

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

KCK: Let’s raise the united struggle against isolation and torture

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 JUNE 2024

The co-presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement regarding the importance of the prison resistance, that has been going on since November 27, 2023.

The statement, which describes the need to understand the importance of this resistance in its full depth and to extend it to the whole of society, includes the following:

"The political prisoners in Kurdistan and Turkey have been in a state of resistance against fascist oppression, isolation, and genocide since November 27, 2023. In solidarity with them, their families and the groups that are aware of the situation in the prisons, are organizing various actions, trying to make the voices of the prisoners heard and bring them to the public agenda. We salute and celebrate this extremely meaningful resistance. We respectfully and gratefully commemorate the great July 14th resistance [On July 14, 1982, the beginning of a death fast was declared in Amed prison. It represented the height of prison resistance in the 1980s] and those who played a great role in the development and success of the Kurdish freedom struggle. We thereby commemorate all the martyrs of revolution and democracy and state once again that we will definitely bring our freedom struggle, which develops along the lines of the resistance of our martyrs, to victory.

The attitude of the political prisoners and the message they give to society are extremely important. It is crucial to emphasize and fully comprehend this. Prisons are the places that best reflect the situation of a society. The mentality of those who are cruel and evil towards social values is most evident in prisons and can be best observed and struggled against by the political prisoners. In this respect, the words, attitudes, and actions of political prisoners should not be seen separately from social reality. On the contrary, it reflects the thoughts, expectations, and longing for freedom of society. Again, the resistance developed by political prisoners in their conditions is the most meaningful response to oppression, fascism, and genocide. Prisoners have defeated all kinds of oppression with their steel. They broke down the walls of genocide and strengthened the resistance and determination of society. By insisting on the stance of freedom against all kinds of surrender, they inflicted the greatest defeat on the enemy. Because victory is won first and foremost with freedom, consciousness, belief, and organized will. As there can be no success that is not based on will, it is never possible to stop a people who have won the victory of will from marching towards freedom. In our freedom struggle, this reality was experienced in its most striking form, and accordingly, the patriotic people of Kurdistan know this reality very well. Those resisting in prisons have destroyed the strongholds of oppression with their unshakable belief in the people and freedom. It was they who paved the way for success in Kurdistan. The struggle for freedom that rebuilt the Kurdish people has developed based on this legacy. Undoubtedly, not only in the Kurdistan revolution but also in the socialist and revolutionary democratic movement in Turkey and everywhere else, political prisoners have played such a historic role.

The AKP-MHP regime imposes its reality in prisons in its heaviest form. This regime takes its mentality from the fascist September 12 regime and carries out a policy of oppression, isolation, and torture on prisoners. Still, the prisoners do not surrender and put up a great resistance against the system of severe oppression, isolation, and torture. The resistance that the prisoners have been waging for more than six months is to lift the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo [Leader Abdullah Öcalan] and to ensure the conditions of health, safety, and freedom. İmrālî is the place where pressure, isolation, and torture intensify and where the greatest resistance attitude develops in response to this. The policy of the fascist AKP-MHP government that is ravaging society is centered on İmrālî. It is clear that the AKP-MHP government wants to achieve results through isolation and torture, and it wants to establish the fascist order through this. This is why it insists so much on the policy of absolute isolation. Realizing this, political prisoners have put forward the aim of their actions as the lifting of the absolute isolation on Rêber Apo.

The attitude taken by the political prisoners and the message they give with their resistance must be understood very well by society. While the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo in İmrālî continues and tens of thousands of political prisoners are resisting the lifting of the isolation, it is unthinkable for society to remain

indifferent to this and to live according to the usual course. Prisons, particularly the Imrali system, are built to destroy the hope and future of freedom in society. Therefore, the policies developed against prisoners, especially the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo, are in essence a genocide against society. The future of society can only be won by eliminating this genocide system built by the rulers. Society cannot remain indifferent to the reality of prisons and the resistance of political prisoners.

First and foremost, the patriotic people of Kurdistan must protect the political prisoners and their resistance. The Kurdish people must strongly embrace the resistance of the political prisoners, see it as their own cause, unite with it, and increase the resistance of the prisoners with their actions. The AKP-MHP government has imprisoned tens of thousands of revolutionaries, patriots, and democrats who fight within the scope of the Kurdish genocide. With this, it is aimed at leaving the Kurdish people without a vanguard, without organization, and without action. It is the Kurdish people and their struggle for freedom that are being imprisoned. Just like in the past, the AKP-MHP government wants to destroy the Kurdish people's hope for freedom and make the genocidal colonialist mentality and politics dominant in Kurdistan. The government has put Imrali at the center of this genocidal colonialist policy. By maintaining the Imrali genocide system and imposing absolute isolation on Rêber Apo, the Kurdish genocide is wanted to be realized. Aware of this fact, political prisoners have taken the stance of resistance to lift the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo. This means that political prisoners are taking the initiative on behalf of the people and are at the forefront of the struggle. Our people must deeply understand and feel this noble stance. Taking responsibility for the political prisoners cannot be left only to the prisoners' relatives. The people as a whole must embrace the demands of political prisoners and take action.

Revolutionary democratic forces must take action against the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo, and on this basis, they must embrace the demands and resistance of political prisoners. They should take it as a basis to further develop the united struggle around the resistance of the prisoners. It must take more initiative in the democratization of Turkey by integrating the struggle for democracy with the ongoing global freedom campaign for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and the democratic solution of the Kurdish question. It must lead the people to organize and take action on this basis.

For four years, absolute isolation has been imposed on Rêber Apo, and no news has been received from him. Thousands of political prisoners in prisons have been protesting against this absolute isolation for more than six months. As part of their protests, they are not receiving family visits, and they are not appearing in court. In an environment where there are policies of absolute isolation and tens of thousands of political prisoners do not appear in courts and do not visit their families, the most fundamental duty of democratic politics and society is to see this reality and to increase the struggle by embracing it without hesitation.

The 26-year-long Imrali system and the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo have no legal, humanitarian, moral, or conscientious basis. The law has been abolished in Imrali. Lawyers and human rights defenders must oppose this and take action. This is the most basic requirement of the situation. It is not realistic to expect law, justice, and democracy elsewhere when the law has been completely destroyed in Imrali. It is a reality that has been sufficiently proven that this cannot happen in Turkey. At the root of all the lawlessness in Turkey is the lawlessness in Imrali. Law is abolished in Imrali, and lawlessness is imposed on the whole country. Recognizing this reality, lawyers and legal institutions must oppose the absolute isolation and lawlessness in Imrali and stand by the democratic and just stance of society.

On the other hand, everyone who understands herself/himself as democratic, libertarian, faithful, conscientious, and considers herself/himself truly oppositional must stand against the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo and support the demands of political prisoners. The Imralı system and the absolute isolation imposed on Rêber Apo in Imralı are not only a policy against the Kurdish people; they are also a policy against Turkish society and the democratization of Turkey. The mentality and policy of the AKP-MHP government are based on Kurdish enmity and Kurdish genocide. This policy does not only harm the Kurdish people; it harms Turkish society as well. It is obvious what kind of situation the AKP-MHP government has brought Turkey and Turkish society into with this policy. It is clear that the continuation of this policy will lead to much worse consequences, and everyone will suffer. The main thing Turkey needs is democratization. This can only be achieved through a democratic solution to the Kurdish question. Everyone who does not stand with the AKP-MHP government and who is in favor of freedom and democracy should recognize this reality, stand against the absolute isolation of Rêber Apo, and, on this basis, support the demands of political prisoners.

Based on this, we call on the Kurdish people, the peoples of Turkey, and the democratic forces, particularly those who do not side with the fascist AKP-MHP government, who oppose fascism and are in favor of freedom, democracy, and law, to support the demands of political prisoners, to develop a common attitude against the isolation-torture system, and to raise a united struggle.”

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Activists from Düsseldorf take over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 7 JUNE 2024

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil, which started in Strasbourg, on 25 June 2012, with the aim of ensuring the physical freedom of the Kurdish People's Leader and ending the Imralı torture system, continues in its 623rd week.

This week, a group of activists from Düsseldorf Democratic Society Center took over the protest, which is carried out every week by Kurds and their friends, exposing the crime against humanity committed by the Turkish state against Kurds in the person of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

This week's group includes Hüseyin Aydın, Senar Kutlu, Mazlum Amed and Cemal Xelil.

The activists said: "This is not just an action; it is also a court. For 12 years, Kurds living in Europe have been prosecuting the Turkish state for the crime it committed against our Leader and our people, and the European institutions that are complicit in this crime."

The action, which continues at the common point where European institutions meet, also calls on the institutions to fulfil their duties and comply with international law to end the Imralı torture system.

