called the Family Protection Law, does not prevent violence.” The YRP, which opened the debate on Law No. 6284, has five deputies and HÜDA PAR has three deputies thanks to the People's Alliance. The Ministry of Family Affairs has repeatedly described Law 6284 as a “risk” for the family and is apparently preparing to amend the law.

The AKP has also repeatedly spoken out against the Protection against Violence Act, which is in danger of being overturned in this legislative period. The new Justice Minister Yılmaz Tunç (AKP) pointed out after the elections that a constitutional reform was imminent and that the “civil code would be rewritten from scratch”. In this context, he also discussed alimony payments to women.

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TJK-E announces action plan for 25 November, calling for broad participation in demonstrations

ANF | 21 November 2023

The Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe (TJK-E) is organising a large number of actions throughout Europe on 25 November under the slogan "With Jin, Jiyan, Azadî towards the women's revolution!".

“On 25 November, the day of struggle against violence against women, we commemorate with love and respect the Mirabel sisters, the Saras, the Hevrîn Xelefs, the Evins and all the women who resisted, fought and paid the price for their insistence on a free life against the fascist regimes. Their faith and love for a free life have turned the women's struggle for freedom into a rebellion of women all over the world,” said the TJK-E statement, which further included the following:

“Sexism is one of the most important ideological pillars of capitalism. The massive increase in patriarchal violence in recent years is an expression of this. Today, the fusion of the nation state and patriarchy cannot be overlooked. Women's resistance is being brutally attacked at all levels. The patriarchal powers have always been terrified of rebellious and organised women. Throughout history, women's transgression of the boundaries set by the patriarchy has always caused them fear, and all means of power have been mobilised to intimidate and eliminate these women through threats and blackmail, and if all this did not succeed, the women were thrown into prison or killed. With their struggle, however, women have torn the mask off this policy of extermination. The 21st century will be the century of women. The growing women's liberation struggles around the world show this more and more clearly. Women are in a process of awakening in their fight against violence, oppression, rape and femicide.

The greatest force against this filthy misogynistic system is the organised power of women today. That is why there is great fear of the developing awakening of women. This resistance, from the Mirabel sisters to Sakine Cansız, from the Rosas to Evin Goyis, is the way to a free and equal life. Women are the leading force in the fight against the system in all areas. The 21st century will be characterised by the women's revolution, as the first quarter of the century has already shown, and this is exactly what the ruling system wants to prevent.

In this system, women, and thus society, were given no other life than that of slavery, lack of will, disorganisation and inability to fight. But against all this darkness, the revolutionary struggle and resistance in Kurdistan was recreated on the basis of the reality of free women, free life and humanity with the historic awakening of Leader Abdullah Öcalan. Leader Öcalan defined the liberation of society as the liberation of women, and this definition is becoming clearer day by day. The women's liberation revolution is Leader Öcalan's biggest project. It has broken through all dogmas, created a new perspective on social problems and social reconstruction and shown new ways of struggle.

In contrast, the fascist AKP/MHP regime has deepened the isolation of Leader Öcalan and attacked Kurdish women and democratic forces with a policy of genocide. The misogynist regime uses every conceivable method to achieve this. The women, the Kurdish people and their guerrillas have expanded their struggle in the face of these attacks. We women will intensify our actions within the framework of the campaign 'Freedom for Öcalan and a political solution for the Kurdish question'. The will and strength of women are the guarantee that the end of the fascist AKP/MHP regime and the collaborationist KDP will be sustainable. As with every dictatorship, it will be the women who will bring about the end of this dictatorship. The women's struggle has entered this new phase. It is based on the philosophy of 'Jin Jiyan Azadî' (Woman, Life, Freedom). The truth of 'A new world is possible' is now being expressed in the women's struggle. This also makes it possible to realise the women's revolution. Women are fighting with this will and conviction. There is no doubt that we are paying a high price, but we will deepen our awareness of freedom and strengthen our will. Most importantly, we will advance our organisation. We understand the day of struggle against violence against women in this sense.

While the attacks of the ruling system against women continue systematically and uninterruptedly, women all over the world are stepping up their fight for freedom. Today, the patriarchal state system is being shaken to its foundations by women's struggles. 2023 was a year in which violence, rape, sexism and femicide also escalated in Europe. However, the attacks faced by migrant women are even more serious. Governments have tried to steal the rights that women have fought for at great sacrifice. But despite all these attacks, women have not given up their fight.

Patriarchy is fuelled by fundamentalism, racism and sexism and manifests itself in massacres and violence, femicide and genocide. Above all, it is a war against women. In Kurdistan, Palestine, Ukraine and Artsakh, as in many places in the world, there is war and massacres and expulsions are taking place. These wars are an expression of the interests of the patriarchal system and primarily affect women and children. It is more important than ever for women to form a front against these attacks on women by nation states. This is because the nation-state mentality is based on fundamentalism, racism and sexism. Women will step up their fight against these dirty wars imposed on women and peoples and stand up for freedom, democracy and a real solution based on the third way and the democratic nation.

When women demand that their invisible work at home be made visible, when they demand social equality, they are also fighting for survival. Because these demands are fundamental human rights. Women's demands are considered a crime, and they are murdered by men on the street or in their homes in front of their children. Therefore, the capitalist system and every state that positions women as the second sex in society with its laws, gender culture and traditions is responsible for every murdered woman and every child who experiences sexual violence. However, as in the past, we women will continue to fight against all these attacks by the capitalist system.

As the Kurdish women's movement in Europe, we welcome 25 November this year under the slogan "With Jin, Jiyan, Azadî to the women's revolution". All over the world, we as women are fighting against inequality, injustice, unfairness, sexism, fundamentalism, nationalism, racism and all kinds of violence. And this fight will continue until we achieve results. The fact that the 21st century will be the century of women is becoming more evident every day. The women's movement has become more universal and a

social force than ever before. As the Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe, we will be active everywhere on the occasion of 25 November, the day of the struggle against violence against women. We will defend life against patriarchal and state violence. We call on all women to participate widely in the actions on 25 November.”



Men demonstrate in Kobanê against violence against women

ANF | Kobane | 21 November 2023

In the autonomous region of North and East Syria, there is a wide range of events and activities to mark 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in order to empower women and raise awareness of women's rights in society. In Kobanê, men held a demonstration to emphasise that the fight against violence and patriarchal domination is not exclusively led by women and affects society as a whole.

Representatives of the institutions of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and members of political parties from the Euphrates region took part in the demonstration. The participants walked from Egîd Square to the Square of the Free Woman, chanting “Against all forms of violence and occupation - Jin Jiyen Azadî!”

PYD politician Ehmed Xoce gave a speech in which he spoke about the significance of 25 November and said: “Today, the dominance of the patriarchal mentality has been broken. Women are moving resolutely towards freedom and a liberated society. In Kurdistan, Abdullah Öcalan's approach has contributed significantly to the emergence of an organised women's movement. Women have begun to contribute to social construction and to defend themselves, their rights and their land. Men must support the fight against the oppression of women. Because only when women are free will we also be free. We all know that women are oppressed mentally, economically and socially. That is why we must all fight until the 5,000 years of imprisonment of women is ended and freedom prevails.”

At the end of the demonstration, the group Şehîd Yekta from the Euphrates Cultural Centre presented a street theatre performance on the topic of violence against women.



24-year-old woman murdered in Mardin

ANF | Mardin | 23 November 2023

24-year-old Gülcan Yeşilmen was seriously injured by a gunshot in the Central Ulucami borough of Midyat, in the province of Mardin. The young woman was taken to Midyat State Hospital after people called an ambulance but could not be saved despite all interventions.

It was claimed that Gülcan Yeşilmen was murdered by an accidentally fired gun. However, the prosecutor's office launched an investigation into the incident.

The Kadın Cinayetleri (Femicides) initiative records and publishes the number of femicides. According to this, 2,534 women were murdered by men in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan between 2010 and 2020. However, femicides are often disguised as suicides and go unpunished. If this figure is added, there were 4,197 cases between 2010 and 2020. According to the platform's database information, 280 women were

murdered by men in 2021; 217 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances. In 2022, 334 women were murdered by men; 245 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances. Although the annual report for 2023 is not yet available, 253 women were murdered by men and 194 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the first ten months of the year.



Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyan

Azadi

ANF | 23 November 2023

The women's movement in the autonomous region of North and East Syria is celebrating the International Day against Violence against Women under the motto "Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyan Azadi". An action alliance of women's organisations and institutions has put together a week-long programme around 25 November, which includes public demonstrations, educational work, seminars, discussion events and cultural performances.

The backbone of the women's movement in Rojava is the Kongra Star association. In Kurdish mythology, Star is the name of the goddess Ishtar (Inanna) and also means star in modern usage. The Coordination of Kongra Star published a statement on the occasion of 25 November in which it commemorates the martyrs of the women's liberation struggle and expresses its respect for all women who are fighting against patriarchy and for freedom worldwide.

The statement released by the Kongra Star Coordination includes the following:

"On the occasion of November 25th, the International Day against Violence against Women, we commemorate the struggle of the Mirabal sisters and, on behalf of the martyrs Şervin Serdar, Zeyneb Seroxan, Yusra Derweş, Liman Şiwêş and Roshna Agit, we commemorate all revolutionary women who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom. We also honor the women around the world who are battling against patriarchy and fighting for freedom.

This year, November 25th takes place in the shadow of the wars waged by the dominant male ideology. As Kongra Star and women's organizations in North and East Syria, we welcome this year's 25th of November with the slogan "Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyan Azadi" and promise to intensify our struggle. Violence against women, like all forms of violence, from colonialism to occupation, from slavery to massacre, has its origins in patriarchal mentality and the oppression of women. Whether in Myanmar, Palestine, Karabakh, Afghanistan or Kurdistan, wars of occupation lead to the destruction of nature, massacres, displacement and, in particular, femicide. Our struggle against occupation and patriarchal violence must be led and strengthened side by side.

The conflicts and wars that are developing in many areas today show once again that violence against women is not limited to the family and society, but is promoted and protected by the policies of nation states and carried out by nation states themselves, be it in Kurdistan, Palestine, Mexico, India or Afghanistan. We see and experience this especially in the occupation. The occupation itself is violence and is carried out with the same patriarchal mentality of rape. Due to the occupation, women are most exposed to all kinds of violence, especially sexual violence. In the occupied areas of Rojava such as Afrin, Serekaniye and Girê Spî, women are exposed to the violence of the occupation on a daily basis.

The attacks of the patriarchal system, which are waged on the level of a systematic war, show that the male-dominated states are afraid of the success of the women's revolution.

We have seen this reality in Rojava and North and East Syria, where we started the women's revolution with the slogan 'Jin Jiyan Azadi' more than 11 years ago. The slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" means that women need free consciousness, self-organization and self-defence power in order to liberate life. The women's revolution that we have started here is particularly under attack by the fascist Turkish state. The Turkish state has started a special war to assassinate political and organized women who are the leaders of their people and who seek to establish a democratic system. Dozens of our female comrades who fought for the military, social and political defense of their territory have been martyred by the drone war waged by Turkey.

Any form of violence against women is an attack on the women's revolution. Defending the women's revolution means strengthening and increasing the organization of women. To protect the women's revolution, we must wage a unique and radical struggle. As women, we are the pioneers of this struggle and follow in the footsteps of the martyrs who laid down their lives for freedom. We continue our struggle for a free life, which we understand in the spirit of Abdullah Öcalan's philosophy.

