

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Activists in Lucerne introduce Öcalan's paradigm through his books

ANF | LUCERNE | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

A stand was opened in Lucerne, to expose the 15 February 1999 International Conspiracy against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the İmralı torture system and to introduce Abdullah Öcalan's paradigm.

The stand was promoted by the young Kurdish organizations Jinên Ciwanên Tekoşer (TekoJIN) and Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger (TCŞ).

TekoJIN member Nuda Ekinçi pointed out that Abdullah Öcalan has resisted under severe isolation conditions, especially for the last three years, and said: "As Apoist young people, we will continue our resistance against the enemy's dirty policies and its war. We will resist with the initiative we launched, 'Freedom for Leader Öcalan, solution to the Kurdish question'. We will break the isolation imposed on our leadership."

Ekinçi asked everyone to support and participate in this struggle, and to attend the march for the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, which will be held in Mannheim, on 9 February and in Cologne on 17 February.

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Young people in Muş send 50 letters to Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | MUS | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

The People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Youth Assembly launched the "1000 Letters to İmralı" campaign on Friday. Members of the Youth Assembly, who met at the DEM Party Muş provincial building within the scope of the campaign, sent 50 letters to Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

The letters said: "Leader Öcalan is a breath of fresh air for the people, every minute we do not receive news from İmralı is the moment we cannot breathe."

It was noted that the "1000 letters to İmralı" campaign launched by the DEM Party Youth Assembly will continue until 15 February.



Great Freedom March: The isolation of Öcalan will be broken

ANF | AĞRI | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

The ‘Great Freedom March’, which was launched from two branches on February 1st to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan, continues on its 3rd day. The group in the Kars branch was sent off from Iğdır to Doğubeyazıt district of Ağrı with applause and slogans this morning. The group was welcomed by many people in Doğubeyazıt and marched through the district centre, greeted by the residents and shopkeepers on the route. After a 3-kilometer march, a press statement was made.

‘The dreams of the fascist mentality were shattered’

DEM Party Bitlis MP Hüseyin Olan said, “This is an ancient and resilient city. As Ehmedê Xanî said, we should be united. Today, millions of Kurds are struggling together. The freedom march we have started today is for the freedom of Mr Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question. This march is to break the isolation imposed on Mr Öcalan. With the isolation imposed on Öcalan, the country has experienced destruction in every field. We do not accept this isolation and we want the Kurdish question resolved.”

Stating that all kinds of injustices were done to the Kurds in the war ongoing for 40 years, Olan said, “You subjected the Kurds to genocide, you threw them into acid wells, but you could not finish them. The dreams of the mentality that says ‘Imaginary Kurdistan is here’ have been shattered. The Kurdish people are a truth. The truth cannot be obscured. Everyone should know that the isolation of Mr Öcalan will be broken and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question will be achieved.”

After the statement, the group set off towards the Diyardin district of Ağrı.



Kurdish youth activists march in Amsterdam, demanding freedom for Öcalan

ANF | AMSTERDAM | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan has been in solitary confinement on the prison island of İmralı since his abduction to Turkey in 1999. The last contact with him was a telephone conversation with his brother in spring 2021, which was interrupted after a few minutes. Öcalan last had contact with his lawyers from the Istanbul-based Asrın Law Office in August 2019. After an eight-year interruption, a hunger strike led by politician Leyla Güven, who has since been imprisoned again, resulted in a total of five visits by lawyers.

The last family visit to the island was approved in March 2020. Since then, isolation in the high-security prison has been driven to the level of total incommunicado detention.

As Kurdish people continue their actions worldwide in protest at the unlawful treatment of Öcalan, members of the Revolutionary Youth Movement (Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger-TCŞ) and the Movement of Young Women Militants (TekoJIN) staged a march in Amsterdam today denouncing the aggravated absolute isolation of Öcalan and demanding his freedom.

The march started after a minute of silence for all martyrs of the Kurdish freedom struggle.

Ahmet Şahin made a speech on behalf of the Martyr Çekdar Canfeda Youth Assembly in the Netherlands and stated: "The occupying Turkish state should know well that the Kurdish people will remain in action, no matter the cost. 2024 will be the year of physical freedom of Leader Öcalan. We as Kurdish youths have taken to the streets in Amsterdam today and our actions will continue."

"We will not stop struggling until Leader Öcalan is physically free and the Kurdish question is resolved," said Şahin and concluded his speech by saying "Youth is the devotee of Leader Öcalan."

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Socialists on day 2 of hunger strike against isolation

ANF | BASEL | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

Socialists from Turkey started 3-day solidarity hunger strikes in Cologne, Paris, Basel and London on Friday. The hunger strike actions, organised by the European Confederation of Oppressed Migrants (AVEG-KON), Voice of Prisoners Platform (TSP), Socialist Women's Union (SKB) and Young Struggle, demand freedom for all political prisoners and an end to the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Socialists who continue their action at the BEKSAM (Basel Education Culture and Art Centre) in Basel held a demonstration in Clara Square today.

While the components of the Revolutionary Forces Union (DGB) participated and supported the action against isolation and severe rights violations against prisoners, the photographs of seriously ill prisoners were displayed. After a press statement in German, hunger striker Ali Orak, on behalf of AVEG-KON addressed the crowd.

Drawing attention to the ongoing hunger strikes in prisons in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan and the situation of seriously ill prisoners, Orak said, "As socialists, we will continue to be in action against the inhumane practices that target the will of prisoners, especially the aggravated and severe isolation policies pursued against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan."

Orak criticised the silence of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN) against the isolation, gross violations of rights and the genocidal attacks of the occupying Turkish state in Kurdistan.

A speech was made on behalf of the Democratic Kurdish Community Centre of Basel (CDK-BL), saluting the hunger strike and calling for participation in the long march from Basel to Strasbourg on 10-15 February led by internationalists and the central rally to be held in Cologne, Germany on 17 February.

“Throughout its history, the Turkish state has existed through Kurdish blood and assimilation. Especially in the last 20 years, the fascist AKP-MHP bloc has tried to create a nationalist future through Kurdish massacres, implementing a policy of war against peace. In Turkey, where fascism is in power, human rights violations continue unabated. Prisons are used as torture chambers for elderly and sick prisoners. The isolation of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan is the most important indicator of this. This isolation is being carried out to prevent Öcalan’s philosophy, paradigm and politics from being a source of inspiration.

A number of prisoners have been on hunger strike since 27 November 2023 and today is the 69th day of their action. We call on the people of Europe and Kurdistan to support the hunger strikes and give voice to the prisoners. We will continue this struggle until the end. We are determined and strong-willed to do so. We take our strength from Mr Öcalan and the political prisoners behind bars. We will continue our protests until the isolation is lifted. Talks with İmralı will bring peace to Turkey, while bloodshed, tears and war will stop.”

After the speeches, the activists returned to BEKSAM and continued their hunger strike.

The hunger strike action, which was visited by revolutionary organisations throughout the day, will end on Sunday evening.

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Great March for Freedom continues despite the heavy snowfall

ANF | HAKKARI | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

The “Great Freedom March” demanding freedom for Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question is on its fourth day.

Participants, including Democratic Regions Party (DBP) co-chair Keskin Bayındır, Med Detainees and Convict Families and Federation of Legal and Solidarity Associations (MED TUHAD-FED) co-chair Emine Kaya, and People’s Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) MPs, left from Hakkari (Colemêrg) today, despite the heavy snowfall.

The participants were sent off with applause and slogans from the DEM Party Hakkari Provincial Organization and were welcomed by the people in the village of Aşut (Çığlı) in Çelê district (Çukurca).

The march set out towards Beytüşşebap (Elkê) in the province of Şirnak.

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March from Zaandam to Amsterdam ends

ANF | AMSTERDAM | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan has been in solitary confinement on the prison island of Imrali since his abduction to Turkey in 1999. The last contact with him was a telephone conversation with his brother in spring 2021, which was interrupted after a few minutes. Öcalan last had contact with his lawyers from the Istanbul-based Asrın Law Office in August 2019. After an eight-year interruption, a hunger strike led by politician Leyla Güven, who has since been imprisoned again, resulted in a total of five visits by lawyers. The last family visit to the island was approved in March 2020. Since then, isolation in the high-security prison has been driven to the level of total incommunicado detention.

Members of the Kurdish Revolutionary Youth Movement (Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger-TCŞ) and the Movement of Young Women Militants (TekoJIN) started a march yesterday in the Netherlands denouncing the aggravated absolute isolation of Öcalan and demanding his freedom.

The activists gathered at Amsterdam Central Station in the morning to continue their march, but the police informed them with an official document that the march permit was canceled.

The protesters demonstrated until 14:30 to protest this decision and to explain their purpose to the public.

Co-chairs of DEM-NED, co-chairs of the Democratic Kurdish Community Assemblies in Amsterdam, The Hague and Arnhem, spokespersons of the Rotterdam Commune, as well as many participants took part in the demonstration.

Speakers defined the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan as an unacceptable treatment and demanded his freedom.

The activists called for strong participation in the rally to be held in Cologne on 17 February.

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Activists in Berlin demand freedom for Öcalan

ANF | BERLIN | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The “Freedom March” held in Berlin, within the scope of the “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, Solution to the Kurdish Question” campaign, started from Alexander Square on its second day.

Before the long march led by young members of Jinên Ciwanên Tekoşer (TekoJIN) and TCŞ (Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger), a minute's silence was held for the Kurdistan Freedom Martyrs, followed by statements.

TekoJIN and TCŞ activists underlined that the protests will continue to increase day by day unless the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan ends and his physical freedom is achieved.

The statement said: “The occupying Turkish state has entered into a deadlock due to the policies it carries out towards us, the Kurdish youth, and the Kurdish people, in the person of Leader Öcalan. It aims to intimidate us with isolation policies. We shout from here again: We will break the absolute isolation, we will organize and defeat your policies. We, as Kurdish youth, will unite around our Leader on every field and under all circumstances and be in the streets until we achieve Öcalan’s physical freedom.”

During the march, which ended at Brandenburger Tor, a call was made for participation in the central march to be held in Cologne, on 17 February.

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Kaya: We’ll continue our march despite all pressure and obstacles

ANF | AMED | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The ‘Great Freedom March’, which is taking place in the cities of Kurdistan with the demand to end the absolute isolation of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and ensure his physical freedom for the democratic solution to the Kurdish question, continues.

Emine Kaya, co-chair of the MED Federation of Legal and Solidarity Associations of Prisoners’ Families (MED TUHAD-FED), which is in the Van branch of the march that will continue until 15 February, talked to ANF about the action.

Our struggle will continue

Emphasizing that isolation is a crime against humanity, Kaya said: “There is an isolation policy that has spread to the Kurdish and Middle Eastern peoples. There is a war being waged by the government in Kurdistan. This march continues with determination. Although there are some obstacles, we will finish our march on the date we have planned to. Our struggle will continue until the absolute isolation is broken.”

We will not give up

Kaya added: “The freedom of Öcalan is the main goal and demand of our march. We will bring this action to a conclusion together with our people. Today, the current government is implementing a policy of isolation. To counter this, we started this march, and we named it ‘Great Freedom March’. There is great support from people. Our march is greeted with enthusiasm and joy everywhere. Those who try to prevent it should know that we, together with our people, will not give up on this just and legitimate demand.”

Let’s build an honorable life together

Kaya said: “We continue our march despite all the pressure and obstacles. No matter how much they try to prevent it, we will go on. We must all support this historical resistance. The issue of isolation is not only for our friends on hunger strikes in prisons. And it is not the problem of our mothers who are on Justice

Vigil. Isolation is a problem for all of us. Everyone should take part in this struggle in the best way they can. Our women, in particular, need to lead this struggle, because we, the women, suffer the greatest damage from war. In this historical process, we have a great responsibility. We expect all oppressed peoples in the Middle East to support the march. Let's put an end to this oppression and build an honorable life together."

It's time to struggle

Kaya said: "This march is also the march of the people resisting fascism. Today, there are hunger strikes in prisons. Prisoners are resisting within four walls. People are paying the price for lawlessness. The biggest price is paid by the Kurdish people, as always. Now it's time for everyone to take responsibility and take action. It's time to struggle, it's time to be united. Let us all be united, let us get together. We will resist until this struggle, which is legitimate and right, yields results."



'Great Freedom March' continues in Şırnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The 'Great Freedom March', which was launched from two branches on February 1st to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question, continues on its 5th day.

The Van branch of the Great Freedom March resumed their action in Uludere district of Şırnak today. The group then travelled to the town of Balveren.

The people of the town welcomed the marchers with great enthusiasm. Torches were lit during the welcome with drums. The group shook hands with those welcoming them, including mothers wearing white headscarves representing peace.

The activists and the residents of the town marched to the party building chanting slogans calling for peace and denouncing the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan, who has not been heard from for nearly three years.

Speaking here, DEM Party Urfa MP Dilan Kunt Ayan said, "No force will be able to stand against the people's hope of peace. Our freedom march will continue until the freedom of Mr Öcalan and the solution of the Kurdish question is achieved. We have the key to freedom and peace. One day the gates of İmralı will open and the people will meet with honourable peace."

The group then moved to Şırnak, where they were greeted at the entrance of the city. The march continued until the party building under heavy snowfall. The enthusiasm of the women created colourful images. The activists visited shopkeepers along the way.

DEM Party Mardin MP Saliha Aydeniz said, “Let the stance of Şırnak be a message to the colonisers. Today you gave the necessary answer to all colonisers. 75 people in two groups are marching together with millions. Because millions see Mr Abdullah Öcalan as their will. The solution to the Kurdish question is Mr Öcalan. Once the gates of İmralı are opened, there will be a solution. Crisis and chaos will disappear. Today, not only the Kurdish people, but millions embrace the ideas of Mr Öcalan. They are fighting for Mr Öcalan’s freedom.”

Saliha Aydeniz stated: “No power and force will stop the march of truth. Millions say ‘Mr Öcalan is my political will’. Mr Öcalan is the interlocutor for the solution of the Kurdish question. We appeal to the opposition and the state; the reason for the deepening of the crisis and chaos today is the Kurdish question and isolation. The isolation must be broken.”

DEM Party Co-Mayoral candidate for Şırnak, Hacı Turan Saltan, wished that the freedom march would lead to peace and freedom. “It is the time to win,” Saltan said.



Great Freedom March in Muş: We will destroy the İmralı torture system

ANF | MUS | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Great Freedom March, which was launched by two groups from Van and Kars on February 1st to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question, continues on its 5th day. The Kars branch of the march has reached the Malazgirt district of Muş today.

Participants of the march were greeted by the people at the entrance of the district and marched to the DEM Party (Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party) district organisation building.

Speaking in front of the party building, HDK (Peoples’ Democratic Congress) Co-Spokesperson and DEM Party MP Cengiz Çiçek stated that equality, justice and law had become a serious problem and that the country was ruled by oppression and exploitation.

Çiçek said, “We set out to socialise this march in Kurdistan. As long as there is no democratic solution to the Kurdish question, poverty, hunger, exile, imprisonment and death will be rampant in these lands. We set out because we defend equality, justice and freedom in this country.”

Çiçek continued, “When we talk of a democratic solution to the Kurdish question, we point out a truth. The Kurdish people see Mr Öcalan as their leader and the only interlocutor. We will stand against any form of isolation that tries to put distance between Mr Öcalan and the people’s unity of feeling and thought. Years ago, millions of people signed a petition and acknowledged Mr Öcalan as their leader. The state recognised this truth during the resolution process. We are showing what the truth is. This path is the path of truth, may it be blessed. The end of this road is the freedom of the Kurdish people and the aboli-

tion of isolation policies. Mr Öcalan is the leader of the Kurdish people. He is a person who knows the way to a solution and will lead it. We will walk this path for the abolition of the İmralı torture system. Victory belongs to those who set out for freedom.”

