

# THE İMRALI POST

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Issue N° Local Elections in Turkey 2024 / 6 April 2024 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

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## Local Elections in Turkey

### DEM party ends election campaign in Nusaybin with torchlight rally

ANF | NUSAYBIN | 30 MARCH 2024

In Nusaybin (Nisêbîn), preparations for the local elections have been completed in a militant festival atmosphere.

On Friday evening, a large crowd of people walked through the city with torches to the women's electoral office of the DEM party, chanting "Bijî Berxwdana Zindanan" (Long live the prison resistance) and "Bijî Serok Apo" (Long live Chairman Apo, meaning Abdullah Öcalan). Along the way, more and more people joined the torchlight march.

In front of the women's electoral office, DEM Party Mardin MP Kamuran Tanhan gave a speech underlining the importance of Sunday's elections: "This is not a normal election, it is a choice between the Kurdish people, who despite everything insist on peace, and those who insist on death. In order to drive the regime of trustees out of Kurdistan, we will go to the polls on 31 March and use our right to vote. We will take a stand against isolation and rights violations in prisons."

Lawyer Gülbin Şahin Dağhan, co-mayor candidate for the DEM party, said: "For two electoral periods, the will of the people of Nisêbîn has been run by trustees. On 31 March we will send the trustee away and govern our city ourselves again."

The politician called for people not to leave the polling stations until the final votes have been counted in order to prevent attempts at fraud: "Protecting the ballot boxes is just as important as the voting process. We will rebuild Nisêbîn hand in hand."

Nusaybin was largely destroyed during the resistance for self-government in 2015-2016. The co-mayors elected in the last two local elections were removed from office by the Turkish Interior Ministry and replaced by a state trustee. As in most Kurdish cities, the right to vote and stand for election was effectively suspended.

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## **DEM Party to guard the ballot boxes with thousands of polling station attendants**

ANF | 30 MARCH 2024

People in Turkey and North Kurdistan will go to the polls tomorrow for local elections. People will be able to vote between 07.00-16.00 in Kurdistan and between 08.00-17.00 in Turkey. The election bans determined by the Supreme Board of Elections (YSK) start at 17.00 today. While the AKP-MHP government has moved soldiers and police officers to many cities of Kurdistan, unsealed ballot papers, invalidated votes and fraud recorded in previous elections increase the importance of election security.

### **Amed**

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) has finalised its election security activities especially in Kurdistan cities. The DEM Party will be in the field and guard the ballot boxes in Amed (Diyarbakır) and neighbouring cities with nearly 15 thousand people consisting of polling station attendants, observers, school supervisors, mobile teams, people authorised to object, party executives and volunteers.

In 3,968 ballot boxes to be set up in Amed, 1 million 164 thousand voters will vote for metropolitan municipality, 18 district and town municipalities and mukhtar elections.

The DEM Party will also ensure ballot box security with 1,67 school officers and 150 lawyers.

### **Batman**

In Batman province and its districts, 411 thousand 11 voters will go to the polls. 310,667 people will vote in 939 ballot boxes to be set up in the city centre. The DEM Party will employ 1,500 polling station attendants and observers in 939 polling stations. In addition to two supervisors in each school, travelling delegations of 200 people have been formed. These travelling delegations will include 80 lawyers. During the vote counting process at the YSK, 50 people will be on duty.

### **Dersim**

In the centre of Dersim, 24,622 voters will go to the polls. Voters will vote in 80 ballot boxes in 16 schools. Each school will have a polling station attendant and an observer, as well as supervisors. In the

city, 18 people, mostly lawyers, will be in charge of objections. In the districts, in addition to polling station attendants, observers, school supervisors and people authorised to object will be in charge of all polling stations. Nearly 400 people will be on the field in the city centre and districts for ballot security on election day.

## Bingol

198 thousand 436 voters will go to the polls in Bingöl, with 115, 594 people voting in the city centre. The DEM Party will guard the 397 ballot boxes in the city centre with 400 people. In the district of Karlıova and villages, 18,475 people will vote at 76 ballot boxes. 150 people will be in charge of the polling stations, including attendants, observers and persons authorised to object.

## Elazığ

In the Karakoçan district of Elazığ, a total of 22.350 voters, 11.650 in the centre, will go to the polls. Voting will be held at 121 ballot boxes, including those in the villages. The DEM Party will assign one polling station attendant for each ballot box and 250 people will be at the polling station together with the observers. Another 21 people, mostly lawyers, will be authorised to object.

## Siirt

In the centre of Siirt province, 107,643 voters will cast their votes in 376 ballot boxes. The DEM Party will ensure the security of the ballot boxes with 650 ballot box committee members, 112 school supervisors, 200 observers and 120 people (40 of them lawyers) authorised to object.

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## KCK: Vote for the people's candidates!

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 MARCH 2024

Releasing a statement on tomorrow's municipal elections in Northern Kurdistan and Turkey, the Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council called on the people to vote for candidates who represent their democratic will.

The KCK statement on Saturday includes the following:

“It is known that on March 31, 2024, municipal elections will take place in North Kurdistan and Turkey. North Kurdistan's citizens have an interest in these elections and hope to win by nominating democratic and patriotic candidates. We support the people's strategy and hope they achieve their goals. We consider democratic politics to be fundamental. Thousands of martyrs were sacrificed by our people in the ongoing struggle to establish democratic governance. The most significant aspect of democratic politics and democracy overall is municipal governance. Local democratic governments are very important for our people who are fighting for democracy and freedom.

The Kurdish people have long fought for their freedom and existence against colonialism and genocide, hence general and municipal elections have always been important for showing their political attitude and will. The murderous colonialist Turkish state has been trying to destroy democratic politics and deviate it from its path for decades. It has utilized many forms of brutality, including massacring, expulsion, arrests, extortion, and other forms of repression, to achieve this goal. JITEM and Hizbulkontra killed thousands of patriots in cases which were left uninvestigated by state courts, labeling them ‘unsolved killings’. Nevertheless, they were unable to destroy the Kurdish population and their democratic political system. The democratic political arena persisted, refusing to submit or surrender its position. This is something that we value highly, and we would like to honorably remember all of the martyrs of democracy by paying particular tribute to two of their pioneers: Vedat Aydin ((a well-known Kurdish politician and human rights activist, who was detained in his home on July 5, 1991 and whose mutilated body was found dumped on the side of a country road two days later) and Apê Musa ((Musa Anter, one of the best-known Kurdish writers, who was often confronted with repression for his political and cultural activities. On September 20, 1992, he was murdered by a death squad of the Turkish state).

It is evident that the DEM Party candidates have ignited the interest and passion of the people in regional politics, in both Turkey and North Kurdistan. Our people in Turkey and Kurdistan are drawn to and supportive of the DEM Party because of its policies, programs, and nominated candidates. Starting the process of democratic reconstruction by appealing to the people after the general elections on May 14, produced significant and essential outcomes. Among this is the nomination of candidates by the people through the primary elections. The public recognized this as a just and democratic approach, and they were in favor of it. This is among the reasons for the enthusiasm and interest which has developed in Kurdistan. Once more, the DEM Party ensured the support of the people through employing the co-chairmanship system as a model and by appearing before the general population with co-chair candidates. The clear opposition of the people against attempts to defame the co-chairmanship and the philosophy of the free woman, clearly demonstrated this fact.

The biggest pressure on the democratic political system has come from the fascist AKP-MHP coalition. The AKP-MHP government did everything it could to commit acts of evil, being immersed in the Kurdish genocide. When pressure, extortion, threats, arrest, and assassination fail, it has turned to a variety of shady tactics, like employing unique military techniques to bring about the disintegration of the people and coerce their submission. The height of these problems is the appointment of trustees.

The trustees emerge from the politics of the Kurdish genocide. It is the negation and eradication of the Kurdish people’s existence, as well as the seizure of their will. Tayyip Erdogan and the AKP-MHP government have demonstrated their denialist nature and their position as the largest enemy of the Kurdish people by assigning trustees to the cities of Kurdistan. This reality has been thoroughly comprehended and embraced by our people. This is declared by the determined attitude that developed in Newroz. It’s certain that the local elections scheduled on March 31 will likewise represent this mindset.

We would like draw attention to two points in particular, which we believe are important. First of all, the current setting for these elections is unequivocally undemocratic. The public and democratic institutions are under unprecedented pressure. Kurdistan is now being treated as a headquarters of the various state institutions, and various forms of coercion and deception are being used to keep the DEM Party candidates from winning. Upon their arrival in Kurdish cities, hundreds of thousands of military personnel, law enforcement officers, and government employees registered to vote. In light of the circumstances surround-

ing the elections, voters ought to participate more actively in the polls to discredit schemes, conspiracies, and deceptions. Our people should not be tricked into casting a single vote for the AKP-MHP and its allies. Considering voting for a candidate other than the ones chosen by the people is untenable because it puts the future of our entire people at stake, leaving them to face the atrocities committed against them in the past. Everyone should be persuaded, our people must not be hesitant, and we should all vote in one voice during the elections. Ballot boxes and votes must be safeguarded by both the people and those in authority. Through coercion, fraud, plot, and machinations, the AKP-MHP and their allies hope to normalize and legitimize the appointment of trustees by gaining control of the municipalities in Kurdistan. The people of North Kurdistan must not allow this to happen.

Second, there needs to be an intense reaction against those who have betrayed. The likes of JITEM, groups which have collaborated with them, killed innocent people, and sold their souls to the enemy in the name of money and power, should not be given the opportunity to deceive our people. Never should a single Kurd be attracted to such devious criminals. These groups, posing as Kurds, are nothing more than homicidal mobs infested with the state's venom. They have infiltrated our people and are being employed to hinder the success of the freedom movement. It is imperative that our people, who are well aware of and familiar with these groups, respond to them collectively and with the required strength.

With this hope and belief, we encourage our people to vote strongly on March 31st and wish the democratic candidates and our people the best of luck.”

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## Provocation by AKP candidate in Nusaybin

ANF | NUSAYBIN | 31 MARCH 2024

AKP politician Mehmet Çelik campaigned for votes for his candidacy for mayor with a motorcade through the Kurdish city of Nusaybin (Nisêbîn) on Saturday. The city in the province of Mardin (Mêrdîn) is a traditional stronghold of the HDP, whose successor, the DEM party, is considered the favorite in the local elections that will take place today.

As expected, Çelik's tour was not peaceful. The so-called 'wolf salute' of the right-wing extremist movement “Gray Wolves”, which people from the AKP troop parade showed, caused the first provocations. Numerous people, including DEM members, who had set up an information stand in the immediate vicinity, then stood on the street and blocked the convoy's passage. Çelik was booed, angry people shouted slogans in favor of the DEM. Several of the AKP candidate's companions got out of their vehicles and insulted the crowd. A man held a gun in front of people and threatened: "I'll shoot you all."

The police present, who observed the process, intervened. However, the operation was directed against the angry crowd, which was growing larger and larger and on the verge of provocations. First, Çelik and his supporters were removed from the square under police protection. The emergency services then used tear gas to disperse the protesters. Numerous shopkeepers had to close their businesses early. Many of the protesters moved into side streets and narrow alleys.



## Polls close in Kurdistan

ANF | 31 MARCH 2024

Voting ended in 32 cities, mostly in North Kurdistan.

The cities where voting has ended are as follows: Semsûr, Agirî, Artvin, Çewlig, Bedlîs, Amed, Xarpêt, Erzîngan, Erzirom, Dîlok, Giresun, Gümüşhane, Colemêrg, Qers, Meletî, Gurgum, Mêrdîn, Mûş, Ordu, Rize, Sêrt, Sêwaz, Trabzon, Dêrsim, Riha, Wan, Bayburt, Êlih, Şirnex, Erdexan, Îdir and Kilis.

Voting in other cities will continue until 17.00.



## Local Elections in Kurdistan and Turkey: LIVE BLOG

Local elections have been held in 81 provinces, 973 districts and 390 towns in Kurdistan and Turkey today.

ANF | 31 MARCH 2024

Local elections have been held in 81 provinces, 973 districts and 390 towns in Northern Kurdistan and Turkey today. The polls opened at 7 am local time (8 am in Central Europe) in Kurdistan and closed at 4 pm local time.

In addition to mayors, 50,336 village and neighborhood heads (*muhtar*), the first general council and municipal council members will be elected in local elections.

23:47

### İmamoğlu: Turkey will be another Turkey

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu made a statement after being reelected. "We have won the election," said İmamoğlu, adding, "I would like to thank our people, children, women, young people, and the alliance of conscience formed by the people for strengthening the Istanbul alliance."

İmamoğlu said: "Looking at the Istanbul alliance, I would like to say this: the nation not only decides who will govern, but also assigns duties. We are obliged to understand what message the voters gave us and what task the people gave us. Those who ignore the duties given by the nation at the ballot box will eventually lose."

Everyone has the obligation to correctly understand the duties given by the ballot box. Today, the people have given me the full responsibility of being a municipality. Together with our 16 million citizens, we have made partisanship a thing of the past. Istanbul responded not only to me, but also to the president and the government."

22:57

### **AKP usurpation of people's will**

The AKP brought 46,901 thousand soldiers and police officers to 31 centers of Kurdistan as voters. However, the AKP lost in many centers despite the strong military and police votes. The DEM Party will object to the results, which are not yet official.

22:56

### **Celebrations continue in Hakkari (Colemêrg)**

22:54

### **Election celebration in Batman (Êlih)**

22:15

### **People are celebrating on the streets in Tatvan**

22:04

### **Election victory is celebrated with enthusiasm in Van**

22:01

### **DEM Party wins in Dargeçit despite the transported voters**

The counting process was completed in Mardin's Dargeçit district where the government registered hundreds of soldiers and police officers as "voters". According to the initial results; the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) won the election in the district, receiving over 50 per cent of the votes, while the AKP remained at 43 per cent.

Following the results from the polls, celebrations started in front of the DEM Party district building in Dargeçit.

On the other hand, according to the initial results; DEM Party is leading the elections in Artuklu, Dêrik, Kızıltepe, Nusaybin and Mazıdağı districts by a large margin.

21:47



## **Enthusiastic celebrations in Amed**

21:41

## **Celebrations began in Nusaybin**

A convoy continues to tour the streets of Nusaybin district of Mardin, celebrating the victory of the DEM Party.

21:36

## **DEM Party in the lead in Akdeniz**

According to the results of the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Mayoral Election, CHP candidate Vahap Seer, who was determined by the consensus of the city (supported by DEM Party), is leading with 37.72 percent of the votes, while in the largest district of Akdeniz, Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) candidates Nuriye Arslan and Hoşyar Sarıyıldız are in the lead with 31.98 percent of the votes. In Akdeniz, where 24.46 percent of the ballot boxes were opened, masses flocked to the DEM Party's Akdeniz district office.

