

THE IMRALI POST

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

Issue № 79 / 2 December 2023 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Youth organizations in North-East Syria stage a three-day march

ANF | QAMISHLO | 29 NOVEMBER 2023

A three-day youth march demanding freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question has begun in Qamishlo on Wednesday. The action is organised by the Revolutionary Youth Movement of North-East Syria and the Young Women's Association.

Hundreds of young people gathered in the stadium in Qamishlo to kick off the march. The organisers announced that with their action, they also wanted to celebrate the founding of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) 45 years ago. The long march is intended as a solidarity action by the youth organisations in the autonomous region to the international campaign "Freedom for Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question" launched on 10 October.

The route of the long march leads from Qamishlo via Tirbespiyê, Çilaxa, Rimêlan and Girkê Legê to Dêrik, where a final rally will take place. There will be a cultural and political programme in the evenings. In Tirbespiyê, the participants will celebrate the PKK's birthday today.



Activists at Geneva vigil salute the 45th anniversary of the PKK

ANF | GENEVA | 29 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 Imrali, 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 45th anniversary of the founding of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and called for participation in the celebration on the occasion which will take place in Luzern on 2 December, Saturday.

Speaking after, the co-chair of the Democratic Kurdish Council (CDK) in Geneva, Mehmet Latif Çelebi, spoke about the history of the PKK, which, he said, has become a popular movement followed by millions of people today.

Remarking that a policy of isolation has been pursued against Abdullah Öcalan for 25 years, Çelebi denounced the policy of heaviest isolation in violation of international law implemented against Öcalan for the last 33 months.

Çelebi called on the Council of Europe, Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and the United Nations to uphold their responsibilities against the isolation of Öcalan. He vowed that the Kurdish people will continue their actions in support of the international campaign "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question".



Vigil in Maxmur to demand freedom for Öcalan continues

ANF | MAXMUR | 1 DECEMBER 2023

A new group took over the vigil that was launched on 20 July in the Martyr Rustem Cudi Refugee Camp in Maxmur to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and to break the heavy isolation imposed on him.

The handover ceremony started after a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of Kurdistan. Then, Murat Encü made a speech on behalf of the 27th group that handed over the vigil.

Drawing attention to the hunger strike action launched by PKK and PAJK prisoners for Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Murat Encü said: "As the people of the camp, we support the action started in the prisons until the end. We will do whatever we can until Leader Öcalan's physical freedom is achieved.

As it is known, Japanese intelligence recently removed the PKK from the list of banned organizations. We see this as a very important step. We believe that all states that include the PKK on the list of banned organizations should do the same."

After the speeches, the vigil action was handed over to the new group accompanied by slogans.

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Activists from the Netherlands take over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan vigil

ANF | STRASBOURG | 1 DECEMBER 2023

A vigil for the freedom of the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan has been taking place in front of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) since 25 June 2012.

The 597th week of the vigil has been taken over by a delegation of activists from The Hague. Dr. Azad Badiki, Nazir Aranacak and Cemil Ürek composed the delegation.

The vigil is taking place in front of the CPT because the committee has a central function in controlling prison conditions on Imrali and only performs this to a very limited extent.

For almost three years there has been no sign of life from Öcalan, who has been imprisoned in Imrali since 1999.

“Öcalan’s freedom is our freedom”

Badiki said: “We once again criticize the Council of Europe for its silence. We call on the CPT to stop this dirty conspiracy. We call on everyone to come here and support Kurdistan’s struggle for freedom so that democracy on earth triumphs, humanity regains its dignity and can live a free life like it did 5,000 years ago. Come here and support Kurdistan’s fight for freedom and let us turn a new page in these dirty 5,000 years of human history.”

In order to implement this, the Kurdish representative Abdullah Öcalan must be freed said Badiki, adding: “We must put our commitment to fight for the freedom of our leader at the forefront of all our actions and activities. Because his freedom, his physical freedom, will not only be the freedom of the Kurdish people. It will be important for all peoples of the world who would be able to live freely.”

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Kalkan: Women are leading the way in the campaign demanding freedom for Öcalan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 DECEMBER 2023

Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the international initiative "Freedom For Öcalan, Political Solution to the Kurdish Question"

First of all, I would like to draw attention to the historic resistance of İmralı and send my respectful salutes to Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. Regarding the continued isolation, there is no change. The policy of torture, isolation and genocide continues on İmralı. All kinds of pressure on Rêber Apo continues. The demands and attempts of the lawyers and families to meet him are left unanswered or passed over with fake disciplinary penalties. The statements and initiatives of the legal circles regarding all these are not seen or heard by the relevant authorities. The ones that created the İmralı system and that are managing it, play the three famous monkeys. This is a clear situation. There is a complicity. But the resistance continues exceedingly. The life on İmralı is a resistance in itself; a resistance that shows humanity the path to freedom and liberation.

At the same time, of course, there is the global campaign for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, that was announced on October 10. This campaign has spread to every field. It has indeed become a global campaign for freedom and a movement for democracy. Everyone that is part of it expresses and emphasizes this. The campaign has gained an important level and there are new developments. In fact, there is a situation where we can say that humanity is standing up. The Kurdish people, women and youth are already standing on the basis of the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. But humanity is also standing all over the world. Since October 10, the campaign has been spreading. Hundreds of organizations have joined and so

grew the strength of the campaign. Every day there are a few new statements by new people and movements explaining why they join the campaign. There are circles, intellectuals, politicians, legal circles, academics, artists, people from all walks of life that are already part of the campaign. All segments that we can call the brain, soul and heart of humanity participate in this campaign for freedom. Within this, women are leading the way.

This was also seen at the World Youth Conference that took place not long ago. The youth declared at the conference in Paris that they have taken on this struggle, that they will carry it on their shoulders and lead it to victory. They demanded “Freedom for Rêber Apo right now”. This was a very important, big statement. If the youth and women will continue to embrace the campaign like this, of course that struggle will grow, develop and lead to victory. No one can stop it.

Like I said, there are many statements, many new participators, and the protests are intense. Society is on its feet. Kurdish youth and women in Europe are in constant action. So are parts of Kurdistan, so is our society in Rojava [North and East Syria]. There were also demonstrations in Northern Kurdistan, like for example the struggle round about the march of Gemlik. In a serious way, society has taken a stance. It clearly showed how it embraces Rêber Apo, how it opposes the system of torture, isolation and genocide that is being practiced on Imralı, and the society thereby expressed their demands.

Now there is also a voice being raised from the prisons. The stance and life in a prison is a resistance. In order to participate in the campaign, revolutionary prisoners have declared that they have started a rotating hunger strike, that they have taken action and that they will take an active part in this struggle. They were already part of the campaign with their stance, their lives, their attitude in daily struggle, but now they are becoming an active part of it. There is a very important widespread situation. This continues with various events. On November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, women filled the streets. They demanded freedom. In other words, it is the side that fights the hardest for women’s freedom and puts forward its philosophy and ideological principles most clearly with gynecology. Therefore, all the struggles for women’s freedom are struggles against the system of Imralı, torture, isolation and genocide. It is the struggle for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Women’s liberation and the reality of the Rêber Apo are intertwined at this level.

There were celebrations on the occasion of the party anniversary. In many different countries, people filled the streets and squares. Of course, the most prominent demand that was expressed there, was once again the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Kurdish society, led by its women and youth, is shouting this out in everywhere, taking a clear stance and declaring its will. Embracing the PKK means embracing Rêber Apo and demanding his physical freedom.

An important new level of the current campaign has been reached. The beginning was magnificent. Its spread was also impressive. Now it is necessary to expand it with new plans, to diversify it, to enrich the forms of action. There are discussions in this direction, there are evaluations, statements, each new participation creates a even bigger richness and diversifies. Those who organized and carried out the campaign announced that they will carry it out further, they said “we will move on to its second phase”. They are explaining its framework.

This campaign is a campaign for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and the solution of the Kurdish question, but it is a campaign for freedom for everyone, a global campaign for freedom. In such an action, ev-

everyone is educating and liberating themselves with his/her thought, spirit and dynamism. Therefore, a great struggle for liberation, a campaign for a freedom move is developing. This is a campaign that encompasses all kinds of actions, a campaign that can only be sustained through very rich forms of action. We believe that this is how it will develop. We believe that all the society will use their means in the most effective way, enriching them, diversifying and expanding their forms of action.

This is the first time there has been such a big campaign. It is a peoples' campaign, a campaign of the oppressed, of women, youth, workers and laborers, intellectuals, socialists, revolutionaries. It is a free people's campaign, and the formulation of the will of the peoples is emerging.

The will of the free people is actually intervening in the process globally. Within the framework of demanding the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, it is expressing its will by committing itself to such a goal. There is no obstacle that can possibly block this. It will grow and develop more. We have expressed this before and there have also several statements in this regard.

In the new 46th year of struggle, we will spread this campaign wherever we can do, and fully participate it as a movement. We will do this as a people. We will do it as a women's and youth movement. Humanity is embracing it, we believe that all the oppressed, women, youth, all free and democratic humanity of the world will do it. Such a unity is emerging, an alliance is emerging, a system of relations, unity of thought, a solidarity. A solidarity of humanity. The most democratic and free solidarity. This means a new world, an alternative world. So not everything is capitalist modernity. It is not just those who created and carried out the international conspiracy. It is not just those who for 25 years have been carrying out the İmralı torture and isolation system in the form of persecution and prison. The world does not just consist of them. Yes, they are part of today's world, but they are not without alternative. Those who claimed that the world would be like this until the end turned out to be wrong. It will not be like that. A new world is being born step by step. It is free, democratic, glorious and we are very enthusiastic and excited about it.

If we pay attention, this campaign is the most exciting campaign of action in history, it is drawing people into great enthusiasm and excitement. On this basis, I would like to thank everyone who participates in the campaign and supports the campaign, and I greet them on behalf of our party leadership. I believe that they will grow the struggle more in the coming period, that they will enrich their strength, and I wish them all the success.

Prisons

Release of prisoner Akkaya postponed

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

Cengiz Akkaya was arrested in 2015, while he was a student at Süleyman Demirel University, on allegations of “membership in a terrorist organization” and “insulting Erdoğan”.

Akkaya, who was sentenced to 8 years, 1 month and 15 days in prison for “membership in an organization” and 1 year, 9 months and 25 days in prison on the charge of “insulting Erdoğan”, was held in Isparta E Type Prison for approximately 5 years.

Cengiz Akkaya was later deported to Konya Ereğli T Type Prison.

Akkaya completed 3/4 of the sentence given for “membership in a terrorist organization” in 2022. No prison was required for his conviction on the charge of “insulting Erdoğan”. However, although his sentence was over, his release was prevented by the Konya Ereğli Prison Administrative Board.

It was reported that Akkaya’s release was prevented for arbitrary reasons, such as that “he has not left the organization”.

In a message he sent to Mezopotamya news agency, Cengiz Akkaya said that the previously postponed execution period ended on 3 November 2023, but the prison administrative board postponed it once again.

Akkaya wrote: “About a year ago, the execution period of my political sentence was completed. For more than a year, I have not been released due to the sentence handed down for ‘insulting the President’, which according to the law doesn’t carry a prison sentence. The execution period of this sentence has been completed as of 3 November 2023. While I should have been released, the Prison Board of Directors postponed my release for six months with arbitrary evaluations such as ‘he did not leave the organization’, ‘he did not show any regrets’. Even though such arbitrary practices may seem like small details in an environment of so much social and political decay, we should not get used to it, accept it or remain silent.”

PKK and PAJK prisoners in Turkey go on hunger strike

ANF | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Members of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and PAJK (Party of Free Women in Kurdistan) imprisoned in Turkey went on hunger strike on 27 November in support of the international campaign "Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question". According to the announcement by the prisoners' representative Deniz Kaya, the hunger strike is to be carried out in alternating groups from 27 November to 15 February. Sick and elderly prisoners as well as prisoners with less than two years remaining on their sentence will not be included in the action.

Deniz Kaya announced that the prisoners will also publicise the campaign's demands by writing letters to foreign representations, human rights institutions, the media, political parties and non-governmental organisations, and will regularly ask the Turkish Ministry of Justice about Abdullah Öcalan's isolation on the prison island of İmralı. In addition, they will remind the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) of its neglected responsibility. The ongoing court proceedings will be used to denounce the isolation in public spaces and raise awareness about it, said Deniz Kaya and called on the prisoners to act collectively and to refrain from individual forms of action.

The statement released by Deniz Kaya on behalf of the PKK and PAJK prisoners includes the following:

"We wish success to our friends, comrades and peoples who are participating in this campaign with creative methods, with their minds and hearts, with pens, art, prayers and all kinds of resistance actions everywhere, and we would like to declare that we are with them with all our being, even if we are physically detained under strict isolation conditions.

We have had no news of Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] for three years. His continuous isolation has lasted since the first day of his imprisonment almost 25 years ago. If nothing is heard from İmralı, anything is conceivable in a negative sense. This assumption is based on the tradition of the Republic of Turkey and what we are still experiencing today. İmralı is where the real battle is being fought. Since the gates of İmralı were closed to the public in 2015, the concept of total war has been realised. The violence of the massacres and intimidation policy outside is an indication that the struggle on İmralı is being waged with the same intensity.

The reality of İmralı was created as a result of an international alliance and is being tried to be carried out with the same alliance. For this reason, as long as the isolation and İmralı captivity continues, we will know that the inter-state conspiracy continues. The fact that a strategic move towards the Middle East was made with the captivity of Leader Apo is much clearer when we look at the practice of the past 25 years. Although the Kurds have suffered the most, the attack on Leader Apo was actually an attack on the democratic Middle East ideal. While the whole region was being redesigned, a strong potential that could benefit from this opportunity in favour of the peoples was wanted to be neutralised at the very beginning. The global powers and their collaborators, who based their political calculations on the derivatives of nationalism and religionism, did not want any discourse or action contrary to the status quo they had created.

The US can never have organised the capture of Leader Apo solely for the benefit of Turkey. The Turkish state mind was unable to recognise this, and this inability still exists despite the past 25 years. A government that has had its soul and thinking deformed by hostility to the Kurds could not be expected to read either the present or the future correctly. They did not think it necessary to take any intellectual or political measures that could thwart the fictionalised game. They did not see that the fire that had been lit in the Middle East would gradually grow and develop into a conflagration. Saddam did not see this and paid for it with his life. Iraq was redesigned. Libya, Egypt, Sudan and Yemen experienced different versions of this process. The situation in Syria is obvious. With his historical and current analyses, Leader Apo has often warned and offered solutions for what could happen. He analysed the impasse into which nationalist, religious and sexist scourges have dragged humanity with all its dimensions. He tried to be a breath of fresh air not only for the peoples of the Middle East, but for all the peoples of the world, the oppressed, women and nature. He did this in his cramped cell, where he was left breathless.

Societies have become breathless, fragmented, divided, powerless, helpless and vulnerable to intervention due to the mutual nationalist and religious provocations and the sexist siege that is still being attempted to be maintained. Any practice that provokes and feeds this situation supports the crisis and the prevailing understanding of power and has no future to offer the peoples. The current Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the latest harbinger of this mentality. Regardless of the outcome, it is already certain that there will be no solution to this conflict in favour of the peoples. It will not be possible to get out of this vicious circle without eradicating the religious and nationalist seeds that have been sown in these countries for years by the deliberate policies of the hegemonic powers and the governments on their axis. It is a state of endless conflict, of an inability to find a solution, of the devaluation of life and the gradual loss of its colours.

Leader Apo's idea of the democratic nation and democratic confederalism corresponds to the hope and practice of recreating life. It is a strong intervention in the power games on display. Which male despot can exist in a Middle East where differences live together, where faith communities nurture rather than destroy each other, and where women participate freely and equally in life? Which hegemonic power can move at will in a Middle East that has achieved its own inner peace and devotes its energy to strengthening free life?

The logic of keeping the doors of İmralı firmly closed in this process, in which the intervention to reshape the entire region is gaining momentum, is obvious. The absolute isolation on İmralı is maintained not only by the will of the Turkish state apparatus, which is entrusted with the task of guardianship, but also by the common will of the powers that have signed the international conspiracy. The isolation of Leader Apo is directed against all peoples and the alternative option of a free life, and the fire is growing and getting hotter. The delusions of those who believe they can protect themselves with even more nationalism and religious fanaticism are pouring petrol on the fire.