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Prisons

Prisoner of 30 years released: We are not free until all political prisoners are released

ANF | ISTANBUL | 2 JUNE 2024

Mehmet Emin Ersoy, who was arrested in Iğdır in 1994 and sentenced to life imprisonment by the State Security Court (DGM) for 'disrupting the unity and integrity of the state', was released from Tekirdağ F Type Closed Prison after 30 years of imprisonment.

Ersoy was welcomed by his family and many people in front of the prison.

Speaking in front of the prison, Ersoy stated that he would not be free until all political prisoners were released and said, "It is like a closed box outside. In order to feel freedom, all our friends need to be outside. This is the only way we can feel freedom. A few of my friends were to be released together with me. The release of Ahmet Kaan Aslan was postponed for 3 more months for no reason. The public should think about our friends behind bars."

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42 journalists in prison in the month of May, says DFG

ANF | AMED | 4 JUNE 2024

Dicle Firat Journalists Association (DFG) published the Report on Rights Violations Against Journalists for May 2024. The report stated that 42 journalists were in prison.

The report said: "While the pressure and violations against journalism continue, the government is not satisfied with this and aims to legislate the article called 'influence agent law' with the 9th judicial package. The new law would be a major blow to rights and freedoms and take a toll on press and civil society. Turkey's governing alliance once again targets free expression and media freedom, this time through a series of amendments to expand the definition of crimes of espionage/spying, and introducing 'foreign influence agent' as a new criminal title. As Dicle Firat Journalists Association, we said that all opposition voices of the society, especially journalists, will be silenced in a country where there is no democracy. We do not accept it. We demand that the bill be withdrawn."

Attack on journalists on 1 May

The report stated that the violations against the freedom of expression of journalists and the press continued in May as well: "Members of the media who followed the workers march to Taksim Square in Istanbul for 1 May, Labor Day were beaten, handcuffed and detained. Violence against journalists took place in Saraçhane, one of the areas where police attacks against workers took place, with the police chief's order to 'get rid of the press'. Our colleagues were injured and their work was prevented in these attacks."

Obstacles and threats

The report said that there were obstacles against journalists during the attacks on the demonstrations to end the isolation against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and added: "The police, who attacked the protests, surrounded the journalists to prevent them from covering the harassment. Similar obstruction also took place in the protests that started after the announced decisions of the Kobanê case. During the march from Koşuyolu to Istasyon Square in Amed, journalists were surrounded by shields and prevented from doing their jobs."

The DFG also asked for the release of journalist Süleyman Ahmet, who was detained by units affiliated with the KDP in the Federated Kurdistan Region. He was allowed to see his lawyers after 211 days incommunicado and demanded his release.

The report said that another country sadly known in May for the pressure on Kurdish journalists was the Netherlands and added: "Serdar Karakoç, who was in the newspaper building on the day Özgür Ülke was bombed and is now a journalist in exile, was detained in accordance with instructions by Germany and his detention period was extended for 20 days. We condemn this arrest, which is a continuation of the rulers' attitude towards Kurdish journalists. We demand the immediate release of our colleague Serdar Karakoç."

Balance sheet of violations

The report said that 2 journalists were attacked, 4 journalists were taken into custody after raids on their houses, 4 journalists were remanded in custody, 4 journalists were subjected to ill-treatment and 3 were threatened, 7 journalists were prevented from following the news and 4 journalists had their rights violated in prisons.

The report also added that an investigation was opened against 10 journalists, a lawsuit was filed against 11 journalists, and a total of 23 years, 2 months and 17 days of imprisonment and a fine of 200 thousand TL were given. In addition, there were 43 journalist files whose trials were still ongoing, while the number of journalists in prison was 42. It was stated that 1 journalist was dismissed, 10 publications were banned, 307 websites closed, and access to 450 news was blocked.

Fadıl Şenyaşar remains in prison

ANF | MALATYA | 7 JUNE 2024

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

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

The trial of the case was held at Malatya Heavy Penal Court No 3 on Friday. Fadıl Şenyaşar attended the hearing via Audio and Video Information System (SEGBİS) from Elazığ Prison where he has been imprisoned for about 6 years.

The court ruled for Fadıl Şenyaşar, who was jailed after the attack, to remain in prison. The hearing was adjourned to 12 July.

Emine Şenyaşar, whose husband and two sons were killed in the attack, has been holding a Justice Vigil for justice for her slain family members and imprisoned son for years, as the Turkish judicial authorities showed no interest in completely solving the murders. Yıldız and the majority of his mafia gang still enjoy a life of freedom today, and only one of two dozen attackers has been convicted so far. Albeit to a symbolic sentence of 18 years, only two thirds of which he has to serve.

In contrast, Fadıl Şenyaşar, a survivor, was sentenced to almost 38 years in prison for killing an attacker. This was despite the fact that it was proven relatively quickly that the man was killed by his own people. To demand the punishment of her family members' murderers and the release of her son, Emine Şenyaşar initiated a vigil in front of the Palace of Justice in Urfa in March 2021, which she ended on her 846th day - but only to move it to the Ministry of Justice in Ankara. 49 days later, government representatives agreed to meet with Şenyaşar and assured her that they would make amends for the injustice done to the family. "The Minister of Justice and his representatives said that they were aware that they had treated us unfairly. They told us that we had to be patient," said Ferit Şenyaşar. After five months of waiting without any progress, his mother resumed her action in front of the Ministry of Justice in Ankara.

24 journalists stood trial in one month, 8 women journalists in prison

ANF | 7 JUNE 2024

The Mesopotamia Women Journalists' Association (MKG) shared the "Report on Violations of Rights against Women Journalists" for the month of May with the public.

The report drew attention to the fact that the violations experienced by women journalists are a major blow to the struggle for gender equality.

"The pressures to which journalists are subjected not only violate their individual rights, but also seriously undermine the public's right to receive accurate and impartial information," the report said.

In this context, it said, urgent measures are needed to ensure the safety of journalists and protect freedom of expression.

Violations of rights against journalists in May were listed as follows: 2 journalists were attacked, 3 journalists were detained, 1 journalist was imprisoned. 4 journalists were prevented from covering. 2 journalists were subjected to rights violations in prison. 1 journalist was subject to an investigation. 4 journalists were sentenced to a total of 9 years, 6 months and 17 days in prison. 17 lawsuits are ongoing against 24 journalists. As of 1 May, 8 journalists are under arrest.

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Military aggression and occupation

SDF: 4 fighters killed, 11 civilians wounded in Turkish drone attack on Northern and Eastern Syria

ANF | 1 JUNE 2024

The SDF Media Center said in a statement that "in a new act of aggression, the Turkish occupation targeted with UAVs the regions of north and eastern Syria. On Friday afternoon and evening, Turkish UAVs targeted our positions eight times, in addition to civilian homes and vehicles. This aggression resulted in both civilian and military casualties."

The statement added: "In the Tal Hamis area, a Turkish UAV struck one of our military positions and another self-defense point near Qamishlo city. Civilian casualties were also reported. UAVs targeted civilian

homes in Qamishlo twice and civilian vehicles three times, injuring eleven civilians. Additionally, the Turkish UAVs targeted an ambulance attempting to evacuate wounded and martyrs.

As a result of this Turkish aggression, four of our fighters were martyred, and eleven civilians sustained injuries." The identities of 9 of the 11 civilians injured in Turkish drone attacks on Til Hemis are as follow: It was stated that most of the injured were from the Al Musa family. The injured were taken to the hospital. The names of 9 of the 11 injured people have been published and are as follows: "Mûsa Mûsa (60), Emîn El Mûsa (40), Nuha Mûsa, Meryem Dawud Mehmûd (50), Hanî Yasîn Mûsa (30), Leys İbrahim Mûsa (17), Mihemed Mûsa (11) , İzedîn Silêman Mûsa (30) û Mûsa Mûsa (17)"



Autonomous Administration: The aim of Turkey's attacks is to prevent the end of terrorism

ANF | 1 JUNE 2024

On Friday, Turkish UCAVs targeted SDF positions eight times, in addition to civilian homes and vehicles. As a result of the Turkish aggression, four SDF fighters were martyred, and eleven civilians were injured.

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) made a statement regarding the escalated attacks of the Turkish state and said that this aggression is a continuation of the policy of genocide and siege of the region. It stated that the aim of these attacks is to defeat the will of the people and the struggle for democracy.

"These attacks are being carried out deliberately at a time when our people are preparing for democratic elections to make further progress in the governance of society. This aggression is an immoral act and a direct attack on the efforts to realise democracy and serve the society in Syria," said the statement on Saturday.

Strongly condemning the attacks, the Autonomous Administration said, "We will fulfil our duty to meet the expectations of our people. All attacks related to the elections are acts of revenge. The aim is to prevent the end of terrorism. We declare that this election is a step towards real democratisation in Syria."

The Autonomous Administration called on the people of the region to develop solidarity against the genocidal policies directed against them and to participate strongly in the elections. It emphasised that the way to a peaceful future and a dignified life passes through a united stance.