Patriarchal mentality is on the rise in all parts of the world and is waging a special war, with psychological and physical violence against the minds and bodies of women. Against this, our struggle should be waged worldwide against the patriarchal consciousness and the nation state, which deepens the mentality of the system and the dominant man. On this basis, we call on all the women of the world to take their place in the resistance against patriarchy and to organize locally and internationally. No woman should remain unorganized, because today's struggle is necessary so that we can all live a free life.

In order to destroy the patriarchal system, we will intensify our struggle against all kinds of violence against women and the dominant mentality of men. Under the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom", we will build the World Women's Confederalism and turn our century into the era of women's freedom! From Rojava to the Middle East and around the world, we will make the 21st century become the century of women's freedom with the leadership of women, our organization and self-defense power. Jin Jiyan Azadi! (Woman, Life, Freedom)"



89,000 women and girls killed across the globe in 2022

ANF | 23 November 2023

The United Nations on Thursday said that around 89, 000 women and girls were killed in 2022 across the globe.

According to the UN report, this is the highest annual figure recorded in the past two decades.

"The alarming number of femicides is a stark reminder that humanity is still grappling with deep-rooted inequalities and violence against women and girls."

"Each life lost is a call to action, a plea to urgently address structural inequalities, to improve criminal justice responses, so that no woman or girl fears for her life because of her gender," said Executive Director of UNODC, Ghada Waly, in a statement.

Waly said that more than half of these murders, around 55 per cent, were committed by family members or partners, compared to about 12 per cent of male victims of homicide.

According to Waly, the highest number of murders of women and girls, around 20,000, took place in Africa, followed by Asia.



Men rally in Tabqa in solidarity with the struggle of women

ANF | Tabqa | 23 November 2023

In the autonomous region of North and East Syria, there is a wide range of events and activities to mark 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in order to empower women and raise awareness of women's rights in society. In Tabqa, men held a demonstration to express their solidarity with the struggle of women in all areas of life.

Representatives from the Democratic Civilian Administration, local committees, military councils, Future Party of Syria and non-governmental organizations, and hundreds of men took part in the march in the district centre.

Speaking after the march which ended at Şehit Hevrîn Xelef Park, Tabqa Democratic Civilian Administration Executive Council Co-President Mezlum Ömer said: “We took to the streets to raise our voice against violence against women. Women have succeeded a lot and contributed greatly to the development of society. For this reason, society should stand with women and break all the tools of the capitalist system. We will support women in all areas of life because women are the backbone of society.”

The demonstration concluded with the slogans “Bijî berxwedana jina azad” (Long live the resistance of free women) and “Jin jiyana azadî” (Woman, Life, Freedom).



Theater as a tool to talk about women’s struggle

ANF | Deir Ez-Zor | 24 November 2023

The Deir ez-Zor Women’s Council of the Future Syria Party organized a theater event together with Deir ez-Zor Civil Council Culture and Culture Committee, to talk about the women’s struggle. The event, under the slogan “Jin Jiyana Azadî against all kinds of violence and occupation”, consisted of a play focusing on the difficulties experienced by women and the struggle of women.

Many people attended the play, as well as civil society organizations, political party representatives and opinion leaders in Deir ez-Zor. The Future Syria Party Women’s Council member Ikram El Maşoh and Culture and Art Committee member Tehani El Eli made statements before the game.

The play told about the struggle of women and touched upon the difficulties faced by women in society today. Theater is one of the instruments used to raise public awareness and create a women’s perspective.



Human Rights Violations

25 days without news from Roj News journalist Ehmed

ANF | 19 November 2023

There is still no news of the journalist Silêman Ehmed, who was kidnapped by KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) security forces in South Kurdistan on 25 October.

The employee of the Arabic-language editorial team of the RojNews news agency initially disappeared after visiting family in Aleppo at the Sêmalka-Pêşxabûr border crossing between the Autonomous Region of North and East Syria (AANES) and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The last contact with him was a telephone conversation with his mother when he was already in the KDP's area of responsibility. Six days later, the Asayîş security forces in Dihok announced that the journalist had been arrested because he belonged to the PKK.

Silêman Ehmed has worked for RojNews in South Kurdistan for five years. The news agency reiterated its call for his immediate release and held the KDP responsible for the life and safety of its editor.

Kurdish and international media organizations, such as the Kurdish PEN Center and Reporters Without Borders, have stated their support for the journalist.

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Wecker: Germany is complicit in Turkey's war against the Kurds

ANF | 19 November 2023

The singer-songwriter Konstantin Wecker from Munich accused the German government of hypocrisy in connection with Turkey's war against the Kurds. Wecker said in a video message to the Kurdish press that Germany was partly to blame for the war of aggression against the people of Kurdistan, as the German government as well as corporations and the arms industry were supporting the "criminal and racist Erdogan regime".

The message by Konstantin Wecker includes the following:

"Dear Kurds, dear friends, a just and peaceful solution for the people of Kurdistan requires the release of Abdullah Öcalan and the lifting of the ban on the PKK in Germany.

I wrote this together with the writer and Nobel Prize winner Elfriede Jelinek in solidarity with the Kurdish Cultural Festival on International Anti-War Day on 1 September 2023.

We will never stop dreaming of a world free of domination, wars, fascism, racism, patriarchy and the destructive exploitation of people and nature.

Our dreams cannot be banned by the warlords and politicians of this world, nor can they permanently prevent our attempts to realise them.

Neither in Ankara nor in Tehran, neither in Moscow, Washington, Beijing or Berlin.

It is our responsibility as intellectuals or simply as thoughtful people to at least try to think about what something better could look like.

And if there are people who are actually trying to create something better, it is our responsibility to help them.

And this is what the anthropologist, anarchist and anti-fascist David Graeber says about the importance of the real revolution in Rojava. And that speaks to me from the soul.

The fact that the German government, German companies and the German defence industry are still supporting the criminal and racist Erdogan regime is intolerable.

This makes the ruling politicians complicit in a war of aggression that violates international law, because the Turkish army is also committing war crimes with German weapons and German tanks.

Nothing about German foreign policy is feminist. It is dishonest and hypocritical.

The Turkish Erdogan regime's war of aggression against the people of Rojava, northern Syria and southern Kurdistan in northern Iraq is illegal under international law and a crime against humanity. It must be stopped immediately.

Yet the German government remains silent, once again sealing its dirty deal with NATO partner Turkey against refugees.

This pact is deadly. Deadly for a great many people.

They are dying in the Mediterranean, on the outer borders of Fortress Europe and in the torture chambers of our allies.

Rojava and Kurdistan concern us all.

The people of Rojava need our global solidarity now.

And we need the utopia of Rojava.

This social experiment of a grassroots and democratic, feminist, ecological and socially just, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society in a region of patriarchal autocrats, violence and wars.

For years, the self-managed project in Rojava has been the only glimmer of hope for many people in the entire region, for peace and anti-racist solidarity against hatred and destruction.

And that is why we hope that many people around the world will get involved and take to the streets - for Rojava and against the wars.

We need a worldwide wave of civil disobedience to stop all arms shipments. The deadly EU-Turkey deal against all people fleeing war, hunger, hardship and destruction must finally be stopped.

It's about people and humanity.

Let's stop the wars now.

I hope my song "Shame on you, Europe", which we have also produced in Kurdish, can encourage you on this path."

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Floods leave 9 people dead, 11 others missing

ANF | 20 November 2023

At least four people were killed in flooding caused by heavy rainfall in the province of Batman on Monday. The victims were a 54-year-old woman and three of her grandchildren, aged one, five and nine, according to local authorities. Another person died in the district of Hani in the neighbouring province of Amed (Diyarbakır).

The streets of Batman and Amed turned into raging rivers, with entire neighbourhoods under water after the overnight storm. Images of cars being swept away by the masses of water could be seen on television and online networks.

Severe storms and heavy rain also hit western Turkey. According to the authorities, four people lost their lives in the province of Zonguldak. Three of the victims were swept away by the floods in a car and were later found dead.

A cargo ship with twelve Turkish crew members on board also sank in the Black Sea during the storm on Sunday. According to the Interior Ministry, the body of a sailor was recovered on Monday morning off the harbour town of Ereğli in Zonguldak. After the storm subsided, the search for the eleven missing sailors could also begin.

Another ship flying the flag of Cameroon also sank off the Turkish Black Sea coast on Sunday. The freighter had been torn in two by the force of the waves, but the crew had been brought to safety beforehand.

In the meantime, the victims of the flood in Batman were laid to rest at the Asri Cemetery on Monday. The funeral was attended by HEDEP (Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party) MPs Zeynep Oduncu and Mehmet Rüştü Tiryaki and members of TJA (Free Women's Movement), Peace Mothers Council, DBP (Democratic Regions Party) and HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party).

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At least 10 people taken into custody in Ankara

ANF | Ankara | 21 November 2023

As part of the police political operation carried out by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, many houses were raided by the police early on Tuesday morning.

At least 10 people were detained, including Semra Demir, former Ankara Provincial co-chair of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and members of the Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD).

Those detained were taken to Ankara Police Department.

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Police take co-chair of Socialist Party of the Oppressed into custody

ANF | Amed | 22 November 2023

Turkish police raided many houses in the morning within the scope of an investigation launched by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

As a result of the raids, ESP co-chair Beycan Taşkiran, Socialist Women's Assembly (SKM) central committee member Satiye Ok and a third person whose name was not learned, were taken into custody.

A statement made by the ESP on its social media account said: "The house where our co-chair Beycan Taşkiran and SKM member Satiye Ok were staying was raided by the police. Three of our members were taken into custody."

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KON-MED reiterates demand to lift ban on PKK

ANF | Berlin | 22 November 2023

The Kurdish umbrella organization KON-MED has reiterated the demand for the lifting of the ban on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Germany, which was imposed thirty years ago, and issued a statement on the demonstration held on Saturday in Berlin.

In the statement, KON-MED said that the PKK ban issued in 1993 had no legal basis and was part of the internationally agreed action against the Kurdish liberation movement. With the ban on activities, an official cover was created for the first time against the Kurds' freedom of organization and assembly. "This step, which was purely political and had no basis whatsoever, became an illegal process in Germany, the country with the largest Kurdish population of criminalization."

On 25 November a conference organized by the Cologne associations AZADÎ and MAF-DAD with the title "30 years of ban on activity against the Kurdish freedom movement: lifting the PKK ban – strengthening democracy" will take place in Berlin.

Mechanism for implementing Turkish demands

Dozens of Kurds have been arrested in Germany over the past thirty years, KON-MED continued: "In fact, with this practice, which was formalized as a PKK ban, the German state has become a mechanism that fulfills the wishes of the Turkish state implemented. The Kurdish people have no other goal than to exercise their democratic rights. The PKK ban decision, which has been used as a cudgel against Kurds for thirty years, is a disgrace for Germany. The Kurdish people have rejected this injustice and shame through their resistance. Therefore, this ban no longer has any meaning for the Kurdish people. The Kurdish people do not recognize this decision and will not give in in the fight against this injustice and lawlessness."

Police provocation failed

As for the demonstration held on Saturday, KON-MED said that thousands of people in Berlin demanded the lifting of the ban on the PKK despite being provoked by a large police presence.

Apparently, the police attacks were intended to produce images of "violent Kurds" ahead of the demonstration in order to justify the ban. KON-MED underlined that this attempt failed due to the calm attitude of the demonstrators: "The provocations of the German police against the people who gathered in the early hours of the morning on Berlin's famous Oranienplatz did not achieve their goal. We condemn cooperation with the Turkish regime, which is fueling the war in the Middle East, carrying out massacres in Kurdistan and organizing ISIS mercenaries. With the ban on the PKK, the German state is implementing the demands of the Turkish state. The German state should turn away from this mistake, listen to the just demands of the Kurdish people and abandon its criminalization policy."