The peoples, democratic faith communities and women need to get more involved than ever before. The current political scene, including Turkey, has completely turned into an area of interest for specialised groups. A sickening hypocrisy has gripped many areas. It is clear that a comfortable conformist opposition can lead to no other result than the reproduction of the existing system. All social groups in Turkey speak of decay, injustice, impoverishment and crisis. These are all results. In Turkey, people talk about the results, but they do not want to see the reasons and causes, they are overlooked.

The Kurdish question is one of the main reasons leading to these results. It is not wanted resolved because it means more war. It is clear that this entails large military expenditures and the impoverishment of the population. It also means lawlessness, illegality, arbitrariness, in short, a special war and its financing. This means black money, drug trafficking, mafias and gangs. The lack of a solution to the Kurdish question means insistence on the oppression of the tyrant.

Leader Apo knows and defines the political, economic, ecological and gender-specific problems in his society and in the world and offers real solutions. He builds his life on fulfilling his duties and responsibilities to realise these solutions. When he is unable to do the things which he believes need to be changed, corrected and restored, he changes himself. Although he has been kept in strict isolation for years, he does not allow his potential and his accumulation to be taken away from him. He shares the definitions and solution methods he has chosen from this potential and accumulation at every opportunity. Leader Apo defends freedom, equality, justice and democracy at all costs and prevents the nation-state system from swallowing up these values and needs and condemning them to nothingness. He brings the truth to the people and presents excellent ways and methods of understanding and explaining this truth. He is subject to such severe attacks because he cares for the well-being and human life of all without complaining or expecting anything in return. He is a leader who keeps his promises and succeeds in everything he does. His promise to the peoples to make a revolution comes to life in Rojava and Shengal and spreads to all peoples in the world together with the Kurdish society. Leader Apo manages to survive under all conditions by focusing on the good, the beautiful and the true and bringing them together with life and people. He is a leader who brings forth free thoughts and theories and has solutions to every problem. He puts the consciousness and philosophy he has created based on these values at the service of humanity through his democratic, ecological and women-liberating paradigm. With this paradigm, he builds both the present and the future.

In the destructive isolation system of Imralı, where he has been held for years, Leader Apo has determined his own attitude, chosen his own path and achieved great success. For all these reasons, the solution to the Kurdish question and the physical freedom of Leader Apo are one and the same, one cannot and must not be considered separately from the other. It is indeed with this awareness that the campaign is called “Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question”. For this reason, it is both pleasing to see that people from all peoples are shouldering this campaign, and it is an expression of the determination to extinguish the fire of hell and create paradise together.

Leader Apo says, ‘Revolution is the separation of what needs to be experienced and what does not need to be experienced.’ Through its attacks, the AKP/MHP fascism imposes what is unnecessary on all of us. While the fascist regime imposes surrender on us and the guerrillas, it tries to condemn the democratic public to daily endeavours that cannot even meet their biological needs. As prisoners of the PKK and the PAJK, we feel with our whole being all the actions that are carried out despite the daily worsening conditions and isolation. Wherever we breathe, we will never give up our insistence on a free life and our belief in the free and equal unity of our peoples. And we will endeavour to be worthy of Leader Apo, who unites all these ideals, with even greater determination and practical implementation.”

Political prisoner behind bars for 32 years not released despite serious illness

ANF | VAN | 29 NOVEMBER 2023

Kasım Karataş has been imprisoned in Turkey for 32 years. The political prisoner is currently being held in Tekirdağ F Type Prison. Karataş has been on the Human Rights Association's (IHD) list of sick prisoners since 2016. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for "separatism" at the 8th High Criminal Court in İzmir on September 4, 1993, and has since been held in various prisons in İzmir, Aydın, Antep, Karabük, Urfa and Tekirdağ.

Despite a drastic deterioration in his health and the expiry of his sentence, he is not released. The prisoner has already undergone open heart surgery and three angiographies. He suffers from high blood pressure, diabetes and herniated discs. He has to take large amounts of medication every day and has suffered dozens of heart spasms in recent years. Karataş is bedridden and has to be cared for by his fellow prisoners. He should actually have been released on August 2. However, as he refused to submit a "statement of repentance", a further examination was postponed until November 2. On November 2, a further postponement was ordered to February 2, 2024.

The political prisoner's daughter Gülistan Karataş spoke to ANF and said: "We do not accept the blackmail to repent under any circumstances. This situation is not only for Kasım Karataş, but for all comrades in the dungeons."

Warning about his father's state of health, she said: "Two of his heart arteries are blocked and he could go into cardiac spasm or have a heart attack at any time. During a visit on November 21, he told me that he hadn't been able to eat for two weeks because of his diabetes. He said that a certificate from the hospital was required for diet food, but no measures were taken in this direction. My request for a meeting with the prison administration was granted, but it did not lead to a positive result."

"What is being done here is an injustice that is being committed with the intention of breaking the will of our friends in prison," Gülistan Karataş said and continued: "The government itself is responsible for this. Their aim is to intimidate us. We will never be intimidated, and we will never give up our struggle. One day, justice will be served. We must never remain silent about this injustice. As long as we remain silent, the situation of our sick friends in prison will worsen. If we do not give them a voice, many of them will lose their lives. We must do something together."

Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality mayor Mızraklı to remain in prison

ANF | AMED | 30 NOVEMBER 2023

The third hearing of the trial, which restarted after the 3rd Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the prison sentence given to Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality mayor Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı, was held at the Diyarbakır 9th High Criminal Court.

Mızraklı's lawyers Mehmet Emin Aktar, Zülal Erdoğan and Muhsin Bilal made their defense after the testimony of a witness.

After the lawyers' defense, the Prosecutor gave his opinion. The prosecutor demanded that Mızraklı be punished on the charge of "membership in a terrorist organization".

The court sentenced him to 7 years and 6 months' imprisonment on the charge of "membership in a terrorist organisation", increasing it by half, and applying a discretionary reduction on the 10 years and 6 months' imprisonment sentence, and eventually sentenced him to 9 years, 4 months and 15 days in prison.

The court decided to continue Mızraklı's detention.

Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı was elected co-mayor of the city of Amed in the local elections in March 2019. In August of the same year, he was forcibly removed from the post at the instigation of the Turkish Interior Ministry and replaced by a pro-government trustee. The same thing happened that day in the HDP strongholds of Van and Mardin. As a result, dozens of mayors of the HDP and its Kurdish sister party DBP were removed from their posts.

Mızraklı, who worked as a doctor until his election as mayor and sat on the board of the Sarmaşık Food Bank, which was later banned by emergency decree, was sentenced to nine years, four months and 15 days' imprisonment in March 2020 on the basis of the testimony of the key witness Hicran Berna Ayverdi under the pretext of alleged "membership in a terrorist organisation".

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68-year-old prisoner released after a stroke in intensive care for 39 days

ANF | 30 NOVEMBER 2023

68-year-old Cemal Tanhan, a seriously ill prisoner of 30 years, suffered a stroke in Bolu F Type Closed Prison on October 23.

Tanhan was first transferred to Bolu İzzet Baysal State Hospital and then to Eskişehir City Hospital's General Surgery Department on October 27. He was released on November 6.

Tanhan's treatment in the intensive care unit has been continuing for 39 days. Cemal Tanhan has stage 4 cancer and the disease has spread throughout his body.

While Tanhan lost his ability to speak during his treatment, he also developed pneumonia and blisters in his lungs.

His daughter Ayşe Tanhan said the following after meeting with her father's doctor about his health on November 27: "His doctor said, 'We drained the water from his lungs. We will change the medication he is taking. If the treatment goes well, we will try to wake him up. In this way, we may be able to transfer him.' But my father has been receiving treatment for a long time. His condition is getting worse every day. Because he was in prison, his treatment started late. If he had been outside and treated earlier, maybe he would not have ended up like this."



81-year-old Makbule Özer to go back to prison

ANF | VAN | 1 DECEMBER 2023

Makbule Özer, 81, was sentenced to 2 years and one month in prison for "aiding a terrorist organization" in Van province. She was released in September 2022, after the sentence was postponed for a year.

Now the 81-year-old Kurdish woman will be imprisoned again following the report from the Institute of Legal Medicine (ATK) stating that "she can stay in prison".

According to information published by the Mezopotamya Agency, the letter sent to the court by the ATK on 11 November, stated that "according to the existing documents and the results of the examination of Makbule Özer, it is appropriate that she remains in a type R (rehabilitation) prison."

Özer's daughter, Naime Özer, said: "My mother received a disability report of 61% in the hospital. We sent these reports to the prosecutor's office. Then we took my mother to the ATK that decided it was appropriate for her to remain in prison. Even when we took her to the courthouse, we took her in a wheelchair. My mother is in a situation where she cannot stand. Last year she could get up and get a glass of water, but now she can't even do that. We carry our mother on our back. The whole world saw the situation my mother was in. We want this illegality to end now."



Political prisoners in Turkey on day 5 of hunger strike

ANF | 1 DECEMBER 2023

Members of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and PAJK (Party of Free Women in Kurdistan) imprisoned in Turkey went on hunger strike on 27 November in support of the international campaign "Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question". According to the prisoners' representative Deniz Kaya, the hunger strike is to be carried out in alternating groups from 27 November to 15 February, the anniversary of the international conspiracy against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan. Ill and elderly prisoners as well as prisoners with less than two years remaining on their sentence will not be included in the action.

Deniz Kaya announced that the prisoners will also publicise the campaign's demands by writing letters to foreign representations, human rights institutions, the media, political parties and non-governmental organisations, and will regularly ask the Turkish Ministry of Justice about Abdullah Öcalan's isolation on the prison island of Imralı. In addition, they will remind the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) of its neglected responsibility. The ongoing court proceedings will be used to denounce the isolation in public spaces and raise awareness about it, said Deniz Kaya and called on the prisoners to act collectively and to refrain from individual forms of action.



Jailed Kurdish writer: Give voice to the hunger strikers

ANF | İZMİR | 2 DECEMBER 2023

Since Monday 29 November, political prisoners in 104 jails in Turkey have been on hunger strike demanding freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question. The hunger strike is being carried out in groups in rotation, and the first step is to demand that the isolation imposed on Öcalan is lifted. There has been no sign of life from the Kurdish people's leader and his three fellow prisoners in Imralı since March 2021.

In the last few days, many prisoners have spoken out through their relatives or lawyers to publicly explain their concerns. One of the prisoners is Kurdish writer Leyla Saraç. She is imprisoned in the Şakran women's prison in İzmir.

In a phone call with her family, Leyla Saraç said that her fellow prisoners Kübra Filiz and Esma Başkale were participating in the hunger strike. "We want our families and the entire public to support us. You must give us a voice," demanded Saraç, explaining that the resistance will continue until their demands are met.

Leyla Saraç

Leyla Saraç is the author of the Kurdish poetry collection “Werzeba” and the book “Zerya”, also written in Kurdish. She was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison in 2015 for “membership of a terrorist organization” and released after five years and eight months. Eight months after her release, she was arrested at Izmir Airport in June 2022 and detained again due to outstanding disciplinary sanctions. Her expected release date is April 2024.

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Military aggression and occupation

HPG: Our forces suffered no losses in Turkish attacks

ANF | BEHDINAN | 25 NOVEMBER 2023

According to the Press Centre of the People’s Defence Forces (HPG), the guerrillas have not suffered any losses in the recent air and ground attacks by the Turkish army. “The Turkish occupation army has been hit hard by the guerrillas and is trying to completely conceal its heavy defeat and heavy losses. Now it claims to have weakened the guerrillas with aerial and ground bombardments. The occupation forces are making no headway against the guerrillas’ determination, war performance and tactical intelligence and are showing their own helplessness by constantly bombing the Medya Defence Zones. Our patriotic people and the public should know that we have not suffered a single loss in the latest air and ground attacks. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas are constantly finding ways to overcome the war technology of the occupation army and carry out successful strikes. At the same time, they have developed methods to protect themselves from all enemy attacks and make them fail. Therefore, no one should believe the lies of the occupation army and its special war media,” said the HPG in a written statement on Saturday.

HPG provided the following details of the latest actions by the guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq):

Guerrilla actions in the western Zap region and in Metîna

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, guerrillas from the HPG and YJA Star (Free Women’s Troops) struck the occupying forces eight times with heavy weapons on 18 November and stopped attempted advances. Three Turkish positions were damaged in the process. On 22 November, two more positions were hit by the guerrillas with heavy weapon fire. On 23 November, a soldier was killed by a sniper.

In the Girê Amêdîyê resistance area, a surveillance camera was destroyed on 18 November and an enemy position was damaged by the guerrillas with heavy weapon fire on 23 November.

In Metîna, the guerrillas intervened on 24 November with hand grenades and light weapons against soldiers of the Turkish army who had taken action to use chemical weapons against a guerrilla position at Girê Ortê.

Attacks by the Turkish army

Guerrilla positions at Girê Çarçel in Metîna and at Girê Cûdî in Western Zap were attacked a total of nine times with explosive drones on 22 and 23 November. Four attacks with unconventional explosives were directed against Girê Cûdî on 18 November. At Girê Ortê, the Turkish army carried out six attacks with chemical gases and unconventional explosives on 23 November. Unconventional explosives were used three times in the past two days against positions at Girê Amêdî and in Sîda.

Between Tuesday and Friday, the Medya Defence Zones were bombed 16 times by fighter jets. The attacks targeted Girê Bahar and Girê Amêdî in western Zap, Sinînê, Ava Lolanê and Şehîd Şerîf in Xakurke, Siyanê, Girê Zengil and Deştâ Kafya in Gare as well as Girê Şehîd Rustem and Şehîd Harun in Qendîl. Further artillery attacks were carried out in the Zap, Metîna and Xakurke regions.



HPG releases identities of the martyrs of Girê Amêdîyê

ANF | BEHDINAN | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) published the identities of three martyrs. Ciwan Welat, Andok Adil and Botan Raperin died in a revolutionary operation in the Girê Amêdîyê resistance area in South Kurdistan earlier this week. According to HPG, 49 soldiers from the Turkish occupation forces were killed in the operation in the western Zap region on 20 November. The HPG press center had already announced that guerrillas Ciwan and Andok died in the action. According to Saturday's statement, guerrilla Botan was seriously wounded in the fighting and could not be rescued.

"Our comrades Ciwan, Andok and Botan were valuable apoist militants and brave fighters. With the revolutionary operation they successfully carried out, they dealt one of the most severe blows to the Turkish occupying army and took a place in the history of freedom of our people. They made sacrifice their way of life and dedicated every moment of their fight to victory. With the last revolutionary operation, they showed friend and foe the strength of the guerrillas and ended their struggle on a high note. Ciwan, Andok and Botan pushed us to fight even harder," the HPG wrote in their obituary. The HPG expressed its condolences to the relatives of the fallen and the people of Kurdistan.



KCK: The PKK is a movement with a strong ideology and social power

ANF | BEHDINAN | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement on the 45th founding anniversary of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party).

The KCK statement includes the following:

“We are approaching the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, which was founded on November 27, 1978. The PKK resurrected the Kurdish people that was on the verge of extinction, and has reached this day with great developments. We would like to celebrate the 45th anniversary of our party, PKK, which resurrected the Kurdish people and made great developments. Therefore, we congratulate Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], all the martyrs of revolution and democracy, the patriotic people of Kurdistan, the peoples of the Middle East and the world. We congratulate the women, the youth, all the comrades who are resisting in prisons, all those who are struggling for freedom and democracy. We also congratulate the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla who broke the colonialist approach.

There is no doubt that the PKK has achieved all these developments with a great struggle and high prices paid for this cause. Rêber Apo once said that the decision to found the PKK was taken in response to the martyrdom of Haki Karer. This decision of Rêber Apo revealed the source of PKK's power in a simple way. The PKK is a party of struggle and martyrs, and all the developments it has created are based on the devotion to the memory of the martyrs. It is the struggle of tens of thousands of martyrs that has brought us so much progress and enabled us to reach today. Therefore, those who made the PKK and all these developments possible are our martyrs. On this occasion, we once again commemorate all the martyrs of revolution and democracy with great respect and gratitude, reaffirm our pledge of loyalty and success to them and bow before their memories.