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Internationalists to march from Basel to Strasbourg

ANF | BASEL | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

While the 25-day-long march from the French capital Paris to Strasbourg continues, an internationalist group from Switzerland is also preparing to take action.

A group of internationalists will march from Basel to Strasbourg from the 10th to the 16th of February.

The activists will organise a conference in Strasbourg on 16 February and then participate in the great demonstration to take place in Cologne on 17 February.

Internationalists have called for strong participation in their action.

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Mothers at Justice Vigil in Amed call for support for the Freedom March

ANF | AMED | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

The political initiative “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question” is reaching a climax in February. On 27 November, the PKK and PAJK political prisoners went on hunger strike until 15 February to demand an end to Öcalan's isolation. If nothing is done by 15 February, the prison resistance will be taken to a new level. The mothers of prisoners began justice vigils in many cities in Turkey and North Kurdistan.

The vigil for justice in Amed began on 4 December 2023 in the building of the district association of the DEM party in Rezan (Bağlar).

The mothers holding the Justice Vigil in Amed said everyone should support the Freedom March.

Müşeher Ülker from the Amed DBP Provincial Executive Board takes part in the justice vigil together with the mothers. She underlined the demand for news of Abdullah Öcalan, who has not given any sign of life from the prison island of İmralı for almost three years, and stated: “This is our right. Our representative is isolated on İmralı, and that's why I'm taking part in the vigil here. The isolation against him actually affects us all. Mothers are holding this vigil against isolation to make the voices of their sons and

daughters in prison heard. All those who stand for humanity must stand against this isolation. Today the isolation extends into our homes. This isolation must end. The mothers feel the isolation within themselves. The Minister of Justice, the President of the Republic, whoever the contact person is, should listen to the mothers' appeal. Isolation is a crime, we want to hear from Mr. Öcalan, we want Mr. Öcalan's freedom."

A march for justice and humanity

Ülker emphasized the importance of the freedom march to Amed and explained: "Two marching columns arrived in Amed. This march is a demonstration for humanity, justice, freedom and peace. This march is a march for mothers who should stop shedding tears. With this march we demand that the isolation be broken and that we receive messages from our representative. The isolation must also be lifted for the prisoners locked up with Leader Öcalan on the prison island of Imralı. They have not seen their families or heard their voices for years. This isolation is unacceptable. Mothers should no longer suffer. This march is important. We want to hear news from Imralı as soon as possible. This march will contribute to that. The entire Kurdish people should welcome the marches with great enthusiasm. Everyone should welcome this march."

We are protesting for our children

Sulhiye Saruhan, mother of political prisoner Mahsun Saruhan held in Tekirdağ Prison, underlined that the Justice Vigil that has been taking place for weeks must receive broad support. Stating that their only demand is to end the isolation, Saruhan said: "We want the isolation of the Kurdish people and in the prisons to be lifted. The absolute isolation on Imralı affects the entire society. When the isolation in Imralı is lifted, the pressure on society will also ease. Isolation is all we experience today. There is massive repression. Isolation affects everyone. That's why everyone should oppose it. Mothers want is peace and justice. We want everyone to hear our voices, we want all the mothers of prisoners to come to this vigil, we want them to be the voices of their children with us. If we don't speak out against isolation today, we won't be able to see our children's faces tomorrow."

Saruhan continued: "There is a march for justice, unity, solidarity and peace. people are on the streets in snow and winter demanding an end to isolation. The march will arrive in Amed on 13 February and we will welcome them here with great enthusiasm. This march will make a statement. It will send out a strong message.

These marches will generate a greater response than our action. This march will make all of our voices heard."

Activists on vigil in front of the UN in Geneva to join the rally in Cologne on 17 February

ANF | GENEVA | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

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

During the sit-in, which is taking place in front of a tent set up in the square, information was given about the extent of the absolute isolation of Abdullah Öcalan and the Turkish state's occupation and genocide attacks against the Kurdish people.

In this week's action, speeches were made after a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of the Kurdistan freedom struggle.

Mustafa Altunbaş, on behalf of the action committee, noted that they have been demanding the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan for three years.

Altunbaş saluted the continuous struggle in Kurdistan, in prisons, in the Medya Defence Zones and in Europe within the scope of the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question" campaign launched by the friends of the Kurdish people worldwide on 10 October 2023. He called on everyone to join the resistance.

Tuba Yılmaz, Co-Chair of the Geneva Democratic Kurdish Community Centre (CDK-Ge), spoke about the actions to mark the anniversary of the 15 February 1999 conspiracy, which led to the capture of Abdullah Öcalan in Kenya and his handover to Turkey, where he has been held under an aggravated isolation system since.

"Under the leadership of our internationalist comrades, a long march will be staged from Basel to Strasbourg on 10-15 February. As activists of the Geneva vigil, we will take our place in this march, and we will base our actions on making the campaign a success. On this basis, we call on our people living in Geneva to join the demonstration in Cologne on 17 February."

After the speeches, activists led by the Kurdish Revolutionary Youth Movement (Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger-TÇŞ) and the Movement of Young Women Militants (TekoJIN) went to the post office and sent dozens of signed postcards to be sent to Abdullah Öcalan in İmralı Prison. Ramazan Amed, a member of TÇŞ, emphasised that Kurdish youth will continue to be in action until the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan is ensured.

Afterwards, the protesters went back to Nations Square and continued their sit-in.



Long March from Paris to Strasbourg reaches Sarcelles on its 17th day

ANF | PARIS | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

The 25-day Freedom March from Paris to Strasbourg with 25 people representing the 25-year captivity of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan on the basis of the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, Solution to the Kurdish Question" campaign is on its 17th day.

Demonstrators marched today between the suburbs of Garges les Goneses and Sarcelles in the capital Paris, chanting slogans demanding freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and justice for the Kurds.

During the march, the activists distributed leaflets to inform the people in the neighbourhood and chatted with them at the same time.

In the announcements made through loudspeakers, the torture of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan in İmralı isolation was exposed.

The demonstration ended at the Democratic Kurdish Community Centre in Sarcelles.

The Freedom Marchers will hold a meeting with the Chaldean community, an ancient community who lived in regions such as Botan, Mardin, Hakkari and Til Temir and settled in Europe due to the massacres and discriminatory policies of the states against beliefs.

Tomorrow's stage of the long march will take place in Amiens.



Freedom March in İdil: We will not stop until our leader is freed

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The Great Freedom March, which started from two branches, Kars and Van, on 1 February to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question, is on its 8th day.

Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Keskin Bayındır, Emine Kaya, co-chair of the MED Federation of Legal and Solidarity Associations of Prisoners' Families (MED TUHAD-FED) Van branch, Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) MPs and representatives of non-governmental organisa-

tions are taking part in the Van branch of the march. The group was sent off with applause from the DEM Party Cizre District Organisation and then moved on to the İdil district of Şırnak.

Peace Mothers greeted the Freedom Marchers with white headscarves representing peace in their hands. The group visited shopkeepers together with the people before they marched to the DEM Party İdil District Organisation.

Cemil Taşkesen from the marching group spoke at the event in front of the party building and spoke about the ongoing hunger strike launched by political prisoners in Turkish prisons. The action, which is on its 74th day, demands the physical freedom of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been kept in absolute isolation in Imralı F Type High Security Closed Prison since 1999. The prisoners on hunger strike also demand a political solution to the Kurdish question.

“We do not want the hunger strike in prisons to turn into a death fast. Isolation is a crime against humanity. Isolation is an act that goes against both humanity and Islam. Isolation is immoral. Neither soldiers and policemen, nor prisoners and guerrillas should lose their lives. Let's take this burden together and lift it,” said Taşkesen and underlined that “The solution to the Kurdish question passes through opening the gates of Imralı. Isolation is a crime against humanity.”

DEM Party İdil Co-Mayoral candidate Doğan Adıbelli said: “The Freedom March will not stop as long as the leader of the Kurds is not freed and as long as the gates of İmralı are not opened. The leader is paying a great price for this struggle, like Nelson Mandela did. We, too, must stand up for our leader and convey our voice to İmralı with the spirit and enthusiasm of the Botan region.”

The next stop of the Freedom Marchers is the Nusaybin district of Mardin.



‘Freedom for Öcalan’ Vigil in Strasbourg in its 607th week

ANF | STRASBOURG | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The Freedom for Öcalan Vigil launched by the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Initiative on 25 June 2012 in Strasbourg, to demand freedom of the Kurdish People's Leader and an end to the isolation imposed on him, continues with a new group of activists.

The vigil is taking place in front of the CPT because the committee has a central function in controlling prison conditions on Imralı 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 Imralı since 1999.

Four patriots from Strasbourg, Piro Kızıl, Suzan Tarhan, Cemil Yürek and İsmail Güneş, took over the vigil in its 607th week.

Group spokesperson Piro Kızıl stated that “It is a matter of honour for the Kurdish people to stand up for their leader and future to achieve freedom.”

Appealing to the Kurdish people and youths, Kızıl said: “To stand up for the leader is the future of a people whose existence is denied. We call on the Kurdish people and youths to unite around the leader, to spread his struggle and ideas everywhere and to raise our values in all areas.”

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Ahmet Türk: Our struggle is for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | MARDIN | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The Great Freedom March, which started from two branches, Kars and Van, on 1 February to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question, continues on its 8th day.

Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Keskin Bayındır, Emine Kaya, co-chair of the MED Federation of Legal and Solidarity Associations of Prisoners’ Families (MED TUHAD-FED) Van branch, Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) MPs and representatives of non-governmental organisations are taking part in the Van branch of the march. The group reached the Nusaybin district of Mardin this afternoon.

The people welcomed the marchers with flowers at the entrance of the district, from where they walked to the Barış (Peace) Park, greeting the people along the way.

After arriving at Barış Park, DEM Party Mardin MP Beritan Güneş addressed the people and said, “I bring you greetings from Van, Kars and Serhad. Nusaybin has always resisted and will continue to do so. We have been marching since 1 February. Every day our resistance is growing. This march did not start today, it has been going on for a hundred years. The Kurdish people have been resisting for 100 years. We send greetings from Nusaybin to the prisons and those who resist. Our march will continue until the physical freedom of Mr Abdullah Öcalan is ensured. Our march is a march for freedom. We are marching so that mothers do not cry. Mothers from Roboski called for peace. If Saturday Mothers, Peace Mothers and all resilient mothers want peace, no one has the right to prevent peace. The day is our day. For 25 years the conspiracy against Mr Öcalan has been going on. The Kurdish people have been fighting for Mr Öcalan’s freedom for 25 years. The resistance of the Kurdish people has spread internationally. We will win.”

Ahmet Türk, DEM Party’s Co-Mayoral Candidate for Mardin Metropolitan Municipality, said the following in his speech: “The state is pursuing policies of oppression and violence against the Kurdish people. Today we are in Nusaybin, which is a stronghold of resistance and has paid a high price for freedom. We thank you for your participation and welcome. For many years, the Kurdish people have been struggling for peace and freedom. Despite the heavy price they paid, the Kurdish people are standing firm. Today, they are in the streets again for justice, law and the solution of the Kurdish question. Today there is a system that targets not only Bakur (Northern Kurdistan) but also Rojava (Western Kurdistan). Everyone

knows that Mr Öcalan is a mind for peace in the Middle East, a teacher and the address of the solution. Our struggle is for the liberation of Mr Öcalan.”

The Kurdish politician continued: “Today the prisoners in the dungeons put their bodies on the line for the freedom of Mr Öcalan. We stand with them, and we salute their resistance. We have always fought for the common values of the peoples. Our struggle is a struggle for equality. No one has ever achieved results through war. Wars have not produced any result other than pitting peoples against each other. Today our friends are taking a stance against injustice, lawlessness and the isolation of Mr Öcalan.”

Journalist-writer Redur Dijle, speaking on behalf of the Voice for Peace Initiative, stated that they would continue to fight for the freedom of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan.



Human Rights Investigation Commission rejects DEM Party's request for emergency meeting on Imrali

ANF | ANKARA | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Deputies of the People’s Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) held a meeting on 16 November regarding a visit to Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been kept under heavy isolation in the Imralı prison island for 25 years. There has been no news from the Kurdish leader for three years, and neither lawyers nor families have been granted a visit to Imrali for the same period of time.

The DEM Party applied to the Human Rights Investigation Commission (IHIK). Responding to this request on 7 December, The IHIK said that the request was recorded and that Abdullah Öcalan could be visited if the Sub-Committee within it deems it appropriate. Thereupon, DEM Party deputies applied to the Sub-Committee for an “emergency meeting”, review and visit on 12 December.

Responding to this application on Thursday, The IHIK pointed out Article 26 of the Parliament’s statute and said that only the chair of the commission can call a meeting. Pointing to the clause in the fourth paragraph of the same article, the commission shared that it was envisaged that it could only convene upon the request of one-third of its members, but that only Nevroz Uysal, among the deputies who applied, was a member of the commission and, therefore, it was not technically possible for the commission to convene. The IHIK added that the number of commission members is 10 and a meeting decision can be taken if at least one third of them request it.

In its response, the commission also said that they met at the request of its members and that they convened on 31 January in response to a similar request from Uysal, but that the Sub-Committee also rejected this request.



Kurds living in Athens send letters to Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | ATHENS | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

On the anniversary of 15 February 1999, when Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan was abducted in Turkey as the result of an international conspiracy, demonstrations for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan are intensifying.

Kurds living in Athens sent letters to Imrali Island within the scope of the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, solution to the Kurdish question" international initiative, which has been carried out since 10 October.

Speaking after the letters were sent to Abdullah Öcalan, Kurdish politician Seval Gülmez condemned the international conspiracy on its 25th anniversary.

Gülmez said: "The conspiracy against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan is a conspiracy in which most of the world is directly involved. There is nothing acceptable about it. The isolation of our leader has been maintained for 25 years."

Gülmez added: "We will not accept the conspiracy against Mr. Abdullah Öcalan and we will continue to work to break isolation and ensure his freedom."

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Activists taking part in Great Freedom March: We need to break the lock of Imrali

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Ahmet Pekbay and Ramazan Demir, who are in the Van (Wan) branch of the ongoing Great Freedom March, spoke to ANF about the action.

Ahmet Pekbay, who joined the Van branch of the Great Freedom March from Cizrer, said: "We are determined to continue our action until the isolation against our Leader ends. We declared a permanent mobilization for our leadership. It is necessary to participate in the actions taking place everywhere. Our leader has been in prison for 25 years, and we have not heard from him for three years. We must ensure the physical freedom of our leader."

Our goal is to break isolation

Ramazan Demir said that, despite all the difficulties, they will continue the march and added: "There is a very heavy isolation imposed on the Kurdish People's Leader Mr. Abdullah Öcalan. Our goal is to break this isolation. The last day of our march will coincide with 15 February [the day Öcalan was captured in Kenya]. Our friends in prison have also been on hunger strike since 27 November. These actions will con-

tinue until negotiations are reached and the Kurdish People's Leader is able to play his role for peace. Ensuring the physical freedom of the leadership is not just about one person. The freedom of the leadership means the freedom of the whole society. We need to break the lock of İmralı and ensure the physical freedom of the Leader.”

