

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Over 30 thousand signatures collected in Ain Issa region demanding “freedom for Öcalan”

ANF | Ain Issa | 30 March 2024

The Ain Issa branch of the PYD (Democratic Union Party) announced in a press statement on Saturday that the signature campaign launched by the North-East Syria People's Initiative for the Freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan since 9 February has been completed in Ain Issa district of Euphrates Canton.

The press statement was read by Sabrî Nebo, Co-Chair of PYD in Girê Spî, to the accompaniment of many citizens, as well as members of Girê Spî Assembly.

The statement said that a total of 30,883 signatures were collected in Ain Issa district and surrounding villages.

The statement emphasised that the cause of oppressed peoples and the Kurdish question can be solved through the physical freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan and called for enhanced struggle to this end.

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Farewell to Michalis Charalambidis, a long-time friend of the Kurds

ANF | ATHENS | 30 MARCH 2024

Writer and politician Michalis Charalambidis, a founding member of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) and a long-time friend of the Kurds from Pontus, died at the age of 73 from cancer, which he had been fighting for a long time. Charalambidis' funeral was held in Athens on Saturday with the participation of his family and friends, representatives of political parties and many Greeks. Members and repre-

representatives of the Kurdistan Democratic Cultural Centre and Democratic Union Party (PYD) also attended the ceremony.

Dr Ibrahim Muslim, PYD Representative in Greece and the Balkans, said: “Michalis was a great friend of ours. He said that the Pontic and Kurdish peoples were one, that their resistance was one. He was working like a guerrilla for Kurdistan and Kurdish people in Greece. He never held back from his work. He felt himself to be a part of the Kurdish Freedom Movement and worked on that basis. There was no politician like him in the world. He highlighted nothing but the success of the revolution. For him there was no such thing as ‘no’, as he always said ‘we can do anything’. He was of the understanding that the injustices committed in history against Kurds, Pontus, Armenians and all the peoples in this region should be redressed. He advocated a common life. In his writings and speeches he constantly said, ‘Abdullah Öcalan is the father of democracy in the Middle East. For this reason, he should receive the Nobel Peace Prize’.”

As per Charalambidis’ wish, instead of a wreath, his family asked for a donation for the reconstruction of the church of his village, which was severely damaged in the recent fires in Evros.

The body of Charalambidis was buried in his village to the accompaniment of Pontic melodies.



800 trees planted in Kobanê on the occasion of Öcalan’s birthday

ANF | KOBANE | 30 MARCH 2024

Abdullah Öcalan was born on 4 April 1949 in the village of Amara in Halfeti district of Urfa in Northern Kurdistan.

The Kurdish leader is waging a unique struggle against fascism in prison on İmralı Island despite the harsh conditions of isolation.

On the occasion of Öcalan’s birthday, the Euphrates Canton Environmental Council planted 800 trees in the village of Sisek, west of Kobanê.

Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are 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 the last 3 years.

From 27 July 2011 to date, only lawyers were able to meet with Öcalan 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.

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SMJÊ members take over Freedom for Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 2 APRIL 2024

The Freedom for Öcalan Vigil has been held in Strasbourg since 25 June 2012, with the aim of ensuring the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and ending isolation. The vigil is in its 614th week.

This week, 5 representatives of the Yazidi Women's Assemblies umbrella organization (Sîwana Meclîsa Jinên Êzidî-SMJÊ) from Germany took over the vigil.

SMJÊ members Nûrê Alkış, Sosin Kartal, Sabriye Sevgat, Caziye Hewran and Zero Al, who took over the vigil, said: "We expect the European states and the CPT to uphold their duties."

The group spokesperson, Nûrê Alkış, said that a historic election was held in Turkey and Kurdistan on Sunday and added: "We salute the will of the Kurdish people on the basis of Rêber Apo's philosophy."

Nûrê Alkış said that they took it as their duty to demand the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan in this square and said: "Our leader has been held captive in severe isolation for 25 years. We don't see him as a person. It is a philosophy, an ideology, the will of the free woman, the basis of the Jin, Jiyan, Azadi philosophy in which all women of the world see themselves today. As Sîwana Meclîsa Jinên Êzidî, we are here to hold accountable the states that claim to have the principles of democracy and do not live up to their responsibilities. As Yazidi women, we expect European states and the CPT to uphold their responsibilities. We will fight until the end to ensure our leader's physical freedom. Just as the Kurdish people created a philosophy for the people of the world, our duty is to walk on this truth. We say that there is no life without leadership. Jin, Jiyan, Azadi."

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KCK Ecology Committee: 4 April is a call for environmental struggle

ANF | BEHDINAN | 4 APRIL 2024

The KCK Ecology Committee issued a statement to mark Abdullah Öcalan's 75th birthday and called for "an ecological struggle."

The statement said: "We celebrate the 75th birthday of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], who offered the peoples of Kurdistan and the world the opportunity to participate in this gallant struggle and paved the way for a new, free and ecological life.

Rêber Apo, who turned the fate of the Kurdish people around, has redefined the past half-century with the struggle for freedom which he spearheaded in the leadership of the PKK. In his 75 years of life, he fitted a struggle which, otherwise, would have only developed in decades. With his thought and philosophy – all of which are dedicated to freedom – he continues to effect millions of people. The most concrete example of this can be seen in today's situation of the Kurdish people."

The statement added: "With the guidance of Rêber Apo, the people of Kurdistan rose from their ashes and recreated themselves. With the conspiracy and solitary confinement imposed on Rêber Apo, the objective of the forces behind the international conspiracy and the fascist AKP-MHP administration is to prevent his thoughts from reaching the people. Yet, Rêber Apo took every opportunity, despite the brutal conditions of the İmralı island-prison, to deepen and share his knowledge. The prison writings he prepared and the paradigm he established during the 25-year İmralı period appeals not only to Kurds; they are of global significance. He disabled the conspiratorial forces from achieving their aim; he has fulfilled his duties and responsibilities, and done much more than what one could imagine. He was appointed by the people themselves as a leader, to which he responded with extraordinary hard work and a great struggle. He formulated a new paradigm of democracy, ecology and women's freedom and presented it to the entire human race.

Rêber Apo is conducting the greatest struggle against the powers of capitalist modernity, who continue to threaten the future of humanity every day via exploitation and immoral practices."

The statement continued: "In the face of the ecological catastrophe brought about by capitalist forces and the estrangement between humanity and the natural world, Rêber Apo chooses to celebrate his birthday by planting trees as a way to meet and connect with the land. In this way, he criticizes and shows an alternative to the consumerist lifestyle fostered by capitalist modernity. Rêber Apo refuses to monopolize any of his accomplishments; instead, he credits humanity, the Kurdish people, and the independence cause.

Only by accepting the ecological paradigm can the new life that Rêber Apo envisioned - a restoration to social ecology - be realized. As a result, April 4 should be celebrated by preserving the land, the water, and the trees that are under constant threat from capitalist modernity, as well as by fostering ecological solidarity while creating new parks, gardens, and habitats for the members of our planet. The "tree of life" tradition, as the tradition which is practiced in Kurdistan and many other regions of the world called, must be

implemented more popularly. Taking steps to meet the soil and planting a tree, is the most meaningful way to celebrate April 4.”

The statement underlined that “under the principles developed by Rêber Apo, we share a distinctive heritage of struggle, ideology, perspective, and organization that holds the prospect of a new and alternative ecological movement. Thus, in the paradigm he offered as a remedy, Rêber Apo emphasized the importance of connecting the women’s liberation movement to the ecological revolution. He described all the work carried out in the name of ecology, as the work of legends. He also stated that the 21st century is the century of women. Thus, the twenty-first century – which we approach with the objective of bringing about a women’s revolution – should also be a century in which the ecological revolution gains the support it deserves. We call on all parts of society to develop the ecological struggle, to establish Rêber Apo’s paradigm for an ecological and free life; for a life which is friend to nature and where the most beautiful values meet under the ideology of *Jin, Jîyan, Azadî*.”

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Freedom Shall Prevail, a graphic novel to celebrate Abdullah Öcalan’s birthday

ANF | BERLIN | 4 APRIL 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 will be first published in German, Kurdish and Turkish today to mark Öcalan’s 75th birthday. A gala will take place in Berlin. Reimar Heider, who translated many books of Kurdish People’s Leader Öcalan into German, politician Hatip Dicle, Estella Schmid, comic book writer Sean Michael Wilson, politician Jörn Essig-Gutschmidt, politician Dilek Öcalan, Andrej Grubacic, Meyman publishing house representative Hasan Kanireş, Sinn Féin European representative Martina Anderson, Paul Kavanagh and artist Rotinda will take part in the book launch.