The emergence of the PKK changed the fateful history of the people of Kurdistan and led to the development of a new historical process in Kurdistan and the Middle East. In the early 20th century, the forces of the capitalist modernity established a dependent system in the Middle East with the nation-states they created. While the resources of the Middle East were completely exploited by them, the peoples of the Middle East were subjected to all kinds of exploitation under the rule of nationalist, religious, authoritarian, oppressive dictatorial regimes and nation-states. Peoples have been fragmented between nation-states, turned into enemies and brought into conflict with each other. Many ancient peoples of the Middle East have been subjected to massacres and genocide under the rule of capitalist modernity and reactionary, dependent, satellite nation-states.

One of the peoples subjected to genocide and colonialism was the Kurdish people. The Kurdish people were dismembered together with their country, their existence was denied and they were taken into the process of extinction. The PKK emerged first and foremost as a resistance against this great injustice and oppression. The PKK brought the Kurdish people back from the dead with its ideology of freedom and the struggle it waged based on it. Re-existence is not a discourse for the Kurdish people, but a reality. With

the PKK, the Kurdish people recognized their own reality, recognized the reality of the enemy, acquired the consciousness of freedom, understood that they could exist and achieve their freedom through struggle, by showing the courage and will to wage this struggle.

With the disintegration of colonialism and the realization of the revolution of resurrection in Kurdistan, the status quo in the Middle East suffered a major blow and entered a process of obstruction and dissolution. Seeing that the developments created by the PKK jeopardized their interests, the forces of capitalist modernity, together with the nation-state regimes and reactionary forces in the Middle East, put the international conspiracy against Rêber Apo into action and tried to stop the PKK. The international conspiracy, which continues until today in absolute isolation, is based on this. However, based on the new paradigm developed by Rêber Apo, the PKK has frustrated the attacks against it and further developed its struggle for freedom, becoming the most influential ideological and political power in the Middle East. With the democratic, ecological and women's freedom paradigm developed by Rêber Apo and his understanding of the 'democratic nation', the PKK has become a movement from which not only the Kurdish people but also the peoples of the Middle East and the world draw strength. Today we can say that the PKK is not only the most influential force in the Middle East with its ideas and understanding, but also the greatest force of solution.

One of the most important developments that the PKK has achieved for all humanity is undoubtedly the struggle for the emancipation of women and the ideas and paradigm it has developed for this purpose. As a requirement of his deep faith, trust and love for women, Rêber Apo developed the PKK as a movement in which women find and live their own reality. As a second step, Rêber Apo developed the women's freedom paradigm and developed a system of free life in which women re-create themselves and achieve their freedom. Today, with the slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî", this understanding has spread all over the world, and women all over the world express and liberate themselves with this understanding. This is one of the biggest steps towards the realization of a free life. On such a day, which is recognized as the 'International Day Against of Violence against Women', we believe that it would be the most meaningful and correct attitude to know the roots of the understanding of "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî". We can easily say that the establishment of the PKK and the developments it created have been one of the most meaningful attitudes in history against all forms of violence, exploitation and massacre against women. On this occasion, as a movement that is convinced that free life passes through women's freedom, we condemn all forms of violence, exploitation and massacre against women, and state that we stand with women in the march for freedom.

The PKK has taken root in the garden of society and humanity with its place in the consciousness and hearts of the Kurdish people, the impact it has had on the peoples of the Middle East and the world, and its great power to solve the problems of society. Those who attack the PKK thinking that it will weaken or disappear are genocidal colonialist fascist enemies who cannot comprehend this reality. The PKK is a great movement of mentality and a social force. It will never be weakened or destroyed by attacks. On the contrary, it grows its struggle and develops a little more every day. The PKK will continue to create new developments. The PKK is an Endless Novel, a Song, a Poem and a Beauty. With this belief and hope, in this 46th year of struggle, we wish great success to everyone who fights, resists, struggles, believes in the PKK and has a heart connection with the PKK."

TEV-DEM salutes the PKK's 'history full of struggle'

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

The Democratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM) released a statement saluting the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and its leader, Abdullah Öcalan, as well as the , PKK revolutionaries and pioneers, HPG and YJA Star guerrillas, political prisoners and the families of martyrs.

The TEV-DEM statement on Sunday includes the following:

"In this process, there was a great need for an intellectual and ideological vanguard that would save society from the physical and cultural genocide policies implemented by the Turkish state. At that time, the announcement of the establishment of the Party stood as a revenge and a historic breakthrough against the fascist and occupying Turkish state. This was also the beginning of a new dawn towards the construction of the great national transformation process that would restore hope and trust among sections of Kurdistan society. This step turned into the national liberation and the Kurdistan revolution under the leadership of women and young people. The historic resistance of the Party cadres and pioneers who chose the path of resistance and hard struggle for freedom, in prisons, mountains and cities to defend social, political and cultural values against fascists and Turkish invaders, became a representation of the will of the libertarian region and the peoples of the world.

The history of the PKK is full of struggle. The PKK has faced many obstacles and difficulties due to local and international conspiracies against the philosophy of the Kurdistan Freedom Movement. The fascist Turkish state has been waging a bloody war against the will of the Kurdish people everywhere to this day, carrying out massacres every day, using all kinds of weapons, including banned chemical weapons. These atrocities are being carried out in response to global support campaigns demanding the physical freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan and demanding a political solution to the Kurdish question and the party's anniversary celebrations.

The resistance of the PKK, which is fighting against the fascist policies of the Turkish state and winning, has expanded and spread every day. This is a result of the will and insistence generated by resistance through legitimate self-defense methods. The PKK has made great sacrifices in terms of moral and conscientious support for the popular resistance in Shengal, Maxmur, Northern and Eastern Syria and Kurdistan.

As TEV-DEM, we salute the history of the PKK and consider its patriotic and humane attitudes sacred. We salute the Kurdish people and all other peoples, freedom fighters and democrats who support the achievement of Abdullah Öcalan's physical freedom and a peaceful solution of the Kurdish question.

We call on all Kurdish, Arab and global political and national forces, civil society activities, women's organizations, cultural and legal organizations to participate in the solidarity campaign. This move shows the strength and will of the societies' efforts to create a common solution for the realization of the physical freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan. It is the most appropriate solution model for the crises experienced by this region and the world."



YJA Star: The PKK is the movement of hope for all peoples

ANF | BEHDINAN | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

The Central Headquarters Command of YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) made a statement marking the 45th founding anniversary of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party).

The statement released by YJA Star Central Headquarters Command on Sunday includes the following:

"We welcome this 27th of November, the 46th anniversary of our party, which is also the 51st year of struggle of our Leader, with the great enthusiasm of the belief in victory in our positions where we have peaked our resistance. We greet with love, respect and great longing our Leader, who has carried us to this day, and we celebrate this day for our Leader, all our comrades resisting in prisons, the families of our martyrs, our patriotic people who are devoted to the PKK cause and the world humanity. We commemorate with respect and gratitude all our comrades from Haki Karer to Axîn Muş, Jîndar Rûmet Meyaser, Andok and Egîd Kobani, who have been eternalised in the Apoist sacrifice line, and we express our promise and determination to crown our resistance with victory as a requirement of loyalty to their memories.

'Our Party is the embodiment of the resurrection of a people'

Our Party, as the embodiment of the resurrection of a people, has been waging a great struggle for existence for nearly half a century. Today, the most intensified version of this is being waged in Zap, Hill Amediyê, Hill Cûdî, Şehit Pîrdoğan and in the four parts of Kurdistan. The pioneer of this unique resistance waged by the most valuable sons and daughters of our people is Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan). Since the first day he started his freedom march, Leader Apo has never for a moment compromised on the morality of freedom. This principled stance of Leader Apo has become a character in our people and today the PKK has reached a leadership that inspires the whole world.

Especially the participation of Kurdish women in the PKK movement from the very beginning, in the person of Sara and her likes, has turned the PKK into a women's party. In this sense, the women who united under the slogan 'Jin, Jîyan, Azadî' (Woman, Life, Freedom) have set the most concrete example in the expression of this female essence of the PKK. As the party of the exploited, oppressed and ignored peoples, women and youth, the PKK has demonstrated that it is the most effective means of freedom by developing self-defence consciousness in all segments of society. And it is women who have embraced this the most. The women's self-defence forces organised as YPJ (Women's Defense Units) and YJŞ (Shengal Women's Units) from Rojava to Shengal are the visible expression of this. The YJA Star, which has been fighting in the mountains for more than 30 years as the most effective means of freedom, is the monument of honour of the woman who came to life in the PKK. Women who deeply felt the fact that those who could not realise their self-defence would be condemned to slavery, that is, extinction, united in the PKK, became PAJK and YJA Star, and succeeded in transforming the historical defeat of women into victory. In this context, the PKK is the party of women's victory. The PKK is the main living space where women's greatest gains have been realised. The woman who realised her rebirth in the PKK is the birth of a new society, and thus of a new life. The woman who gains willpower in the PKK is the society that gains

willpower and fights for its freedom. The PKK is the party of our people, women and all humanity. The PKK is the only alternative of the reality of free life in which the new life is embodied.

The international conspiracy against our Leader, who created all these developments, was realised to prevent these developments. The main purpose of the insistence on the absolute isolation of our leader is to completely sever our leader's ties with our movement, the people and women, and to erase our leader, who creates continuous development, from the social memory. However, these efforts have been frustrated for 25 years in the person of our Leader. With his 'breathless' resistance, our leader has shown everyone, especially us militants, how to frustrate the conspiracy. In this context, our attitude towards the immoral war against the paradigm of democratic modernity in the person of the guerrilla is to resist to the end with the strength we take from our leader. The compass of Leyla Sorxwîn, Axîn Muş, Destan Botan, Ardem Ararat and dozens of other martyred comrades has been the resistance attitude revealed in the stance of the Leader. Our basic reality that makes us fight is this stance put forward by our Leader and our martyrs.

‘We call on everyone to be a soldier of the freedom dance’

As the militants of the leader and the successors of our martyrs, we are also in position, in action and in resistance. With the awareness that the PKK is a movement of labour and revenge, every day we hit colonialism right in the heart like Sara and Ruken, Rojhat and Erdal did. The most recent revolutionary operation action at Hill Amediye, in which 49 invaders were punished, is once again proof that the PKK militancy, advancing in the line of the Leader and martyrs, will sooner or later but surely defeat colonialism. In this sense, we believe that the insistence on the PKK militancy, which has been in resistance for 46 years and every moment of which is experienced breathlessly, will bring our people, women and humanity the free future they deserve, and we call on everyone who seeks freedom to be a soldier of the freedom dance around this glorious resistance.

With each passing day, the influence of the PKK is spreading, the injustice of the conspiracy against our Leader is being exposed, and the crime of genocide against our people is being understood. The participation from 74 countries of the world in the campaign launched with the slogan 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, Solution to the Kurdish Question' and the increasing efforts to remove the PKK from the terrorist list are linked to this reality. Everyone who meets with the PKK sees the rightness of the PKK's ideological, political and military line and agrees with this rightness. This level that the PKK has reached is a great achievement particularly for our people and for the entire world humanity. In this sense, the PKK is a stand against injustice, inequality and marginalisation. The PKK is the movement of hope for all peoples. PKK is the name of insisting on remaining human. Being a member of the PKK is the definition of remaining honourable in the 21st century. In this context, we once again salute our Leader, who has conduced to our resurrection with the PKK, and congratulate him once again on this sacred day. Our struggle will be based on claiming and protecting the PKK life created by our Leader until the end.

As YJA Star forces, we have reached the level to perform the most effective strike with the vast experience we have gained in the war. Our strength is professional, warrior and sacrificial. With this power and motivation, there is no task that we cannot accomplish, and we have the determination and ability to overcome all obstacles. In this sense, we welcome the coming year on the basis of the claim to embrace our gains, to expand them and to win victory. Our tasks for the period are clear and we are ready. We know that our people will embrace our glorious resistance in this process in which we are in resistance at every moment, and with the strength we receive from them, we are advancing towards our goals with unwavering deter-

mination. We welcome the process with the militant reality locked on victory and express our promise and determination to resist until the end. Victory will surely be for those who resist in the Apoist sacrifice line.”



PAJK: PKK is the most revolutionary, transformative movement of the 21st century

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

In a statement published on its [website](#), the PAJK (Party of Free Women in Kurdistan) Coordination celebrated the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the PKK on 27 November 1978 and called the youth of Kurdistan to join the ranks of the PKK.

The PAJK statement released on Sunday is as follows:

“We commemorate with respect and gratitude all our martyrs of the revolution in the person of Sakine Cansız, Mazlum Doğan, Kemal Pir, M. Hayri Durmuş, comrades Rojhat Zilan, Erdal Şahin, who carried out sacrificial actions as the successors of this line, and comrades Axin Muş, Leyla Amed, Dicle Eylem, who were martyred whilst heroically resisting the enemy in Amed, Botan, Serhad, Mardin, Zap, Avaşin, Metina. We congratulate the 45th anniversary of the foundation of our party to Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan), to the comrades of the PKK-PAJK who are resisting in the dungeons and fighting in the mountains, to the struggling women and our resilient peoples, and to the world humanity.

From the very first day, Leader Apo shaped the process of becoming a party as a process of liberation for women and our people, making women capable of self-defence, organised and active with the party. With the PKK, Leader Apo gave the colonised Kurdish people a will, and created the line of ‘Jin, Jiyen, Azadî’ (Woman, Life, Freedom). Kurdish women met with the revolution through the PKK struggle, gained the means to fight against slavery and became PAJK. PAJK came into existence as the equality-freedom line of the PKK. PAJK is the mentality and personality of free women and men. PAJK is the spirit of the PKK. Every woman who becomes PAJK is the vanguard of the PKK. The personalities that will form the basis for the new social foundation were created through Party militancy.

The PKK is the party of human dignity as a seeker of truth. As the 21st century’s most revolutionary, dynamic and transformative movement, it is more than ever the hope of salvation for the peoples of the Middle East. The PKK is a source of inspiration for world humanity with the Democratic Ecological Women’s Liberationist paradigm it represents. The PKK represents democratic life and peaceful solution with its democratic nation mentality against nationalist nation-state structures. With its gynecological perspective, the PKK is the most assertive freedom movement against patriarchal mentality and culture. We welcome the 46th year of struggle of our party PKK, the only force organising democratic modernity against the capitalist modernity system, with great determination, commitment and enthusiasm.

The annihilation attacks carried out by the AKP-MHP fascist government relying on the KDP's betrayal were frustrated by the struggle of the guerrilla and our people. The plans to liquidate the PKK, which is a social movement, are doomed to collapse. Against the genocidal war waged by fascist Erdogan, all Kurdistan youth, women and our peoples will stand up under the leadership of the PKK-PAJK and turn 2024 into the year of freedom for the Leader.

We call on the youth of Kurdistan, men and women, to join the PKK's freedom ranks, to expand the revolution together with everyone who resists against the capitalist system and to win freedom, to defend life against death."

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Turkish soldiers on the border with Dirbêsiyê injure 4 people in Rojava, including a child

ANF | QAMISHLO | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Turkish state troops stationed on the border with the city of Dirbêsiyê in Northern and Eastern Syria have attacked civilians. ANHA news agency said that four people were injured in the incident. A nine-year-old child was said to be among the victims. He was taken to a hospital in Hesekê with serious injuries.

The Turkish border guards opened fire indiscriminately on residents of Dirbêsiyê with heavy machine guns on Sunday night. The three other injured people were a 29-year-old woman and two young men aged 18 and 30. It was unclear whether the four were related to each other.

Dirbêsiyê is located directly opposite the town of almost the same name, Dirbêsi (tr. Şenyurt), south of Qoser (Kızıltepe) in the northern Kurdish province of Mardin (Mêrdîn). The region is a small reflection of divided Kurdistan. Binxet and Serxet are a case in point. Binxet, or "below the line," is used to describe Kurdish areas in Syria near the Turkish border. The Kurdish areas located on Turkish territory in close proximity to the Syrian border are referred to as Serxet, which means "above the line". After the end of the First World War, the French mandate territory of today's Syria was separated from the Ottoman Empire in the early 1920s. The border with today's Turkey runs along the railway line in this area. This meant that entire cities were separated, including Dirbêsiyê and Dirbêsi, but also Qamishlo and Nisêbîn.