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3-day march launched in France to demand “Freedom for Öcalan”

ANF | MARSEILLE | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

A 3-day-long march for the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan was launched in Southern France on Friday.

After a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of the Kurdistan revolution, the march started with a press statement in Martigues.

“We will ensure the physical freedom of our leader through resistance. We salute the marches started for the freedom of Leader Öcalan. Victory belongs to those who resist,” said the press statement.

The march will cover 15 kilometres between Martigues and Marignane and the first day's stage will be completed in front of the central municipality of Marignane in the evening.

On 10 February at 11.00 am, the march will start in front of the municipality to St Antoine. On the last day, the marchers will depart from St Antoine at 10.00 am with the participation of thousands of people and will be welcomed by the public at Canebiere Square. At 13.00 a statement will be made and the march will end with a rally in front of the European Parliament.

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Prisons in Turkey

Violent raid in Şakran Women's Closed Prison

ANF | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

Nilay Güleser, who is in Şakran Women's Closed Prison, said in a telephone conversation with her husband, İrfan Güleser, that during the ward searches on 29 January and yesterday morning, more than 20

guards were involved. The kitchen utensils and the kitchen table were broken by the guards, while medicines were thrown on the ground and rendered unusable.

In her telephone conversation, Nilay Güleser said that the ward calls made once a week have been increased to twice a week for the last few months.

Nilay Güleser also said that Neriman Birlikler, a chronic blood pressure patient, was taken to the prison doctor with a complaint of high blood pressure, but despite her request, she was not transferred to the hospital, and the blood pressure medication that the prisoner regularly uses was delayed, even though they requested it before the due date.



8 politicians tried in the Kobanê Case remain in prison

ANF | ANKARA | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

A monthly detention review was conducted for 108 people, 18 of whom are in prison, in the ongoing Kobanê Case at the Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court.

In the interim decision uploaded to the National Judicial Network Information System (UYAP), the court panel rejected the requests from the jailed politicians and their lawyers for release and the suspension of the trial.

In the interim decision, the court panel also evaluated the requests for the release of Gültan Kışanak and Sebahat Tuncel, who exceeded the maximum detention period of 7 years, and rejected them.

The delegation also evaluated the requests regarding other politicians separately and rejected the request to be trial without detention, claiming that for the currently imprisoned politicians there exists “suspicion of escape”.



Hunger strike by political prisoners to demand freedom for Öcalan enters 74th day

ANF | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The hunger strike launched by political prisoners demanding the physical freedom of Kurdish people’s leader Abdullah Öcalan entered its 74th day. Öcalan has been kept in absolute isolation in Imralı F Type High Security Closed Prison since 1999. The prisoners on hunger strike also demand a political solution to the Kurdish question.

Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Veysi Aktaş and Hamili Yıldırım, who are held in İmralı, have not been allowed to meet with their families and lawyers for 35 months. In order to end the isolation in İmralı and ensure the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, the “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, solution to the Kurdish question” campaign was launched on 10 October 2023 with simultaneous press conferences made in 74 cities around the world.

As part of the campaign, which is in its fourth month, political prisoners went on hunger strike on 27 November.

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Military aggression and occupation

HPG-YJA Star guerrillas: As isolation continues, guerrillas' operations also continue

HELİN HARUN ÇEKDAR | DILARA NURHAK | BEHDINAN | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

HPG-YJA Star guerrillas spoke about the International Conspiracy against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan that led to his capture on 15 February 1999 and the ongoing isolation in İmralı.

Pointing out that the Turkish state and the forces involved in the conspiracy are deepening the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Öcalan day by day, HPG guerrilla Aslan Qıbesin said: “Although Leader Öcalan is physically a prisoner, he is a leader who has gained freedom with his philosophy, ideology and ideas. As militants of Leader Öcalan, we will continue to fight in the mountains of Kurdistan and expel our enemies from the lands of Kurdistan. We will continue to fight until we break the isolation imposed on our leader.”

25 years ago, a major conspiracy was organized against Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] by the hegemonic powers, the Turkish state and international states. This conspiracy has been continuing since 1999. As a result of it, Leader Apo was captured. Exactly 25 years have passed since this conspiracy. However, leader Apo is always among the people and the guerrillas with his ideas and thoughts. The people and the guerrillas march on this basis. We will make this year a year in which we will achieve success and the physical freedom of our Leader.

This is our call to the Turkish state: In the war carried on for the last 3 years, the Turkish state and nation states have been carrying out intense attacks with all kinds of technologies against Rojava, Bakur, Başur, Rojhilat and guerrilla areas. They are brutally attacking guerrilla areas with the support of all nation states. One of the reasons for these attacks is the blows Turkey suffered during guerrilla actions. The enemy lost his fighting strength due to the heavy blows he received from the guerrillas. As the isolation of the leadership continues, the guerrillas' operations continue. The worse the isolation imposed on the leadership becomes, the greater the blows the Turkish state will suffer.”

The aims of the hegemon powers failed

HPG guerrilla Hejar Karox said about the 15 February International Conspiracy and isolation: “The biggest purpose of this conspiracy was to neutralize Leader Apo, isolate him from the people, end the PKK movement, and destroy the free Kurds. But today it is clearly seen that the struggle of the PKK movement and the struggle of the patriotic Kurdish people has grown even further, and Leader Apo’s ideas and philosophy have spread all over the world and become universal. In particular, the support for the Leadership has increased in many parts of the world. Socialists, democrats and academics support Leader Apo and have begun to see him as their own Leader. Unable to accept all this, the hegemonic and conspiratorial powers intensified the isolation imposed on Leader Apo. Leader Apo frustrated the conspiratorial forces with his will, way of thinking and great struggle.

The struggle in the mountains of Kurdistan is a historical struggle. It is a historical resistance. We are determined and assertive on these principles. We will definitely break and defeat this enemy this year. The lands and mountains of Kurdistan will be their graves. We will achieve Leader Apo’s physical freedom and the freedom of Kurdistan on the 25th anniversary of the conspiracy.”



AANES: Turkish state strengthens the gangs with all kinds of support

ANF | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

The Internal Security Forces (ISF) headquarters in the east of Qamishlo was targeted by an Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) on 2 February morning, resulting in the death of 4 ISF members. A group of ISF members were targeted by the occupying Turkish army on the seventh day of the third phase of Operation Humanity and Security in Hol Camp when they arrived at the ISF Headquarters in Qamishlo to get supplies for the internal security forces partaking in the operation.

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) released a statement calling on the international community to stop the Turkish attacks.

“Simultaneously with the ‘Operation Humanity and Security’ launched by the Internal Security Forces and the Internal Asayish to control the Hol Camp and to limit the activities of DAESH (ISIS) cells, the occupying Turkish state violently bombarded the points of the Internal Security Forces and the Asayish. As a result of the attack, 4 members of the Internal Security Forces were martyred and many others were wounded. This attack and previous attacks serve the DAESH terrorist organisation,” said the AANES statement on Friday.

The statement continued: “Moreover, the aim of these attacks is to prevent the security forces from taking security measures in Hol Camp. The occupying Turkish state openly supports the gangs, aiming for the disruption of security with all its power. It strengthens the gangs with all kinds of financial support.

We express our condolences to the families of those martyred by the attacks of the occupying Turkish state, and wish the wounded a quick recovery. We call on the regional and international community to end the actions and hostility of the occupying Turkish state because, with these actions, it enables the return of terrorism.

These attacks are an attempt to prevent the establishment of peace and security control after the reduction of the mobility of DAESH and similar organisations, which are trying to destroy the living conditions and increase confusion and civil war. We state that the International Coalition is responsible for these attacks, as is Russia. Because this attack is part of frustrating the efforts of both sides to control, support and promote peace. We confirm that our security forces will continue to work to limit the return of violence and ensure the peace and security of our regions."

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Children in Hol Camp, potential ISIS members in the future

HIVDA HEBUN | HESEKE | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

The darkness reflected in the eyes and faces of the children who grow up in Hol Camp, especially in the Muhajirat section, has already killed their innocence. All humanity has a duty to help them return to their innocence. The whole world must now realise that the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) cannot overcome this by itself.

The third phase of the Operation Humanity and Security launched by the Internal Security Forces together with the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) and YPJ (Women's Defense Units) continues. The first day of the operation started from the section called Muhajirat, where all foreign women from different countries are located. At 07.30 on 27 January, an announcement was made on the megaphone: "Everyone should take their personal belongings and come out of their tents". Slowly the doors of the tents started to open. Inside each tent, women whose faces were not even visible started to come out. Each woman was accompanied by at least 4-5 children. While the boys were walking around their mothers, the girls, dressed in black hijab with their faces covered, were holding their mothers by their skirts. When they arrived at the assembly area, the women fighters started the registration and fingerprinting process. The operation force also entered the tents one by one and checked them.

Beheading sign accompanied by takbir

While some of the press members were following the operation units, we moved towards the spot where the women were gathered. When we reached the gathering area, the fighters told us not to get too close, because children were being made to throw stones. We cautiously kept our distance and started filming.

We had just switched on our cameras when the first stones started to come towards us. We moved a little further away and continued filming. While the children continued to attack and throw stones at every opportunity, some of them were making beheading signs with their hands. ISIS women were also encouraging them with takbir (chant of Allahu Akbar 'God is great').

It is seen that these children are potential ISIS members. It is ISIS women who educate and raise these children and instill this mentality in them. They poison their own children. They give them special training for this. Instead of toys, they even make them toys from the swords and knives that ISIS uses for beheading. We watched them in that square for so long, but we could not witness these children playing games. They grow up seeing everyone in the world as enemies except themselves.

Reproduction through early and multiple marriages

In Hol Camp, every child is born as Eşbal El Xîlafê (Children of the Caliphate). From the moment they open their eyes, they are educated by their ISIS mothers and women. Boys are not only raised as ISIS members but also married to many women when they are over 13 years old. In this way, the camp is intended to be turned into an incubation centre for ISIS.

Women hide their child husbands

In order to prevent this, the Autonomous Administration had previously set up a rehabilitation centre for boys over the age of 13. Boys who have been abused in this way are sent to this centre. During the operation, boys aged 14-15 were found in tunnels dug inside the camp or in some ditches dug secretly inside the tents. Women hide boys of this age and sexually abuse them. Girls are made to wear a black burqa even before they are 5 years old. In the square, we saw girls as young as three years old dressed in a black burqa.

Darkness that kills child innocence

The darkness reflected in the eyes and faces of the children growing up in the Muhajirat section has already killed their innocence. No matter what, they are children and the reason for the darkness on their faces is their mothers who are armed with the dark mentality of ISIS. Those faces and hearts are still children; all humanity has a duty to help them return to their innocence.

The lives of those who are not from ISIS are in danger

The 6th day of the operation continued in the 5th section of the camp. There are mostly Syrian families in this section. In this section, 80 percent of those present have ISIS mentality. The children from this section in the gathering area were more moderate than the children in the Muhajirat section. We could get into them more easily and even had dialogues with some of them. The children gathered around us and asked us to take their photographs. In one photo frame, we saw one child making the victory sign, while another child was giving the takbir sign. One child was even making the victory sign even though the children around him insistently asked him to make the takbir sign. Another point that attracted our attention among the children in the 5th section was that the younger children were more relaxed. It is understood that some families try to show themselves as close to ISIS cells in the camp out of fear. When we wanted to talk to some of the people staying in this section, they said that they were afraid and that they would be killed if they spoke. It is seen that the danger that ISIS cells and mentality will pose to these children in the future is not less than the danger posed to the children in the Muhajirat section.

30 thousand ISIS members in the future

If a solution is not found in the near future for the children living in Hol Camp to get rid of this mentality, a serious ISIS generation will grow up that will threaten not only Northern and Eastern Syria or the Middle East, but the whole world. There are 30 thousand children living in Hol Camp. This means 30 thousand ISIS members in the future. The whole world must realise that the Autonomous Administration cannot overcome this by itself. ISIS families who are citizens of 45 states are still in Hol and continue to pose a great danger to all humanity. A serious programme for women and children is needed.

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YJA Star guerrillas: The biggest answer to the conspiracy is to further expand the struggle

HELİN HARUN ÇEKDAR | BEHDINAN | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

YJA-Star guerrillas spoke to ANF on the 25th anniversary of the 15 February International Conspiracy against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

YJA Star Guerrilla Dîren Sema: The Turkish state shows how afraid it is of Leader Apo's [Abdullah Öcalan] ideas by deepening the isolation. They know that no matter how long they keep the Leader in jail, his fight against international powers will never weaken. International forces wanted to prevent the spread of his ideas by arresting the Leader. However, despite the conspiracy, they could not get any result. The Leader foiled the conspiracy with his struggle, and today a campaign is being carried out for the Leader's physical freedom in the struggle areas all over the world.

Let everyone know that the biggest answer to the conspiracy is to further expand the struggle in every field. Occupying states cannot win no matter how much they attack. Because everyone sees how weak the Turkish state is against the Freedom Movement and its Leadership. For this reason, nothing can prevent the ideology of the Leader, because this ideology has spread to all humanity. With the philosophy of Leader Apo, humanity is moving from darkness to light. For this reason, we say that our Leader is like the sun for us, illuminating our path and showing us the right path. That's why no one can darken our sun. With this stance, with the resistance of the war tunnels, we will ensure Leader Apo's physical freedom and win the fight.

YJA Star Guerrilla Sema Brûsk: They wanted to destroy the Kurdish people in the person of Leader Apo. But in the midst of this danger, the Leader expanded its struggle even further. The Turkish state thinks that it will weaken and neutralize the guerrilla struggle with its attacks, but it has forgotten that those who struggle and fight for honor are freedom fighters.

The prohibited weapons used in attacks against Media Defense Areas are not independent of the International Conspiracy. But the line of freedom always wins. The Turkish state assumed that it could destroy the guerrilla force by using banned weapons and chemical weapons. But no weapon or force will affect the

will of the freedom fighters who fight in the footsteps of Heval Viyan, Sara, Ruken, Erdal and Rojhat. We will fight and liberate Kurdistan with the power we draw from Leader Apo's philosophy.

YJA Star Guerrilla Xwînda Kobanê: If we can fight today, it is thanks to the efforts of Leader Apo. The leadership's ideas have spread all over the world. The people of the Middle East are now aware that they can live a free and equal life based on the Leader's ideas. That is why, when the conspiracy was carried out, the people and the guerrillas were in a relentless struggle in the field with all their might.

Our comrades, who formed a circle of fire around Rêber Apo, spread the light of his philosophy. One of our commanders who reacted effectively with his stance and action is Comrade Viyan Soran, who left his mark on the struggle of the Kurdish people with her action on 2 February 2006. Today, as YJA Star guerrillas, we are fighting on the line created by our comrade Viyan.

YJA Star Guerrilla Helbest Rojava: We condemn the conspiracy developed by hegemonic states against our Leader. Even though Leader Apo is physically behind bars, he is free with his ideas. Leader Apo's ideas spread not only in Kurdistan but all over the world. Leader Apo turned Imrali Prison into a school. He deepened his thoughts and philosophy.

It is our duty and responsibility to spread Leader Apo's thoughts and philosophy. It is the people's responsibility to express support for this. The freedom of the Kurdish people and the freedom of all oppressed peoples are linked to the physical freedom of Leader Apo.

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4 killed, over 50 abducted in Turkish-occupied Afrin in January

ANF | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

The Syria-Afrin Human Rights Organisation announced the balance sheet of the crimes committed by the occupying Turkish state and its gangs in the Turkish-occupied Afrin city in January. According to the report, the gangs of the occupying Turkish state killed 4 people, including 2 women, and kidnapped 53 people, including 15 women and 2 children.