The book 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.”

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KCK: Let's raise the struggle for Öcalan's physical freedom

ANF | BEHDINAN | 4 APRIL 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement on the occasion of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan's 75th birthday on 4 April.

KCK pointed out that the birth of Öcalan marks a new era, a new opportunity for Kurdistan. "It gave the Kurdish people the chance to rediscover and embrace their own identity and connect with their historical roots. The eyes of the Kurds were reopened to an existence as honorable as their historical identity. The Kurdish people regained their rightful place among humanity as a dignified people."

The KCK statement released on Thursday includes the following:

"For many years, our people have celebrated April 4th with great joy and enthusiasm. The Kurdish people, especially women, add strong spiritual meaning to April 4th, the birthday of Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan). After gloomy winter months, the Kurdish people recapture apricity on this day as it resembles the moment drylands meet with torrential streams. It is a time of rejoice for the Kurdish people. It is the miracle of existence and freedom, found on the edges of unforgiving cliffs.

Kurds embrace April 4th as the day of their rebirth. They consider it to be their own birthday. Before 4 April, the future was a picture of bleakness for Kurds living under the policy of denial and annihilation by the colonialist genocidal system. All that was left to face, was a full-scale campaign of genocide. This atrocity had reduced the entire Kurdish identity to a biological dissimilarity. It represented neither living nor death, just a doomed Kurdish society experiencing whatever is worse than mortality. The circumstances of the Kurds were no different to being buried alive. Thus, the birth of Rêber Apo on April 4 was the harbinger and omen of the resurrection of a people who had been buried alive under a system of denial and annihilation.

The birth of Rêber Apo marks a new era, a new opportunity for Kurdistan. It gave the Kurdish people the chance to rediscover and embrace their own identity and connect with their historical roots. The eyes of the Kurds were reopened to an existence as honorable as their historical identity. The Kurdish people regained their rightful place among humanity as a dignified people. Despite our people being subjected to unimaginable agony and horrifying acts of genocide, they continue to strive for their goals, whatever the cost may be. Because our people understand and believe that the only road to salvation passes through Rêber Apo's thoughts and philosophy. For Rêber Apo consistently turns agony and anguish into a source of beauty and puts it in the service of the freedom struggle.

The spirit which Rêber Apo encouraged within the Kurdish people flourished into a spirit of independence and democracy as it led to solidarity and fraternity at an international level. With the awareness and struggle developed by Rêber Apo, the already rich and multicultural land of Kurdistan and that of the Middle East were reconnected to their honorable essence. Despite all the subjugation and repression campaigns of the nation-state system, the unity between the peoples and cultures of the Middle East was secured again. It is an important development for humanity that the identities and cultures of Kurdistan and the Middle East are starting to coexist once again on the basis of fraternity. This development can be attributed to

Rêber Apo's democratic and communal paradigm, which opposes nationalism, racism, and misogyny. Put otherwise, Apoist philosophy is one devoid of any form of racism, nationalism, or sexism.

The Women's Freedom thesis by Rêber Apo shines new light on the path of the freedom struggle of Kurdish women. There are very significant advances in Kurdistan and the Middle East as a result of the freedom struggle waged by Kurdish women. The strong will demonstrated by Kurdish women in the social, political, and military arenas is contributing to a significant awakening and awareness across Kurdistan as well as the neighbouring communities. This is now taking the form of an inevitable development. This conscious, intelligent, and inquiring resolve for women's freedom cannot be silenced by any state authority. The most striking example of this is the resilient, unwavering, and strong position taken by Kurdish women against the misogynistic practices of the fascist, colonialist, homicidal AKP-MHP rule in Turkey. Once more, we witness it in Rojava through the women's fight against ISIS gangs, who are the enemy of humanity. Again, the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadî" echoing throughout Rojhilat (the part of Kurdistan under Iran's control) is the voice of women rising up. As a result, the Kurdish women's resistance – made possible by Rêber Apo's awareness and influence – is the most remarkable condemnation of the violent, rapist capitalist system.

Rêber Apo's ideas about democracy, ecology, and women's freedom went beyond the borders of Kurdistan and took on universal dimensions. As his words and ideas spread throughout the world, he gets more and more support from emancipatory people. Because there is no trace of nationalism, racism, fascism, sexism, injustice, or immorality in Rêber Apo's philosophy. Today, to stand up for Rêber Apo means to oppose capitalism; it means to stand up against racism, nationalism, male dominance, and anti-ecology ideologies destroying our environment. To stand with Rêber Apo means to be in favor of democratic socialism, to be anti-capitalist, to be in favor of women's freedom, of democracy, and of ecology.

This year's Newroz was regarded by our people as the Newroz for the physical freedom of the Leader. Our people made their demand for Rêber Apo's freedom clear with an unwavering stance on the matter. They made it very evident that the Kurdish people's top priority is to secure Rêber Apo's freedom and that this is an urgent demand that could not be delayed. The resolute and determined attitude our people demonstrated at Newroz turned into a strong political will in the recent municipal elections. Our people stunned the fascist, genocidal, colonialist AKP-MHP administration. We are proud of our people for their democratic perspective which they demonstrated during Newroz and expressed during the local elections. We reaffirm our conviction that, in the face of the thieving, usurping, and trustee-appointing fascist regime, our people will keep acting with the same steadfast determination and defend their will to the very end. They will refuse to give up their municipalities.

The political attitude of our people, their enthusiasm, determination, and strong will, as reflected in the Newroz celebrations and local elections, will become more structured and active during 2024.

As the Freedom Movement, we will continue to put the fight against the isolation and solitary confinement of Rêber Apo at the center of all our struggle. We will guarantee his physical freedom. Based on this, we urge all of our patriotic people and their friends, particularly women and young people, to intensify the fight for Rêber Apo's physical freedom and the lifting of his total isolation, to become more organized, and to make their acts more potent."

‘March to Amara for Freedom’ concluded

ANF | URFA | 4 APRIL 2024

Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been kept in isolation in İmralı Island for 25 years, turned 75 years old. A march was organised to the village of Amara in Halfeti district of Urfa, where Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan was born in 1949.

The march with the slogan “To Amara for Freedom” was organised by the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), Free Women’s Movement (Tevgera Jinên Azad-TJA), Association for Assistance and Solidarity with the Families Who Lost Their Relatives in the Cradle of Civilisations (MEBYA-DER), MED Federation of Legal and Solidarity Associations of Families of Prisoners and Convicts (MED TUHAD-FED), Democratic Regions Party (DBP) and Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party).

People from many cities of Kurdistan and Turkey gathered in the rural Aligor neighbourhood of Suruç for the march, including DBP Co-Chairperson Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, MED TUHAD-FED Co-Chairperson Kerem Canpolat, HDK Co-Spokesperson Cengiz Çiçek, lawyers from Asrin Law Office as well as representatives of many non-governmental organisations. The crowd danced to Kurdish songs before starting the march.

Speaking here, DEM Party MP Ömer Öcalan said, “If there is a nation, of course it has a leader. Our leader is Mr Öcalan. The Kurdish people have been standing up for their leader for 40 years. For this reason, everyone has been going to Amara on 4 April since 2004. Those who said 'we have finished the Kurds' saw the people before them. It is Mr Öcalan who leads the people. We have a long way to go. Mr Öcalan is 75 years old, and it is time for his physical freedom. Mothers long for an honourable peace. Mothers gave their lives and children for this cause. Dozens of young people lost their lives and dozens of them are in prison.”

Calling attention to the ongoing hunger strike of political prisoners in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan, MP Öcalan said: “We will be the voice of Mr Öcalan and all prisoners. Our struggle will continue until a democratic solution is achieved.”

Speaking after, DBP Co-Chair Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said, “The country is in a very serious crisis. Democracy, law and justice are underfoot in this country. While all this is happening, it is the AKP-MHP government that should be the last to speak. The people gave a great answer in the elections. Kurds gave you a lesson. The government, which could not secure a presence in Kurdistan, wanted to usurp the gains of the Kurdish people with fake voters. The people responded in Van. The government attacked all our democratic rights. Our winning candidates were dragged on the ground and detained. Why? Out of fear. They also know our power.”

Reminding Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan’s words “The solution process is in deep freezer”, Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said: “Kurdish People’s Leader, Mr Abdullah Öcalan gave many warnings when the negotiation process started. ‘A country without bloodshed and tears is possible’, he said. The government closed its eyes. ‘This country is not doomed to poverty,’ he said. They closed their eyes. They said, ‘We have put

the solution process in the deep freezer'. The Kurds pulled the plug of the deep freezer. Happy birthday to the Kurdish People's Leader, Mr Abdullah Öcalan, who is standing upright despite 25 years of isolation."

Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar emphasised that İmralı Prison should be closed and added, "Necessary initiatives should be taken so that Mr Öcalan can play his role. Mr Öcalan's ideas are being discussed all around the world. Kurds are standing up in Rojava and around the world. This problem is not unsolvable. Those who insisted on this problem received the biggest answer. The Freedom March continues. Today we move towards Amara, towards the freedom of Mr Abdullah Öcalan. We will do our best for a democratic solution to the Kurdish question and the freedom of Mr Abdullah Öcalan. We did not and will not allow the government to rule the country with an isolation regime. Happy birthday to the Kurdish People's Leader, happy birthday to our struggle."

After the statements, people started to march towards Amara.

Reaching Halfeti district, the people marched to the DEM Party district building. Due to the blockade of Amara by the Turkish military, the march was turned into a public meeting at the party's district building. In the event here, Abdullah Öcalan's writings about his life and struggle were read. Afterwards, the people present at the meeting talked about what needs to be done for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

The event ended with the slogan "Be Serok jiyan nabe" (No life without the leader).



Abdullah Öcalan's 75th birthday celebrated in the house where he was born

ANF | URFA | 4 APRIL 2024

The 75th birthday of the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been kept in isolation in İmralı F Type High Security Closed Prison for 25 years, was celebrated by his family and relatives in the house where he was born in Amara village of Halfeti district. Speaking here, his brother, Mehmet Öcalan, condemned that the delegation of politicians and NGOs and the accompanying citizens who wanted to go to Amara this morning were not allowed into the village, which had already been blockaded by the gendarmerie (military police).

Mehmet Öcalan said, "Today is the birthday of the Leader. We used to celebrate his birthday here every year. However, they have blockaded everywhere to prevent this celebration today, which has been the case in recent years. This is a very democratic demand. We want to celebrate the birthday of our leader like every nation."

Mehmet Öcalan stated that they will celebrate Abdullah Öcalan's birthday in every area they are in and added, "We condemn this system that has blockaded everywhere just to prevent celebrations from taking place. As his family, we are celebrating the birthday of our leader. The state should look at this picture and feel ashamed."

Turkish soldiers blockaded the neighbourhood in the morning hours yesterday (3 April), conducted criminal record checks on everyone walking on the streets throughout the day, and closed the entrances and exits to the village.



Culture and Sports Festival in Maxmur celebrates Öcalan's birthday

ANF | MAXMUR | 5 APRIL 2024

Thousands of people attended the Culture and Sports Festival held at the Culture and Arts Center in the Rustem Cudi Refugee Camp (Maxmur).

At the celebration, speeches were made about the meaning and importance of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan's birthday. Then a group of kindergarten and secondary school students took the stage. They were followed by dengbêj.

Sports competitions continued throughout the day with different disciplines.

A folklore group consisting of primary school students and a musical group from İbo Qamishlo and Shengal also took the stage.



3,200 signatures collected for Abdullah Öcalan's freedom in Damascus

ANF | 5 APRIL 2024

The People's Initiative Committee for the Freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan announced the results of the signature campaign launched to demand the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan. Hesên Ebdullah, a member of the committee, read the statement in Zorava neighbourhood of Damascus.

Hesên Ebdullah said that the people in the Syrian capital and all rural areas gave great support to the campaign because they believe that the project of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan is the most advisable project for a solution to the problems of the Middle East.

Hesên Ebdullah said that 3,200 signatures were collected in Damascus and rural areas.

Ebdullah added that they will continue the struggle to achieve the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.



Prisons

Mutlak Tozun, a prisoner of 30 years, dies

ANF | VAN | 30 MARCH 2024

Mutlak Tozun, a 30-year prisoner in Manisa Akhisar T Type Closed Prison, was hospitalised due to his illness with a conditional release order. He was transferred to Van on 2 March upon his family's request to continue his treatment there. Tozun was transferred to Van Education and Research Hospital and his health condition worsened last night. While he lost his life this morning, people flocked to the hospital, including his family, relatives and friends.

DEM Party MP Pervin Buldan, the party's Van Metropolitan Municipality co-mayor candidates Neslihan Şedal and Abdullah Zeydan, executives of MEBYA-DER (Association for Solidarity with Families Who Lost Relatives in the Cradle of Civilisations), and the Association for Solidarity with the Families of Prisoners and Convicts (TUHAY-DER) also came to the hospital and expressed their condolences to the family.

Tozun's body was sent to his hometown, Patnos district of Ağrı. The funeral vehicle was accompanied by a huge convoy.



Mother forced to speak Turkish at visit with her prisoner son

ANF | ISTANBUL | 31 MARCH 2024

In an open meeting with her prisoner son Yakup Akman in Marmara High Security Prison on 14 March, 14, Fince Akman said that the clothes and money she sent to him were not given, and that her son was subjected to solitary confinement for arbitrary reasons.

Fince Akman said that the rights violations against prisoners increased during the ongoing hunger strike carried out in jails within the framework of the initiative launched to demand freedom for Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan. Prisoners have been on hunger strike since 27 November.

Fince Akman said: "It takes months for the goods and money we send to reach the prisoners. When we go for the visit, the prison administration forces us to speak Turkish. We cannot speak Kurdish."

Akman said that they will continue the struggle until the demands are met and expand the actions when necessary.

Akman called for an end to the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan and all the prisoners.

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Grup Yorum members in Buca prison on a hunger strike for 38 days to protest violation of rights

ANF | 2 APRIL 2024

Cem Dursun, who was arrested after being detained in Istanbul on 6 February, explained in a letter the practices he was subjected to during his time in Buca High Security Prison.

In the letter sent to Mezopotamya Agency (MA), he said that he was transferred to the newly opened Buca High Security Prison on 24 February, together with Oktay Kelebek. The two were kept under heavy isolation, and went on hunger strike to demand the release of 78-year-old seriously ill prisoner Mehmet Güvel.

Dursun said that the prison has both three-person and single cells, and that they are only allowed to go for air for two hours a day. He added that the cells are monitored with cameras 24 hours a day.

Dursun's letter added: "Our request is to be transferred from this inhumane prison to a prison where our friends are. Mehmet Güvel, who is kept in this concrete coffin with us, is a 78-year-old and 80 percent disabled prisoner with Wernicke Korsakoff disease. He also has cancer and was arrested while his treatment was going on outside and he cannot continue his treatment in prison. Medical treatment is a right. Ill prisoners should benefit from this right. Leaving ill prisoners to the mercy of fascism is leaving them to die. We are resisting against these inhumane prisons with our hunger strike, and we demand the release of ill prisoner Mehmet Güvel and to be transferred to a prison where our friends are."

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Seriously ill prisoner Çakal released from prison after 30 years

ANF | İZMİR | 3 APRIL 2024

Seriously ill prisoner Ahmet Çakal, who was jailed for 30 years for political reasons, was released after completing his sentence. Çakal, who was released from Buca Kırıklar No. 1 F Type Prison, was arrested in Aydın in 1994.

After the trial at the State Security Court (DGM), he was sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of "disrupting the unity and integrity of the State".

Çakal, who was released from prison at the age of 72, was welcomed in front of the prison by his family and the managers of the Aegean Association for Assistance with Relatives of Detainees and Convicts (EGE TUHAYDER) with flowers.

Speaking after leaving the prison, Çakal said that the 30 years he spent in prison were not easy, but “patience and hopes keeps people alive”, he said, adding: “I wish all my friends in prison to be freed. I want our people to live a free and honorable life.”

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Health of 75-year-old prisoner Yıldız deteriorating

ANF | ISTANBUL | 5 APRIL 2024

The health condition of 75-year-old Hatice Yıldız, who was arrested and imprisoned for sending money to her daughter and her friends in prison, is deteriorating.

Hatice Yıldız’s son Alper Yıldız, who went to visit her on 2 April, said that his mother was very tired, had bruises from her time in custody, was shaking when she spoke and had difficulty breathing. “She often fainted. My mother has serious health problems. She cannot stay in prison like this,” said Yıldız.

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Military aggression and occupation

12 ISIS mercenaries escaped thanks to the cooperation with other gangs

ANF | 30 MARCH 2024

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that 12 ISIS mercenaries escaped from a prison in the Bilbil district of Afrin, which is under the occupation of the Turkish state, with the help of gangs affiliated with the occupying Turkish state.