Repeated attacks from border guards

Outposts of the Turkish army repeatedly attack villages and towns along the border strip between Turkish territory and the autonomous region of Northern and Eastern Syria. In addition to the civilian population, positions of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and checkpoints of the Syrian regime's forces are also targeted. Eighty percent of the infrastructure in Northern and Eastern Syria was destroyed by the Turkish army in October during extensive bombings from the ground and from the air. Almost fifty people were killed in the attacks and dozens more suffered injuries, some of them serious.

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PKK, 45 years struggling for the existence, freedom and honour of the Kurdish people

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Formally founded on 27 and 28 November 1978, the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party, Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan) core group was made up largely of political science students led by Abdullah Öcalan in Ankara. The group soon moved its focus to the large Kurdish population in south-east Turkey. On 27 November 1978, the group adopted the name "Kurdistan Workers' Party".

The 1980 Turkish coup d'état pushed the organization to another stage with the members doing jail time, being subject to capital punishment, or fleeing to Syria.

The first congress of the organization was held in 1982 and outlined the various phases necessary for the liberation of Kurdistan.

In 1984, on 15 August, the PKK carried out its first armed action.

The founding of the PKK was initially the answer to the bitter alternative of "assimilation or extinction" in a state that was committed to the ideology of ethnic homogeneity. Abdullah Öcalan, Haki Karer, Kemal Pir, Sakine Cansız and a handful of comrades-in-arms decided on the path of resistance against the feudalism of the time and a colonialism aimed at exploitation and ultimately extermination.

These first militants refrained from writing pages of declarations of intent and theoretical treatises on independence and self-determination. They preferred practice. "We have to live the alternative that we always talk about," said Öcalan. So they looked for a way into society, talked to people everywhere about their everyday problems, founded small circles of "help for self-help" and showed how social resistance can develop - even on a small scale. With empathy, seriousness and determination, the still young PKK lit the fire of self-empowerment.

One of the greatest achievements is the break with the concept of nation states. Wherever the PKK movement is active, attempts are being made to push back the state and rely on social self-organization. A growing "grassroots revolution". The "Declaration of Democratic Confederalism" proclaimed in 2005 as a strategic realignment of the party is evidence of the PKK's ability to learn from mistakes and respond to social changes with new answers.

The PKK in its own words

"Our party, since its inception, has been struggling for the existence, freedom and honour of the Kurdish people against the genocide begun by the racist-chauvinist Unionists at the beginning of the 20th century, which aimed to end the freedom of the Kurdish people and wipe them out from history. In this sense, the decision taken on 27th November 1978 to become a party was also a decision for national existence and resistance. This is why this day is being celebrated as national resistance by our people.

Over the years, the PKK has fought to safeguard and realize the freedom of the Kurdish people against the physical and cultural genocide and assimilation policies of the Turkish nation-state. Our party has staged a great resistance against one of the biggest army's in the world, supported by NATO, and also Gladio (deep state) organization to bring the Kurdish people to the point of declaring democratic autonomy."

— ★ —

HPG and YJA Star guerrillas celebrate the PKK's founding anniversary

RÜSTEM KURTALAN | BEHDINAN | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Celebrations are taking place everywhere to mark 27 November, the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

In Metîna, guerrillas from the HPG (People's Defense Forces) and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) gathered to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the PKK.

Sozan Mardin, a commander of YJA Star, gave a speech at the opening of the celebration. She recalled the beginning of the freedom march by Haki Karer, the first martyr of the PKK movement, and pointed out that Abdullah Öcalan founded the PKK to do justice to the martyrs. She continued: "The freedom movement grew with the blood of the martyrs. We became an organised party and an organised army thanks to our martyrs. All this was created with the greatest conviction and sacrifice."

Remarking that the PKK has become stronger and stronger in the 45 years of its struggle, the YJA Star commander stated: "This is because the PKK and the people have become one. The PKK was founded for the oppressed peoples. Our people have recognised themselves through the PKK, they have no longer accepted their oppressed state and are resisting every day. We greet our people and all the fighting comrades on the anniversary of the founding of the PKK."

After the speech, guerrillas chanted the slogans "Bijê Serok Apo" (Long live Leader Öcalan) and "Bê Serok jiyan nabe" (No life without the leader) and danced to revolutionary songs.

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/hpg-and-yja-star-guerrillas-celebrate-the-pkk-s-founding-anniversary-70496>

— ★ —

15 young women join the guerrilla ranks on the PKK's 45th anniversary

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

On 27 November, the 45th anniversary of the PKK, 15 young women announced their participation in the freedom struggle and called on young people to join the ranks of the guerrillas.

Making a statement in the guerrilla areas, the young women said, "First of all, we congratulate 27 November to Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan), our martyrs and all the people of Kurdistan. The anniversary of the founding of the PKK is a great victory. The reality of the PKK is the reality of free women. Leader Apo said, 'PKK is an endless novel, a folk song, a poem'. We also say, 'The PKK is the love and will of young women. As 15 young women, we celebrate this historic day by joining the ranks of free guerrillas.'"

The young women celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the PKK in the mountains of Kurdistan in camouflage, and unfurled PKK flags and posters of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

The statement by the young women continued as follows:

"All the values of the PKK were founded by our great martyrs, Martyr Haki Karer, Martyr Beritan, Martyr Zilan, Martyr Sara and Martyr Delal Amed. And today these values are protected by our pioneering martyrs such as Martyr Vejin Jiyan. We promise to protect these values by joining the guerrilla ranks.

Our party PKK is entering its 46th year. 45 years of uninterrupted revolutionary struggle... Many prices have been paid in the past 45 years. Last year the enemy wanted to attack the Kurdish freedom struggle from all sides. Of course, this is an indication that they are exhausted, so the fascist Turkish state attacked our comrades in the mountains with chemical weapons. We will never forget the scenes of Baz Mordem and Helbest Koçerin.

Finally, they cowardly attacked our young women friends like Martyr Vejin Jiyan.

The 27 November spark was the result of the Apoist spirit of the youth. For this reason, young people, especially young women, are increasingly becoming the target of the enemy. The enemy cannot tolerate the fact that we, as young women, fight for our freedom and grow stronger with the philosophy of the Leader.

However, we never compromise our Apoist line. Guerrillas in the Medya Defence Zones are giving historic answers to the enemy. Martyr Sara and Martyr Rûken carried out a sacrificial action against the occupying Turkish soldiers in the centre of Mersin. This action by two comrades continues to surprise the enemy even today. After the attack on Martyr Vejin Jiyan, dozens of young women joined the guerrilla ranks. The occupiers will never achieve their goal because we are the PKK, we are the Apoists.

As young women, we can mark such a historic day only by joining the guerrilla ranks. That is why we join the guerrilla resistance. The enemy should know that the more they attack our people, our comrades, the

more decisively we, as Kurdish young women, will join the ranks of the PKK. When one resurrection martyr leaves, hundreds of resurrections are born. For this reason, everyone should be proud of the PKK.

Finally, we call on all Kurdish young women to join the ranks of freedom. Kurdish youth cannot celebrate such a historic day in a different way. Only by joining the guerrilla ranks can we celebrate this historic day with pride. Let the enemy know that we will further strengthen the spark of 27 November.”

— ★ —

SDF captures an ISIS operative in Heseke

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

As part the ongoing fight against ISIS remnants and terrorist cells in the regions of north and eastern Syria, the operational units of the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) conducted a precise security operation targeting one of the ISIS operatives in al-Hasaka city.

“Following a prolonged and precise monitoring, our units spotted the whereabouts of the terrorist and apprehended him. According to initial information, the terrorist was involved in carrying out terrorist acts and attacks targeting civilians, our military forces, and associations of the Autonomous Administration in al-Hasaka city,” said the SDF Media Centre in a statement detailing the operation.

SDF stated that their forces affirm their unwavering commitment to tracking down and eliminating the ISIS terrorist cells, dismantling their hiding places, and cutting off their resources to preserve the security and stability of their regions and ensure the safety of people.

— ★ —

SDF Commander: The PKK unites all oppressed peoples

HIVDA HEBUN | KOBANE | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

İsmet Şêx Hesên, one of the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) commanders, spoke to ANF on the occasion of the PKK’s 45th anniversary. İsmet Şêx Hesên said that the PKK was a rebirth not only for the Kurdish people but also for all the peoples of the Middle East. “The enemy was saying, ‘We destroyed the Kurds, buried them in the grave, poured concrete over them. They will never raise their heads again’, but it was negated with the birth of the PKK. When the PKK emerged with the philosophy of Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan), it created a change both in Kurdistan and in the Middle East. This change affected the whole world.”

İsmet Şêx Hesên noted that Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey have turned the Kurds into a bargaining tool among themselves and built their existence on the Kurdish people. He continued: “The Turkish state sees the gains of the Kurdish people as its own end, because it has created itself through genocide and massacre. The PKK frustrated all its genocidal plans and prevented it from achieving its desired goal.”

The sacrifice in the PKK was not found elsewhere

Stating that the PKK had an impact on the peoples of the Middle East with its understanding of the brotherhood of peoples, İsmet Şêx Hesên stated: “The PKK became a hope for all oppressed peoples. When we look only at the first martyrs of the PKK, it is enough to understand the essence of its philosophy. The first martyr in Turkey was a Turk. Again, the first martyr in Syria was an Arab. In fact, all peoples saw themselves in the PKK, which is why people from everywhere and from every nation joined the ranks of the PKK. People from France, Belgium, Germany and many other countries came and shed their blood in these lands. Those who joined the PKK lived in the mountains for years, giving up their personal lives and families to join the PKK. Even this lifestyle had a great impact. There was no such sacrifice in any previous revolution. Even no religion had such a lifestyle. People gave their lives in the mountains of Kurdistan unconditionally, without expecting anything. They still continue to fight. This is why the PKK is effective.”

The PKK fulfils its promises

İsmet Şêx Hesên pointed out that the PKK, which started with a few people, has grown to millions, has an armed force exceeding tens of thousands, and is raising people all over the world: “The power and spirit created by the PKK unites all oppressed peoples. If today people from Kurdish, Armenian, Circassian, Arab, Turkmen and many other folks are fighting for one cause, it is the result of the PKK’s 45-year struggle. The PKK will ensure that all oppressed peoples gain their rights and identities because it has made a promise to its martyrs, the Leadership and the peoples. All oppressed peoples should rest easy and not despair. Our faith and hope are complete. We, all oppressed peoples, will regain our rights and identities. Victory is inevitable for the four parts of Kurdistan and all oppressed peoples.”

— ★ —

Three youngsters kidnapped in Turkish-occupied Girê Spî

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

According to local sources, the occupation forces raided a house in the neighborhood of al-Mahata and kidnapped three young men, who were identified as 15-year-old Emar Ehmed, 19-year-old Nûran Ehmed and 27-year-old Serdar Ehmed. The aftermath of the kidnapped civilians is not known.

Only two weeks ago, the occupation forces detained six civil servants who opposed the policy of Turkification in the city of Girê Spî, where the Kurdish names of schools, parks and squares have been changed into Turkish. Mercenaries from the so-called “Girê Spî Local Council”, which was established by Turkey and acts as a colonialist institution, dismissed and detained the civil servants in question. In October, the same mercenaries had arrested 5 teachers who rejected the imposition of education in Turkish.

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.

Following the occupation of the Girê Spî Canton by the Turkish state and its mercenaries on October 9, 2019, thousands of its residents were forcibly displaced. A policy of “Turkification” was systematically imposed on the local people who remained in the canton. While Turkish has been adopted as the language of instruction, educational materials have been reorganized according to schools in Turkey.



HPG: 18 soldiers were killed in revolutionary operation in Metîna

ANF | BEHDINAN | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

In its daily statement about the ongoing war in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), the Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that at least eighteen members of the Turkish occupying forces were killed in a guerrilla operation in Metîna on 26 November.

According to the HPG, the revolutionary operation named after the fallen guerrilla commander Leyla Sorxwîn was directed against the Turkish troops in the Girê Çarçel Resistance Area and was carried out in the form of a multi-front attack. The guerrillas involved in the operation struck the occupiers from five sides simultaneously and initially infiltrated the soldiers' camp. The action resulted in the death of twelve occupiers. Reinforcement troops moving up were also targeted by the guerrilla units and six of them were caught in a deadly ambush.

HPG stated that the revolutionary operation was carried out to mark the 45th anniversary of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which was founded 45 years ago today by Abdullah Öcalan and a group of friends in a village near Amed (tr. Diyarbakır).

HPG emphasised that the Turkish state is concealing the actual extent of its losses in this operation and that only three soldiers have been reported killed in Turkey's biased media. In addition, HPG stated that they have confiscated various weapons and military equipment from the occupying forces that were killed. In addition to an BKC machine gun and a grenade launcher, the guerrillas also seized several infantry rifles, ammunition, a satellite telephone as well as several mobile phones, night vision devices, knives, backpacks and a detector.

HPG also provided information about further actions carried out by the guerrillas against invading troops. Accordingly, guerrillas hit the helicopters flying over the Girê Çarçel Resistance Area on 25 November evening.

The guerrillas struck the Turkish troops in the Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region at least ten times on 24 and 25 November. Two soldiers were shot dead and one military position was damaged as a result of strikes by guerrilla snipers.

Regarding the attacks by the Turkish army, HPG stated that their defence positions in Girê Çarçel were attacked twice with explosive drones and chemical warfare agents. In Sîda, which is located in the Zap region, HPG recorded an attack with unconventional explosive devices. In addition, the guerrillas registered numerous attacks by combat aircraft. Five air strikes hit the surrounding areas of the villages of Bilindbazê, Bêbadê, Mîranê and Şêlazê in the Gare region, while two attacks targeted the Girê Bahar resistance area in Zap and two attacks were directed at Ava Lolanê and Goşînê in Xakurke. The Turkish army also carried out tank and artillery attacks in the regions of Zap, Metîna and Xakurke.



Ban on access to restricted zones in Şîrnak extended for fifteen days

ANF | ŞÎRNAK | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

A ban on access to more than a dozen mountainous regions in the Kurdish province of Şîrnak, which has been in force for a fortnight, has been extended for an initial period of fifteen days. According to a statement released by the governor's office on Monday, the "preventive measure" applies in fourteen areas of the province, which were declared temporary "special security areas" in mid-November.

The measure, which is related to operations by the Turkish army against the guerrillas, was initially imposed from 12 to 26 November and will remain in place until 11 December.

The order affects a total of 14 regions in the border areas of Cizre, Silopi, Güçlükönak, Uludere and Beytüşşebap districts, as well as the areas of Cudi and Gabar mountains and the Besta region.

The creation of "special security zones" is part of a larger development in which restricted military areas are being established in various parts of northern Kurdistan. As a result, entire areas are cut off from the outside world and are subject to the control and arbitrariness of the military. These measures place a considerable burden on the Kurdish rural population and increase the pressure on residents to leave the affected areas.

Large-scale military operations are constantly taking place in the region of Şîrnak, which is located in the south-east of Turkish territory and lies in the border triangle with Iraq and Syria. The province borders on southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) and thus on the Medya Defence Zones controlled by the guerrillas.



419 people abducted in Turkish-occupied territories in northern Syria in 11 months

ANF | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

The Rights Violations Documentation and Legal Centre published a report on the mass abductions carried out by the gangs of the occupying Turkish state in the areas it occupied in northern Syria.

According to the report, the “Syrian National Army” gangs and its affiliated mercenaries continue to commit crimes against the people.

The Rights Violations Documentation and Legal Centre said that it is in contact with the families and relatives of the prisoners, noting that arrests by the Turkish army and gangs in the occupied areas of Syria affects everyone and no prosecution is carried out.

The Centre stated that 419 people have been abducted in 2023 in Afrin, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî regions occupied by the Turkish state.

The report stressed that the Turkish state pursues the policy of “creating chaos and gathering dozens of terrorist organisations together”.