Remarking that foreign powers aim to enslave the people and prevent them from developing their will, the statement said, "Our people must participate strongly in the elections and protect their free democratic decision. Participating and winning the elections is a strong historical victory against the forces trying to frustrate our will."

DAANES expressed their condolences to the families of those martyred in the attacks of the Turkish state and wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.



HRE: Afrin-Shehba Canton was attacked 124 times in May

ANF | 1 JUNE 2024

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) Press Centre announced the balance sheet of the attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish state army and affiliated gangs the Afrin-Shehba Canton in the month of May.

According to the balance sheet, the occupation forces attacked 37 villages and towns in and around Afrin-Shehba 124 times between 1 May and 31 May. Three positions belonging to the Damascus government forces were also hit.

HRE Press Centre shared the following details of the attacks:

“People's houses, agricultural lands, vineyards and gardens were damaged in the attacks carried out with tanks, howitzers and mortars, drones, weapons, suicide drones and attack aircraft.

On 18 May, a child named Ferês Xelef Ibrahim was martyred, and 3 children were wounded as a result of the attack on Semoqa village in Shehba.

On 31 May, a 60-year-old man was wounded in a bombardment on Shehba's Şêx Isa village.

On 19 May, a Damascus government soldier, Bashar Jabora (36), was injured in a drone strike on Seda Shehba village.

On 24 May, a drone attack on a Damascus forces' position in Hirşa Sixuneke village in Sharewa district of Afrin caused material damage.

On 15 May, a drone attack targeted a Damascus forces' position in Kafr Anton village in Shera district of Afrin, causing material damage.”



KCK calls for solidarity with Rojava and action against Turkish crimes in North-East Syria

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 JUNE 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement about the latest attacks by the Turkish army on North and East Syria.

“Once more, the murderous imperialist Turkish state attacked Northern and Eastern Syria, using unmanned aerial vehicles (UCAVs) to target civilians, defense troops, homes, cars, and medical personnel. Twelve people were wounded and four SDF fighters were martyred, according to official announcements. We call on everyone to oppose these crimes and take action against them. We vehemently condemn the atrocities of the Turkish state,” KCK said.

The statement continued: “The timing of these strikes coincided with the upcoming local elections in Northern and Eastern Syria. Government spokespeople as well as fascist chief Tayyip Erdogan have been threatening to stop these elections for some time before. This massacre was then executed. These attacks have demonstrated once more how hostile the AKP-MHP government and fascist leader Tayyip Erdogan are to Syrian society. They will use every tactic at their disposal to prevent society from moving past its wounds, starting anew, and establishing a democratic system. This was the reason behind the attacks. War and hatred towards Kurds are what the AKP-MHP regime thrives on. It utilizes its program of genocide against the Kurdish people to further its goal of spreading and intensifying the conflict in the Middle East. All the attacks on Rojava fall under the purview of this politics and ideology.

By appointing trustees, Tayyip Erdogan and the AKP-MHP government usurped the will of the Kurdish people in Northern Kurdistan. Acting under the pretext that the Kurds lack a will in Rojava, they launch attacks in this regard. Because whether they are in the east, west, south, and north, Tayyip Erdogan and the AKP-MHP administration are enemies to Kurds everywhere. This has been made quite clear by these attacks. In order to confront this deadly, genocidal mindset and policies, the patriotic forces of Kurdistan must unite, use resistance and struggle as a foundation, and expose betrayal and complicity. Together, all Syrian peoples—especially those in Northern and Eastern Syria—must resist the Turkish state’s invasion and genocidal assaults, as well as those carried out by the AKP-MHP government.

KCK stressed that: “The oppressed peoples of the world and the forces of democracy must also act in greater solidarity with the Rojava Revolution. We call on everyone to be sensitive on this basis and to act correctly and responsibly in the face of the attacks.”

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HSM congratulates the 20th anniversary of the guerrilla offensive of 1 June 2004

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 JUNE 2024

The 1 June offensive in 2004 represents a historic turning point for the Kurdish freedom movement. After a deep crisis, attempts to dismantle the PKK from within and a comprehensive restructuring, a renewed PKK entered the stage of world history on 1 June 2004 with a wave of actions. Five years earlier, the crisis of the freedom movement had been heralded by the abduction of its leader Abdullah Öcalan in an international conspiracy. Subsequently, patriarchal, pro-imperialist, feudalist forces tried to hijack and destroy the freedom movement. However, through the resistance of the Kurdish movement in the mountains and of Abdullah Öcalan on the prison island of Imralı, the PKK was able to renew itself and spread a genuine, anti-authoritarian alternative to capitalist modernity with the model of democratic confederalism. Thus, 1 June became an important commemoration day for the Kurdish freedom movement.

The Central Headquarters of the People's Defence Forces (HSM) released a statement on the occasion of the 1 June 2004 offensive, which includes the following:

“We congratulate the 20th anniversary of the historic 1 June Offensive, which developed under the leadership of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, to Rêber Apo [Leader Abdullah Öcalan], the freedom leader of all oppressed peoples, women and youth, to our valuable Saturday Mothers and martyrs' families who embraced and raised the struggle of our martyrs, to our patriotic people, friends of our people and all comrades in the person of Martyr Mehmet Yildırım, who became the symbol of sacrificial patriotism.

With the 15 February 1999 International Conspiracy, the concept of destroying the Kurdistan Freedom Movement, which is the guarantee of the free future of our people and our people, was put into practice. Rêber Apo gave the biggest answer to the conspirators with the Democratic, Ecological and Women's Liberationist paradigm he developed despite great impossibilities. Our leader created a great opportunity for the development of a democratic solution in Turkey on the basis of the new paradigm and a 5-year period of non-conflict was experienced. However, despite our leader's efforts for a democratic solution, the colonialist Turkish state insisted on its policies of denial and annihilation and intensified its genocide policies against our people. In response to all these attacks, our movement launched the Historic 1 June Offensive in 2004, which means the second 15 August Breakthrough, and gave the necessary historic response to the international conspiratorial forces, the colonialist Turkish state and the treasonous liquidators who aimed to destroy our struggle from within.

From the day the historic 1 June Offensive was launched until now, a relentless struggle has been waged breathlessly, and the colonialist genocidal Turkish state's aim to subject our people to genocide and liquidate our Movement has been left inconclusive. The stage our struggle has reached today has once again proved how appropriate and correct the Historical 1 June Offensive was. It has been clearly understood that without relentless struggle in the fields of ideological, organisational, cultural, political, social, self-defence and armed struggle in Kurdistan, genocidal attacks cannot be prevented and our people cannot have the opportunity to live freely.

The conspiratorial forces, who could not achieve their dirty goals and could not destroy our Movement and the Free Kurdish will, are trying to realise their goal of occupation and genocide today, relying on a narrow group of collaborators and betrayers to achieve their goals. However, at the current stage, the true face of collaborationist treason has been understood by our people, measures have been developed against liquidationist understandings, and a level has been reached that can confront and fight against the genocidal enemy in every field. The fact that our movement and our people are united monolithically on the Apoist line and struggle unwaveringly by taking all the difficulties into consideration, not stepping back and raising the revolutionary people's war based on Rêber Apo's historic resistance in Imrali, is overwhelming our enemies. For this reason, they attack the Kurdish people, their entire existence in every field and the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla by using all inhuman orientations and banned weapons.

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, who have professionalised on the basis of the Revolutionary People's War, are demonstrating the PKK's invincibility by maximising the Apoist sacrificial spirit, sacrificially defending every inch of Kurdistan and strongly welcoming the Historic 1 June Offensive. As the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas, the sacrificial army of Rêber Apo, we state that we have the strength and determination to fulfil our responsibility in our revolutionary people's war for the freedom of our people by sacrificially fighting in the Apoist line, as we have done so far. On this basis, we once again congratulate all our people, friends and comrades in all areas of struggle on the 20th anniversary of the 1 June Offensive.”

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Preparations underway for elections in North and East Syria on 11 June

NUJIYAN ADAR | QAMISHLO | 2 JUNE 2024

Municipal elections in the Democratic Autonomous Administration Region of North and East Syria were held for the first time in 2015. As a result of these elections, municipal councils were formed, and co-mayors were elected. In 2017, commune and city council elections were held, and co-mayors were elected according to the representation of the councils. Thus, municipal work began and continued within the revolution.

The Union of Democratic Municipalities of North and East Syria bases itself on the understanding of self-government and democratic politics. The Autonomous Administration provides services to the people through 122 municipalities, including 5 in Afrin-Shehba, 9 in Tabqa, 16 in Raqqa, 11 in Euphrates, 57 in Cizîr, 6 in Manbij and 18 in Deir ez-Zor.

133 municipalities

The number of municipalities determined in 7 cantons in the elections to be held on 11 June is as follows: Tabqa Canton (9), Afîn-Shehba Canton (5), Deir ez-Zor Canton (18), Euphrates Canton (16), Raqqa Canton (12), Manbij Canton (6) and Cizre Canton (67).