The struggle goes on

According to KON-MED, there are one and a half million Kurds living in Germany, and thousands of them "made a declaration of intent and condemned the ban" on 18 November. The Kurdish umbrella organization thanked everyone who contributed to the successful event.

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Supreme Court says acronym HEDEP cannot be used

ANF | Ankara | 23 November 2023

The Green and Left Future Party (Green Left Party) changed its name to People's Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP).

The Supreme Court rejected the acronym of the party name, HEDEP, on the grounds that it resembled the previously closed People's Democracy Party (HADEP), and requested that the abbreviation HEDEP be changed.

HEDEP executives will meet with lawyers and decide on the options of changing the abbreviation or appealing to the Supreme Court.

HEDEP spokesperson Ayşegül Doğan will make a statement on the issue tomorrow, Friday.

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Duhok Public Order Forces don't allow lawyer to visit

RojNews journalist Ehmed

ANF | 23 November 2023

There has been no news from RojNews editor Silêman Ehmed, who was kidnapped by KDP forces from the Sêmelka Border Gate 30 days ago while trying to cross from Rojava to South Kurdistan. Despite all requests and applications, the KDP prevents lawyers from meeting with Silêman Ehmed and examining the file against him.

Neriman Ahmet, one of Silêman Ehmed's lawyers, told RojNews: "We have been trying to follow Silêman Ehmed's file and learn its content since the day he was kidnapped. For this reason, we applied to Duhok General Public Order Office. At first, they denied that Ehmed was detained by them and rejected our request for a visit. We confirmed the information that the journalist had indeed been taken into custody by the Duhok Public Order Office. However, this time our meetings were blocked due to the ongoing investigation."

Lawyer Ahmet added that it was against the law to prevent them from meeting their client and said: "The law said that every suspect has the right to call his lawyer while in custody or during the investigation. However, what has happened so far is a clear violation of the law."

Lawyer Ahmet said that after the Public Order Forces prevented them from meeting with their client, they applied to the Duhok Public Order Judgeship, and that this accepted their request for a visit. This decision was reported to the General Public Order Office, but despite this, they were once again prevented from meeting with Silêman Ehmed.

Lawyer Ahmet said: "According to the information we obtained from a private source, the file against Silêman Ehmed is under the control of Parastin, the intelligence agency of the KDP. We, as defense group, will continue to pursue all legal remedies."

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At least 10 people taken into custody in many cities of

Kurdistan and Turkey

ANF | 24 November 2023

A police political operation was carried out by the police in many houses in Istanbul in the morning. It was learned that at least 10 people were taken into custody during the raids. Those detained were taken to the Istanbul Provincial Police Department.

The names of some of those detained are as follows: Lawyer Yusuf Görücü, a member of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), Peoples' Democracy and Equality Party (HEDEP) Youth Council member Ömer Gelenmek, Gülbahar Herdem Filizer, Ahmet Özboganlı, Güney Yıldırım, Turgut Güvener, Cezmi Güçin, Rıdvan. Güçin, Yavuz Alınçer and Adem Yıldız.”

Urfa

HEDEP Provincial Youth Council members Enes Rakım and Mustafa Özkan were taken into custody during house raids in Urfa.

It was stated that the number of detentions may increase.

The detained young people met with their lawyers. It was stated that the detentions were on the grounds of the “Freedom March” organized in Amed and Gemlik to end the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

It was stated that Enes Rakım was beaten during the home raid.

Şirnak

HDP-run Silopi (Silopiya) Municipality Council member Aysel Saruhan was detained at the District Police Department, where she went to testify within the scope of an investigation based in Amed.

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Interview

Bayik: International campaign “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan” gives first results

ANF | Behdınan | 20 November 2023

KCK Executive Council co-chair Cemil Bayik said that freedom and a meaningful life can be realized with the paradigm of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and called on everyone to support the international campaign “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question” launched on 10 October.

The campaign “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question”, initiated by the international friends of the Kurdish people, has been going on for one month while the severe isolation of the leader of the Kurdish people, Abdullah Öcalan, continues. How do you evaluate the progress of the campaign and how should it proceed from now on?

Before answering your question, I would like to say the following: the month we are in is a month in which many friends were martyred. So firstly, I would like to commemorate all the martyrs of revolution and freedom with respect and gratitude.

As it is known, the great patriot Yûsif Gulo was assassinated by the Turkish state in Qamişlo on November 9, 2021. On November 10, comrade Yılmaz Dersim, one of the commanders of HPG, was martyred in clashes. In 1999, 18 comrades were martyred as a result of a chemical attack in Kulp. Yasser Arafat was martyred in 2004. Delal Amed and her comrades were martyred in 2017. In 1979, Edip Solmaz was assassinated when he was the mayor of Batman. In 1960, 283 Kurdish youths were massacred in the cinema of Amûdê. Seyid Rıza was arrested in Dersim and executed in Elazığ on November 15, 1937. His son and comrades were also executed. The great artist Ahmet Kaya was martyred in Paris in 2000.

Comrade Doğan Dideri was martyred in Amed in 2017. Comrade Hüseyin Özbey was martyred in 1997. Reşit Serdar was martyred in Şemzinan in 2012. Of course, not only were these friends martyred in the month of November, there are many more than I can mention here. As I said, I remember all our martyrs with respect and gratitude.

As you said, our international friends have started a new campaign. Some results of the efforts within the framework of the campaign have already appeared, and I think there are more results to come, as the participation in the campaign is still growing day by day. I would like to take this opportunity to greet and congratulate everyone who is part of this campaign. It is a great campaign, but it has only just begun. It needs to be further strengthened and developed. Our international friends have started it and we as a movement have declared that we are also participating in it. We are not only taking part in it, but we are using all our means to make it successful and achieve its goal. This is a historical duty for all militants of the movement and all Kurds. Of course, it is not only their duty, but all the international friends of this movement, of the Kurdish people in the world, all those who fight for freedom and democracy must take part in this campaign. Because it is a movement for freedom. Participation alone will not bring results, a common struggle is needed.

The current policy against Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] has no precedent in the world. They are carrying out a very dirty policy, an absolute isolation, because we have not heard from Rêber Apo for 3 years. The policy they are carrying out against Rêber Apo is also carried out against the Kurdish people. They are even carrying out this policy against the democratic, socialist and liberal people of Turkey. In other words, they have isolated the whole society of Turkey with this policy. Everyone who has a political conscience, a sense of morality and is in favor of freedom is taking part in this campaign. This means defending the Kurdish people in the person of Rêber Apo. As soon as we understand the isolation, we can fight against it and achieve results. There is a reason why they developed the isolation against the Kurdish people in the person of Rêber Apo, the democratic, socialist and freedom forces of Turkey. Because Rêber Apo always provided a depth in the struggle for democracy and freedom. Again, there was a blockade in the socialist and freedom movement which Rêber Apo wanted to solve and therefore took up the struggle.

When the PKK was founded, it was under the influence of real socialism, which affected its practices. Rêber Apo wanted to remove this influence. He wanted to create changes and innovations in the PKK and its struggle. He worked with this aim and as a result, not only the Kurdish people but also other peoples were affected. The capitalist modernity and those who lead this system saw this. Rêber Apo is searching for the freedom and democracy movements, for the PKK and for socialism. With this search, Rêber Apo has also taken some steps. If this was not prevented, it would be dangerous for the capitalist system. That is why they developed the international conspiracy, abducted Rêber Apo and developed absolute isolation on Imralı. In this way, they wanted to pave the way and protect their system in the Middle East. They realized that if they could not develop measures against Rêber Apo, he would cause them great problems. Their system would be hit, changes would take place in the Middle East, freedom movements would develop. The leaders of the system of capitalist modernity, the powers in the region and some Kurdish collaborators of the system joined hands and carried out the conspiracy. They abducted Rêber Apo and developed a system of absolute isolation. But Rêber Apo had a goal and he focused, researched and took steps towards this goal and even the conspiracy could not stop him.

Rêber Apo continued his work even under the conditions of Imralı. He developed a new paradigm against the system of capitalist modernity. With this paradigm, humanity gained a great weapon. All those who fight for democracy, freedom and socialism understand the reality of Rêber Apo very well. They see that there is a solution in the paradigm developed by Rêber Apo. Because they are also in search. That is why they embrace Rêber Apo and his paradigm. That is why our international friends have started such a campaign. It is our responsibility to expand and deepen this campaign. Political pressure must be put on the Turkish state. Not only the Kurds, but all those who are involved in the struggle for freedom and

democracy, who fight against fascism, who want to develop the brotherhood of the peoples, must take part in the campaign. They should also put pressure on the UN, CPT, Council of Europe and other international institutions. They should mobilize these institutions to put pressure on the Turkish state. Because if the Turkish state is not put under pressure, the Turkish state will never take steps for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and for the solution of the Kurdish question. Because the goal they have set for themselves is the liquidation of the freedom movement and the genocide of the Kurdish people. The Turkish state, which has set these goals, will never take steps for Rêber Apo and the Kurdish people if it is not put under great pressure. Everyone is asked to put pressure on the Turkish state. Everyone should do all their work on this basis.

When this campaign was developed, at the same time, the war between the Israeli state and Hamas started. It is a big war that has started. While doing our work for the campaign, we also have to express our friendship with the Palestinian people. Because the Kurdish people and the Palestinian people are the same. In the Middle East, these two peoples are in captivity and facing dirty politics. These peoples have been struggling against genocide for many years. To protect Rêber Apo is to protect the Palestinian people. Because Rêber Apo has a very strong relationship with the Palestinian people. He stayed with the Palestinian movement for a while and built strong friendships. That is why our movement has a strong relationship with the Palestinian people. We even fought on the side of the Palestinian people against the policy of genocide and gave martyrs for it. Since Rêber Apo's goal is freedom and democracy, it is the Kurds and the Palestinians who are most in need of freedom and democracy in the Middle East. Other peoples in the region may also have demands in this sense, but the Kurds and Palestinians are being subjected to genocide. Maybe there is no such problem for other peoples in the region, but there is such a reality for the Kurds and Palestinians.

Since Rêber Apo's goal is democracy and freedom, he focuses on both Kurds and Palestinians. He struggled for years on how to solve these problems, how these two peoples could get rid of the genocide, how they could gain their rights, how they could live freely with their identities. As a result, he saw that the problems of the Kurdish and Palestinian people could be solved through the brotherhood of peoples. He saw that these problems could not be solved through religion, racism or the nation state. Trying to solve them in this way will deepen the ongoing massacres and genocide. The way to peace, tranquility and the elimination of the policy of genocide is through a democratic nation. This is where Rêber Apo saw the solution. Therefore, both the Palestinian people and the Jewish people must develop a united struggle against the war. This is the only way to resolve the situation. Some democrats, intellectuals and socialists both in Kurdistan and Turkey have made statements and calls regarding the campaign started for Rêber Apo. This is positive, but they should give more support. It is not enough to make a statement or call for support, it is also necessary to fight for it, to organize accordingly. If the campaign is successful, democracy will develop in Turkey, the Kurdish problem, the problems of Alevis and other peoples will be solved. This will also lead to the development of democracy and freedom in the whole Middle East. That is why this campaign is so big and important.

45 years ago, you founded the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK. What do you want to emphasize regarding the meaning of this day?