— ★ —

Guerrillas celebrate the 45th anniversary of the PKK in Garê

ANF | BEHDINAN | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Workers’ Party of Kurdistan (PKK) with a magnificent ceremony in the Garê region of the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

At the ceremony, a minute of silence was held in memory of the Kurdistan Freedom Martyrs, followed by a speech by Rojhat Mûş, one of the HPG Commanders. Saluting the 45th anniversary of the PKK, Mûş said: “On this day, we celebrate the Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan, the architect of the PKK, who founded the PKK with great efforts. We celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the PKK for all the martyrs, especially the first martyrs who made great efforts in the establishment of the PKK in the person of Haki Karer. We celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the PKK for all guerrillas, comrades from the PKK and PAJK who have fought in positions and resisted in every field on behalf of the PKK until today. Happy anniversary of the founding of the PKK to our people, all the mothers of martyrs and guerrillas, who stood up and resisted with the PKK and have been marching with the PKK and waging a breathless struggle until today.”

Stating that the PKK has been waging a breathless and relentless struggle against the policy of denial and annihilation until today, HPG Commander Mûş stated that the PKK has reached this stage with the will and stance of the first day.

“PKK is the will, hope and identity of the Kurdish people,” said Mûş and emphasised that PKK will always exist. The HPG Commander said, “If we, as Freedom Guerrillas, are sacrificially waging a great war in all mountains of Kurdistan, it is thanks to the guidance of our martyrs. If Comrade Rojhat and Erdal are carrying out a great action in the centre of Ankara, this is thanks to the spirit that Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan) created in the PKK. As HPG and YJA Star guerrillas, we promise once again that the PKK will always exist, will always live. We will never let the PKK flag fall to the ground.”

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/guerrillas-celebrate-the-45th-anniversary-of-the-pkk-in-gare-70514>



HPG: Turkish state lies and conceals its losses

ANF | BEHDINAN | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

On 26 November, the guerrillas carried out a revolutionary operation named after the fallen guerrilla commander Leyla Sorxwîn against the Turkish troops in the Girê Çarçel Resistance Area in the Metina region of the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). 18 members of the Turkish army were killed during the course of the action, in which the guerrillas struck the occupiers from five sides simultaneously. The guerrillas initially infiltrated the soldiers' camp. The action resulted in the death of twelve occupiers. Reinforcement troops moving up were also targeted by the guerrilla units and six of them were caught in a deadly ambush. The guerrillas also confiscated various weapons and military equipment from the occupying forces that were killed. In addition to an BKC machine gun and a grenade launcher, the guerrillas also seized several infantry rifles, ammunition, a satellite telephone as well as several mobile phones, night vision devices, knives, backpacks and a detector.

In connection with the guerrilla operation in Metîna, the Turkish General Staff and pro-government media only reported the death of only three soldiers, Necdet Çalış, Emrah Gündüz and Fevzi Kızıлтаş.

The Press Office of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) released a statement accusing the Turkish state of covering up the very serious losses suffered by its forces on the war front.

“It is a recurring phenomenon that the Turkish military and special war media conceal the actual losses suffered and use false reports to create the impression that the army is successful in the fight against the guerrillas in order to influence public opinion in favour of state policy. However, the people of Turkey and the entire public should know that the state is hiding behind lies. It does not even lay claim to the bodies of the killed soldiers who are in areas under our control and whose identities we have previously disclosed to the public,” said the HPG statement on Tuesday.

HPG reported that, in addition to Necdet Çalış, Emrah Gündüz and Fevzi Kızıldaş, two military officers named Yasin Kayul and Ismail Yılmaz were among those killed in the guerrilla operation in Metîna. HPG stated that the Turkish army suffered a heavy blow as a result of the operation, which was carried out in the form of a multi-front attack in the Girê Çarçel resistance area.

HPG also reported further guerrilla actions against Turkish occupation forces on 26-27 November. On the western front of the Zap region, guerrillas shot down a drone loaded with explosives during an attack flight on Girê FM.

In Girê Cûdî, several attempts by Turkish troops to advance were stopped by artillery fire, and a soldier was killed by a guerrilla sniper from YJA Star (Free Women's Troops). Two other Turkish soldiers were shot dead in sniper actions in Girê Amêdîyê. In the Xakurke region, the guerrillas targeted a military position in the Girê Şehîd Heqî area and three soldiers were killed. In Metîna, YJA Star guerrillas struck the Turkish troops moving around Girê Ortê with heavy weapons.

Regarding the most recent attacks by the Turkish army in guerrilla areas, HPG stated that the guerrilla positions in Girê Çarçel in Metîna were bombed once by explosive drones on 26 November. In addition, HPG recorded four airstrikes by fighter jets on the same day, which were directed against Girê Bahar in Zap and the surrounding areas of the villages of Şêlazê, Golka and Dergelê in Metîna. The Turkish army also carried out artillery and tank attacks in various areas in the regions of Zap, Şehîd Delîl Western Zap, Metîna and Xakurkê.



SDF announces the names of three fallen fighters

ANF | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

The Press Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the names of three fighters who died of injuries sustained in attacks by Syrian-backed mercenaries in Deir ez-Zor in September.

“Our forces persist in their unwavering efforts to thwart all attacks directed at our regions. These assaults originate from various sources aiming to compromise the security and stability of our areas. Our dedicated fighters exert significant efforts in countering the diverse threats posed to our regions,” said the statement released by the SDF on Tuesday.

According to the statement, SDF fighters Ehmed Efrîn, Mervan Kobanê and Milîtan Kobanê were injured during the September attacks launched by mercenaries supported by the Syrian regime on the countryside of Deir ez-Zor. Promptly transported to the hospital for medical care, the three fighters lost their lives as a result of the severity of their injuries after a treatment period spanning approximately three months.

“Our three fighters put up significant resistance against the mercenaries of the Syrian regime, consistently holding positions on the front lines of confrontation. They demonstrated remarkable sacrifice and dedication in every battle, reminiscent of their engagements against ISIS terrorism. Comrade “Ahmed Afrin” joined our forces early on, actively participating in the resistance against the Turkish occupation. Comrade

“Mirvan Kobani,” despite the recentness of his joining our forces, distinguished himself among his comrades through discipline, commitment to instructions, and a spirit of sacrifice. As for our comrade “Militane Kobani,” he was recognized for his unwavering zeal and constant dynamism, exhibiting tireless dedication and ceaseless energy, all while maintaining a strong sense of camaraderie,” the SDF statement said.

SDF expressed their condolences to the families of the three martyrs and all other martyrs, adding that they were growing in faith and determination to uphold their legacy in achieving a homeland free from terrorism and mercenaries.



HPG reports ongoing guerrilla actions against the Turkish army

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 NOVEMBER 2023

The Press Center of the People’s Defense Forces (HPG) issued a statement providing information about guerrilla actions and the Turkish army’s attacks in various parts of Kurdistan.

According to the HPG statement, details of the latest actions by the guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army are as follows:

Serhed region

In the countryside of the Iğdır province in northern Kurdistan, guerrilla snipers hit the Korxan base from two sides on November 27 and two Turkish army soldiers were killed.

Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region

In the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area, guerrillas took action with heavy and semi-automatic weapons to stop four attempted advances by Turkish invasion troops on November 28, damaging a position of the Turkish army. On the same day, a sniper from the YJA Star (Free Women’s Troops) destroyed a surveillance camera installed by the army in the area. In the evening, the guerrillas intervened against Turkish helicopters in the area and forced them to retreat.

Heftanîn

In the Şehîd Kendal area, YJA Star guerrillas destroyed a Turkish position with semi-automatic weapons on November 27.

Attacks by the Turkish army

According to the HPG, the Turkish army attacked the Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) with explosive drones, chemical weapons, unconventional explosives, fighter jets, combat helicopters and artillery.

HPG reported five Turkish attacks with drones loaded with explosives that targeted the guerrilla positions in Girê Çarçel in Metîna on November 27 and 28. Eight other attacks with chemical gas and unconventional explosives were carried out against the guerrilla positions at Girê Ortê in Metîna on November 28 and 29.

Between November 27 and 29, the guerrilla areas in southern Kurdistan were bombed a total of twelve times by fighter jets, targeting the areas of Girê Reşîd in Gare, Gundê Şîlanê in Heftanîn, Gundê Şêlazê in Metîna as well as Sinînê and Şehîd Şerîf in Xakurke.

The region of Xakurke was also shelled by combat helicopters on November 28, while artillery attacks were directed against the regions of Zap, Metîna and Xakurke.



Remains of guerrillas Elçiçek and Satılmış delivered to their families after 5 years

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 1 DECEMBER 2023

Guerrillas Menfiyat Elçiçek and Azad Satılmış died in September 2018 in clashes with the Turkish army on Kato Marinos in Beytüşşebap (Elkê) near Şirnak. Although their relatives have since exhausted all legal means to obtain the bodies of the two fallen guerrillas, the authorities had refused to release the remains so far.

Then, an unexpected call came from the Institute of Forensic Medicine (ATK) and the families of both martyrs were asked to go and get the bodies of the two guerrillas from the local ATK facility in Şirnak. Authorities did not comment on whether the remains of Menfiyat Elçiçek and Azad Satılmış had been kept in a mortuary since their deaths in 2018 or whether they were buried anonymously and now exhumed. Menfiyat Elçiçek will now be buried in her hometown of Şirnak, Azad Satılmış will be buried in Van.

Turkish policy

The Turkish state has been conducting a sort of *necro-policy* against Kurdish society since the 1990s by exploiting the bodies of the martyrs. Bodies were mutilated, dismembered or publicly displayed. Since the Turkish government abandoned the peace process in 2015, a new era begun. Massive police operations have turned funerals of fighters, which were attended by thousands and often even hundreds of thousands before 2015, into small events surrounded by police in which a maximum of ten family members can take part.

At the same time, the bodies of the fallen guerrillas are often only released after a long period of time. The remains are often buried in anonymous graves and have to be exhumed, which represents further harassment for the families. However, the state goes even further by sending packages containing the bones of the fallen to their relatives or simply burying the remains in undignified places. This approach aims to break society's spirit of resistance.



HPG releases balance sheet of war for November: 124 soldiers killed in 193 actions

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 DECEMBER 2023

The Press Center of the HPG (People's Defense Forces) announced the war balance sheet for November.

In written statement on Friday, the HPG said: "The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla's resistance and fight against genocidal attacks in Bakurê Kurdistan and Medya Defense Zones continues uninterrupted. Under the most difficult conditions and impossibilities, the self-sacrificing guerrilla forces, which have sharpened their mind, heart and will with the power they receive from the Apoist ideology, are trying to overcome every obstacle and play their role. Guerrillas continue to defend its revolutionary duties with Apoist self-sacrificing spirit and high courage, without hesitation, with great sacrifice, in order to fulfil their pioneering mission in the Revolutionary People's War anytime and anywhere."

The statement added: "The invading Turkish army continued its land and air attacks against our forces in Bakure Kurdistan and Medya Defense Zones throughout November. The occupying army, which used all the means at its disposal, all latest war techniques including banned bombs and chemical weapons against our forces, could not achieve its goal despite carrying out thousands of operations in Bakurê Kurdistan. It continued its brutal attacks with all recklessness, committing war crimes against our forces resisting in the war positions and tunnels in the Medya Defense Zones, and received full support from some collaborator, treasonous Kurdish, but it still remained inconclusive."

Guerrilla increased the revolutionary people's war

The statement continued: "Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla managed to protect itself and its positions despite all enemy attacks, and continued to write epics of resistance with its indomitable will and Apoist self-sacrificing spirit. Guerrillas escalated the struggle for the Revolutionary People's War without compromising Apoist ideology, lifestyle and commitment to the line of martyrs. Our party increased its combat performance in the month of PKK's founding and welcomed its 45th anniversary with revolutionary operations and effective actions. In particular, the Martyr Leyla Sorxwîn Amed Revolutionary Operation in Metina was a meaningful and appropriate action that took place at a very appropriate time, on the night of the founding anniversary of our Party. The high performance and tactical mastery demonstrated by the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla with its expert team warfare style based on terrain, positions and tunnels dealt heavy blows to the invading Turkish army. Although the colonialist genocidal Turkish state and the special war media tried to completely hide the blows they received from the guerrillas and the heavy losses they suffered, the truth of the war in the Kurdistan mountains was shared with our patriotic people and the public, along with documents [proving that]. It has been proven once again that the policies of the colonialist genocidal Turkish state and the fascist AKP-MHP regime insisting on war and the technical-based attacks of the Turkish army have not and will not yield results."

4 guerrillas fell martyrs

The statement said: “Our comrades Ciwan Welat (Fatih Bulut), Andok Adil (Ramazan Bilal), Botan Raperîn (Sait Songülalp) and Egîd Kobanê (Mahmûd Îbrahîm), who led the revolutionary operations in November, fell as martyrs fighting heroically.”

The following details were shared about the balance sheet of the war in November:

Attacks by the Turkish army: Infantry attacks 140; Chemical weapon attacks: 124; Prohibited explosive attacks: 133; Explosive-laden drone attacks: 103

Martyred Guerrillas: Four of our comrades fell as martyrs

Guerrilla actions: Total guerrilla actions carried out: 193; Ambush actions: 1; Sabotage Actions: 7; Coordinated Guerrilla Actions: 2; Revolutionary Operation: 2; Sniper Actions: 30; Conflict-Coup-Intervention Actions: 52; Artillery Actions: 99

Enemy losses: Number of invaders killed: 124; Number of injured invaders: 1

Destroyed equipment: Reo Type Military Vehicle: 1; Dragon Type Armored Vehicle: 1; Drone: 7; Mobesse Camera System: 6; Position: 20; Tent: 23

Targets hit: Digger: 1; Radar: 1; Position: 52

Weapons and military materials confiscated: BKC medium automatic weapon: 1; Grenade Launcher: 1; MPT-55 infantry rifle: 2; MPT-55 magazine: 12; Distance meter: 1; Detector: 1; Weapon scope: 2; Satellite phone: 1; Mobile phone: 2; Thermal scope: 1; Power bank: 2; Raincoat: 4; Coat: 2; Assault vest: 1; Bags: 5; Military dress: 1; Helmet: 1; Medical bag: 1; Thermos: 1; Gloves: 1; Knives: 2

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Turkey attacked Afrin and Shehba 27 times in November

ANF | 1 DECEMBER 2023

The Defense Forces in the northern Syrian canton of Shehba announced the balance sheet of attacks against North|East Syria.

According to the statement on Friday, Turkish forces and allied mercenaries attacked Afrin and Shehba 27 times during the month of November.

The attacks included 3 strikes by UAVs, 4 by drones and 20 others with artillery, mortars and howitzers.

The attacks left 4 soldiers of the Damascus government injured.



Body of YJA Star guerrilla handed over to her family in a box five years after her death

ANF | 1 DECEMBER 2023

Menfiyat Elçiçek (Axin Seydo), a guerrilla fighter in the ranks of YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) lost her life in a clash with Turkish troops in the countryside of Hakkari province in northern Kurdistan on 14 September 2018.

Called by Hakkari Security Directorate and informed about the death of their daughter, the Elçiçek family went to Hakkari and gave DNA samples. The body of the YJA Star was then reported buried in Hakkari without notice to her family.

On 29 November 2023, Hakkari Security Directorate called the Elçiçek family again and told them that the body was at the Forensic Medicine Institute in Istanbul. The family then went to Istanbul where they were handed over the remains of their daughter in a white cardboard box.

The family brought the body to the İdil district of Şırnak and buried it at the Şêx Hesên Cemetery under police siege.

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

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

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

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

mains of Mahsum Aslan. There, however, it was said that the authorities would take care of the handover themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

On March 4 and May 18 in 2022, Aksoy was detained after being subjected to violence and later released. The Turkish government, the judiciary and the police did not find this much pressure and torture sufficient. Aksoy was among those who were detained in the Amed-based police operations carried out in 21 cities on April 25, 2023. On April 28, she was arrested along with her daughter Mızgin Karataş on the charge of "being a member of a (terrorist) organization".