21:34

## **AKP members who lost the election in Hilvan set the ballot box on fire**

AKP members who lost the elections in the Hilvan district of Urfa set a ballot box on fire. AKP supporters set fire to the ballot box numbered 1119 in Yeni Mahalle and beat DEM Party polling officials and police officers who tried to prevent them.

According to the wet signed results of the burned ballot box; DEM Party received 96 votes, AKP 58 votes, YRP 35 votes. In the district where DEM Party is in the lead, the party members took the wet signed results of the ballot box numbered 1119 under protection.

DEM Party officials will file a criminal complaint against AKP members who burned the ballot box.

21:32

## **People celebrate DEM Party's victory in Ağrı**

21:28

## **Election celebrations in Van**

21:16

## **İpekyolu Candidate: AKP's war policies have failed**

DEM Party candidates Cevdet Altındağ and Canan Uzunay won the election in İpekyolu, the largest district of Van. Cevdet Altındağ, who spoke to ANF regarding the election victory, said the following: "The trustee and AKP mentality has lost. Our people showed their stance again. We see that even AKP voters have distanced themselves from the AKP. The peoples of Turkey gave the biggest response to the war policies at the ballot box. They wanted to break the will of the people with the trustee practice, but they failed again. Our people reflected their will to the ballot box in the strongest way. DEM has achieved victory in Van and its districts and everything will be even better. As of tomorrow, we will start to recover the damages of the trustee, and we will share our services and projects with the public in a short time. We will respond to what our people did at the ballot box with the services we will produce in the municipality."

20:51

## **People in Hakkari have started celebrations**

In Hakkari, where 85 percent of the ballot boxes have been opened, people have already started to gather in front of the provincial building to celebrate DEM Party's victory. While the slogans "Bijî Serok Apo" (Long Live Leader Öcalan) and "Hakkari is proud of you" were frequently chanted, the party executives asked the people not to leave the polling stations for the security of the ballot boxes.

20:44

## **Police attack DEM Party members in Şırnak**

After the polls closed in Şırnak and the counting of votes started, the police attacked the party members who gathered in front of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Provincial Organisation building. The police used pepper spray and tried to disperse the party members. Several people, including DEM Party Provincial Co-Chair Abdullah Güngen, were detained during the attack.

20:42

## **DEM Party victory celebrated in Muş**

According to the unofficial election results, DEM Party came first in Muş centre and the districts of Varto, Bulanık and Malazgirt. Kurdish politics' winning the municipality for the first time in the centre of Muş is celebrated with great enthusiasm in the streets. The people took to the streets after Iftar and celebrated their victory by dancing.

20:30

## **Voters in Kurdistan frustrate the trustee and illegal voter schemes**

While the counting of votes for the General Elections for Local Authorities continues, the majority of the voters in Kurdistan cities cast their votes in favour of the DEM Party. The will of the people prevailed in

the ballot boxes despite the thousands of police and soldiers deployed to the region by the AKP government months in advance.

DEM Party Spokesperson Ayşegül Doğan announced that they have identified 46,901 voters transported to 31 centres in Kurdistan. Despite the attempt to usurp the will of the people through the transported voters, the DEM Party has come out ahead in the ballot boxes opened so far in 11 cities, according to the data shared by Anadolu Agency.

## **Amed**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 12.56 percent

DEM Party 62.47 percent

AKP: 17.14 per cent

HÜDAPAR 7.36 per cent

CHP: 3.00 per cent

YRP: 2.78 per cent

## **Mardin**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 17.63 percent

DEM Party 54.33 percent

AKP: 30.09 percent

YRP: 4.75 percent

CHP: 2.15 percent

HÜDAPAR 1.96 percent

## **Batman**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 6.68 percent

DEM Party 63.78 percent

HÜDAPAR 15.87 percent

AKP: 14.06 percent

CHP: 2.15 percent

YRP: 1.16 per cent

### **Siirt**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 43.25 percent

DEM Party 49.04 percent

AKP: 39.07 percent

CHP: 2.21 percent

YRP: 1.71 percent

HÜDAPAR 1.51 percent

### **Bitlis**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 58.77 percent

DEM Party: 38.82 percent

AKP: 37.38 percent

YRP: 7.56 percent

HÜDAPAR :2.36 percent

Saadet: 1.70 percent

### **Mus**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 34.09 percent

DEM Party: 38.19 percent

AKP: 23.80 percent

YRP: 10.28 percent

İYİ Party: 4.05

HÜDAPAR: 3.05 percent

**Dersim**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 23.75 percent

DEM Party 41.70 percent

CHP: 34.66 percent

AKP: 15.31 percent

H. AYGÜN 4.10 percent

Zafer Partisi: 1.05 percent

**Agri**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 50.00 percent

DEM Party: 49.25 percent

AKP: 35.91 percent

YRP: 4.54 percent

CHP: 2.09 percent

İYİ Party: 1.21 percent

**Igdir**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 85.31 percent

DEM Party 45.96 percent

AKP: 44.34 percent

İYİ Party: 4.22 percent

CHP: 2.42 percent

YRP: 0.78 percent

**Van**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 24.97 percent

DEM Party: 54.39 percent

AKP: 28.03 percent

YRP: 5.05 percent

CHP: 2.11 percent

HÜDAPAR 1.54 percent

### **Hakkari**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 47.11 percent

DEM Party 44.40 percent

AKP: 41.54 percent

CHP: 1.07 percent

YRP: 0.59 percent

Zafer Partisi: 0.44 percent

### **Şirnak**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 80.65 percent

AKP: 47.02 percent

DEM Party 41.53 percent

CHP: 3.35 percent

YRP: 2.77 percent

HÜDAPAR 1.73 percent

### **Hakkari**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 71.61 percent

AKP: 46.24 percent

DEM Party 42.98 percent

CHP: 3.08 percent

YRP: 2.53 percent

HÜDAPAR 1.84 percent

**Urfa**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 24.64 percent

YRP: 36.61 percent

AKP: 34.57 percent

DEM Party 22.21 percent

CHP: 1.30 percent

HÜDAPAR 1.03 percent

**Adiyaman**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 14.26 percent

CHP: 48.40 percent

AKP: 28.51 percent

YRP: 13.60 percent

DEM Party: 2.31 percent

Saadet: 1.1 percent

**Bingöl**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 94.55 percent

AKP: 35.55 percent

DEM Party 26.58 percent

YRP: 21.57 percent

HÜDAPAR: 9.88 percent

CHP: 1.91 percent

**Erzurum**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 34.89 percent

AKP: 49.29 percent

İYİ Party 21.66 percent

DEM Party 6.98 percent

CHP: 6.26 percent

Zafer Partisi: 4.39 percent

**Kars**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 27.69 percent

MHP: 38.06 percent

DEM Party 26.09 percent

CHP: 16.65 percent

İYİ Party: 8.89 percent

YRP: 3.32 percent

**Ardahan**

Opened Ballot Box rate: 88.00 percent

CHP: 41.91 percent

AKP: 39.75 percent

DEVA Party 3.07 percent

HÜDAPAR 0.21 percent

YRP: 0.19 percent



## Elazığ

Opened Ballot Box rate: 49.08 percent

AKP: 39.17 percent

YRP: 20.99 percent

— ★ —

## People in Kurdistan say DEM!

ANF | ANKARA | 1 APRIL 2024

The state trustee regime in North Kurdistan is history again. In the local elections on Sunday, the HDP successor DEM not only managed to win back municipalities that had been placed under receivership after the previous vote in 2019.

The 'People's Equality and Democracy Party' also became the strongest force in circles that the Kurdish democratic opposition could not win in previous elections, such as in Muş, and regained the majority they lost five years ago in Dersim and Agirî. The party remained at just under 5.8 percent nationwide.

According to the preliminary results, together with the three large cities of Amed, Mardin and Van, the DEM was still able to win a total of 77 mayoral positions. That is twelve more than in the last local elections.

### **Bakırhan: The will of the Kurdish people must be respected**

"The real winners of this election are the Kurdish people, the working people and the women," said DEM co-chair Tuncer Bakırhan in the evening in Ankara.

The people of Kurdistan have asserted their will for democracy and peace, for an end to the war and a political solution to the Kurdish question. Bakırhan said: "What won was the desire for local democracy and overcoming the centralistic, monistic mentality. Those who want to secure their existence through hostility to the Kurds have lost. We wanted to end the oppression and exploitation by the AKP at the ballot box. We succeeded and this will must be respected."

— ★ —

## DEM Party wins 75 municipalities

ANF | 1 APRIL 2024

People in Turkey and North Kurdistan went to the polls for local elections. While the AKP-MHP government suffered a great defeat, the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and CHP won the elections.

The DEM Party won 3 metropolitan municipalities, 7 provinces, 58 districts and 7 town municipalities.

According to the final election results, the municipalities won by the DEM Party are as follows:

### METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES

1. AMED
2. MÊRDÎN
3. WAN

### PROVINCES

1. AGIRÎ
2. ELÎH
3. COLEMÊRG
4. ÎDIR
5. MÛŞ
6. SÊRT
7. DÊRSIM

### DISTRICTS

1. COLEMÊRG/GEVER (YÛKSEKOVA)
2. WAN/MIKS (BAHÇESARAY)
3. WAN/ELBAK (BAŞKALE)
4. WAN/EBEX (ÇALDIRAN)
5. WAN/ŞAX (ÇATAK)
6. WAN/ARTEMÊTAN (EDREMÎT)
7. WAN/ERDÎŞ (ERCİŞ)
8. WAN/WESTAN (GEVAŞ)
9. WAN/PAYÎZAVA (GÛRPINAR)
10. WAN/RÊYA ARMÛŞÊ (İPEKYOLU)
11. WAN/BÊGİRÎ (MURADİYE)
12. WAN/QELQELÎ (ÖZALP)
13. WAN/SERAY (SARAY)
14. WAN/TÛŞBA (TUŞBA)
15. AGIRÎ/GIYADÎN (DİYADİN)
16. AGIRÎ/BAZÎD (DOĞUBAYAZIT)

17. AGIRÎ/AVKEVİR (TAŞLIÇAY)
18. QERS/QAXIZMAN (KAĞIZMAN)
19. QERS/DÎGOR
20. ŞIRNEX/CİZİR (CİZRE)
21. ŞIRNEX/SILOPIYA (SİLOPİ)
22. ŞIRNEX/HEZEX (İDİL)
23. SÊRT/MISIRC (KURTALAN)
24. BEDLÎS/TETWAN (TATVAN)
25. MÛŞ/GIMGIM (VARTO)
26. MÛŞ/KOP (BULANIK)
27. MÛŞ/MILAZGÎR (MALAZGİRT)
28. ERZİROM/QEREKOÇAN (KARAÇOBAN)
29. ERZİROM/QEREYAZÎ (KARAYAZI)
30. ERZİROM/TATOS (TEKMAN)
31. MÊRDÎN/ARTÛKLÛ (ARTUKLU)
32. MÊRDÎN/KERBORAN (DARGEÇİT)
33. MÊRDÎN/DÊRİK (DERİK): SONGÛL
34. MÊRDÎN/QOSER(KIZILTEPE)
35. MÊRDÎN/ŞEMREX (MAZIDAĞI)
36. MÊRDÎN/NISÊBÎN (NUSAYBİN)
37. AMED/RÊZAN(BAĞLAR)
38. AMED/BİSMİL
39. AMED/XANA AXPAN (ÇIRNAR)
40. AMED/PÎRAN (DİCLE)
41. AMED/ERXENÎ (ERGANİ)
42. AMED/HÊNE (HANİ)
43. AMED/ PEYAS (KAYAPINAR)
44. AMED/ KARAZ (KOCAKÖY)
45. AMED/ PASÛR (KULP)
46. AMED/ LİCÊ (LİCE)
47. AMED/FARQÎN (SİLVAN)
48. AMED/SÛR
49. AMED/BAJARÊ NÛ (YENİŞEHİR)
50. RIHA/BÊRECÛK (BİRECİK)
51. RIHA/HEWAG (BOZOVA)
52. RIHA/SERÊKANİYÊ (CEYLANPINAR)
53. RIHA/XELFETÎ (HALFETİ)
54. RIHA/HÎLWAN L
55. RIHA/PİRSUS (SURUÇ)
56. RIHA/WÊRANŞAR (VİRANŞEHİR)
57. XARPÊT/DEP (KARAKOÇAN)
58. MERSİN/AKDENİZ

## TOWN MUNICIPALITIES

1. İDIR/HALFELİ
2. İDİL/SIRTKÖY
3. BEŞİRİ/İKİKÖPRÜ
4. KORKUT/ALTINOVA
5. SEMSÜR/KÖMÜR
6. ÇELİKAN/PINARBAŞI
7. DİGOR/DAĞPINAR

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## 'Urban consensus' wins in Esenyurt

ANF | ISTANBUL | 1 APRIL 2024

With 99 percent of the ballot boxes opened in Esenyurt, one of the largest districts of Istanbul, CHP candidate Ahmet Özer emerged as the winner. The CHP was supported by the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) on the basis of "urban consensus", and got 50.09 percent.

The AKP emerged as the second party in the ballot boxes with 39.94 percent of the votes.

Even though the ballot box results have not been finalized, celebrations started in the district as CHP candidate Ahmet Özer was ahead by a wide margin.

DEM Party voters celebrated the election results in the district organization building.

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## YSK announces early election results

ANF | ANKARA | 1 APRIL 2024

Ahmet Yener, President of the Supreme Board of Elections (YSK), made a statement regarding the 31 March General Elections for Local Authorities. Yener said, "The rate of participation in the election was 78.11 percent. According to the early results, the rate of participation in the metropolitan mayor's offices was 78.11 percent. The CHP won 35 municipalities, AK Party 24, DEM 10, MHP 8."

Yener announced that, of the 30 metropolitan municipalities, 14 were won by the CHP, 12 by the AKP, 3 by the DEM Party and 1 by the YRP (Yeniden Refah, New Welfare).

Yener stated the following:

"34 political parties participated in the General Election of Local Authorities. Elections were held in 207,848 ballot boxes with 61 million 441 thousand 882 registered voters. According to the early results, the rate of ballot boxes opened for the metropolitan municipal elections is 99.99 percent. The rate of participation in the metropolitan mayoral election was 78.11 percent. The rate of ballot boxes opened for the mayoral election is 99.95 percent and the participation rate was 78.7 percent. The rate of ballot boxes opened for the municipal council election is 99.93 percent and the turnout rate was 78.5 percent. The rate of ballot boxes opened for the provincial general assembly election is 99.97 percent and the turnout rate was 80.7 percent.

According to the early results, 35 mayor's offices were won by the CHP, 24 by the AKP, 10 by the DEM Party, 8 by the MHP, 2 by the YRP, 1 by the Grand Union Party (Büyük Birlik Partisi), 1 by İyi Parti.