The report also drew attention to the demographic change in the occupied region and stated that a colonial settlement was built in the Qetmê village in Shera district with the support of an organisation called Orang. It was also stated that an organisation called Deniz Fenari built a colonial house at the cemetery of martyrs in Qaziqli village of Jindires district.

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YPJ liberates a Yazidi woman from ISIS in Hol Camp

ANF | HESEKE | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

As part of the ongoing Operation Humanity and Security in the Hol camp, the Women's Defense Units (YPJ) managed to liberate a Yazidi woman from ISIS captivity. The woman is called Kovan Aidi Khouorto and was born in the village of Hardan in the Shengal region. Kovan was among thousands of Yazidi girls and women kidnapped by ISIS during the massacre committed by ISIS against the Yazidi religious minority in the Shengal (Sinjar) area on August 3, 2014.

ISIS kidnapped more than 5,000 Yazidi women from Shengal during its brutal attack on the region in August 2014. Most of them were sold in the ISIS slave markets in Syria and Iraq. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) managed to liberate hundreds of Yazidi women from ISIS, especially after defeating ISIS in al-Bagouz.

Thousands of women and children taken prisoner

The city of Shengal in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is the last contiguous settlement area of the Yazidi community. Thousands of Yazidis were murdered and thousands of women and children were taken prisoner in the 3 August 2014 onslaught on Shengal by ISIS militants. While ISIS gangs began murdering Yazidis in Shengal, the Peshmerga left, leaving the Yazidis behind, unprotected. The guerrillas of HPG (People's Defense Forces) and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and fighters of the YPG (People's Defense Units) and YPJ (Women's Defense Units) came to the Yazidi people's aid in the face of ISIS aggression. Thanks to a months-long selfless struggle, the city was liberated on 13 November 2015. After the liberation of the city, the HPG and YPG/YPJ subsequently withdrew in 2017. People who returned to their land after Shengal's independence reformed, established defensive units and built their institutions.

7000 Yazidi women from Shengal trafficked into slavery

ISIS abducted about 7000 Yazidi women from Shengal into slavery in 2014, some of whom are still in the hands of ISIS supporters in other countries. 2700 to 2800 people are still considered missing. Many of the abducted women were initially taken to Raqqa. During the crushing of the last ISIS enclave in al-Bagouz in eastern Syria in spring 2019, numerous Yazidi women and children were freed. However, not all of them identified themselves as Yazidis for fear of the consequences. During the almost five years of captivity at the hands of ISIS, children in particular were indoctrinated in Islamism and the women were told horror stories about the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The rapes also resulted in many children, which makes the situation even more difficult for the Yazidi women.

SDF: Six of our fighters fell as martyrs in drone attack in Deir Ezzor

ANF | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said in a statement that “At about midnight this Monday, six of our fighters were martyred due to a terrorist attack by a one-way UAV targeting the training academy in the Al-Omar oil field east of Deir Ezzor.”

The statement added: “The one-way UAV originated from the areas controlled by the Syrian regime-backed mercenaries. While we strongly condemn this terrorist act, we assert our right to respond appropriately to the source of the attack.”

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Internal Security Forces announce the death of ISIS gang leader

ANF | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Internal Security Forces Press Liaison Center announced that the gang leader of the assassination cell responsible for the murder of many people in Hol Camp and beyond was killed.

The following information was shared by the Internal Security Forces in a written statement: “As part of our security forces’ efforts to identify ISIS gangs, the Public Order Security Institution obtained information about the hiding place of the gang leader of the assassination cell responsible for over 80 killings in Hol Camp and beyond. Our special forces, HAT, carried out an operation on the house where he was hiding on the road to the village of El Xiwêtle in the countryside of Dëshisha, with the support of the International Coalition forces, on the night of 4 February.”

The statement added: “ISIS mercenaries opened fire on our forces during the operation and our forces responded to the attack. In the clash that broke out, a gang leader named “Ebû Sufyan”, also known as “Mehmûd El Lehîbî”, was killed.”

In the raided house, the statement said that “a gun and its silencer, a Kalashnikov gun, 2 rifles, a suicide bomb vest, an ISIS mask and a dagger used in the assassination were seized.”

The statement also said that Abu Sufyan, an Iraqi citizen, had several cells affiliated with him in Hol Camp and that he was in communication with Abu Ubeyda, who was killed in a joint operation with the Democratic Syrian Forces (SDF) in Hol Camp on 27 December 2023.

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SDF: Iranian-backed militias are behind the UAV attack against our forces in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released an update about the deadly attack against their forces in Deir ez-Zor region. The attack last night resulted in the death of six SDF fighters.

“Initial investigations have confirmed that the Iranian-backed militias were behind the one-way UAV terrorist attack against our forces in the Al-Omar oil field in Deir ez-Zor. The Iranian-backed militias used the Syrian regime-controlled areas in Deir ez-Zor as a staging ground for the terrorist attack that targeted our Commando Academy and resulted in the martyrdom of six of our Commando fighters,” said the SDF Media Center in a statement on Monday.

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Third phase of the Operation Humanity and Security in Hol Camp completed

ANF | HESEKE | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

The Internal Security Forces in North and East Syria Region launched the third phase of ‘Operation Humanity and Security’ in the Hol (al-Hawl) Camp in Heseke on January 27, seeking to pursue ISIS terrorist cells, eliminate their strongholds, and capture individuals and collaborators involved in terrorist activities, attacks and spreading extremist ideologies, especially among children. The operation was also participated by the Women’s Defense Units (YPJ) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), supported by the international coalition against ISIS with aerial surveillance.

Hol Camp is considered the breeding ground and new “capital” of ISIS. Around 50,000 people from many different countries currently live in the camp. However, a large proportion of the residents are minors who are being taught the ISIS doctrine.

The forces participating in the third phase of the operation held a press conference in Hol Camp and gave information about the operation, which has been completed today. Eli El Hesên, a member of the General Command of Internal Security Forces, read the press statement in Arabic, while Rûken Cemal, spokesperson of the Women’s Defence Units (YPJ) Press Centre, read the Kurdish version.

The statement included the following:

“At the beginning, we pay tribute to our martyrs “Rabah Al-Ahmad, Yamin Shaddad, Muhammad Al-Sa’ed, and Abdul Salam Al-Ahmad,” as well as all our other martyrs, who played a significant role in Operation Humanity and Security 3 in al-Hol camp. They were martyred due to a treacherous UAV attack by

the Turkish occupation while they were on a mission to secure essential needs to complete Operation Humanity and Security in the camp.

Based on our security, moral, and humanitarian duties towards the IDPs of the camp, and the confessions of some captured ISIS operatives about their attempts to reorganize themselves, taking advantage of the preoccupation of our military and security forces with countering the Turkish occupation attacks and the Syrian regime-backed sabotage cells, our Syrian Democratic Forces, the Internal Security Forces, under the leadership of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ)—initiated the third phase of Operation Humanity and Security on January 27, with the backing and assistance of the International Coalition Forces.

The operation commenced with a heightened pace, adhering to its predetermined plan. A comprehensive sweep and inspection of all sectors of the camp were conducted, resulting in the uncovering of numerous mines, IEDs, tunnels, and suicide belts. Additionally, dozens of ISIS cell operatives and collaborators were captured.

The magnitude and quantities of weapons, ammunition, explosive belts, and handmade explosives serve as clear evidence of the terrorist cells' preparations for large-scale terrorist operations within the camp and their attempts to seize control over the camp. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of the timing of this security operation.

During the operation, our forces successfully located and eliminated a senior ISIS terrorist known as Abu Sufian Al-Lahibi, who was responsible for orchestrating terrorist acts both inside and outside the camp, coordinating between ISIS terrorist cells and planning their attacks. Our forces have eliminated him along with another ISIS operative after locating and raiding their hideout.

In response to their pioneering role in the campaign, the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) succeeded in liberating a Yazidi woman called "Kovan Eido Khurto" from the clutches of ISIS. She had been abducted a decade ago during the ISIS brutal onslaught against her village Hardan in Shangal/Sinjar in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in August 2014.

The extremist ideology and Takfiri doctrine of ISIS persist within the camp. It is systematically promoted and instilled in the minds of children to create a new ISIS terrorist generation, posing a continued threat to the world. Therefore, individuals involved in propagating this extremist and Takfiri ideology in the camp were captured, notably the so-called "Primary Legislator in al-Hol Camp" known as "Abu Abdul-Hameed," who directly spearheaded the dissemination of Takfiri ideology and issued fatwas calling for murder and threats against the camp IDPs.

Our forces have completed their tasks and responsibilities in this ten-day-long operation with utmost discipline, professionalism, and precision while considering all humanitarian conditions within the camp. To ensure the success of the operation and remove the threat to the IDPs, our forces have established a secure site to accommodate IDPs during the cleansing operations. Despite calls from the camp administration to non-governmental organizations to provide makeshift tents, the NGOs have failed to fulfill their role and provide the camp with adequate resources to alleviate the suffering of its inhabitants. To be clear, there is not sufficient support from non-governmental organizations.

The scant international attention and the insufficient commitment to address this issue and its escalated risk, particularly from concerned international organizations and institutions, makes resolving this dilemma exceedingly difficult. It leaves the Autonomous Administration and its security and military forces shouldered the full responsibility of mitigating the escalating terrorist threat and curbing the brutality of ISIS terrorist acts targeting the IDPs of the al-Hol camp.

Operation Humanity and Security has cut the way for ISIS and its terrorist schemes to strongly reorganize itself, carry out terrorist operations, and control the al-Hol camp and its surroundings. Our primary objective is to make the al-Hol camp a safe and stable place. Furthermore, repatriating ISIS families to their countries is of utmost importance. Eliminating the terrorist ideology of ISIS will render al-Hol camp and Syria secure, and it will ensure global safety and protection against ISIS terrorism and evils.

The third phase of Operation Humanity and Security in the al-Hol camp has been completed. Yet, our precise and focused security operations and campaigns will continue whenever necessary until achieving the enduring defeat of ISIS.

The following is the outcome of the operation:

ISIS operatives and collaborators captured: 85 terrorists

Confiscated weapons: Ak-47: 8, mines: 4, explosive belts: 7, hand grenades: 7, detonators: 25, RPG shells: 1, a quantity of ammunition, military supplies, and narcotics.

Tunnels demolished: five tunnels.”

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Turkish Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff visit Baghdad and Hewlêr

ANF | HEWLER | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Turkish Defence Minister Yaşar Güler and Chief of General Staff Metin Gürak are on a state visit to Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. On Tuesday, the Turkish delegation held talks with President Abdul Latif Rashid, Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani and the Iraqi defence and interior ministers. According to the Iraqi President's office, Rashid called for an end to the Turkish attacks in Iraq and spoke out in favour of solving the existing problems through dialogue. The Prime Minister's office expressed a similar view. According to the statement, al-Sudani criticised Turkey's violation of Iraqi sovereignty.

After the talks in Baghdad, the Turkish delegation travelled on to Hewlêr (Erbil) to meet with the Barzanîs in the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The first meeting took place with KRI President Nechirvan Barzani, the second with Prime Minister Masrour Barzan. Next on the agenda is a meeting with KDP Leader Massoud Barzani.

According to the KRI President, mutual relations, security in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and developments in the Middle East were discussed. The importance of cooperation for peace and cooperation in the region and the security of the common border were emphasised. Another topic was the fight against terrorism.

Undersecretary of National Intelligence Organisation (MİT) İbrahim Kalın visited Iraq on 22 January 2024 and met with the Iraqi President and many Iraqi officials.

Kalın then went to Hewlêr and met with KDP leader Massoud Barzani on 28 January.



Arab guerrilla: We are fighting in the ranks of the PKK for a free life

DILARA NURHAQ | BEHDINAN | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

HPG guerrilla Rênas Cûdî was born in a village in Hesekekê. He got to know the PKK in 2014. Cûdî, who experienced the oppression and persecution of the Damascus regime on the one hand and the ISIS gang on the other, spoke to ANF and said, “We realised that the life offered by the PKK is different from the imposed slavery. There is no oppression of the people, no games of the capitalist system. Therefore, I decided to join the ranks of the revolution. My participation had very positive effects on my personality.”

I grew stronger in the mountains

Cûdî noted that there were, of course, some difficulties at the beginning, but these were overcome with training. “I was very impressed by the personalities of my fellow cadres and decided to become a cadre in 2022. I was influenced by many things, especially Rêber Apo’s (Leader Abdullah Öcalan’s) ideas and the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their country. My goal was to go to the mountains of Kurdistan, and I became more conscious and stronger after my participation in the struggle. This was due to the spirit of comradeship here as well as the power of the spirituality that exists. For this reason, I will increase my struggle even more.”

The Turkish state will not get results

Rênas Cûdî pointed out that the occupying Turkish state even used chemical weapons against the guerrillas, and that the states did not raise a voice even though they knew this.

The HPG guerrilla continued: “Our comrades are enhancing their resistance against these attacks. The enemy wants to break the will of the people and spread its occupation, but it will not get results from its attacks. Kurdish, Arab and all peoples are in favour of co-existence. No one can stand against the will of our people, who have promised to continue this revolution and will keep it going until the end. Very important results have been achieved through this struggle which is based on Rêber Apo’s philosophy.”

Young people should try to get to know the PKK better

“If we do not struggle with our soul and body, we cannot reach the truth” said Rênas Cûdî and emphasised that they will remain committed to the goal of living freely and together. The HPG guerrilla remarked that Kurdish and Arab peoples should act together in a democratic way and appealed to all young people: “Get to know the PKK better and join the ranks. The Arab people need to read and recognise the spirit, thoughts and struggle of the Freedom Movement. I call on young people to join the guerrilla ranks.”

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Internal Security Forces capture mercenary in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

The Northern and Eastern Syria Internal Security Forces Press Center said in a statement that a mercenary was captured during the operation carried out in the Deir ez-Zor countryside, against cell members affiliated with the Damascus government forces.

The statement said: “Our forces continue to work to capture those who want to disrupt the security and stability of the region and create an environment of chaos. Following the intelligence, investigation work and follow-up work carried out by our Internal Security Forces, an operation was carried out against a cell structure consisting of mercenaries affiliated with the Syrian regime. As a result of a successful operation carried out by our HAT special teams, a mercenary was caught. Many items were also seized from the mercenary. A shoulder-fired missile, 8 military uniforms and one piece of military armor were seized.”

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5 wounded as Manbij Military Council strikes Turkish-backed mercenaries

ANF | MANBIJ | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

The occupying Turkish state bombards the villages of Manbij Canton almost every day from its bases in the occupied Jarablus region.

According to the statement released by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Centre, the forces of the Manbij Military Council (MMC) carried out an operation against a military point belonging to the Turkish-backed gangs in the village of al-Mihsenli on 8 February.

5 mercenaries were wounded in the action, with 3 being in serious conditions. In addition, the military point was destroyed along with the weapons inside it.

SDF stated that the action was carried out in response to the attacks of the occupying Turkish state and allied mercenaries against North and East Syria.

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HPG guerrillas: We will frustrate Turkey's attacks with stronger actions

DILARA NURHAQ | BEHDINAN | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Internationalist guerrilla Andok Gabar from Germany and Arab guerrilla Rênas Cûdî spoke to ANF about the preparations of the guerrilla forces for the new period.