The High Election Commissioner's Office in North and East Syria held its first meeting on 28 March and announced that the municipal elections in the region would be held on 30 May, and then announced that it was postponed to 11 June.

Kongra Star and Zenobiya Women's Community candidates for the municipal elections were selected by women in a primary election. On 20 May, 22 parties and organisations, including Kongra Star, Syriac Union Party, Zenobiya Women's Community, Armenian Assembly, Democratic Union Party (PYD), Democratic Assyrian Party, Future of Syria Party, Syrian Union of Yazidis, announced the formation of the Alliance of Women and Peoples for Freedom (Tifaqa Gelan û Jinan ji bo Azadiyê).

Since 28 March, preparations for the municipal elections in North and East Syria have been in full swing. While the Alliance of Women and Peoples for Freedom is the largest alliance, the 'All Together for Better Service Alliance' consists of the Democratic Green Party, Kurdistan Contemporary Movement, Kurdistan Brotherhood Party (PBK), Syrian Kurdish Democratic Left Party and Kurdistan Union of Labourers. The parties that will enter the elections under their own names are as follows: Syrian National Democratic Alliance Party, National Development and Democratic Change Party, Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party.

Voter cards

With the establishment of election commissions, election cards have started to be distributed to citizens who will vote in the election. According to the electoral law, the names of neighbourhood residents are registered and election cards are issued.

Rûken Mele Îbrahîm, Co-Chair of the High Election Commissioner's Office in the Democratic Autonomous Administration Region of North and East Syria, spoke to ANF about the municipal elections in North and East Syria to be held on 11 June.

A first in North and East Syria

Noting that such an election will be held for the first time in North and East Syria, Rûken Mele Îbrahîm said, "Election commissions affiliated to the High Election Commissioner's Office (established on 28 February) were established in 7 cantons in North and East Syria. These committees, in turn, established election commissions in towns and cities. Canton, town and city election commissions were established periodically. After the elections, these commissions will be abolished. Only the High Election Commissioner's Office will continue its activities."

Electoral commissions will play the role of application centres

Rûken Mele Îbrahîm explained the reasons for the opening of town and city election commissions in 7 cantons as follows: "Electoral commissions opened in towns and cities play the role of application centres for independents, alliances and parties who want to run for municipal elections. The town and city election commissions, which also prepare the election cards that the communes will deliver to the people, will determine the places where the ballot boxes will be set up according to the number, and the number of ballot boxes will be calculated. After this determination, ballot box attendants will be determined from 3 to 4 people."

Women chose their own candidates

Drawing attention to the primaries, Rûken Mele Îbrahîm said, “Since the election date was set, primaries have taken place. Women have determined their own candidates. They have the right to be a candidate regardless of which community they are from. An equal quota of fifty percent was determined between the two sexes.”

Right to object to nominations for 2 days

Rûken Mele Îbrahîm stated that the 2-day objection process will begin after the announcement of the nominations by the High Election Commissioner's Office. “The validity of the objections will be considered transparently. Objections will not be accepted unless they are within the law. With the completion of the objection phase, the High Election Commissioner's Office will announce the names of the candidates again.”

A transparent election

Rûken Mele Îbrahîm stated that the candidates will start the process of introducing themselves after their announcement by the High Election Commissioner's Office, which will determine the procedure during this process. She noted: “The process of introducing candidates will be completed at 18:00 the day before the elections. We have the right to intervene in the candidature of candidates, independents, alliances and political parties that exceed the specified time. It will be clarified which candidate will be able to present themselves where.”

Rûken Mele Îbrahîm said that the elections will start at 08:00 on 11 June with the presence of polling station staff and observers, adding: ‘A person without a voting card will not be able to vote. Voting on behalf of another person will not be considered valid and the counting process will start after the closing of the ballot boxes. The counting will take place in the presence of 3 polling station attendants and observers of political parties. There will be two ballot papers for the election of co-mayors and municipal council members. If a person fails to vote only once on the two ballot papers with the names of the co-mayor and council members, that ballot paper will be invalid. Once the elections are over, the wet-signed result certificates will be sent to the election commissions in the 7 cantons, subject to the approval of the municipal and city election commissions. The election results will be submitted to the High Election Commissioner's Office in North and East Syria with the approval of the election commissions established in the cantons.’ Îbrahîm called everyone to go to the polls on election day.

Guerrillas struck Turkish troops in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 JUNE 2024

Guerrillas struck the Turkish troops in the Zap region of the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG (People's Defence Forces) Press Office, the guerrillas carried out 3 actions with special technique against the invaders in the Girê Amediyê Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region on the anniversary of the historic 1 June Offensive.

“The invading Turkish forces on the hills of Şehîd Pirdoğan and Şehîd Gelhat in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area were hit at 08:44, 13:13 and 17:56 on 1 June. In these actions carried out with special technique, 1 container and 1 position belonging to the invaders were destroyed.”

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Turkish occupation attacks on northern Syria continue

ANF | 2 JUNE 2024

The belligerent aggression of the Turkish army and its jihadist allies against the autonomous region of North and East Syria continues unabated. The shelling from the Turkish occupation zone continued on Sunday. The target of the attacks was the village of Semûqa in the canton of Afrin-Shehba. According to security sources, the village was bombarded with howitzers.

Semûqa is located around twenty minutes' drive east of Tel Rifat in the immediate vicinity of the Shehba reservoir. The village borders directly on the illegal occupation zone of NATO member Turkey and its mercenaries from the militia organisation 'Syrian National Army' (SNA). The region is regularly bombed. The attackers do not differentiate between military and civilian targets. A fortnight ago, four boys and girls aged between 13 and 16 were injured, some of them seriously, in artillery attacks on Semûqa. One of the children later died. Yesterday, a 60-year-old man was injured by Turkish bombs in Tel Rifat.

Violent scenes and attacks resulting in deaths and injuries are a bitter reality in the autonomous region of North and East Syria on an almost daily basis. Following Turkey's invasions between 2016 and 2019, which resulted in heavy losses, Rojava is experiencing a war of varying intensity - in addition to regular air offensives that have already paralysed almost the entire infrastructure of the self-governing territories. The fact that Ankara is still able to continue its aggressive course in systematic violation of international humanitarian law and commit war crimes and human rights violations in line with imperialist endeavours - the expansion of the occupation zone in Syria - is also due to the international community, which largely ignores its partner's state terror against the population of northern and eastern Syria.

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Turkish drone attack on a car in Kobanê injures two members of Internal Security Forces

ANF | 3 JUNE 2024

According to a written statement issued by the Internal Security Forces in North and East Syria, an Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) of the Turkish state targeted a vehicle belonging to the Internal Security in Kobanê on Monday.

The Internal Security Forces said that two of their members were injured as a result of the attack.

‘This attack on our forces is a clear message proving the Turkish state’s aspiration to prevent our forces from carrying out their duties ahead of the municipal elections,’ the statement said.

The statement pointed out that: “The attack also paves the way for gangs and criminals to disrupt the security and stability of our regions. This attack increases our determination and resolve to work harder than ever to maintain a safe and stable society.”

Turkey has been targeting the civilian population, the Autonomous Administration and the military organisations affiliated with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria with drones for years. The airspace over Syria is controlled by the USA and Russia. The international community is ignoring the drone terror, which began in June 2020 with the murder of three representatives of the women's umbrella organization, Kongra Star, in Kobanê. According to data from the Rojava Information Centre and the Autonomous Administration, Turkey has already carried out more than a hundred drone attacks in the region this year. At least 28 people have been killed and 44 others injured. Most recently, four SDF members were killed in drone attacks and eleven other people were wounded last Friday.

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HPG releases balance sheet of war for May: 43 soldiers killed, 1 UCAV shot down

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 JUNE 2024

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

The HPG statement released on Monday includes the following:

‘The colonialist Turkish state has made it its main goal to bring its genocidal attacks to a conclusion by liquidating the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, who are the guarantee of the free future of our people. Our

struggle, which protects the existence of our people and keeps its hope for a free future alive by resisting all attacks with the Apoist sacrificial spirit, continued its resistance in May, the month of martyrs, and gave the necessary answer to the colonialists, betrayers and collaborators. Our forces, who fight by shielding their bodies against all attacks, defend every inch of Kurdistan's territory with great will.

Chemical weapons were used 286 times and banned explosives 37 times

The colonialist and war criminal Turkish army, which could not advance against the historic resistance of our forces, once again violated the international rules of war and used chemical weapons 286 times and banned explosives 37 times against our tunnels. In addition, our positions in the Medya Defence Zones were bombed 245 times by fighter jets, 43 times by attack helicopters and thousands of times by mortars, howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

43 occupiers killed in 82 actions

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, who put the resistance line of our May Martyrs into practice in the strongest way, demonstrated an unprecedented resolve to liberate every inch of Kurdistan from the Medya Defence Zones to Northern Kurdistan, and despite the most difficult conditions, they advanced on the invaders without hesitation and carried out effective actions. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, who did not let the occupiers pass despite all the attacks, carried out their struggle effectively with the spirit of resistance and victory of our May Martyrs. Within this month, our forces carried out a total of 82 actions and struck a blow to the occupiers. As a result of these actions, 43 occupiers were punished, and 4 occupiers were injured.