First of all, I would like to congratulate Rêber Apo on the founding day of the PKK. The founding of the PKK by Rêber Apo was not only a service to the Kurdish people, but to all of humanity. This is why so many people all over the world are standing up for Rêber Apo today. I would like to congratulate all peoples, our people and our comrades on this day.

It is important to remember under what circumstances and for what purpose the PKK was founded. It was founded under the most difficult circumstances, while a genocide of the Kurdish people was taking place. This genocide had a devastating effect on the Kurdish people. It no longer had the hope or saw

the strength within itself to stand up again and stand up for itself. The people were in such a state. Rêber Apo has analyzed and well understood both Kurdish society and the enemies of the Kurdish people. Based on this understanding and analyzing the history of the Kurds and all of humanity, the PKK was founded. The PKK was founded against genocide. It was founded with the intention of making the enemy's policies come to nothing and allowing the Kurdish people to live a life of freedom on their own soil, based on their own identity, with their own language. On this basis, the struggle was developed.

In this way, the reality of the oppressors and their backers was exposed while the Kurdish people got back on their feet. Today, the whole world sees an example in the Kurds and gets hope from them. Because the state in which humanity finds itself today is reminiscent of that of the Kurdish people. Just as a genocidal policy was pursued against the Kurdish people and little was left for the Kurds to cease to exist, today, at a similar level, the system of capitalist modernity has become a problem for all of humanity. The survival of humanity is in danger. One of the reasons why the young people gathered in Paris is precisely this. Capitalist modernity is destroying the foundation of life. In the name of survival, life is destroyed. That's why they went in search of a free life and saw this in the paradigm of Rêber Apo. There is no other way. Humanity can only defend itself against capitalist modernity with this paradigm.

Just as Rêber Apo took responsibility for the Kurdish people back then, he is now doing the same for all of humanity. This is based on Kurdistan, because for him, society, free coexistence and democracy based on the depth of human history are essential. Based on this, he takes responsibility for the Kurds, women, young people and all of humanity. People see a solution in Rêber Apo's paradigm. That's why the campaign was started and why so many people are supporting him. The offensive that Rêber Apo launched against capitalist modernity is now directed against the global genocidal mentality. Just as his offensive revitalized the Kurds and brought them back to their feet, today humanity is also being revitalized and gradually getting back on its feet. That's why the paradigm is spreading more and more and the responsibility for Rêber Apo is constantly increasing. What kind of task do we get out of this? We must show a strong sense of responsibility for Rêber Apo. This is not only the task of our internationalist friends, it is also the task of the Kurds. Kurds, the militants of this movement, all need to commit more to this campaign and paradigm. We have to carry the paradigm everywhere in the world and work harder for it than anyone else. That is the task that falls to us.



Bayik: Turkey is waging a war with the support of the KDP

ANF | Behdinan | 21 November 2023

The 1st World Youth Conference was held in Paris between November 3-5 with the participation of about 350 young people from 60 countries, led by Kurdish youth. How do you evaluate the conference and the discussions?

First of all, I greet and pay my respects to all those who led, worked and participated in the conference. Young people have done important work in France. They have claimed the history, character and spirit of the youth. It is known that in 1968, young people in France started a movement which spread all over the world and had a great impact on the states and society. The youth organized this conference in Paris and focused on the problems of young people around the world. They drew attention to the obstacles to freedom and democracy. They discussed how to solve these problems, because young people all over the world are also in search and they see answers in the paradigm of Rêber Apo. That is why they take Rêber Apo's paradigm and freedom as a basis.

In 1968, when the youth movement was developing, capitalist modernity was creating problems for humanity and eliminating the solution. Until then, the youth saw the solution in socialism, but they realized that socialism was no longer the answer. Therefore, they gave up hope both in the capitalist system and in real socialism. As a result of this search, they began to look for a revolutionary movement. That's why the youth movement, which was founded in 1968, spread everywhere very quickly. The feminist movement was also born at that time, as well as the ecological movement. In the current period, it may not be exactly like that period, but it is comparable. The capitalist system is again a big problem for humanity. It cannot even sustain itself, so how can it be a solution for humanity? Far from being a solution, it has become a scourge to humanity. It wants to bring about the end of humanity. Real socialism, on the other hand, has already been liquidated. Young people want to develop solutions. We see in history that it is the youth who create changes and develop revolutions. The youth organized such a conference because they saw that the solution lies in Rêber Apo's paradigm.

That is why they embrace Rêber Apo and his paradigm and join the movement. Of course, it is not enough to join the movement, they have to lead the movement. They should develop the movement everywhere and tell everyone about the importance of the movement. Rêber Apo made youth and women pioneers in his paradigm. This shows how much Rêber Apo values and appreciates them. He showed this not with words but with his practice. He founded and fought the PKK on this basis. That is why Rêber Apo said, "We started young, we will succeed young". Because the spirit of youth never gets old or weakens. Young people is always searching, always seeking change-transformation. What is required of the youth is to better understand Rêber Apo's paradigm, to better explain it, and to better lead it. If they do so, they will achieve the same success as the youth movement of 1968. The conference in Paris is an important conference for the youth. Young people must educate themselves on the basis of Rêber Apo's paradigm so that they can fulfill their leadership role.

In your previous interviews, you drew attention to the Turkish state's strategy of special warfare to hide its losses. While the war continues in the Southern Kurdish Medya Defense Zones [areas controlled by the guerrilla forces], the HPG stated that the Turkish state has also landed its soldiers in places where there are no guerrilla forces. What does this mean?

I greet the HPG headquarters and the command of HPG and YJA Star and I also convey my respect and esteem to them because they are giving their lives not only for the Kurdish people but also for humanity under very difficult conditions and circumstances. What they were doing seemed impossible. They do it without hesitation. The Turkish state uses all NATO weapons against them; chemical weapons, tactical nuclear weapons, tanks, artillery, planes... But they still cannot achieve results because the guerrillas have a very strong will and they are attached to their goals. They have taken Rêber Apo's attitude and approach as an example for themselves and have chosen to be at the full service of their people and humanity. That is why the guerrilla fighters are maintaining the resistance under these difficult conditions and writing dozens of epics. That is why our people must protect the guerrillas and our international friends should give meaning to this immense struggle. They should also have a look at the Kurdish young people who are steadfastly standing against the Turkish occupying state and many of them are sacrificing their lives for this resistance. The Turkish state has mobilized all its means inside and outside the country to liquidate our movement and genocide the Kurdish people. It has linked its fate to the liquidation of the PKK and the genocide of the Kurdish people.

An essential part of this plan is the KDP and the Barzani family. Of course, not all Barzanis are the same. For example, Eyüp Barzani or Ethem Barzani are different from the rest of the family and oppose Massoud Barzani's policies. But those in the KDP who currently dominate the Behdînan region are from Massoud Barzani's side of the family. They are working only for their own interests and those of their families, thus serving the genocidal policies of the Turkish state. This is happening under the eyes of public opinion. Anyone who claims to be Kurdish, patriotic, politically conscientious and moral must see this. This is not a policy that anyone can accept. Serving the policy of the genociders does not benefit

the Kurdish people. Therefore, democrats, patriots, politically conscientious and moral people need to see who is serving the Kurdish people and who is serving the politics of genocide. Patriotism means standing up against the politics of genocide. The Turkish state is waging this war with the support of the KDP. Not only in the Medya Defense Zones, but also in Northern and Southern Kurdistan, as well as in Rojava and in different parts of the world. The Turkish state's policy against the Kurdish people is carried out with the support of the KDP and especially Masoud Barzani. If they did not support them, the Turkish state would not be able to carry out this policy of genocide against the Kurdish people.

The media in South Kurdistan published images of Barzani's Peshmerga shielding the invading Turkish army from the air and on the ground. How do you evaluate this situation?

The KDP and Barzani are helping the Turkish state in every way. They are hostile to the PKK and free Kurds in every sense. They are doing this not only in the Medya Defense Zones, but also in Iraq and other countries. They are cooperating with the Turkish state on how to isolate and eliminate the PKK. As you said, the television has already shown the pictures. The outposts of the Turkish army and the KDP are side by side. The KDP is building roads for the Turkish army's outposts. The Turkish army brings its troops with helicopters and places them under the protection of the KDP. The pictures of all this have been published, so everyone can see them. Step by step, the Turkish state is building military posts for itself in South Kurdistan. They would not be able to do this without the help of the KDP. The Turkish state is trying to intervene in Iraqi politics with the support of the Barzanis. It prevents Iraq from taking any steps and says that it must do everything according to its demands. They are threatening, they are cutting off the water. In this way, they want to use Iraq for their own politics. They have already used the Barzanis for their politics. Behdînan has become like a province of Turkey. They cannot do anything there without the Turkish state.

Turkey wants to use Iraq and the whole Middle East as a tool in its policy against the PKK. They get this power by getting supported by the KDP. In this way, the Turkish state wants to strengthen its power both in South Kurdistan and in Iraq. They do not hide their goals according to the Misak-ı Millî [National Pact]. They say that Mosul-Kirkuk and all of South Kurdistan belong to them. They say that they lost these areas through the Treaty of Lausanne, so they do not recognize it and threaten to occupy these areas. They carry out their practices based on this understanding.

There are many Turkish military posts in South Kurdistan and the Turkish intelligence [MIT] has settled in many cities from Hewlêr to Kirkuk. The aim of the Turkish state is to completely occupy South Kurdistan and to strengthen its power in Iraq. This is their goal. This is a fact that must be well understood.

The 'People's Defense Headquarter' announced that its forces have withdrawn from Mexmûr [Makhmur]. Murat Karayılan, commander of the NPG, addressed the public and stated that Mexmûr can now defend itself. A few days after this statement, forces loyal to the Barzani family tried to settle in the points vacated by the HPG, and when Iraqi forces also tried to settle in these points at the same time, a clash broke out and an MIT officer was killed there. Are there any new developments in this regard and what would you like to say to the people of Mexmûr about this issue?

We have to ask ourselves why the guerrillas came to Maxmûr in the first place. Because the gangs of Daesh [ISIS] attacked Mexmûr and wanted to commit a massacre. The aim of Daesh was not only to massacre the people of Mexmûr, but also to take over South Kurdistan. They were already close to Hewlêr. In order to prevent massacres, to prevent Daesh from entering South Kurdistan and to prevent the achievements of the people of South Kurdistan from being endangered, the guerrillas went to Maxmûr on the demand of the people and parties of South Kurdistan. There the guerrillas fought against Daesh and not only defended Mexmûr but also prevented Daesh from entering Hewlêr. In other words, the guerrillas also defended the governments of South Kurdistan and Iraq. That's why Masoud Barzani himself went to Mexmûr. His pictures, where he thanked the guerrillas, appeared on TV, because the

guerrillas also defended them. The guerrillas withdrew and said that their mission was finished. The KDP troops immediately tried to take over the vacated positions. That's why they clashed with the Iraqi forces and the MIT officer was killed. This proves that the MIT is directing the KDP. What is the KDP doing there? Because the Turkish state wants them to be there, they want to establish sovereignty over the camp, massacre people and dismantle the camp. Because the KDP is conducting a policy over the camp, there is an embargo on the camp, there is a blockade, they are preventing people from entering and leaving.

