

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

The life of Öcalan, a graphic novel to be published on 4 April

ANF | 24 MARCH 2024

Freedom Shall Prevail: The Struggle of Abdullah Öcalan and the Kurdish People is the first graphic novel to explore the life and struggle of Abdullah Öcalan.

The book (to be first published in German, Kurdish and Turkish, - English to follow) will be out in time for Öcalan's 75th birthday and can be preordered [here](#) both as a paperback and as an e-book.

It is written by Sean Michael Wilson, an award-winning graphic novelist from Scotland who lives in Japan, and illustrated by Keko, a Kurdish graphic artist who lives in Spain.

Paul Buhle, professor and comics historian, said: "A timely and important graphic novel, scripted by veteran Sean Michael Wilson and wonderfully illustrated by Kurdish artist Keko, captures the life and importance of one of the most intriguing figures on the world stage. From Marxist and anarchist, leader and martyr to persecution. Öcalan is seen here across his life. This is a fine and revealing work about the Kurds, the Middle East, and the struggles before us."

About the Contributors

Sean Michael Wilson is an award-winning graphic novelist from Scotland living in Japan. His more than forty books cover themes of history, politics, and social issues, including: *Parecomic* (on participatory economics, with Michael Albert, introduction by Noam Chomsky), *Fight the Power! A Visual History of Protest*, *Portraits of Violence: Ten Theorists on State Violence* (with Brad Evans), *Such, Such Were the Joys*, the childhood autobiography of George Orwell; *The Many Not the Few*; and *The Faceless Ghost*, which was nominated for an Eisner Award. His book *Secrets of the Ninja* won an International Manga Award. More of his work can be found at seanmichaelwilson.weebly.com.

Keko is a Kurdish graphic artist living in Spain. *Freedom Shall Prevail* is his first graphic novel.

Asrın Law Office: İmralı Island is kept behind a veil of secrecy

ANF | ISTANBUL | 25 MARCH 2024

The Istanbul-based Asrın Law Office made a written statement about the state of incommunicado with their clients, Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are kept in İmralı F Type High Security Prison and have not been heard from since 25 March 2021.

Asrın Law Office underlined that despite all judicial and administrative applications, they have been prevented from any contact with their clients from whom they have not heard for 3 years. Asrın pointed out that the island of İmralı, where the state of absolute non-communication is maintained through unlawful practices, is kept behind a “veil of secrecy”.

The statement released by Asrın Law Office on Monday reads as follows:

“We have not received a single piece of news from Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, Mr. Ömer Hayri Konar, Mr. Hamili Yıldırım and Mr. Veysi Aktaş, who are held in İmralı Island Prison, for exactly 3 years since 25 March 2021. After Mr. Öcalan's phone call with his brother was interrupted for an unknown reason on 25 March 2021. No contact has been allowed despite all judicial and administrative applications made by us uninterruptedly.

The current state of absolute non-communication is maintained through de facto and arbitrary practices as well as ‘judicial decisions’ that have no basis in Turkish legislation. The disciplinary penalties that are cited as reasons for the ban on family visits and the decisions that prevent visits by lawyers are contrary to the legislation and constitute a criminal offence for the authorities. In addition, the right to correspondence and telephone communication is not recognised. However, in accordance with the Mandela rules, it is not possible to completely cut off contact with the outside world. Under all circumstances, minimum communication of prisoners with the outside world must be ensured. Not only are the minimum criteria not fulfilled, but also the files and decisions on which these practices are based are hidden from lawyers. With these practices, İmralı Island is kept behind a veil of secrecy. Access to the slightest information about the current situation of our clients held in an island prison has been prevented for 3 years without interruption, especially by their families and our lawyers. We do not have any information about our clients' right to health and other fundamental vital rights guaranteed under domestic and international law.

Absolute non-communication, which has no other examples in the historical process, is a severe torture model. As a result of our application to the United Nations Human Rights Committee for an immediate end to the absolute non-communication, which is applied as a dimension of this torture regime and has no equivalent in the legal order, the Committee has issued a cautionary decision.

In September 2022, the Committee called on the Government of Turkey to ‘put an end to the incommunicado detention to which the applicants are subjected and to provide them with immediate and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice’. In January 2023, the Committee again urged the Government to comply with this measure, as it had not been complied with. However, the Government, once again ig-

noring domestic and international law, did not implement the injunction and persisted in its policy of absolute non-communication.

The CPT visited İmralı prison in September 2022, when the state of absolute noncommunication continued to deepen. However, it has still not released its report on this visit, nor has it made a minimum public statement on our clients' health and conditions of detention. Again, the European Court of Human Rights has refrained from deciding on the critical application concerning the isolation practices in İmralı prison, although it has been before it for 13 years. Undoubtedly, this attitude of the Council bodies together with the government confirms the truth that the practices in İmralı are not based on legal decisions but on political decisions taken at the international level.

It is also clear that the regime of absolute isolation targets the democratic, ecological and women's liberationist social proposal developed by Mr Öcalan. The strong solution projects he has put forward, the struggle he gives in favour of the peoples, and the intellectual and ideological power he has produced despite the severe isolation regime have become the most alternative life model against the politics of polarisation and war not only in Turkey but also in the entire Middle East. Therefore, ending the isolation regime imposed on Mr Öcalan will be the biggest step towards the reconstruction of democracy in Turkey and the Middle East.

It has been clearly seen that the policies of absolute non-communication applied to Mr. Öcalan are reflected in every aspect of life. As the isolation policies implemented in İmralı deepen, the multiple crises that the peoples of Turkey are dragged into, especially the Kurdish question, are growing. The only way out of this multiple crisis and the only way to build a democratic and peaceful society is to ensure Mr. Öcalan's connection with the outside world. In order to overcome the historical and social problems in our geography, it is of vital importance to end the isolation, which is a state of absolute miscommunication.

While the masses, who are aware of this reality, are raising their reaction in every field, the attitude of "turning a blind eye" manifested by the politics, law, civil society and all intellectuals who are responsible for pioneering the society is unacceptable. On this occasion, we call on the relevant interlocutors to speak the truth and claim their primary responsibilities.

In this respect, we would like to reiterate that; all the rights of our clients, especially the right to see a lawyer, must be provided immediately without any restrictions, as per the responsibility and obligation required by the principles of domestic and international law. The 3-year-long state of incommunicado, which has caused great concerns among us as their lawyers and the majority of the society, must end and the injunction of the United Nations Human Rights Committee must be complied with."

Bar Associations and NGOs call on the CPT to “take immediate steps for İmralı”

ANF | ANKARA | 27 MARCH 2024

The Human Rights Association (IHD) sent a letter to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) on 12 January 2024 with the joint signature of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), Association of Contemporary Lawyers (ÇHD), Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV), Society and Law Research Foundation (TOHAV), Civil Society in the Penal Execution System (CİSST), Muş Bar Association, Van Bar Association, Batman Bar Association, Diyarbakır Bar Association, Hakkari Bar Association, Mardin Bar Association, Urfa Bar Association, Şırnak Bar Association.

In the letter, it was pointed out that the rights of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are held in İmralı Prison, to meet with their families and lawyers were violated.

The signatory organisations made a statement at IHD Headquarters regarding the letter they sent. IHD Co-Chair Hüseyin Küçükbalaban stated that they drew attention to the absolute isolation of PKK Abdullah Öcalan in the letter they sent to CPT.

Küçükbalaban stated the following:

“In our letter to the CPT, we stated that we expected the CPT to contribute to the solution of the problem as a requirement of their authorities and responsibilities arising from the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment due to the aggravation of the state of incommunicado in İmralı Prison and the lack of any change in conditions.

On the other hand, Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who have been held in İmralı F Type High Security Prison, have been subjected to denial of meeting with their families and lawyers and contact with the outside world for about 3 years, with all the severe effects and consequences it has caused.

We would like to share with the public the necessity to take immediate steps to resolve this issue, which is unacceptable in terms of universal legal norms and human rights values and principles, and we will follow up this process.”

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg in its 613th week

ANF | STRASBOURG | 27 MARCH 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 the island of Imrali and only performs this to a very limited extent. For three years now, there has been no sign of life from Öcalan, who has been imprisoned in Imrali since 1999.

In its 613th week, the vigil was taken over by Kurdish patriots İlhami Özagar, Gurbet Baran and Ömer Bozkaya from Germany.

Speaking on behalf of the group, İlhami Özagar said, “We have entered the process of the freedom of Leader Öcalan,”, citing the “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question” campaign launched globally in October 2023.

Özagar said, “This is a campaign to liberate our leader and our people. The two are interconnected.”

Reacting to the silence of international institutions, especially the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), Özagar said, “It is the resistance of our people that will liberate Leader Öcalan” and called on everyone to fulfil their responsibilities. Özagar concluded, “Our people must take action for the freedom of Leader Öcalan. We must do whatever we can.”



KHRAG calls on Amnesty International to investigate appalling conditions of Öcalan's incarceration

ANF | 28 MARCH 2024

The Kurdish Human Rights Action Group (KHRAG) urged Amnesty International to “investigate the appalling conditions of Abdullah Öcalan's incarceration.”

The campaign called on everyone to join the call, saying that “the Turkish regime has breached all legal standards on political prisoners, including the UN Mandela Rules on the treatment of political prisoners and has disregarded its own laws on the treatment of prisoners. Since March 25, 2021, Mr Öcalan has

been held incommunicado in detention. This is cruel, degrading and inhumane treatment. We call on Amnesty International to consider the conditions of imprisonment Mr Öcalan urgently.”

The petition said: “We appreciate the active role played by Amnesty International in 1999 advocating against the death penalty following the abduction of Kurdish people’s leader Abdullah Öcalan. Knowing that Amnesty International, as the world’s most prominent human rights organisation, is knowledgeable of Mr. Öcalan’s situation and has spoken out in favour of his rights through statements and letters to Turkish authorities in the past, we are once again appealing to you to address his inhumane and illegal prison conditions.”

— ★ —

Öcalan’s lawyers file new application to visit Imrali

ANF | ISTANBUL | 28 MARCH 2024

Lawyers from Asrın Law Office, Raziye Öztürk, Rezan Sarıca, Faik Özgür Erol and Mazlum Dinç, applied to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office and Imralı Prison Directorate to meet with their clients Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are kept under absolute isolation in Imralı.

Asrın Law Office said: “From 27 July 2011 to date, only 5 lawyers were able to meet between May and August 2019. The last of these five meetings was on 7 August 2019. Only 5 family visits have been granted since 2014. The last face-to-face meeting was with Öcalan’s brother was on 3 March 2020. Öcalan has only been able to make two phone calls since the first day (on 27 April 2020 and 25 March 2021).

The last phone call on 25 March 2021 was interrupted after a very short time and there has been no news from him since that day.”

— ★ —

Prisons

Çiçek Kobanê deported to Erzincan prison

ANF | 23 MARCH 2024

Four prisoners held in T Type closed prisons No. 1 and 2 in Urfa were deported to different prisons. Mahmut Tural, who was held in T Type Prison No. 1, was deported to Erzincan Prison without informing his family, despite his own request. İdris Duruk, who was imprisoned in the same prison, was sent to Tarsus Prison.

Among the captives who were deported without informing their family was Dozgin Temo (Çiçek Kobanê), who was kidnapped and brought to Urfa (Riha) during the attack carried out by Turkey and the paramilitary groups it supported on the village of Mişrefa village in Ayn Isa in Northern and Eastern Syria. Çiçek Kobanê was deported to Erzincan High Security Closed Prison.



75-year-old woman falls ill in prison three days after being arrested

ANF | 26 MARCH 2024

75-year-old Hatice Yıldız, who was sentenced to 4 years and 2 months in prison for depositing money to her daughter and her cellmate in prison and was taken out of her home on a stretcher and arrested, fell ill in prison on Monday.

Her lawyer, Xebat Demircan, said that Yıldız had been staying in a single cell since Friday and added: “My client was not well. She cannot walk on her own. She was brought and taken away accompanied by officers. During the visit, she fell ill and fainted. The medical teams were there and intervened. My client has not been able to eat properly for two days due to health problems. Her son’s request for a meeting was also rejected.”



Hunger strike of PKK and PAJK prisoners in Turkey leaves four months behind

ANF | 26 MARCH 2024

The hunger strike launched by political prisoners demanding the physical freedom of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who is kept under isolation in İmralı F Type High Security Closed Prison, and a solution to the Kurdish question is on its 121st day.

Abdullah Öcalan, and his fellow prisoners in Imrali Island Prison, Ömer Hayri Konar, Veysi Aktaş and Hamili Yıldırım, have not been allowed to meet with their families and lawyers for 36 months. The international campaign “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question” was launched on 10 October 2023 with simultaneous statements in 74 centres around the world in order to end the isolation in İmralı and ensure Abdullah Öcalan’s physical freedom.

As part of the campaign, political prisoners in prisons started a hunger strike on 27 November.

The PKK and PAJK prisoners, who had previously stated that they would carry their hunger strike to a new phase as of 15 February if no steps were taken regarding their demands, postponed their decision due to the 31 March local elections. In a statement made by Deniz Kaya on behalf of PKK and PAJK prisoners on 12 February, it was said that: “We have extended our rotating hunger strike action, in order to end the isolation imposed on our leader. We want everyone to know that we will enter a new phase on 15 February and until after the elections to be held on 31 March. We declare to the public that if the isolation of our leader continues after the election, we will take our action to the next level and continue until we get results.”

— ★ —

Kurdish political prisoners Moradi and Azizi, 8 months in Evin prison without trial

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

Warisha Moradi, a member of the Free Women’s Society of Eastern Kurdistan (KJAR), and Pakhshan Azizi, a Kurdish journalist and former political prisoner, are still detained in a state of uncertainty in Evin prison in Tehran.

Moradi, also known as Ciwana Sine, was charged with “armed insurrection” (baghi), punishable by death, and Azizi was accused of “membership in a group or organization aimed at an attack on national security.”

The two Kurdish women were arrested by the Ministry of Intelligence in August 2023.

The cases of Moradi and Azizi were transmitted to branches 15 and 26 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran, respectively. Concerns have been raised about the potential harsh sentences imposed on the two women.

Moradi and Azizi, arrested about eight months ago, are being held in Evin prison and there is no hearing in sight.

The Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) has learned that the two Kurdish women were denied access to legal representation from the time of their arrest until the issuance of the indictments and their referral to the Islamic revolutionary Tribunal.

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Hunger strike of political prisoners in Turkey on day 123

ANF | 28 MARCH 2024

The hunger strike launched by political prisoners demanding the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who is kept under isolation in İmralı F Type High Security Closed Prison, and a solution to the Kurdish question is on its 123rd day.

Abdullah Öcalan, and his fellow prisoners in İmralı Island Prison, Ömer Hayri Konar, Veysi Aktaş and Hamili Yıldırım, have not been allowed to meet with their families and lawyers for 36 months. The international campaign "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question" was launched on 10 October 2023 with simultaneous statements in 74 centres around the world in order to end the isolation in İmralı and ensure Abdullah Öcalan's physical freedom.

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— ★ —

Guards attack political prisoners who refused to take off their shoes in Bakırköy Women's jail

ANF | ISTANBUL | 29 MARCH 2024

Political prisoners in Bakırköy Women's Closed Prison were forced to take off their shoes after a visit. The prisoners who wanted to go to the cells after meeting with their lawyers and family were forced to take off their shoes and shake them during the search.

It was stated that the prisoners were beaten by the guards after they refused this degrading treatment.

Stating that the prisoners said that this imposition has been going on for two weeks, the lawyers said: "The prisoners said that they would file a criminal complaint and resist all kinds of pressure. No justification was given to the prisoners for this imposition."

— ★ —

Saçaklıdır: Prisoners on hunger strike want their demands accepted

ANF | AMED | 29 MARCH 2024

There has been no news from Abdullah Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş on the prison island of Imralı, for three years. The legally required possibility of contacting lawyers and relatives is also prohibited. Öcalan's isolation reflects the Turkish state's refusal to resolve the Kurdish question.

On 10 October 2023, an international campaign was launched calling for the release of Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question. As a contribution to this campaign, political prisoners in Turkey went on an alternate hunger strike on 27 November 2023.