Stating that they are preparing uninterruptedly against the attacks of the Turkish state, Andok Gabar said, "The Turkish state is buying chemical and nuclear weapons with the support of Germany and NATO. In response to the fascism and attacks of this state, our comrades put forward an unprecedented resistance everywhere in 2023. We resist with great consciousness and faith. In 2024, we will reach a new level of success. I appeal to everyone in Germany who says 'We have learned something from our history'; they should not close their eyes to these crimes against humanity, especially against the Kurdish people, and should take a decisive stance."

HPG guerrilla Rênas Cûdî emphasised that they are preparing in many ways and stated the following: "We had a very good experience in the tunnel war. We will develop even more in the new period. The occupying Turkish state is attacking with banned weapons. We will frustrate these attacks with our preparations. We will continue the resistance raised by our comrades until we succeed."

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Femicide

MKG: Nine women journalists in prison in January

ANF | AMED | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

The Mesopotamia Women Journalists Association (MKG) published the 'January 2024 Report on Rights Violations against Women Journalists'.

The report said that the Turkish state resorted to many violent incidents against female journalists in 2024, adding that the rights of female journalists were violated and they were prevented from carrying out their profession various times and in different ways in the first month of 2024. "The cases in which female jour-

nalists were tried continued this month as well. Like many female journalists, Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) co-chair Dicle Müftüođlu is on trial and was not released at her second hearing on 18 January. In this country where journalistic activities are considered a crime, the struggle of female journalists who do not bow to injustice continues.”

The report said that 9 female journalists were arrested in the country because they wanted to practice their profession, and added: “Female journalists who follow the news are exposed to all kinds of threats. To give an example of these threats, insulting messages were sent to journalist Medine Mamedođlu through her social media account due to her news. No one can violate the right of journalists to make news, expose the truth and inform the public by threatening, putting pressure on the journalist and arresting her. It is essential that solidarity and the spirit of unity come to the fore in order to end these attacks against journalists and journalism. Because journalism is not a crime.”

The report also said: “In January, when journalists were put under the jurisdiction’s grip, 18 cases filed regarding ‘freedom of expression’ were heard. On 10 January, Working Journalists’ Day, journalists were forced to defend journalism in courts due to lawsuits filed against them. One journalist was sentenced to one year and 8 months in prison, one journalist was detained, and a lawsuit was filed against one journalist. One journalist was threatened. Six female journalists, who went on strike against dismissal and whose protests continue, were called to the police for a statement. Access to 24 news and 219 social media content was blocked. Access to the website of the Kurdish newspaper Xwebûn, published in the country, was also blocked.”

Women journalists in prison

Derya Ren - JINNEWS Reporter

Dicle Müftüođlu - Co-President of Dicle Fırat Journalists Association

Dilan Oyunş – Azadiya Welat newspaper employee

Elif Ersoy – Walking Magazine Editor-in-Chief

Hatice Duman – Owner and Editor-in-Chief of Atılım Newspaper

Özden Kınık – TRT employee

Özlem Seyhan – Journalist

Tülay Canpolat – Sabah Newspaper Ankara Reporter

Bircan Yıldırım – Editor-in-chief of BircanTVHaber

Journalists who were released from prison in January: Nazlı Ilıcak, Sibel Mustafaođlu.”

A total of 53 journalists in prison

The journalists' association Dicle-Firat (DFG) has published a report in Amed on the violation of press freedom in Turkey. The report for the first month of 2024 said: "Seven journalists were released from prison in January, bringing the number of imprisoned media workers in Turkey to 53. However, the investigations, charges and convictions of journalists have not slowed down. Arrests, arrests, rights violations, repression and bans against our colleagues were also on the agenda in the first month of the year."

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Indictment against Warishe Moradi prepared six months after her abduction

ANF | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Warishe Moradi, also known as Ciwana Sine, was arrested on 1 August during a police check near her hometown of Sine (Sanandaj) and taken to an unknown location. The activist, who is a member of the Coordination of the Community of Free Women of East Kurdistan (KJAR), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish women's movement in Iran. She was committed to women's political and feminist issues such as protection from violence, equality and self-determination and worked towards positive social transformation in many areas of targeted projects - much to the displeasure of the mullahs' regime.

After 70 days without any news, it was learned that the female activist was kept in Sine detention centre and was subjected to severe torture.

Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) reported on 4 February that Warishe Moradi was detained in Evin Prison in Tehran, where she was held for months in the notorious high-security wing 209, also under torture and ill-treatment with the aim of breaking her or forcing a confession from her. Moradi has only been held in the women's section of the prison since the beginning of January.

According to KHRN, an indictment has been prepared against the KJAR activist six months after her abduction. The accusation against her is based on actions that allegedly jeopardise national security and is related to Moradi's alleged membership of the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK). The PJAK is considered a "separatist terrorist organisation" in Iran and is prosecuted accordingly. Alleged and actual members often receive the death penalty. The indictment was sent to Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court.

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Men killed at least 28 women in January

ANF | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Men killed at least 28 women and 5 children in January, according to bianet, which compiled data from local and national newspapers, as well as news agencies.

In January, the deaths of at least 19 women and one child were considered as “suspicious.”

The “suspicious” death occurred in Afyon (1), Amasya (1), Ankara (1), Antalya (3), Aydın (1), Düzce (5), Istanbul (3), Izmir (1), Karabük (1), Kocaeli (1), Mardin (1), Muğla (2), Siirt (1), Sinop (1), Sivas (1), Urfa (2), Uşak (2).

Men killed at least 28 women in January. This figure was 31 in the same month last year. Men killed at least two men who were together with the woman they killed, and killed at least six women despite restraining orders.

Men killed at least eight women because “they wanted to break up or did not want to make peace” and 2 women due to jealousy.

At least 21 women were killed by their husbands/boyfriends, and two women were killed by family members such as the father or grandson. The degree of acquaintance between one woman and the man who killed her was not reported in the press.

Men killed seven women outside the home, in places like on the street or in forested areas, and 20 women inside the home.

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Journalist Kibriye Evren taken into custody

ANF | ISTANBUL | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Journalist Kibriye Evren was taken into custody in a raid on her house earlier on Friday morning.

Evren's phone was seized after her house was searched. The journalist was taken to Kocaeli TEM Branch. She was imposed a 24-hour lawyer restriction.

JinNews reporter Kibriye Evren had already been detained on 9 October 2018 in Diyarbakır as part of a sweeping operation targeting more than 120 other people, including journalists, across nine provinces. All those taken into custody were detained based on anonymous tip-offs and secret witness statements.

Evren and 24 others detained as part of the operation were brought to the courthouse on 11 October 2018. Evren was jailed pending trial by a criminal judgeship of peace on the charge of “membership of a terrorist organization” and sent to the Diyarbakır D Type Prison.

Evren was released at the end of the eighth hearing of her trial on 12 November 2019 under an international travel ban.

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Local Elections in Turkey

DEM Party executive Muhammed Ayten sent to prison

ANF | URFA | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

Muhammed Ayten, a member of the People’s Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) central assembly (PM), was sent to prison on the allegation of being a “member of a terrorist organization” as the result of an investigation initiated by the Antep Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office.

Lawyers reacted to Ayten being handcuffed behind his back while he was being taken to the Urfa Courthouse for his statement. An argument broke out between the lawyers and the police. Ayten, who was taken to the courthouse, was subjected to “subjugation” torture, which has been frequently applied in recent times.

Ayten, whose statement was taken via Audio and Video Information System (SEGBİS), was referred to the Criminal Judgeship of Peace on duty with a request for arrest. The court decided in favor of the detention of Ayten, who was then taken to Urfa No. 2 T Type Closed Prison.

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DEM Party to field its own candidate for the mayoral election in Istanbul

ANF | ANKARA | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

The Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) will field its own candidate for the mayoral election in Istanbul, according to the party spokesperson Ayşegül Doğan’s announcement at a press conference in Ankara on Sunday.

Local elections will be held in Turkey on 31 March. The DEM Party wants to end the regime of trustee administration and has had its mayoral candidates in the Kurdish regions determined by the party base in primary elections. Whether candidates would be nominated in the west of Turkey was up for discussion for a long time. As Ayşegül Doğan explained, the central executive council of the DEM discussed this issue in a meeting that lasted for hours. In the end, the party decided to run with its own candidates. “The DEM time has come for Istanbul and Turkey. By DEM time, we mean that it is time for equality, freedom, justice and peace.”

The candidates for Istanbul and other cities in Turkey are to be finalised by 9 February. When asked whether Başak Demirtaş would run for Istanbul, Doğan replied that the line-up had not yet been finalised. Başak Demirtaş, who is married to the imprisoned former HDP leader Selahattin Demirtaş, is one of the possible candidates for Istanbul.

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DEM Party brings the Parliament’s decision to dismiss Atalay to Constitutional Court

ANF | ANKARA | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

The People’s Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) has decided to bring the Parliament’s dismissal of Turkish Workers’ Party (TIP) Hatay MP Can Atalay to the Constitutional Court.

The application pointed out that there was no final conviction against Can Atalay, and the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court processes were included in detail.

In its application, the DEM Party pointed out that a final conviction is required for a member of parliament to be dismissed.

The Supreme Court did not recognize the decision of the Constitutional Court.

The application stated that “Although there is no final judgment, collusion was made by taking action as if there was a final judgment. For this reason, it should be determined that the transaction is null and void.”

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Police take DEM Party Youth Assembly member Çakmak into custody

ANF | URFA | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Kemal Çakmak, a member of the Urfa (Riha) Youth Council of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), was taken into custody during a house raid carried out within the scope of the police political operation carried out in the Atgûden rural neighbourhood of Bozova (Hewag), in the province of Urfa, upon the instructions of the Urfa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

Çakmak was taken to the district police headquarters, on the accusation of "making propaganda for an illegal organization" with the posts he shared on his social media accounts.

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DEM Party: Başak Demirtaş will not be a candidate in Istanbul

ANF | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

The DEM Party Central Executive Board issued a written statement regarding the candidate discussions in Istanbul.

The statement reads as follows:

"Our party, within the scope of local election activities, has decided to appear before the public with its candidates all over Turkey where consensus has not been achieved, and has shared this with the public.

Naturally, the most discussed place among all electoral districts is Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. In this context, our party also specifically addressed Istanbul and comprehensive discussions were held in our authorized boards.

The presence and declaration of will of all our valuable friends who were named as candidates for Istanbul gave strength and morale to our party and our base. Among these names, the name of our friend, Dear Başak Demirtaş, stood out the most in public opinion. The support given to our party by our friend Başak Demirtaş regarding her candidacy for Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality has undoubtedly added great strength to us.

We have been in consultation with Ms. Başak, who has strengthened us by supporting our party's election policies with her declaration of will for the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality candidacy, from the beginning of the process. Our authorized committees evaluated the developments by discussing all the options at this stage and came together with Ms. Başak and agreed in full harmony and coordination that she should not be a candidate.

Our pre-candidates for Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality will be shared with the public in the coming days.

We thank dear Başak Demirtaş with all our confidence for her contributions, and we know that she will continue to provide support in the next part of the process.

We specifically request that no statements other than the official statements of our party regarding the candidacy for Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality be taken into account and that no grounds be given for speculation. We will continue to walk shoulder to shoulder with all our comrades in prison and exile, without compromising the fight for democracy.”

Candidacy statement from Basak Demirtas

Başak Demirtaş, whose name was mentioned as a possible candidate for the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM), also said in a statement: “We have reached a common consensus with our party that my declaration of candidacy for the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality should not turn into an application.

All our people and party members should know that all decisions were taken in full harmony and coordination with our party. The candidates that our party will announce in the coming days will be the candidates of all of us, and we will stand behind these valuable friends with all our strength and work for the success of our party.”

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DEM Party announces co-mayoral candidates for 16 metropolises, 40 provinces and 3 districts

ANF | ANKARA | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Spokesperson of the Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Ayşegül Doğan held a press conference at the party headquarters announcing the candidates for 16 metropolises, 40 provinces and 3 districts for the local elections on 31 March.

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Human Rights Violations

DEM Party Co-Chair meets with earthquake victims in Maraş

ANF | MARAS | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları met with earthquake victims in Maraş on the anniversary of the devastating earthquakes one year ago.

Tülay Hatimoğulları visited Kapıçam Cemetery and then went to Çiğili village and listened to the problems of the survivors.

Hatimoğulları emphasised that the houses built for the victims should be distributed to the citizens free of charge, adding that they would make the necessary efforts to make sure that it happens.

Stating that earthquake victims were still living in difficult conditions, Hatimoğulları said: “The first duty of a social state is to solve the housing, education and health problems of citizens. There is no step taken in this regard.”

Remarking that the government pursued a discriminatory policy, she said, “Even while distributing aid to those affected, households were selected discriminatively.”

During the visit, an earthquake with a magnitude of 3.6 occurred in the city. Tülay Hatimoğulları continued her speech and said, “We have just experienced another earthquake as we speak. Public service should be provided in the best way here.”

The delegation then visited the Narlı Cemevi (Alevi place of worship) and observed the living conditions of the survivors. Cemevi President Tahir Ortaş stated that they were still living in poor and challenging conditions and that they distributed aid in secret because their work was not tolerated by the state.

The last stop of the delegation was DEM Party Pazarcık District Organisation. Meeting with the people here, Hatimoğulları recalled the loss of lives in the earthquake and said: “I say this as a person who witnessed the pain of this earthquake first hand. What made our pain worse was that we were left to die knowingly and willingly. It was as if they wanted to reduce our population. They watched our death from the palace and Ankara.”

Tülay Hatimoğulları concluded: “The biggest wreckage of this country is this government itself. I condemn this mentality that has issued zoning amnesties, lent earthquake tenders to the gang of five, and now, when they turn to the people and hand over the key, they estimate a price of at least 3-5 million liras for a house. We will not forget. We will build ourselves and our city in solidarity.”

Journalist detained in Hewlêr

ANF | HEWLER | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

A journalist has been taken into custody in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Dyako Husen was set to accompany a rally organised by the Kurdish Communist Party (Partiya Komunîstî Kurdistan) for the rights of public sector workers in front of the seat of the Council of Ministers in Hewlêr (Erbil) on Monday when he was “abducted” by security forces of the ruling KDP, according to the news portal “Standard Kurd”, for which the reporter works. The detention took place well before the start of the protest event and was more akin to a kidnapping, the website’s creators criticised.

“This kind of mistreatment is part of the pressure exerted by the KRI authorities on freedom of expression, which leads to the number of charges against Kurdish officials increasing day by day and the country losing its friends in the international community,” said Standard Kurd officials. They see Husen’s safety under threat and call for his immediate release.

The METRO Centre for the Protection of Journalists’ Rights also condemned the arrest of Dyako Husen, calling it evidence of a “hateful and aggressive attitude that violates the principles of freedom of expression”.

“Policymakers must recognise the undeniable truth that the progress or regression of democracy in the Kurdistan Region is linked to the degree of progress or regression of press freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of access to information and news, and internet freedom,” METRO stated.

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One year after the earthquake, wounds have not healed, promises have not been kept

ANF | ISTANBUL | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

The government had not taken any precautions against earthquakes, and when it happened, on 6 February 2023, they did not intervene quickly, effectively and adequately, adding death and disaster to the devastating seism.

A year has gone by, and the government failed to take the necessary steps, moreover, it has turned the post-earthquake construction into economic and political profit, and is blackmailing the population using the upcoming local elections as it did before, with the general elections.