Femicide

Star Women's Association: 23 women murdered by men in Van in 22 months

ANF | VAN | 25 NOVEMBER 2023

Star Women's Association released its Monitoring Report on Women's Testimonies and Combating Violence Against Women, prepared within the scope of the 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Ruken Ay read the report at a press conference held at the Van Bar Association Tahir Elçi Meeting Hall.

Ay said that 23 women were murdered by men in Van in the last 22 months, and added: "13 cases of violence were observed in which the perpetrator was a member of the public security agency personnel."

Ay said that they direct most of the applicants to Van Bar Association, and added: "Due to the lack of shelters in Van and surrounding provinces, the number of applicants directed to ŞÖNİM, which works as the first step in the mechanism of preventing violence against women, has decreased."

Ay said: "The rate of applicants using KADES in continuous and multiple violent incidents is quite low. In face-to-face semi-structured interviews with 10 women, we observed that only 1 woman used the KADES application. Again, we can see that rural women do not have access to any support mechanism due to social dynamics and difficulty of access. 7 out of 10 women who participated in the report said that if they had known before, they would have taken action years ago and they would not have been subjected to violence for so many years."

Ay stated that 59 percent of the women who applied to the association in 2022 said that they were subjected to violence by their partner: "19 percent said that they were subjected to violence by their ex-husband, 11 percent by their partner, and 11 percent by male family members. In 2023, 61 percent of the women stated that they were subjected to violence by their domestic partners, 10 percent by their ex-husbands, 10 percent by their partners and 17 percent by male family members."

'Kurdish speaking personnel should be employed'

As for gender equality and preventing violence against women, the report said: "Basic international regulations, to which Turkey is or is not a party, for the protection of women's human rights, especially CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, should be well understood, adopted and implemented by the mechanisms to combat violence against women in Van."

Kurdish speaking personnel should be employed in both public institutions and non-governmental organizations working in the field of combating violence. Qualified personnel must be employed as defined in the Regulation on ŞÖNİM. Women should be provided with vocational training to participate in business life during and after their stay in the shelters.”

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HPJ issues statement to mark 25 November

ANF | 25 NOVEMBER 2023

In its message to mark 25 November, the HPJ (Hêzên Parastina Jinên Rojhilatê Kurdistanê - Eastern Kurdistan Women's Defense Forces) drew attention to the 'Jin Jiyan Azadî' rebellion and said that this rebellion was an inspiration to all women in the world.

The HPJ's statement said: "The Jin Jiyan Azadî rebellion, which started in Eastern Kurdistan and Iran, has inspired the resistance of all women in the world. The Iranian regime continues to trample on women's existence and rights by not recognizing them." The statement added: "This process, which started with the murder of Jina Amini, continued with the murder of Armita and dozens of other women. We can only defend women within the framework of a free system, and a free society. The price of free life is getting heavier. The most radical attitudes against the sexist, religious, positivist and nationalist system continue to come to the fore.

As HPJ forces, we once again express our determination to defend women and raise the struggle. We will crown our struggle with victory. With Leader Apo's Democratic, Ecological and Women's Libertarian paradigm, the 21st century will be the century of women all over the world."

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Many detained in police attack on 25 November demo in Şırnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 25 NOVEMBER 2023

In the province of Şırnak, a demonstration to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was broken up by Turkish police. At least 21 people were taken into custody, including politicians and activists from the Kurdish women's movement as well as journalists.

The police justified the crackdown with a ban on assembly issued by the governor's office. Those detained include the deposed mayors of Silopi and İdil, Adalet Fidan and Songül Erden, the co-chair of the HEDEP district association in İdil, Elfesya Nas, TJA activist Güler Tunç, HDP politicians Evin Erden and Asuman Külter and the co-chair of the DBP district association in Cizre, Zilan Yaman. Correspondents

Zeynep Durgut, Ömer Akın for the Mezopotamya Agency (MA) and Rozerin Gültekin for JinNews were also taken into custody.

In protest against the suppression of the demonstration, a group organised a sit-in in front of the local HDP headquarters. Kurdish MP Newroz Uysal Aslan, who was among those taking part in the demo, condemned the violent actions of the police, saying: “Even on the day of struggle against violence against women, the state allows violence to be committed against women from its patriarchal position. We will not accept attempts to silence the voice of women.”

Aslan also pointed out that the police assault damaged the equipment of the media representatives present who wanted to document the demonstration. “The police also confiscated some cameras. This is their way of preventing important press work,” emphasised the politician and demanded the immediate release of all those detained. The sit-in then ended with the slogan ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ (Woman, Life, Freedom).



Women take to the streets across North-East Syria: “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî”

ANF | 25 NOVEMBER 2023

In the autonomous region of North and East Syria, numerous people took to the streets on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to send a strong signal against misogyny and patriarchal claims to power. “Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” was the motto of the demonstrations, which were organised by an alliance of women’s organisations and institutions.

Qamishlo

In Qamishlo, thousands of people took part in a march through the city. Many participants carried banners with inscriptions such as “No to femicide” and “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” as well as banners with pictures of leading figures in the struggle for equal rights for women and martyrs of the Kurdish liberation struggle. The photos of Sakine “Sara” Cansız, Arîn Mîrkan and Abdullah Öcalan were displayed by the crowd, as well those of as Jina Mahsa Amini. Many people also waved the flag of the women’s umbrella organisation Kongra Star.

The demonstration culminated in a rally on the central Şehîd Rûbar Qamişlo Square. Speakers included Remziye Mihemed from the Kongra Star coordination organization, who emphasised the importance of responding to patriarchal violence with organised struggle, saying: “We must unite and organise and fight all forms of violence in order to be free. This is the only way to overcome patriarchy and occupation.”

Raqqa

In Raqqa, Zenûbiya Women's Community organised a demonstration together with the Syrian Women's Council, in which hundreds of people took part, including many activists and actors from political, military and civil society institutions. The march started in front of the Children's Hospital in Raqqa and ended at the Square of the Free Woman. The town is notorious for the crimes committed by the jihadist militia ISIS, which proclaimed Raqqa the capital of the "ISIS caliphate" in 2014 and imposed a reign of terror based on the Salafist interpretation of Sharia law.

In the Free Woman Square, which was renamed after the liberation of Raqqa in 2017, ISIS had operated a "slave market". Bêrivan Xalid, Co-Chair of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), recalled this in a speech and said: "This square is witness to numerous crimes committed by ISIS against women. Today and every year on 25 November, we remember and renew our promise to all women that our struggle will continue until all women are liberated." After the demonstration, Zenûbiya and the Syrian Women's Council opened the "Park of the Free Woman", which is located on the site of the old ISIS slave market.

Kobanê

In Kobanê, too, many people took to the streets to denounce patriarchal gender relations and express their anger at violence against women. In a speech about the women's liberation struggle, Macida Hesun from the local branch of Kongra Star focused on the influence of Abdullah Öcalan, the founder of the Kurdish liberation movement. "Abdullah Öcalan rightly pointed out that the liberation of society is impossible without the liberation of women. The Rojava Revolution was built on the foundation of this ideology of women's liberation, so it has a firm basis."

The programme continued with a performance by the cultural movement Hîlala Zêrîn and the group Şehîd Sakine. With this impressive performance, the actresses and activists expressed their anger about femicide. The play, which was performed on the street, aims to put an end to the patriarchal normality and will also be performed at other events in the near future.

Manbij

Hundreds staged a march in Manbij, after which a press statement was made, saluting the struggle of women against the crimes of the Turkish state forces and allied mercenaries in the occupied territories.

Hesekê

Hundreds of women and residents of the Hesekê Canton participated in a march to mark 25 November. Speaking at the rally that followed the march, Kongra Star Coordination Spokesperson Rihan Loqo said: "Our gathering here and our solidarity committed to Leader Abdullah Öcalan's philosophy and ideas shows the power of women in Rojava and the fact that they will be victorious in their resistance."

Cizire Region Executive Council Co-Chair Vivian Beho Osê highlighted the importance of women's unity. After speeches, members of the Hilala Zêrin movement in Heseke staged a play about violations of women's rights.

Aleppo

Kongra Star organised a march in the self-governing Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood, which was attended by thousands of women, members of NGOs, HPC (Women's Civil Defense Forces) and Internal Security Forces.

Democratic Union Party (PYD) General Assembly member Velentîna Ebdo said: "The Turkish state and mercenary allies attack our territories, targeting our pioneers. The goal of the attacks is to break the will of women. They can't achieve it because we enhance our struggle and we fight to free ourselves from the savagery of hegemonic systems."

Kongra Star Academy Administrator Muna Kibik pointed out that women could not make this much advance if it was not for the Kurdistan Freedom Movement and Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Shehba

Women in the Shehba Canton staged a march from the Ehdas district centre to the Şehit Viyan Amara Academy. Speaking after, PYD Shehba and Afrin Canton member Sureya Mistefa spoke about the achievements of women and the great changes they have made in North-East Syria.

Elif Mihemed, member of the Kongra Star Coordination in Shehba and Afrin Cantons, said: "Leader Öcalan states that the freedom of women is the freedom of society. The building of a society based on co-existence and equality started with the Autonomous Administration, and it is expanding. Women have made major gains and now they have a place in all areas of life."

Deir ez-Zor

Zenubiya Women's Community in Deir ez-Zor organised a series of activities to mark 25 November, which concluded with a march on Saturday.

Zenubiya Women's Community member Îxlas El Ehmed said: "Women have learned not to surrender to attacks. They organised against the repressive system and responded strongly against all forms of violence."

Ecocide

Cizre Region Environmental Board plants 1,200 pine trees in village of Qamishlo

ANF | QAMISHLO | 29 NOVEMBER 2023

Cizre Region Environmental Board, Qamishlo People's Municipality and civil society organizations launched an action on 26 November, in order to organize the garbage area (Rodîko) in the village of Navkur and bring it back to natural life. The action is expected to last 4 days.

Before this new action, 3,500 trees were planted by Rojava University students. Now, 1,200 more pine trees have been planted. In this way, it is aimed to green the region and make it available to the people.

In 2021, the People's Municipality cleaned this area, which was causing environmental pollution, and closed it to garbage dumping. Workers were hired to protect the area where a total of 4,700 trees will be planted.

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Human Rights Violations

HEDEP to change party acronym

ANF | ANKARA | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

The acronym of the People's Party for Equality and Democracy, HEDEP, is to be changed following an objection by the Attorney General's Office of the Turkish Court of Cassation. HEDEP spokesperson Ayşegül Doğan announced at a press conference in parliament in Ankara that, although they were preparing to appeal the court's decision, they would change the party acronym to reduce risks ahead of local elections due in March 2024.

The name HEDEP was announced in October as the new name of the Green Left Party (YSP). The General Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Cassation has rejected the use of the acronym HEDEP on the grounds that it is similar to HADEP, which was banned in 2003.

Ayşegül Doğan described the challenge by the Court of Cassation as an “attempt to set a new legal trap before the upcoming local elections.” Since HADEP was dissolved twenty years ago, the two parties cannot be confused with each other, therefore, the demand for a change in the acronym unfounded.

The HEDEP spokeswoman accused the Court of Cassation of manipulating the law. The legal process was due to the government’s fear of HEDEP’s success in the upcoming elections because her party is committed to a democratic model of government without corruption and nepotism. Ayşegül Doğan also reiterated HEDEP’s determination and assured that it will not be intimidated despite the legal and political challenges.



MEBYA-DER: We will give a collective response to grave desecrations

ANF | MARDIN | 27 NOVEMBER 2023

The aid organization MEBYA-DER discussed the socio-political lines on central questions of the association's work with numerous members and guests at a congress in Kızıltepe (Qoser) near Mardin (Mêrdîn). The focus of the meeting of the association, which supports people who have lost relatives in the Kurdish liberation struggle, was the topic of grave desecrations by state forces and ways to combat these attacks.

In the country’s Kurdish provinces, security forces have been systematically using brutal force against grave sites of those killed in the Kurdish movement and victims of Turkish state power for years. Entire cemeteries have already been devastated, gravestones have been smashed and even corpses have been carried away. The destruction of guerrilla graves in particular is an ongoing practice of the Turkish state, but has taken on a much more systematic dimension in recent years. The tens of thousands of those killed in the Kurdish liberation movement should be erased from social memory.

“This inhumane tradition, which we call a war against the dead, also includes the practice of keeping the bodies of fighters under lock and key, mutilating them and burying them anonymously in so-called cemeteries of nameless people,” said Xecê Öncü by MEBYA-DER. The activist underlined that this humiliation pursued a political goal: “This sends a signal to the Kurds that they will not be tolerated, regardless of whether they are dead or alive. We should be made to renounce our identity, our language, our right to freedom and a life in dignity.”

HEDEP MP Beritan Güneş Altın expressed her party’s support to MEBYA-DER and condemned the state’s handling of the dead of the Kurdish people. She described the desecration of corpses and graves as inhumane attacks that degraded social values and recalled the cases of fighters Agit Ipek (HPG) and Hakan Arslan (YPS), whose remains were handed over to their relatives in boxes and bags respectively. The politician also discussed the recent desecration of the grave site of Uğur and Ahmet Kaymaz. The twelve-year-old and his father were shot dead by Turkish police in Qoser in 2004.

“A collective response and an expression of solidarity is needed against this campaign of attacks against the graves of the fallen, in order to counter the attempts to degrade Kurdish society.”

Altın said: “We will face these attacks with resistance and fight to overcome the times in which our existence, our language and our identity are denied.” As a first step, MEBYA-DER wants to discuss with politicians, business figures, culture activists and civil society to fight the attacks against the dead.

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Eight years ago today, lawyer Tahir Elçi was murdered in Amed

ANF | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Tahir Elçi, the murdered president of the Amed Bar Association, participated in the ‘Neutral Zone’ program presented by Ahmet Hakan at CNN Türk on 14 October 2015.

Asked by Hakan whether the PKK was a terrorist organization, Elçi answered: “The PKK is not a terrorist organization”.

After this program, the prestigious lawyer was exposed to an increasingly common lynching. Six days after the CNN Turk program, Elçi was taken into custody at the Amed Bar Association’s legal aid building and taken to Istanbul for testimony. Elçi was released after his testimony: he was to undergo judicial control and was forbidden to go abroad.

A lawyer defending oppressed people

Tahir Elçi was born in Cizre, Şırnak in 1966. He completed his primary, secondary and high school education in Cizre, and graduated from Dicle University, Faculty of Law in 1991.

He worked as a self-employed lawyer in Amed since 1992. Between 1998 and 2006, he worked as a manager in Amed Bar Association. During this period, he studied international criminal law and criminal proceedings at the Academy of European Law in Germany and attended many national and international conferences as a speaker.

He represented victims in many domestic trials and before the domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). He was a member of Turkey Bar Association (TBB), Human Rights Center for Science Advisory Board, Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Founding Committee and was involved in the establishment and operation of several civil society organizations. Elected as the President of the Bar Association of Amed in 2012, he continued his duty until 28 November 2015, the day he was murdered.

Ahmet Şık, an investigative reporter previously jailed by the Turkish government and now HDP deputy for Istanbul, had written on Twitter: “They chose to murder Tahir Elçi, instead of arresting him”.

His words were to be proved dramatically true.

28 November 2015: A planned murder

On 28 November 2015, Tahir Elçi, a prominent Kurdish human rights lawyer, was shot and killed during a press conference in the city of Diyarbakır in south-east Turkey. It was 10.53 when Elçi was shot at the Four Legged Minaret with a bullet in the back of his neck.

At the press conference, Elçi had appealed for calm in the city, amid a recent wave of violence. The weeks and months following his death, however, saw an escalation in the conflict that resulted in the near-total destruction of Diyarbakır's historic centre, Sur, a historic resistance, the deaths of hundreds of civilians and the displacement of thousands more.

In a public address on the day of the murder, then Turkey's Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu, pledged to apprehend the "unknown perpetrators", and promised that the state's investigation would uncover the truth. "Politically-motivated assassinations", he added, "would not be tolerated".

Yet why the PM was delivering his speech, promising to catch the killers, the authorities were failing (was it deliberate? One cannot but think it was, unfortunately) to secure or process the crime scene. They blamed the ongoing clashes in the area, and when investigators returned two days later and began collecting evidence, their work lasted very little.