Esra Saçaklıdır is a member of the prison commission of the Human Rights Association (IHD) in Amed, and she is closely following the hunger strike. The lawyer told ANF that the IHD, together with the Amed Bar Association, the Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) and prisoner support associations, have formed delegations that regularly visit the prisons and record their observations in reports. She said: "Our reports often talk about the disciplinary sanctions imposed on prisoners. The prisoners taking part in the hunger strike are being moved to individual cells and, in our opinion, they are not receiving enough sugar, water and salt. Many already suffer from previous illnesses and their condition is worsening. We have been told that some prisoners can no longer look after themselves and are in need of care. It is also reported that social activities have been restricted by the prison administration since the hunger strike began. We hear the same complaints in all prisons. According to our findings, hunger strikers are punished. There are no health checks. To break resistance, disciplinary sanctions are imposed."

According to the lawyer, the prisoners are determined to continue the hunger strike for a political solution to the Kurdish question until their demands are met. "During our visits we see how much the prisoners insist on this. They want the Kurdish question to be resolved on a democratic basis. The state must take appropriate steps. As long as there is no solution, the hunger strike will continue."

— ★ —

Military aggression and occupation

MSD: Moscow attack proves that the ISIS threat persists

ANF | 23 MARCH 2024

An organized attack on Moscow's 'Crocus City Hall' concert hall, which was claimed by ISIS, claimed the lives of dozens of people on Friday.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) announced that at least 93 people died in the attack, while at least 100 people were injured. The Russian Ministry of Health reported that 60 of the wounded were in serious condition.

According to reports, 11 people were detained in connection with the attack.

The Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) made a statement condemning the terrorist attack and expressing condolences to the people of Russia.

"This attack proves that terrorism continues to threaten world peace. We emphasise once again that international powers must cooperate in the fight against ISIS in order to prevent such attacks and to establish a lasting peace in the world," MSD said.

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) also released a statement, saying: "Such attacks against civilians are also taking place in our region. We strongly condemn the terrible terrorist attack in Moscow. On behalf of the peoples of North and East Syria, we express our deepest condolences to the families of the innocent victims, the people and the government of the Russian Federation, and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded."

— ★ —

HPG reports 64 airstrikes by the Turkish army in guerrilla areas within one week

ANF | BEHDINAN | 23 MARCH 2024

The Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) released a statement providing information on last week's war in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Details of the latest actions by the guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army in Medya Defence Zones are as follows:

Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region;

From 09:50 to 10:45 on 19 March, the invaders in the Girê Amediyê Resistance Area were effectively hit by the guerrillas with heavy weapons.

Xakurkê region;

On 19 March at 17:20, the invaders in Girê Şehîd Kamuran were hit by the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) guerrillas with heavy weapons.

Attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish army with banned explosives;

On 19 March, the guerrillas' battle position in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area of Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region was bombed 4 times with banned explosives.

Attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish army;

Between 16-23 March, the Turkish army carried out 64 airstrikes in the guerrilla areas. These included 10 strikes on the areas of Dêreşê, Deşta Kafya, Zengil, Bîrê, Gûzê, Şiyê, Çemrobotkî in Garê region; 20 strikes on the areas of Girê Cûdî, Girê FM, Girê Bahar, Girê Amediyê Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region; 5 strikes on the Şehîd Îbrahîm Resistance Area in Zap region; 15 strikes on the areas of Serê Metîna, Şêlazê, Bêşilî, Bazê in Metîna region; 8 strikes on the areas of Kolît, Lolan, Sinînê, Şehîd Şerîf in Xakurkê region; 6 strikes on the areas of Kortek, Silê, Bêpala in Qandil.

On 14 and 17 March, attack helicopters bombed the areas of Çarçel, Şêlazê, Yekmalê in Metîna region and the Lolan area in Xakurkê region.



KCK condemns the brutal attack in Moscow

ANF | BEHDINAN | 23 MARCH 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council released a statement about Friday's attack during a concert in Moscow that claimed the lives of dozens.

Expressing their profound empathy for the incident and extending their condolences to the families of those who were killed in the act of terrorism, KCK wished the wounded speedy recovery.

"We offer our sympathies to the people of Russia and share their suffering. We strongly condemn this atrocity executed by ISIS. This attack has yet again shown hatred and cruelty of ISIS against people and humanity," said the KCK statement, which further included the following:

"ISIS is trained and led by the Turkish government and the AKP-MHP alliance; they are a weapon of the Turkish state. With ISIS, the AKP-MHP regime threatens everyone and uses this as leverage to get concessions. It employs ISIS against everyone and everything, including the Kurdish people and the Kurdish Freedom Movement in Syria, Iraq, and Europe. By all means, the Erdoğan regime is once again attempting to enforce its schemes of colonialism and genocide. Using ISIS, the Turkish government implements

these goals with a neo-Ottoman ideology. This reality has been exposed time and time again, everyone must act accordingly. It is apparent this is the motivation underlying the attack in Moscow. Through the attack, the AKP-MHP administration is coercing Russia and other nations into obeying its demands. Iran was previously the target of an attack akin to this one. ISIS was contracted by the Turkish government to conduct both assaults.

We strongly denounce this vicious attack once more. As the Kurdish Freedom Movement, we have fought against the barbarism and fascism of ISIS and though we have been victorious, we have also paid great prices in the process.

Once again, we declare that we are always on the side of the people and offer our sympathies to all the people who have been affected by this atrocity.”



DEM Party: Those who provide space for ISIS are responsible for the Moscow attack

ANF | 23 MARCH 2024

The number of people killed in the attack in the Russian capital Moscow has risen to 133. Russian President Vladimir Putin said today that all the attackers were captured.

Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Co-Chairs Tülay Hatimoğolları and Tuncer Bakırhan said: “We condemn in the strongest terms the attack against civilians in Russia, which was claimed by ISIS. We offer our condolences and patience to the relatives of those who lost their lives and to the people of Russia. In the face of this inhuman attack, we call everyone to solidarity and common struggle against ISIS. Peace and stability for the peoples of the world can only come through dialogue between peoples and a common struggle against ISIS and its derivatives. We take this opportunity to remind once again that the forces that want to use ISIS against the Kurds in Rojava or provide space for ISIS are also responsible for such attacks.”

The institutions and organisations representing Kurds living in Russia also condemned the massacre in Moscow.

A joint statement by the International Union of Kurdish Social Institutions, the Russian Interregional Kurdish Women's Organisation and the Russian Êzdîxan organisation said, “We express our condolences to the families of the deceased and the entire Russian people and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. This terrorist attack was committed against the unity, solidarity and friendship of the peoples of Russia. As citizens of our country, Russia, we need to be more united and fight against such terrorist attacks by the forces of evil planned against our unity, solidarity and friendship. We must show to all the forces that have evil intentions against us that none of their attacks will be successful. The criminals and the forces behind them must be punished as they deserve.”



ISIS mercenaries continue to attack villagers collecting desert mushrooms in Raqqa

ANF | RAQQA | 24 MARCH 2024

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said in a statement that ISIS mercenaries attacked people collecting desert mushrooms in the Huma countryside, east of Raqqa.

The SOHR said that as a result of this latest ISIS attack on the region under the control of the Damascus government, 2 people collecting desert mushrooms were killed, one was injured, and 5 others were kidnapped. It was noted that two of the kidnapped people were released, while the fate of the other 3 people remained unknown.



Revolutionary guerrilla operations that stunned the Turkish army

ANF | BEHDINAN | 24 MARCH 2024

The revolutionary operations of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla against the occupying Turkish army continue unabated. The revolutionary operations, which intensified in November, the 45th anniversary of the founding of the PKK, and continued in Zap, Xakurkê and Metîna in December, January, February and March, shocked the AKP-MHP fascist regime, while frustrating the whims of those who gave the PKK a life expectancy. People's Defence Central Headquarters Command (HSM) shared a development with the public on 20 March as Newroz good news, stating that: "The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla has had the opportunity and ability to neutralize UCAVs, with which the Turkish state and army carry out assassinations and massacres every day. Our forces shot down a total of 15 UCAVs". Immediately after this statement, Gerîla TV broadcast images showing the moments of the downing of the UCAVs one after the other.

The images from the battlefield and the published balance sheets show that despite the support of the KDP, the invading Turkish army forces could not hold on against the guerrilla and the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla took the initiative in the war. In the footage from the Şehîd Doğa Viyan Revolutionary Operation carried out in Zap on 17 February, the atmosphere on the battlefield was reflected by the guerrillas' call to the soldiers to "surrender", calling out "Karayılan's instruction is that you will die, soldier", chanting "This is Zap, there is no way out of here", "They are escaping, go after them", and the slogans "Bijî Serok Apo".

According to the 2023 balance sheet of the HSM Headquarters Command, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla carried out 1712 actions and killed 928 invaders, including 7 high-ranking officers. The invaders attacked 2969 times, including with chemical weapons and banned bombs. 179 guerrillas were martyred. In November alone, 193 actions were carried out by the guerrillas against the Turkish army forces, and 124 invaders were killed. A large quantity of military ammunition was captured or destroyed, and 4 guerrillas were martyred in the war.

While the guerrilla forces used a wide range of war tactics such as ambush, attack, infiltration, coordinated guerrilla action, sabotage, assassination, heavy weapon action, clash-damage-intervention actions, the revolutionary operations they carried out marked the resistance. The footage of dozens of actions carried out was broadcast by Gerîla TV.

The revolutionary operations carried out by the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla since November 2023 are as follows:

Martyr Leyla Sorxwîn Amed Revolutionary Operation

While the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the PKK was met with effective actions in the resistance areas, the Martyr Leyla Sorxwîn Amed Revolutionary Operation was carried out in Metîna on 26 November 2023. "Our forces carried out the Martyr Leyla Sorxwîn Amed Revolutionary Operation in Metîna, punishing 18 invaders and confiscating many weapons and military equipment by personally going over 12 corpses," the HPG said in a statement on the operation.

The occupying Turkish army and the special war media, which concealed their losses, announced the death of Infantry First Sergeant Necdet Calis and infantry contract soldiers Emrah Gündüz and Fevzi Kiziltas. However, the HPG released a video showing the bags and materials belonging to some soldiers whose deaths in this revolutionary operation were concealed. HPG announced that the soldiers named Samet Kulaç, Mustafa Akalp, İsmail Yılmaz and Mücahit Gökyer were killed and their bags were confiscated, revealing that the Turkish state concealed the deaths of these soldiers.

Martyr Ahmed Rubar Revolutionary Operation

On 22 December 2023, news of another revolutionary operation came from Xakurkê. The related HPG statement said that 27 invaders were killed in this operation and the bodies of 17 soldiers were searched. The guerrillas also seized weapons and military equipment, much of which was destroyed. The statement also reported that 9 other Turkish soldiers were killed in another coordinated action in Metîna.

In the wake of this action, the Turkish army, which has systematically concealed its casualties from the public, was forced to admit the deaths of Lieutenant Ramazan Günay, specialist sergeant Mehmet Serinkan, specialist corporal İsmail Yazıcı and contract soldiers Emre Taşkın, Yasin Karaca and Çağatay Erenoğlu.

Gire Amediye Revolutionary Operation

HPG Press Liaison Centre (HPG-BIM) announced that the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas, who inflicted a heavy blow on the invading Turkish army in Xakurkê and Metîna, killed 34 invaders in Girê Amediyê Revolutionary Operation in Zap the next day (23 December), and 3 guerrillas were martyred.

About a month before this action (on 20 November), the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas carried out a comprehensive revolutionary operation against the invaders in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area and hit the invading army forces in Girê Şehîd Cesur, Şehîd Cemre and Girê Şehîd Pirdoğan. The HPG statement said that the comprehensive revolutionary operation was carried out simultaneously in three different places, using different tactics with many operational arms. 49 invaders were killed and 21 tents and 12 positions were destroyed.

Melsa Mus Revolutionary Operation

On 23 December, a revolutionary operation was carried out in Kurojahro. HPG BIM announced that on the evening of 23 December, the Şehîd Melsa Mûş Revolutionary Operation was carried out against the invaders positioned on two hills in Kurojahro Resistance Area. 18 invaders were killed and 1 invader was wounded in the revolutionary operation carried out with a three-pronged infiltration tactic. HPG announced that weapons and ammunition belonging to the soldiers killed in the action were confiscated and 6 positions, 4 tents, 1 camellia and 1 mobile camera system were destroyed. The occupation force on the two hills was completely liquidated and the hills were bombed by the Turkish army in order to prevent the guerrillas from taking the soldiers' bodies under their control.

After Gerîla TV shared footage of the killing of soldiers and information about them, the Turkish state authorities, unable to conceal the deaths of soldiers, were forced to announce that 12 soldiers had been killed in guerrilla actions in 2 days, 6 on 22 December and 6 on 23 December.

Martyr Helmet Deraluk Revolutionary Operation

At 17:10 on the evening of 12 January 2024, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla carried out another Revolutionary Operation named Martyr Helmet Dêrelûk against the occupying Turkish troops in the Girê Amediyê Resistance Area of the Şehîd Delîl Batî Zap region. Guerrilla forces completely cleared the occupying Turkish soldiers from their positions. The related statement by HPG-BIM said that the guerrillas infiltrated and destroyed the soldiers' positions one by one, and 61 invaders were killed in the operation, while 20 bodies were searched. In addition, the guerrilla forces confiscated many weapons from the invaders and destroyed positions, containers, weapons and military equipment by setting them on fire.

The Turkish Ministry of Defence, which had concealed the deaths of soldiers many times before, first announced that 5 soldiers were killed in this action, but later had to admit that the number of soldiers killed was 9 and the number of wounded soldiers was 4.

The People's Defence Centre (HSM) Headquarters Command, which published a congratulatory message on the revolutionary operation in Zap, said, "It is certain that we have entered a historic process in 2024, which clearly will not be an ordinary year for our struggle."

Martyr Doga Viyan Revolutionary Operation

While the repercussions of the Martyr Helmet Derelûk Revolutionary Operation continued, the news of another revolutionary operation on 17 February appeared on agencies. HPG-BIM shared the following information about the operation:

“On 17 February at 12:50, guerrillas carried out the Şehîd Doğa Viyan Revolutionary Operation against the invaders positioned in a base area in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area in the Western Zap region. In the revolutionary operation launched with an attack tactic, the enemy positions targeted from many arms were hit and captured. The professional operation force, which went on the enemy with the Apoist sacrificial spirit, quickly took the base area from the invaders, went over their bodies and confiscated their weapons.”

It was announced that a guerrilla was martyred in the revolutionary operation, in which 37 Turkish soldiers, including 1 captain, were killed.

Footage broadcast on Gerîla TV showed how the HPG and YJA Star guerrillas took the initiative of war with great courage, moral strength and enthusiasm, how the positions of the invaders fell and how the tents, containers, heavy weapons and military equipment on the hill were burned and destroyed.

Martyr Ciwan - Martyr Andok Revolutionary Operation

On the eve of Newroz, news of a new revolutionary operation came out. Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla announced that they carried out another effective operation in the Zap region on 19 March under the name of Şehîd Ciwan-Şehîd Andok Revolutionary Operation. According to the statement, 41 invading Turkish soldiers were killed and many weapons and military equipment were confiscated or destroyed.

On 19 March, HPG-BIM reported that effective guerrilla actions developed in 3 different areas (Şehîd Cemre, Şehîd Cesur and Şehîd Pirdogan) in the morning hours and that a special tactic and technique was used in this operation.

The statement said: “The revolutionary operation started on the initiative of our forces with a special tactic and technique, and in the first stage, the invaders in Şehîd Cemre were hit. As a result of effective strikes, 2 containers, 1 tent, 1 position were destroyed, 15 invaders were killed and 9 invaders were injured.

The invaders positioned in Şehîd Cesur were targeted from 4 arms and hit effectively. A total of 24 invaders were killed and 1 other was wounded. Our professional guerrilla force, who confiscated the weapons and ammunition of the invaders, used the weapons of the invaders against them. A panzer belonging to the occupiers was hit by a B7 rocket.”

Kurdish parties call for unity against Turkish occupation

ANF | BRUSSELS | 24 MARCH 2024

The Committee for Studies and Action on the 100th Anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, the Joint Diplomacy Committee of Kurdistan Parties and independent personalities met at the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) building in Brussels on Sunday. The meeting was attended by representatives of many political parties, institutions and organizations from the quadripartite Kurdistan.

The meeting decided to make an urgent call due to the increasing threats of the Turkish state against Kurdistan. “We call on all Kurdistan political parties, organizations, institutions and dynamics to unite in the spirit of Newroz, strengthen your national unity and stand against the occupation,” the statement said.