A year has gone by since the earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 in Bazarcix (Pazarcık) district of Maraş and magnitude 7.6 in Elbistan district. According to official figures, more than 55 thousand people lost their lives in the affected cities of Hatay, Maraş, Adiyaman (Semsûr), Malatya, Kilis, Osmaniye, Adana, Antep

(Dilok), Amed and Urfa (Riha), but it is known that the real loss is much higher. Millions of people had to migrate from the cities they lived in. Citizens left behind after the earthquake are struggling to survive.

According to the data of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, a total of 36 thousand 932 buildings were completely destroyed, 23 thousand 883 in Hatay, 7 thousand 295 in Maraş, 5 thousand 826 in Adiyaman, 4 thousand 19 in Malatya, 3 thousand 805 in Antep. 311 thousand buildings became unusable.

Promises made and not kept

The government made many promises to the earthquake-affected people, but none of these promises were kept. The government promised that 319 thousand houses would be built within a year. In Hatay alone, in the first year of the earthquake, 200 thousand people continued to stay in container cities and 5 thousand people continue to stay in tents. In the first year of the earthquake, the number of promised houses delivered did not exceed 20 thousand.

One of the promises made to the earthquake region was that life would be restored and a certain amount of aid would be provided to tradesmen and citizens. Later, the promises that were announced as grants turned into interest-free and late-payment loans. In the aid announced to be given as a grant and a loan, the state imposed conditions on those who could not pay their loan debts to seize their homes and workplaces.

As for health, which was the issue that attracted the most attention after the earthquake, the state did not fulfil almost any of its promises. The lack of toilets in the container settlements distributed in many regions and the lack of work to bring clean water have led to an increase in infectious diseases, especially scabies, and even the simplest diseases have fatal consequences.

In addition, it was revealed that with the reserve law enacted for the earthquake zone, even the houses of citizens whose buildings were intact can be demolished. With this law, citizens became homeless and took on debt to replace the demolished house, with heavy consequences.

Missing people and missing children

According to the figures provided by the Association for Solidarity with Earthquake Victims and Relatives of the Missing (DEMAK); 147 people, including 36 children, are still missing in 11 provinces where the earthquake affected. This number is that of the children DEMAK can detect, but it is stated that the real number is higher. An exact number has not been given by the Ministry of Family and Social Services to date. It came to the fore that some children were kidnapped and sold, while others were 'entrusted' to religious sects.

Child Rights Expert Hatice Kapusuz stated that, according to the data kept by the Civilian Coordination of Disaster Children since the first days, 670 children were either declared missing or recorded as unaccompanied.

Hatice Kapusuz said: "After the elections, the ministry stopped disclosing regular data. There is no reliable data regarding the current situation. The number of casualties depends on the magnitude of the earth-

quake, but it is also the result of lack of inter-ministerial coordination, failure to consider child safety in emergency action plans and failure to intervene quickly. Not putting child safety at the center had vital consequences. The public administration has not provided transparent and adequate information for a long time.”

After the first week of the earthquake, photographs and videos appeared in the newspapers showing that some of the earthquake victims, especially children, went to the village of Menzil in Antep, where the Menzil sect was organized.

The fact that there are still areas in the earthquake zone where the debris has not been removed and that images of human parts found during debris removal were thrown away along with the debris was proved by videos on social media, strengthening the claims that even the deaths of some of the missing were not recorded.

Syrians living unregistered

Another group, other than children, whose data were not kept during the earthquake and were not even presented as missing, are the refugees living unregistered in the provinces hit by the earthquake. No statement was made regarding the fate of the bodies of thousands of refugees who came illegally and had no official record.

Taha Elgazi, Spokesperson of the Refugee Rights Platform, said in his statement a month after the earthquake that the number of Syrian refugees who lost their lives was 6 thousand 700.

Discrimination in the earthquake zone

The fact that the regions where the greatest destruction took place was where Kurds, Alevis and Arab Alevis lived, brought about racist and discriminatory approaches. Discrimination, especially by the AKP government and the groups and sects supported by the government, was also reflected in the newspapers at the time. The fact that Kurdish and Alevi living areas in the earthquake zone where aid was almost never delivered or where aid arrived very late also showed the extent of this discrimination. There is still no complete improvement in the living spaces of Alevis and Kurds. Apart from Kurds and Alevis, refugees also suffered from the discriminatory and racist policies during the earthquake.

Ecological destruction

Another destruction was the ecological one due to unplanned urbanization and plunder of nature. No precautions were taken to remove the debris after the earthquake, and the health problems of the survivors began to increase with the problem of asbestos coming out of the buildings. Especially in Hatay, where the most destruction occurred, dust clouds containing asbestos had to cover the city for days during the demolitions and people were forced to live by breathing that dust.

Mass graves

Many bodies were buried in mass graves in cities such as Adiyaman and Hatay, where the greatest destruction of the earthquake was experienced. People were not allowed to be buried according to their beliefs.

Even though no authorized institution, especially AFAD, has accepted the mass graves to date, the images and news in social media confirmed the mass graves.

Non-coming aid and solidarity

Apart from the state providing aid especially to Sunni regions, bypassing even the houses and streets where Alevis live and delaying the aid, aid trucks coming from Alevi institutions, revolutionary structures and HDP were often confiscated and handed over to AFAD after being kept at the provincial borders for days. The government tried to prevent the public, non-governmental organizations and HDP from providing aid to the regions that it did not help.

Problems not solved in the earthquake area

A year has passed since the earthquake. Promises were not kept. People are still living in containers and tents. In its statement about the earthquake region, the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) stated that clean water is not available, the hygiene problem is getting worse, epidemic diseases are increasing, and children's development is negatively affected. TTB emphasized that psychological support is not provided, it is difficult to reach a doctor, and most families postpone their health problems because they are struggling to survive.

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Inflation rate was 129% says ENAG and not 64.86 as stated by TurkStat

ANF | ANKARA | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

The war on numbers continues in Turkey with the government trying to deny the heavy economic crisis.

The first inflation figures for the year have been disclosed by both the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and the ENAGroup – Inflation Research Group. While ENAG reported an annual inflation rate of 129 percent, TurkStat announced that the inflation rate was only half of what ENAG indicated.

According to TurkStat, inflation in January reached 6.70 percent compared to the previous month and 64.86 percent compared to the same month of the previous year.

The main increase was registered in clothing and footwear, with a decrease of -1.61 percent. In contrast, the group with the highest increase compared to the previous month in January was health, with a rate of 17.68 percent.

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Police raid Cultural Centre in Istanbul, detain members of Grup Yorum

ANF | ISTANBUL | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Five members of the left-wing music band Grup Yorum, Dilan Poyraz, Barış Yüksel, Fırat Kaya, Bergün Varan and Merve Kurt, were taken into custody during the raid.

One of the most famous left-wing political music bands in Turkey, Grup Yorum has been under constant pressure and harassment of the government, especially after the abortive military coup in July 2016. Band members have been facing detentions, arrests, and bans due to their political ideas. Some members went on hunger strike to protest these unlawful pressures. Two of them turned their hunger strikes into death fast in 2020.

Helin Bölek and Ibrahim Gökçek were arrested during a search at the Idil Cultural Centre in Istanbul in 2019. They were accused of membership in the banned Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP-C). Bölek was released in November 2019 and Gökçek on February 24, 2020. Both musicians continued their fast, demanding that the reprisals against the popular left-music formation are ended.

Bölek and Gökçek were taken to Ümraniye Training and Research Hospital by force by the police on March 11, 2020. After six days, they were brought back to the 'Resistance House', where they continued their action after not allowing medical intervention.

Bölek lost her life on the 288th day of her fast which called for the release of the detained group members, the lifting of the arrest orders against them and an end to the ban on the performance of the band.

Ibrahim Gökçek, bassist of Grup Yorum, led a death fast protest for 323 days in protest at the state repression against his group. With the protest, the 39-year-old musician demanded the lifting of the concert ban of Grup Yorum, an end to the police raids against the Idil cultural centre, the release of all imprisoned band members and the cessation of all legal proceedings.

The musician suspended his death fast on the 323rd day, on May 5, after Turkish officials agreed for a talk with the band for permission to make concerts.

After suspending the fast, Gökçek was taken under treatment in the intensive care unit of a hospital in the Esenyurt district. Gökçek was connected to respirator after a deterioration of his condition, and he passed away on May 7.

Background

Grup Yorum ("interpretation" in Turkish) was established against the backdrop of the repressive political climate after the 1980 military coup. It has produced twenty-three albums and one film since 1985. Many concerts and albums of the band were banned, while several band members have been arrested and even tortured. Despite such oppression, the band is still very popular both at home and abroad.

Over the last years, the police have carried out dozens of raids the İdil Cultural Center in İstanbul, where the band carries out its activities. During the raids, musical instruments of the band were either broken or taken away, music books damaged. With a hunger strike in June 2019, band members demanded the release of those arrested, removal of arrest warrants against some other members, termination of incessant police raids in the İdil Cultural Center, and an end to arbitrary bans on their concerts and cultural events.



Bakırhan reacts to the government and opposition in the earthquake zone

ANF | MALATYA | 6 FEBRUARY 2024

Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) Co-Chair Tuncer Bakırhan, Kars MP Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit, Van MP Sinan Çiftyürek, Istanbul MP Celal Fırat and Democratic Alevi Associations (DAD) Co-Chair Zeynel Kete participated in the commemoration events in Malatya, one of the 11 provinces struck by two Maraş-centered devastating earthquakes one year ago.

The delegation first visited the earthquake victims living in the container city in Çavuşoğlu neighbourhood and then went to the DEM Party Provincial Organisation building, where they were welcomed by party members and executives as well as many residents. Here, a torch was lit in memory of those who lost their lives in the earthquake. DAD Co-President Zeynel Kete commemorated victims of the earthquake and stated that they would not forget what happened. Kete pointed out that the policies aimed at depopulating the Alevi-Kurdish geography gained momentum with the earthquake and added, "We will overcome these days by joining hands in unity without despairing for a moment even at the most chaotic times."

Addressing the earthquake victims, Bakırhan shared his observations during his visit to Adıyaman yesterday. "People are trying to continue their lives in tents and containers without water, roads and educational opportunities for their children."

Emphasising that not only the government but also the main opposition party was left under rubble, Bakırhan said: "The government asks for an account instead of giving an account. It accuses the people, judges and imprisons those who criticise it. What the President said in Hatay is a discourse as painful and heartbreaking as this disaster itself. Right, Hatay did not vote for you, but Adıyaman, Malatya and Maraş did. The situation in the cities that voted for you is the same as Hatay. We went to Adıyaman to see a ruined city where people can't find work. The government, which is responsible for this massacre and should have resigned, behaved as if nothing had happened and it had no responsibility. We condemn this. As the DEM Party, we will stand with you against the government that does not take responsibility for the consequences."

Bakırhan stressed that the government of a country witnessing such a thing would have collapsed, adding: "But let alone the government collapsing, even the head of the Red Crescent, which sold tents after the disaster, did not resign. This is a government that avoids taking responsibility. We will ask and question

them. We will be your voice until these problems are solved. The mayor who had the biggest share in the destruction of Hatay was nominated again. Not only the government but also the main opposition party mocks us. Those who should be held responsible are being rewarded. Then they say, ‘Why does the DEM Party nominate its own candidates? If you put the fascists, rightists, murderers, and those who had a hand in the deaths of tens of thousands of our people in front of us, of course we will boo you like the earthquake victims. Both the government and the opposition have been buried under this wreckage. They did not give self-criticism. They re-nominated the mayors who were at the forefront of issuing zoning amnesty in the places where they were in power. We never think like them. We are not on their side either,’ he said.

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Four lawyers taken into custody in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

The Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Istanbul Branch announced that 4 of its lawyers were taken into custody during a police raid on its offices.

The lawyers’ association wrote on its social media account: “Our members, lawyers Betül Vangölü Kozağaçlı, Seda Şaraldı, Didem Baydar Ünsal and Berrak Çağlar, were taken into custody. We will not bow down to the attacks against lawyers’ offices for fabricated reasons. We are standing against these arbitrary attacks!”

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Police take 40 people into custody in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Police have been raiding many addresses in Istanbul since Tuesday. At least 40 people have been detained so far in the raids carried out in centers including İdil Cultural Center and People’s Law Office. Among those detained are Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association (PSAKD) Sarıyer Branch executiver Şimal Deniz, Detainee and Convict Families Solidarity Association (TAYAD) families, Ayten Öztürk, who has been under house arrest for more than 2 years, as well as a number of lawyers.

A 24-hour lawyer restriction decision was issued for those detained.

Some of the people in custody have been named as follows: “Betül Vangölü Kozağaçlı, Didem Baydar Ünsal, Seda Şaraldı, Berrak Çağlar, Ali Sinan Çağlar, Şimal Deniz, Ayten Öztürk, Selma Demir, Özlem Balkı, Arif Pelit, Kemal Gün, Savaş Taş, Burcu Delen, Mercan Kanat, Yüksel Doğan, Gökhan Uysal, Ali Gürbüz, Dilan Poyraz, Barış Yüksel, Fırat Kaya, Bergün Varan, Merve Kurt, Bahar Kurt Kızılaltun, Barış Kaya, Mehmet Yücepete, Lerzan Caner Conde, Seval Eyi, Selda Özçelik, Meryem Özsöğüt, Merve Demirel.”

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At least 90 detained in Istanbul in the last 24 hours

ANF | ISTANBUL | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Turkish police carried out raids across Istanbul in the wake of Tuesday's armed attack on a police post in front of Gate C of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan district. Three people died and five others were injured as a result of the attack. Among the dead are the two attackers, who are reported to be members of the DHKP-C (Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front).

İdil Cultural Centre, Halkın Hukuk Bürosu (People's Law Office) and Halkın Gücü TV were among the targets of the police operations launched in connection with the attack.

As many as 90 people have been taken into custody during the raids so far, including Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association (PSAKD) Sarıyer branch manager Şimal Deniz, members of the Association for Solidarity with the Families of Prisoners and Convicts (TAYAD), Ayten Öztürk, who has been under house arrest for more than 2 years, and lawyers.

A 24-hour ban on access to lawyers has been imposed on the detainees.



Missing Persons Committee in North and East Syria begins work

ANF | 7 FEBRUARY 2024

The Missing Persons Committee, established by the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria 29 August 2023 to implement the UN General Assembly resolution, will start its work on Saturday.

The institution stated that it will start its work at its centres in Qamishlo and Heseke, and that families of the missing should turn to the nearest centre.

Lawyer Xalid Omer, the head of the organisation affiliated to the Department of Foreign Relations of the Autonomous Administration, said: "The committee has been preparing for its work since its establishment. Branch delegations will start working in Qamishlo and Heseke as of Saturday."

Speaking about the programme of the commission, Xalid Omer said, "The committees in the Cizre canton will receive relatives and families of the disappeared twice a week on Saturdays and Tuesdays between 10.00-14.00."

Stating that the commission will collect documents and prepare a detailed list in this process, Omer reminded that the branches in Kobanê, Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor, Manbij, Afrin and Shehba will also enter into service soon.



ISIG: At least 158 workers lost their lives in work-related accidents in January

ANF | ISTANBUL | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The Health and Safety Labor Watch (ISIG), said that at least 158 workers lost their lives in work-related accidents in January.

The observatory published its monthly report underlining that “at least 5 workers died while working every day.”

The report said that in January, 3 child workers aged 14 and under, 4 child/young workers aged 15-17, 32 workers aged 18-29, 62 workers aged 30-49, 43 workers aged 50-64, and 5 workers aged 65 and over lost their lives. The age of 9 workers could not be established.