This is not the first time ISIS gangs have escaped from prisons in occupied areas. Last year, 20 ISIS members escaped from the occupied Reco prison in the north of Aleppo.

At that time, some of the gangs in prison helped the other mercenaries escape in exchange for between 1000 and 3000 dollars, while others helped them escape for 10 thousand dollars.



KCK commemorates martyrs of Mahabad and Kizildere

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 MARCH 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council issued a statement to commemorate both the martyrs of Mahabad and those of Kizildere.

The statement said: “On March 31, 1947, in Çarçira Square, the fascist Shah regime murdered the great patriot Qazi Mihemed, a prominent Kurdish leader and the founder of the Republic of Mahabad, along with his friends Hacı Baba Sheikh and Seyfi Kadi. On the anniversary of their murder, we would like to gratefully and respectfully commemorate them. In their honor, we commemorate all of the martyrs of the revolution of democracy, and we reaffirm our commitment to their fight.

With strong dedication, Qazi Mihemed and his friends fought for Kurdistan’s independence and freedom. With the founding of the Mahabad Republic, they made a significant advancement towards the liberation of the Kurdish people. The Iranian state under the fascist Shah’s rule, Britain, and the Soviet Union - states that recognized no values other than their own interests - invaded the newly established Mahabad Republic and killed Qazî Mihemed and his friends in Çarçira Square. The struggle of Qazi Mihemed and his allies, as well as the treachery they endured, amply demonstrated how the capitalist modernist powers treated the Kurds and deceived them in order to forward their own agendas. Their approach to the Mahabad Republic made it abundantly evident - and it remains so today - that the forces of capitalist modernity are the primary aggressors of the Kurdish question and the main obstacle to finding a solution.”

The statement underlined that “despite its fall due to the betrayal and aggression of powers and forces hostile to the people and freedom, the Republic of Mahabad played a significant role in the century-long struggle for the independence of the Kurdish people. Like Sheikh Sait and Seyit Riza. Qazi Mihemed and his friends refused to back down from their allegiance to freedom and refused the enemy’s pressure to capitulation. This mindset has become deeply ingrained in Kurdish consciousness and has played a significant role in the growth of the resistance mentality in Kurdistan. History will recognize Qazi Mihemed and his companions as brave, selfless, and valuable children of Kurdistan. Kurdistan will always remember their resistance, sacrifice, and struggle. Naturally, the Kurdish people’s current successes and the growth of their national democracy are greatly influenced by the hardships and efforts of these historical figures.”

Paying tribute to the martyrs of Kizildere, the statement said: “On March 30, 1972, the murderous imperialist Turkish state carried out yet another atrocity in Kizildere where they killed Mahir Çayan and his comrades. We respectfully and gratefully commemorate these great revolutionaries who fought for freedom, equality, and fraternity, and we strongly condemn this atrocity. The powers of capitalist modernity founded the Turkish state as an anti-Kurdish, genocidal, colonialist state to safeguard their interests in the Middle East. Its goals are to carry out the genocide against the Kurds and defend the objectives of capitalist modernity. Within the parameters of this objective, it targets Kurds, revolutionaries, socialists, and democratic libertarian forces.”

The statement continued: “The massacre in Kizildere is a part of this objective. Individuals such as Mahir Cayan, Deniz Gezmiş, İbrahim Kaypakkaya, and others fought to free Turkey from this predicament; to provide an equal and free foundation and guarantee a democratic resolution to the Kurdish issue. They asserted and defended the Kurdish people’s existence as well as their right to freely express their democratic, national identity. Rêber Apo speaks highly of their methodology and defines the Kurdish revolution as an extension of their fight. This is our perception of it and how we approach it. We believe that by intensifying this fight, we will succeed in achieving our objectives of democracy, freedom, and equality. During this occasion, we renew our call for unity, to form new alliances and coalitions, and intensify the fight for equality, freedom, and democracy – especially to women and all those who support these goals.”



KCK: The attackers on Kurds in Belgium were the Turkish ISIS

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 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.

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement condemning the mob attack on Kurds in Belgium, as well as the incitement of the Turkish regime, calling for reaction in the form of democratic protest against these attacks.

The KCK statement released on Saturday includes the following:

On their way home from the local Newroz celebrations, Kurdish citizens of Belgium were attacked by fascist, racist, and bigoted mobs. The perpetrators of the assault intended to kill unarmed Kurdish people by encircling a house in which the people sought refuge. The attack has left numerous Kurds wounded, some of whom are currently in critical condition. The attack is still ongoing. Tayyip Erdoğan and the special warfare-affiliated Turkish media are working very hard to fuel these attacks. We strongly condemn these racist, fascist assaults that stem from an anti-Kurdish ideology. This attack was an attempted massacre. Houses were set on fire, and those inside were intended to be burned alive. This attempted massacre is a mirror image of the massacre in Madimak.

The fascist AKP-MHP administration, enraged and hysterical in the face of our people’s growing struggle, organized and planned the attack in Belgium. The intent was to incite fear and intimidation among people, to deflect people’s agenda through provocations, pit people against the concerned governments, and ultimately undermine the people’s growing resistance. This is how the massacre attempt in Belgium came about: the AKP-MHP administration, furious and powerless against the growing freedom movement, sought Newroz as an opportunity to take such measures.

Our people expressed a very powerful stance against colonialism and collaborator betrayal, by celebrating Newroz with tremendous passion and involvement in all four regions of Kurdistan and beyond. They once again demonstrated their commitment to the freedom movement and Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan) to the world. This year's Newroz revealed the historical consciousness of our people and demonstrated the failure of the AKP-MHP government's homicidal fascist policies. The AKP-MHP government, being immersed in the genocide policy against the Kurds, is committing new horrors because of the frustration and defeat it is facing. The attack in Belgium shows that new plans are being pursued by the AKP-MHP administration, which continues to insist on the genocide of the Kurdish people. One of the primary goals of these attacks is to provoke the Kurdish people, particularly the youth, in order to push them to retaliate thus, portraying them according to the narrative set by the fascist Turkish regime.

Launched by our international friends on October 10, 2023, the global freedom campaign gained tremendous support from people worldwide, particularly from women, from the oppressed, and from the democratic public opinion. It additionally served to universalize the Kurdish people's struggle. In the face of this ongoing struggle, the nationalist, racist, and fascist AKP-MHP government, which plans to attempt the occupation of Kurdistan and the genocide of Kurds, encountered major obstacles. These fascist forces implement all kinds of policies of isolation, solitary confinement, and genocide against Rêber Apo. The goal of the AKP-MHP government was to provoke by planning the attack in Belgium, to sway the agenda of our people in Europe, and to stop the worldwide freedom campaign from progressing further, realizing that if it continues at its current success, the fascist regime will not be able to maintain its policies. This is the key reason behind the attack by such a fascist, racist and bigoted mob in Belgium.

The nature of the threat posed to Europe by the Turkish state and the AKP-MHP coalition has once again become evident with the attack in Belgium. The perpetrators of this attack carry the same mindset as ISIS.

ISIS is being directed and sustained by the Turkish state and the AKP-MHP government, posing a threat to everyone. The main driving force behind the attacks of ISIS is the interests of the Turkish state and the AKP-MHP government. The fact that the attack in Belgium occurred right after the Moscow atrocity is not a coincidence. The AKP-MHP government intends to create a war-torn environment in order to carry out its neo-Ottomanist objectives, particularly the genocide of the Kurdish people, and to turn every site into a gory battlefield, pushing Europe to obey their demands.

We think it's reasonable and good that the Belgian government is attempting to stop further provocations in this regard. Nonetheless, it is imperative to uncover, denounce, and make plain the motivations underlying these attacks on behalf of the AKP-MHP-led government. The approach of European states, in regard to the atrocities committed against the Kurds, is never fully transparent. This approach not only obscures the truth, but it also opens the door to more assaults and atrocities. Throughout Europe, the AKP-MHP administration is uniting, equipping, and assaulting people who hold racist, fascist, and bigoted beliefs. Nothing is done to stop them despite this being done so publicly.

We demand a change in policy from the European governments, particularly the state of Belgium. It is imperative to acknowledge that these ISIS gangs, who are fascist, racist, and fanatical, are not only attacking Kurds but also the European population. Additionally, we urge our people to refrain from engaging in provocative behavior or turning to means other than democratic actions and endeavors.

March for guerrillas in Maxmur Camp

ANF | MAXMUR | 31 MARCH 2024

A march was held under the leadership of the patriotic youth of Martyr Rûstem Cûdî Camp (Maxmur) with the slogan “We will carry the Revolutionary People's War to victory with the spirit of revolutionary operations.”