The statement pointed out that the Turkish state is preparing a comprehensive operation against Rojava and South Kurdistan, and attention was drawn to the statements and diplomatic initiatives of Turkish officials. It was stressed that the Turkish state wants to destroy the gains of the Kurdish people and disrupt the balance in the region with this preparation of an operation.

It was also stated that since autumn, the Turkish state has turned Iraq into a waterway and threatened Kurdistan in cooperation with the Iraqi government. It was emphasized that these threats are unacceptable and all the people of Kurdistan must stand against these pressures.

Among the decisions taken at the meeting, a call was made for all Kurdistan forces to act together and strengthen national unity against the threats of the Turkish state against Rojava and South Kurdistan. In addition, the Iraqi government was urged to react against the attacks of the Turkish state in Iraq and to end the occupation of the Turkish army.

Finally, participants of the meeting called on the Turkish state to stop its threats and attacks against the people and parties of Kurdistan and to return to the process of peace dialogue and political solution. The meeting also called on the United Nations, the world community and the international community to stop the Turkish state's threats against Kurdistan and to support the Kurdistan people's struggle for freedom.

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SDF celebrates the fifth anniversary of Baghouz victory

ANF | 24 MARCH 2024

On Saturday, the Deir ez-Zor Military Council, affiliated with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), held a ceremony celebrating the fifth anniversary of the liberation of Baghouz town and the territorial defeat of the ISIS terrorist organization and its so-called caliphate.

The ceremony took place at the Al-Omar military base in Deir ez-Zor, in the presence of members of SDF General Command, the command of Deir ez-Zor Military Council, a delegation from the International Coalition Forces, dignitaries, tribal leaders, and the local populace.

The ceremony began with a minute of silence for the souls of the martyrs. The forces of Deir ez-Zor Military Council then performed a military parade, followed by several speeches, including by Luqman Khalil, a member of the SDF General Command. Khalil emphasized the importance of liberating Baghouz from ISIS, explaining that by liberating the area, their forces rid the entire world of ISIS terrorism.

Khalil highlighted the pivotal role of SDF martyrs in liberating the region from the terrorist organization. He emphasized their sacrifice for restoring peace and security, noting the historic resilience of SDF fighters and the people of Deir ez-Zor. Despite numerous countries and well-equipped armies failing to confront ISIS, the SDF's victory stemmed from their steadfastness and adherence to the noble values upheld by martyrs and the populace, he said.

Khalil noted that thousands from Deir ez-Zor joined the SDF ranks as a testament to their allegiance to the martyrs. In his address, Commander Khalil elaborated on how the unity of the region's populace, encompassing its tribes and all societal segments, thwarted all schemes devised by entities opposed to the perpetuation of security and stability in our territories. Foremost among these adversaries are the Turkish occupation state, the Syrian regime, and its allies, he added.

During the ceremony, representatives from the YPJ (Women's Defense Units) leadership, the Deir ez-Zor Civil Council, the Deir ez-Zor Martyrs' Families Council, and tribal leaders in the region delivered speeches. The speeches centered on the pivotal role played by the Syrian Democratic Forces in liberating their territories from the terrorist organization. They expressed gratitude towards the SDF leadership and fighters for their significant sacrifices in the battles and campaigns against terrorism. Additionally, the speakers urged the people of Deir ez-Zor to join the ranks of the Syrian Democratic Forces, highlighting the esteemed stance of the local populace against the onslaughts perpetrated by the Turkish occupation state and the Syrian regime across north and eastern Syria.



A key ISIS financier eliminated in joint security operation in Raqqa

ANF | 24 MARCH 2024

On March 23, the Anti-Terrorism Units (YAT) of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in a joint security operation with the International Coalition, successfully eliminated a key ISIS financier in Raqqa City. The targeted terrorist is called Sameer Khudir al-Shihan, an Iraqi national responsible for funding ISIS cells within the city.

“Supported by Coalition air surveillance, our YAT forces raided where the terrorist al-Shihan was hiding. Ignoring the call for safe surrender, the terrorist adamantly resisted our forces, who handled the situation

with the utmost professionalism and eliminated him,” said the SDF Media Center in a statement about the operation.

The following were confiscated in the operation: Smartphones: 8, Personal documents, Wifi router: 1, Pistol: 1, Pistol magazines: 3, Camera: 1, Flash drives, Sum of money

“Our SDF forces, in close partnership with the International Coalition forces, continue anti-ISIS operations to maintain security and stability in the North-East Syria Region,” the statement underlined.

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SDF thwarts an escape attempt at Hol Camp

ANF | 26 MARCH 2024

The Military Operation Units of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) successfully thwarted an escape attempt by two members of the so-called “Cubs of the Caliphate” who were hiding within the Hol camp. The two Indonesian and one Turkestani nationals were captured along with a Syrian national involved in facilitating the attempted escape.

The SDF Media Center stated that: “Following proactive monitoring efforts, our forces conducted a raid on a designated hideout within the al-Hol camp where two members of the “Cubs of the Caliphate” were hiding with the smuggler who is from the al-Kasra village, Deir ez-Zor. The three individuals were captured and transferred to the appropriate authorities.”

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Attack kills two security officers of Raqqa Military Council

ANF | RAQQA | 27 MARCH 2024

The administrative building of the Raqqa Military Council in the western neighbourhood of Al-Dariya was the target of an armed attack at around 12.30 pm today.

According to the SDF statement about the attack, 2 security officers of the Council were martyred.

The SDF stated that one “terrorist” was captured during the search operation after the attack, while the others escaped. The statement added that efforts are ongoing “to capture the terrorists”.

The SDF estimates that ISIS cells were behind the attack according to the evidence obtained and preliminary investigations.

The Asayish headquarters in Raqqa was attacked by a cell of the terrorist militia ISIS on 26 December 2022. Four members of the security forces and two SDF fighters were killed during the attempted libera-

tion of imprisoned mercenaries. Last weekend, a high-ranking member of ISIS was killed during an SDF operation in Raqqa.

The SDF accused the international community of lacking support in the fight against Islamists. “The ISIS problem has a global dimension. And that is why it also needs a global solution,” SDF [said](#) on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the capture of the last ISIS bastion, Baghouz, on 23 March.



Political parties discuss draft agreement on Kurdish unity and solution to the Kurdish question

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

In preparation for the upcoming conference, Kurdish political parties continue to organise meetings in northern and eastern Syria to discuss the draft basic agreement on Kurdish unity and the solution to the Kurdish question.

In this context, political parties gathered in Hasekê on Wednesday. Kurdish politicians, independent figures, academics and intellectuals attended the meeting. The organizing committee invited many parties, especially the ENKS, for dialogue, but they did not attend the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Sîhanok Dîbo, Co-Chair of the Public Relations Office of the Democratic Union Party (PYD), Nesredîn Îbrahîm, Secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Syria (P.D.K.S) and Telal Mihemed, Chairman of the Kurdistan Democratic Peace Party (P.A.D.K).

Speaking at the meeting, Nesredîn Îbrahîm, Secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Syria (P.D.K.S), stated that the “political unity of the Kurds” must be one voice in order to reach an agreement on a solution to the Kurdish question, which will be discussed today, and to finalise the conference. The meeting continues closed to the press.



HSM celebrates the Heroism Week

ANF | BEHDINAN | 28 MARCH 2024

The Headquarters Command of the People’s Defence Centre (HSM) made a written statement on the occasion of Heroism Week.

The statement released on Thursday includes the following:

“Peoples have leaders who create their consciousness and spirit of freedom and historical heroes who make great breakthroughs by practicing these leaders. Every people attains a great spirituality and national identity on the basis of the epic marches of their historical heroes. The Kurdish people, who are loyal to their social values, resilient, courageous and noble, have also had historical heroes who displayed valour throughout history. From the Kawa the Blacksmiths to the Medes’ Army of the Immortals, countless heroes who have etched their names in history have taken their place in the historical memory of the Kurdish people.

Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan), who made his debut on a Newroz day, also started the most organised and modern National Heroism Era of the Kurdish people. The founding leading cadres of our Movement, who joined Rêber Apo by internalizing the Apoist ideology with their consciousness, heart and whole being, created the most organised, strongest and invincible period of national heroism of the Kurdish people and bestowed the most meaningful gift of history to our people. They demonstrated their heroism and valour, sacrificing themselves without hesitation in order to protect the existence of our people, ensure their freedom and guarantee their future.

The Kurdish people celebrate the week between the great heroic act of Comrade Mazlum Doğan, the Contemporary Kawa, on 21 March and the martyrdom of Comrade Mahsum Korkmaz, the legendary commander of the Kurdistan guerrilla, on 28 March as National Heroism Week. Comrades Mazlum and Mahsum, as noble personalities who embodied the strongest consciousness and courage of our party PKK, became the name of the sacrificial heroic stance of the Apoist ideology that went down in history.

The historical stance of Comrade Mazlum Doğan, the contemporary Kawa, in the Amed Dungeon determined the spirit and line of resistance of our Party, and Comrade Mahsum Korkmaz, who took this spirit as a guide and carried it to the mountains of Kurdistan, started guerrillaism and put into practice the sacrificial warfare style with the historical 15 August Move. Comrades Mazlum and Mahsum, who passed into the history of Kurdistan as symbols, spirits, lines, heroes and valour, have been the unquenchable torches of our people's national heroism era. On this basis, we celebrate the Heroism Week of the Kurdish people and all our comrades waging struggle in every field. While commemorating all our martyrs in the person of our national heroes with respect, gratitude and deep devotion, we state that we will never compromise from being a relentless follower of the line of martyrs under all circumstances.

Comrade Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz) is a great commander who, with his deep devotion to Rêber Apo, understood and internalized the Apoist ideology very well, firmly believed in the victory of the Kurdish people's freedom struggle and was passionately committed to guerrillaism. Comrade Egîd is an outstanding people's leader who embodied the free will and valour of the Kurdish people. Comrade Egîd, with his exemplary command style, carried out the Glorious 15 August Move and determined the course of our revolutionary people's war by transforming the guerrilla style into a line. Comrade Egîd's determined march was instrumental in the growth of our guerrilla army, its spread all over Kurdistan, the creation of our revolutionary people's war and guerrillaism for victory.

Our guerrilla struggle and heroic march, which started with the first bullet of Commander Egîd, has today become an army of fedayeen fighting with the Apoist sacrificial spirit. Today, in our revolutionary people's war led by the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, the tactical expansions made by the HPG, the level it has gained by restructuring, the formation it has reached in tactical creativity and in applying them, its ability

to put the technique it has acquired into the service of tactics, and most importantly, putting all these into practice with the Apoist sacrificial spirit is a historical value and achievement for the Kurdish people.

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla are struggling to be worthy of its martyrs by walking in their footsteps and putting their goals into practice one by one. We promise that with the consciousness, spirit, faith and determination we have taken from our heroes, we will further expand our struggle and be worthy of their memories.

We salute the valiant Kurdish people who, by following in the footsteps of their heroes without hesitation, have made them the compass of their consciousness and heart, and who embrace their heroes by celebrating the Freedom Newroz in a glorious way. We once again celebrate the Heroism Week of our patriotic people and comrades, and wish them success in their struggle for freedom in every field.”



HBDH Mazlum Doğan Militia claims responsibility for two actions in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 28 MARCH 2024

In a written statement, the HBDH Mazlum Doğan Militia claimed responsibility for two actions carried out in Beyoğlu and Ümraniye.

The statement said: “On 20 March, we targeted a repair shop in Beyoğlu belonging to a fascist who we have been following for a long time. As a result of the successful action we carried out at around 03.30 at night, the repair shop was completely burned down. A public bus parked nearby also caught fire.”

The statement added: “In addition, on the same day, 20 March, at noon, we targeted a boat manufacturing plant in Ümraniye. As a result of our action, the factory was burned down. Our militias successfully left the scene after the actions.”



Anti-Terrorist Forces thwart suicide attack by ISIS in Heseke

ANF | 29 MARCH 2024

The Internal Security Forces Press Liaison Center carried out an operation against ISIS gangs who were preparing a suicide attack in Heseke. Gang members were brought from Idlib, which is under the control of the Turkish state.

Anti-Terrorist Forces (HAT) located the gang members staying in a private guesthouse affiliated with the ISIS terrorist organization in a high area of Ebdulezîz Mountain.

In its statement, the Internal Security Forces said that the Anti-Terrorist Forces carried out an operation where the gangs were staying, but the gang members responded with fire. According to the statement, one gang member was killed in the conflict and another gang blew himself up. It was reported that two other gang members were caught with weapons on them.

2 Kalashnikovs, 11 Kalashnikov magazines, 7 pistols and a rifle were also seized during the operation.

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Feminicide

Trial of women subjected to police violence opens in Şirnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 23 MARCH 2024

The first hearing of the case filed in Şirnak against 17 women who wanted to make a statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November) last year and MA reporter Zeynep Durgut, who followed the event, and found themselves accused of “violating the law on meetings and demonstrations” was held at the Şirnak Criminal Court of First Instance on Friday.

Journalist Zeynep Durgut, 5 defendants and their lawyers attended the hearing. The judge did not allow journalists into the hall. The women then made their defense saying that the police used violence against them and took them into custody.

In her defense, journalist Zeynep Durgut said that women who wanted to make a statement to protest violence against women were victims. Durgut added that she was a journalist and that she was following the incident as part of her duty.

The lawyers said that their clients were innocent, and the police intervention was unfair. The court postponed the hearing to 27 June.

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75-year-old ill woman jailed for sending money to her prisoner daughter

ANF | 23 MARCH 2024

A lawsuit was filed against 75-year-old prisoner mother Hatice Yıldız, who lives in Esenyurt, Istanbul, on the allegation of “funding an illegal organization” for sending money to her daughter in prison and her

daughter's cellmate. After a 3-year trial, Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court sentenced Hatice Yıldız to 4 years and 2 months in prison on the charge of "funding an illegal organization". The decision of the local court was approved by the Court of Appeal.

Following the decision, the police went to the house of Hatice Yıldız, who suffers from many health problems. Hatice Yıldız was taken out of the house on a stretcher. She was first taken to the hospital by ambulance and then to Bakırköy Women's Closed Prison after the procedures at the courthouse.

Hatice Yıldız's son, Alper Yıldız, said: "Until today, sending money to prison has not been considered a crime by the law in Turkey. This decision is made within the framework of enemy law."

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81 bar associations expose increase in sexual crimes against children

ANF | 24 MARCH 2024

It was revealed that M. Ş. systematically raped many children in Istanbul's Bağcılar district, while in Malatya A.C. was arrested for sexually abusing a 7-year-old child. After the crimes were made public, the bar associations of 81 cities issued a joint statement.

According to the data published by the Turkish Statistical Institute, wrote the bar associations in their statement, "incidents of child sexual abuse have tripled in the last nine years."

The statement underlined that M.Ş. was tried for the same crime in 2009 and was acquitted due to "lack of evidence".

The statement added that preventive policies should be created and attention was drawn to international agreements. "The need to implement the child protection convention, to which we have the status of a party state, with all its elements, increases in importance day by day."

The statement also asked to expand the scope of the 'Commission for the Investigation of Child Abuse' established within the Parliament and to create a permanent 'Child Rights Commission'. The bar associations said: "It is essential to rearrange Child Protection Law No. 5395 on the basis of the basic principles of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse." The bar associations also drew attention to the importance of social solidarity.

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YJŞ joins the campaign ‘Against femicide – be the voice of self-defense’

ANF | SHENGAL | 25 MARCH 2024

The Yazidi Women's Freedom Movement (Tajê) launched an international campaign dubbed 'Against femicide – be the voice of self-defense' on 8 March.

From March 8th, 2024, International Women's Day, until August 3rd, 2024, the tenth anniversary of the genocide and femicide in Shengal (Sinjar), women will raise their voices against femicide and for the self-defense of all women worldwide. The goal is to collect the voices, signatures and participation of various women and women's organizations in this campaign.

In a statement on Monday, the Shengal Women's Units (YJŞ) announced its participation in the campaign, saying the following:

“Throughout the history of humanity, women have been able to preserve their characteristics of defence, construction and innovation. Women have stood against all kinds of violence and pioneered in the resistance against violence against society. Hundreds of women have written their names in history with their resistance, stance and defiance. Women have always been the protectors of culture, future and beliefs. If some values have been preserved from history to the present day, it is thanks to women. Women continue to protect social values with this characteristic. The male-dominated mentality could not tolerate this resistance of women and wanted to keep women captive under the influence of their own shadows with various cunning. When women could not be kept under the influence of these cunning methods, brutal attacks were launched against society. With these attacks, the place of women in society was targeted and the reality of women was intended to be destroyed.