In the 30 metropolitan mayoral elections, the Republican People's Party (CHP) won 14 mayor's offices, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) won 12, the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) won 3, and the New Welfare (Yeniden Refah) Party won 1. In the provincial mayoral elections, merging minutes for 44 provincial municipalities have been received as of the moment. Accordingly, the Republican People's Party won 18 provincial mayor's offices, Justice and Development Party 9, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) 8, Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party 6, Grand Union Party 1, İYİ (Good) Party 1, New Welfare Party 1.

In the 92 district mayoral elections, merging minutes have been received for 878 districts. Accordingly, the Justice and Development Party won 324 district mayor's offices, the Republican People's Party 322, the Nationalist Movement Party 110, the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party 54, the Welfare Party 37, the İYİ Party 23, the Grand Unity Party 12, Independent 9, the Democratic Party 2, the Democracy and Progress (Demokrasi ve Atılım) Party 1, the Democratic Left Party (Demokratik Sol) 1, the Felicity (Saadet) Party 1, the Left (Sol) Party 1 and the Workers' Party of Turkey (Türkiye İşçi Partisi) 1. Except for some isolated and regrettable incidents, the elections were concluded in peace and security."

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## **Municipalities usurped in Kurdistan with military and police votes**

ANF | 1 APRIL 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) announced yesterday that 46.901 transported voters were identified in 31 centres in Kurdistan. Transported soldiers and policemen were exposed yesterday in Şırnak, Hakkari, Siirt, Kars, Ağrı and Iğdır as they travelled en masse to the polling stations.

The DEM Party won in many centres where voters were transported, but in some places, municipalities were usurped with heavily transported military and police votes.

According to the 'unofficial' results, the AKP-MHP usurped the municipalities in at least 12 provinces and districts in yesterday's elections with the votes of soldiers and police officers who were transported to

the region to vote. Considering the votes of soldiers and police officers transported to the towns, this number is estimated to be at least 30.

The DEM Party will object to the election results in these places.

### **1- Batman / Gercüs**

AKP: 1,360

DEM Party: 1,306

Difference between first and second parties: 54

Transported voters: 274

### **2- Diyarbakir / Egil**

AKP: 4,589

DEM Party 4,372

Difference between first and second parties: 217

Transported voters: 1,129

### **3- Diyarbakir / Hazro**

AKP: 4,083

DEM Party: 3,712

Difference between first and second parties: 371

Transported voters: 797

### **4- Hakkari / Çukurca**

AKP: 1,506

DEM Party: 1,404

MHP: 883

Victory Party: 405

CHP: 379

Difference between first and second parties: 102

Transported voters: 3,235

**5- Hakkari / Esendere**

AKP: 1,022

DEM Party: 531

Difference between first and second parties: 491

Transported voters: 953

**6- Hakkari / Şemdinli**

AKP: 4,064

DEM Party: 3,739

Difference between first and second parties: 325

Transported voters: 1,886

**7- Kars Centre**

MHP: 16,384

DEM Party: 13,120

Difference between first and second parties: 3,264

Transported voters: 3,842

**8- Mardin / Savur**

AKP: 6,015

DEM Party: 5,248

Difference between first and second parties: 767

Transported voters: 978

**9- Siirt / Eruh**

AKP: 2,857

DEM Party: 2,125

Difference between first and second parties: 732

Transported voters: 1,071

**10- Şirnak / Beytüssebap**

AKP: 2,169

DEM Party: 1,215

Difference between first and second parties: 954

Transported voters: 828

**11- Şirnak Centre**

AKP: 18,033

DEM Party: 15,553

Difference between first and second parties: 2,480

Transported voters: 6,541

**12- Şirnak / Uludere**

AKP: 2,681

DEM Party: 2,575

Difference between the first and second parties: 106

Transported voters: 1,409



## DEM Party Co-Chair: Kars, Bitlis and Şırnak are ours regardless of the result!

ANF | 1 APRIL 2024

The Co-Chair of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party, Tuncer Bakırhan commented on the election results in Şırnak, Bitlis and Kars, drawing attention to the rigging and calling for respect for the will of the people.

Bakırhan addressed the people of Şırnak, Bitlis and Kars on his social media account, saying the following:

"Dear people of Şırnak, Bitlis and Kars,

Dear companions,

With illegal voters, they want to usurp the municipalities that you won with great labour and struggle. We are always proud of you, the people of Şırnak, the face of our struggle, regardless of the result. It is the resilient city of Şırnak that won against 6541 illegal voters in Şırnak. The people of Şırnak claimed their will. No one should be fooled by official lies. We will not allow our city to be usurped with the votes of those who cannot even answer us when we ask, "Where are you from?". The question "Where are you from?" is a slap on the colonialist understanding. Every record is being analysed one by one, the people of Şırnak have won. I send my greetings and love to the people of Şırnak who have been standing up since yesterday. Her biji Şırnex (Long Live Şırnak).

We won a great victory in Bitlis, the heart of justice, wisdom and culture. Illegal voter fraud and the cancellation of our votes is a coup against the will of the people. We reject this coup. Our legal objections continue, and we will never leave Bitlis to the usurpers of the will.

And Kars. Those who think that they have won with 3.842 illegal voters have been condemned and defeated in the conscience of the people of Kars. Leaving aside the illegal voters who are not voters of Kars, we have won with 1386 votes. Kars is ours, regardless of the result. No one can impose defeat on us. We continue our legal and political struggle.

We have made great efforts; we have sweat, memory and a tradition of struggle in these cities. I congratulate each and every one of our friends on their victory.

We call on the democratic public opinion and the opposition to protect the will of the people, which is intended to be usurped by illegal voters.

Let us state clearly; the governments that think they won with illegal voters in dozens of cities, especially in Şırnak, Bitlis and Kars, are not legitimate. We invite everyone to respect the will of the people!"

## People of Uludere protest against AKP's election fraud

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 1 APRIL 2024

According to the DEM Party, 46.901 soldiers and policemen were transported to the Kurdish region to vote in yesterday's local elections. The party lost at least 12 municipalities due to the heavily transported military and police votes.

The AKP attempted to usurp the 31 March local elections with 2,500 transported voters in the district of Uludere in Şırnak province,

In the wake of the fraud, the DEM Party objected to the results in the district where the AKP ended up narrowly ahead according to the unofficial results.

The DEM Party's district administration reported that the difference in votes between the AKP and DEM was as low as 127.

Residents of Uludere marched from the district organisation building to the District Election Board and reacted against the fraudulent results.

DEM Party Şırnak MP Newroz Uysal Aslan also participated in the march, during which the people chanted slogans such as "We will win by resisting", "Thieves will answer to the people", "Uludere, claim your will". While the people waited in front of the office, Newroz Uysal and her entourage met with the board for objection.

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## Open election fraud in Kars: Transported soldiers and police officers leave the city

ANF | KARS | 1 APRIL 2024

For the 31 March local elections, thousands of soldiers and police officers were transported to Kars province by buses.

After the end of the voting process, the soldiers and police officers were taken out of the city by buses and minibuses. The leace of the transported voters was recorded on camera on the road between Selim and Sarıkamış districts.

In the elections held on Sunday, the MHP received 16,384 votes and the DEM Party received 13,120 votes thanks to the transported voters in Kars. The difference between the two parties was 3,264.

According to the DEM Party, 3,842 soldiers and police officers were transported to the city to vote in yesterday's elections.

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## DEM Party election victory celebrated in many cities

ANF | 1 APRIL 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) started election celebrations in the cities where it won the local elections yesterday.

### Van

Thousands of people flocked to Musa Anter Peace Park where the victory was celebrated today.

DEM Party Provincial Co-Chair Gülşen Kurt said, "We bow a thousand times in front of the people of Van who made history by winning all the 14 municipalities. Van gave a strong response by saving its city from the usurpation of the trustees."

DBP Party Provincial Co-Chair Harun Okay said, "You made history in Turkey. The victory you achieved showed that you will not back down in this struggle. This people have now put an end to the trustee system forever."

Neslihan Şedal, Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, said: "This success is the success of those who say 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi', women, youth and our mothers. From today onwards, we expect more support from you. We need to clean this city from the garbage dump of the trustees."

"This square will not allow trustees to be appointed again," said Abdullah Zeydan, Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality: "Our people have claimed their will and paved the way for social peace. We will solve the accumulated problems of the city together day and night in a way worthy of our people. We thank the people of Van a thousand times. We promise we will protect your honour."

After the celebrations, artist Kadir Çat gave a concert.

### Agri

Party members gathered in front of DEM Party Ağrı Provincial Organisation building and marched to Tahir Elçi Street together with the people.

Ağrı Co-Mayor Mehmet Akkuş said, "You have rewritten a history. You gave the necessary answer to those who ignored you."

Hazal Aras, Co-Mayor of Ağrı Municipality, said, "Despite all the injustice and persecution, you made history as a people. Ağrı defended its will, defended its honour".

DEM Party MP Heval Bozdağ said, "This municipality belongs to all of us, there is no discrimination", while MP Sırrı Sakık stated that Ağrı was on everyone's agenda and added, "People who did not belong to this city wanted to come and usurp the will of this city".

## Siirt

Celebrations were also held in Siirt in the Newroz area. Party members, including co-mayors Sofya Alağaç and Mehmet Kaysi, marched from the provincial building to the Newroz area. People in the neighbourhood also participated in the enthusiastic march.

Sofya Alağaç said that AKP has become a "signboard party" in Siirt.

Mehmet Kaysi promised to make the municipality a "people's municipality".

DEM Party MP Sebahat Sarıtaş Erdoğan said that the people responded to "dirty policies". Sebahat Sarıtaş Erdoğan sent greetings to the prisoners on hunger strike and said "Your power will break the isolation of Mr Öcalan. We will dedicate this enthusiasm and power of Siirt to 4 April".

## Mus

Hundreds of people gathered in the Malazgirt district of Muş and danced. Celebrations have been going on in the city since yesterday evening. Today, people gathered in front of the party building for the celebrations. Co-mayors Gülistan Özel and Ahmet Kenan Türker described the success as "the will and victory of the people".

## Erzurum

The DEM Party started celebrations in the Karayazı district of Erzurum, where it won again. Hundreds of people gathered in front of the party building. Co-mayor Bahar Göksu said, "We owe our existence and victory to you." Co-mayor Fuat Tutkun stated that they won the elections although they did not compete under equal conditions.



## DEM Party Europe thanks all international parties and friends for solidarity during elections

ANF | BRUSSELS | 1 APRIL 2024

The DEM Party's European representation issued a statement thanking all "sister parties in the international arena who did not leave us alone in this difficult election. In particular, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all friends who participated in the election observation from different European countries and parties, at our request."

The statement added: "Despite our concerns about electoral fraud and the critical situation, we appreciate and value your efforts to show solidarity and support us during these difficult times by travelling to the Kurdish region. In the 31 March local elections, our party achieved great success by standing for election under extremely difficult conditions.

After the 2019 elections, the AKP regime seized all the municipalities that we had won with an overwhelming majority of votes. Our party's co-mayors and municipal councilors were arrested and replaced by state administrators who practised corruption and left our municipalities millions of dollars in debt. Lack of international criticism made these anti-democratic practices continue. Still, for more than seven years, many of our MPs, co-mayors, and councilors, including our former co-chairs of the HDP, are still being held hostage in Turkish jails on arbitrary grounds."

The statement underlined that "despite winning the majority of the votes in three Kurdish provinces, Sirnak-Kars-Bitlis, the Erdoğan regime refuses to hand over these ci2es to us, using blatant irregularities that we have appealed against."



## KCK: Everyone should take into account the will of the Kurdish people

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 APRIL 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council issued a statement about the local elections held in North Kurdistan and Turkey last Sunday.

The statement said: "By expressing their will, the people of Northern Kurdistan and Turkey earned a historic and significant victory in the local elections that were held on March 31, 2024. We extend our sincere congratulations to the Kurdish people for this historic achievement, especially to those in northern Kurdistan.

All four parts of Kurdistan are proud and pleased with the result gained by the people of North Kurdistan. The outcome of the March 31 local elections has strengthened the Kurdish people's united freedom struggle and allowed it to secure an important position. Without a doubt, the people who took on responsibility and put in the work during this process were key in bringing about this historic outcome. We would particularly like to congratulate these friends on this success.

As everyone saw, an immense effort was put in. By achieving a historic outcome, our people have demonstrated their appreciation for the hard work of the election campaign members in the best possible way."

The statement continued: "Through the development of solidarity actions with those imprisoned, Kurdish mothers have been successful in awakening and mobilizing the conscience of society. As the conscience of society, our mothers have played a historical role that was crucial to the outcomes attained. In this instance, we express our respect for them. Once more, the attitude of women and young people toward the

advancement and defense of the principles of freedom was crucial to the historical triumph attained. The stance of women and young people has assured the victory of our philosophy of freedom, which is based on the freedom of women. It has blocked special warfare games. We extend our greetings and congratulate women and young people in this regard.

Our people have clearly expressed objections to the isolation of Rêber Apo and the trustee appointment regime which was aimed to seize the will of the Kurdish people. The objection of the people was not only to the trustee regime but to the force implementing it. The 31 March municipal elections conveyed a very clear message to the AKP-MHP and its policies of denial and genocide. It reflected the strong determination of Newroz, and the Kurdish people responded most forcefully, declaring that isolation and fascism have no place here, in Kurdistan."

The statement added: "The fascism of the AKP-MHP did not take hold in Kurdistan. The fascist AKP-MHP received a historical blow from the societies of Turkey. It was unable to dominate the Kurdish people despite uninterruptedly attacking every day for nine years; it was unable to divert them from Rêber Apo and their embrace for freedom. It was unable to stir hostility against the Kurds within Turkish society. The united struggle of the Kurdish and Turkish people has resulted in victory for democratic solidarity.

The essence of the concepts of 'progress' and 'co-existence' as parts of the paradigm of democratic nation was strongly demonstrated in the municipal elections held on March 31. The understanding of democratic nation, which embraces inter-people harmony and fraternity, has triumphed against the nation-state's fascist understanding. Thus, this historic victory is essentially the result of the combined struggle of both the Kurdish and Turkish people. The Kurdish people, the Turkish people, women, socialist and democratic forces, ecologists, Alevis, workers, and laborers – in other words, everyone who fights for freedom and democracy – have all achieved victory in this effort. However, these outcomes also serve as a call to action for the democratic forces fighting for freedom and democracy, encouraging them to broaden their horizons and strengthen their bonds with one another."