The crowd gathered in front of the Martyrs' Families Institution and chanted slogans saluting the guerrillas. After the march, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the Kurdistan Freedom Martyrs. Then, Youth Assembly spokesperson Sîpan Yaman made a statement.

Yaman said: “Our enemy is carrying out attacks by violating all moral values of humanity in order to destroy the Kurdish people. At the same time, there is absolute isolation in İmralı prison. An isolation is imposed on our people and our movement, in the person of our leader. Leader Öcalan's great resistance in İmralı gives us great morale. Young people and women in all four parts of Kurdistan must fight for the physical freedom of our leader and to show that we stand with the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas.”

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Autonomous Administration wishes Syriacs a happy Akitu

ANF | 31 MARCH 2024

On 1 April, the Syriacs people around the world celebrate the Assyrian spring festival, Akitu to mark the start of the new year. The Christian peoples in Northern and Eastern Syria also celebrate Akitu on this day and welcome their new year. The Democratic Autonomous Administration in the Northern and Eastern Syria Region (DAANES) wished all people who will meet and celebrate the Akitu on Monday a happy and peaceful celebration.

In a statement the Autonomous Administration said: “With this New Year's greeting we connect the peoples' desire for change and their hope for a new beginning. Akitu is a historical festivity and marks the arrival of spring and the renewal of nature for the Syriacs people. We take this day as an opportunity to once again emphasize our commitment to protecting all faiths and cultures in our region and their values. Akitu brikho/Akitu brikha!”

Akitu means festival in Sumerian

Akitu can be traced back to a tradition that goes back thousands of years and is one of the oldest festivals in the world. It has its origins in the ancient Sumerian civilization of Mesopotamia. Akitu begins after the equinox on 21 March and peaks on 1 April. This day marks the date for sowing barley.

In Northern and Eastern Syria, Akitu has been a public holiday since 2022 by decision of the Autonomous Administration.



KDP deploys military force near Mount Garê

ANF | 31 MARCH 2024

According to reports from the ground, a 250-strong military force consisting of Zêrevanî and Roj groups was stationed between Garê Mountain and Sheladize sub-district of Amadiya.

It is reported that the KDP forces were stationed in the vicinity of the Xwasto, Dewkê, Latka and Serûkanî villages held by the Zebarî tribe and besieged the Sheladize sub-district.

It is also reported that the KDP started the construction of three new military points.

It was seen that the KDP forces moved to the region with at least 6 hammer vehicles, 3 trucks, 3 diggers, water tanks and a number of military and civilian vehicles.



Afrin-Shehba region attacked at least 121 times in one month

ANF | 1 APRIL 2024

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) Press Liaison Centre reported that the occupying Turkish state launched at least 121 attacks on Afrin and Shehba regions during March.

According to HRE, the Turkish state, which occupied Afrin in 2018, used howitzers, tanks, DShKs, bomb-laden drones and grenade launchers in the attacks.

Between 1-31 March, a total of 121 attacks were launched against 44 villages and towns in Afrin and Shehba. The attacks caused material damage.

The statement said that on 17 March, locals working in the fields in Belûniyê village were targeted and 17-year-old Elî Ebdulrehman Mihemed lost his life. Another local was wounded in the same attack.

On 4 March, one person was wounded in an attack on Alqamiyê village in Afrin's Shera district.

The statement said that on the same day, HRE forces shot down a drone belonging to the invaders in Alqamiyê village.



Turkish drone strikes a vehicle in Shengal

ANF | SHENGAL | 2 APRIL 2024

A vehicle was bombed by a Turkish combat drone near the Serdeşt Camp in the main Yazidi settlement area of Shengal (Sinjar) in north-west Iraq on Tuesday. There was initially no information about the aftermath of the attack nor possible casualties. Security forces are on site and are investigating the attack.

The drone strike occurred at around 12 noon local time on a road in the Serdeşt plateau. Due to the force of the bombing, the car was thrown against rocks at the side of the road and immediately went up in flames, reported the RojNews agency based in South Kurdistan. Footage shows a burnt-out car wreck.

It is still unclear how many people were in the vehicle and whether they were civilians or possibly members of the Yazidi defence structures. A self-governing camp for displaced persons is located near the scene of the crime, where Yazidis who fled their villages into the mountains during the genocide by ISIS in 2014 live. Turkish drone attacks have also been carried out in the mentioned area in the past.

Under the pretext of “fighting the PKK”, Turkish warplanes and drones have repeatedly carried out airstrikes on Shengal since 2017. The specific targets are mostly institutions that were founded in the wake of the ISIS genocide - such as the administrative body “Shengal Democratic Autonomous Council” (MXDŞ) or the self-defence units YBŞ and YJŞ. The victims are mainly people from the civilian population - often survivors of the 2014 genocide.

The last known drone attack by Turkey in Shengal was carried out at the beginning of March, killing Mecdel Feqîr, a commander of Shengal Resistance Units (YBŞ) and survivor of the ISIS genocide in 2014. The drone bombed a checkpoint near Til Êzêr where Feqîr was working. He was 32 years old and left behind a wife and son. A few days earlier, civilian Sadun Mirza Ali had been killed by a Turkish drone in Shengal. The man was the father of three children and worked as a driver for the autonomous administration's committee for the martyrs. At the end of December, five workers from Rojava were killed in a drone attack in Shengal.

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DAANES: Turkish state commits war crimes in an attempt to conceal its collapse

ANF | 4 APRIL 2024

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) made a statement regarding the increasingly ongoing attacks of the occupying Turkish state against North and East Syria.

The statement pointed out that the Turkish state is once again trying to conceal its collapse both at home and abroad by targeting the region.

DAANES noted that attacking the region and its people is a war crime, especially after the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and security forces stabilized the region with their operations against ISIS cells and their supporters.

The Democratic Autonomous Administration said that Turkey attacked the region to pave the way for ISIS cells and opposition forces to disrupt this stabilization.

DAANES called on the forces seeking to stabilize the region and preserve the gains to take clear and unambiguous positions against the attacks of the Turkish state.

According to DAANES, the recent attack in Moscow shows that the ISIS threat persists and that the Turkish state is the primary supporter of ISIS in the region. The statement said that the international community should adopt a serious strategy to eliminate the sources of terrorism and cooperate with the Autonomous Administration.

The Autonomous Administration promised to protect the achievements of the people and the structures of the region in every way, to stabilize the region and to secure the people's hope for democracy, justice and equality.



26 young women join the guerrilla ranks on Öcalan's birthday

ANF | 4 APRIL 2024

In a statement in the mountains of Kurdistan, 26 young women stated that they joined “the leader to avenge Martyr Bişeng and Martyr Sara”.

Making a press statement in the Sorani dialect of Kurdish and Turkish, the young women stated that “Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan) is the name of an epic of resistance in İmralı to protect the honour of Kurds and to present a women's libertarian, democratic and ecological life to all peoples”.

Emphasising that they will “never accept a life without the leader”, the young women said, “By rebelling against colonialism in all four parts of Kurdistan, we, as 26 young women from Kurdistan, turn our faces to the sun, our leader, and join the guerrilla ranks on April 2024, 4 April to ensure the physical freedom of the leader.”

“The place of every young person and every young woman who wants to live an honourable life freely, humanely and womanly is in the sacred mountains (...) We call on all young people to join the leader”, the statement read.

Calling for “raising the fire of resistance on the path of Bishengs and Saras”, the young women said, “Everyone should know that we can only achieve freedom, democracy and a womanly life through struggle. On this basis, we call on all young people and young women to meet with the truth and flock to the ranks of PKK and PAJK.”



Kurdistan Freedom Militia target police station in Batman

ANF | 4 APRIL 2024

The Kurdistan Freedom Militia (MAK, Milîsên Azadiya Kurdistan) said in a written statement on Thursday that they targeted the police station in İpragaz neighbourhood of Batman around 01.00 on the night of 4 April.

The statement said: “During the attack, an IED thrown by our militia to the police station hit the armoured vehicle in the front area and damaged it. The fascist police officers inside the vehicle were scared and tried to escape into the police station. Our militia successfully reached their place after the action.”

“The lifting of the isolation on Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan) and his freedom is on the shoulders of all MAK forces”, said the statement and added: “On this occasion, we consider the birth of Rêber Apo as the rebirth of the people of Kurdistan. We salute the will of millions of Kurds who unite themselves with his ideas, ideology and philosophy.”