“The most concrete example of this is the experience of Yazidi women during the genocide carried out by ISIS gangs in 2014. When the onslaught against our society was launched, the reality of the misogynist mentality became much clearer. There was silence against the abduction, murder and rape of Yazidi women. Yesterday Yazidi women, today Afghan and Palestinian women are facing this horrible reality of the male-dominated mentality. Women are kidnapped, murdered and raped, but no one cares. However, thanks to the organisation of women at this stage, they cannot eliminate the reality of women, no matter what they do.

The same mentality continues to attack women today. Especially under the name of honour, femicides are tried to be legitimised. Underneath all these attacks lies the fear they experience due to the reality of women. They are afraid of women's power and resistance. The enemy sees that women are strong-willed, that they do not accept the fate imposed on them and that they rebel against it. The concrete example of this is YPJ, YJA Star, HPJ and YJŞ.

As Yazidi women, we have a history of never accepting the persecution imposed on us. We have taken this stance from Xatuna Fexra, Meyan Xatun, Zerika Osê, and today we continue to preserve and maintain our resistance thanks to the likes of Bêrivan, Zilan, Ezda and Şayan.

The main purpose of the ‘Against femicide – be the voice of self-defense’ campaign is to stand against all kinds of oppression and violence, to build the unity of women and to defeat the ongoing attacks radically. On this basis, as YJŞ, we announce our participation in this campaign initiated under the leadership of TAJÊ. We express once again that we are ready to give the greatest response to all kinds of attacks and oppression wherever we are.

We are convinced that with this campaign we will stop all forms of violence and secure women’s freedom.”

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Racist attack against the Kurds in Belgium

Racist attacks target Kurds in Belgium

ANF | BRUSSELS | 25 MARCH 2024

After lynching attacks by Turkish nationalists in Heusden Zolder, at least six Kurds ended up in hospital, some with serious injuries. Two of them are said to be in a critical condition, Belgian police and hospital circles said late on Sunday night. The police were deployed with numerous emergency services, a helicopter and a water cannon to bring the situation under control. An arson attack on the home of a Kurdish family was apparently prevented at the last moment.

On Sunday, several thousand people celebrated the Kurdish New Year Newroz in Kessel-Lo, a district of the Belgian city of Leuven. Apparently informed about the event and the participation of Kurds, several hundred fascists with a Turkish background arranged to meet for a “protest”, which turned very violent.

Anti-Kurdish racism in the middle of Europe

In Belgium, a Kurdish family was attacked by a Turkish mob that threatened to lynch them and set their apartment on fire. The family was brought to safety by the Kurdish community.

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KCDK-E calls for emergency action in front of European Parliament after racist attacks against Kurds

ANF | 25 MARCH 2024

On Sunday, mobs of Turkish fascists and racists attacked Kurds in Heusden-Zolder.

The attackers tried to set a Kurdish house on fire, destroyed and looted vehicles and set out to lynch Kurds. Six Kurds were seriously injured in the attacks. The largest European umbrella organization of the Kurdish diaspora, KCDK-E, has today called for an emergency protest action at 12 pm in front of the European Parliament in Brussels.

The KCDK-E statement said: "At a time when millions of people in all parts of Kurdistan and hundreds of thousands in Europe filled the squares with passion and the spirit of national unity, turning the Newroz celebrations into a major act of popular resistance, the Turkish state again resorted to its strategy of fascist terror in Belgium."

The statement added: "We condemn the Belgian government and the Belgian police for giving free rein to the fascist gangs of the Turkish state, which have vowed to shed Kurdish blood in front of their eyes."

The mask of fascism has fallen

The spirit of resistance that began in Cologne has spread almost everywhere in Europe and was particularly strong at the Newroz festival in Frankfurt. The world now hears and recognizes the voice of this resistance. Friends all over the world are supporting this struggle. The mask of the fascist Turkish state and the dictator Erdoğan has fallen."

The racist attack in Belgium was planned

The statement continued: "The political offensive of the Kurdish freedom movement and its global resonance and the growing spirit of national unity have enraged the fascist and warmongering Turkish state. The Turkish state, which is in deep crisis both at home and abroad and is threatened with defeat, has no choice but to deepen the crisis and the war."

It is precisely for this reason that provocations against the Kurdish population in Europe are now taking place. In Belgium, an attempt was made to create a street battle through a fascist attack orchestrated by the Turkish consulate, with the Belgian police simply watching. The fascist lynch mob tried to set fire to the houses of Kurdish families and beat people from Kurdistan to death in the streets."

The statement said: "The Kurdish people should stand shoulder to shoulder against fascist attacks by maintaining their will and organization wherever they are and by arming and preparing themselves against such provocations. Knowing this, our people must protect themselves in a determined and organized manner from fascist provocations and attacks."



Kurds in Geneva and Bern protest racist attacks carried out in Belgium

ANF | BERN | 25 MARCH 2024

Kurds got together at the Geneva central train station on Sunday night following a call to protest issued by TCŞ (Tewgera Ciwanên Şoreşger) and TekoJIN (Jinen Ciwanên Tekoşer) and made a statement about the racist attack that took place in the Belgian city of Leuven.

TCŞ member Botan Cizîr said: “As you know, there was an attack on a Kurdish family who returned from the Newroz celebrations. Turkish racist fascists attacked this Kurdish family. Just as they burned our people and families in the basements of Cizre, they also tried to burn our families in the attack attempt in Belgium. We strongly condemn this despicable attack. As TCŞ Geneva young people, we condemn this attack, and we call on everyone to protect our people.” The action ended with a march.

Protest in Bern

In the city of Bern, Kurds also protested the racist attack by taking to the streets and called for more actions.

The statement read at Bahnhofplatz said: “Hundreds of fascist Turks attacked Kurds returning from the Newroz celebration. As young Kurdish people, we will not remain silent about this attack. We call on all the young people to take to the streets.” More protests against the racist attacks are planned for today, Monday.



Outrage in Brussels over racist attack against Kurds

ANF | BRUSSELS | 25 MARCH 2024

In the town of Heusden-Zolder in the Limbourg region of Belgium yesterday, a large group of Kurds, mostly families from Rojava, were attacked by hundreds of AKP-MHP racists. Dozens of people were threatened with being burnt in a house where they took shelter. Several people were injured during the attack, one of them in serious condition.

Hundreds of Kurds and their friends from different parts of Europe gathered in front of the European Parliament in Brussels today in protest at the attack.

During the protest action in Luxembourg Square, slogans such as “Revenge”, “Fascist Erdoğan”, “Dictator Erdoğan” were frequently chanted. PKK, PJAK, KJAR flags as well as posters of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan were displayed, as well as a large poster of Abdullah Öcalan and a PKK flag.

A statement by the Democratic Council of Kurdistan Community in Belgium (NAV-BEL) emphasised that these attacks are not independent of the anti-Kurdish policies of the Turkish state. It was said that the families returning from the Newroz celebration were attacked with the chants of takbir and those trapped in a house were intended to be burnt.

According to the statement, 7 Kurds were wounded in the attack and no news was received from one of them. “This is not the first attack, and obviously, it will not be the last.”

The statement called on the Belgian authorities to guarantee the security of the Kurds and to put pressure on the Turkish state to respect the law and equality.

Zübeyde Zümrüt, Co-chair of KCDK-E (Congress of Democratic Communities of Kurdistan in Europe), pointed out that the attack came at a time when the international campaign for the freedom of Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a solution to the Kurdish question grew and said, “They want this campaign to remain in the shadow of fascism.”

PYD European Representative Mizgin Ehmed said: “This attack and the attacks that took place on 19 March (in Rojava) are not directed against a family, but against the cause of the Kurdish people”.

Mizgin Ehmed added: “As the cause of the Kurdish people grows, as national unity grows, as our people grow stronger, our enemy goes crazy and attacks our people.”

During the protest action, there were frequent tensions with the police. The police used tear gas against the protesters, while anti-riot vehicles and police were deployed to the protest area in a short time. The organisers often had to intervene to defuse the tension.



Attack against Kurds in Belgium protested in various German cities

ANF | 26 MARCH 2024

The racist attacks against Kurds in Belgium were protested in the German cities of Leipzig, Frankfurt, Giessen and Darmstadt.

Leipzig

The East German Federation of Free Kurds (FED-KURD) organized a protest in Leipzig central train station. Hundreds of Kurds condemned the attacks carried out by a fascist mob against Kurds in Belgium last Sunday.

Statements were made in German and English condemning the AKP-MHP government and the Turkish state.

Frankfurt

Dozens of Kurdish people gathered at the Frankfurt Central Train Station in a demonstration protest in solidarity with Kurdish families who were subjected to racist attacks by AKP-MHP affiliated mobs in the Belgian town of Heusden Zolder.

Giessen

The attacks against Kurds in Belgium were condemned at a protest event held in Giessen. Kurds and their friends protested the attack and sent messages of solidarity and unity.

Representatives of the Kurdish community, German citizens and civil society organizations from Giessen and its surroundings attended the protest.

Representatives of the Kurdish community in Giessen stated that the security of Kurds and other minorities living in Germany should be ensured, and asked the German government and the international community to condemn such attacks and take precautions.

Darmstadt

The attack by AKP-MHP fascists on Kurdish people returning home from the Newroz celebration in Belgium was also protested in Darmstadt. A declaration of the Congress of Democratic Societies of European Kurdistan (KCDK-E) was read in German during the protest.

FCDK-KAWA Federation co-chair Mehmet Çopan said: “The fascists linked to the Turkish state once again showed their dirty and barbaric face in Belgium. But they should know that they cannot intimidate the Kurdish people with such attacks.”

FEDA condemns racist attack against Kurds in Belgium

ANF | 26 MARCH 2024

The Democratic Alevi Federation (FEDA) condemned the organized racist attack against Kurds in Belgium and called on both the entire Alevi community and the democratic people, as well as relevant institutions, organizations and states, to take a stance against such attacks orchestrated by the Turkish state.

FEDA said: “Last Sunday, a group of fascists in Heuzen-Zolder attacked the house of a family from Rojava who were returning from the Newroz celebration. The fascist mob tried to burn down the house of a Kurdish family and damaged the vehicles parked in front of it. As a result of the attack, 6 Kurds were injured. Belgian police rescued our injured people and took them to the hospital.”

European states providing support in the war against the Kurds pave the way for attacks

The statement continued: “The European states are also responsible for this attack, because they provide all kinds of support to the Turkish state’s war preparations against the Kurds, and are therefore helping pave the way for similar attacks.

FEDA strongly condemns and protests this fascist attack orchestrated by the Turkish state. We call on both the entire Alevi community and the democratic people, as well as relevant institutions, organizations and states, to take a stance against such attacks.”



Racist lynching attempt against a Kurd in Heusden-Zolder

ANF | BRUSSELS | 26 MARCH 2024

According to the Belgian media, a new incident took place in Heusden-Zolder on Monday afternoon. While the police and media did not question the racist lynching attempt, the arrows were directed at a person who made a victory sign in a car with German licence plates passing through the town.

After the driver made a victory sign, racists reportedly gathered, attacked and physically assaulted the driver.

According to reports, police patrolling the area briefly detained the driver instead of intervening against the racists. The police prepared an official report against the driver to be sent to the public prosecutor’s office.

In the municipality of Heusden-Zolder, a large group of Kurds, mostly families from Rojava, were attacked by hundreds of AKP-MHP racists on 24 March. Dozens of people were threatened with being burnt to death in a house where they had taken refuge, and many people were injured during the attacks, one of them in serious condition.



NAV-BEL calls for an end to the tension after Turkish fascist group attacked Kurds in Belgium

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

Belgian Democratic Kurdistan Communities Council NAV-BEL published a written statement regarding the racist attack suffered by a Kurdish family returning from a Newroz event held in Leuven, Belgium, on 24 March.

In a statement, NAV-BEL said: “A Kurdish family who had to migrate from the occupied city of Afrin and other Syrian Kurds were surrounded and attacked by a Turkish racist and fascist mob.” The family and neighbors who were attacked called the police and asked for help. The family also asked for help from their relatives. After hearing about the incident, the Kurds who came to the aid of the family were confronted by the fascist Gray Wolves. This fascist group attacked Kurds in the streets for hours. As a result, many Kurdish people were injured and taken to hospitals.”

The statement continued: “On the day of the incident, we took care of the injured and the family that was attacked. We tried to calm down the events in constant contact with the municipal authorities and the police force. We made a peaceful press statement in Brussels the next day to protest the racist attack, reduce tension and give a peaceful message to our society. As NavBel, we immediately took the initiative to avoid further provocations and to reduce tensions. We took care of the injured and their families. And since our initiative, we have been in constant contact with municipal authorities and police services. To reduce tensions, we organized a political and peaceful protest in Brussels the next day to convey our peaceful message to our community. Since the day of that brutal attack, there have unfortunately been many provocative and unfortunate incidents. As NavBel, we do not approve this at all. As a community organization, we have consistently called for acting within the legal framework. We call on our community to act only within the legal, humane and peaceful framework. We reject anything that falls outside of that. Belgian laws must be respected. We reject the violent events that have occurred in recent days and call for calm.”



KCDK-E: Turkish state seeks provocations in Europe

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

The Congress of Democratic Societies of Kurdistan in Europe (KCDK-E) released a statement, saying that, “The fascist attacks, which started in Belgium and escalated in many centres of Europe, continue to increase.”

The statement continued as follows:

“Especially dictator Erdogan’s anti-Kurdish statements, Hakan Fidan’s provocative propaganda in Europe, fascist gang groups organised through the Turkish state’s intelligence networks, consulates and mosques are aimed at creating an environment of conflict with Kurdish youth on the streets to frustrate the freedom struggle and gains.

The worldwide impact of the international campaign, the mass march of hundreds of thousands of people in Cologne on 17 February and the Newroz of resistance, which reached hundreds of thousands in almost every centre of Europe, disturbed the genocidal Turkish state.

As always, the plan to create an atmosphere of conflict in Europe by straining the patience of the Kurdish people and youth was put into action. Just like in Madımak, the Belgian police and authorities stood by and watched the attempts to burn down the house of a family in Belgium with the people inside.

The mass reactions in the face of the Kurdish people’s just reaction and protest at the barbaric method are clearly aimed at escalation by provoking fascist gangs.

In order to protect the gains of our rising struggle that brought hundreds of thousands of people to the streets, we must act with the attitude of not falling for provocations all over Europe and frustrating the ambitions of the fascist Turkish state. Let no one criminalise our just and legitimate struggle. We call on our people, our institutions, our assemblies to take a stance in the direction of not allowing any means and methods other than democratic reaction to the events.

No fascist and racist attack will be able to prevent the just and freedom struggle of the Kurdish people. Our just and legitimate struggle will win.”

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Racists attacks against Kurds in Belgium protested in Aachen

ANF | AACHEN | 28 MARCH 2024

The attempt by Turkish racists to lynch a Kurdish family who returned to their home in the town of Heusden-Zolder after attending the Newroz event held in Leuven on 24 March, was protested in Aachen.

At the rally, declarations of condemnation of the attack and support for the Kurdish people were read by Democratic Union Party PYD representative Abdurrahman Dêrikî.

The declarations exposed the policies of the Turkish state based on racism, fascism and genocide against the Kurds in Turkey and outside of Turkey.

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The racist attack against Kurds in Belgium protested in Nuremberg

ANF | NUREMBERG | 28 MARCH 2024

A rally was held in Nuremberg to protest the attacks by Turkish fascists against Kurds returning from the Newroz celebration in Heusden-Zolder, Belgium, on 24 March.

The protest was organized by the Democratic Kurdish Community Center (DKTM). The representative of the DKTM said: “This attack was carried out on the instructions of fascist Erdoğan, encouraged by Europe’s hypocritical policies towards the Kurds. This and similar attacks are not the first and will not be the last, unfortunately.” The representative added that European states’ silence in the face of these fascist attacks is what harms Kurds the most.

The Democratic Union Party PYD representative said: “The Kurdish people are shouting for their freedom by using their democratic rights. Unable to tolerate the resistance shown by our people during Newroz, the fascist Turkish state is attacking the Kurds by releasing fascists into the streets. And, unfortunately, European countries do not see these attacks and remain silent about these massacres, like they remained silent about the killings carried out by the Turkish state in Paris between 2013 and 2022. Every attack against the Kurds is carried out with the courage taken from your silence.”