The warplanes of the Turkish state always fly over Mexmûr and commit massacres. I guess they did think that was not enough, so they wanted to commit more massacres and destroy the camp and the people's homes. It is the demand of the Turkish state that the KDP go to Maxmûr. The departure of the KDP means the departure of the Turkish state and this has already been proved because an officer of the MIT was killed in a clash on the same day. Of course, our people in Maxmûr are conscious people, they have experience, they have been struggling for years. They are well aware of these games. They know very well why the KDP came. That is why they openly said that they did not want them there. Because the KDP is in the service of the Turkish state. Our people in the camp can develop their own defense because they have experience. They have been fighting and defending themselves since the day they left their villages. So they don't need guerrillas anymore. Also, Iraq came to this region. So there is no need for the guerrillas to be there. Our people can take care of themselves, they can run their own system. They already have a democratic system. What is being asked of our people is both to strengthen their system and to defend themselves. Of course, we are not leaving our people helpless. Our headquarters also made a statement in this way. We are a freedom movement and we are at the service of our people. Wherever there is danger, it is our duty to defend our people. We have done this everywhere and we will do it from now on. Therefore, our people should have no worries or fears. They should believe in themselves, that they have the power to stand against all attacks.

I also have a call to Iraq and the UN in this regard. So far, the KDP and the Turkish state have lied to them. The KDP and Turkey lied that Mexmûr was a military camp and they believed it. Based on this lie, the KDP and the Turkish state attacked Mexmûr and committed massacres. The Iraqi and UN forces kept silent and said that it was a military camp and that HPG was there. With this excuse, they did not stand against the attacks of the KDP and the Turkish state. Now the HPG is no longer there. Therefore, they have to fulfill their responsibility towards the camp. If they do not fulfill their responsibility, they will be responsible for the attacks and massacres that will surely take place. Our people should demand Iraq and the UN to fulfill their responsibilities.

Strange things are happening in Turkey right now. Before the elections, you have drawn attention to the dangers for society. Recently, the Supreme Court of Cassation did not "recognize" the Constitutional Court and filed a criminal complaint against its members. What does this mean? How do you assess these events?

Now they have thrown the decisions of the Constitutional Court in the garbage. We said that if the AKP-MHP won the elections, they would install fascism everywhere. What is happening in Turkey is happening on this basis. AKP-MHP has taken many steps and now they are taking their last steps. In other words, they have abolished the regime and institutions established by Mustafa Kemal. Only the Constitutional Court was left to defend the old system. That's why they took their last step to neutralize the Constitutional Court. AKP and MHP are developing a regime based on the Turkish-Islamic synthesis. They want to complete this by neutralizing the Constitutional Court. In other words, they are hammering the last nail. Rêber Apo said, "If the Kurdish problem is not solved, the coup mechanism will be activated and fascism will develop. This process is happening now with the AKP-MHP. They are taking their last step. The opposition in Turkey has also served this. In other words, they did everything for the AKP-MHP to build a regime based on racism and religionism. They never stood against the government's moves. They always served the government. They did this against the Kurdish people with arrests, massacres, seizure of trustees, arrest of deputies. The opposition did not raise its voice even for one day.

Again, they all stood by the AKP-MHP for the war law. Now, they say that the Constitutional Court is neutralized and the government wants to make a new constitution.

This situation is similar to when Laz was executed. They asked him what his last wish was and he said: "Let this be a lesson for me." This is the situation of the opposition in Turkey at the moment. What Erdoğan said: "The horse has passed Üsküdar. Interestingly, when the Israel-Hamas war started, when all the attention was on this war, Erdoğan put the issue of the Constitutional Court on the agenda. Because everyone's attention is on the Israel-Hamas war, Erdoğan wanted to achieve his goal in this environment. Turkish society has very big problems. In order not to draw the reaction of society, he changes the agenda and creates other agendas. The move of the Constitutional Court is the last move to keep the AKP-MHP in power. Erdoğan has said before that a new constitution is necessary. He is deceiving and mocking everyone by saying that this constitution will also be democratic. The constitution they want to make is a totally fascist constitution. It is not possible to make a democratic constitution in this way.

The opposition must realize this and seriously reconsider its position. The socialists, the democratic and freedom forces, all those who fight against fascism must urgently take part in the formation of a common democratic movement. Again, there was the alliance of Labor and Freedom. This alliance must be further strengthened. Everyone should take self-defense as a basis. If society is not made conscious on this basis, if the struggle for democracy is not developed, there will be nothing left for them to do. With the fascist system, everyone would not be able to breathe. Even now, they cannot breathe. If they make a new constitution, the government will do whatever it wants. Everyone must see this. That the government is taking this step now is not a surprise. They have been coming to this point step by step for years. This is the last step and the opposition is just realizing it. A few years ago, Erdoğan said "I don't recognize this decision and I don't respect it" regarding a decision of the Constitutional Court. He also took steps on this basis. As a result of these steps, they are throwing the decisions of the Constitutional Court in the trash. This is not something that happened suddenly.

The international societies are reacting to the Israeli oppression in Palestine more than their states. Kurdish people in different countries of the world also take part in protests against Israel. You have already made your position clear as an organization. What do you want to say about the current state of the war? What should the people and the international powers do for a solution?

We oppose all forms of genocide. What is happening now against the Palestinian people is genocide. So we are against it. This war must be stopped immediately, genocide must be prevented. Some states are meeting, making statements, saying that the war should stop, there should be a ceasefire, the problem should be solved, a Palestinian state should be established. These are all just words. None of them are based on a real search for a solution. All these moves are based on the interests of the state. They do not act against genocide, they do not bring a solution. Peoples, societies, socialists, ecological, women and youth movements all over the world stand for the Palestinian people and against genocide. These movements should work even stronger and put pressure on their states, put pressure on Israel. Then this problem will be solved. Problems cannot be solved by creating nation states, by religionism, by racism. These are what create the problems in the first place. They are the causes of genocide and war.

A movement is currently developing within the Jewish people that stands against the war and the ongoing genocide. This is a good development because it is necessary for the Palestinian and Jewish people to join hands to stand together against the war. A common fight is needed; that is the only solution. Both Hamas and the Israeli state abuse religion and racism to promote war and genocide. To put an end to this, Palestinians and Jews must stand together. On this basis, relationships with the other peoples of the Middle East, as well as on a global level, can be developed. This is how we can stand together against war and be successful.

What Erdoğan is doing right now is a play and a big lie. He pretends to stand up for the Palestinian people in order to obscure his own reality. How can the person who carries out genocide against the Kurdish people stand on the side of the Palestinian people? If he wants to live a truly sincere friendly relationship with the Palestinian people, he must first create a sincere friendly relationship with the Kurdish people. Both the Palestinian and Kurdish people are suffering great pain, caused by the Israeli state on the one hand and the Turkish state on the other. How could the Turkish state be the friend of the Palestinian people? They present themselves in this way based on their own interests. In order to complete the genocide of the Kurds parallel to the events, they are staging themselves like this. Also, to strengthen their own government, they change the agenda in their own country and thus delay the inevitable protests. Erdoğan says that for him Hamas is not a terrorist organization. Confronted with this, the head of NATO answers it is not a problem for them. What Erdoğan is doing is waging an absolute psychological war, a special warfare. He is not a true friend of the Palestinian people. Those who are attacking Palestine today have their headquarters in Konya. There they organize their educations, prepare themselves and attack from there. There has never been as much trade between Israel and Turkey as there is today. This continues unabated in the war. How can they claim to be friends of the Palestinian people? They negotiate with the Palestinian people as a stake that can be sacrificed. Erdoğan says he will only be willing to classify Hamas as a terrorist group if the YPG is also designated as such. So he wants to continue the genocide against the Kurds. This is the basis on which Erdoğan is currently doing his play and spinning his lies.



Bayik: Kurdish, Palestinian questions are the biggest issues and democratic dynamics in Middle East

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KCK Co-Chair Cemil Bayik answered questions on the Palestinian issue in an in-depth analysis in which he spoke about where this question came from, how it is handled by the different global and regional players today and what the interests of the peoples are.

Bayik said: "The Kurdish and Palestinian questions are the two biggest problems in the Middle East. But they are also the two biggest dynamics of democratization in the Middle East."

The Israeli army has officially declared war for the first time in 50 years. Gaza, a city of two million inhabitants, is being heavily bombed from the air. There is a massive exodus while Israel's army has entered the center of Gaza. An Israeli plan of genocide for Gaza is in motion. It is reported that many options are on the table for Israel, including the de-population of Gaza and the expulsion of Palestinians to the Sinai Desert or to other countries. How do you assess the course of the war?

The war against the Palestinians is nothing that arose newly. There have been policies of war and genocide for decades. What is being done now is a part and continuation of this. The declaration of war may be made in order to realize the plan that has been prepared, to give legitimacy to what will be done, and to gain support inside and outside the country. Beyond this, there is no point in declaring war. It can only have meaning for the hegemonic powers such as the USA, NATO, etc., and for the states in the region that seek regional power. Because these powers have their own problems and interests in the region. The state of Israel is also included in these powers. Therefore, what has been done and what is intended to be done is not independent of this situation. The declaration of war can only be evaluated within this framework. Otherwise, it has no meaning for Palestine and Palestinians.

The Palestinian people have been resisting occupation and genocide for decades, struggling for freedom and liberation. Like the Kurds, the struggle of the Palestinian people has lasted a century. There has been war in Palestine for a century and this war has never ended. Now, of course, new developments have emerged and this represents a new situation. In our opinion, the most general conclusion is that the lack of a solution cannot be sustained any longer. The solution to the problem imposes itself in every aspect. This cannot be ignored. This reality cannot be eliminated by declaring war and deepening the ongoing massacres and genocide. Now the global and regional powers, especially the state of Israel, do not approach this reality. As such, there is no solution to the problem. The forces of capitalist modernity aggravate the problems and make their solutions more difficult. The policies of the forces of capitalist modernity are at the root of the problems in the Middle East, especially the Kurdish and Palestinian questions.

The traditional aims of the state of Israel are clear. It is to erase the Palestinians from their historical territories. The current attacks on Gaza are the framework of this objective. Until now, the Israeli state has not deviated from this policy, since the current mentality does not allow this. Both the traditional state mentality and the games and interventions of global and regional powers prevent the development of a new approach and the solution to the question. What is happening in Gaza is a result of this mentality and interventions. If it were not for these, there would have been progress in solving the problem. Today's results would not have emerged. The Palestinian people have never been anti-Semitic. It has struggled against the state and mentality that created and perpetuated the occupation and genocide, and has seen salvation in overcoming this mentality. It is possible to state that a democratic approach that recognizes reality is gradually emerging among the Israeli people. In fact, it can be said that this is becoming very strong. For months there have been protests against the Netanyahu administration and its policies. These actions of the Israeli people prioritizing the solution to the Palestinian question are extremely important. It is known that this attitude of the people has not changed.

The Israeli state and the Netanyahu administration are trying to use the actions of Hamas, which target civilians and provoke reactions, to change this attitude of the people. But in spite of this and in the midst of all this war and war-mongering, it is very important that the people do not change their attitude and maintain their stance in favor of a democratic solution.

The just cause of the Palestinian people is supported by all oppressed peoples, socialists, democratic and libertarian movements. All these are dimensions that strengthen the democratic struggle of the Palestinian people and the democratic solution to the existing problem. But the approach of the states and the forces under their influence has the opposite effect. These deepen the problem and make the solution more difficult. They approach and intervene in the problem not with a democratic approach, but on the basis of political, economic and other interests.