Turkish army and allied mercenaries attack Rojava

ANF | 4 APRIL 2024

According to ANHA (Hawar News Agency) based in Rojava, the occupying Turkish army and its gangs bombarded the village of Xirêbkê in Shêrawa district of occupied Afrin and the Menagh military air base in Shehba region.

No information could be obtained about the results of the bombardment.

The Menagh air base is located on the outskirts of the village of Minix (also known as Minaq or Minnigh), a few minutes’ drive north-east of Tel Rifat in the canton of Shehba-Afrin. The area is controlled by the Syrian army and is repeatedly targeted by the Turkish army and its affiliated jihadist militias.

Shehba is located between Aleppo and Afrin, trapped in a desert-like no man’s land between the Syrian regime and the Turkish occupation zone. Around 200,000 inhabitants of the region are people from Afrin who were displaced from their homes in the course of the Turkish war of aggression in 2018. The population is constantly under attack by the Turkish army and its Islamist mercenaries.

According to the Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE), the occupying Turkish state continued its attacks on the Afrin and Shehba regions in March. Between 1-31 March, a total of 121 attacks were launched against 44 villages and towns in Afrin and Shehba. The attacks caused material damage.

In 2023, the occupying Turkish state and its mercenaries attacked the Afrin and Shehba regions with howitzers, mortars, tanks, missiles, grenade launchers, armed drones and kamikaze drones 8,992 times, according to Shehba Defence Forces.

The northern Syrian canton of Afrin has been under Turkish occupation since 2018. The brutal campaign began on 20 January 2018, when Turkey launched air strikes on 100 locations as the onset of an invasion they dubbed 'Operation Olive Branch.' After two months of resistance, civilians fled and the SDF retreated to avoid further losses as hundreds of civilians died during the course of the genocidal campaign in violation of international law.

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Guerrillas carry out action in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 5 APRIL 2024

An action was carried out by Kurish guerrillas against Turkish soldiers who wanted to advance towards the war tunnels in the Martyr Delîl Girê Cûdî Resistance Area in the Western Zap region.

HPG sources said that three Turkish soldiers were killed and the weapon of one soldier was confiscated during the action.

The HPG reported that one MPT-55 type personal weapon was seized and added that many soldiers were injured.

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MAK claims responsibility for sabotage action on the oil pipeline in Amed

ANF | 5 APRIL 2024

The Kurdistan Freedom Militia (Milîsên Azadiya Kurdistan - MAK) said in a statement: "The oil pipeline of the fascist and occupying state was exploded with a sabotage technique in İnce Kavak District, Hazro district of Amed, on the evening of 30 March, around 21:15."

MAK said: "As a result of the information we received from local sources, it was determined that hundreds of barrels of oil were destroyed, causing a strong explosion and impact in the surrounding area. Our units successfully left the action area."

The statement continued: "The state, which carried out another plunder in Bakurê Kurdistan using the Turkish Petroleum Corporation TPAO, uses the money it obtained from this in the war against the Freedom guerrilla and our people."

Stating that “everything that feeds fascism is their target,” MAK said: “With this action, we are warning the state that has been carrying out an operation in the Amed region for the last week to leave our mountains, otherwise our mountains will become your graves.”



HPG releases balance sheet for March: 43 occupiers killed

ANF | BEHDINAN | 5 APRIL 2024

The Press Liaison Centre of the HPG (People’s Defense Forces) released the balance sheet of the war in Kurdistan for the month of March.

The HPG balance sheet includes the following:

“The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla welcomed the month of March and the resurrection festival Newroz with great enthusiasm and the spirit of resistance of the Contemporary Kawa, Mazlum Doğan. In March, our guerrilla forces gave the necessary response to all kinds of attacks conducted by the colonialist genocidal Turkish state from the air and land and increased its resistance. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, which continues its struggle with the Apoist sacrificial spirit everywhere from the provinces of Northern Kurdistan to the Medya Defence Zones, made important breakthroughs in March 2024.

On 19 March, a heavy blow was dealt to the invaders by the Şehîd Ciwan-Şehîd Andok Revolutionary Operation in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area of Zap. Our forces, who welcomed the Newroz Festival with a very meaningful revolutionary operation, celebrated Newroz with great enthusiasm and held military ceremonies. With these ceremonies, our guerrillas, on the one hand, celebrated the resurrection festival, on the other hand, reiterated their loyalty to Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan) and our beloved martyrs, who granted us these days, and expressed their readiness for the new year's struggle in all respects.

Kurdistan People’s Defence Forces gave a great good news to the patriotic Kurdish people and their friends at the Freedom Newroz. It declared that reached the ability to shoot down the killing machines, also called SİHA, used by the colonialist genocidal Turkish state and the forces behind it against our people and our movement. The balance sheet of the actions in which the Turkish state’s UCAVs were shot down starting from 13 February 2023 was announced this Newroz. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla has taken our freedom struggle against colonialism to a new stage by shooting down a total of 15 of all types of Akıncı, Ak-sungur, Anka and Bayraktar TB2 UCAVs, the most advanced UCAVs in the hands of the Turkish Republic, and seizing their wrecks. This move of the guerrilla, which strengthened the defence and struggle of the Kurdish people, was greeted with great enthusiasm and joy among our patriotic people and spread to all Newroz areas.

The level of professionalism reached by the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla from the air and land has once again proved that the genocide policy of the fascist AKP-MHP regime and its insistence on war will not yield any results, and has further increased our people's hope for freedom and belief in victory.

One revolutionary operation and 14 guerrilla actions were carried out during the month of March, when, also, our comrades Ekîn Rodî and Canşêr Şêrawa, who marched on the enemy with the Apoist sacrificial spirit, fell as martyrs. The Turkish special war media again concealed the losses suffered by the invading Turkish army and tried to mislead the public opinion with false news. As we have done so far, the lies of the Turkish special war media will be exposed with the concrete information, documents and images we will disclose, and the truth of the war in Kurdistan will be shared with the whole public.”

The detailed balance sheet of war for March is as follows:

Attacks by the Turkish army

Attacks by fighter jets: 226

Attacks by attack helicopters: 5

Attacks with banned explosives: 9

Attacks with explosive-laden drones: 15

Actions by the guerrillas

Total Guerrilla Action Carried Out: 15

Enemy losses

Occupiers killed: 43; Occupiers injured: 11

Destroyed equipment

Containers: 3; Positions: 7; Radar System: 1; Surveillance Cameras: 12; Projectors: 8; Cameras: 7; Tents: 2; Chain Grenade Launcher: 1

Confiscated weapons and military equipment

BKC Medium Automatic Weapon: 1; BKC Chain: 1; BKC Projectiles: 150; B7 Rocket Launcher Weapon: 1; MPT-55 Infantry Rifles: 2; Day Binoculars: 1; Weapon Spotter: 1; Sound System: 1; Glove: 1; Thermal Battery: 2; Thermal Adapter: 1

Femicide

Kongra Star organizes event in Aleppo to mark Öcalan's birthday

ANF | ALEPPO | 1 APRIL 2024

Within the scope of the activities held in Aleppo to mark 4 April, the birthday of Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Kongra Star, together with the Freedom for Leader Abdullah Öcalan Syria Initiative, organized a meeting with the participation of many citizens and members of civil society organizations.

Speaking at the meeting, Kongra Star Aleppo coordinator Fehîme Hemo said that the struggle should be expanded to ensure the physical freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Then, evaluating the content of the meeting, the Initiative's Aleppo Spokesperson Amine Xidro drew attention to Leader Abdullah Öcalan's struggle to ensure freedom, justice and equality among the people.

Amine evaluated the important historical stages that enabled the spread of Leader Abdullah Öcalan's ideas around the world and paved the way for the establishment of the Democratic Autonomous Administration.



TJK-E launches 'One Thousand Women, One Voice' campaign

ANF | 5 APRIL 2024

The Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe (TJK-E) launched a new campaign as part of the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question" campaign launched globally in October 2023.

The campaign "One Thousand Women, One Voice" aims to "unite the voices of women from different peoples and cultures against the genocidal system" in İmralı where Öcalan has been held since 1999.

TJK-E stated that they would conclude the campaign once they reached one thousand women and announced that women from different parts of the world, from the Middle East to Africa, Asia and Europe have already participated in the campaign.

Women from different geographies, nations, language groups, beliefs and cultures will be able to participate in the campaign by shooting short videos in the language of their choice.

TJK-E noted that solidarity with Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan can also be expressed in the form of "poetry, dance, speech or song".