The statement added: "It goes without saying that, as we have already pointed out, the elections were not held in a democratic setting. In fact, the opposite is true; they were conducted practically under martial law. Kurdistan has been subjected to martial law and colonial inspector ruled over the past nine years. Appointed trustees represent but one aspect of this. The atmosphere in Kurdistan was entirely of military-fascist character. This was the setting for the elections; a climate of oppression, threats, extortion, and violence pervaded the voter base. Tens of thousands of people – soldiers, police, civil servants, and the likes – were transported to Kurdish cities in plain clothing, to cast ballots and affect the outcome of the elections. This practice illustrates the fascism of the AKP-MHP and the depth of its hatred towards the Kurds. Such a technique has never been used by any fascist system. Despite all of this, Kurdistan won a historical victory. This demonstrates unequivocally that the outcomes gained by the Kurdish people substantially surpass the official results. There is hardly a single Kurdish city, town, or village where the fascist anti-Kurdish AKP-MHP was elected. The districts and center of Şirnak, as well as the districts of Hakkari, Kars, Bitlis, and Bingöl, were only gained by the AKP-MHP through foul play. The Kurdish people cannot accept usurpation and will not tolerate this.

The attitude, role, and historical achievements of the Kurdish people must be read correctly in relation to the municipal elections on March 31. With its racist, nationalist, and bigoted mentality and its policies based on Kurdish enmity, the fascist AKP-MHP administration has done great harm to Turkey. With 22

years in power, the last nine of which have been particularly disastrous, Turkey's people have been plunged into extreme poverty. Turkey has become a haven for spies, gangs, mafia, frauds, and phonies. For years, the enemy of humanity, with this fascist mindset, has been confronted by the Kurdish people and the Kurdish freedom movement. The Turkish peoples and the democratic socialist forces have also unquestionably played a significant role in the fight against AKP-MHP fascism. The recent elections demonstrated the historic outcomes of this struggle, which overthrew the AKP-MHP's murderous colonialist policies and undermined the fascist regime in Turkey. We think that at this point, the value of the Kurdish people's resistance is more apparent."

The statement continued: "The AKP-MHP administration can no longer rule Turkey in the given climate; it is impossible that they proceed on this path. The administration of the AKP-MHP is planning to intensify its campaign against the Kurds. It is obvious that this will only serve to further entrench Turkey in the disastrous path it has been forced to take. Intellectuals, writers, artists, and politicians in Turkey need to acknowledge and reject this situation. Rather than intensifying the conflict with the Kurds, Turkey has to find a democratic political solution that reinforces the country's transition to democracy. In Newroz and throughout the elections, the Kurdish people made it plain what position they were taking: they said that Rêber Apo's physical freedom should be secured, that his isolation should end at once, and that he should be considered a negotiator in the resolution of the Kurdish question. Everyone ought to take this and the Kurdish people's demands into account.

We address the nations of the world and the states in our region with the following appeal. Plans by the AKP-MHP to intensify genocide against the Kurdish people, set them against one another, and plunge the area into further war and strife should not be endorsed or supported. Everyone should act with consideration for the Kurdish people's demands.

We congratulate the Kurdish mothers, the Turkish people, the entire people of Northern Kurdistan, and the democratic forces, the women, and youth once more on their historic victory in the local elections held on March 31. We wish them ongoing success."

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## Counting brings municipalities won by DEM Party to 78

ANF | 2 APRIL 2024

According to still not final results, the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) won 3 more municipalities.

Counting also showed that the DEM Party emerged victorious in the towns of Gundikê Melê (Balveren) in the center of Şirnak, Elmakaya in the Kop (Bulanık) district of Muş, and Çözüm (Veyselkarani) in the Hawêl (Baykan) district of Siirt.

Thus, the number of DEM Party municipalities increased to 78. These consist of 3 metropolitan cities, 7 provinces, 58 districts and 10 towns.

Currently, the municipalities won by the DEM Party are as follows:

### **Metropolitan Municipalities**

1. AMED
2. MÊRDÎN
3. WAN

### **Provinces**

1. AGIRÎ
2. ELÎH
3. COLEMÊRG
4. ÎDIR
5. MÛŞ
6. SÊRT
7. DÊRSIM

### **Districts**

1. COLEMÊRG/GEVER (YÛKSEKOVA)
2. WAN/MIKS (BAHÇESARAY)
3. WAN/ELBAK (BAŞKALE)
4. WAN/EBEX (ÇALDIRAN)
5. WAN/ŞAX (ÇATAK)
6. WAN/ARTEMÊTAN (EDREMÎT)
7. WAN/ERDÎŞ (ERCİŞ)
8. WAN/WESTAN (GEVAŞ)
9. WAN/PAYÎZAVA (GÛRPINAR)
10. WAN/RÊYA ARMÛŞÊ (İPEKYOLU)
11. WAN/BÊGİRÎ (MURADİYE)
12. WAN/QELQELÎ (ÖZALP)
13. WAN/SERAY (SARAY)
14. WAN/TÛŞBA (TUŞBA)
15. AGIRÎ/GİYADÎN (DİYADÎN)
16. AGIRÎ/BAZÎD (DOĞUBAYAZIT)
17. AGIRÎ/AVKEVİR (TAŞLIÇAY)
18. QERS/QAXIZMAN (KAĞIZMAN)
19. QERS/DÎGOR
20. ŞIRNEX/CİZİR (CİZRE)
21. ŞIRNEX/SILOPIYA (SİLOPİ)
22. ŞIRNEX/HEZEX (İDİL)
23. SÊRT/MISIRC (KURTALAN)
24. BEDLÎS/TETWAN (TATVAN)
25. MÛŞ/GIMGIM (VARTO)
26. MÛŞ/KOP (BULANIK)



27. MÛŞ/MILAZGÎR (MALAZGİRT)
28. ERZİROM/QEREKOÇAN (KARAÇOBAN)
29. ERZİROM/QEREYAZÎ (KARAYAZI)
30. ERZİROM/TATOS (TEKMAN)
31. MÊRDÎN/ARTÛKLÛ (ARTUKLU)
32. MÊRDÎN/KERBORAN (DARGEÇİT)
33. MÊRDÎN/DÊRÎK (DERİK): SONGÛL
34. MÊRDÎN/QOSER(KIZILTEPE)
35. MÊRDÎN/ŞEMREX (MAZIDAĞI)
36. MÊRDÎN/NISÊBÎN (NUSAYBİN)
37. AMED/RÊZAN(BAĞLAR)
38. AMED/BİSMİL
39. AMED/XANA AXPAN (ÇIRNAR)
40. AMED/PÎRAN (DİCLE)
41. AMED/ERXENÎ (ERGANİ)
42. AMED/HÊNE (HANİ)
43. AMED/ PEYAS (KAYAPINAR)
44. AMED/ KARAZ (KOCAKÖY)
45. AMED/ PASÛR (KULP)
46. AMED/ LİCÊ (LİCE)
47. AMED/FARQÎN (SİLVAN)
48. AMED/SÛR
49. AMED/BAJARÊ NÛ (YENİŞEHİR)
50. RIHA/BÊRECÛK (BİRECİK)
51. RIHA/HEWAG (BOZOVA)
52. RIHA/SERÊKANİYÊ (CEYLANPINAR)
53. RIHA/XELFETÎ (HALFETİ)
54. RIHA/HÎLWAN L
55. RIHA/PİRSUS (SURUÇ)
56. RIHA/WÊRANŞAR (VİRANŞEHİR)
57. XARPÊT/DEP (KARAKOÇAN)
58. MERSİN/AKDENİZ

### Town Municipalities

1. ÎDIR/HALFELİ
2. ÎDİL/SIRTKÖY
3. BEŞİRİ/İKİKÖPRÜ
4. KORKUT/ALTINOVA
5. SEMSÛR/KÖMÜR
6. ÇELİKAN/PINARBAŞI
7. DÎGOR/BAZARCIX (DAĞPINAR)
8. ŞİRNEX/GUNDIKÊ MELÊ (BALVEREN)
9. KOP/ELMAKAYA
10. HAWÊL/ZİYARET (VEYSELKARANİ)



## DEM Party: We urge the AKP Government to respect the will of the people of Van

ANF | 2 APRIL 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) released a written statement about the usurpation of the newly elected co-mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, Abdullah Zeydan.

The statement released by the DEM Party Central Executive Board includes the following:

"Our party achieved a historic victory in the local elections held on March 31, 2024, in Van. The people of Van entrusted all fourteen municipalities, including the Metropolitan Municipality, to the DEM Party, establishing it as the leading party in the Provincial General Assembly by a significant margin. The electorate of Van expressed their resolute will decisively at the ballot box, a resounding response to the trustee regime.

Despite such a clear mandate from the public, new illegal actions are being implemented in Van, as they were in many HDP municipalities following the 2019 elections. In the Metropolitan Municipality, where the DEM Party received 55% of the vote and the AKP just 27%, our elected DEM Party Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, Mr. Abdullah Zeydan has been denied office and replaced by the AKP candidate.

As is widely known, Mr. Zeydan, completed all requisite legal procedures and successfully secured candidacy approval from the Supreme Election Board (YSK) after rigorous scrutiny. Mr. Zeydan garnered substantial support from the people of Van and was duly elected.

However, merely five minutes before the close of business on Friday, March 29, 2024, and a mere two days before the election, the Ministry of Justice, via an administrative decision and correspondence, contested the legal credentials of Mr. Zeydan, who had been restored his full civil rights by a court decision when released from prison in 2022. Following Friday's administrative decision and objection letter, which was essentially a directive, the authorized prosecutor's office resubmitted the matter to the court that had issued the decision to restore his civil rights two years ago. That same day, the court revoked their own previous decision and dismissed Mr Zeydan's civil rights application; and they pre-emptively informed the YSK prior to the formalisation of their new reversed decision, thus curtailing the right to object and appeal.

The very court that had initially ruled in favor of restoring the civil rights of our Co-Mayor Mr. Abdullah Zeydan reversed its decision. This manoeuvre reflects a mentality that disregards the mandate of the people. Mr. Zeydan rightfully holds the position of Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor, as bestowed upon him by the people of Van.

We urge all parties to acknowledge this fact. This erroneous ruling must be promptly overturned. Such actions, which flout the will of the people of Van, are unlawful.

We call upon all supporters of democratic principles to condemn this course of action. Respecting the will of the people is fundamental to the essence of democracy.

We demand that the government honour the mandate of the people!"

— ★ —

## Police attack people objecting to election fraud in Bitlis

ANF | BITLIS | 2 APRIL 2024

In the 31 March local elections, the ruling party moved hundreds of soldiers and police officers to the Kurdish cities as pirate voters in order to turn the results in its favour.

In the province of Bitlis, 2,018 votes were invalidated and the AKP won with 8,900 votes while the DEM Party received 8,702 votes. Despite all the fraud, the difference could only be increased to 188 votes.

The DEM Party took action to file an objection to the Provincial Election Board today, but the police blockaded the board building and the party building.

The party members who were set to go to the board building were attacked by the police with pepper gas and water cannons.

Reacting to the police attack, DEM Party MP Hüseyin Olan said, "We had our objection petitions ready, but the police are blocking our way and preventing us unlawfully. We are prevented from using our legal rights. No power can prevent us from seeking our rights and taking back our usurped will."

Hüseyin Olan said, "We have won Bitlis, and this image shows this clearly. We will use all democratic and legal means. Most of the cancelled votes are ours. A non-official was made the head of the ballot box, while security forces and the AKP mayor went to the place where the votes were counted with their weapons. This is against the election law, and we do not accept it."

The tension in the city continued for a while. The police attempted to detain DEM Party Bitlis co-mayor candidate Nezir Karabaş and were forced to abandon their attempt upon the reaction of the people. A plainclothes policeman threatened the party members with the words "Shoot this one too".

Making a statement in front of the party building after the incidents, Karabaş stated that they competed not with AKP but with the state on 31 March. Karabaş said, "We competed with the police, we competed with those who attacked us here today. We struggled with their governor. We competed with those who did not accept the appointments of our MP. We did not compete with the AKP candidate, Nasrullah Tanğlay. You can see it in this document. 600 people were brought from Rize, Trabzon, Yozgat and other places under the name of police school. Tanğlay is not the will of the people of Bitlis. Tanğlay did not re-

ceive votes from the people of Bitlis. Tanğlay was buried in every ballot box where the people voted. Tanğlay has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the people of Bitlis.”

DEM Party members appealed to the Provincial Election Board for a recount of the votes.

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## Resistance in Van spreads to the whole city

ANF | VAN | 2 APRIL 2024

People of Van took to the streets on Tuesday in protest at the usurpation of newly elected DEM Party co-mayor Abdullah Zeydan's right to be elected on the "instruction" of the AKP government.

The protests began in the Cumhuriyet and Maraş avenues in the city center and spread throughout the city. Hundreds of people set up barricades in the side streets and fires were lit at some points. All shopkeepers closed their shutters.

The police attacked the protesters with gas bombs and water cannons, facing a response with stones. Many people were injured as a result of the attacks.

According to reports from the ground, the police entered the DEM Party Van Provincial Organisation building and threw gas bombs.

The Central Executive Board of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) announced earlier today that Abdullah Zeydan had been denied office and replaced by the candidate of the AKP, which received only 27 % of the vote, while the DEM Party received 55%.

“Merely five minutes before the close of business on Friday, March 29, 2024, and a mere two days before the election, the Ministry of Justice, via an administrative decision and correspondence, contested the legal credentials of Mr, Zeydan, who had been restored his full civil rights by a court decision when released from prison in 2022. Following Friday's administrative decision and objection letter, which was essentially a directive, the authorized prosecutor's office resubmitted the matter to the court that had issued the decision to restore his civil rights two years ago. That same day, the court revoked their own previous decision and dismissed Mr Zeydan's civil rights application; and they pre-emptively informed the YSK prior to the formalisation of their new reversed decision, thus curtailing the right to object and appeal. The very court that had initially ruled in favor of restoring the civil rights of our Co-Mayor, Mr. Abdullah Zeydan, reversed its decision. This manoeuvre reflects a mentality that disregards the mandate of the people. Mr. Zeydan rightfully holds the position of Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor, as bestowed upon him by the people of Van,” the DEM Party said.

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## Political coup: Municipal election to be renewed in Hilvan, Urfa

ANF | URFA | 2 APRIL 2024

In the Hilvan district of Urfa, the AKP objected to results from 15 ballot boxes in Sunday's local elections, demanding the renewal of the municipal election won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party).

The District Election Board decided to renew the elections in accordance with the AKP's instructions.

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## AKP mobilises to usurp Pazarcık Town Municipality in Kars

ANF | KARS | 2 APRIL 2024

1,818 votes were counted as valid in the elections in Pazarcık town in the Digor district of Kars with 2,185 voters. DEM Party co-mayor candidates Ayten Yardımcıel and Hüsni Ancı received 991 votes, while the current trustee and AKP candidate Ömer Vargün received only 827 votes despite fraud.

The AKP, which has taken action to usurp the will of the people of the town as in many other towns, appealed to the District Election Board of the Supreme Election Board (YSK).

After the objection was rejected, AKP applied to the Provincial Election Board.