This is the approach of the United States and of the European states, as well as of the regional states, especially Turkey and Iran. Turkey's approach is especially extremely pragmatist. Its approach is based on maintaining its policies of genocide of Kurds. The approach of the Arab states has also not been resolute so far. This is because the current administration pursues policies according to state interests. In the Middle East, the state has moved too far away from society. The interests of the state are completely based on anti-society. Leader Apo has analyzed this situation in the Middle East comprehensively. Moreover, both the Arab states and other regional states do not have a democratic mentality. In such a situation, it is not possible for them to approach the Palestinian problem in the right way, to show a real interest in it, and to put forth the will to realize a solution to the problem. This is true not only for the Arab states but for all powers and states. It is not possible for those who do not have a democratic mentality to be the power of solution.

The picture that is emerging today is very painful. A very agonizing and brutal massacre is taking place in Gaza. We strongly criticize and condemn this. We clearly state that the peoples will definitely hold these genocidal states and mentality to account. We also strongly criticize and condemn the forces that stand by and support these genocidal policies of the Israeli state. We express the same approach to the powers that take false stances and pretend to be on the side of the Palestinian people. The approaches of all these global and regional powers are essentially the same. They are neither friends of the Israeli people nor the Palestinian people. Each of them approaches the issue in order to maintain their own policies. These approaches are unacceptable. Everyone should take the right approach. No one should stand against the struggle of the peoples, especially the just causes of the Palestinian and Kurdish people. The Israeli state and government have to immediately change their current approach and stop their attacks. They must abandon their policies of war, genocide and massacre.

The possible scenarios that you have mentioned are horrible and unacceptable. No people or community can be displaced. This is literally genocide. There is no justification for this, there cannot be. This is what has always been imposed on the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people were displaced and their lands were occupied and annexed. Millions of Palestinians are living in exile today. Now the same thing is being imposed on the people of Gaza and on the Kurdish people. This is what the Turkish state is trying to do in Rojava. This is a situation that can never be accepted. What we advocate for the Kurdish people, we also advocate for the Palestinian people. No matter what happens, peoples should not be forced to leave their homeland.

Palestinian organizations have different attitudes towards the ongoing war. Until today, there has been a contradiction between Fatah and Hamas and a dual government. How does this situation, the contradictions of Palestinian organizations affect the struggle of the Palestinian people? Another important issue is the so-called "controlled" war between Lebanese Hezbollah and Israel. Hezbollah leader Nasrallah said that Hamas made the decision for the October 7 attacks, but after the Israeli attacks on Gaza, he opened a new front. What does Hezbollah's involvement mean? How will it affect the course of the war? Is there a danger of the Israel-Hamas war turning into a regional war?

There has always been a regional war in the Middle East. The region has been at war for over a century. This is because the problems are both numerous and interrelated. There is no problem that does not have regional consequences. Everything is very much intertwined and influences each other. From the beginning to the middle of the twentieth century, the world experienced two major wars – the First and the Second World War. After these experiences, there were fewer wars in Europe, but the same was not the case all over the world. Especially in the Middle East, wars have never ended. The wars between the states and against the peoples have always continued. In Kurdistan and Palestine, there has been a war of genocide imposed by the state for over a century. Against this, there is the resistance and struggle developed by the people. Therefore, in our opinion, it would be more correct to talk and evaluate how the Middle East will come out of this, not how it will be dragged into a regional war. On the other hand, as long as there are existing problems, as long as the problems are approached with the existing mentality and as long as the problems are not solved, war and conflict will not end and the Middle East will not be able to avoid a regional war that will engulf the rest of the world.

Of course, the inability of Palestinian organizations to achieve a strong unity among themselves negatively affects the struggle of the Palestinian people. But it is important to know and understand why this is so and how it came about. The problem is not only the contradictions between Hamas and Fatah. The Palestinian movement in general is weakened and fragmented. Fatah and other factions are internally fragmented and in a weak position. This situation is not only the result of state repression. There are ideological, political and historical reasons for this situation. Only by understanding and resolving these causes can the Palestinian movement overcome the current situation. It is important for us to know this in order to understand the situation of the Palestinian people and movement.

As is well known, since the establishment of the state of Israel, there have been many wars between Israel and the Arab states. With the support of the forces of capitalist modernity, the state of Israel was not defeated in these wars and maintained its existence. In line with its mentality and ideology, it implemented occupation and genocide policies in Palestine. In the approach of the Arab states, the idea of destroying the state of Israel was at the forefront. The liberation of Palestine was seen in the destruction of Israel. When this failed, they lost interest in the Palestinian cause. In fact, this approach and policies of the Arab states have caused the greatest damage to the Palestinian cause. It is known how some Arab states treat Palestinian refugees. Now, Arab states do not have a correct and consistent approach. Since they approach the problem with a statist mentality, they cannot be a solution force. After it became clear that the Arab states could not solve the Palestinian problem, the Palestinian movement gained strength and the cause of the Palestinian people made progress. After the Six Day War, the Palestinian movement developed and strengthened into an independent policy. It gained significant support from the peoples in the Middle East and around the world, and succeeded in putting the recognition and solution of the Palestinian question on the agenda. Even states could not remain indifferent to the cause of the Palestinian people, which gained strength and received significant attention and support from the rights of the world.

There are many reasons why Palestinian organizations are so weak and divided today. Here you have to keep in mind why they have been so strong before and what has happened to them. What essentially made the Palestinian movement so strong and widespread was its connection to the socialist paradigm. The fact that Palestine achieved developments and progress in the 1960s and 70s is essentially linked to this. Of course, not all movements at that time followed the socialist paradigm, but even those that embraced a different ideology were in one way or another influenced by socialism and benefited from socialist experiences in politics and social organization. Such developments also followed in other countries in the Middle East, including Kurdistan. There is no question that the rise of people around the world, but especially in the Middle East, poses a great threat to the existence of capitalist modernity. In order to limit the spread of socialism around the world, the United States of America in particular set out to support organizations who followed religious ideologies or founded them in places where they did not exist before. As a result of this policy, groups that adhered to radical Islam emerged in the Middle East. Through them they wanted to prevent the further development of socialism. After the Soviet bloc collapsed and with it the influence and tradition of socialism collapsed to a certain point, the mission given to the radical Islamic groups was accomplished.

The policy that the US pursued was a NATO concept known as the 'Green Belt'. For example, Turkey was accepted into NATO in order to use it against social and democratic movements. Turkey created religious organizations and formed them into contra structures. The cadres that Turkey leads today were originally trained by the USA and NATO. This means that the slogans that these organizations are saying today against the USA, Israel and NATO are nothing more than empty slogans. Because what they want to achieve with their practice is that there will be more acceptance of the goals and methods of the USA, Israel and NATO and that these forces will receive more support.

Like many other religious groups, Hamas was founded at that time. It was founded essentially to divide and weaken the existing Palestinian movement and had direct support from the US and Israel. In addition to the goal of destroying the existing Palestinian movement, it was also about essentially completely burying the aspirations of the Palestinian people. With the development of religious ideology, the Palestinian people's struggle against oppression and genocide was sidetracked. The struggle for freedom was transformed into a fight for religion. This was expectable, since the Israeli state itself is subject to a religious mentality. Hamas was created as an organization based on religious ideology to distract the Palestinian people from a just struggle for their rights. What we are seeing here today is a war of religions, an armageddon and more such developments. This is the result of big lies, mistakes and what it means

to go astray. While Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu appears in front of the cameras and declares that today's events are written in the Torah, the Iranian president stands before the United Nations and declares that the Mahdi has returned to earth. This shows how much we have strayed from the path.

Hidden beneath these speeches and approaches lies a conflict of interest between states. Unfortunately, it must be said that after Hamas crushed the Palestinian vanguard and derailed the struggle of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian people have lost their voice. Today's developments are not developments of the Palestinian movement, they are mostly dynamics coming from the outside.

Another aspect that is weakening the Palestinian movement is the belief that success can only be achieved through diplomacy. Instead of the movement and its leadership relying on a unified struggle, together with the joint struggle of the Palestinian and Israeli people for democracy, everything is based on state diplomacy. This represents a historical mistake, and this false approach has already resulted in major losses. If the focus had been on creating a democratic union of the Palestinian and Israeli people, the Palestinian question could have been resolved long ago and the democratization of Israel could have begun long ago. However, these aspirations were missing and the Palestinian movement was ultimately made passive by the Oslo talks. This allowed oppression and genocide to develop even further.

What was done to the Palestinian people was also done to the Kurdish people and the Kurdish freedom movement. In order to stop the Kurdish struggle for freedom, the Turkish state developed tariqats, contra structures under the name of JITEM and the 'village guard system' was introduced. One of these structures was the Hüda Par. They are still supported by the Turkish state today and, through them, attempts are being made to undermine the fight for freedom and to expand the state. There are some speeches by previous interior ministers that paint a clear picture regarding this issue.

Also, like the Palestinian movement, attempts were made to make the Kurdish freedom movement give up under the label of talks and dialogues. But this was prevented by Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] by developing a solution within the framework of the 'democratic nation' and placing the struggle on a new basis of democratic alliances and the common democratic struggle of the peoples. This enabled the struggle for freedom and democracy to continue. The hopes for freedom in Kurdistan and the Middle East could be defended and, ultimately, important steps could be taken in Turkey and Syria. In Turkey, an important front was opened through the democratic alliance founded by the Kurdish people together with the democratic forces of Turkey. The revolution in Rojava succeeded and relations between the Kurdish and Arab people were re-established on the basis of the democratic nation. Important steps in this direction have also recently been taken in East Kurdistan and Iran.

To come back to the question; developments in the Middle East are interconnected. Many different regional and international forces are involved in this war. The so-called Israel-Hamas war has long since become a regional war. This is also how the situation of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the question of its involvement in this war should be handled. The influence that Iran has on the Lebanese Hezbollah and other local forces is well known. If Hezbollah and the other forces continue to behave like this, they will not separate from Iran. The Turkish state's relations with Hamas and the attempts of the AKP-MHP government and Erdoğan to exploit Hamas and the Palestinian question for their own benefit are also known. It is the state that tries hardest to use the conflict for its own benefit. The USA and other international forces of capitalist modernity have their influence through Israel. All of these forces are trying to turn the Israel-Palestine conflict around in order to be able to implement their own interests. From this point of view, it can be said that there is a likelihood and danger that this war will expand even further. In any case, it can be said that the current developments are part of the Third World War. There is a struggle for power and dominance between the forces of capitalist modernity. A fight for energy routes, trade routes, land, etc. In order to weaken each other, they are ready to use any means and exploit any problem for their own interests.



Bayik: What we are seeing in Gaza right now is a genocide

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KCK Co-Chair Cemil Bayik answered questions on the Palestinian issue in an in-depth analysis in which he spoke about where this question came from, how it is handled by the different global and regional players today and what the interests of the peoples are.

It is said that there are attempts by the US to get Israel to comply. What is the US trying to achieve, what goals are the hegemonic forces pursuing? Are there efforts to renew the 'Greater Middle East Project'?

Regarding this topic, I would particularly like to emphasize the following. Above all, the approach of the US, but also of all the other forces, must not serve to deepen the war. Any military approach only increases the problem and delays a possible solution. The forces participating in the conflicts must direct all their efforts towards an end to the war and a solution to the fundamental problem. To achieve this, a political will must be shown that corresponds to democratic values. All forces that move solely on the basis of their own interests at the global and regional level and take a position accordingly stand in the way of a democratic solution.

A genocide is being carried out against the Palestinian people. This is what we are seeing in Gaza right now. These efforts must be stopped and further occupation of the land of Palestine must also be stopped. Then a solution can be sought and efforts can be made in this direction. Only then can Israel's security, which is currently being discussed so much, can be established. Of course, we see that the attitude of capitalist modernity, and accordingly also of the USA, is different. They do not act in a democratic sense to find a solution, but rather act based on their interests and thus deepen the rifts and contradictions. The USA does this as the current hegemon of capitalist modernity. It is the strongest force in the third World War and due to its role and characteristics cannot be part of a democratic solution.