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla advanced the process of tactical expansion and technical mastery in May and shot down an Aksunsur UCAV of the occupying Turkish army in the skies of Qandil on 27 May. The occupying Turkish army and the special war media ignored and in no way admitted that the UCAVs, which they glorified with great propaganda, were shot down one by one in the skies of Kurdistan. Since this hypocritical and lying character of the Turkish state is known, the images of the downed UCAV taken from different angles were presented to the public.

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, the name of our people's insistence on a free future and honourable life, will not hesitate to pay any price in order to fulfil their historical responsibilities as the leading force of our Revolutionary People's War. The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, which grows by taking over the legacy of the struggle of our martyrs, will definitely reach the goal of 'Free Leader, Free Kurdistan'.

Balance sheet

The detailed balance sheet of war in the struggle during the month of May is as follows:

Attacks by the Turkish army: Attacks by fighter jets: 245, Attacks by attack helicopters: 43, Attacks with banned explosives: 37, Attacks with explosive-laden drones: 61, Attacks with chemical weapons: 286

Actions by the guerrillas: Total guerrilla actions carried out: 82

Enemy losses: Occupiers killed: 43, Occupiers injured: 4

Destroyed equipment: Aksungur UCAV: 1, Radar System: 1, Surveillance Cameras: 10, **Diggers: 3**, Drone: 1, Container: 1, Tents: 6, Camera traps: 7, Positions: 2

Targets shot: Helicopter: 1, Diggers: 2, Positions: 5, Surveillance Camera: 1

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YRK guerrilla martyred in Turkish UCAV attack in Asos region

ANF | 5 JUNE 2024

The Press and Publication Centre of the East Kurdistan Defence Units (YRK) announced that guerrilla Şervan Rojda (Sanî Îmanî) was martyred in a bombardment carried out by a Turkish UCAV (Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle) in the Asos region on 30 December 2023.

The YRK statement on Wednesday said: “Sanî Îmanî was born in Maku city of East Kurdistan. Like every child in Kurdistan, he grew up under persecution, occupation and injustice. For this reason, he searched for a free life since his childhood. As he grew up, his patriotic feelings led him to seek a free life. A guerrilla grew up with stories of heroism and some members of his family had already fallen as martyrs in the guerrilla ranks. After the martyrdom of Martyr Rojda Zagros, one of his close relatives, he decided to join the struggle. For this reason, he took the name Şervan Rojda and joined the ranks of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas.”

The statement continued: “Having got to know about life in a short time, Şervan Rojda was there wherever necessary. He received continuous training to become a real militant and stood out with his efforts. With his high morale, he won a place in the hearts of his companions and was a popular person. He fought with determination for APO's [Abdullah Öcalan's] freedom until the end. He continued to fight in our ranks until his martyrdom.”

YRK pointed out that: “As the East Kurdistan Defence Units, we express our condolences to the family of our comrade Şervan Rojda and to all the patriotic people of Kurdistan. At the same time, we promise once again that we will continue to follow in the footsteps of our martyrs until victory.”

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Big explosion in Turkish army's positions in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 JUNE 2024

A new guerrilla offensive is evidently taking place in the southern Kurdish Girê Amêdî in the western Zap region "Şehîd Delîl". On Tuesday and Wednesday alone, six actions took place against Turkish positions in the guerrilla area there.

The HPG (People's Defense Forces) said that the positions on Girê Amêdî had been attacked with special technology and that they would share the footage of the attacks later.

There was another action on Wednesday evening at 10:20 p.m. As footage shows, there was a heavy explosion in a Turkish fortification on Girê Amêdî. How exactly the actions were carried out is not yet known. As early as 1 June, the HPG had flown very effective attacks against Turkish positions at Girê Amêdî with kamikaze drones. These attacks were also described as actions using "special technology".

Girê Amêdî is located in the western section of the Zap front and has so far been one of the fiercest areas of resistance. In 2022/2023, Turkey's attempt to occupy the Medya Defense Areas and destroy the guerrillas failed at the outset. After heavy losses, the Turkish occupation troops had to flee in the winter. For almost a year now, the Turkish army has been trying to occupy the Zap region with the help of the southern Kurdish KDP. However, the HPG and YJA Star are putting up fierce resistance and are repeatedly forcing the invaders onto the defensive.

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Municipal elections in North-East Syria postponed

ANF | RAQQA | 6 JUNE 2024

The High Electoral Commission announced in Raqqa today that the municipal elections scheduled for 11 June by the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria Region (DAANES) have been postponed to 8 August.

The decision was based on a request from the political parties and alliances taking part in the elections. The reason for the postponement is the tight schedule for the election campaign and the need to have enough time to communicate with international organisations to observe the elections.

On 21 May, the Commission invited international organisations to observe the elections in order to ensure the success, integrity, transparency and independence of the municipal voting.

On 30 May, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that the elections in north-east Syria threatened Turkey's 'national security'. 'Turkey will never allow the separatist organisation beyond our southern borders in northern Syria and Iraq to establish a terrorist state,' he said.

The municipal election is intended to decentralise self-government and strengthen it at local level. Based on the new version of the social contract adopted by the DAANES in December 2023, a law has been issued. The elections were initially planned for the end of May, but had to be postponed due to a delay caused by a change in local and administrative law.

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Turkish army launches operation in Lice countryside

ANF | AMED | 7 JUNE 2024

The Turkish army launched an operation in the rural areas of the Lice district in Amed (Diyarbakır) province. The large-scale operation started on 6 June evening covers the rural neighborhoods and hamlets of Dêrxust, Cinezur, Hûseynik, Pirik and Panav.

Since last night, intensive troop concentrations have been observed in the region.

The Mezopotamya (MA) news agency reported that residents had observed the construction of several military camps in the affected area. Search points have been established on the roads leading to neighbourhoods and hamlets within the scope of the operation.

The rural population of Lice is often affected by Turkish state terror. It is not uncommon for entire villages to be besieged by the military and civilians targeted. On 24 May, a 45-year-old father of four children was extrajudicially executed in Lice. In order to justify the killing of Mehmet Yıldırım, the Interior Ministry denounced the Kurdish citizen as a wanted ‘terrorist’ who was allegedly involved in a series of ‘terrorist attacks’ against security forces and civilians. However, the government did not provide any evidence for the allegations.

In a statement regarding the killing of Kurdish patriot Mehmet Yıldırım by the Turkish military in Lice, the People's Defence Forces (HPG) said that Yıldırım was brutally murdered by the Turkish state in his own home and in front of his family. “The fascist Turkish state, the sworn enemy of the Kurdish people, had previously kidnapped and murdered Adnan Yıldırım from the Yıldırım family on 3 June 1994 together with Savaş Buldan and Hacı Karay. 18-year-old Medeni Yıldırım, the son of martyr Mehmet Yıldırım's uncle, was murdered by Turkish soldiers during a protest on 28 June 2013. The genocidal Turkish state brutally attacked and martyred Mehmet Yıldırım, just like the other members of this family who were brutally murdered. This incident has once again shown that every free Kurdish individual who insists on living honourably is targeted by the genocidal state. It does not matter whether he is a guerrilla or a civilian,” said the HPG statement.

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HPG: 11 Turkish soldiers were killed in actions by the guerrillas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 7 JUNE 2024

The People's Defence Forces (HPG) released a statement providing information about the ongoing resistance against the Turkish invasion of the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

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

"Avaşîn region

On 1 June at 10:50, a Reo-type military vehicle loaded with a generator was hit by the guerrillas with sabotage tactics in Tabura Ereban Resistance Area. 5 invaders inside the vehicle were killed and 2 others were wounded. The military vehicle, generator and military equipment inside the vehicle were destroyed.

Heftanîn region

On 6 June at 12:45, the invaders in the Şehîd Kendal Resistance Area were targeted and hit with heavy weapons.

Metîna region

On 6 June at 19:40, the invaders in Serê Metîna Resistance Area were hit in a two-front coordinated guerrilla action, with one wing striking a group of soldiers with semi-automatic weapons from a distance, and the other wing advancing immediately afterwards at close range and targeting a tent camp. In this action, 6 invaders were killed and 2 tents were destroyed.

Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region

On 6 June at 09:27, the invaders in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area were shot with heavy weapons by our YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) forces.

On 6 June at 11:40, the invaders in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area were hit with heavy weapons.