In the end the investigators gathered 43 pieces of evidence that had previously been identified and labelled for collection. Forty further pieces, from the area immediately around the base of the minaret, where Elçi was murdered, were not collected. Photographs and footages show civilians walking around the murder scene which was clearly compromised.

Indeed, the bullet that killed Elçi was never recovered. It was only four months later, in March 2016, that investigators returned to carry out a new two-day examination of the murder scene.

Possibly even more disturbing was the fact that the police officers who could clearly be seen firing their weapons in Elçi's direction at the press conference were never questioned as potential suspects, only as witnesses.

London University report: Police shot Elçi

Later in 2016, the Diyarbakır Bar Association commissioned London university Goldsmiths research group Forensic Architecture to examine the evidence in their possession. That included witness testimony, video footage, photographs and material from the crime scene investigation, and official and independent reports.

One of the first accusations made by the government was that in fact Elçi had been killed by PKK militants who were armed at the scene that day.

However, Forensic Architecture dismissed this claim with a rigorous reconstruction of what happened that day. The report said: "The results of our analysis confirm with near-certainty that neither of the PKK militants could have fired the shot that killed Elçi. In fact, for much of the time frame during which Elçi was

hit, Gürkan was clearly holding his gun by the barrel, and thus unable to shoot. Yakışır does not appear to aim at Elçi at any point during the time frame, and eventually throws his gun at the police.”

Forensic Architecture then concluded: “Based on our analysis, we concluded that police officers A and D had direct but partially obstructed lines of fire towards Elçi during the period in which they are visibly firing their weapons. Either could therefore have fired the fatal shot.

Police officer C is the only officer to have had a clear unobstructed line of sight towards Tahir Elçi, during the period in which he fired shots 24, 26, 28, and 29. He too could have fired the fatal shot.”

Was Elçi given medical attention?

According to Forensic Architecture, “following the shooting, one of the four cameras continued to record for around 13 minutes. Throughout this time, as shots rang out intermittently from nearby streets, Elçi’s body lay on the ground unattended; nobody in the vicinity attempted to check his condition, or to give him medical attention. [...] 12 minutes and 30 seconds after the end of the investigative time frame – an armoured vehicle arrives, parking just centimetres from Elçi’s body. Shortly afterward, the camera stops recording.”



19 people taken into custody in Hizan and Tatvan

ANF | BITLIS | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Within the scope of an investigation launched by the Bitlis Public Prosecutor’s Office, many houses were raided simultaneously in Hizan (Xîzan) and Tatvan (Tetwan) districts and affiliated villages. Many people were taken into custody in raids carried out by soldiers and police.

It was stated that 15 people were detained in the village of Gûlpik in Hizan and 4 people from a family were detained in the village of Peyandas in Tatvan. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

It was stated that there was a confidentiality order in the file and the raids continued.



EGE TUHAYDER co-chair taken into custody

ANF | İZMİR | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Nilay Güleser, co-chair of the Aegean Association of Relatives of Detainees and Convicts (EGE TUHAYDER), was taken into custody during a raid on her home in the morning.

Nilay Güleser, who was badly harassed, was taken to Çankaya TEM Branch building.

An arrest warrant had been issued for Nilay Güleser on the allegation of “membership in a terrorist organisation”, and a search would also be carried out in the association building.

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Files prepared for the lifting of immunity of 9 MPs sent to Parliament

ANF | ANKARA | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

11 files prepared to lift the parliamentary immunity of 9 deputies from the People's Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP), Republican People's Party (CHP) and İYİ Party were presented to the Parliament.

HEDEP Bitlis MP Hüseyin Olan, HEDEP Agrî MP Heval Bozdağ, HEDEP Mersin MP Ali Bozan, HEDEP Istanbul MP Keziban Konukçu have one file against them while HEDEP Amed MP Berdan Öztürk and HEDEP Hakkari MP Onur Düşünmez have two file against them. In addition, CHP Izmir MP Mahir Polat, İYİ Party Izmir MP Ümit Özlale and İYİ Party Balıkesir MP Turhan Çömez have one file against them. All files were referred to the Parliament's Constitutional Justice Joint Committee.

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At least 43 people detained in Bitlis and Van

ANF | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Turkish police and gendarmerie (military police) stormed hundreds of houses in dozens of villages in Hizan and Tatvan districts of Bitlis early this morning. The operation, which followed a siege on the villages affected, was carried out within the scope of an investigation conducted by Bitlis Public Prosecutor's Office.

While raids and the siege are still continuing in the villages, the entrances and exits of many villages have been closed. The detainees were taken to Bitlis Security Directorate and Gendarmerie Regional Commands. A confidentiality order was imposed on the case file and a 24-hour ban on access to lawyers was imposed. Among those detained are women and elderly people.

In the scope of the same investigation, several houses were raided in the Gevaş and İpekyolu districts of Van.

At least 43 people have been taken into custody so far on the allegations of “being a member of an illegal organisation”, “aiding and abetting an illegal organisation”.

The population in the province of Bitlis is repeatedly subjected to state terror. Large-scale military operations took place in the rural areas of the city during the summer months. Curfews were imposed and vil-

layers are no longer able to graze their cattle. Since the start of September, large areas of forest have been cut down to restrict the movement of the guerrillas and to build large military fortresses. These measures are placing a considerable burden on the Kurdish rural population and increasing the pressure on residents to leave the affected areas.



HEDEP starts preparations for local elections

ANF | 30 NOVEMBER 2023

HEDEP (People's Party for Equality and Democracy) is preparing for local elections in Turkey on 31 March 2024. The preparations are based on the findings from the analysis of the parliamentary elections last May. Instead of the HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party), which was threatened with a ban, the little-known Green Left Party (YSP) run the elections and renamed itself HEDEP at a congress in October. After the elections, the reasons for the inadequate result were self-critically examined in a month-long discussion process in all party committees and especially with the base.

One of the central points of criticism was the method used for the nomination of candidates for the parliamentary elections. The main criticism was that the base was not sufficiently involved in decision-making mechanisms and that the local party associations did not take any initiative of their own and waited for central instructions. Another topic of criticism was the position of women in the party.

The candidates should be chosen from the grassroots

For the local elections, HEDEP has set up provincial-level committees that have been accepting applications for candidacies since Tuesday. The application deadline is 8 December. Local "primaries" will then be held so that candidates can be chosen by the grassroots and not by the party's central election committee. In addition, women's own electoral committees were formed in order to meet the requirement of gender parity representation. A key criterion of election committees is the impartiality of their members. For this reason, it has been stipulated that close relatives of the committee members are not allowed to run.

The co-mayors and councillors at the provincial, district and municipal levels will be elected next spring. After the applications, the electoral commissions of the provinces hold preliminary discussions with the candidates. The documents of candidates who violate the party criteria will be returned with an explanation. Accepted candidates will receive training on the primary election process and party politics between 10 and 14 December.

Criteria for candidacies

The party criteria for candidates include a clear commitment to the principle of co-leadership, experience in democratic local government and knowledge of the social structure, culture and language of the respective region. Another important criterion is the question of whether the candidates have proposed solutions to the specific problems in their constituency.

Applications from people whose attitudes and behavior contradict the principles of HEDEP will not be accepted. Exclusion criteria include, for example, divisive discourses, personal interest politics, polygamy and crimes committed such as sexual violence, drug trafficking and usury.

Candidates are required to pay a fee, which is calculated according to the respective job and is between 1,000 TL for a candidacy for a seat in the municipal council and 20,000 TL for candidates for the mayor's office of a large city municipality. Women, young people under 25 and people with disabilities are exempt from the fee.



Mesopotamia Migration Platform warns against depopulation of Kurdistan

ANF | AMED | 30 NOVEMBER 2023

At a press conference in Amed (tr. Diyarbakir), the Mesopotamia Migration Platform provided information about the increasing migration from Kurdistan and Turkey to Europe. The platform brings together several associations working on flight and migration, including the Göçiz-Der association and organizations from the Serhed region in Northern Kurdistan (south-eastern Turkey) and the Çukurova plain in southern Turkey. Representatives of the HEDEP (Peoples' Party for Equality and Democracy), DBP (Democratic Regions Party) and the ÖHD (Association of Lawyers for Freedom) also took part in the press conference.

Medya Alkan, co-chair of the Mesopotamia Migration Platform, stated that the Kurdish population has long been affected by forced migration and displacement and that this policy has a negative impact on Kurdish identity and culture. "There are political and economic reasons for the migration movements, but the driving factor is the state's special war policy. The appointment of trustees to municipalities in the Kurdish region since 2016, statutory decrees, declaration of special security zones in rural areas, the economic crisis, dragging of Kurdish youngsters into the trap of drugs and prostitution and the policies for the legitimization of violence against women and femicides have become continuous and commonplace," said Alkan.

51,000 asylum applications in Europe within nine months

According to Medya Alkan, the number of asylum applications by people from Turkey in Europe, which stood at 9,675 in 2016, rose to 51,415 in the first nine months of 2023. This means that an average of almost 6,000 people apply for asylum in Europe every month, and Kurds make up 80 percent of this figure, Alkan noted.

"The fact that human trafficking gangs are increasing day by day in Kurdistan and the Turkish metropolises, that they smuggle people into Europe for 7,000 or 5,000 euros, sometimes even with debts, and that they do this work easily and continuously, is an issue that needs to be thought about," said Alkan and emphasized that it is essential to stand against such policies as displacement is widely legitimized.

Alkan pointed out that efforts are being made to depopulate Kurdistan and erase its memory by this deliberate policy. He also spoke about the difficulties people face during and after their flight.

Alkan remarked that the expulsion policy exacerbates the problems of the Kurdish people, stating: “We are not condemned to migration and expulsion. On the contrary, it is our fundamental and humanitarian task to build our own economy with our own language, culture and identity in our own country and to fight for our neighborhood, our city, our nature and our future.”

DBP Amed Co-Chair Mehmet Şirin Gürbüz emphasized that Kurds abroad should return to their country. Pointing out that Kurds have been massacred for centuries, Gürbüz said, “The occupying system, the enemy of the Kurds, imposes either death or migration on Kurds. Kurds resist and continue their lives. These migration policies should not prevent us. Let us return to our our lands. We need to establish our free life and make Kurdistan flourish.”

HEDEP Amed Provincial Co-Chair Abbas Şahin said, “We are facing a very dangerous implementation of the policy of denial that dates back to the Ottoman Empire. With the policies implemented in the last 4-5 years, they have pursued policies to make their own people migrate in order to turn the migrations in the Middle East in their favor,” and called on the people to stay in their own lands.

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Turkey freezes the assets of 62 Kurdish individuals and 20 aid foundations abroad

ANF | 1 DECEMBER 2023

The Turkish state has frozen the assets of 62 individuals and 20 foundations and associations for allegedly “financing the PKK”. The decision of 27 November, the day the PKK was founded 45 years ago, was published two days later in the Turkish Official Gazette and thus came into force. Organisations and people in Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Belgium, England, Denmark, France, Japan, Italy, Iraq, Syria, Germany and Australia are affected.

Twelve Kurdish Red Crescent (Heyva Sor a Kurdistanê) organisations in Europe and Japan, including the non-listed association Heyva Sor a Kurdistanê, published a joint statement in which they addressed the background and announce the continuation of their humanitarian work, saying:

“We believe that this decision by the Turkish state is part of a long-standing policy of criminalising Kurdish institutions. Organisations such as Heyva Sor a Kurdistanê, which have been providing aid to poor people in Kurdistan, civilians damaged by military attacks, victims of natural disasters and wars for almost thirty years, are one of the obstacles to the Turkish state’s policy of making people in Kurdistan emigrate and condemning them to poverty and hunger. Moreover, it is a publicly known fact that the Turkish state uses all means to criminalise institutions that have the proper names “Kurdish” or “Kurdistan” in their names, wherever they are in the world.”

The Kurdish Red Crescent organisations emphasised that: “We are organisations that were founded in accordance with the laws of the countries in which we are located, and all our work and aid activities are under the supervision and control of the relevant authorities. This decision by the Turkish state has no basis and has no legitimacy for us. As Kurdish aid organisations, we respectfully announce to the public that we will continue our peaceful and humanitarian activities against the Turkish state’s policy based on the denial of the existence of the Kurdish people, that the approach of criminalisation will not overshadow our efforts and that we will continue to stand by our people, the poor, the victims of war and the victims of disasters.”

The statement was undersigned by the Heyva Sor a Kurdistanê branches in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, England, Italy, Norway, Japan, Roja Sor a Kurdistanê branches in France, Austria, Sweden, and Roja Mesopotamia branch in Denmark.



Over fifty people jailed in Bitlis

ANF | BITLIS | 2 DECEMBER 2023

Extensive arrest operations took place in the provinces of Bitlis and Van on 28 November in the scope of an investigation launched by the Bitlis Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. As many as 110 people were taken into custody, including women and children. Some of the detainees were taken to Bitlis police headquarters and then brought before the courts.

Over fifty people were remanded in custody on charges of membership, support or financing of a terrorist organisation. The detainees are said to have been mistreated in police custody and denied access to lawyers.

During the raids, the house of a septuagenarian man suffering from visual impairment was also raided in the village of Şên, in Hizan district. The soldiers destroyed the front door and windows and searched the house for hours. When it turned out that it was a case of misinformation, the family was threatened so that they would not press charges against the military.



Education and health services stopped in Shehba due to the Syrian embargo

ANF | SHEHBA | 2 DECEMBER 2023

The Damascus government has tightened its blockade of the Shehba Canton. Basic life supplies, medicine and fuel are not allowed to be brought to the region. Citizens living in the region are having a hard time due to the blockade.

Due to the fuel problem in Shehba, Afrin and Shehba Cantons Education and Training Institutions suspended education. Due to the blockade of the Damascus administration against Shehba, 14,500 students were deprived of education.

The Education Department announced a suspension of education in the canton and at the Martyr Viyan Amara Academy (college) on 25 November. 14,500 students from 68 schools and one academy were deprived of their right to education.

The Damascus government's blockade, as well as the Turkish state's invasion attacks, are also affecting education in the region. The Education and Training Department is looking for alternatives to enable students' access to education.

According to a statement by the Health Department of Afrin and Shehba Canton, Afrin Hospital is forced to work in extraordinary circumstances. Due to the lack of fuel, many departments in the hospital are not working. The hospital has no electricity, except for the emergency and intensive care units. The problems have been going on for a week.

According to the statement by the Afrin and Shehba Canton Health Department, the hospital's vehicles have been stopped and medicine cannot be supplied. Patients are desperate and forced to buy medicines from outside at exorbitant prices.



March for YJA STAR guerrilla whose body was delivered in a box

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 2 DECEMBER 2023

Menfiyat Elçiçek (Axin Seydo), a guerrilla fighter in the ranks of YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) lost her life in a clash with Turkish troops in the countryside of Hakkari province in northern Kurdistan on 14 September 2018. The body of the fallen fighter was received by her family in a cardboard box in Istanbul yesterday and buried in the İdil district of Şırnak under police siege.

Hundreds of people joined a march in İdil organized by MEBYA-DER, a solidarity organisation for people who have lost relatives in the Kurdish liberation struggle.

HEDEP Şırnak MPs Newroz Uysal Aslan and Mehmet Zeki İrmmez also participated in the march which was marked by the slogan "Axîn rûmeta me ye (Axîn is our honour)".

After the march, the MPs and MEBYA-DER executives visited the Elçiçek family at their home where they receive condolence visits.

Speaking here, HEDEP MP Newroz Uysal Aslan defined the state's approach towards the mortal remains of fallen guerrillas as inhumane, stating: "Doing this, the state has been trying to make our families take a

step back for years. Families are not given the bodies of their fallen children for years, or once they are, the remains are given to them in cardboard boxes or sacks. We do not accept these practices against the bodies of the fallen children of this people. This state has been attacking our language, our existence and our identity for years. It does not give up this enmity. But despite their persecution, our families do not give in, and their words give strength to the Kurdish people and the struggle. They will not be able to finish us off by arresting and killing us. They want to destroy us in this way, but they cannot. They will not succeed with this inhuman and immoral policy.”