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KON-MED warns the Kurdish people and organisations of ‘provocations’

ANF | 28 MARCH 2024

In a written statement, KON-MED said, “We must be careful against the provocations of the enemies of the Kurdish people at a time when the campaign started in 2023 with the slogan ‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question’ and which is still successfully continuing has turned into concrete gains.”

The statement continued: “On the evening of 24 March, Kurds, mostly Rojava families, were attacked by hundreds of AKP-MHP fascists in the Belgian town of Heusden-Zolder on their way back from the Newroz celebrations. Dozens of Kurds were threatened with being burnt in a house where they took shelter and some were seriously injured in the attack. It should never be doubted that these attacks are an organised provocation of the fascist Turkish state and intelligence. Of course, there is nothing more natural than to show our reaction against these attacks by using our democratic right. However, we would like to draw attention to some issues.

Especially in the Newroz celebrations in Frankfurt on 23 March, the common will of the four parts of Kurds living in Europe came to the fore. The efforts of hundreds of thousands of Kurds to participate in the Newroz celebrations in Frankfurt were incomparably different from previous years. The people of Kurdistan not only grasped the meaning of Newroz for themselves but also appreciated the philosophy, will and organisation that represent it. Most of all, this Newroz revealed the desire of the people of Kurdistan for unity.

Despite all regional and class contradictions, the fact that masses from four parts of Kurdistan take sides behind the freedom struggle, unite, see their hope and future in the success of the democratic society, and that the freedom struggle and Leader Abdullah Öcalan are respected and appreciated by the peoples of the world, especially in Europe, are not ordinary or simple developments. These developments are the result of a serious effort, cost and sacrifice ranging from civil society areas to Medya Defence Zones.

At a time when such historical social developments and gains have turned into great morale and energy, they are trying all kinds of efforts and provocations to defame the Kurdish people and their institutions and organisations that are waging the freedom struggle and to draw them back to a backdrop.

The forces that want to dismantle the Kurdish people's will for unity, which was revealed with Newroz, by putting contradictions between the people, are organising provocations in Europe to make the Kurds look like a violent, unconscious and uncontrolled mass. The most recent attacks carried out against the Kurds in Belgium by the intelligence elements of the fascist Turkish state have been the most concrete proof of this.

We warn our patriotic people and organisations not to fall for the scheme of provocateurs in such a sensitive process. Of course, our people will not be a spectator to any dirty attempt directed against them and will give the necessary response. However, they will also pay attention that this is done within democratic boundaries and measures without deviating from the line of legitimate defence. Our victimized people should not be put in an untenable situation due to some out-of-control outbursts while expressing their justified reaction. If our people express their reaction in cold blood and without victimising others, they will prevent possible provocations meant to be organised in Belgium today and who knows where tomorrow.

As Kon-Med, we once again call on our people not to remain silent against attacks and at the same time to be careful against provocations.”

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DEM Party: AKP acts as the spokesperson of racists in Belgium

ANF | 28 MARCH 2024

On 24 March, Kurds, mostly families from Rojava, were attacked by hundreds of Turkish fascists in the Belgian town of Heusden-Zolder on their way back from the Newroz celebrations. Dozens of Kurds were threatened with being burnt in a house where they took shelter and some were seriously injured in the attack.

In a statement about the wave of attacks against Kurds and the following developments, the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) said: "The peaceful and enthusiastic celebrations of Newroz in Turkey and similar celebrations in many European cities could not be digested by the paramilitary groups fed and trained by the AKP-MHP alliance and racist attacks were carried out against Kurds returning to Brussels from the Newroz celebrations. Instead of condemning these attacks and calling for restraint, AKP officials assumed the mission to act as the spokesperson of paramilitary groups and opened the door to the escalation of tension."

The statement continued: "In the current process, when there is a very short time left before the elections, every statement directed against the Kurds living in Europe by turning racist attacks into a matter of debate for elections serves fascism and deadlock. We call on the government and its officials to immediately abandon this approach. We also call on all our people living in Europe not to fall for provocations and to act with common sense. In addition, we would like to publicly state that it will be an important step for the Belgian authorities to take legal action against the racist group that started the provocation so as to reduce the tension."



Local Elections in Turkey

5,000 soldiers and police officers transported to Iğdır to vote in local elections

ANF | IĞDIR | 24 MARCH 2024

Local elections will be held in Turkey on 31 March. Manipulations in favour of the ruling power bloc consisting of the Islamist Erdoğan party AKP and the ultranationalist MHP are observed almost daily, especially in provinces with a high proportion of Kurdish voters who are traditionally close to the parties of the democratic opposition.

The latest irregularities in voter registration are currently taking place in the province of Iğdır. Around 5,000 soldiers and police officers have been deployed to the region on the border with Armenia to vote. The civil servants have been flown to Iğdır by transport aircraft over the past few days. The last group of supposedly authorised voters landed at the province's airport yesterday evening.

It is reported that the governorate and the police have set up mobile dormitories to accommodate soldiers and police officers in many places in the center and the districts of Iğdır. Some of the security forces are said to have been accommodated in provincial administration facilities, at the site of the deportation centre and in the training hotel of the Faculty of Tourism, which is located on the Karaağaç campus of Iğdır University. Observers expect further transport of voters to Iğdır in the coming days.



DEM Party Youth Assembly members detained in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 27 MARCH 2024

More than 9 members of the Youth Assembly of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) were taken into custody during house raids in Istanbul.

While the reason of the detentions was not disclosed, the detainees are reportedly kept in the Istanbul Security Directorate.



Human Rights Violations

Three ESP and one ÖGK members sent to prison

ANF | IZMİR | 23 MARCH 2024

Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) deputy chair Ebru Yiğit, ESP PM members Birkan Polat and Hıdır Ali Kılıç, and Free Young Women's (ÖGK) Central Coordination member Sinem Çelebi, were taken into custody on the morning of 19 March as part of a police operation carried out in three cities within the scope of an Izmir-based investigation.

During the police interrogation, the four people who were asked about the 8 March and other press statements they participated in were also accused of the election activities they participated in during the general and local election campaigns. Secret witness statements were also asked in the file.

The four people were sent to prison by the Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the allegation of “membership in an organization”.



Youngsters who criticised Erdoğan tortured by the police

ANF | ADANA | 23 MARCH 2024

Two young people from the DEM Party (Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party) who criticised Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan among themselves while walking on İnönü Street in Seyhan district of Adana were tortured by the police in the middle of the street.

They were handcuffed behind their backs and taken onto a police bus and tortured inside the bus.

They were kept in the police bus for an hour, and they were pepper sprayed in their faces.

The youngsters were released after intervention by their lawyers.

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Three people, including two minors, imprisoned in Antep

ANF | ANTEP | 25 MARCH 2024

The hunger strike resistance led by HDP Hakkari MP Leyla Güven to demand the end of the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan spread to all prisons in Turkey in 2019 and 15 prisoners turned their hunger strike into a death fast.

Political prisoner Ayten Behçet carried out an action of self-sacrifice in Gebze Women's Closed Prison on 23 March as the hunger strike actions continued across the country.

5 young people, including 2 minors, who held a commemoration in Antep's central Güzelvadi neighbourhood for Ayten Behçet, were detained for chanting slogans.

The detainees were referred to the courthouse after procedures at the Juvenile Department of the Police. While 2 of them were released on condition of judicial control, K.Ö. (16), B.A. (17) and Ramazan Altıntaş (21) were arrested and sent to prison.

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Academic Nükhet Sirman taken into custody

ANF | 25 MARCH 2024

Boğaziçi University Feminist Collective said that Nükhet Sirman, an academic in the Department of Sociology, had been taken into custody.

The group said that research carried out by the academic was cited as a justification for the detention. The group wrote on its “X” account: “Nükhet Sirman, an academic in the Sociology Department of our school, was unlawfully taken into custody. She should immediately be released!”

Academics for Peace said: “Our teacher, friend, peace signatory Nükhet Sirman was unlawfully detained regarding a meeting she held within the scope of her field research and was subjected to arbitrary practices during the detention.”



MLSA tells Council of Europe that at least 28 Kurdish events have been canceled

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

MLSA Turkey has briefed the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers on bans on Kurdish concerts and theater performances. According to the communication, since 2019, at least 28 Kurdish events have been banned in 16 cities across Turkey for various reasons. Among these banned Kurdish events, 18 were concerts, eight were theater plays, and the list also includes a stand-up show and a literary talk.

In its analysis examining the right to assembly and demonstration in Turkey, focusing on the Oya Ataman group cases, MLSA discussed bans on Kurdish concerts, theater, and other cultural events. Referring to its previous briefing on the Ulusoy case last year, MLSA communicated that since the beginning of 2024, at least two Kurdish concerts and two Kurdish theater plays have been canceled without just cause. The banned events of 2024 include the theater play “Qral u Travis” and a concert by Metin-Kemal Kahraman.

MLSA stated in its communication that the Council should urge Turkey to provide information and end arbitrary practices by administrative authorities.

What is a 9.2 Notification?

A 9.2 Notification refers to communications made by non-governmental organizations to the Committee of Ministers, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights’ decisions, to inform the Committee. MLSA frequently submits 9.2 Communications about violations of freedom of expression in Turkey, thereby keeping the Council informed. In 2024, MLSA submitted notifications for the Öner and Türk case groups and the Işıkkırık and Türkiye case groups and shared findings from its trial monitoring program with the Committee of Ministers at the beginning of March.

Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA)

Media and Law Studies Association (MLSA) is a non-profit organization founded in Istanbul (registered as Medya ve Hukuk Çalışmaları Derneği) founded in December 2017 to respond to an urgent and growing need for a return to democracy and normalization in Turkey by providing pro bono legal support to journalists whose freedom of expression is violated. MLSA’s legal unit provides legal representation and coun-

selling services to journalists whose freedom of expression is threatened without considering their affiliations, political views, gender or ethnicity. MLSA legal unit also conducts strategic litigation services where there is a systematic violation of freedom of expression. MLSA also maintains a trial monitoring program since 2017; the program has monitored more than 2.500 hearings in all over the country. The program monitors cases where the freedom of expression and or freedom of assembly is concerned.

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Academic Sirman released under judicial control

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

Prof. Dr. Nükhet Sirman, an anthropologist who retired from Boğaziçi University, was taken into custody in Istanbul on 23 March and brought to Mersin within the scope of the operation carried out by the Mersin Gendarmerie Provincial Directorate.

She was released on Tuesday under judicial control measures. She was also banned from traveling abroad.

The reason for the detention is reportedly related to one of Sirman's research subjects being under police surveillance.

Sirman, co-founder of the Dissensus Research Company, is also among the academics who signed the Peace Petition criticizing the government's practices during the 2015-16 conflict in Kurdish regions, leading to the dismissal of over 1,000 academics from their positions.

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Police take eight people into custody in Şirnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 27 MARCH 2024

According to the information received, many houses were raided in Şirnak center and Cizre and Silopi districts in the morning and eight people were taken into custody.

In the raids, carried out by soldiers and police, Şehirban Ruvanas, Zeliha Oğuz, Süphan Ergün, Mizgin Kaya, Dilan Danker, Nurcan Ayas, Muhammed Yanar and Mustafa Biliç were detained and taken to Şirnak Provincial Police Department. The reason for the detention was not disclosed.

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Over 30 people detained in Şırnak and Urfa

ANF | 27 MARCH 2024

According to reports from the ground, many houses in the centre and districts of Şırnak were raided in the morning.

At least 26 people were detained and taken to Şırnak Provincial Security Directorate. The reason for the detentions was not disclosed.

On the other hand, soldiers raided several houses in the Bozova district of Urfa.

Three people named Rızgar Güneş, Hasari Kılıç and Yasin Güneş were detained in the rural neighbourhood of Cûrnûs.

On the grounds of the same investigation, Mahmut Yolcu was detained in Koçveren rural neighbourhood and Sabri Taş, a polling station attendant of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) was detained in Milke rural neighbourhood.

During the raids, windows of houses were broken arbitrarily and belongings were scattered. The reason for the detentions was not disclosed.

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EMEP was prevented from supporting Emine Şenyaşar

ANF | ANKARA | 28 MARCH 2024

On 14 June 2018, the bodyguards and relatives of AKP Urfa MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız attacked the Şenyaşar family's shop in Suruç during the election campaign.

In the attack, brothers Celal, Adil, Mehmet, Fadıl and Ferit Şenyaşar were severely injured and hospitalized. Relatives and supporters of AKP MP Yıldız killed Celal and Adil Şenyaşar in hospital, and their father Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar, when he went to the hospital to see his sons. He was brutally murdered, being lynched in front of his wife, Emine Şenyaşar.

The Justice Vigil that Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit (Urfa DEM Party MP) started in front of the Turkish Ministry of Justice continues on its 64th day.

On Tuesday, the police did not allow Ankara Provincial executives and members of the Labor Party (EMEP) to visit Emine Şenyaşar. EMEP members had to leave.

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Akkuyu nuclear plant workers protest for unpaid wages

ANF | MERSIN | 28 MARCH 2024

Workers at the construction site of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant in Mersin have stopped working because they didn't receive their wages for a month.

Hundreds of workers decided to stop working on Tuesday morning, wrote Bianet. The workers are demanding to be paid but also improvements in working conditions and enhanced safety measures at the construction site.

The workers said they are ready to sit at a table with the authorities to talk about their demands, but they have also said that they will continue their protest until they receive their wages.

On Monday, 23 Akkuyu workers were injured after the bus transporting them had an accident.



HRW: Syrians face dire conditions in Turkish-occupied 'Safe Zone'

ANF | 29 MARCH 2024

Turkish authorities are deporting or otherwise pressuring thousands of Syrians to leave the country to Tel Abyad, a remote Turkish-occupied district of northern Syria where humanitarian conditions are dire, Human Rights Watch said.

Between January and June 2023, the Tel Abyad (Gire Spi) border crossing administration published monthly or daily numbers of Syrian returnees on its Facebook page, labeling all as voluntary. An analysis of the page reveals an over twofold increase compared to the same period in 2022. While Turkey in the past maintained that all returns are voluntary, Human Rights Watch research has [found](#) that Turkish forces have, since at least 2017, arrested, detained, and summarily deported thousands of Syrian refugees, often coercing them into signing "voluntary" return forms and forcing them to cross into northern Syria. Turkish authorities did not respond to a letter Human Rights Watch sent on February 1 sharing research findings and requesting information.

"Turkey's 'voluntary' returns are often coerced returns to 'safe zones' that are pits of danger and despair," said Adam Google, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "Turkey's pledge to create 'safe zones' rings hollow as Syrians find themselves forced to embark on perilous journeys to escape the inhumane conditions in Tel Abyad."

Human Rights Watch has seen border crossing statistics from Turkey into Syria provided by an informed source, revealing discrepancies with data published on the official Facebook pages of the three operational

border crossing administrations in categorizing returns. The statistics provided reveal that between January and December 2023, Turkish authorities deported 57,519 Syrians and others over its border crossings, including 16,652 through the Tel Abyad crossing. Analysis of official page data show variations in reporting practices, with one crossing, Bab al-Hawa, distinguishing between returnees and deportees, which match the statistics shared with Human Rights Watch, while the Bab al-Salama and Tel Abyad crossings do not.

According to the informed source, staff at all three border administrations interview every returnee and collect data, including on reason for return, but Turkish officials have successfully pressured the Bab al-Salama and Tel Abyad border administrations not to publish deportation numbers. This has left Bab al-Salama, since at least September 2022, categorizing all returns as simply “returns” and Tel Abyad, since at least January 2021, categorizing all returns as “voluntary.” Before September 2022, Bab al-Salama used to publish how many of the overall returns were voluntary. Tel Abyad stopped publishing data on returns in June 2023.

In 2023, Turkey increased the number of Syrians it sends back via Tel Abyad, which has been under the control of the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army since 2019. Turkey says it aims to turn areas of northern Syria under its control, including Tel Abyad, into “safe zones,” but in reality, these areas are rife with human rights abuses. Turkey’s incursion into the 150 kilometer-long strip of land between Raqqqa and al-Hasakeh provinces displaced hundreds of thousands of people, forcing them to flee their homes.

In May 2022, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced a plan to create a “safe zone” in the Turkish-occupied territories of northern Syria and build homes to accommodate up to one million Syrians living in Turkey. A Human Rights Watch [report](#) published on February 29 documented serious human rights abuses and potential war crimes committed primarily by Turkey-backed local armed groups in these lawless and insecure areas. Human Rights Watch also found that members of the Turkish Armed Forces and intelligence agencies were involved in carrying out and overseeing abuses.