On 6 June at 18:03, a vehicle loaded with the low-altitude air defence system and radar system of the occupying Turkish army was targeted by the guerrillas with heavy weapons in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area. As a result of this action, the vehicle and the systems on it were heavily hit and became inoperable. This action was carried out by our YJA Star forces.

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

On 6 June, our tunnels in Girê FM Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region were bombed 7 times with toxic chemical gases.

Attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish army;

On 6 and 7 June, Turkish warplanes carried out a total of 33 attacks in the guerrilla areas, targeting the areas of Berdeqaşo, Şehîd Cihan, Girê Zergelê and Kortek in the Qendîl region 25 times; the Gûzê area of the Garê region 1 time; the Serê Metîna, Bazê Resistance Areas in the Metîna region 4 times; the Girê Cûdî, Girê Bahar Resistance Areas in the Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region 3 times."

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Feminicide

Emine Şenyaşar's Justice Vigil continues

ANF | ANKARA | 2 JUNE 2024

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

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

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

Members of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) Van, Amed, Mardin, Urfa and Batman Provincial Coordination Committees paid a support visit to Emine Şenyaşar and Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Urfa MP Ferit Şenyaşar on the 119th day of the vigil.

Chamber of Electrical Engineers (EMO) Diyarbakır Branch Co-Chair Ufuk Bulut said, '6 years are almost over. His son's trial is still going on, but there is no result yet. There must be a result that will fulfil justice. This cannot be compensated in mother Şenyaşar's heart, but it should be compensated in our conscience.'

Mahsun Çiya Korkmaz, secretary of TMMOB Diyarbakır Provincial Coordination Board, said: “There have been unsolved murders in Kurdistan for 100 years. We say in their person; let these unsolved murders be revealed. Their struggle is our struggle.”

Şerefhan Aydın, former executive of TMMOB Chamber of Architects in Diyarbakır, stated the following: “Mother Emine has a unique case, attitude and struggle. She has become a hope for all our people. We bow to her behaviour with respect. We hope that mother Emine's demands will be fulfilled soon.”

After the protest, Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit Şenyaşar went to the Parliament.

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A Yazidi woman and two children in Hol Camp rescued

ANF | 5 JUNE 2024

The Internal Security Forces of North and East Syria announced in a written statement that an operation was carried out after a Yazidi woman and her two children, who were kidnapped by ISIS gangs in 2014, were found to be staying in Hol camp.

“Having obtained clear information about an abducted Yazidi woman staying in the fourth section of Hol Camp, our anti-crime forces conducted the necessary research and follow-up work and raided the place where the woman was staying. On Monday (3 June), our anti-crime forces rescued the Yazidi woman, Ezîze Xalid Elî, and 2 children, one of whom is her daughter.”

Internal Security Forces stated that 10-year-old Xunav Nayêf, who was rescued along with the woman, had been kidnapped and separated from her mother during the genocidal attacks of ISIS on Shengal (Sinjar) in 2014 when she was only a few months old.

The rescued woman and children will be handed over to the Yazidi House through the Liaison and Coordination Office in order to reunite them with their families.

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

Thousands of women and children taken prisoner

The city of Shengal in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is the last contiguous settlement area of the Yazidi community. Thousands of Yazidis were murdered and thousands of women and children were taken prisoner in the 3 August 2014 onslaught on Shengal by ISIS militants. While ISIS gangs began murdering Yazidis in Shengal, the Peshmerga left, leaving the Yazidis behind, unprotected. The guerrillas of HPG (People's Defense Forces) and YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) and fighters of the YPG (People's Defense Units) and YPJ (Women's Defense Units) came to the Yazidi people's aid in the face of ISIS aggression.

Thanks to a months-long selfless struggle, the city was liberated on 13 November 2015. After the liberation of the city, the HPG and YPG/YPJ subsequently withdrew in 2017. People who returned to their land after Shengal's independence reformed, established defensive units and built their institutions.

7000 Yazidi women from Shengal trafficked into slavery

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

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At least 34 women and 8 children murdered in Turkey in May

ANF | 7 JUNE 2024

According to JINNEWS' violence tally for May, at least 34 women and 8 children were murdered, while 18 women and 2 children died under suspicious circumstances. The highest number of femicides occurred in Istanbul with 7 murders.

According to the report, the distribution of femicides by cities is as follows: 7 in İstanbul, 3 in Ankara, 3 in Adana, 3 in Manisa, 3 in İzmir, 2 in İzmir, 2 in Samsun, 2 in Çorum, 2 in Elazığ, 1 in Kilis, 1 in Kayseri, 1 in Tekirdağ, 1 in Antep, 1 in Urfa, 1 in Aydın, 1 in Muğla, 1 in Kocaeli, 1 in Osmaniye, 1 in Erzurum, 1 in Diyarbakır.

The report said that 11 of the slain women were married, 3 women were in the process of divorce, 2 women were divorced. 6 women were murdered by acquaintances, 1 woman by her father, 3 women by their children, 1 woman by her son-in-law and 1 woman by her brother.

While the perpetrator of one woman could not be identified, the relation of 2 women with the perpetrator could not be identified.

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Ecocide

Artillery attacks start fire in cultivated areas in Manbij

ANF | MANBIJ | 2 JUNE 2024

A wildfire broke out in Manbij as a result of heavy artillery attacks by occupying forces. According to the military council of the city, several hectares of fields ended up on fire after targeted attacks by the Turkish army and its jihadist allies. In the affected area, which belongs to the village of Saydiyah in north-west Manbij, more than two dozen shells were fired within a few minutes. 'The source of the attacks was the base in Şêx Nasir,' said the military council. Most of the attacks in the region are carried out from the Turkish military base, which is located a few minutes' drive south-west of Saydiyah.

Both the danger of further bombing and unfavourable wind conditions made fire-fighting measures impossible.

The canton of Manbij, which is part of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES), has been under constant attack by Turkish jihadist invaders for months. The main target of the attacks is agricultural land in densely populated residential areas. By destroying the livelihoods of the population, the Turkish state aims to expel the rightful inhabitants. Manbij was named by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in 2022, alongside Tel Rifat, as the first target for a new Turkish invasion of northern and eastern Syria and is meant to be integrated into the illegal occupation zone according to the wishes of the Turkish regime.

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Village guards destroy forests in Eruh

ANF | SIIRT | 2 JUNE 2024

Countless trees are cut down in North Kurdistan every day and forests are set ablaze. This attack on nature is part of the scorched earth policy to deprive the guerrillas of retreat, but also to open up new areas to mining companies and give profits to collaborators. For this special war, the AKP-MHP regime is committing the most severe environmental destruction.

While forest areas in the Besta, Cudî and Gabar regions of Şırnak have been subjected to heavy destruction within the scope of military projects and plunder, a similar practice of ecocide has been initiated in Siirt now.

In the foothills of the Herekol Mountains in the Eruh district of Siirt, village guards started to cut down trees. It is reported that the felled trees were transported to different locations by lorries.

Destruction of Kurdistan's forests

The destruction of Kurdistan's forests is a direct continuation of the village destruction policy of the 1990s. The fires in the region are often started by the Turkish army to make sure that the guerrillas are deprived of cover through a scorched earth policy and the rural population that supports the guerrillas is driven out. In many cases, forest fires have political-military causes, and even if they break out due to the drought, extinguishing them is prevented for military reasons. The fauna and flora of the region are exposed to destruction. While news of forest fires in western Turkey in general, and especially in holiday regions, reaches the European public, a systematic special warfare is being waged in Kurdistan with forest fires, against which, however, no reactions are raised.

Village guards

Village guards are paramilitary units used in Kurdistan against guerrillas and unwelcome opposition members. They consist, to a considerable extent, of tribal leaders, large landowners, families, and individuals who have often worked with the state for decades in an attempt to advocate for the state's interests in Kurdistan. Some of the village guards join this system voluntarily, while others are threatened with murder, arrest, and expulsion and must become village guardians under pressure. The Hamidiye regiments in the Ottoman Empire are considered the historical model of the village guards. Today's village guard system came into being in 1985, a year after the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) launched its armed struggle. At that time, the Turkish government under Turgut Özal began recruiting and arming Kurdish tribes and clans in the war against the PKK. Thousands of Kurdish villages that rejected the village guard system were burned and razed to the ground by the state in the 1990s.

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KCK Ecology Committee: Ecological destruction at the highest level during AKP rule

ANF | BEHDINAN | 5 JUNE 2024

In this interview, the KCK Ecology Committee spoke about the ecocide carried out in Kurdistan. The interview was published to mark 5 June, World Environment Day since 1972.

The interview deals with the climate crisis, where it comes from and who is responsible for it. In addition, on behalf of the Ecology Committee, a self-critical analysis was made of the shortcomings in the struggle for an ecological solution to date and the perspectives for the future.

The climate issue poses a serious threat to natural environments. How has capitalist modernity contributed to this? What do you think the condescending consequences of capitalist modernity's ecological catastrophe have been, and how do you evaluate them?