There is talk that they want to stop Israel, but it is the policies of the USA, NATO and the capitalist states that over many years have brought Israel to the point that they can pursue such a warlike, genocidal policy. Therefore, these forces must also be stopped. Only when limits are set to capitalist modernity, of which the USA is the pioneer, and interest-driven politics are restricted, can the Israeli state be restricted. Is this a policy that the USA can and will lead? Therefore it is not necessary to do an analysis of it. The US does not restrict Israel. The mentality and politics of the states and all forces of capitalist modernity contradict a solution to the existing problems. In order to force capitalist modernity to take action, a social struggle is needed. If society takes a clear stand and shows shared red lines, then the USA and the forces of capitalist modernity may be forced to take steps. A solution can only emerge from the strength of society.

It is obvious that the USA and all the other forces, including the states of the Middle East, are operating in a framework of the third World War. The third World War is a war between the hegemonic forces of capitalist modernity for leadership at regional and global levels. It is a war of reorganization of energy routes, trade routes and strategic geopolitics. In the same time, this war also shows the depth of the crisis in the system of capitalist modernity. The forces of capitalist modernity are trying to prolong their existence through the world war. That is why, as much as this war is a war of the rulers, between states, it is also a war against society and the peoples.

The victims of this war are society and the peoples. The war in Gaza is the best example of this. The USA, Turkey, Iran, NATO and many other countries are exploiting the Palestinian struggle for their own interests. The Israeli state and its government are also doing the same. The Israeli state is also part of capitalist modernity, uses fear, repression and conspiracy against the Israeli population and tries to enforce the interests of its own system. It is obvious that these methods and policies cannot create a free life and security for the Jews. How could the Jewish people live in freedom and security while Palestine is occupied and Palestinians are subjected to genocide? Can a Jewish country be created on this basis? Of course that is impossible. We believe that the Israeli people see and recognize this reality. We attach great importance to this.

The Middle East is an important center. No system or ruler can assume a leading role if it does not take a stand in the Middle East. This is a reality that was as true in the past as it is today. As some say, the Middle East is not losing its importance. On the contrary, the importance of the Middle East in the system of capitalist modernity, which has reached the stage of total consumerism, has increased even more. If we say today that there is no longer any geography that is not given importance, then that is certainly not a false statement. The Middle East has an important significance in geopolitics. Essential energy sources are found here and significant trade routes cross this region. In addition to forces like the USA and Russia, more and more China and India are now also joining in. And Iran and Turkey are increasingly trying to forge new alliances in order to gain more influence. Saudi Arabia and similar states are increasingly pursuing similar aspirations. Iran has created groups tied to itself on a broad level and is trying to secure its own influence. In this way, they also try to live out the conflicts with the USA without being confronted with problems in their own country. A system has been created in which the war is fought far away.

Turkey is trying to become a force through the genocide of the Kurds. In order to get support for this, it is ready to enter into any alliance. Of course, the USA is a force with great influence, as it is throughout the world, including in the Middle East. They want to design the Middle East fundamentally according to their own interests. They act and move with this mentality. There are also the conflicts between the USA and China, which were originally fought in the Asia-Pacific region and are now spreading further and further around the world. This is now also evident in the Middle East. It can be seen that China's relations with the Middle East have increased recently. They have taken strategic steps. The essential move was their efforts to bring Iran and Saudi Arabia together. Relations between the two states, which have historical conflicts with each other, have significantly improved. China has also announced that they will work on the Palestinian question.

In the Middle East everything is interconnected and everything influences each other. Asking whether the Hamas attack on October 7th and the Israeli state's subsequent attack on Gaza will lead to an expansion of the war in the region shows a lack of understanding of the politics of the Middle East. At the G20 summit that recently took place in India, decisions were made regarding new energy and trade routes, so China cannot implement its own plans. As is known, not only China, but also Iran, Turkey, Russia and other forces are angry about this decision. They are all forces of capitalist modernity that look at the world and life from their perspective and do everything for their own interests. So the struggle of the Palestinian people was sacrificed to the struggle for interests, power and partnership between these powers. This is a clear situation. It is the same framework in which they approach the Kurds. What is important is that we are aware of this and base our fight for freedom and democracy on the strength and unity of the peoples.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, the Gulf countries... there is a diplomatic traffic involving all regional countries right now. There is a prominent demand for a ceasefire in Arab countries. What is the approach of the Arab states to the Palestinian question? How does this approach affect the Palestinian people and their struggle?

The state of Israel has always been striving to realize the goal envisioned by the Zionist ideology. According to this, the geography designated as Jewish land needs to be cleansed of any other communities, and it needs to be turned into a place inhabited entirely by Jews. This means the occupation of Palestine and the genocide of the Palestinian people, which is where all the problems originate. This idea has been the official policy of the Israeli state and its government. Even though the struggle and pressure of the Arab people in general, and partly of the Arab states, and the organized struggle and resistance of the Palestinian people in particular have forced the Israeli state to put some compromises on the agenda, this idea and policy has not changed. This is the goal and the policy that Israel is pursuing now. This ideology and policy has always been supported by capitalist modernity, especially by the US. Therefore, the mentality and policies pursued by the state of Israel are not only the result of internal dynamics. Capitalist modernity has a role for Israel in the Middle East and Israel is expected to play this role. We know that some people do not think this way and even think that Israel is playing a role for others. But this is not the reality.

The state of Israel has been condemned to an ideology and a policy called Zionism. This can only change through a serious internal social struggle and the resulting transformation. It would not be wrong to say that such a consciousness and movement is gradually emerging within Israeli society. This should be seen as a correct and positive development. It will be developments of this kind that will transform Israel and end the Arab-Jewish contradiction and conflict, including the solution of the Palestinian question. Therefore, it is necessary to attach importance to this and strive for its development. Without this, Israel, backed by the US, NATO and other forces of capitalist modernity, will not be able to abandon its policy of occupation, annexation and genocide. On the other hand, this situation also makes its opponent similar to itself. Those who oppose Israel and its policies need the US and NATO to fight against such an Israel. This makes them dependent either on the US and NATO or on forces that have some contradictions with the US and NATO forces, but are not fundamentally different from the US and NATO forces, that pursue economic-political power like them, and that think about their global and regional interests. We think this is one of the biggest deadlocks. Unfortunately, this is the situation that Palestinian organizations are in most of the time. They have become dependent either on the US and NATO or on the powers that are in conflict with them.

As for the Arab countries, it would be more accurate to call them Arab states, because the approach of the people and the approach of the states differ from each other. At the time of the establishment of the state of Israel, there were Arab states ruled by kingdoms. It is known how these states were created. These kingdoms were established by Britain and were dependent on it. Israel is also a state established with the consent of Britain. These kingdoms, disconnected from the people, would not have been able to stop the state of Israel, which was given a strategic role by Britain and therefore by capitalist modernity. This situation did not change even after the development of Arab nationalism and the change of regimes according to this ideology. Already in the 1970s, the Arab states lost interest in the Palestinian question. Their internal contradictions deepened and Israel and foreign powers took advantage of these contradictions. Although not on an official level, many Arab states have developed relations with Israel since then. Their support for the Palestinian movement, on the other hand, was limited. State interests and balances came to the fore. These concerns are also at the forefront now. In fact, state interests and balances are even more prominent than in the past. Before these developments began, there were official dialogues between Israel and many Arab states. A compromise and agreement was reached between them under the name of the Abraham-Hebrew Covenant. It is stated that this process has been disrupted due to the current situation, but no Arab state party to this process has taken any stance to confirm this.

The agreement between the Arab states and Israel does not envisage a solution to the Palestinian problem. It is not easy for an agreement that does not solve the Palestinian problem or does not envisage such a solution to be successful. Now, a very important part of the Arab states have relations with the US. In a way, they are dependent on the US and Israel. They exist and make politics according to the balance that the US has established in the Middle East. In the current situation, all of them have their eyes and ears mainly on the US. Neither the Arab League, nor the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, nor any other organization can do anything despite the US and NATO. Ceasefire calls and verbal reactions have no real value. They are made to save face, to appease the reaction of the Arab people. The power that manages this process is the US. The US has global and regional calculations and plans. It acts accordingly. Undoubtedly, a serious social reaction and pressure may force the US, Israel and even the Arab states to take some steps and this may lead to changes in the plan. Apart from that, the US plan is the one that will work.

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Bayik: The real solution to problems in Middle East lies in policy of the democratic nation

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KCK Co-Chair Cemil Bayik answered questions on the Palestinian issue in an in-depth analysis in which he spoke about where this question came from, how it is handled by the different global and regional players today and what the interests of the peoples are.

It is widely considered that Iran and Turkey are de facto, if not officially, involved in this war. What is the approach of these two countries to the Palestinian issue, what kind of calculations do they have? How does the Palestinian issue affect the relations between these two countries? Will this affect their positions and policies in Syria and Iraq? How will this war affect the Kurdish question?

Iran and Turkey are two states trying to increase their influence in the region. Although their interests are different, they are united in this goal. This pushes them into competition and power struggle with each other and makes it necessary for them to keep an eye on each other. Ultimately, of course, one tries or wants to reduce the effectiveness of the other as much as possible and, if possible, to zero and bring it under its sovereignty. This is a fundamental characteristic of states. Often they seek to balance or dominate each other through relations developed with other powers. Swallowing each other up and destroying each other is rare. Even when it does happen, it can be the result of a policy and plan spread over time. However, along with the contradiction and struggle between them, there are also relations between them. One cannot ignore the other without establishing absolute superiority over the other. There is such a dialectic between Iran and Turkey. There is both a struggle between them to become a regional power and a relationship between them. Since one cannot establish absolute supremacy over the other, they pursue a balanced policy that watches out for each other.

Iran is not a power outside the system. It is part of the system of capitalist modernity and a party to the intra-system power struggle. It is therefore an active force in the Third World War. If it is categorized, in the US-Europe-Russia-China contradictions and conflicts, it is making policy by siding with the Russia-China front. It tries to neutralize or fend off the political and economic pressures of the US by siding with this front. In addition to this, there is also a front developed by Iran in the region, which is defined as the Shiite Crescent. There are forces in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and elsewhere that are part of this front. These forces are part of the rulers of these states. But these states are also in a state of disintegration. They are either in a state of civil war or they are in a state of disintegration and

fragmentation. Because they are already in such a situation, Iran has brought them closer to itself or made those close to it influential in the state. Nevertheless, they are important powers. It is known that Iran makes politics in the region based on these forces and gains significant power from this. Iran is trying to balance the policies of the US and Israel against itself in the region through these forces. It is also getting certain results from this. However, despite this, Iran has not created an environment that has overcome the danger and made its politics accepted in the region. Just like the state of Israel, the Iranian state sees its existence in danger.

As in everything else, its approach to the Palestinian cause is within this framework. Iran is primarily concerned with preserving its existence as a state. Since it feels this concern very much, it is very careful about steps that would increase the danger. The Iranian state essentially wants to be accepted in the region with its current position and politics. It uses its relations and alliances in the region for this purpose. Its relations with Hamas are also within this framework. Since Hamas does not have a democratic essence, it needs forces like Iran and Turkey to fight against Israel, to be effective or to protect its existence. Although it has relations with other powers, it hopes to be effective mainly through the relations it develops with Turkey and Iran. This makes Hamas a part of regional interests, rivalries and power struggles. This, of course, harms the Palestinian cause, as it becomes part of regional contradictions, the democratic line of struggle regresses and moves away from a solution.