The report said that in January, the highest number of work-related deaths, 45, occurred in the construction and road construction sector,

The sectors following the construction sector were the transportation sector with 22 deaths, and the agriculture and forestry sector with 16 deaths (10 workers and 6 farmers). This was followed by 11 deaths in the trade, office, education, and cinema sectors, as well as 9 workers each in the metal, accommodation-entertainment, and municipal-general works sectors.



Two Turkish racists detained in Paris for 'praising terrorism'

ANF | 8 FEBRUARY 2024

According to AFP and BFMTV, two members of the “Grey Wolves” were detained in Strasbourg and Saint-Étienne and brought to Paris.

In response to a question from AFP, the Paris prosecutor’s office confirmed that “an investigation file on the charge of praising online terrorism was submitted to the 1st Judicial Police District by the National Centre for Combating Online Hate and that two people are currently in custody”.

According to a source close to the case, the two men are suspected of having links to the Turkish ultranationalist movement because of their posts.

According to BFMTV, the two men are members of the “Grey Wolves” of the MHP, a partner in the Turkish government.

Most members of this racist state organisation support Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

In France, the dissolved “Grey Wolves” continue their racist activities under different names.

In November 2020, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin announced the dissolution of the “Grey Wolves”, describing it as a group that “fuels discrimination and hatred and is involved in acts of violence.”

The dissolution order stated that the group promoted “an ideology that tends to incite discrimination and even violence against people of Kurdish and Armenian origin”.



Journalist Selamet Turan detained in Cizre

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Journalist Selamet Turan was taken into custody in Şırnak’s Cizre district on Friday.

Turkish police officers searched Turan’s house in the Nuh neighbourhood in the morning.

Journalist Selamet Turan was detained after the searches and taken to the Şırnak Provincial Security Directorate.

No reason was given as to why Turan was detained.

According to the Mesopotamia Women Journalists Association (MKG) ‘January 2024 Report on Rights Violations against Women Journalists’, 9 female journalists are in prison while the trial of 18 journalists continues.

According to the Dicle Firat Journalists’ Association (DFG), which presented a report in Amed (Diyarbakır) in January on the violation of the rights of media professionals in the past year, 57 journalists remain in prison in Turkey.



Peace in Kurdistan

Dozens of personalities and organisations in France call for a political solution in Kurdistan

ANF | 9 FEBRUARY 2024

Dozens of personalities and organisations in France published an appeal in the [Humanité](#) newspaper for a political solution in Kurdistan. The declaration points out that the only person who can solve the Kurdish question is Abdullah Öcalan.

The declaration, signed by more than 50 personalities and 17 collectives, including MPs, lawyers, singers, award-winning writers, renowned philosophers, well-known actresses/actors, honorary senators, directors, sociologists, historians and political scientists, makes a series of demands for a solution to the Kurdish question, including an end to military cooperation with the Turkish state and the removal of the PKK from the list of terrorist organisations.

Published in the French communist newspaper Humanité, the appeal titled “Kurdistan: The solution is political” reads as follows:

“A new year begins. And it's starting in a bad way in Kurdistan: while the Turkish state continues to bomb Syrian Kurdistan in total international silence, Turkish Kurdistan is crying out for justice from the depths of its prisons. Since 27 November 2023, a collective hunger strike has mobilised thousands of captives in around a hundred prisons.

Öcalan is the only person who can put an end to the “Kurdish question”

They are once again calling for the release of Abdullah Öcalan, co-founder of the PKK, who has been imprisoned since 1999 in total isolation. This is because Öcalan, like Nelson Mandela in his time - who was also branded a "terrorist" by the apartheid regime - is the only person who can put an end to the “Kurdish question” in Turkey.

For decades, the autonomist leader has been calling for a negotiated, just and peaceful solution. The weapons, he repeats, will then be surrendered through international mediation. Peace talks were launched in 2013, only to be trampled underfoot by Erdogan two years later, a false defender of the Palestinians and a true oppressor of the minorities living under his control.

The voice of Kurdish prisoners must be heard everywhere

The Kurdish prisoners are calling for international solidarity. Their voice must be heard everywhere; their voice must be relayed everywhere. Western countries maintain economic and military relations with Tur-

key, a leading member of NATO. Every citizen has a say in their own government's foreign policy. Every word is binding. Every silence too.

Since December 2023, Selahattin Demirtas, co-founder of Turkey's main left-wing democratic party, the HDP, has been pleading his case before judges. Arrested in 2016, he faces up to 142 years in prison. Demirtas now says: "We are calling for an honourable peace, a peaceful environment where Turks, Kurds, Alevis and Sunnis can live freely. (...) The Turkish state is prosecuting us for racist and nationalist reasons, simply because we are Kurds. We are on trial because we do not submit to Turkish ideology and racist theses. Kurdistan is our homeland and we are on trial for saying: "You cannot occupy Kurdistan, you cannot destroy it". In this room, they want to condemn the Kurdish reality in our person."

Former HDP MP Sebahat Tuncel, who has also been detained since 2016, says: "There is the option of brotherhood, friendship and coexistence through the promotion of life." But this option is systematically rejected by the Turkish government, which is allied to the openly fascist MHP movement.

Repression, discrimination, massacres and imprisonment never last forever

As we all know, conflicts can only be resolved politically. Repression, discrimination, massacres and imprisonment never last forever. As soon as a people is subjugated, it resists: history swears by this. The oppressed resisted in India, Vietnam, Algeria and South Africa, eventually regaining their freedom. One day, the Kurdish people will be free. For now, they are promoting democracy in the face of autocracy and war-like nationalism. Let us support them from our soil. Let us not leave the prisoners in the shadows.

Let us listen to Abdullah Öcalan

Let us listen to Abdullah Öcalan. Let us listen to Selahattin Demirtas. Let us listen to Sebahat Tuncel. Let us listen to the former mayor and feminist activist Ayse Gökkan, arrested on some 80 occasions and detained since 2021. Let us listen to former HDP co-chair Figen Yüksekdağ, imprisoned in 2016. Let us listen to former mayor Gültan Kisanak, tortured in the 1980s and imprisoned in 2016.

Let us listen to the singer Nûdem Durak, sentenced to nineteen years in prison for defending the rights and culture of her people through her art. Let us listen to singer Erkan Beli, tortured and sentenced to life imprisonment. Let us listen to journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu, co-president of the journalists' association Dicle Firat Gazeteciler Derneği (DFG), imprisoned since May 2023.

Let us listen to the journalist Ziya Ataman, from the Dicle Haber Ajansı (Diha) agency, who wants "their situation in prison to be known by the public". Let us listen to Nedime Yaklav, who, despite having served her 30-year sentence, remains in prison. Let us listen to Mustafa Murat Perisan, who has also been a hostage for over thirty years and is still being held in detention because he refuses to sign a statement of "remorse". Let us listen to Selver Yildirim and Abdulalim Kaya, who are being kept in detention despite suffering from serious illnesses.

Demands

The list is endless. Let us listen. And, as French citizens, let us demand: an end to trade partnerships and military collaboration with the Turkish state; the removal of the PKK from the list of "terrorist organisa-

tions”; an end to police and judicial cooperation, via Interpol, with the Turkish state; and the lifting of defence secrecy in the case of the triple Kurdish femicide in Paris in January 2013.”

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Interview

Lawyer Kroker: Federal Prosecutor’s Office may open an Afrin investigation

MUHAMMED KAYA | BERLIN | 3 FEBRUARY 2024

Lawyer Patrick Kroker said that crimes against humanity were committed in Afrin, criticized the silence of prosecutors regarding the prosecution of the perpetrators, and said that the international judiciary remained blind to crimes against Kurds.

Patrick Kroker is a registered lawyer in Berlin and works at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in the International Crimes and Accountability program, where he is responsible for ECCHR’s work on Syria.

Since 2018, armed militias with the support of Turkey have been committing crimes under international law in Afrin in northern Syria. To address these crimes, the human rights organizations the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) have filed a criminal complaint with the German Federal Public Prosecutor’s Office.

Six years ago, in January 2018, Turkey and allied armed militias of the Syrian National Army (SNA) began bombing the Afrin region as part of the so-called “Olive Branch” military operation. The military offensive lasted over two months and led to the displacement of more than 300,000 civilians, the majority of whom were Kurds. With the support of Turkey, the armed militias established an arbitrary rule that continues to this day.

Since 2018, Turkey and Salafist militants who are related to and backed by Turkey have occupied the Afrin areas. Due to this occupation, there have been many crimes against the Afrin population. Has there been legal application/recourse to prosecute the Turkish state and its Salafist militants?

As far as we know, there hasn’t been any legal recourse to prosecute any of the perpetrators of these crimes in Afrin since the military operation “Olive Branch” in 2018, neither Turkish officials nor their allied militias.

The deafening silence of international prosecutors on these atrocities was one of the reasons why we, together with six survivors and our partners *Syrians for Truth and Justice*, filed the complaint. In our view the violations against the predominantly Kurdish population of Afrin are definitely among the most serious crimes being committed in Syria.

So far we've seen investigations against Islamist armed groups like al-Nusra and Daesh, and also against regime officials. But there's a huge gap when it comes to the crimes in northern Syria, which is the blind spot of these investigations. We think this is unjust and also unjustified because crimes against humanity are being committed.

Can you tell us a little bit about how the procedure will work?

The German authorities were the first in Europe to open a "structural investigation" related to Syria. There are two ongoing structural investigations with the German Federal Prosecutor's Office: The first, initiated in September 2011, covers crimes committed by the Assad regime and the other one, opened in August 2014, basically covers all other non-state armed actors in Syria, so it's a very broad investigation.

The criminal complaint that we've filed with the federal prosecutor on 18 January would now fall under this second structural investigation. It's a first step. We cannot investigate in criminal law terms. What we are doing with our criminal complaint is offering evidence to the federal prosecutor and demanding an investigation. We hope that the prosecutor will accept this evidence, start questioning the witnesses and analyse all the information we have submitted.

In the complaint, we've named six perpetrators from the four most notorious militias operating in the region operating under the umbrella of the Syrian National Army (SNA), specifically the Al-Hamza Division, the Ahrar al-Sharqiya, the Sultan Murad Division and the

Suleiman Shah Brigade. So, if they are able to identify any specific perpetrators they could - and we believe they should - open an investigation against those specific individuals. In case they find enough evidence against them, this could even lead to arrest warrants against them. That would be our hope.

There can be no trial in absentia of the suspect in Germany. But with an international arrest warrant, they can at least be arrested easily, even if they travel to countries that have legal assistance and extradition treaties with Germany. Although it's still very uncertain, the German federal prosecutor should be alert and prepared for this moment.

Can you talk about your accusation against the Turkish forces and the Salafist militants affiliated with them?

In our complaint we focus on the leaders of the Turkish-backed militias who have been systematically committing atrocities in the Afrin region since 2018, resulting in the widespread displacement of the local population. They are committing these crimes with the support and knowledge of Turkey, but the militias are at the centre of this complaint. This is because they are taking place in the Kurdish region of Syria and therefore, in our understanding, they are also a clear part of the ongoing "Syria" structural investigations, which, as we know, deal with international crimes committed on Syrian territory.

What exactly are the types of crimes the Turkish state is accused of?

The crimes committed by the Turkish-backed militias in Afrin are the systematic expulsion and looting of thousands of homes and agricultural fields of the mainly Kurdish population in Afrin and neighbouring districts. Residents are being illegally arrested and detained. They are subjected to torture, enforced disappearance and sexualized violence. By imposing arbitrary rule, the militias have created a climate of fear and terror that has led to the ongoing displacement of the Kurdish population. These international crimes, which began with the invasion six years ago, continue to this day.

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Leyla Atsak: We will take back the rights that trustees usurped

ROJDA OGUZ | VAN | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

With 53 percent of the vote, Leyla Atsak, who ran for the HDP, emerged as the municipal winner in Çaldıran (Ebex) in March 2019. But the sociologist was unable to take on the position of co-mayor of the district town in the northeast of Van province. The High Electoral Council (YSK) refused to recognize her.

The losing candidate from the ruling AKP party became mayor. The same scenario also played out in five other municipalities that were won by the HDP. What was strange about the decision was not only that the YSK had not expressed any concerns about her in advance and even certified that nothing stood in the way of her application. Candidates from other parties who had also been dismissed by decree or even had a criminal record remained unscathed.

In August 2019, Ankara finally launched a total blow against Kurdish local politics: dozens of democratically elected HDP mayors were deposed and arrested on vaguely worded terror charges. In their place, receivers moved into the town halls, which were subsequently not only transformed into garrisons, but also centers of corruption and theft.

Local elections in Turkey are coming up again on 31 March. Leyla Atsak, who now belongs to the DEM Party, which emerged from the HDP, helped organize the primaries in two districts of Van.

In this ANF interview, the 30-year-old talked about her impressions: “Anyone who believes that the population would see no point in casting their vote in the election because the trustee regime could assert itself again is mistaken. The people here don’t allow themselves to be demoralized, on the contrary. They are defending their political will.”

Although you emerged as the winner of the local elections in Çaldıran in 2019, the defeated AKP candidate moved into the town hall. Looking back, what can you say about the developments at that time?

The will of the people was ignored and I was denied the opportunity to carry out my duties as mayor. Like today, we also went into primaries back then. I was selected as a candidate co-mayor because I received the most votes in the first round. A few years earlier, I worked as a civil servant until I was dismissed by decree, in 2017. Nevertheless, the YSK did not exclude me and other applicants with a similar entry in their

CV. But as soon as we won the election, things turned 180 degrees. And that is exactly where the violation of the law lies. In a unique democratic process, we organized a preliminary vote, were elected as candidates and came out on top in the local elections. First the state gave its consent, only to later classify us as criminals and refuse to recognize the election. The city had already come under the yoke of trustees as a result of the coup against local politics after the 2014 election. After two and a half years of trustees' regime, the people liberated themselves through our election. But the mayor, who is basically nothing more than a trustee, does not represent their political will.

How does the population view this situation?

The citizens see this as injustice, as oppression. The people voted for our party to get rid of the trustee. We said that we would work in the communities to serve the people. The reprisals and threats have not stopped then or now.

How do people react to this?

In Van Province, and especially in a district like Çaldıran, the population is openly told: 'We do not recognize you, your votes are null and void.' Çaldıran is my birthplace and I am constantly in contact with the people here. But I also see very clearly that, despite all the adversities, this situation does not lead to demoralization or an attitude in which people think that there is no point in voting because the compulsory administration is being maintained anyway. On the contrary, they see this process as part of a historical struggle, as a renewed confrontation with the reality of the state. I don't say this as a slogan, the election results confirm this. In 2019, we finally won municipalities that had been ruled by receivers for years. The people expressed their will at the ballot boxes. We may not have exercised our office, but our citizens have always stood by us.

How did work continue after the AKP candidate was appointed mayor?

I served on the provincial executive committee of our party. From the beginning, I didn't see this situation as personal. My dismissal was just as unlawful as the appointment of a losing candidate in my place, despite my election as mayor. These allegations do not affect me as an individual in any way. If this had been the case, I would not have remained in our party. This is a people's fight. It is the history of the land we stand on. The resistance and passion of the people gave me hope. 'It's all over' – we don't know sentences like that. Such words will never be heard from our mouths.

How did your denied recognition affect civil society life in Çaldıran?