Women from Chile, Catalonia, Kurdistan, the United Kingdom, Germany, India, Oromia, Switzerland and South Africa have already participated in the campaign with video messages demanding the freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

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Human Rights Violations

Turkish soldier kidnapped and tortured 2 Arab teenagers

ANF | 1 APRIL 2024

In a video shared on social media accounts, a masked Turkish soldier is seen torturing a young person he kidnapped in the village of Dêr Sewanê in the Shera district of Afrin. The soldier can be heard saying "You won't give it to me! Will you give it or not? I will take it from you when the money comes."

The tortured young people say in Arabic that they will tell their families for money.

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Emine Şenyaşar: I want the people of Van to join me

ANF | ANKARA | 4 APRIL 2024

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 68th day.

Speaking at the vigil, Ferit Şenyaşar said that they would continue their justice vigil during the Ramadan and added: "The justice this mother seeks is for everyone, and one day, those who committed this injustice will also be brought to justice. Just as the people of Van fought united against the injustice, we call all our people to join us in front of the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry, which has locked all its doors due to this mother's struggle, will be forced to open them again He will either provide justice or resign."

Emine Şenyaşar said that she will continue her search for justice and added: “I want the crowd in Van to be here too. Because if they don’t leave us alone, we will get justice. I will stay here until my son is released. I want the mothers of Van to join me.”

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Interview

Besê Hozat: The municipal elections are being held in a very undemocratic and fascist atmosphere

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 MARCH 2024

In the second part of this interview, co-chair of the KCK Executive Council, Besê Hozat, spoke about the local elections to be held tomorrow, 31 March.

As is known, the municipal elections in Turkey are set to take place on 31 March. How do you evaluate the elections and the preparations set for the elections?

It is important in which atmosphere, in which political and social climate this election will be held. There is an uninterrupted war, an ongoing genocide in Kurdistan and a war on the peoples of Turkey, a fascist regime in Turkey, an AKP-MHP-Ergenekon ruled fascist government. This fascist government has really suffocated Turkey. Turkey has collapsed politically, economically, ecologically. The government has plundered Turkey’s nature and geography. We saw it in the earthquake last year. With these construction projects, Turkey has completely turned its cities into concrete. In a severe earthquake in Turkey, especially in Kurdistan, cities are leveled to the ground. Now the municipal elections are being held in a very undemocratic and fascist atmosphere. Therefore, it has no legitimacy. These elections will not be democratic. The municipalities are also very important to this government. It wants to take back the places it lost in the previous elections.

For years, the municipalities have really been the center of governmental looting. They have become centers of theft, of plunder, of distributing wealth to cronies, and of looting all the riches. The municipalities in this system have become centers of theft and corruption. This is commonly known and can easily be observed. There is such a system in Turkey that it is a centralist system. The nation-state system in Turkey has already taken its most fascist form. Municipalities have no will, no initiative, and no authority. Everything is determined in Ankara.

In Ankara, this fascist power determines everything on the basis of its own interests. To get richer, to make their cronies earn more, to provide loot, to open areas of undetectable theft, to give away all the values, all the property, and all the riches of the people. The municipalities have really turned into loot distribution centers. That’s why they care so much. They will try to take over every place, they will try to give away the

people's values to their cronies. The more municipalities are taken from the hands of this fascist power, the weaker this fascist power will become. That's why they are in a panic. Especially in Istanbul, for example, this panic is quite intense. Because Istanbul is the center of life, I mean, almost a quarter of Turkey's population is there. All the coastal cities are like that, actually. That's why the current election process in Turkey has become a war process.

I mean, there are no elections, there is a war going on. There is a power struggle, and it is very ugly. No ethical values are recognized. Politics within the Turkish state has become very dirty. You can't even call it politics. It's not politics at all, it's trade. What they call politics is dirty trade and dirty bargaining. There is really no politics left in Turkey. Except for the Kurds and the democratic forces, there is no one practicing clean, democratic, moral, ethical politics. That's why our people in Turkey should vote for patriotic, democratic, libertarian, and egalitarian candidates. Never should the votes of our people be used as material for this dirty politics. This is very important. The democratic political parties have fielded candidates everywhere. They are the most patriotic, democratic, and libertarian candidates. They do clean politics.

Now that there is already a war of genocide in Kurdistan, the election in Kurdistan is also part of the war. For eight years, they have been appointing trustees. What is a trustee? A trustee is a colonizer, a genocidal occupier. They loot wherever they go. Seeing that they will lose the municipalities, the appointed trustees are selling off anything they can to harm the elected officials who will take their place. They are selling and plundering the property and everything. For eight years in Kurdistan, theft, corruption, and loot have been rampant. They steal from the people and distribute it to their cronies. Everyone in Kurdistan is hungry, poor, and unemployed. They are doing this consciously, to break the will of the people, to make them surrender, and to migrate. This trustee policy is also part of genocide policies.

As if this was not enough, they also mobilized Hizbulkontra. Hizbulkontra have massacred thousands of people in the past, functioning as paramilitary forces of the fascist government at the time. The same government who carried out well-documented genocidal attacks against the Kurdish people, killing hundreds of thousands of unarmed civilians. Now, the Hizbulkontra has become activated again and is implementing genocide policies in Kurdistan, but this time through politics. It is trying to make itself the most effective argument in the current situation as part of the total genocide policies all over Kurdistan. It is mobilized everywhere. They are focusing on Batman a lot. These Hizbukontra candidates are speaking Kurdish everywhere. They are trying to deceive people by speaking Kurdish. KDP also speaks Kurdish. By speaking Kurdish, KDP is committing Kurdish genocide together with AKP-MHP- Ergenekon. It is taking part in Kurdish genocide policies. Though, is the KDP really Kurdish in that matter? Can you call it patriotic? Does it have anything to do with Kurdishness? Can a power, a structure that commits Kurdish genocide represent Kurds, their interests and values? In reality, Kurds have gained their values through struggle, resistance, at great cost, with a lot of loss of life, bloodshed, suffering and getting tortured for 100 years, especially over the last 50 years. They are now trying to eliminate, plunder, usurp, and assimilate the values that were created through resistance. And they are doing this by using Kurdish. There is also the TRT 6 channel. By this television channel, they are trying to assimilate Kurds by using Kurdish. It is trying to make Kurds internalize the system, it is committing cultural genocide. It is committing cultural genocide by speaking Kurdish. Every day it curses Kurds, it schemes on how to enslave Kurds, how to make them serve the fascist Turkish state, how to make them servants. Hizbulkontra does the same thing. The AKP-MHP together with Ergenekon are waging a war of genocide by speaking Kurdish everywhere. This contra is doing what JITEM did.

They shamelessly put forward a candidate in a place like Dersim, the center of Alevism and the Reya Heq faith. They are all people of this faith. This is an insult and curse to them. This is blasphemy, this is an attack, this is an attack of genocide. This is the modern day expression of the 1937-38 massacre, and its special warfare tool the Hizbulkontra. It is a war of genocide currently being waged in Dersim. The people of Dersim should spit in the face of these contras. They should not allow those with the blood of the people of Dersim on their hands to even dare to set foot in Dersim, let alone go and make propaganda. Hizbulkontra candidates should not even dare to set foot in Kurdistan, in the cities of Kurdistan. All of them have bloodied their hands with genocide, all of them are assimilation pawns, they are elements within the concepts of special warfare, JITEM elements who develop genocide policies. They have nothing to do with Kurdishness. They insult the Kurdish language by speaking it. They will not be able to assimilate Kurdish culture by using the Kurdish language, they will not be allowed to commit cultural genocide again. Our people will not give in to this. In these municipal elections, at the ballot box, both this genocidal colonialist fascist power, the state, and the elements of special warfare of Hizbulkontra and other collaborator traitor groups will give their answers. I believe in this. Our people are struggling against this, and will show the strongest attitude.

There is currently a lot of discussion about the co-chairman system. Apparently, there are some men who are not in favor of it. What can they tell us about this system? Why is the co-chairman system of such significance in your eyes?

The co-chairman system really plays a very decisive role in the democratization and liberation of politics and society. It plays a transformative, changing role. It is a system developed against the male-dominated mentality, understanding and system. It rejects the male-dominated mentality, system, patriarchal mentality and system, and expresses a break from it. It is an alternative, democratic, libertarian and egalitarian system. Now, in order for this system to be successfully developed, established and executed, first of all, the people responsible for developing this system must completely purify themselves from the mentality and understanding of the dominant, traditional perspective. In other words, they need to experience a break from the dominant, traditional mentality. This is very important. Because this is a system developed against male domination. It is a system based on democratic politics, a form of government and a way of life based on the freedom of women, the freedom of men, the equality and freedom of women and men. In order for this system to develop, first of all, the male friends who take part in this system must experience a radical cut from the male-dominated mentality and understanding. Their mentality must be democratic, libertarian, egalitarian, their understanding must be like this. If this does not happen, they constitute a great obstacle to this system. They are doing everything to frustrate this system.