In the 2019 elections, although Ebubekir Erkmen, the candidate of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), won the municipality of Pazarcık, the mandate was given to AKP candidate Ömer Vargün on the grounds that Erkmen had been dismissed from duty by a state of emergency decree.

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## People of Şırnak protest the usurpation of their will

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 2 APRIL 2024

Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co|Chair Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, DEM Party MPs Saliha Aydeniz, Zeki İrmez and DEM Party Co-Chairs, hundreds of people marched to the courthouse to object to the election results in Şırnak centre and Uludere district.

The delegation and the people marching towards Şırnak Courthouse were blocked by the police at Ömer Kabak Square. The delegation and the accompanying residents were attacked by the Turkish police with tear gas and rubber bullets as they insisted on continuing their march.

Erkan Tepeli, advisor of Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, was injured by a gas canister hitting his head during the police attack. Turan Saltan, DEM Party's co-mayor candidate for Şırnak Municipality, suffered a bloody nose.

The Turkish police also prevented press members and detained many people under torture.



## DEM Party submits application for the cancellation of elections in Kars

ANF | KARS | 2 APRIL 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democratic Party (DEM Party) applied to the provincial election board for the cancellation and renewal of the elections in Kars, where the will of the people was usurped through the use of transported voters. According to the unofficial results, the MHP received 16,384 votes and the DEM Party received 13,120 votes in the elections held in the centre of Kars. While the difference between the two parties was 3,264, the DEM Party determined that 3,842 soldiers and police officers were moved to the city to vote in Sunday's elections.

In Cumhuriyet, Atatürk and Fevzi Çakmak Secondary Schools, soldiers and police officers brought from outside cast their votes collectively. It was revealed that out of 120 voters registered in the ballot box numbered 1042 at Atatürk Secondary School, all but one of them were registered in other cities. It was determined that 199 of the 120 voters resided in western provinces and one of them was registered in Kağızman district of Kars.



## Sit-in protest in Şırnak: "The thieving AKP will be held accountable"

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 2 APRIL 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) protested against the usurpation of people's will through "transported" soldiers in the Kurdish province of Şırnak. DEM Party members and hundreds of people were attacked by the police as they started to march to Şırnak Courthouse to object to the election results. Party members and the masses resisted against the attacks and then marched to the DEM Party Şırnak Provincial Organisation.

A press statement was made here to the accompaniment of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chair Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, DEM Party MPs Saliha Aydeniz, Zeki İrmmez, co-mayor candidates and hundreds of citizens. Hundreds of people gathered in front of the DEM Party Office and chanted slogans such as "We don't want a thieving president", "The thieving AKP will be held accountable".

Speaking here, DBP Co-Chair Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said, "The people gave the best answer to the government's policy of isolation, Kurdish hostility and lack of solution in this election. 22 years of AKP rule is best known by the people of Kurdistan, that is, by us. This government has brought nothing but theft, extortion, damage, arrest, detention and death. They do not even allow us to exercise our most democratic right of objection. The co-mayor of Şırnak Municipality is Turan Saltan. On the other hand is the thieving mayor that AKP brought here with theft."

Drawing attention to "transported voters", Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said, "The AKP's law enforcement forces, who speak about laws when we exercise our most democratic right here today, did not remember the laws while 8 thousand soldiers voted here like thieves."

Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said, "What suits their book is the AKP's lawlessness. Our answer in these elections is very clear. We will not give way to the AKP's isolation policy, Kurdish hostility and war policy. During our march, all our friends, including our co-mayor, were beaten and detained under torture. This picture is a picture of the AKP. The police forces we negotiated with say, 'I don't have to understand the mood of the people of Şırnak'. You are right, you do not belong here. You will all go back as you came here."

Noting that AKP lost in Kurdistan, Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said, "It is the AKP government that is finished. It is trying to make false successes. We will not let it. Every resident of Şırnak who voted here will file petitions against the Ministry of National Defence and the Supreme Election Board. This election will be renewed. The will of the people of Şırnak will be fulfilled in this election."

After the statement, the crowd started a sit-in protest in front of the party building and continues their action.



## Co-Mayors of Van Metropolitan Municipality: Stand up against this lawlessness

ANF | VAN | 2 APRIL 2024

The DEM Party won the local elections in the Kurdish province of Van on 31 March with a large majority. Instead of handing over the mandate to DEM co-mayor Abdullah Zeydan, who won the election with 55.5 percent of the vote, the office of mayor was given to AKP candidate Abdulahat Arvas with a 27 percent share of the vote. People of Van took to the streets today in protest, confronted with police attacks with tear gas and water cannons. Similar actions by the state forces are also emerging in other provinces where protests are taking place against the usurpation of the people's will.

The authorities justified the move, which was categorised by lawyers as "clearly illegal", with an appeal by the Turkish Ministry of Justice against an earlier decision granting Zeydan the right to be elected. The former member of parliament served more than five years in prison on terror charges, was convicted by a final judgement and was released in early 2022. Nevertheless, the election committee did not raise any objections to his application to run for mayor.

The DEM Party and the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) made public today that, last Friday, just five minutes before the court closed - and less than 48 hours before the local elections - the Ministry of Justice obtained the cancellation of the restoration of Zeydan's political rights and a reversal of the erasure from the criminal record. The application was decided in favour of the ministry in a summary procedure and the decision was sent to the election board. The ÖHD speaks of an "instruction" that came "from the very top" and said: "The judiciary has once again submitted to the executive. Hours before the local elections, it conducted an inadmissible objection procedure and disregarded the law in favour of those in power. The Van Provincial Election Commission did not object to the court's unlawful decision against Abdullah Zeydan and appointed the defeated AKP candidate as mayor. The political will of the people has once again been usurped."

Van Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayors Neslihan Şedal and Abdullah Zeydan made a statement in front of the DEM Party Van Provincial Organisation.

Speaking here to the accompaniment of hundreds of people, Abdullah Zeydan said, "We have taken 14 municipalities in Van with the will of our people. Despite the fact that I have taken back my rights, an ambush and trap are intended to be set against the will of the people."

Referring to the current process, Zeydan said, "I applied to the court for the restoration of my rights due to my conviction a year ago and the court accepted it. It is not enough for the court to make this decision, which must also be finalised. And, indeed, this decision has been finalised. There is no problem in this regard. A year has passed, and I applied to the provincial election board with the court decision and the finalisation annotation. The YSK (Supreme Election Board) examined all the documents and said that there was no obstacle to my eligibility for election. Firstly, it published the provisional list. Then the final candidate list was published and there was no objection. Yesterday afternoon, at 16.55, we learnt that the Directorate of Criminal Registry wrote a letter to the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office with the excuse that the decision of a year ago was not notified to the court."

Zeydan said that there is no similar decision in Turkey and continued: "It is like a situation in which a finalised decision of the Court of Cassation is annulled by a local court. There is absolute lawlessness and illegality. Sometimes the Ministry of Justice may attempt to overturn a decision in favour of the law. There is such a procedure. But they did not follow this procedure either. In fact, the court could have taken the prosecutor's decision to the Court of Cassation. The court cancelled the decision it had made a year ago without any legal basis. There is an ambush and trap set against the will of the people. We will protect the will of the people against this ambush until the end. It means that after the decision was taken, the AKP was informed, and they submitted a request to get the mandate for the mayor's office. The chair of the Provincial Election Board did not accept the AKP's request to give the mandate to their candidate, but two members voted yes. We have the right to appeal against this decision. Our lawyers are already doing their work. The issue here is not Zeydan and Şedal, it is a trap set against the Kurdish people, against the



people of Van. We expect everyone to stand up against this lawlessness. Because what is done to us today will be done to Izmir tomorrow. No one can trample the will of the people.”

Addressing the AKP candidate, Zeydan said, "It is not right for you to openly trample the will and honour of this people with such open conspiracies and traps. How will you sit in that seat by trampling on the will of this people? How will you face the people? How will you go out among them? This people will never accept this. We invite everyone to be rational. This will must be manifested as soon as possible. We salute the people of Van who embrace their honour and will.”

Neslihan Şedal, Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, said, "Today's success and victory is a point reached together with the people.”

Interpreting the unlawful measure against Zeydan as a "political coup", Şedal said, "We state once again that we will reveal our attitude against this and that we will once again recover what was taken from us from their usurpation. We do not recognise the decision taken by the Republic of Turkey. We say that it is a political decision and usurpation. The will of this people is much greater than the decisions they are trying to take. Today, those who cannot digest our victory and the success of this people have realised that they have suffered a defeat in Kurdistan and are taking it out on the people. The patriotic people of Van have shown that they will stand firm against this usurpation. Our attitude against this political coup is clear. Abdulhat Arvas will not be able to sit in that seat. Even if he does, he will not be able to go out among this people who have not taken him for their will. We are and will remain the will of this people. We appeal to our people; do not give them the opportunity and embrace your will.”

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## CHP Chairman: Ignoring the will of the people of Van means setting a trap on it!

ANF | ANKARA | 2 APRIL 2024

CHP Chairman Özgür Özel made a statement regarding DEM Party member Abdullah Zeydan, who was elected as co-mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, not being given a certificate of election.

Speaking to ANKA, Özel reminded AKP President Tayyip Erdoğan's statements that he would respect the election results and said: "I attach importance to this speech. Yet, there was a metropolitan mayor who was elected and received three times as many votes as his opponent, but a trap was set for him and the certificate of election was given to the second for votes. If they uphold this, the president's words will become null and void.”

Özel added: "If the people of Van vote and elect someone as their metropolitan mayor, it is our duty to respect their will. They did this in the past when repeating the Istanbul elections. They paid a heavy price. I don't think they will attempt such a thing. I expect them not to continue with such a mistake and such a new black mark.”



## DEM Party: We call on everyone to show solidarity against the coup in Van

ANF | ANKARA | 2 APRIL 2024

The DEM party's Van co-mayor candidates, Abdullah Zeydan and Neslihan Şedal, received 55.5 percent of the vote, despite thousands of non-local voters who were escorted to Van by the government to influence the election results in Erdoğan's favor. The difference in votes was over 125,000, with the AKP's candidate, Abdulahat Arvas, getting just 27.1 percent of the votes.

However, with a clear illegal and undemocratic attempt to invalidate the election results in Van, the certificate of mayor was given to Arvas.

The co-chairs of the DEM party, Tülay Hatimoğulları and Tuncer Bakırhan, assessed the process as a political coup and protested in front of the High Election Committee (YSK) in Ankara.

Bakırhan said: "The coup, which was previously carried out through trustees, is now being carried out by the judiciary and existing laws. We will not allow the will of the people of Van to be squandered by such games."

Bakırhan continued: "The President said on Monday, 'We will respect the will of the people and the results of the ballot box'. What happened, what changed the next day? Isn't the usurped will of the people of Van the will of the people, the result of the ballot box? One wonders if the President meant to say 'We will respect the will of the people except that of the Kurds?'"

Bakırhan also said: "This is a political coup. This situation is not just a DEM Party's problem. It is a problem for everyone in Turkey who has a conscience, who has honor, and who has a shred of democracy left in them.

We call on all political parties, democratic mass organizations, and all sensitive groups in Turkey to show solidarity with the people of Van and the DEM Party against this political coup. We invite everyone to fight together to eliminate this injustice and unlawfulness."

Tülay Hatimoğulları said: "Neither the Kurdish people, nor the people of Van, nor the people of Turkey, nor the forces of democracy in Turkey will ever allow this political coup. All together, we will stand against this political coup.

If the government tries to take revenge on DEM Party members for its defeat, it will make a big mistake. This decision should be reversed immediately.

We invite all democratic forces in Turkey to stand by the people of Van."



## DEM Party's Central Executive Board meets in Van today

ANF | VAN | 3 APRIL 2024

DEM Party co-chairs Tuncer Bakırhan and Tülay Hatimoğulları went to Van after the Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Van Metropolitan Municipality co-mayor Abdullah Zeydan was stripped of his victory and the AKP candidate was nominated in his place.

### **Bakırhan: We will not accept this injustice**

Bakırhan said: "There is serious pressure. There is support against this injustice and unlawfulness from political parties and all over Turkey. Protests and events are being held in many places, from Istanbul to many places. On Wednesday, for the first time in Van, so many civil society associations, MPs, political parties and institutions representatives will be here. There is great solidarity. We are here too. We will not accept this injustice."

### **MYK will hold an extraordinary meeting**

The party's Central Executive Board (MYK), MPs and executives will hold an extraordinary meeting in Van today. After the meeting, the party will meet the people at 12pm in Feqiyê Teyran Park.



## Protests against usurpation of will in Van continue in many cities

ANF | 3 APRIL 2024

Protests continue in many cities in Turkey against the appointment of AKP politician Abdulahat Arvas as mayor of Van (Wan). There were street battles, injuries and arrests, and the police used water cannons, tear gas and rubber bullets.

In the local elections on Sunday, the AKP candidate achieved 27.1 percent of the votes in the provincial capital, clearly defeated by the DEM party's co-candidates, Abdullah Zeydan and Neslihan Şedal, who received 55.5 percent of the vote. The victory was strong, even despite thousands of non-local voters who were escorted to Van by the government to influence the results of the election in favor of the AKP.

The Kurdish politician Abdullah Zeydan was arbitrarily stripped of his civil rights by order of the Ministry of Justice, and the AKP candidate was given the mayoralty in his place.

## State of emergency in Van

The DEM party said that the process was a political coup and called for protests. In a statement from the party executive committee, respect for the will of the voters was called for. After the last two local elections, the Erdoğan government had already suspended the democratically elected mayors in Kurdish cities and municipalities on trumped-up terror charges and replaced them by trustees; many of those elected ended up in prison.

In Van, thousands of people protested against the decision during the day and street barricades were set up. The police attacked the protests with a large contingent and, according to the DEM provincial association, the party building was stormed and fired at with tear gas grenades.

After breaking the fast in the evening, protests flared up again, with young people lighting fires in the streets and shouting slogans.

## Protests in Hakkari

In Hakkari (Colemêrg), people demonstrated in the city center and the police deployed riot control units. AKP supporters shot into the air, and the demonstrators responded by throwing stones and fireworks.

## Protests in Yüksekova

In Yüksekova (Gever), the birthplace of Abdullah Zeydan, young people also set up burning roadblocks and were attacked by police with gas canisters, plastic ammunition and water cannons.

## Protests in Amed

During a protest by the DEM party in front of the electoral committee office in Amed, there was a call for resistance.

The elected co-mayor Serra Bucak explained that the Kurdish people showed their will on Sunday and that her party won the election in 78 cities and municipalities: "This destroyed all electoral intrigues. For this reason, less than 48 hours later, the government opposed the will of the people in Wan was put in a coup. The process is illegitimate and anti-democratic. For eight years, we have been resisting the forced administration regime, which exploits our towns and villages and ignores the will of the Kurdish people. We stand on the side of the people of Van, the whole of Kurdistan will not leave Van alone in this situation."