The politician who moved to the town hall in my place was the candidate of the ruling AKP. He also comes from the city. For him it was completely normal to sit in the chair and govern despite losing the election. With appointed mayors – or trustees - it is not possible to see sensitivity towards women, nature, people and animals. Not even in the slightest. Awareness of empathy would consequently have led to not taking on the assigned task as mayor. To this day, he hears from the public that he is wrongly in office. Çaldıran was already a very neglected border town. The only news that came out of the city was about people seeking protection being arrested or about the "witch hunt" against HDP members. The population is paralyzed by pervasive repression, especially at times when civil society is needed most. In addition, there is a severe economic crisis that is putting additional strain on the population.

What did the trustee do during this time?

He turned the town hall into a family business. The number of his relatives who were not brought into the city administration is likely to be in the single digits. The man does not serve the people, but his private interests. This also includes distributing photos showing him with former Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu.

You were responsible for the DEM party's primaries. What was the atmosphere like?

There was a lot of work and a lot of enthusiasm. I was responsible for the primaries in Çaldıran and in Bêraqdar near Erzurum. Primary elections were held for the first time in Bêraqdar. It was great to see the enthusiasm of the people at the polling station. The primaries lasted a whole day. People waited until midnight for the results. The people themselves were reflected in the result. All the delegates from back then came and even more. Nobody was missing. Organizing the administration together always gives people hope. This is building a democratic future.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

We are running in the elections with the DEM party. Our voters immediately accepted this name. They are also aware that there will be manipulated voter rolls again. The government simply doesn't want to give up its trustee administration. This is a new era for us. The method of fake voter rolls has now spread to the entire Serhad region. In concrete terms, this means that once again no democratic elections will be held. There will be fraud and vote theft again, but that will not stop us and will not break our will.

— ★ —

Ehmed: The rulers see organized and free women as dangerous

NUJIYAN ADAR | HESEKE | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Zelal Zagros was shot dead in Kirkuk on 18 January. Her real name was Firyal Silêman Xalid. She was a leading member of the Kurdish freedom and women's movement. The Turkish state is responsible for her murder. Rûken Ehmed, co-chair of TEV-DEM (Movement for a Democratic Society), spoke to ANF in Heseke about the targeted murder of many leading figures in the women's movement.

How do you assess the targeted attacks on women?

When we look at Heval Sara's (Sakine Cansiz) biography "My whole life was a struggle" and the history and struggle of women, or when we talk about the YPJ fighters who defeated ISIS, or about how the revolution in northeast Syria is a women's revolution, we can understand why attacks on women are carried out. The attacks are carried out to break women's resistance. Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] said that the 21st century will be the century of women. The dominant mentality is increasingly pushed into a corner by organized women. The genocide policy in Shengal in 2014 was also broken by the resistance of women. The simultaneous attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria were also largely repelled under the leadership of women. Women-specific and women-centered organizations were founded for the change and transforma-

tion of society. Once a woman has achieved freedom, it is no longer possible for her to choose slavery again. Women who choose the path of freedom are seen as dangerous to those in power. Just as a slave is a threat to freedom, a free woman is a threat to power. Those in power see organized and free women as dangerous.

What kind of society does the male-dominated mentality want to create?

I give an example of the wars that are being waged. In the war between Israel and Hamas or between Russia and Ukraine, it is society, women and children who are victims and are subject to displacement and expulsion. The male-dominated mentality wants to create a slave society, a society without struggle, without attitude and without life. The system that women want to organize is directed against the system of male domination. Women are rebelling against this system. They make it clear that they do not accept the male-dominated mentality and reject the system that has been imposed for five thousand years. They break the chain of slavery and strive for freedom. Women fight for a social system in which there is democracy, equality and freedom. An example of the prevailing system is the Turkish state. Turkey is attacking the infrastructure in Northern and Eastern Syria to impose its own system. Society's and women's response to this is organization and rebellion. Today's war is a battle between those in power and those who want to create a free society. And it is women who lead society.

You have known Zelal Zagros for many years; she was one of the leading figures of the women's liberation movement. What kind of person was she?

Heval Zelal was involved in the Kurdish freedom struggle for 31 years. She was a Kurdish revolutionary who fought relentlessly. I had known her for a long time. We worked together in Manbij in 2016, during the liberation of the city, that was occupied by ISIS for four years. To be active in such a place, you have to be strong and resilient over many years so that you can protect society from becoming part of the system. Manbij needed a personality like Heval Zelal. She was as clear as her name and expressed her opinions and criticisms not indirectly, but courageously, without ambivalence. She was also a self-sacrificing person. Wherever there were difficulties, Heval Zelal was there. She focused on the needs of the movement and did not express any special requests. She also never said that she was too tired or couldn't do something. Many of the women she cared for, organized and were her comrades are still taking part in the struggle. In the face of attacks on society, she stood tall and demonstrated clear behavior. She took part in the activities of all institutions and organizations and was an inspiring figure in the liberated areas. Her comrades were very important to her. Where Heval Zelal was, a relentless battle was felt. 31 years of military, political and organizational struggle and the construction of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Northern and Eastern Syria after the Rojava Revolution may sound easy, but Heval Zelal's struggle was a breathless journey. She was one of the leading figures who fought for the representation of women in the establishment of the Autonomous Administration. She knew the sociology of women and fought hard for women to regain their essence. She had a humble personality and did not differentiate between small and big work. For Heval Zelal, every work was a service to the revolution.

Why Zelal Zagros and why in Kirkuk?

The women's organization in Northern and Eastern Syria has become a role model for women in Başûrê Kurdistanê (South Kurdistan). There is dirty politics going on in Kirkuk (Kerkûk). The region's Kurdish, Arab and Turkmen populations are victims of the power system of the Iraqi government, the Turkish state

and the KDP. Kirkuk is a city where peoples live together. The Turkish state wants to turn it into a Turkish city. It is women who oppose the system that pits peoples against each other, seeks to unify them and deepens chaos and crisis. The end of contradictions and wars between peoples can only be achieved through the organization of women. With her stance, Heval Zelal has strengthened the women's organization in Kirkuk and sensitized and educated people. The murder of Heval Zelal was intended to deepen the contradictions in Kirkuk.

How does the targeted killing of women affect society?

In Rojhilat (East Kurdistan), dozens of women were arrested following the uprisings and death sentences were handed out against women. In Bakur (North Kurdistan), politically active women are being put in prison. Women's resistance organizes society. The women who were murdered fought against the ruling system, and the women in prison continue to resist. Women are in resistance everywhere. The struggle of Heval Sara has grown and reached the present time, becoming the voice of society and contributing to the organization of society. Women's resistance is a struggle to create a system of peoples. Women fight against the system of genocide and persist in it, even though it makes them targets. They are role models for society. The dominion system has built walls of steel to keep its power from collapsing, but the fight for freedom melts the steel.

Hundreds of leading women, such as Zelal Zagros, Jiyan Tolhildan and Hevrîn Xelef, were murdered. What attitude should the women's movement take towards these massacres?

Heval Jiyan fought not only for Kurdish women, but also for women in Syria and the Middle East. ISIS wanted to conquer the world, and Heval Jiyan Tolhildan fought against the Islamist mentality. She was a leading YPJ commander and a hope for all women. For this reason, feminists and women from all over the world should take up their cause and fight against the looting, murdering and male-dominated system in their countries. Hevrîn Xelef was a young Kurdish woman who stood up for the brotherhood and unity of peoples and not only fought for Rojava and Syria. She was murdered by the mercenaries of the Turkish state. Heval Zelal was a representative of Kongra Star and went to Kirkuk to organize women against the ruling system. Her fight was not just for Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen women, but for all women. Global women's movements must resist the patriarchal mentality. Zelal, Hevrîn and Jiyan fought for women's liberation and fell in that fight; they were murdered. For us, every murder of a woman in this world is like an attack on us. We see the murder of Heval Zelal as an attack on all women and, in this sense, we strengthen our fight. All women's movements should think along these lines. Heval Zelal was murdered with eight bullets. Should only Kurdish and Arab women assume their responsibility and fight against this crime? All women have to fight.

Opinion

The misery of the Barzanis and the KDP

ANF | BEHDINAN | 4 FEBRUARY 2024

As a result of every revolutionary operation by the guerrilla, the entire Turkish special war media and its elements are on high alert, leaving no stone unturned and no head on shoulder. After satisfying the emotions of the fascist hordes for a few days, the agenda is quietly closed and the last traces left in the memories are the perception of a 'rooted out, destroyed guerrilla unable to move'. This soap opera continues until the next revolutionary operation, and when the guerrilla carries out revolutionary operations, there is first a great surprise and shock. Because the last thing they remember is a guerrilla force that is destroyed, rooted out and unable to move.

This time, the special warfare elements start to analyse the scenarios and each time they draw a scenario by adding someone behind and someone in front of it. In the end, those who are behind and in front of the work are again identified and they are presented to be the main ones responsible, and in the end, it is concluded that the Turkish army is an absolute success. On 12 January, after the Martyr Helmet Dêreluk Revolutionary Operation carried out by the guerrilla, this mob had another shock. According to the Turkish special warfare elements, this time the perpetrator was the people of the region, while the Barzanis and KDP were local partners who failed to fulfill their responsibilities. With a brush in their hands, they marked the villages of the region on the map, calling them the centre of the attacks, making the people of the region the scapegoat and openly hinting at killing them and destroying their villages. The local partners now have to do the rest...

The Barzanis and the KDP, on the other hand, are taking action without wasting any time. So much so that they are brazen enough to evacuate the villages in the region to appease the Turkish state. As a result of the guerrilla's revolutionary operations, the KDP comes to the aid of the Turkish army, which has lost more than half of its positions in the Amediyê region. In the first stage, it mobilised to retrieve the dead and wounded members of the Turkish army from the region, and in the second stage, it made efforts to strengthen and rebuild with construction machines and diggers the positions of the Turkish army that were burned and destroyed by the guerrilla.

Nowadays, the stage of oppressing the people of the region and evacuating the villages has begun. The villages of Spîndarê, Mijê and Kevne Mijê were first threatened by the Amediyê district governor to make the villagers leave their houses and evacuate the village. Then, when the villagers refused to leave their houses, the power lines were bombed by warplanes and the villages were left without electricity. Then KDP officials called the villagers and told them to leave the village quickly as the village would be bombed that evening, and the village was indeed bombed by Turkish warplanes in the evening. Two days later, the villagers were given 3 hours to evacuate the whole village. Now, all 3 villages mentioned have been evacuated by the KDP and turned into an operation area for the occupying Turkish army.

Although the people of the region are making a great effort to return to their villages, the KDP does not allow them to do so, and they say to many villagers who insist on it, 'go if you want, we will not be responsible for your death'. It is very clear that the Turkish army is committing genocide in the region and the Barzanis and the KDP are partners in these attacks. Another practice is that the KDP is now doing in the name of the 'Kurdistan Government' what is far worse than the methods used by the Turkish state in northern Kurdistan in the 1990s. Local people take supplies to the villages in kilos, and if it happens to be a bit much, it immediately becomes a reason for their arrest and the confiscation of their supplies. It should be added that half of those jailed in KDP prisons these days are arrested for supposedly trading with the PKK, aiding the PKK and being a member of the PKK.

While the Barzanis provide these services for the Turkish state, Hewlêr is bombed by Iran with ballistic missiles and UCAVs. However, the Barzanis and the KDP had previously provided similar services for the Iranian state as well. They had disarmed the Rojhilat parties, gathered them in camps and had some of their leaders killed by providing intelligence to the Iranian state. But despite all this, Iran does not stop, and they cannot stop it. Because for years they have made every effort to legitimise the Turkish occupation and all three Barzani teams themselves created this ground for the occupying states. All this is obvious, as well as the practice of legitimising the occupation and genocide operation carried out by the Turkish state and covering up its crimes on behalf of the Kurdistan Government in the field of international law, by using its influence within the Iraqi central government, in particular by using the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They can still shamelessly and brazenly come out on top of all this and say that 'The PKK has brought the war to our villages.'

As a result of the revolutionary operations carried out by the guerrilla, the following picture emerges: guerrilla forces eliminated the Turkish bases in Amedîyê 3 times through the actions and revolutionary operations they carried out from November to January. However, each time, the KDP mobilised and they were restored in a week. The KDP continues to transport construction equipment, construction materials, vital food supplies for the occupying Turkish state and ensures the safe passage of armoured vehicles and tanks deployed to the region. At many points, the KDP continues to build kalekols (high security castle-like outposts) for the Turkish state. Finally, the practice of village evacuation...

With these practices, the Barzanis and KDP are imposing surrender and collaborationism on the people of the region. But on the contrary, the people of the region resist against the occupation operation and the most concrete symbol of this is the guerrilla Helmet from Dêreluk, who fought heroically and fell a martyr.



The Turkish nation state's culture of lies

EKIN RONI | ANF | 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Like all nation states, the Turkish nation state is a liar. It is not only a liar; it is also founded on lies. It lives on lies. The biggest lie of nation-states is that they live the unculture as a culture and show their backwardness as a progress. Its distortion of minds and souls and creation of a lying identity while carrying out mas-

sacres and genocides are completely based on its interests and untruth. It passes untruth off on the people as truth.

In this sense, the Turkish state is built on this foundation and is a coup d'état that plunders the culture of Middle Eastern societies and darkens their tradition. Turkey is not just a place where coups are staged once every ten years, it is itself a coup as a whole and every government is a coup government. It is a destructive, genocidal coup regime, whose every word is a lie.

The Turkish nation and state have been constructed with lies, from religion to philosophy and art, from mythology to science. Ahistoricity and culturelessness have been imposed on the traditional social mentality and its history. The traditional cultures of the Middle East have had their share of this obfuscation and distortion. All cultures were intended to be Turkified under pressure and torture and were never acknowledged as they were.

Turkish culture was not built on the right foundations, not with a renaissance by giving history and culture their true meaning, but by lying, plundering, greed for maximum profit, denial of democracy and massacre of all social cultures. The mindset of the nation created is far from democracy and lives on the basis of hostility to truth and reality, as it was created on lies with the logic of a monist nation-state.

In essence, every nation state is a coup and a counter-revolution. It is a genocidal mill that grinds values like a grotto devouring social truths. It is an attack against revolutionary nations and the unity of peoples. This army of liars, who betrayed the values of the people, who turned this war into a civil war and turned Anatolia and Mesopotamia into a bloodbath in the name of Turkey, is a fascist, conspiratorial, genocidal mindset which is hostile to truth, and has survived to this day with its white-black and green forms that have nothing to do with Turkishness.

Built on denial and destruction, ignorant of the recent history of Anatolia and Mesopotamia, this wall is about to collapse today. This wall, which has been built in the minds, which obscures the truth and buries all material and spiritual values, is collapsing.

Like the buildings with missing materials that collapsed in the earthquake, this false construction built with the material of nationalism and etatism is crackling and collapsing. This illegal construction activity, which was established like a company of the West and England, is struggling desperately to survive.

But everything is futile in the face of the truth of the peoples. The plane tree you think is sacred will collapse with a flick.

Those who expect a solution from the Turkish state will be very upset, in particular. How can the problem itself produce a solution? Can the germ of the disease be cured? Getting rid of the problematic and diseased will be a real solution and healing. Those who expect a solution from the problem should know that Turkey will get rid of this mindset and the peoples will be freed.

Turkey will not change unless a democratic Middle East is created in the spirit of freedom and solidarity, unless minds and hearts are rebuilt with a common democratic mentality. We cannot wake up to a new Turkey without abandoning the mentality and policy of nationalism and religionism. Otherwise, we will always remain asleep and get lulled to sleep with lies. We will become a sleeping society.

Waking up to a free and democratic society means not falling for the lies of liars.



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