The ruling forces of capitalist modernity are responsible for the ecological disaster we are experiencing, in addition to the wars and numerous other ills that befall humanity. Ecological degradation has always been a powerful weapon. In the name of power, nature has been ruthlessly exploited and destroyed. Nature is pillaged after every military invasion. The trees cut down in the legend of Gilgamesh are a reflection of this mentality, and it extends to the present day. The Assyrians eradicated forests in the areas they occupied, and following the same mentality in the Vietnam War, the US did this in an even more destructive way by abusing technology. We see the latest examples of this mentality today in the practices of the Turkish state throughout all of Kurdistan.

The main problem in the climate crisis is the reckless approach of the responsible sovereign powers and the rulers of the nation-state and their unwillingness to compromise their interests. Our future is being sacrificed to the interests of these powers, which constitute a minority of the world's population, and the few corporations they support. The climate reports released in recent years reveal this. The entire ecosystem is being destroyed for the interests and welfare of one percent. Ecological destruction is being carried out in the name of "development", as touted by capitalist modernity. Moreover, what the capitalist system refers to as development is essentially the plunder and destruction of nature to be able to sustain the consumption which keeps the system alive. All that this development has brought to humanity has been the detachment of humans from nature. It has brought poverty, displacement, cruelty, and illness imposed on nature and human beings. In the cities, that which is being referred to as labor resembles slave conditions.

As Kurdistan, Turkey, and the countries of the Middle East, we have faced the results of the monopolistic practices of the capitalist system more severely in recent years. The ecological destruction we are experiencing today has been tried before in other parts of the world. It is not difficult to see the dark picture that awaits us by looking at other countries where these same policies have been implemented. With the backing of legislation supporting ecological plunder, a small number of large corporations are monopolizing markets around the world, and these companies even receive official aid. This usurpation takes from the people what is rightfully theirs. It has usurped land and water and brought about the end of agriculture. Drought, thirst, destitution, and migration represent the next phases. People must work together in the face of this instability in order to survive independently of the capitalist system.

According to you, what steps need to be taken to overcome the ecological crisis and to remedy this situation?

Global warming was already predicted in 1824. The first climate conference was held in 1979 and was followed by numerous international meetings. The number of Conference of Parties (COPs) organized so far reached 28 last year. But promises have not been kept. Decisions are not set into practice, especially by the US and right-wing governments. The indifference of those who created this crisis has led to new problems. This is why we are experiencing the consequences of the climate crisis that was predicted two centuries ago. Almost no action was taken. Most of the climate talks to date have been led by the UN, where nation-state officials have taken part. Therefore, the UN, as the highest-level authority where ecological problems are discussed, is as responsible for the climate crisis reaching this level and its consequences as it is for the solution.

With the rapidly spreading World War III, the construction of nuclear power plants, the exponentially increasing production of weapons, and the unparalleled ecocide for the profit of the giant corporations supported by the government, fingers are being pointed to society as the main cause of the climate crisis. This is being done to mislead the public and evade responsibility. Even though we can talk about fixing it now, if this slaughter continues, an irreversible phase can be reached in only a few years. We are about to lose the chance to find a solution.

Is there enough sensitivity to the danger that awaits us? How do you evaluate the level of social responsibility, ecological awareness and struggle?

Ecology is related to all areas of life and branches of science. The area it covers is quite wide. It goes beyond the general environmentalist's perception. Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] defines ecological consciousness as the most basic form of ideological consciousness. Ecological movements in the world have a long history dating back to the 1960s. In recent years, as the consequences of the crisis have been felt more intensely, ecological sensitivity has increased. However, since the reality of capitalist civilization and the nation-state system has not been sufficiently examined, the development of an alternative struggle that is able to overcome the problem has not developed. Since the capitalist system is primarily responsible for ecological destruction, it is unimaginable that a marginal, elite struggle within the confines of the system can bring a solution to these problems. We are all victims of the ecological plunder that is being developed against our will and in which all kinds of decisions are taken to our loss. For this reason, the ecological struggle is not a struggle to be carried out within the narrow borders of ecological movements. One of the biggest misconceptions so far has been in this regard. This is true for the struggle in Kurdistan as well, where this very understanding played a role in the loss of Hasankeyf. The ecological struggle must be waged as a people's struggle. Today, the people who are most exposed to ecocide are the ones who have lost their forests, fields, pastures, and streams from which they drink water. As in many countries around the world, the ecological struggle in Turkey and Kurdistan must be massive and stem from the people. To the extent that this is achieved, fruitful steps can be taken in the ecological struggle. The protests against the massacre of nature in the cities of Turkey in recent years and the recent action in the village of Marinos in Colemêrg are very valuable first steps in this struggle. But this reaction needs to develop wherever nature and life are attacked. Since this plunder is being carried out everywhere, everyone must defend their lives by defending nature. No one in Turkey or Kurdistan should remain silent against this plunder.

When compared to the level of consciousness towards the freedom struggle and the development in the struggle for women's freedom, the ecological struggle is insufficient. In order to protect our lives, we have to create awareness and take action to prevent this further destruction. Creating this consciousness means showing a common reflex wherever there is an ecocide plan, organizing the struggle and not allowing these attacks. So far, these steps have not been taken in Kurdistan. This has not been done even for our historical sites such as Hasankeyf, Zeugma and Geliyê Godernê.

What were the ecological consequences of the policies implemented under AKP rule?

During the AKP rule, ecological destruction was experienced at the highest level. The AKP's fascist and hostile mentality centered around the Kurdish genocide is being reflected in its policies against the entire geography of Kurdistan. There is literally a coup in the ecological sphere. Especially after the elections of 2023, this has become even more faceted. After the defeat in the 2024 elections, the government aims to increase ecological destruction with the haste that the next four years may be their last. This is admitted in

the government's statements. With the new publicly disclosed regulations regarding water, mining, forests, and power plants, it has become clear that this destruction has been given full support. With these new regulations, even clean-water basins have been opened to the utilization of mining sites, industrial facilities, and mass housing. All changes in regulations have been to the detriment of the people and in favor of monopolies. In fact, data on mining clearly reveals the ecological destruction during the AKP era. For example, while only 1,186 mining licenses were issued from 1923 until 2002, this number exceeded 386,000 in the 15-year period between 2008 and 2023, during the AKP rule. During the AKP rule, 60 percent of the land in Kurdistan and Turkey was designated as mining areas. In the first 3 months of 2024, 372 mining projects were approved, mostly in Kurdistan. These data alone are enough to show the extent of the ecocide carried out during the AKP rule.

Most of the ecological plunder is carried out under the name of "public interest". No mine is more valuable than trees and forests. What could be more important than forests, especially today when we are struggling with an ecological crisis? Can gold and coal mines, for which many forests are wasted in the examples of Cudi, Akbelen, Karadeniz and Ilıc, save our future? Moreover, there is enough gold to meet the industry's needs for 250 years and tons of gold is used as jewelry.

Recently, many Solar Power Plants (SPP) and Wind Power Plants (WPP) have started to be built under the name of renewable energy projects. Are these power plants as ecological as they claim? Why are they being built mostly in Kurdistan? What is the cost of this for the Kurdish people and ecology?

The public is being greatly misled on this issue. These WPPs and SPPs, touted as the "golden age of renewable and clean energy", are being built according to occupation plans put into practice by the AKP government. By increasing exploitation, especially in Kurdistan, the AKP government attempts to hide its dirty plans. This occupation operation started in Urfa, Weranshar, Wan, and Amed and expanded to Sirnak, Dersim, Kharpet, Merdin, Agiri, Meleti, and Semsur. They intend to spread this throughout Kurdistan, from Botan to Serhat, from every village to every city. This invasion, carried out in the name of SPPs, is much larger in scale than previously thought. It constitutes one of the greatest dangers for the future of Kurdistan. According to this plunder plan, millions of panels will be installed on millions of square meters of agricultural land. This plan is not local and is being put into action as a new occupation project. It covers areas ranging from thousands and tens of thousands of hectares of the most productive agricultural lands to pastures, villages, and settlements. Dams are being built on the grounds of "security", with the aim of disrupting and fragmenting the integrity of Kurdistan's geography. SPPs are being built for the same function and purpose, but this time under the guise of "clean energy". The plan is to oust settlements and destroy the means of life for the people. For this reason, the most fertile agricultural lands, pastures, and forests are occupied to build the power plants. In fact, the aim is to occupy settlements and agricultural lands that are not in the proximity of dams because they are out of reach of destruction by dam waters. These areas are to be reached through the SPP and WPP projects, which are being sold to the public in the name of "clean energy". We are facing a new, modern version of the special war plan that set thousands of villages in Kurdistan on fire in the 1990s. We are facing more burning, destructive, dirty, and insidious plunder than the fascist practices where soldiers themselves burned the villages. The most tragic thing is that this is touted as being ecological. These power plants bring destruction to society and nature. Elements such as lithium used in SPPs will require a 10-fold increase in mining. Along with the occupation during their installation, their production also causes serious destruction to nature. In addition, even though they are built under the name of energy needs, there is no need for this in Turkey, where only one-third of the electricity capacity produced is used. The energy produced in these power plants is stored for

companies to make a profit. They aim to seize the agricultural lands of the people and occupy the geography of Kurdistan. Since Kurdistan is planned to be encircled from within and rendered uninhabitable and dehumanized, it may be more realistic to describe this as a special war operation to cleanse Kurdistan of people instead of “clean energy”.