## Protests in Batman

People also took to the streets in Batman (Êlih).

## Protests in Istanbul

People also protested in Istanbul where the AKP is also seeking recount in various municipalities won by the AKP.



## DEM Party wins again in Pirxus after recount of votes

ANF | 3 April 2024

The Yeni Refah Party (YRP, New Welfare Party) objected to the election results in Pirxus (Ovakışla) town of Xelat (Ahlat), where the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) won with a difference of 9 votes.

The objection to the Xelat District Election Board was accepted, and the votes were counted again. After the counting held at Ahlat Courthouse, the DEM Party won again with a difference of 6 votes.



## Protests in Van continue unabated

ANF | VAN | 3 APRIL 2024

Kurdish politician Abdullah Zeydan, who ran as co-mayor with Neslihan Şedal for the DEM party and won the election with a large majority, was stripped of his civil rights by order of the Turkish government. In his place, the AKP candidate was given the certificate of appointment as mayor. Zeydan was arrested in November 2016 as an HDP deputy and spent more than five years in prison. In Van, as in most Kurdish cities and municipalities, a trustee has ruled in place of the elected mayors since 2016.

The protests in Van against the appointment of AKP candidate Abdulahat Arvas as mayor continue. Thousands of people remained on the streets during the night until the early morning, with barricades being built everywhere. A water cannon was set alight in the city centre. After the protesting residents withdrew for sahur (meal before dawn during Ramadan), Turkish police entered the neighbourhoods and randomly fired gas canisters at the houses. Hundreds of homes were stormed by the police and many violent arrests were made. While the number of people detained is unclear, almost every flat on Sürmeli Street in the Xaçort neighbourhood was searched.

The police have reinforced their forces in the city centre. Thousands of police officers have been deployed to the city centre on city buses. There are water cannons in all the side streets. Almost all the main streets are impassable and most of the shops are closed.

Despite a ban on gatherings issued by the governor's office, a rally from seven starting points in the city centre is taking place today. The co-chairs of the DEM party, Tülay Hatimoğulları and Tuncer Bakırhan, will take part in the demonstration together with other members of parliament.

People have taken to the streets once again today and started to march across the city, chanting "Abdullah Zeydan is our honour". In some places, the police attacked the crowd. The people then started to set up barricades. Masses marched to Cumhuriyet Street, which remains under blockade. The police attacked the

people with gas bombs and water cannons. While the resistance of the people against the attacks continues, people continue to flock to Cumhuriyet Street from many points.

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## YCWK calls on Kurdistan youth to raise the fire of uprising against usurpation of people's will

ANF | 3 APRIL 2024

The Kurdistan Patriotic Youth Union (Yekîtiya Ciwanên Welatparêzên Kurdistan – YCWK) released a statement announcing the details of actions carried out by their units in Van province, where people have been resisting since yesterday against the appointment of AKP candidate instead of democratically elected co-mayor of the DEM Party, Abdullah Zeydan, in 31 March local elections.

The statement released by YCWK on Wednesday includes the following:

"Our units in Van have been in action from the first moment against the usurped popular will. Within the framework of these actions;

- A TOMA (anti-riot vehicle) targeted with molotovs in the Xaçort neighbourhood turned into a ball of fire.
- A101 (supermarket) located on Cumhuriyet Street was targeted.
- Surveillance cameras on 2 Nisan Street were destroyed.
- In the Bahçivan neighbourhood, our units intervened in the enemy's armoured vehicles, barricaded the road and clashed with the occupying police."

The statement continued: "The spread of this fire of uprising lit by YCWK Van Units to the whole of Kurdistan and Turkey will be the biggest response to the invaders. We call on all patriotic young women and youth of Kurdistan to protect the will of the Kurdish people. It is a mistake to expect anything in the name of democracy from the occupying fascist Turkish state. They will undoubtedly want to continue these usurpations of will. The honourable youth and people of Kurdistan will never give way to the invaders. As YCWK, we, as always, have taken and will continue to take our place as a leading force alongside our people in Van and all over Kurdistan. We call on all patriotic youth of Kurdistan to raise the fire of this uprising."

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## DEM Party exposes the real election results in Şırnak

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 3 APRIL 2024

The AKP regime illegally and openly transported thousands of soldiers and police to Şırnak during the local elections and usurped the municipality by manipulating the results in its favour.

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Şırnak Provincial Organisation put up a banner with the real results of the 31 March elections.

The banner included information on which party received how many votes and how many soldiers and police officers were transported to the city.

The banner exposes the fact that the DEM Party's vote share is 15,553, and the AKP's is 11,492. The number of soldiers and police transported to the city is 6,541.

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## Resistance in Van: We will continue our struggle until we get results

ANF | VAN | 3 APRIL 2024

Protests continue in the Kurdish province of Van where the democratically elected co-mayor of the DEM Party was stripped of his civil rights by order of the Turkish government and unlawfully replaced by the AKP candidate.

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) held its Central Executive Committee (MYK) meeting at the Confederation of Public Employees' Trade Unions (KESK) building in Van. After the meeting, a march started in the city centre. Tens of thousands of people participated in the march and frequently chanted slogans such as "Abdullah Zeydan is our honour", "We will win by resisting" and "Rights, law, justice". After the march, a statement was made at Feqiyê Teyran Park.

Addressing the people here, DEM Party Co-Chair Tuncer Bakırhan said, "As I said before, Van is the heart of the Kurds and Kurdistan. Van, with its honourable stance, has given the answer that the Kurdish demands for freedom and democracy cannot be eliminated by oppression, persecution and trustee system, on Newroz Day, in the elections and today in this field. We feel honoured whenever and wherever we hear Van's name. Those who appointed trustees to our will for two terms are now trying to usurp the will of the people of Van again with a conspiracy, political and judicial coup. We will not allow this. Neither their political coups nor their judicial coups will succeed as long as you stand together here with honour despite all the pressure, batons, guns and pepper gas. We promise you that we will protect all the 14 municipalities we have won here."

Bakırhan emphasised that no one can usurp the will of the people of Van and continued his speech as follows: "The calculations made in Ankara, in those dark depths, are doomed to be shattered by hitting the Newroz field and the Castle in Van. They think that we will swallow this injustice. We call on them to deliver the mandate to the people of Van. I would like to appeal to the YSK (Supreme Election Board); do not be an instrument to this political coup. You authorised Abdullah Zeydan with your own hand and approved his candidacy. Now stand by your decision. Please do not remain under the pressure of the government, which has received the necessary response from the people of Turkey in this election. I hope and wish that you will not ignore the will of this people."

Bakırhan further stated the following: "Another call is for the AKP candidate. If you are Kurdish, if you are a human being, if you are a believer, if you are a person of this land, do not let yourself be deceived. Do not accept the mandate. Tomorrow you will have to lower your head when you walk among the people of Van, on the streets of Van. Do not stand by the AKP-MHP government that will usurp the will of this people. Kurdish people are honourable. They do not forget those who do good, those who do right and those who are not a tool of conspiracy games. If you want to live with your people in your own region with a conscience, honourably and with your head held high, do not lay hands on to the mayor's office, which is the right of Abdullah Zeydan and Neslihan Şedal.

The election in Van is being discussed all over Turkey. For the first time, Turkey has formed a great alliance against this unjust and unlawful decision against Van. We convey our thanks to the political parties, leaders, democratic mass organisations, labour and professional organisations who embrace Van and stand behind the will of the people of Van. Be sure that for the first time, the labourers and oppressed people of Turkey are in solidarity with the people of Van in a strong way. Do not worry, you are not alone. The labourers and the poor all over Turkey are with you. Once again, I call out to the AKP government; as long as you usurp the will of this people, you are doomed to lose. On 31 March, you lost. Turn from this wrong path, this is not a right path. It will lead nowhere. Your miscalculations have disappeared here today as they did yesterday."

Speaking after, DEM Party Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları stated the following "While we are speaking here, we are addressing not only you but also 85 million people living in Turkey. The YSK, which approved the candidacy of Abdullah Zeydan, reported a problem with his candidacy 48 hours before the elections, 5 hours before 17.00 on Friday, and this problem is communicated to the AKP and AKP's candidate before it is communicated to the DEM Party. They plotted against us while the elections were still taking place. However, you will foil their conspiracy. We appeal to the YSK; the Provincial Electoral Board has taken this decision with a 2 to 1 vote, that is, with an annotation. This morning, our esteemed lawyers and party officials conducted a study and submitted a very broad objection to the YSK. Until this objection is officially finalised, until our objection is accepted, the DEM Party will continue to put forward a democratic struggle in the strongest way together with our people and continue this struggle until Abdullah mayor is given his mandate. We held our MYK meeting here in Van today. All of our MYK group, our Party Assembly, and a significant majority of our MPs will remain in Van until this decision is approved positively. We will carry out this struggle together with the people of Van."

After the statement, thousands of people marched towards Van Courthouse where the Provincial Election Board is located.



The police once again attacked the people as they marched along the Maraş Street in the city centre shouting slogans.

Anti-riot vehicles, gas bombs and rubber bullets were used in the attack and MPs were also targeted. While the public was seriously affected by the intensive use of gas, many protesters were subjected to police violence. Clashes spread to all side streets.

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## Saadet Party: The people of Van have made their decision

ANF | 3 APRIL 2024

Saadet (Felicity) Party Chairman Temel Karamollaoğlu spoke out against the reversal of the decision to reinstate the rights of Abdullah Zeydan, who was elected co-mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, and the granting of the post to the AKP candidate who lost the election on 31 March.

Karamollaoğlu made the following statement on X:

"There is an inconsistency in the AKP government's understanding of democracy and justice. Making an elected mayor 'politically banned' by the judiciary as a result of a manipulation two days before the election is to ignore the national will. The people of Van have made their decision and elected their mayor. The judiciary saying 'no' to what the YSK (Supreme Election Board) said 'yes' has shown the weakness between the institutions of the state. This behaviour is unacceptable in any way."

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## People in Qamişlo and Cizîre Canton rally in solidarity with the people of Van

ANF | 3 APRIL 2024

Qamişlo People's Initiative organised a march to express their support for the uprising of the people of Van where the democratically elected co-mayor of the DEM Party was stripped of his civil rights by order of the Turkish government and unlawfully replaced by the AKP candidate.

Hundreds of people, executives and representatives of organisations in the city participated in the march, chanting the slogans "Bijî berxwedan" (Long live resistance) and "Bijî Serok Apo" (Long live Leader Öcalan).

Qamişlo People's Municipality Co-Mayor Emel Şemdin said, "We welcome the uprising of the people of Bakur (North Kurdistan) against the oppression of the Turkish state. We will support it to the end. We condemn the silence of international powers against this lawlessness."

People's municipalities in the Cizîre Canton also saluted the resistance of the people of North Kurdistan.

The municipalities in Heseke and its Til Temir, Til Berak and Dirbêsiyê districts, said, "We support the DEM Party members who won the elections and the will of the people of North Kurdistan who reject the AKP policy."



## People of Amed demonstrate for Van

ANF | AMED | 3 APRIL 2024

Led by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Amed (Diyarbakır) Provincial Organisation, a convoy of vehicles was formed to protest against the unlawful replacement of Abdullah Zeydan, who was elected as Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality in 31 March elections, with the AKP candidate.

The convoy of hundreds of vehicles travelled around the city and Amed Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayors Doğan Hatun and Serra Bucak also participated in the demonstration.

Those in the convoy were supported by the people around with victory signs, accompanied by slogans such as "Bijî berxwedana Wanê" (Long live the resistance of Van), "We will win by resisting" and "Abdullah Zeydan is our honour"

Hundreds of people blocked Ekinciler Street in Ofis neighbourhood to traffic, chanting the slogan "Amed, don't sleep, protect your will".



## Abdullah Zeydan of DEM Party reinstated as mayor of Van

ANF | VAN | 3 APRIL 2024

As a result of the resistance of the Kurdish people, their friends and democratic public opinion, the Supreme Electoral Board (YSK) was forced to return the certificate of election unlawfully granted to the AKP candidate to the democratically elected Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor Abdullah Zeydan of the DEM Party.

The DEM Party filed an objection to the YSK against the Provincial Election Board's decision to give the certificate of election to the AKP candidate. The YSK, which took the objection on its agenda today, decided to return the certificate of election to Zeydan.

Abdullah Zeydan commented on the YSK decision, saying, "We have been given back the certificate of election that we are entitled to. We salute the support and will of our people. We bow with respect in front of this upright stance and struggle of our people."

## Background

The Peoples' Democracy and Equality Party (DEM Party) achieved a historic victory in the local elections held on March 31, 2024, in Van. The people of Van province entrusted all fourteen municipalities, including the Metropolitan Municipality, to the DEM Party, establishing it as the leading party in the Provincial General Assembly by a significant margin. In the Metropolitan Municipality, where the DEM Party received 55% of the vote and the AKP just 27%, elected DEM Party Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, Abdullah Zeydan, has been denied office and replaced by the AKP candidate.

The illegal action against Zeydan was taken despite the fact that he completed all requisite legal procedures and successfully secured candidacy approval from the Supreme Election Board (YSK) after rigorous scrutiny. He garnered substantial support from the people of Van and was duly elected together with Neslihan Şedal.

However, merely five minutes before the close of business on Friday, March 29, 2024, and a mere two days before the election, the Ministry of Justice, via an administrative decision and correspondence, contested the legal credentials of Zeydan, who had been restored his full civil rights by a court decision when released from prison in 2022. Following Friday's administrative decision and objection letter, which was essentially a directive, the authorized prosecutor's office resubmitted the matter to the court that had issued the decision to restore his civil rights two years ago. That same day, the court revoked their own previous decision and dismissed Zeydan's civil rights application; and they pre-emptively informed the YSK prior to the formalisation of their new reversed decision, thus curtailing the right to object and appeal.

The very court that had initially ruled in favor of restoring the civil rights of Abdullah Zeydan reversed its decision.

The unlawful action against Zeydan was met with protests, starting from Van and spreading to the entire Kurdish region. People have been taking to the streets for two days in protest at the usurpation of the will of the people of Van. In addition to the Kurdish politics and population, democratic circles from Turkey and abroad also expressed their support for Zeydan against attempts to deny the will of the Kurdish voters.

## DFG condemns police attacks on journalists during protests against the AKP's election coup

ANF | AMED | 3 APRIL 2024

Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG) condemned the attempted coup against the will of the Kurdish people in the person of Abdullah Zeydan, Co-Mayor of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in Van and the police attacks against journalists.

In a written statement on Wednesday, DFG said, "This coup attempt, which has caused great outrage throughout the country since yesterday, has been met with public protests in Van, and harsh attacks have taken place against the demonstrations. During yesterday's events, unfortunately, it was journalists who were again identified as open targets and attacked. Press workers, whose duty is to convey the events to the public in all their nakedness, were again targeted by the police. In many cities, especially in Van, press workers were prevented from taking pictures and were targeted with gas and water cannons. In some places, they were subjected to physical intervention."