According to HRW, the lack of access to other parts of Syria has compelled some deportees to turn to expensive and dangerous smuggling routes to escape the harsh conditions of Tel Abyad. Deportees who have had to use dangerous smuggling routes said that there is unofficial cooperation between smugglers and the Syrian National Army (SNA) and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which control the borders of the enclave. They said it costs between US\$300 and \$500 to be smuggled to another region in Syria, and more than \$1,000 to be smuggled back to Turkey.

HRW pointed out that: “As the occupying power in Tel Abyad, Turkey has an obligation to maintain law and order and public life and protect Syrians there from violence, whatever the source. Turkey is bound by both its international humanitarian law and international human rights law obligations to ensure that its own officials and those under its command do not commit violations of international law, to investigate alleged violations, and ensure that those responsible are appropriately punished.”

“Turkey is a party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the 1951 Refugee Convention. As such, and as a matter of customary international law, it is obliged to respect the principle of nonrefoulement, which forbids returning anyone to a location where they would face a real risk of persecution, torture or other cruel treatment, or a threat to their life. Turkish Law 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP), issued in

April 2013, offers Syrians “temporary protection in Turkey, ensures their non-refoulement, and guarantees their stay until safety is established in their original countries,” HRW stated.

“Deportees to Tel Abyad have painted a bleak picture of conditions in Turkey’s touted ‘safe zone,’ one where they are deprived of basic necessities, including shelter and sustenance, and forced to resort to perilous options to leave,” Coogler said.

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Newroz 2024

Kurds and their friends celebrate Newroz in Paris

ANF | PARIS | 24 MARCH 2024

The Kurdish Democratic Council of France (CDK-F) held a large Newroz celebration in the Paris suburb of Villiers le Bel on Saturday. The celebration was dedicated to the campaign for the release of Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question.

The participants listened to speeches from Kurdish, Armenian and French politicians, as well as a message from the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

The PKK, referring to the Newroz legend in which the blacksmith Kawa defeated the tyrant Dehaq and announced the good news with a bonfire, said: “We call on all people whose hearts burn for freedom to fight against the Dehaqs of today.”

Artists Hozan Aydın, Mem û Zîn Botan and Ferhat Tunç performed at the celebration, as did a folk group from the Kurdish cultural movement TEV-ÇAND.

A performance by the Revolutionary Youth Movement (Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger), in which a replica Turkish combat drone went up in flames, was received with great enthusiasm.

A few days ago, the HPG command announced the good news of this year's Newroz, saying that the guerrillas now have a defense system against Turkey's armed drones and have shot down 15 drones in southern Kurdistan within the past year.

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Thousands celebrate Newroz in Vienna and Graz

ANF | 24 MARCH 2024

Thousands of Kurds gathered in Vienna and Graz to celebrate Newroz, the Kurdish New Year.

Vienna

Musicians Delîl Xidir, Hîvron, Nûarîn, Bengîn Agirî and Bajar performed at the Gasometer in Vienna and delighted the participants. The event began with a minute's silence in memory of those who fell in the Kurdish freedom struggle.

After a minute of silence in memory of the Kurdistan Freedom Martyrs, the history of Newroz and its importance for the Kurdish people were explained. Avesta Women's Council Member Nurcan Güleriyüz made a speech and congratulated the Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and all the people of Kurdistan on Newroz. Güleriyüz said, "Today we are celebrating the Newroz of the women's freedom struggle that started as a result of the great efforts and intensification of Leader Öcalan. With the good news from the guerrillas, the meaning of this Newroz is different. Let this year be the year of freedom of Leader Öcalan." Nurcan Güleriyüz's speech was greeted with the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadî" (Woman, Life, Freedom) and applause.

Civaka Azad Co-Chair Ahmet Zirek congratulated everyone on Newroz and stated that the Kurdish people would get stronger. After the speeches, singer Delîl Xidir took the stage.

Speaking after, Democratic Union Party (PYD) Representative Mizgîn Ahmed asked no one to be fooled by the special war policies of the Turkish state, stating: "The state claims that there are no people left in Rojava. This is not true. Millions are in Rojava and demand the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan. We are not afraid. Everyone should unite around Leader Öcalan, and embrace their leader. No one should be fooled by lies and false news. No one should be fooled by the special war policies of the fascist Turkish state. On this occasion, I sincerely congratulate the freedom fighters on the mountains, Leader Öcalan, the comrades in prisons, the peace mothers and the Kurdish people on Newroz."

During the celebration, Defend Kurdistan's video message and a visual on Newroz were screened.

Hîvron, Nûarîn, Bengîn Agirî and Bajar took the stage and enthused the people with their songs, accompanied by dances.

Graz

Newroz was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Puchstrasse, Graz. During the event, the campaign for the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan was saluted and the demand for a solution to the Kurdish question was reiterated.

The programme started after a minute of silence in memory of the Newroz martyrs.

Ahmet Elban band, Koma Dem and Şivan Perwer performed at the celebration. Şivan Perwer pointed out that Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan has been resisting in prison for 25 years and said that Kurdish people should be a voice for their leader everywhere. Şivan Perwer pointed out that what was done for the freedom of Nelson Mandela should also be done for Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan. He emphasised that it is important that the international campaign initiated in this context is strongly embraced.

In a speech on the political process, Zübeyde Zümrüt, Co-Chair of the KCDK-E (Congress of Democratic Communities of Kurdistan in Europe), also congratulated Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, the Kurdish people and the guerrilla on Newroz. She also gave strong messages on Kurdish national unity and the line of betrayal.

The celebration ended with the Kurdish traditional dance accompanied by the music of Koma Dem.

Newroz events in Austria will end with celebrations in Linz and Innsbruck today.



Guerrillas celebrate Newroz in Xakurkê

ANF | XAKURKE | 24 MARCH 2024

Newroz celebrations are taking place all over Kurdistan, including in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). In the Xakurkê region in southern Kurdistan, guerrillas from the HPG (People's Defense Forces) and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) celebrated Newroz.

In Xakurkê, guerrilla units came together, lit a Newroz bonfire and held a military ceremony.

The guerrillas stated that they would raise the Newroz fire with the spirit of modern Kawas. The guerrillas noted that they would meet the process more ready than ever and fight with the spirit of victory.



Newroz in Ankara calls for an immediate end to the isolation of Öcalan

ANF | ANKARA | 24 MARCH 2024

Newroz was celebrated in Ankara with the slogan "Rabe dema azadî û serkeftinê ye" (Stand up, it is time for freedom and success). Thousands of people participated in the celebration, where slogans such as "Bijî Serok Apo" (Long Live Leader Öcalan) were frequently chanted and banners with the slogan "The End will be Magnificent" were displayed.

After a minute of silence, the letter sent to the people of Ankara by Gültan Kışanak, who is the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor candidate of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), was read. Then, the DEM Party's co-mayoral candidates in the city were called to the stage.

DEM Party Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor candidate Öztürk Türkdöğün said, "DEM Party is not only the party of Kurds, but also of leftists and socialists. It is the party of all marginalised groups. We will bring peace to this country. Dear friends, the DEM Party needs to get stronger in order to bring peace to the country. There are speculations about our party. I say it clearly from here; we do not want votes for anyone other than the DEM Party. We are not in alliance with anyone in Ankara. We only want votes for the DEM Party."

DEM Party Van MP Pervin Buldan drew attention to the messages given by the Kurdish people who filled the squares at Newroz and said: "Let them take a good look at these squares. The centre of politics, where decisions are taken in Ankara, should take a good look at these squares. We call out to the political will that takes decisions in Ankara; take a good look at these squares. The truth expressed in these squares is the Kurdish question. What is expressed in these squares is the peace of Turkey. By filling these squares, we are saying 'there is a Kurdish question in this country'. The fact that Gültan Kışanak, one of the candidates for this city, is in prison today is only one reality of the Kurdish question. Emine Şenyaşar's Justice Vigil in front of the Ministry of Justice is exactly the Kurdish question."

Reacting to the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Pervin Buldan said, "I salute the thousands of political prisoners who have put their bodies on hunger to end the isolation of Mr Öcalan. Isolation is a crime against humanity. We say once again from Ankara; the isolation should be lifted as soon as possible, Mr Öcalan should meet with his family and lawyers. Prisoners are starving their bodies, families are holding vigils for justice, freedom marches are organised so that isolation is lifted. But Ankara is playing the three monkeys. We will go to the polls in the elections and give them a great answer."

The celebration ended with the performance of singer Şilan Dora, accompanied by dance.



Iranian state forces torture Kurdish singer who performed at Newroz

ANF | 25 MARCH 2024

According to reports in Eastern Kurdistan (Rojhilat) media, Iranian state forces raided the house of singer Hasan Kakeyî last night on the grounds that he sang a Kurdish national anthem during the Newroz celebration in Bikan city. The 64-year-old singer was investigated by the Iranian state forces and severely tortured during detention. Kakeyî was reportedly released from detention.

On the other hand, Simko Nasrullah, a Kurd who was part of the preparatory committee of the Newroz event in Bikan, was detained by Iranian regime forces yesterday. No information is yet available about the fate of the Kurdish citizen.



Newroz celebrated in Toronto

ANF | TORONTO | 27 MARCH 2024

A Newroz celebration was held in Toronto, organized by the Kurdish Community Centre, TCŞ and Sara Women's Movement.

Sipan Xelat, Merwan Tan, Azat Aslan, Osman Mirwais and local artists took the stage at the celebration attended by thousands of people.

Toronto Democratic Kurdish People's Assembly co-chair said: "This fire will never go out and will become a symbol of resistance, struggle and, in the end, victory, not of pain and sorrow."

After the speeches, some videos were shown, including one of a speech by Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the last speech by People's Defense Center Headquarters Commander Murat Karayılan.

Rojhilat and Bakur dance groups then took the stage. Some Canadian MPs conveyed their Newroz messages by video.

KCK Executive Council member Zübeyir Aydar attended the celebration via internet.



YJA Star guerrillas celebrate Newroz in the mountains of Kurdistan

ANF | 28 MARCH 2024

Newroz celebrations have been taking place all over Kurdistan, including in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). The celebrations by the guerrillas are a special sign of strength, as the areas are under constant attack from Turkey.

Guerrillas of YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) organised a Newroz celebration with torches in the mountains of Kurdistan.

A press statement was made in a tunnel facility of the guerrilla forces before the celebration. The statement emphasised that even though there are oppressors like Dehaqs in history, there are also heroes like Kawa the Blacksmith and the likes of Mazlum against them.

Drawing attention to the international campaign for the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question, the statement said, "This campaign shows that Leader Öcalan's paradigm has become universal."

Noting that Öcalan's struggle in Îmralı has spread all over the world from Europe to Africa, the guerrillas celebrated the Newroz of Abdullah Öcalan, those resisting in prisons, resilient mothers for peace, the guerrillas and the peoples of the world with the spirit of "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" (Woman, Life, Freedom).

After the statement, the female guerrillas lit torches and came out of the tunnel chanting slogans and singing anthems of resistance.



Iranian state forces take Kurdish artist Zade into custody in Ilam

ANF | 29 MARCH 2024

The East Kurdistan Human Rights Organization reported that the 35-year-old artist was taken into custody after the Newroz celebrations in Shohan Melesha.

The organization said that Muhammed Abbas Zade was detained on the grounds that he chanted the slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" during Newroz.

Muhammed Abbas Zade was also detained in 2023 and released on bail.



Interview

'UN report on Syria important but deficient'

HIVDA HEBUN | QAMISHLO | 27 MARCH 2024

Xalid Ibrahim from the Foreign Relations Department of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) answered ANF's questions.

Xalid Ibrahim stated that their primary endeavour is to stop the war against the people and added, "Afterwards, it is to hold those who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity against our people to account."

The UN published its report on Syria on 11 March. Consisting of 36 pages, the report had very important findings. Similar reports are published every year, but nothing concrete and visible happens. Do these reports really have an impact?

As stated in the UN report on Syria, massacre, migration, plunder and economic crisis continue in these lands. In fact, similar reports are published every year by human rights defenders and their followers. We can look at this year's report a little more positively. Some correct observations have been made in the report. In particular, it is an important determination that the Turkish state attacks the infrastructure of the region, jeopardises the security of the region, causes crisis and chaos, and commits war crimes. It is positive that such a report was published, albeit late, but there are still some missing aspects in the report.

What are these deficiencies?

As the Democratic Autonomous Administration, we have already stated that international special commissions should have been established and that these commissions should have come and monitored the situation in the region. Of course, these suggestions of ours remain. Many international organisations and institutions from the region came and saw with their own eyes the results of the Turkish state's plundering policy. It is clear that what the Turkish state wants to do in these lands is to force the people of the region to migrate by dragging them into a chaos and crisis and to create a big war in the region. These, of course, fall under the category of war crimes. They have also seen all these, and these are also included in the report.

Although there are findings and determinations about the crimes of the Turkish state in the report, there is nothing with regard to the prosecution of the Turkish state for these crimes. This is a deficiency. Both the UN and international organisations should have taken a more concrete stance on this issue. It will not be enough just to mention it in the report and leave it at that. Of course, such reports have an impact, but if positive results cannot be achieved in the near future, they are of little importance. We say that the results of such reports should be revealed concretely. No matter who it is, the crimes committed must be paid for and held to account. Unfortunately, nothing like this has been done so far.

The crimes of the Turkish state against the region are actually very concrete. Will you take any initiative as the Democratic Autonomous Administration?

Everyone already sees and knows the war crimes of the Turkish state. Everyone sees the war crimes committed, especially against Afrin, Serêkaniyê, Girê Sipî and even the whole of Northern and Eastern Syria. We are constantly making great efforts on this issue. We work with the international community and organisations. We always have suggestions and projects. Our primary endeavour is to stop this war against our people. Afterwards, those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity against our people must be held to account. Unfortunately, we are experiencing political confusion. States have many political interests. These play a role.

You have stated that an international court should be established for the trial of ISIS detainees. Is there any work, initiative or development towards this?

As the Democratic Autonomous Administration, we see the issue of ISIS as an international terror problem. As everyone knows, even though ISIS was defeated territorially and militarily in Baghouz, it contin-

ues to exist with its mentality and sleeper cells. It still has activities both in different parts of Syria and in our region. It is trying to renew, organise and keep itself alive. They especially see the attacks of the Turkish state on our region as an opportunity to reorganise themselves. These efforts continue inside and outside the camps.

More than 60 thousand ISIS members are held in prisons. Again, many women and children were gathered in the Hol and Roj camps under the control of the Autonomous Administration. These people come from nearly 50 states. Of course, this creates a burden on the Autonomous Administration. This burden is very effective, both financially and legally. For this reason, we say that just as an international coalition was established in the war against ISIS, an international coalition should also be established to solve the problem of ISIS remnants. This is not only the responsibility of the Autonomous Administration and should not be left to the Autonomous Administration alone. It is also the duty of the international community and states. We have always issued calls for this. Some states want to take their citizens, but taking only these women and children is not a permanent and overall solution. This is only a small part of the solution.

We advocate for the development of an overall solution, involving the entire international community, including, of course, the Autonomous Administration. They have committed crimes against humanity; they represent international terrorism. In this sense, the international community must assume its legal responsibility. An international court must be established, and they must be held accountable.

Do international aid organisations support the Hol Camp where ISIS families are staying?

Actually, there are 15 camps in Northern and Eastern Syria and there are dozens of other unofficial camps. International organisations do not have much interest in these camps. They mostly focus on Hol and Roj camps. Of course, those who stay in both camps are the remnants of the war, but our people who stay in other camps also live in very difficult conditions. Therefore, international organisations and society should be sensitive towards these camps. They should extend their helping hands. Everyone knows that, especially the camps in Shehba are faced with difficulties. Recently, water has also been cut off in these camps. In this sense, we want all these organisations to show the same sensitivity and support for these camps as well.

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Besê Hozat: We started social resistance

ANF | BEHDINAN | 29 MARCH 2024

The co-chair of the KCK Executive Council, Besê Hozat, spoke about the importance of this year's Newroz, the situation of Abdullah Öcalan and the information about a possible new Turkish operation in South Kurdistan.

Do you have any evaluations regarding the situation of the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and, in particular, the struggle for his freedom?