A man who does not want to give up his male-dominant understanding will create obstacles and resist the development of the co-chairman system. Because male domination wants to rule with its own understanding and mentality. But this system is not like that. This system rejects the way of governing with a male-dominated mentality. It is based on a free, equal, democratic form of government, politics, lifestyle and working style. Now, since this system has developed, there has been a dual attack. There is a state attack against this system. There is a systematic attack. Because the development of this system will bring about democratic politics. It will change and transform society. Changing, transforming, democratizing and liberating society and politics will challenge the state power system. It will challenge and weaken fascist, colonialist, genocidal policies, mentalities and understandings. This frightens the state and the powers. So what will they do? Attack. An attack against this, is an attack on the paradigm of women's freedom. It is an attack on the free women, free society, free politics, free governance. The state is doing this. It has done

this from the beginning. That's why it imprisoned all the co-chairs. It is trying to take all women's gains away from women. First it attacked the co-chair system, then it canceled the Istanbul Convention. Now, it is trying to remove anything in its own constitution that is even the slightest bit useful or in favor of women. The whole reaction is united against the paradigm and struggle of women's freedom.

This is a form of attack that feeds the state and strengthens the state-power system. How does that happen? The man refuses to give up the male-dominated mentality, he does not give up this understanding. He does not give up his way of governing because he thinks it is in his favor. He does not want to live in equal partnership with women, he does not want to share. He does not want to form a joint governing on an equal, free and democratic basis. He insists on his own way of ruling. He insists on his way of domination, suppression, hegemony, he wants to be the one and only. This also happened in the municipalities. This is a fundamental problem we are currently experiencing in all areas. Since male friends do not give up their male-dominated understanding and mentality, there is a problem because they do not take a free, equal, democratic governance and working style as a basis together with their female friends. This process is developing in a constant conflict, constant discussion, constant struggle. This is the nature of the work.

Of course, men do not easily give up their male-dominated understanding. Women need to struggle strongly, men who seek freedom need to struggle very strongly, social segments of our society who want to be liberated, who want democratization need to embrace this system very strongly, and fight against the male-dominated patriarchal system, sexist state and power. This struggle is not only the struggle of women. Women will struggle first and foremost, of course, but men and everybody else who seeks freedom must also struggle. In other words, it is necessary so that the system can settle, function and succeed. If this system is successful, there will definitely be a serious transformation in society, a level of emancipation and democratization will emerge. Society will be liberated and democratized. These fascist nation-state systems, ruling state systems will no longer be able to maintain their rule, they will dissolve and fall apart. In other words, they will no longer be able to exert pressure on the peoples and practice fascism. Therefore, co-chairman means that the system of equal representation becomes a cultural component, vitalized, systematized, a style of governance, a style and understanding of politics. It means the elimination of sexism, nationalism, racism, and religious sectarianism. It means the liberation, democratization and flourishing of society. It means to not only breathe but to live freely. It is that important. It is really the resistance point of freedom. But unfortunately, a male approach that will comprehend this, understand it and approach it accordingly has not yet emerged. A women's struggle that will comprehend this in depth and wage a much more radical and effective struggle, is still not fully sufficient. There are problems in this regard. But this definitely needs to be overcome. This system is very important for the democratization of local governments, society, and the emancipation of political governance.

Now, in local governments, wherever a democratic political party enters the elections in Kurdistan, that is, wherever a political party based on the paradigm of Democratic Nation enters the elections, the co-chairmanship system is taken as a basis. It is absolutely necessary to implement this system in accordance with its essence, philosophy and understanding. This is very important.

In terms of municipalities, it is also necessary to state the following. We see what kind of municipalism our people want. The demands of the people are clear. The people want a pluralist, egalitarian, libertarian, democratic, multicultural, multilingual, socialist municipality. It wants a municipality governance approach in which it will directly participate, be involved in the governance, have a say in the services related

to it, in the problems of the local area, and have a will. Our people express this everywhere. If a municipality is not democratic and socialist, it cannot be the administration of the people. That municipality will not provide democratic, free and equal services to the people, it will not be fair. Therefore, a democratic and socialist understanding of municipal administration would provide services to the people in a fairer, more equal manner, without discrimination. This is what the people demand and want. And we think this will be the case. Because all the candidates of democratic political parties in Kurdistan have made these promises. They must fulfill their promises. Of course the people expect them to fulfill their promises in practice, they expect them to implement this.

As is so often the case shortly before elections, there have recently been many attempts by the AKP to present itself as if it were interested in a supposed solution to the Kurdish question. How do you evaluate this?

We see in the press that some AKP officials, special warfare pawns, are trying to create a perception in regard to Rêber Apo. Officials from our party were also evaluating this the other day. Tülay Hatimoğulları also participated in a TV program several days ago, we listened to it. She made very important evaluations and calls. She also addressed this issue. So this is a really serious situation.

AKP circles and officials are trying to create a perception among Kurds that a different process may develop after 1 April. In other words, they are trying to create perceptions. They are aiming to get Kurdish votes in these municipal elections. They say that if the Kurds vote for the AKP, a new solution process can start after the elections. They are conducting a very intense propaganda and perception work, a special warfare policy in Kurdistan. This is very dangerous, since it is completely false. Whether they vote for the AKP or not, there is only one thing that the Kurds will experience after the elections; it will be a deepened, widened and intensified attempt to finish off the genocide. At the moment, all the preparations of this government are on this basis, this is the only plan they will try to implement after elections. This special warfare propaganda aims to confuse the Kurds, creating expectations, creating confusion and gaining votes. It is nothing more than psychological warfare. Our people do not and should not believe them. Already the practice is obvious, the policies are obvious. The rest is a lie. Our people don't believe it, we don't believe it. If anyone pays attention, they should never pay attention. This is a genocidal, colonialist, fascist power. And it definitely wants to finalize this genocide policy within a year or two after the elections. It is working on this basis, preparing on this basis. No one should be fooled by the propaganda of the special warfare. No one should fall under the influence of special warfare. Our people should vote for those who represent their own will and their own values. There should be no confusion on this issue. It must be as clear as the sun. It must be as clear as water.

The state, this AKP-MHP-Ergenekon fascist alliance, focuses on some places in Kurdistan with much more importance. It has also identified those places as flagship areas. It is trying to usurp and seize them in this election. In fact, the trustee policy has changed its form a little more in this period. In this process, the Erdogan regime is attempting to achieve this by moving voters. He has filled everywhere with police, gendarmerie and soldiers. He spread the army across Kurdistan and registered each of them as voters. He also created imaginary voters. He will do a lot of cheating anyway. Especially in the past elections, he is paying more attention to the places where the voting rates and the difference in votes were small. For example, he is now very serious about Agri, Şırnak, Urfa, Kars and particularly Iğdir. He is concentrating on these areas. He is developing a thousand and one ways and methods to usurp these areas. I believe that our people are sensitive to this. Our people should listen the calls of their political party. All voters in the cities and metropolises of Turkey should go to their places, go to their cities, go to their towns and vote. This must

be strictly adhered to. Our people should definitely go to the ballot box wherever they are. They must cast their vote. They must protect their vote, they must protect their will. They should not only vote and come back. They should also protect the ballot box until the results are announced. Because there is a very intense attack, there is a special war, there is cheating, there is a trap. It is our people who will frustrate all these. It is our people's sensitivity, responsible approach, participation, protecting their will, protecting their votes. We should definitely pay attention to these. This is the measure. We trust our people. Our people must trust themselves. Otherwise, the democratic political party in Kurdistan is forced to become a coalition, it will not be allowed to perform freely per the will of the people. When it comes to Kurdistan, all state parties develop an alliance against the democratic political party, against the Kurds. This is very clear. They enter the elections with the state. Therefore, we must be very sensitive everywhere. Our people must vote. They must protect the ballot box. Those who have moved to the cities of Turkey should come to their own place, come to their home city, come to their home town, cast their vote there. They should make such a sacrifice. Because this enemy, this state, this government treats the election as a war. It treats it as a war to break the will of the Kurds, as a form of developing a new slaughter policy. Our people must really resist, fight against this, and put forward their will in a very strong way. This is important. I would like to make a call on this basis.



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