DFG listed the violations against journalists in the last two days as follows:

- \* Gazete Duvar Reporter Kadir Cesur was wounded with a rubber bullet during the incidents in Van. Cesur was hit by two rubber bullets. His body was bruised due to the rubber bullets hitting his kneecap and leg.
- \* Journalist Ruşen Takva was intervened by water cannons.
- \* Journalist Oktay Candemir was subjected to police confiscation of his mobile phone, forced deletion of footage and insults while trying to film the protests.
- \* Five journalists were attacked by the police while filming the police intervention at various points.
- \* KRT reporter Umut Taştan was hit by a rubber bullet.
- \* Rudaw cameraman Muhammed Şakir was hit by a tear gas bomb.
- \* Journalist Serkan Kaya was threatened with death after he filmed people alleged to be relatives of the AKP Hakkari provincial chairman who used weapons against demonstrators during the protests in Hakkari. Kaya took shelter in a building in order to escape from the people who chased him with guns and threatened him with death. It is learned that the people called Kaya on the phone and said, 'come out, we will kill you'.
- \* During the night clashes in Batman, Mezopotamya Agency and Jinnews reporters were deliberately sprayed with water cannons while they were covering the demonstrations.

\* The police attacked the people showing their democratic reaction in Siirt and beat NeHaber Agency reporters.

The statement concluded: "The attacks are carried out by law enforcement officers who are supposed to protect and safeguard journalists. Firstly, we convey our get well wishes to all fellow journalists who have been attacked since yesterday. On this occasion, we once again call on the government and the law enforcement forces at its disposal to put an end to the attacks on journalists as soon as possible. We strongly condemn and reject these attacks on the people's right to information. We expect the authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of journalists working in the field. Otherwise, the current government will be responsible for any negative developments."

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## The resistance of the Van people ended the trustee period

ANF | VAN | 3 APRIL 2024

DBP Van Provincial co-chair Harun Okay, DEM Party Van Provincial co-chair Veysi Dilekçi, Çev-Der president Ali Kalçık and lawyer Feyzi Çelik spoke to ANF and said that the Supreme Election Council (YSK) made a big mistake.

### The people of Van made history

**DBP Van Provincial co-chair Harun Okay:** "The will of the people has overcome all difficulties. Our people have shown their will once again for two days. An unlawful decision has been corrected. Our people have shown that they never accepted trustees and will never accept them. Our people's consciousness of democracy. Our people's awareness of democracy has once again breathed life into the country."

### This is a milestone

**HDP Van Provincial chair Veysi Dilekçi:** "YSK put an end to lawlessness, the will of our people won, another obstacle placed in front of our people in the democratic struggle was overcome. This event is a milestone and it shows that nothing will be the same in Turkey anymore. The trustee period is over. And our people have put an end to this with the determination they have shown for two days."

### Without reaction, the YSK would not take a step back

**Lawyer Feyzi Çelik:** "It had to be like this, as a requirement of the law. The previous decision was completely against the law. Civil rights were taken back. This decision would not have been made without the reaction of the people of Van and the democratic public. The YSK decision is final and there is no way to appeal against it. They generally don't make corrections. It is good to be cautious anyway."

## We lived the Van spirit of the Gezi resistance

**ÇEV-DER president Ali Kalçık:** "I salute the people's resistance. If we could have done this in the past, this wouldn't happen today. We experienced the Van spirit of the Gezi resistance. The Van resistance will also be recorded like this. Van was never going to accept this and they saw that. The decision made with the instruction was withdrawn with the instruction. The resistance of the people of Van ended the trustee period. As long as our people are like this, they cannot mortgage the future of the Kurdish people."

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## Van co-mayor Zeydan: No one will even think of usurping your will anymore

ANF | VAN | 4 APRIL 2024

After the decision of the Supreme Electoral Board (YSK) to reinstate the Metropolitan Municipality co-mayor of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), Abdullah Zeydan, some one hundred thousand people flocked to Musa Anter Park to celebrate Van's victory.

### They will never find the courage to usurp the people's will again

Van Metropolitan Municipality co-mayor Neslihan Şedal said: "This victory, this resistance is yours, congratulations. After this resistance, who would dare to usurp our will, who would dare to usurp our institutions? You have been displaying great resistance for two days. The winners of this resistance were women and young people. Never again will anyone find the courage to usurp this will. This resistance was not just about winning the municipality. This resistance is a great gift to our friends in prison. This success is also their success. The winner was the spirit of the youth, the winner was the spirit of 'jin, jyan, azadi'. "We resisted very hard and tomorrow we will clean our streets from the trustee's garbage."

### Zeydan: you showed how the Kurdish people have honor

Van Metropolitan Municipality co-mayor Abdullah Zeydan said: "Van is a place of honour and dignity. How happy we are that we are the children of honorable people like you. We said something to the vultures who wanted to collapse against the will of the people in this square. Our people protected their honor and will against all attacks. We said that we would not sacrifice your honor to these vultures. You showed how honorable the Kurdish people are, despite all the pressure, despite all the dirty relationships, despite the promises of money. You gave your message to the whole world by winning 14 out of 14 municipalities. Despite the vultures, you revived the hopes of freedom between those four walls of our comrades, Demirtaş, Kışanak, Yüksekdağlar, Bekir Kayalar, Nazmi Gür, who have been on hunger strike for 125 days in the prisons today. From now on, no one will even think of usurping your will. We salute and thank you for your honorable resistance. Now is the time to serve."

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## Van Co-Mayor Zeydan: Now it's time to serve

ANF | 4 APRIL 2024

DEM Party Wan Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor Abdullah Zeydan, who was first denied and then given back the certificate of election, released a message of thanks on his social media account, saying, "Now it is time to serve."

Zeydan's message read: "We would like to express our gratitude to our honourable people who have gloriously claimed their will, to our co-chairs, to Leyla Zana, Ahmet Türk, Başak Demirtaş, to our MPs and all our party comrades, to all political prisoners in the person of Mr. Demirtaş and Mr. Mızraklı who showed great solidarity, to all the peoples of Turkey who defend justice, law and democracy, to the press workers, to all political party leaders, to the NGO representatives and all those who stand on the side of law and justice, from the far left to the far right. The YSK (Supreme Election Board) decision based on justice and law has further strengthened the hopes for the establishment of the rule of law in all areas, the hopes for social peace and the will for a free and honourable life together. Now it is time to serve. Let no one doubt that we will produce services worthy of our people."

### Background

In the Kurdish province of Van, where the DEM Party received 55% of the vote and the AKP just 27%, in the 31 March local elections, the elected DEM Party Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, Abdullah Zeydan, was denied office and replaced by the AKP candidate. The illegal action against Zeydan was taken despite the fact that he completed all requisite legal procedures and successfully secured candidacy approval from the Supreme Election Board after rigorous scrutiny. He garnered substantial support from the people of Van and was duly elected together with Neslihan Şedal. The unlawful action against Zeydan was met with protests, starting from Van and spreading to the entire Kurdish region. As a result of the resistance of the Kurdish people, their friends and democratic public opinion, the Supreme Electoral Board was forced to return the certificate of election unlawfully granted to the AKP candidate to the democratically elected Abdullah Zeydan of the DEM Party on Wednesday.

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## KCK: The resistance of the people of Van is revolutionary

ANF | BEHDINAN | 4 APRIL 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement about the election victory in the Van province in northern Kurdistan. In the city, where the DEM Party received 55% of the vote and the AKP just 27%, the elected DEM Party Co-Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, Abdullah Zeydan, was denied office and replaced by the AKP candidate. The illegal action against Zeydan was taken despite the fact that he completed all requisite legal procedures and successfully secured candidacy approval from the Supreme Election Board (YSK) after rigorous scrutiny. He garnered substantial support from the people of Van and was duly elected together with Neslihan Şedal. The unlaw-

ful action against Zeydan was met with protests, starting from Van and spreading to the entire Kurdish region. As a result of the resistance of the Kurdish people, their friends and democratic public opinion, the Supreme Electoral Board (YSK) was forced to return the certificate of election unlawfully granted to the AKP candidate to the democratically elected Abdullah Zeydan of the DEM Party.

"Only by intensifying the common struggle and solidarity will the racist, repressive, pillaging, thieving fascist mentality be completely defeated and only then will Turkey become democratic. Wan paved the path for this and took the initial action. Expanding it further is what's required. We urge the peoples and democratic forces to fortify their solidarity with this hope and conviction," said the KCK statement, which includes the following:

"With the joint labor, solidarity, and collective efforts of all the peoples of Turkey, a historic resistance and victory was accomplished in Wan. We salute and celebrate the significant and historic resistance of the people. Across Turkey, and particularly in Kurdish cities, protests and rallies were carried out in solidarity with the people of Wan. The people of Turkey, along with the democratic forces, demonstrated a strong opposition to the AKP-MHP government's usurping of free will. The people and democratic forces across Turkey demonstrated an important stand against the AKP-MHP government's attempts to usurp municipalities. The people are growing closer to one another, their sense of coexistence has been strengthened, and the foundation for united struggle has been laid with this meaningful stance by the peoples and democratic forces. The victory that was achieved in Wan is a true democratic victory. It reflects the democratic stance which the peoples have adopted in opposition to the attempts of the AKP-MHP administration to institutionalize fascism. It has cleared the path for Turkey's democratic transition and illustrated the potential of the peoples' united resistance and struggle against fascism, against pillaging, and usurping regimes. It is a highly significant and historic development in this regard.

It is apparent that the deepening issues and disasters in Turkey are a result of the AKP-MHP government's policies, which are driven by enmity toward the Kurds. With the persecution of Kurdish people, the AKP-MHP administration is inflicting damage to all of Turkey and its people. The labor, resources, and ideals of Turkey are being exploited. A fascist group has taken the country by the collar, dragging it into an environment of famine, poverty, and suffering; they try to establish a fascist, exploitative system in Turkey while completely suppressing the society's demands for justice, freedom, democracy, and a fair and dignified life. Their attempts to incite hatred toward the Kurdish people is to divide society and set peoples against one another.

Under the pretext of fighting the Kurds, they have robbed Turkey of its freedoms and democracy, they have snatched away the country's future. They have come to an extent where they reject the most minor democratic demand. This racist, fascist, repressive, looting, and thieving attitude oppresses and exploits Kurdish people, Turkish people, and the people of Turkey alike. This is why the people are mobilizing against this exploitation and tyranny in unity. The Kurdish people fight against bigotry, denial, and fascism in their fight for freedom and democracy. They push for Turkish democracy because they trust that this will solve their problems. The democratization of Turkey is not only being fought for by the Kurds but also by the rest of the people in Turkey. Wan is a powerful embodiment of this. Not only the will of the people of Wan, but the will of Turkey as a whole was safeguarded. This is what gives the Wan resistance its distinctive and important qualities. This is a very welcome and important step.



The municipal elections on March 31st brought to light a new reality. The fascist AKP-MHP was severely defeated as a result of the repression and deception it inflicted. The peoples and the democratic forces claimed victory. Refusing to accept this major loss, the AKP-MHP administration attempted to trample on popular will via new schemes. It pursued schemes in several regions of Turkey and Kurdistan. Nonetheless, the peoples of Kurdistan and Turkey have demonstrated a resolute stance against the AKP-MHP machinations. These sentiments, both in the East and the West, are extremely important and are intended to safeguard democracy. Their success has strengthened them amid the conspiracies spreading throughout Turkey. Had the AKP-MHP government succeeded in usurping the will in Wan, it would have spared no time to recreate this policy in other areas throughout Kurdistan and Turkey. If it had passed the test in Wan, it would have been applied everywhere in Turkey and Kurdistan where the AKP had lost power. But the solidarity and resistance of the peoples destroyed this logic. Their solidarity is why fascism failed.

The people of Wan were unquestionably at the center of this struggle. The people of Wan defeated fascism with a remarkable act of resistance. The struggle of the people of Wan, which begun on April 2 and resulted in victory on April 3, is a revolution. They have developed a new style of serhildan (uprising) which they developed entirely by their own political consciousness, will, and dynamics. Thus, adding a new phase to the Kurdistan Freedom Struggle.

We extend our greetings and respect, and salute the Wan people for their remarkable resistance and revolution. Once more, we extend our greetings and congratulations to all Kurdish people who simultaneously initiated resistance in all of Kurdistan's cities, in solidarity with the community in Wan. Furthermore, we applaud the young people and women who stood at the forefront of this struggle.

It is vital to reflect further on the 3 April victory and make evaluations. The democratic forces must strengthen themselves with the power they have gained in this developing process. This is among the most significant inferences that may be made in relation to the victory on April 3. Because unity and a shared fight led to this victory against fascism. Only by intensifying the common struggle and solidarity will the racist, repressive, pillaging, thieving fascist mentality be completely defeated and only then will Turkey become democratic. Wan paved the path for this and took the initial action. Expanding it further is what's required. We urge the peoples and democratic forces to fortify their solidarity with this hope and conviction."

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## DEM Party co-mayors enter municipalities with the people, putting an end to the trustee rule

ANF | 5 APRIL 2024

The co-mayors of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) are getting their certificates of election. The co-mayors who have already received their mandates, entered the municipalities under the trustees, accompanied by the people.

## Hakkari

DEM Party Hakkari (Colemêrg) Municipality co-mayors Mehmet Sıddık Adım, Viyan Tekçe and DEM Parti Yüksekova (Gever) Municipality co-mayors Şadiye Kırmızıgül and Şoreş Diri entered the municipalities, which had been usurped by the trustees for two terms.

In Hakkari, hundreds of people, as well as co-mayors Akı and Tekçe, DEM Party Provincial organization and executives, marched to the municipality. Co-mayor Tekçe said that the new term will be beneficial for all the people of Hakkari and that they will rebuild the municipality together with the people. Speaking afterwards, co-mayor Adım thanked the people for their support since the first day of the election campaign and said that they will serve in a transparent manner in the next process.

## Yüksekova

In Yüksekova (Gever), in addition to the mayors of the municipality, the DEM Party Yüksekova District Organization, Peace Mothers and hundreds of people, marched to the municipality building, which is 3 kilometers away from the district center. Municipality staff welcomed the co-mayors with flowers.

### 'Yüksekova municipality is now at the service of the people'

DEM Yüksekova Municipality co-mayor Diri said: "After 5 years, we liberated our municipality from the trustees. Thanks to the Van resistance, the whole world understood that the will of the Kurdish people could not be trampled or usurped. Everyone should know that we will never allow the appointment of trustees to our municipalities."

### 'We will govern our people in a secular way'

Co-chair Kırmızıgül thanked the people of Yüksekova for not leaving them alone and said: "We know very well that you have not stepped into this municipality for 8 years. Now you are experiencing the pleasure of coming back to your municipality with great enthusiasm, excitement and of your own will. We promise you that we will run our municipality together in a secular manner for our people."