First of all, I would like to congratulate Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] on this year's Newroz, which was celebrated in four parts of Kurdistan, in Turkey, and abroad in a magnificent way. On the occasion of Newroz, I would also like to congratulate our people, and I salute this strong participation from the heart. At the same time, I would like to respectfully and gratefully commemorate Mazlum Dogan and Zekiye Alkan, and through them, all the martyrs of Newroz. This week is the week of heroes. With respect and gratitude, I once again commemorate all the martyrs who fought for the revolution and freedom.

The struggle for freedom has reached a very important stage and has managed to turn Rêber Apo into more than just a leader for the Kurdish people, he has become a universal leader. In particular, the global campaign, which was launched on October 10 under the leadership of our international friends, has gained a global level. There has been a serious worldwide embrace of Rêber Apo, as his paradigm and ideas have spread worldwide. The conferences, workshops, concerts, the public reading of Rêber Apo's prison writings, the organization of reading days in many cities and countries in Europe, and the attempts to comprehend Rêber Apo's ideas have created a very important agenda on behalf of Rêber Apo and his freedom.

Parallel to this, the level of society's struggle within the movement has developed. Our people were constantly on their feet everywhere and continued their resistance. Especially in recent months, there has been a serious rise in awareness and action. In particular, the Freedom March in Northern Kurdistan was very meaningful. It started on February 1st and continued until February 15th. It started in Serhat, passed through Wan and Dersim, and finally reached its peak in Amed. Everywhere that the march passed, impressive public meetings and gatherings were organized. Historical sites and many places that are attributed great meaning and that have spiritual value for our people, were visited. Through this, the Freedom March played a very important role in the deepening and spread of the struggle for freedom and the intensification of the current agenda. It can be summarized that the political and social impact of this march was very strong. Also, the march on February 17, in Cologne, was really spectacular. In a way, it was the European leg of the Freedom March. Both the Freedom March in Northern Kurdistan and the Cologne March in Europe constituted a very important leap.

Also, while evaluating the march, the freedom vigil in Strasbourg that has been going on for years needs to be taken into consideration. On a weekly basis, our patriots and friends have been carrying out this action for years, taking over the vigil from one another. The struggle for freedom is a process that has started since the international conspiracy has been developing for 25 years. There is a resistance that developed along with the philosophy of the "You cannot darken our sun" campaign. This resistance continues uninterrupted until today. It globalized with the global campaign that was announced on October 10. But to come back to the freedom vigil in Strasbourg, it has played a very important role in spreading the ideas of Rêber Apo, his reality, philosophy, and ideology, to the world. In this sense, I would like to congratulate this action, which has now entered its 620th week, and highlight the great efforts that have been made for it.

Also, for over three months, our mothers have been organizing the Justice Watch. Such protests have developed in many cities in Kurdistan and even in some cities in Turkey. This has created a very important sensitivity in society. They have already made a strong contribution to the freedom struggle. Indeed, our

mothers represent the free morality and conscience of our society. That is what they also demonstrate by their actions. They appealed to the conscience of society. I would like to salute this action as well.

Also, there is the sacrificial resistance in the prisons, which has been going on for almost four months. I salute and congratulate this resistance of our comrades. From the establishment of our movement, our imprisoned comrades have been showing great resistance under the conditions of torture and war. They are a great example of dedication and sacrifice, and for years they have been a part of every step that was taken in the struggle for freedom. In various periods, the resistance of the movement has been pioneered by them. This process, which started in 2018 under Leyla Güven's leadership, really had a great impact. This resistance is the continuation of the July 14 attitude, of the line of Rêber Apo. I salute this resistance as well. This has added great strength to the struggle.

Again, there is the guerrilla resistance that has been going on for decades. The Kurdish Freedom Struggle, equally on a political and social level, has deepened through the resistance of the guerrilla. It has become popular and has become an invincible struggle. The guerrillas have been developing great heroism and resistance, carrying out very powerful actions, as they always have, especially since the development of the total genocide war which has been uninterruptedly continuing for the last eight years. The enemy is attacking with all its techniques and means. With the support of NATO, with the support and direct involvement of collaborating and treacherous forces like the KDP. But still, they cannot push the guerrilla back. They cannot weaken it, as it continues to resist and inflict great blows on the enemy. This is very meaningful. I salute this too. I congratulate the comrades on all their efforts.

The campaign has now clearly reached a very important stage. The Freedom March, the march of Cologne, and now Newroz, in which millions of people participated and took to the streets. It marks the beginning of the second phase of the global freedom campaign. And from here, we can see and say that from now on, the campaign will develop by spreading even more within society and reaching the masses. The guerrilla will, of course, play a strong role in this. Our people will be in resistance everywhere, and this resistance will grow. At the same time, the legal, diplomatic, and political struggle will develop and grow as a fundamental pillar of the campaign. In 2024, the campaign will achieve victory and fulfill its goals.

The current stage of the campaign can be named the second phase. This phase has been initiated by society through the very spectacular resistance which has been shown. This has made it very clear that this campaign will be a campaign of victory, that it will ensure the health, safety, and physical freedom of Rêber Apo, and that it will create the ground and climate for the democratization of Turkey through the democratic solution of the Kurdish question. In fact, the freedom of Rêber Apo means the solution to the Kurdish question, the democratization of Turkey, and the democratization of the Middle East. Therefore, this struggle is developing on the axis of Rêber Apo's freedom. This struggle will bring forth a revolution in democracy. We will carry out our duties within this campaign more strongly in the coming period.

There is also an important issue I would like to draw attention to within this agenda. Rêber Apo is under a great system of solitary confinement, isolation, torture, and genocide. For 25 years, there has been uninterrupted isolation and oppression. For the last three years, he has had no contact with the outside world. He cannot meet with his lawyers, he cannot meet with his family. No one knows what is going on in Imralı. We know from the policies being pursued that a war of genocide is being waged against the Kurds and that the epicenter of this is Imralı. We know that there is great pressure on Rêber Apo on Imralı and that

there are very serious impositions. We know that the pressure on Rêber Apo intensifies even more, especially during the elections. Rêber Apo does not give in to these pressures and impositions. Therefore, the isolation is aggravated.

This absolute isolation is being used by this fascist government against the Kurdish people, against the Kurdish Freedom Movement, as a trump card, as a political tool, as a tool of its special warfare, and as a bargaining chip. This gains even more height during the election. There are some traitors and collaborators that are dragged in front of the cameras during times like this. I listened to one the other day. He said, 'Öcalan is at a moderate, positive point. The problem is with the PKK. The problem is with the Kurds, who want freedom, who struggle for it. If they were to adopt an approach like Öcalan, the way for a solution would be paved. A new process can also begin.' The traitor who said this is a male MP of the AKP. If you say that Öcalan is on a positive line, then what is this solitary confinement on Imralı? For three years, neither his family nor his lawyers have been meeting with him. So let's say that this government sees the approach and the stance of Rêber Apo as positive for itself - and it says this, it speaks on behalf of the AKP, so it evaluates it that way - then how do you evaluate this total isolation that has been going on for years? They are waging a special war, and the traitor male MP who was speaking is just an element within this war. They try to confuse people. There are many people like this one traitor. They try to confuse people and create the wrong expectations. They do this a lot, especially during election periods. They try to get votes from Kurds by creating confusion and making up false expectations. In essence, they are trying to get votes for the AKP. In the last period, the special war has intensified a lot. This policy of the government is obvious. It fears that even one single word of Rêber Apo may cause a breakthrough. The government does not want this situation to be reflected in society. Because they know the effect that every word of Rêber Apo has on society.

They are aware of Rêber Apo's impact, they are aware of his influence. Because they are aware of this and because they are afraid of it, they impose solitary confinement and total isolation. They don't want even a single word of his to get out. Because they know the great impact that word will have on society, on the democratic public opinion, and that it will serve Turkey's democracy. They do not want democracy in Turkey. Now, without this lawlessness against Rêber Apo, without these antidemocratic practices, without this fascism, there would be law in Turkey. Since there are all kinds of unlawful practices against Rêber Apo and since the rules of law are not applied, there is lawlessness and injustice in Turkey. Corruption and theft are rampant. Turkey has become the headquarters and center of the mafia and drug dealers. Rapists are being released from prisons, as they are not subjected to any criminal sanction. International law is trampled underfoot. It had never been implemented either way. It does not apply its own law either. If it applied its own law, Imralı would not be possible.

If the law is applied in Imralı, the law will be applied in Turkey. If justice comes to Imralı, justice will come to Turkey. If a moral, humanitarian policy and approach is developed towards Imralı, politics in Turkey will be a bit more ethical. Now there is no law, no morality, no conscience in Imralı. Look at the situation in Imralı and you understand Turkey as a whole. No one should be fooled by this special war propaganda by people like that one MP of the AKP. I personally don't think that our people pay any attention to them. But just in case, some people may pay attention to them. The Erdoğan regime is waging a special war. They are after votes. This government is waging a total genocidal war on the Kurds. It is planning and preparing to persistently bring this genocidal war to a conclusion after the elections. All diplomatic, political activities, and military preparations are based on this. With the post-election period, it is preparing to deepen this total war, deepen the war even more and bring the war of genocide to a conclusion. That is

why, of course, we need to be sensitive to this special war propaganda. This is an attack on Rêber Apo, on Kurds in the person of Rêber Apo, it is an insult to Kurds. The special war propaganda and policies of these special war elements must be exposed everywhere and a strong struggle must be waged against it. This is also part of the campaign. Such things are being done to weaken the campaign. A very strong ideological, political and social struggle is needed against this.

What can you tell us about this year's Newroz celebrations, how do you evaluate them and what was the message of the people?

This year's Newroz was the most magnificent and powerful one in recent years. Millions of people took to the streets. They turned the areas of celebration into a sea of people. It was like this in the four parts of Kurdistan, in North and East Kurdistan, it was very enthusiastic and magnificent. It was also very glorious in Rojava. Very magnificent pictures reached us from Kobanê, Qamişlo, and Heseke everywhere, and there was even such strong participation despite Ramadan. Also, the Newroz in Qendîl was strong. On the day of Newroz, Turkish warplanes flew around constantly and bombed several places. But despite that, the participation was really good, and the Newroz in Qendîl ended successfully.

Of course, the most spectacular Newroz this year was in North Kurdistan and Turkey. And in Amed, it has reached its peak. We saw a very magnificent Newroz in Amed, many cities in Kurdistan were like that. For example, the celebration in Wan was really spectacular. Also, Cizîra was really magnificent, as well as Urfa, Siirt, Batman, Mardin, and Dersim had a strong Newroz this year. So was Serhat. For the first time this year, there were really spectacular Newroz celebrations in Turkish cities. For example, Istanbul almost competed with Amed. There was a sea of people right next to the Marmara Sea. It was a Newroz that gave people enthusiasm and excitement. Outside of Istanbul, it was also celebrated in Bursa, Edirne, Balıkesir, Manisa, İzmir, and many parts of Central Anatolia.

The Kurdish people are the people of Newroz. What does this mean? It means rebellion against oppression, exploitation, occupation, and fascism. It is the stance of freedom, the attitude of freedom. Our people demonstrated this stance very strongly this Newroz. But these people of Newroz will also turn the Turkish people into the people of Newroz. Every Newroz, one feels and sees this very well. Newroz really creates a serious level of change, transformation, development, and liberation in society. Just as we saw and feel that our people are changing, transforming, and became free with every step, the Kurdish people will change and transform society in Turkey step by step. The spirit of Newroz will ferment in Turkish society, it will blossom and grow, and it will liberate Turkish society as well. The liberated Kurdish people will produce a result that will also liberate Turkish society. The transformation in the Kurdish people transforms, changes, and liberates societies in Turkey. This is very important.

This is what we saw in Newroz. It really created a piece of Kurdistan in Turkey. But it was not only Kurds who participated in Newroz in Turkey. Many democratic forces participated, groups from many ethnic beliefs and cultures, and many leftist, socialist, and democratic groups participated. In fact, this is the real Turkey. It is a garden of peoples. Of course, this was very important.

So all in all, this Newroz had very important messages. In particular, our people put forward a very strong will and attitude against this war of genocide, the policy and concept of denial and annihilation that has been going on for eight years without interruption. The message taken from the Newroz celebrations is:

‘We will not allow this. This policy of yours has now collapsed, it is a sign of moral and political bankruptcy.’

The Turkish government has been implementing a policy of genocide in Kurdistan uninterruptedly for eight years. This fascist, colonialist, genocidal state is waging a total war against the Kurds. It has imprisoned all elected officials, patriots, and activists. It attacked cultural society, the press, and the families of martyrs. It collapsed the economy. It is destroying the nature of Kurdistan, and it is impoverishing Kurdistan. There is a great economic massacre. The Turkish state is deepening poverty and hunger in Kurdistan in a very conscious and systematic way. It is trying to migrate the Kurds. It is trying to de-Kurdify and de-humanize Kurdistan. Now we know that in many parts of Kurdistan, the migration of the youth is increasing. So the special war centers are working very intensively. Despite all these attacks, our people, millions of people flooded the squares and streets during Newroz. The policy of the fascist Turkish state has come to naught, it has collapsed. It has become clear that this eight-year genocide policy is bankrupt. It has been fruitless. It has failed to achieve results. It could not break the will of the Kurds, it could not subjugate the Kurds. The Kurds are standing upright and in rebellion. This is a very important message, stance, and attitude against the fascist, genocidal colonialist state and power. It is the collapse of century-old policies. This is a fundamental message that emerged in Newroz.

We saw the collapse of the ‘çöktürme planı’ very strikingly in the Newroz celebrations, and our people have emphasized that Rêber Apo represents their will and that he is the address for the democratic solution to the Kurdish question. They showed this once again to the world and to our international friends and enemies. Millions of people in all Newroz centers screamed, “Bijî Serok Apo. Rêber Apo represents our will, Rêber Apo is the address and interlocutor of solutions, democracy, freedom, equality, and honorable peace.” Our people underlined that no one should scheme according to special warfare propaganda. They will all come to nothing, and our people will make them all come to nothing. This was, of course, very important.

Again, the slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” was chanted everywhere. We saw very strikingly in this Newroz how the women’s freedom struggle, the women’s freedom revolution, has changed and transformed society, and how it has fed and strengthened social resistance. Women were at the forefront of this Newroz as well. They really gave Newroz its color, voice, and character. This high level of women’s participation determined the character, quality, and level of freedom of this Newroz. The spirit of March 8 was reflected very strongly in Newroz. As is known, March 8 was also celebrated very strongly. The women’s movement in Kurdistan and Turkey has gained strength and its impact on society is serious. It is seriously challenging both the government and its politics.

This year’s Newroz played a very important role in the development of national unity, the deepening of national feeling and the consolidation of national consciousness. In a way it was a picture of this. It is like this everywhere. There may be different opinions, there may be different points of view, but there was a great convergence on common national values. We saw this very clearly. And mainly these were the common national values of freedom and democracy. The call and demand for the solution to the Kurdish question. Of course, these were just the most essential messages of this year’s Newroz and this was the beginning of the freedom struggle. With the Freedom March, the march of Cologne and Newroz, the global freedom campaign will develop even more strongly and will surely reach its conclusion and victory.

In relation to information on new occupation operations by the Turkish regime and the desperate diplomatic traffic being conducted by them in search for international support, what can you say?

The genocidal war waged by this fascist genocidal state and government for eight years has come to a deadlock. It is currently experiencing a very serious blockage. Actually, their plans were different. In 2023, they wanted to occupy all the Medya Defense Zones. They also wanted to develop occupation in areas such as Mosul and Kirkuk. They wanted to reach the borders of Misak-ı Milli in both South Kurdistan and Rojava. It was also to establish its hegemony over Iraq and Syria. In this sense, they pursued an occupying, expansionist, neo-ottomanist imperialist policy. This is very clear. And they wanted to finalize it in 2023 at the latest. But their schemes overlooked us. Not everything goes according to the maps and plans drawn on the table. It came and was struck by the glorious resistance of the guerrilla. It was struck by the glorious, uninterrupted struggle and resistance of the people. It got stuck. It is in a deadlock. They actually wanted to overcome this deadlock. During 2022-23, they constantly used chemical weapons, used banned weapons. The KDP took part in this war and wanted to benefit them in every way. They wanted to legitimize this war. In order to legitimize it, the KDP did everything in its power. They did their best, but again they could not get results. In fact, they were very exposed. The banned weapons and chemical weapons it used were exposed and documented. The state was dumbfounded.