However, development can only be achieved by taking the democratic line of struggle as a basis and strengthening it. The Palestinian movement developed and strengthened after the Six Day War when it was realized that the Arab states did not have the power to find a solution. The struggle of the Palestinian people was strengthened by this. But now this independent and democratic stance has been lost. It has fallen behind even the old period. Of course, this does not mean that the Palestinian movement will not develop relations and receive support from states. The important thing is to take people-based resistance and struggle as a basis. Unless this is taken as a basis, no support received will serve the struggle. Moreover, the support of states depends on the policies they pursue. Iran, Turkey and all Arab states follow a policy based on their interests. None of these states can be strategic relations of the oppressed peoples. As can be seen, no state, including Iran, has taken any concrete steps. Iran operates the rings it has created outside according to its own policy. After Israel's plan against Gaza became clear, it was expected by many circles that Iran would make a move by actively mobilizing Hezbollah and others and by stepping in itself, but this was not the case. This is because neither Iran nor anyone else is in a position to risk a move that would upset the balance. Undoubtedly, the problems in the Middle East are deep and have the potential to shake and change the balance. One of the factors that will lead to this is undoubtedly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Turkey's approach to developments in the region is purely utilitarian. Since the Turkish state system is completely detached from a democratic essence, in other words, since society has no influence on the state at all, it is able to act with a pragmatism that is far above the norm. What it calls wrong today it can call right tomorrow, and what it considers an enemy it can embrace tomorrow. Undoubtedly, the Turkish state is able to conduct such a policy by utilizing its geopolitical position. If this were not the case, it would not be able to pursue such a policy. The Turkish state is doing all this for the sake of advancing its policy of genocide of Kurds.

The main policy of the Turkish state is the policy of genocide of the Kurds. It conducts all its politics and relations accordingly. This is also its approach to the Palestinian cause. It wants to take advantage of the situation by pretending to defend the Palestinian cause. In reality, Turkey is concerned with developing the means to continue its policies of Kurdish genocide and thus increase its power in the region. This is why it looks tough in rhetoric but does not take any concrete steps. Because the Turkish state knows very well that it cannot continue its Kurdish genocide policies without the support of the US, Israel, Europe

and NATO. Until today, it has been able to carry out its Kurdish genocide policies with the support it has received from these powers. Therefore, this support is important for the Turkish state.

Tayyip Erdoğan's disturbances and objections are aimed at increasing this support. The AKP-MHP government has not really been interested in the Palestinian cause because it has received this support until today. Shortly before these war emerged, Tayyip Erdoğan had a meeting with Netanyahu in the USA. When the attacks on Gaza began, Tayyip Erdoğan said, "I was going to go to Israel, but now I have given up on this plan." However, there are military, commercial and economic agreements worth billions of dollars between Turkey and Israel and these agreements continue as they are. It is known that even the bullets of the Israeli army are made of steel from Turkey. Israel's army, planes and tanks are conducting drills at their centers in Konya, some of which are produced in Turkey. This is how much Turkey is involved in this war, it is a part of this war. They are trying to cover up the hypocrisy by hiding these from the public. By doing some very hypocritical things; for example, by not buying and consuming Israeli products in the parliament, the reaction against the state of Israel is supposedly developed. But military relations, energy and trade lines are fully functioning, millions of dollars continue to flow in and out on a daily basis. Indeed, this is the height of distortion and special warfare! Unfortunately, the pathetic situation in which the so-called opposition figures find themselves provides the ground for the government to play these games.

One of the reasons why the Turkish state has developed a certain discourse against Israel is the Iranian factor. As long as the Palestinian problem remains unresolved, the reactions against Israel in Arab and Islamic countries will not end. Iran takes advantage of the environment created by this reaction. It is unthinkable for Turkey, which has contradictions with Iran in the region and is engaged in a regional power struggle between them, to stay out of this and leave this area entirely to Iran. By developing a certain reaction and gathering some of the reaction around it, Turkey is preventing a complete shift of attention to Iran. Therefore, Turkey's approach is highly political and this is not beyond the consent of the US. Another reason is domestic public opinion in Turkey. The AKP-MHP government rules the state and the country by establishing a tight manipulation and control over society. For this to happen, it has become very important to create and manage perceptions. Considering that local elections will soon be held, it is obvious that the AKP-MHP government will want to turn this situation into an opportunity. As a matter of fact, in the rally held in Istanbul for Palestine and Gaza, the masses were told about the enmity against Kurds and Rojava, and it was stated that new invasions would be carried out. In Turkey, the masses are being agitated by nationalism, religionism and Kurdish hostility. The Kurdish enmity is covered up with Islamic-religious discourses. In reality, Turkey has only one policy, and that is the Kurdish genocide policy. The Turkish state calculates and desires to become a power in the region through Kurdish enmity and genocide. It uses religion, Islam and nationalism for this purpose. It uses Hamas and the Palestinian cause for this purpose. Beyond this, the Turkish state has no interest and support for the Palestinian cause.

The anxious situation of the Turkish state is due to the fact that the balance is shifting to its detriment and that this will damage its policies of Kurdish genocide. All of Tayyip Erdoğan's efforts are aimed at preventing this and, moreover, to get results in favor of his genocide policies. It is a fact that Turkey has always benefited from the increase in contradictions and conflicts in the world and the region. The benefit it has seen from the environment and balances created by the conflict situation has been decisive in carrying out its policies of Kurdish genocide. Without these factors, the Turkish state would not have been able to carry out its policies of Kurdish genocide based on its own power. Therefore, the Turkish state is not disturbed by the development of the conflict situation in the Middle East. On the contrary, it plans to create opportunities for itself from the conflict situation. By doing so, it plans to gain more support in the war against the Kurds and to carry out new invasions in Rojava and Syria.

While evaluating the wars and conflicts in the Middle East, Abdullah Öcalan states that religious ideologies and nationalism cannot create a solution, on the contrary, he stated "As long as the mentality of nation-statism, whether in the form of religious or secular nationalism, continues, it is inevitable that these societies will clash even more". And also added, that this mentality is the root cause of wars and problems. As a solution modell, he puts forward the 'democratic nation'. How can this solution be adapted to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

Historically, social problems have increased with the development of the statist system. As the state developed, humanity moved away from equality, freedom, fraternity and living together in peace. Instead exploitation and war have become dominant. This is a historical reality. The nation-state system is the system with the highest level of conflict, war and exploitation. The first and second world wars, and the hundreds of local and regional wars that preceded and followed these two great wars, were wars created and waged by nation-states. Conflict, war and exploitation in the last two centuries are hundreds of times greater than the negativity experienced in tens of thousands of years of human history before. This is not a matter of the sophistication of the tools of war, but of the mentality. The Middle East is one of the places where the nation-state has caused the most damage and has no solution power. The nation-state has increased the existing problems in the Middle East many times over. Now, all the problems in the Middle East take their source from the nation-state. The most fundamental obstacle to developments is the nation-state. Rêber Apo has dealt extensively with the character, mentality and consequences of both the state in general and the nation-state in particular within the historical social reality. The consequences of the nation-state, whether secular or religious, are the same. In both cases, it increases the problems and deepens the lack of solution.

One of the best examples of the secular and religious forms of the nation-state is Turkey. At its foundation, Turkey had a secular-nationalist form, where today it is based on religious-nationalism. In both cases, no real solution to Turkey's problems has been found. Because it is not possible to solve problems of the society with the nation-state. The nation-state is essentially a doctrine of war and genocide. In addition to the war being waged against society, what goes on within the nation-state is more brutal, predatory, full of intrigue and conspiracies than what goes on in the kingdoms and dynasties before. It is utterly wrong to think that such a system will enlighten society and ensure progress. This is especially the view held by those in Turkey who are based on the idea of secularism. When religious nationalism comes to power and entrenches itself in the state, it is assumed that secular nationalism will lead a correct life and solve problems. However, the nation-state is an obstacle to enlightenment, democratization and a right and free life. Therefore, problems can be solved and progress can be achieved by overcoming both forms of nationalism.

The real solution to the problems in the Middle East can be found in the policy of the democratic nation. The democratic nation is a way of life in which the national reality is lived in its true dimensions, without the blinding and misleading aspects of nationalism. The democratic nation is the system in which peoples, societies, faith communities as well as women can live and express themselves in the most correct and free way. At the same time, the nation-state is the most crystallized form of power and authority, which is the product of the male-dominated mentality. Secular nationalism and religious nationalism are just different forms of the nation-state. In such a system, it is not possible for society, peoples and women to exist, live freely and express themselves. That it is not possible is already evident in practice.

Nationalism is at the root of the Arab-Jewish contradiction and problem. Therefore, overcoming this problem and living together and in peace can only be possible by overcoming nationalism, by overcoming both versions of the nation-state, religious and secular nationalism. This is the solution method we advocate. We do not think that the problems will be solved by establishing more nation-states. This is currently being presented as the most advanced solution to the Palestinian problem. Of course, the Israeli state does not accept this either. But a fundamental solution to the problem cannot be achieved by creating a state for the Palestinians. First of all, the nation-state mentality must be overcome. Unless this

happens, contradiction and conflict will not end. A solution cannot be achieved by separating geographies, mountains, rivers and cities with the nation-state mentality. The solution for Jerusalem is to divide the city in two. Can such a thing happen? Many peoples, communities and beliefs live together in these ancient lands. In a geography with such diversity, it is not possible to solve problems through nationalism and nation-statism. This will only result in at each other's throats. As a matter of fact, this is what has been happening for a hundred years. This can only be overcome with a democratic nation mentality and solution where all differences can live together and all national, cultural and religious communities can express themselves. The place where the democratic nation solution will find the most ground is the geography where Israel and the Palestinian people live.

How important is the solution of the Kurdish question and the Palestinian question for the solution of the problems in the Middle East, for the development of democratization and for the peoples to live in freedom, security and peace?

In fact, throughout the interview I tried to explain the importance of these two problems and the correct solution we envision. The order created by the forces of capitalist modernity in the Middle East has been to the detriment of the peoples. The denial and genocide of the Kurdish and Palestinian peoples is a result of this order. The problematic situation in the Middle East has been maintained by leaving these two problems unresolved and abandoning them to genocide. In this way, the nation-states in the Middle East have been pitted against each other and within themselves, controlled by the hegemonic powers and thus the Middle East has been made completely dependent. The peoples of the Middle East have suffered great pain and damage. The Kurdish people and the Palestinian people have suffered the most. The lack of a solution to these two problems has led not only to these peoples, but also to the development of the domination of the colonialist powers, the imperialists, over the region as we have mentioned, and to the damage of all peoples.

It can be said that if these two problems are solved, important developments will take place in the whole of the Middle East, conflict and war will end and real peace will become achievable. The Kurdish and Palestinian questions are the two biggest problems in the Middle East. But they are also the two biggest dynamics of democratization in the Middle East. Since the solution of these two problems requires a democratic mentality and approach, nationalism, religionism, nation-statism and all kinds of fanaticism, which are the sources of the problems in the Middle East, therefore need to be overcome. The fact that Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Israel have undergone some democratic transformations as a result of the permanent solution of these two problems is enough to understand the importance and magnitude of the developments. On the other hand, the grounds for all the designs, operations and conspiracies designed in the Middle East will be eliminated. Not only the region but also the world will be positively affected by the solution of the Kurdish and Palestinian problems.



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