### 'Let our victory be a gift to those who enlighten our day'

DEM Party Hakkari MP Onur Düşünmez said: "4 April is the birthday of our leadership. We send thousands of greetings to those who brighten our day with this victory and to those in prison. May this victory be for the young people who are struggling to live freely in their own land."

## Mus

DEM Party won the Muş municipality, which had been under AKP rule for years, with a wide vote difference. Muş Municipality co-mayors Sırrı Söylemez and Tuba Sayılğan received their certificates of election together with the people. Then, they march to Muş Municipality. Speaking in front of the municipality, Söylemez and Sayılğan underlined that they will build an administration together with the people and said that this mandate belongs to the people.

Milazgir Municipality co-mayors Ahmet Kenan Türker and Gülistan Özel, Bulanık (Kop) Municipality co-mayors Aryan Doğan and Arafat Kardağı, Gimgim Municipality co-mayors Kıyasettin Aydemir and Gulbahar Kaya also received their certificates.

## Batman

The DEM Party received the certificate of election in İkiköprü (Awiske). Co-chairs Celile Yıldız and Halil İbrahim Karabulut, DEM Party executives, Tewgera Jinên Azad (TJA) and Batman (Êlih) MP Zeynep Oduncu went to the courthouse and received the certificates. Making a statement in front of the courthouse, Batman Provincial co-chair Songül Korkmaz said that they worked throughout the election process, together with all party members, women and young people.

## Mardin

Kudret Uçuk and Hamdin Demir, who were elected Mazıdağı (Şemrex) Municipality co-mayors, also received their certificates. Co-mayors Uçuk and Demir, who received their certificates from the District Election Board, then went to the municipality accompanied by the people.

The co-mayors thanked the people of the district for standing up for their will and said, "Our people have thus shown that their will will never be surrendered. "As we promised, we will always be with them and serve our district together," he said.

After the speeches, the co-chairs and their entourage entered the town hall, accompanied by chants, and took a souvenir photo there.



## Council of Judges and Prosecutors opens investigation on restoration of rights to mayor Zeydan

ANF | AMED | 5 APRIL 2024

The Turkish justice system is being tough in the Abdullah Zeydan case. The Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) has opened an investigation into the court that restored the Kurdish politician's civil rights, including those to run for political office.

The HSK is investigating the members of the 5th criminal chamber for serious crimes in Amed (Diyarbakır), the Turkish service of Deutsche Welle reported on Thursday.

The decision to investigate came just one day after Zeydan received his certificate of appointment as mayor of the Kurdish city of Van (Wan). The DEM candidate was elected on Sunday with 55 percent of the vote. Yet, the candidate from the Islamist ruling party AKP, who was far behind with 27.1 percent, was appointed mayor. According to DEM information, Zeydan's right to stand as a candidate was briefly revoked at the initiative of the Ministry of Justice.

The background to the action was that the 5th Criminal Chamber in Diyarbakır revised its own decision from 2022 after an objection from the Ministry of Justice. At that time, Zeydan had applied to regain all civil rights after a prison sentence. The court approved the application at the time, but withdrew its own decision just two days before the election without informing Zeydan.

A statement released afterward by the Van regional election committee, said that Zeydan had forfeited his political rights because of the conviction. The 52-year-old was arrested in 2016 and later sentenced to just over eight years in prison for “supporting and making propaganda for a terrorist organization”.

The HSK, which is responsible, among other things, for disciplinary control of the courts, bases the investigation on an “incorrect decision” by the Diyarbakır Criminal Chamber. This would have restored Zeydan's civil rights far too early, namely before the statutory repayment period of three years had expired. However, since the decision has been legally binding since April last year, it can no longer be appealed, and certainly cannot be overturned by a criminal chamber.

The only possibility that Turkish criminal law offers to revoke Zeydan's civil rights is an objection from the Ministry of Justice "in favor of the law". However, only the Court of Cassation (Yargıtay), Turkey's highest appeal court, can overturn the decision. But until that happens, Zeydan will remain in office. If the Court of Cassation actually makes a decision to annul Zeydan's election as mayor, the city council in Van would have to appoint a successor. But the DEM party is in the majority there.

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## Co-mayors of Van receive certificate of election

ANF | VAN | 5 APRIL 2024

Abdullah Zeydan has received his certificate of election as mayor of the city of Van, together with Neslihan Şedal. According to the DEM party status, top positions must be filled by a man and a woman, and the principle of gender parity in co-presidency system applies to all committees. However, only Zeydan is sworn in, as Şedal is officially considered a city councillor. Hundreds of enthusiastic people accompanied the new mayors of Van Municipality on Friday on the way to the Palace of Justice, where the election committee is also located, and gave them a round of applause. Şedal and Zeydan in turn thanked the people for their support.

"For years, we have been fighting to restore equality, justice and a collective conscience in this society. Achieving this ideal is also one of the core principles of local democracy," said Şedal. "We thank our young friends, our mothers, all the communities, civil society and all the other dynamics of our city who rallied around our candidates and supported them with all their might during the local election campaign. Our solidarity goes out to all those who asserted their democratic rights in the face of disregard for the will of the voters and whose resistance ensured our victory. The recent developments in Van have revitalised our hope for a strengthening of our striving for rights, freedom and justice in society. It is not only in Van that this hope has been rekindled, but everywhere in this region. May our victory together be blessed."

Zeydan also addressed a few words to the people: "We have gone through a process that has been characterised, albeit temporarily, by the suspension of our fundamental rights. We thank the people of Van and all those who stood up for democracy, law and justice and defended the will of the voters. The recognition of our election by the Supreme Election Commission has further strengthened the will for the rule of law, the establishment of justice, social peace and a life of coexistence and dignity in our country. Our regions have been the scene of conflict and lawlessness for long enough. We all have a responsibility to create social peace and a life in dignity. It is time to create social peace and serve our beautiful city and our people well. We will roll up our sleeves to find solutions to all the city's problems. Our thanks go to all our citizens."

DEM members Abdullah Zeydan and Neslihan Şedal received around 55.5 per cent of the vote in the local elections in Van on 31 March. However, the Turkish regime wanted to appoint an AKP politician as mayor in their place and had Zeydan declared ineligible at short notice. The background to the decision to exclude Zeydan from the election is a court ruling on the 52-year-old politician's restoration of all civil rights after serving several years in prison - including the right to run for political office. The court had approved the application in 2022, but withdrew its own decision two days before the election on the initiative of the Ministry of Justice. Zeydan was not informed of the move, which according to lawyers was unlawful. Following massive protests, Ankara rowed back and finally confirmed Zeydan's election victory. The Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors (HSK) is now investigating the court that restored the Kurdish politician's civil rights.



## DEM Party dismantles the door of the mayor's office in Akdeniz, Mersin

ANF | MERSIN | 5 APRIL 2024

Co-Mayors Hoşyar Sarıyıldız and Nuriye Arslan of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), who won the municipality in Akdeniz district of Mersin, received their certificate of election from the District Election Board. DEM Party Mersin MP Ali Bozan and hundreds of people accompanied the co-mayors.

Speaking after receiving the certificate of election, Co-Mayor Nuriye Arslan said, "The people of Akdeniz gave marks to the previous mayor. They also gave marks to us; here are our marks. We won together, we will govern together."

Co-Mayor Sarıyıldız said, "Our belief in democracy has flourished again in Akdeniz. We will set an example for Turkey. Akdeniz will be a centre of cultures, languages and beliefs. We will do this together with our people, we will consult our people. We will not act with a centralist, monist mentality."

The co-mayors entered the municipality building en masse after receiving the certificate of election. Sarıyıldız and Nuriye Arslan were welcomed with flowers by the municipality employees. The first thing

Sarıyıldız and Nuriye Arslan did was to remove the doors of the Akdeniz Municipality mayor's office with a drill.

Afterwards, a celebration was held in front of the municipality.

## Akdeniz Municipality

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), which has taken its place on the political scene with a democratic, ecological and women's libertarian paradigm, aimed to realise this on a wider periphery with the 31 March local elections. One of the centres where the party, which entered the elections in many cities of Turkey as well as Kurdistan with its co-mayoral candidates determined on the basis of urban consensus, has a stronghold is the Akdeniz district of Mersin.

DEM Party's candidates Nuriye Arslan and Hoşyar Sarıyıldız have run for Akdeniz Municipality for the local elections on 31 March.

The district, which has a cosmopolitan structure due to the coexistence of many different ethnic groups, also has a significant labour potential.

The municipality of Akdeniz, which was governed by Fazıl Türk, the candidate of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) between 2009 and 2014, was won by Fazıl Türk and Yüksel Mutlu, the party's co-mayoral candidates, in the local elections held in 2014.

One of the municipalities to which the government appointed trustees was Akdeniz Municipality. On 18 December 2016, District Governor Hamdi Bilge Aktaş was appointed as trustee in place of the co-mayors who were dismissed by a decision of the Ministry of Interior. The first action of the trustee was to change the name of the municipality's İhtar Women's Counselling Centre to "Directorate of Women and Family Services".

In the local elections held in May 2019, the municipality came under the administration of AKP candidate Mustafa Gültak with a 7 percent vote difference. Gültak, who did not lag behind the trustee, made the Directorate of Women and Family Services completely dysfunctional by appointing a male director. Gültak transferred the Women's Guesthouse, which was also built with municipal funds, to the Ministry of Family and Social Services for 25 years on the grounds of lack of budget.

Gültak further transferred Yılmaz Güney Park, which was built during the DBP period, to the Ministry of Youth and Sports to be used as a dormitory. The AKP mayor was authorised to borrow 50 million liras in July 2022 at a municipal council meeting where HDP members were not present. When the municipality's debt reached 72 million liras, 14 immovable properties on 61 acres, including mosques, schools and health centres, were transferred to the Social Security Institution (SGK).

DEM Party's Co-Mayoral candidates Nuriye Arslan and Hoşyar Sarıyıldız, who won Akdeniz by a margin again after 8 years, aim to reintroduce the "equal service to all" model that the people of the district have stayed away from in the past 8 years.

Nuriye Arslan migrated to Mersin from Muş with her family in 1978 when she was only 10 years old. Dedicating her life to human rights and women's rights defence, Arslan started her political career in the Yenişehir district administration of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) and later served as district co-chair. Arslan, who was elected as a member of the Akdeniz Municipality Council in 2019 and had an active profile, was nominated as a co-mayoral candidate by the DEM Party in the 31 March local elections this year after gaining the sympathy and trust of the people.

Born in 1991 in Şırnak's Cizre district, Hoşyar Sarıyıldız migrated to Mersin with his family in 1994. After graduating from Istanbul University Faculty of Law, Sarıyıldız became co-chair of the Mersin branch of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) in 2016. In 2022, Sarıyıldız was elected as HDP Mersin Provincial Co-chair and now became the other co-mayor of the DEM Party for Akdeniz Municipality with the support of the people.

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## Elections to be renewed in Halfeti

ANF | URFA | 5 APRIL 2024

In the 31 March local elections, the DEM Party won the local elections with a difference of 906 votes in the district of Halfeti in Urfa province.

However, as in many cities, the AKP, which lost the elections, filed objections.

In Halfeti, the AKP appealed to the district election board on 2 April, citing "irregular voting" and "invalid" votes. The board rejected the objection on procedural grounds. However, this time the AKP appealed to the Provincial Election Board, which, thereafter, decided to renew the elections.

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## DFG and MKG call for the release of detained journalists

ANF | AMED | 5 APRIL 2024

Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG) and Mesopotamia Women Journalists' Association (MKG) called for the release of journalists detained while covering the protests against the attempted political coup in Van.

In a written statement on Friday, DFG and MKG stated that journalists who were covering the protests that started in all cities after Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Van Municipality Co-Mayor Abdullah Zeydan was replaced by the AKP candidate were subjected to violence and detained.

The statement drew attention to the police attacks against journalists and announced the names of detained journalists.

In addition to NuJinha reporter Medine Mamedođlu in Van, Mezopotamya Agency reporter Ferhat Sezgin, Pir News Agency (PİRHA) reporter Dilan Şimşek, Yeni Yaşam Newspaper reporter Sema Korkmaz, Artı Gerçek reporter Müzeyyen Yüce and SiyasiHaber.Org reporters Zilan Azad and Yeşim Dokur in Kadıköy were also detained. While Azad and Dokur were released, 4 journalists are still under custody.

The statement denounced the torture of detained journalists.

Accordingly, Ferhat Sezgin's nose was broken due to police violence, while other journalists were also subjected to violence during detention.

The statement pointed out that:

"Images of the detention of journalists have been on the public agenda. Mezopotamya Agency reporter Ferhat Sezgin, one of the journalists who were tortured and detained by many police officers, had his nose broken due to police violence. We have also seen how other journalists were subjected to serious violence during their detention.

This situation seriously worries and enrages us. The life safety of our friends is directly jeopardised. The law enforcement forces there should primarily ensure the safety of the journalists' lives. However, it attacks them in a reckless manner. It is clear that it gets this power from the government. The policy of impunity has turned the police into elements that literally torture. They beat people to death in the street and nobody puts a stop to it. But we do not accept this. These tendencies are the biggest blow to freedom of the press. The government and the law enforcement forces under its command must stop these attacks and ensure the safety of journalists. In addition, everyone should protect the press workers who are the eyes, ears and voice of the people. They should not leave them in the hands of these torturers. We once again express our solidarity with all our friends who were attacked, detained and injured and demand their immediate release."

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## DEM Party removes X-ray device and wires at Viranşehir Municipality

ANF | URFA | 5 APRIL 2024

In Viranşehir Municipality, which was won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), the first task of the co-mayors was to remove the X-rays at the entrance of the municipality and the wires around the service building. X-rays and wires were placed around the municipality's service building after it was seized from the HDP administration on 3 December 2016. This practice was continued after the municipality was transferred to AKP in 2019.

Stating that these practices are an understanding of municipalism that is disconnected from the people, Mayor Serhat Dicle İnan said, "We will serve this city with an understanding of municipalism that is open to the people all the time. As of today, we are removing the X-ray devices in response to those who



equipped the city municipality with X-rays in a way disconnected from the people. Our people will no longer pass through X-rays. The municipality is their home now. They will be able to reach their own home whenever they want."

Co-Mayor Bedriye Yorgun remarked that social security depends on social peace, saying: "The security of a society is ensured by ensuring equality in that society, the security of a society is ensured by fair treatment there, the security of a society is ensured by a democratic, equal and free approach without prohibitions. X-rays are not tools to ensure the security of society. For this reason, we are trying to make the municipality a home for the people by removing the mechanical X-rays between us and our people when entering our municipality on the first day. We made a promise, and we keep it."

The X-ray device was removed to the warehouse and the wire fences around the municipality were dismantled one by one. Co-mayors then visited the municipality employees.

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