The Erdoğan regime massacred many civilians, bombed villages, forced the evacuation of villages. It bombed the underground and overground infrastructure of the people in Rojava. Oil wells, gas and electricity facilities, printing presses, many food factories, and public centers. Also children, women, the old and the young alike were massacred. Most recently, they massacred Assyrian fighters. The Turkish state is waging a war of complete genocide. Whatever Israel is currently doing against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the Turkish state has been committing twice as many crimes against the Kurds for eight years. It has intensified this in the last two years. That's why its policies of occupation, genocide and massacre are easier to expose. What is it doing now, for example? If the Turkish regime includes Iraq, the Patriotic Union Kurdistan (PUK), Iran, the USA and everyone else in this, if it gets their open support, it will gain legitimacy to these expansionist, occupying and genocidal policies and thus curb the reactions. It has been exposed for the use of chemicals, banned weapons.

The regime can't continue anymore. Now, the guerrilla's action capacity and the level it has reached in tactical techniques are pushing them even more. That is why they cannot get results by using all kinds of techniques and by involving the KDP. That is why it needs the participation of these forces. On the one hand, it wants to soften the outside reflection of these genocidal, expansionist and occupying policies a little more, to create legitimacy for them, to hide these policies with that cover, but on the other hand, it wants to get some results by attacking in every way.

The policy of the Turkish state is very clear. It is according to the Misak-ı Milli. By ensuring this, it is trying to increase its influence over Iraq and establish its hegemony politically, economically and militarily. It carries out the same policy in Syria. It threatens the Syrian state with its tens of thousands of gangs that it has in the occupied territories. It is trying to test its hegemony over Syria and Iraq in this way. It has organized ISIS according to the latest concrete information we received, there are gangs that were captured, they confessed. The Turkish state sends them to Iraq so that ISIS can carry out actions against Iraq. This has been exposed, deciphered. The Turkish state organized most probably the attack in Russia as well. We have made a statement in this regard. It is the same about the bombing in Iran, this was also the work of the Turkish state.

There are many gangs in the hands of the AKP, of the Turkish state. There are thousands, tens of thousands of members of these gangs. The Turkish state was already in a relationship and alliance with ISIS from the beginning. It was the Turkish state that developed and strengthened ISIS. That relationship continues now. Now it is organizing with ISIS gangs and other gangs. It uses them against Iraq to bring Iraq to its knees. It uses them against Iran to bring Iran to its knees. It is using ISIS against Russia force it to its knees, while it is using America to bring Europe to its knees, to draw everyone to its own policy, that is, to ensure everyone's support for the Kurdish genocide policy. It is trying to use these gangs against everyone.

Turkey has become a center and headquarter to a variety of gangs. The Erdoğan regime feeds, grows, equips and trains these gangs, creating plans and making them carry out attacks everywhere. It is trying to put the states in a position to support its own policy, its policy of genocide. It is trying to get concessions. Now Iraq is also having some difficulty. Its economic problems are serious, political problems are serious, social crisis is at its peak. There is no stability, there is a water problem, there is a serious desertification. It sees all these, and Iraq's difficulties, and is trying to take advantage of them.

It is obvious that ottomanist policies have no benefit for Iraq, on the contrary, they threaten Iraq's existence. Now Erdoğan says that he has reached an agreement with Iraq. Maybe this is due to the difficulties faced by Iraq. We don't know how they agreed, and on which issues. But we believe in this. Turkey's ottomanist, occupying, expansionist policies threaten Iraq. It threatens the existence of Iraq. It threatens Iraq's survival. Iraq should not support a policy that is not in the interest of Iraq, that serves the hegemony of the Turkish state. This is a political loss of mind.

When you look at it historically, the reality of the Turkish state is obvious: it is an invader, expansionist and plunderer. If it saw the opportunity, it would annex the places it has occupied. That is already the plan. It is definitely to occupy and annex within the framework of Misak ı Milli. Frankly, we believe that Iraq is aware and will not come to this game, because it knows that such an alliance will bring nothing but harm to Iraq. The Erdoğan regime is also exerting intense pressure on Iraq. It is trying to bring the PUK to the line of the KDP. It is trying to surrender it and take it away from the patriotic line. It is trying to put everyone at the service of its genocidal policies. Until now, PUK's attitude was valuable. Politics along the lines of patriotism, struggle along the lines of patriotism will definitely make the PUK very prestigious, respected and strengthened in Kurdistan. Such a PUK will be highly valued and respected by all Kurds. The line of the KDP is a treacherous line. It is a line that is a partner in the genocide. That line is of no use or benefit to the Kurds, so it is discredited. It has no value, no respect.

Finally, let me also state the following. Since this period is the time of Newroz, the enthusiasm and excitement surrounds us all like our people. We watched Newroz being celebrated very splendidly in Frankfurt and Paris. Urfa also had Newroz celebrations. The Newroz in Urfa was also very important. On this basis, I greet our people, I congratulate the Newroz of our people. I congratulate the Newroz of Frankfurt, Paris and Urfa. They were all really magnificent in this Newroz. I call on everyone to participate strongly in the freedom campaign and to lead this campaign to victory.

Opinion

“We are not alone, it is worldwide: One struggle, one fight”

ANF | 25 MARCH 2024

“Long live equality of peoples, long live peace!” It was Elefteria Fortulaki who wrote these words in her last letter. On March 24, 2006, she set herself on fire in the Greek capital, Athens, in protest against the imprisonment of Abdullah Öcalan. She died as a martyr a day later. To remember them and all other internationalist martyrs, over 100 people came together on March 23 morning for a memorial event. This day is a symbol of the international martyrs and is part of the so-called “heftiya lehengiye”. It’s the week of the 21st-28th of March, which is specifically dedicated to the martyrs of the revolution. Şehîd (Martyr) Elefteria, whose name is a historical symbol of the defense of truth and peace, was the mother of two children. A 23-year-old Greek mother who was bonded with the struggling people of Kurdistan and became an example of militant internationalism through her actions. In her youth, she learned about politics through the communist party in Greece. Later, she and her Kurdish husband named their children ‘Ernesto’ and ‘Clara’. Şehîd Elefteria understood the conspiracy as an attack against all freedom-loving people. With her action, she deepened and expressed her connection with the Kurdish people, with all peoples.

A decade later, Şehîd [Elefteria Hambî](#) took her name to follow in the footsteps of this vanguard. Both women are symbols and examples and belong to the history of internationalists who, even far from their homeland, dedicated themselves to revolution and the fight for humanity.

In the opening speech, the moderators emphasized the importance of the internationalist martyrs and the thread that connects all of them throughout years and centuries. With their sacrifice, they show the world how to overcome the borders of the states and in the minds of people. They brought the revolution to a global level. And through the link between Haki Karer and Elefteria Fortulaki up to this day, the importance of Abdullah Öcalan, whose words spread out into the whole world, was made clear. To overcome obstacles is a big strength of the movement and this has become once again obvious with the Guerrilla now being able to take down drones – “good news” that was spread for Newroz just a few days ago. It can definitely be seen as a “new era of resistance”, the moderation stated.

As a representative of the YPG/YPJ General Command, Sozdar Derik spoke about her experience of living with internationalist friends: “I saw that it was not easy for them, but I saw that everyone was on a search to fight against the forces denying and oppressing us and to overcome this capitalist system. They came with a big heart, and although we saw their different colours, languages and cultures, we learned that we are building life together on the same values. It is a mosaic that every single friend joins and, if there are borders that we have to cross, we will cross them together”.

A video of many fallen internationalist martyrs screened during the event gave an impressive feeling of the united struggle. In the “Memorial to the Fighters for Freedom” in 1917, Alexandra Kollontai wrote words that are more relevant today than ever: “And therefore the spring air is filled not only with songs of

mourning for those who have fallen in the struggle for freedom, but also with the millions of voices of an exultant choir proclaiming the victory of the revolution.” The video ended with the words of Abdullah Öcalan, stating: “I know that the world will support us in the end.” Today, over 100 years later, the new publication of the book “[Martyrs never die – the Internationalist Heroes of the Rojava Revolution](#)” was announced. The book tells the stories of 54 international revolutionary fighters. After more than two years of work and the help of many friends, the book was printed in English in the Autonomous Administration region. The book, edited by the YPG and YPJ International, can be seen as the further development of the internationalist volunteers’ and fighters’ recognition in the Rojava Revolution.

The video presented by the internationalist youth commune was specially made in memory of Şehîd Elefteria Hambi, who fell in a Turkish attack in the mountains of Kurdistan in 2018. It is an homage to the German internationalist and to her connection to nature and life itself. It was shown at the event for the first time, emphasizing her radical ecological struggle and pointing out the connection between all struggles against oppression and colonization.

The federation of families of the martyrs plays a really important role in the revolution. The Council of Martyrs’ Families sent a special message to Abdullah Öcalan, who is currently struggling in İmralı: “It will never be possible to bury the ideas and hopes of the martyrs, because they will always be in our hearts.”

Şehîd Andok Cotkar’s parents, Ute Ruß and Thomas Gedik, who themselves took part in the commemoration in 2023, greeted the participants via video and emphasized the importance ‘to resist and tell the stories of those who made a lasting impact’.

The theater group Sanoya Ciya expressed the story of the name Elefteria, the women who bear it and their deep connection to Abdullah Öcalan in their play ‘[Prometheus](#)’. Prometheus represents Öcalan, bringing fire and enlightenment to the people. He gets captured by the hegemonic forces and is then freed by a chorus of free women led by Elefteria.

With the musical contribution of Sîpane Xelatê the impressions of the day could be well reflected. The event closed with the words of Şehîd Elefteria Hambi: “Organize yourself, learn to defend yourself. We are not alone, it is worldwide: One struggle, one fight.”

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Elections are a choice between slavery and freedom

CAFER TAR | 26 MARCH 2024

In a few days, the Kurds will go to the polls again. In the past, the relationship between the Kurds and the ballot box was only a formality. The system parties in Turkey and Kurdistan, the prominent wealthy families and the ballot box, which has no other function than to elect one of them!

However, despite all obstructions, fraudulent voting and interventions up to vote stealing, the people in Kurdistan have become the most fundamental dynamic of the elections through their strong struggle for democracy and the great price they have paid. The AKP/MHP fascism in Turkey is afraid of the Kurdish

people, their will for freedom and their commitment to democracy. Every time the ballot boxes are put in front of the people, the Kurdish people are the main fear of fascism in Turkey.

The Kurdish people's devotion to Leader Öcalan, despite intense pressure and the involvement of all ideological / lie-producing institutions and elements of the regime, the Kurdish people's intense effort to reach the truth through its own media frustrates all the lie-producing institutions of the order.

The struggle of the Freedom Movement to make the people the subject of politics has been effective in Kurdistan; the parties of the order have melted, and instead of wealthy families, people's leaders who devote themselves to the struggle of their people have come to the fore.

There has been a continued struggle between the state and the Kurdish people for the last century. On every occasion, the state tries to destroy the Kurds' will for freedom, to dismantle their institutions and to break their will with all the means at its disposal.

Kurds, on the other hand, are trying to advance their struggle for existence and freedom and to strengthen their institutions despite all the oppression and persecution of the state. Kurds must insist on continuity in their quest for freedom and democracy. Some political movements have come to the fore for a period like a flash in the pan, but they have not been able to maintain their existence in continuity, and after a while they have both shrunk within themselves and lost their influence among the people.

However, despite the intense pressure on the Kurdish Freedom Movement, it has continued to reassure the people. In particular, the fact that the Kurdish People's Leader has shown the Kurdish people the right path in all historical periods by paying the greatest price himself has led to the formation of an unshakable strong bond between the Kurdish people and Leader Öcalan.

This is the issue that the AKP/MHP fascism in Turkey is most disturbed by. The regime is unable to break the bond between the Kurdish Freedom Movement, its Leader and the Kurdish people, despite all provocations. On the contrary, this bond is getting stronger day by day. Although there has been no contact with the Kurdish People's Leader for three years, there has been no decrease in the loyalty of the Kurdish people to their leader. On the contrary, it has become stronger.

Some people want to confuse the Kurdish people in order to resurrect fascism, which has almost reached the point of liquidation in Kurdistan, and to open a rent gate for themselves in the state through the system parties. They want the Kurdish people to either not go to the polls on various grounds or to make their choice for one of the system parties.

The Turkish state and its local collaborators either threaten the Kurdish people with trustees or want to turn some of the people into rangers without weapons by opening the state's rent gates to the Kurdish people. They want the Kurds' attachment to their leader and the Freedom Movement to be weakened.

It is precisely at this point that elections are important; Kurds have not only elected mayors or deputies in all election processes until today. For the state, it is not so important who is the deputy or mayor; the state is disturbed by the ideological/paradigmatic commitment of those elected to the Freedom Movement and Leader Öcalan.

The same discomfort also exists in some circles in the region that have become politically and economically stronger with the support they have received from the state for years. They are very disturbed by the popularisation of politics; the Kurdish people's participation in the political process directly/without intermediaries disturbs these circles very much. They want to step in again and turn politics in Kurdistan into a source of rent and personal gain.

On 31 March, in the whole political geography of Turkey, ballot boxes will be placed before the people; but those ballot boxes have different meanings in the west of Turkey and in Kurdistan. Perhaps a voter in Tekirdağ or Isparta will indeed only choose the mayor and council members; but in Kurdistan, every ballot box put before the people actually expresses a choice between freedom and slavery.

In the 2024 Newroz, Kurds celebrated enthusiastically both in Kurdistan and in western Turkey and Europe. Kurds who participated in all these events did not only show their traditions, but also their commitment to their freedom and the freedom of Leader Öcalan.

The same thing should happen on 31 March; the patriotic Kurdish people who will go to the polls to vote will not only elect mayors and council members but will also show that they insist on a free Kurdistan and the physical freedom of Leader Öcalan, and that the will they put forward at this point is unbreakable.

Kurds should not look at the upcoming elections only from the perspective of “who will be the better mayor?”. Such an approach will cost us all. Of course, it is important who will serve the people better, but as long as our country and our leader are not free, this should be in the second plan.

In this election, as before, we must make our choice in favour of our country and our Leader. We must not allow anyone to confuse the Kurds. For us, elections are a part of the freedom struggle that we have been waging at great cost for years. Kurds have been making their preferences in favour of a free homeland and a free leader in all elections for years, and this should also be the case in these elections.

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Mele Salihê Botî: Hüda Par is the hitman of the enemies of the Kurdish people

ANF | 26 MARCH 2024

Kurdistan Islamic Society (Civaka Îslamiya Kurdistan, CÎK) member Mele Salih Botî spoke to ANF about the reactivation of ‘Hezbollah’, which was established against the Kurdish Freedom Movement in the 1990s and functioned as a counter-structure, as a civilian politics in Kurdistan. Stating that the history of the Kurdish people dates back to Noah, Mele Salih Botî said that the Kurdish society brought Melayê Cizîrî, Ehmedê Xanî, Şêx Seîd and similar scholars to the Islamic world and that these people never turned their backs on religion and their people, on the contrary, they served them.

Mele Salihê Botî said that the re-introduction of the mentality of Hüda Par, which was established by JÎTEM (Gendarmerie Intelligence Service) in the dark depths of the state in the 1990s, is a scheme against the Kurdish people.

Kurds have not betrayed religion

Mele Salihê Botî stated that Kurdish society had guided the Islamic world through great scholars in history, but now the states betrayed the Kurds in the name of Islam: “Kurds have not betrayed religion. The 4 massacring states that occupied Kurdistan betrayed the Kurds in the name of religion. They denied the Kurds. Does Hüda Par, founded by massacring states like Iran and Turkey, embrace religion on behalf of them? Today, Hüda Par is supposedly protecting the Islamic past of the Kurds. This is a sin in the name of religion. These have nothing to do with religion. They are enemies of their people. They massacred thousands of our people in Batman, Cizre, Nusaybin and Amed. How can they do this in the name of religion? This is forbidden by religion. I call on Kurds and sincere Muslims to oppose them.”

They are the hitman of the enemies of the Kurdish people

Mele Salihê Botî continued: “They are enemies of the belief, culture and existence of the Kurdish community. They are partners with the state that wants to destroy the Kurdish people. They pray in the mosque and then slaughter people with axes and knives. This is forbidden in religion. The Prophet did not do this. The enemies of Islam did this. Those who slaughtered Prophet Ali did this. Those who slaughtered Prophet Hussein in Kerbala did this cruelty. Today, Hüda Par is the hitman of this massacring mentality. These are unscrupulous people. They are the hitman of the enemies of the Kurdish people.”



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