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Opinion

YPJ fighters: Democratic Nation is an alternative against the system of monopolies and nation states

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2023

According to Abdullah Öcalan, “The definition of a democratic nation that is not bound by rigid political boundaries, one language, culture, religion and interpretation of history, signifies plurality and communities as well as free and equal citizens existing together and in solidarity. The democratic nation allows the people to become a nation themselves, without resting on power and state, becoming a nation through much needed politicisation. It aims to prove that not only through politicisation but also, in the absence of becoming a state or acquiring power, a nation can be created with autonomous institutions in the social, diplomatic, and cultural spheres as well as in economy, law and self-defence, and thus build itself as a democratic nation.”

In Rojava, a revolution is happening on the basis of a long-term struggle of the people. It started more than ten years ago, and since then the life of society has fundamentally changed. One of the aspirations of this revolution is to propose a solution to the Kurdish Question, to the problems of the Middle East, and for a democratic transformation in general. It has been achieved by the continued struggle of the people and, at its core, by the liberation struggle of women. It has been recognized worldwide by democratic movements and individuals. In those years, the society has changed a lot and it is always important to understand those transformations. One of the core issues that the Middle East faces today is how to overcome the politics of oppression, assimilation, and genocide: a solution to those problems ultimately also means building an alternative to the nation-state system. The centralization of the nation state is linked to the development of capitalism, because capitalism centralizes power in monopolies and intensifies fanatical ideas of nation-hood to an end point that inhibits diversity. In his writings, Abdullah Öcalan criticizes the positivist mentality that approaches any phenomenon in a strictly analytical way – an approach that opens the way to genocidal politics when it comes to the question of nations. At the same time, he criticizes attitudes that limit their understanding of the problem of nationhood to a purely constructed or theoretical phenomenon. Instead, he emphasizes the necessity to analyze the problem, its historical roots and its sys-

tematics. To overcome it, he proposes the paradigm of the Democratic Nation, which clarifies that, first and foremost, the aim of society is to develop morally and politically.

The struggle to achieve this transformation, subsequently, involves women's liberation and developing an ecological way of life. It means overcoming the mentality of dividing everything into parts. Instead of the nation state, Abdullah Ocalan proposes the creation of a common life and self-administration for all ethnicities, religions and societal groups present in the region that, at the same time, offers everyone the opportunity to keep their autonomy and self-define their lives. Because women have been the strongest transformative force in the revolution and because their approach is very flexible and open-minded, they have managed to be the pioneers of overcoming national, ethnic, and religious boundaries. In North and East Syria, the paradigm of the democratic nation is developing in practice. It was our struggle as YPJ that opened the way for this change. Inside the ranks of our forces, women from all kinds of religious and ethnic backgrounds take part, educate themselves about the paradigm of a democratic nation, and organize according to it.

For many, this has meant great personal changes of attitude and has truly transformed the backward mindsets that we have all been raised with to some greater or lesser degree. Practically, this has become a reality today: a big part of the YPJ consists of Arabic women and women of Christian, Yazidi or other origins. They all organize in order to live out the truth of their own identities and to commonly struggle for freedom. We can see this in the brave personalities of young women today. They overcome the burdens of traditions and capitalist nation-states and create alternatives. We have met several of our friends in the YPJ who are going through this process. They have taken up roles in the self-defense of their common homeland, in units of heavy weapons, in operation forces, in the media, and in the organization of the revolutionary people's war. But first and foremost, they took on the responsibility to change themselves and society. To show this, we have interviewed four of them. Every one of them represents a part of the YPJ's lived reality and history.



Ibrahimoğlu: 'A separation from the Turkish state ideology is necessary'

ANF | ISTANBUL | 28 NOVEMBER 2023

Last month, at least five university students took their own lives due to the catastrophic situation in Turkey. In the first six months of 2023 alone, tens of thousands of young people were forced to leave the country in a variety of ways due to persecution, fear for the future and poverty.

Eda Ibrahimoğlu, co-spokeswoman of the HEDEP Youth Council, talked to ANF about the situation of the youth and their resistance.

She criticized the fact that left-wing historiography also plays its part in the monism of the Turkish state. She underlined that the revolutionary young people must first overcome this attitude. "There must be a more decisive fight against chauvinism. If the colonial status of the Kurdish people is not lifted, there will

be no freedom for the peoples of Turkey or democracy, that is clear. This connection between oppression and being oppressed and freedom must be made clearer. The responsibility here lies with the revolutionary youth movements.”

The state is trying to homogenize everything

Ibrahimoglu warned of the state's violent homogenization efforts, which are primarily directed against young people: “For this purpose, all the state's institutions, especially the education sector, were mobilized and the nature of young people was directly attacked. The AKP's efforts to put young people at the service of the system are now part of the special war policy. Since the founding of the Republic, the most intense form of special warfare has been waged against Kurdish young people in particular and the Kurdish people in general. Kurdish neighbourhoods are at the top of the list of drug-using neighbourhoods. With the policy of impoverishing Kurdistan, Kurdish young people are being forced to sell themselves as cheap labor in the metropolises. The attacks and rapes of young women are encouraged by a policy of impunity; laws to protect women are deliberately dismantled or simply not applied. There is an attempt to usurp the will of the Kurdish youth and destroy their identity.”

The Turkish Republic does not recognize the right to life of young people

Eda Ibrahimoglu pointed out that young people from Turkey are also affected by these attacks on Kurdish youth: “Most universities are rigid institutions monopolized by the government rather than conducting academic work. Therefore, millions of students graduating from these universities suffer from unemployment and poverty. In no other historical period has youth unemployment and poverty been so high. In summary, the Republic does not recognize the right to life of the youth unless it can homogenize them and use them for its own purposes.”

Youth movements are hope

The youth council representative described the youth movements as decisive forces of democratization and said: “The main force that triggered these processes has undoubtedly always been young people. If there is still a revolutionary struggle against oppression today, it is thanks to the generation of 1968 who initiated the revolutionary struggle. Their revolutionary legacy continues to give us hope today. Although some claim that revolutionary movements declined after the 12 September coup, the revolutionary struggle today in Kurdistan, Turkey and even throughout the Middle East belies this. Revolution means uniting a society with its humanistic, moral and ethical values around one ideology. Today's society is not crushed under the hegemony of capitalism, but sees the crisis of the capitalist system. This makes a revolution possible not too far away. This revolution can be achieved today, as in 1968, through an organized struggle.”

It's a system problem

It is therefore important not just to deal with symptoms, but to focus on the system itself, said the youth activist and continued: “The problems will not be solved by a change of power, and there can be no sustainable solution without criticism of the system. History is full of examples of this. Monism is already present in the history and structure of the nation state. Left-wing historiography also has its share of this monism. The revolutionary young people must first overcome this in their own historiography. It must declare war more clearly on chauvinism. It is obvious that freedom and democracy for the peoples of Turkey

will not come without eliminating the colonial status of the Kurdish people. This oppression of the peoples of Turkey, the connection with freedom, must be expressed more clearly. The responsibility here lies with the revolutionary youth movements.”

Not just a problem for the Kurds

Ibrahimoglu criticized that there remains a rift in the relationship between the Revolutionary Youth Movement of Turkey and the Kurdish Patriotic Youth Movement, despite the fact that these movements are so closely linked historically. She concluded: “From Kurdistan to Latin America, from the Middle East to the Americas, from Turkey to the Caucasus, the world’s revolutionary movements are fighting against capitalist modernity and its excesses. Our struggle is also part of democratic modernity against capitalist modernity. This is the perspective and paradigm of our struggle. Today the peoples of Turkey are suffering from the dominance of capitalist modernity. The Kurdish people have also been fragmented and divided for centuries, and artificial borders have been drawn between their villages. This means that capitalist modernity is not just the problem of the Kurdish nation. The persistence of conflict and contradiction ensures the maintenance of capitalist hegemony in the region. At such a time, the revolutionary movements in Turkey and the Patriotic Revolutionary Youth should definitely unite their struggle simply because of their geographical location. Today the gap between the two currents, which have historically supported each other, is becoming very clear. This is closely linked to the increase in war, militarism and chauvinism in the region.

This situation causes the revolutionaries from Turkey to distance themselves from the Kurdish revolutionaries. This is a consequence of the special war policy that attempts to divide the revolutionary movements. It can only be overcome by continuing the fight and building stronger bonds. Both revolutionary movements are responsible for strengthening this bond. With sincere criticism and self-criticism, it is possible to form a stronger front in the future.”



Dersim: The essence of the PKK is women’s liberation

ANF | 1 DECEMBER 2023

The member of the coordination of the “Party of Free Women in Kurdistan” (Partiya Azadiya Jin a Kurdistan, PAJK), Ayten Dersim spoke on the TV channel Medya Haber about the founding of the PKK on 27 November 1978.

We reproduce excerpts from the interview.

The PKK is a women’s party

The PKK movement is a movement of martyrs, the PKK is also a party of women. While our Leadership defines the PKK in this way, the 45-year history of our struggle shows that this movement has come to this day by sowing freedom in the rich soil of the Middle East. It went beyond the Middle East and became universal. Today, thousands of people, women and young people all over the world are fighting for

the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, for his philosophy and to ensure his physical freedom. This is proof of the fact that when a movement builds its struggle on the basis of its own dynamics, when it expresses the demands and claims of the peoples and organizes itself on this basis, no power can defeat it.

This was shown by the fight for freedom that we waged in our free mountains. For years, fascism on these mountains has sought to destroy the guerrillas by using modern weapons technology from NATO and using its entire arsenal, including chemical weapons, with full brutality against the HPG and YJA Star. In the Zap, Avaşîn, Metîna and Heftanin regions we once again proved them that they cannot defeat us.

Behind this is the free spirit created by the PKK and our Leadership. The belief has emerged that people can determine their own destiny if they organize themselves. Fascism cannot defeat the resistance of organized peoples, it couldn't yesterday it can't today. All peoples and all women should see that a movement has been waging its own struggle for freedom for forty-five years without interruption and that this struggle has entered human history.

This means that peoples and women succeed when they organize themselves. They go to victory by raising their own awareness. As long as they keep their eyes on the goal, they can gain the guarantee of their own freedom struggle. Another essence of the PKK are of course women. The imperialist powers, the hegemonic powers, have always said: Shoot the women first and you will take over society. They did not succeed in this in the freedom struggle we led, because our Leadership already saw when the PKK was founded that women had to be the first to be drawn into the freedom struggle in order to organize themselves. In this sense, the PKK's guarantee is its feminine essence.

From Kurdistan to World Women's Confederalism

As a movement of free women, we first built our own organization in Kurdistan. Then we went beyond that and established a foothold in the Middle East, most recently holding an international women's meeting in Berlin to discuss how all women can come together and how we can develop our own self-organization as women. And with that we have taken the first step towards developing a common organization. With this first step, we have proven that women can unite in a democratic, confederal system. Today, women around the world are inspired by the struggle of our free women's movement. With the Women's Revolution of Rojava, we have reached the peoples of the world and awakened, built and planted the belief that peoples and women can truly fight for freedom. We have defined the essence of the PKK movement as the essence of women, and the practical implementation has taken place with the organization of women.

Our first organization was the Women's Army. Then we founded the YAJK to spread the women's army to the entire society. The YAJK brought awareness to women in an organized environment and the guerrillas delivered hard blows to the enemy. And then our Leadership said: Why not a women's party? Many women and peoples were surprised. It was the first step to establish the ideology of women's liberation in society by establishing a women's party.

Today, millions of women are aware of the ideology of women's liberation. They develop this awareness further and discuss what women's self-organization can look like. They talk about what women's free will should be based on, what consciousness it should be based on. In this spirit, we have launched a second women's revolution in the Middle East.

Organized self-defense

The organization is the guarantee of the freedom of the peoples, and this guarantee is based on the ability to defend themselves. When the PKK took its first step, it developed this capability. We have come to this day by organizing in all areas related to self-defense. Thus our fifty-year history of struggle was woven. And of course we paid a high price.

As women, we know that the struggle comes with a heavy price. The path to freedom requires great awareness. Because the most fundamental thing that should be destroyed in women is their self-confidence, their own will and their own ethics. We gained self-confidence and in the process we realized that it is the most basic need of all women. That's why we didn't just limit ourselves to the Kurdish women's movement. We have developed the awareness that the 21st century will be the century of women and their organization. In this sense, we have come to believe that we will reach the level that this movement has reached with all women. That is why we are committed to ensuring that all women's movements strengthen their self-defense. Self-defense is a strategy that can be organized in a thousand ways. It is the most basic strategy to defend yourself against male domination everywhere and to protect yourself. Our experiences in this regard are a benefit for all women.

Step by step to a revolution of the minds

We have come to believe that we can defeat the male mentality throughout the world by spreading what is the essence of the PKK movement: freedom, the democratic confederal system and the philosophy of a democratic nation inclusive of all sections of the population.

Young women are the most dynamic force in our movement. The PKK movement started young, it will remain young and will be successful with a young spirit. We have always existed in these mountains, in this struggle for freedom, by creating our own identity, always young, dynamic and enthusiastic. On 25 November, women all over the world flocked to the squares and streets to reclaim their freedom. Of course, our fight is not limited to one day. It takes place in consciousness every day, step by step, in order to overthrow the system of domination that has been imposed on societies for thousands of years. We are convinced that all women who thirst for freedom will take part in this fight and increase their resistance.

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‘The PKK has been fighting for a free society for 45 years’

ANF | **BEHDINAN** | 1 DECEMBER 2023

HPG (People's Defense Forces) Command Council Member Piling Meletî spoke to Dengê Gel (People's Voice) Radio. Starting his speech by celebrating the 46th anniversary of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), Piling Meletî stated that the PKK's emergence should be understood very well. Remarking that the PKK was founded in a period of great problems in Kurdistan and the Middle East, Piling Meletî emphasised that the PKK has been fighting for a free society for 45 years.

Piling Meletî stated Stating that a culture of resistance was created thanks to the efforts of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the martyrs. Noting that a great price was paid in the struggle that has been going on for 45 years, Piling Meletî stated that the PKK is not a classical uprising movement, but has developed on the basis of a philosophy, and is therefore is a universal movement.

An alternative system against capitalist modernity

Pointing out that capitalist modernity attacks everything that belongs to human values, HPG Command Council Member Piling Meletî said, "Capitalist modernity today uses everything for its own benefit. The system, which is in crisis, has created blockage, crisis and great suffering in society. Peoples are in search of getting rid of this system. The answer to this search is Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan). Peoples see the solution in Rêber Apo and the PKK. Of course, great efforts were made, and great prices were paid to reach this level. As a result, an alternative system was created against capitalist modernity. The ruling powers took Rêber Apo captive with an international conspiracy to avenge this. The heavy isolation imposed on our Leader in İmralı today is a continuation of this conspiracy. There have been many revolts in the history of Kurdistan, but the PKK has been the longest. The PKK took the rebellions of the past as a basis, was influenced by them and enriched them even more and carried the struggle to today."

The PKK is a place of great resistance and great comradeship

Remarking that every year he spent in the PKK had a different meaning, Piling Meletî stated: "If you take responsibility in the ranks of the PKK, if you show an approach in line with the philosophy of the PKK and Rêber Apo, you will make life meaningful anyway. Wherever you are in the mountains or in the city, you keep the PKK movement alive in every field and fight for it. Only in this way can you solve the problems in the areas you are in. Undoubtedly, this also reveals the will and power for a solution. Today, when a PKK militant participates in the struggle in the right way, he or she can evaluate the problems experienced all over the world and come up with ideas on how to solve them. Because the PKK reveals an awareness in the military, ideological, political and organisational fields. This is the reality of the PKK."

Meletî continued: "The PKK is a movement of humanity. Everyone who favours freedom finds a place in this movement. When you join the ranks of the PKK, you already realise how meaningless, pointless and purposeless the life you have been living in the system is. The PKK changed the history of the Kurdish people who were facing extinction. It brought the Kurdish people back to their feet and started a long struggle. The PKK is a place of great resistance, great comradeships and great martyrdoms. All this is an accumulation for every militant of this movement. In this process, as the Kurdish people and the freedom guerrilla, we are putting up relentless resistance. We will definitely succeed in this resistance."



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