How can this devastation, which affects the future of the whole world, be prevented? As a movement with an ecological paradigm, what role do you see for yourself in this regard?

As the Kurdish freedom movement, we have responsibilities in the face of ecological problems. At the moment, we are experiencing the weight of not being able to fulfill this sufficiently. As we have mentioned, it is a fact that we are lacking in the practice of the ecological content of our paradigm. Despite the deepening ecological destruction in Kurdistan and around the world, sensitivity and ecological consciousness on this issue have not yet been sufficiently formed. We are also responsible for developing this in order to make our struggle as ecological as its paradigm. We are aware that we need to act faster and more effectively to compensate for this delay. Our aims for solutions must correspond to this. If the existing potential is utilized by combining the ideological depth and power of the people offered by our paradigm, we can develop the alternative, radical, and social ecological struggle that we need today. As always, the solution is possible through an organized, conscious struggle. Since ecological destruction is an attack on the right to life, this cannot be a struggle to be waged only by ecologists and ecological movements. In its simplest form, even within the framework of self-defense, we have to defend our lives. If every individual takes action to protect life, soil, water, and air, we can, of course, stop the current course and succeed. Everyone needs to play a role in this.



DEM Party wins Hilvan local elections

ANF | URFA | 3 JUNE 2024

The People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) won Hilvan (Curnê Reş) Municipality, according to unofficial results.

DEM Party's co-chair candidates Serhan Paydaş and Garip Yeşil received 10 thousand 730 votes. AKP's candidate received 7 thousand 420 votes. The co-chairs who won the election thanked the crowd in front of the party building.

Garip Yeşil said: "We thank all the people of Hilvan. We owe this victory most of all to the women of Hilvan. Congratulations to all of you."

Paydaş said: "We lifted this isolation on Hilvan together. For more than 5 years, this city was run by those who served only their own supporters. We will serve all Hilvan residents."

Paydaş said that they dedicated the election results to the Kurdish politician Muhsin Melik, who was murdered 30 years ago, and added: "The winners of this election are young people and women. Today is a very

meaningful day. As you know, we buried our first dead yesterday. That's why we won't celebrate. After we receive our certificate of registration, we will hold our celebration in Hilvan on a suitable date."

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Police take scores into custody in Mardin

ANF | MARDIN | 4 JUNE 2024

Simultaneous raids were carried out by police on many addresses in the Artuklu and Kızıltepe (Qoser) districts of Mêrdîn (Mardin) in the morning. During the raid, brothers Serhat Akpınar and Bayer Akpınar, Ramazan Kalkan, Çekdar Ermiş, Rubar Kaya and many young people whose names were not learned were taken into custody. The young people detained were taken to the hospital with handcuffs behind their backs, while family members were tortured in the house of the Kalkan family.

Ramazan Kalkan, his father Davut Kalkan, his brother Agit and Emine Kalkan, were tortured. Family members suffered fractures, bruises and tears in various parts of their bodies. When the police left there were blood stains on the carpets. It was disclosed that Emine Kalkan was pregnant. Family members went to Mardin Training and Research Hospital and received a report of assault to file a criminal complaint.

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Co-mayor of Tatvan faces investigation for taking down Erdoğan's photo from his office

ANF | BITLIS | 6 JUNE 2024

An investigation was initiated against Mümin Erol, DEM Party Co-Mayor of Tatvan Municipality in Bitlis.

Tatvan Chief Public Prosecutor's Office initiated an ex officio investigation against Erol on the charge of 'insulting the President' for taking down a photograph of Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan from his office.

No document has been submitted to the co-mayor yet.

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Two refugees deported by Turkey abducted in Afrin

ANF | AFRIN | 7 JUNE 2024

According to local sources, the occupying Turkish army and the paramilitary gang organisation 'Syrian National Army', which operates in the occupied area, kidnapped two refugees at the checkpoint in the village of Qestêl Cindo in Afrin's Shera district.

Reports sat that the abducted civilians are Delîl Hisên Hecî (34) from the Baflûr village in Afrin's Jindires district and Cemal Heyan (35) from Homs.

It is reported that the two men were deported from Turkey and were trying to go to Afrin via Bab al-Salame in Azaz region.

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Ebu Seger detained and tortured by Iraqi forces for opposing death sentence for a Yazidi citizen

ANF | SHENGAL | 7 JUNE 2024

Following the visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Iraq in April, the Baghdad government stepped up its efforts to criminalise the institutions and members of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Shengal (Sinjar) in northern Iraq.

Xideyir Salih (Ebu Seger), a member of the Shengal Democratic Autonomous Council and co-chairman of the Bîrcarî People's Council, also a pioneering figure for the coexistence of peoples in Shengal, was detained by Iraqi forces on 28 May on the grounds that he 'opposed the death sentence given to a Yazidi citizen and violated Iraqi law'. The Mosul Criminal Court sentenced the Yazidi citizen Xêro Belo to death for allegedly committing crimes against the Arab people in the region after the attacks of ISIS.

The Yazidi people and the components living under the umbrella of the Autonomous Administration reacted to the sentence and asked the Mosul Criminal Court to review its decision and to impose the same penalties on ISIS members.

Ebu Seger called the death sentence an attempt to create conflict between the Arab and Yazidi peoples. Following a Mosul court order, Iraqi intelligence forces raided Ebu Seger's house on 28 May.

According to villagers and eyewitnesses, Ebu Seger was detained from his house under torture and taken to Mosul.

According to a source in the Mosul Court, Ebu Seger was detained for making a statement against the court's decision and for being a member of the Democratic Autonomous Council of Shengal. The same source reported that Ebu Seger lost consciousness under torture in Mosul.

It is not yet known when Ebu Seger will be brought to court and what the verdict will be.

This initiative is considered as an attempt by the Iraqi forces to distance the Arab people from the Yazidi people and to defame the Autonomous Administration of Shengal.

Ebu Seger, a friend of the Yazidi people, is known as a person who managed to be a bridge between the Arab and Yazidi peoples.

These actions taken by Iraq in Shengal are seen as a result of the Sudanese government's agreement with the occupying Turkish state.

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Trustee appointed to Hakkari Municipality

Turkish police storm town hall of Hakkari and take DEM party co-mayor into custody

ANF | HAKKARI | 3 JUNE 2024

After the landslide victory of the DEM party in Kurdistan, with more city administrations than ever before, the AKP regime is going on the offensive. At around 11 p.m. on Sunday night, the Turkish police surrounded the town hall of Hakkari (Colemêrg). Hundreds of police officers blocked all roads to the town hall. Early in the morning, the police smashed down the town hall door and stormed the building. At the same time, the co-mayor of Hakkari, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, was taken into custody in the neighboring town of Van (Wan).

Akış had won the election in Hakkari with 48.92 percent despite massive electoral fraud and the deployment of tens of thousands of soldiers as "ghost voters".

The DEM party said: "The regime, which has failed to meet the will of the people as it has done every time, has once again resorted to the means it knows best: vote theft and coup. This morning, our co-mayor of Hakkari, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, was arrested in Van and our town hall was occupied by the police by force. We do not accept this trustee attitude. Our people showed in a democratic way on 31 March

that they do not recognize the trusteeship. This coup and trustee mentality poses a threat not only to Hakkari but also to the will of all people in Turkey. Our people will show their democratic protests at the highest level. We call on all democrats to take a clear stand against this coup."

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DEM Party co-chairs protest police raid on Hakkari municipality

ANF | 3 JUNE 2024

Co-mayor Mehmet Sıddık Nakit was taken into custody in Van (Wan).

DEM Party co-chairs Tülay Hatimoğulları and Tuncer Bakırhan reacted on their social media accounts.

Bakırhan said: "Disregarding the will of the people, the AKP-MHP resorted to unlawful detention against the legitimate and democratic representatives of the people through the judiciary and police under its command. The detention of our Hakkari Municipality co-mayor is a dark and dirty lawlessness. We reject this coup, trustee and sworn anti-Kurdish mentality. We never impose our will on anyone. We say enough is enough."

Bakırhan said: "We express that unlawful practices that will harm Turkey's democratic future should be abandoned immediately. We call on all democratic, revolutionary and peace-loving circles, especially our people, to stand by the people of Hakkari and show their democratic reaction against this usurpation of will."

Tülay Hatimoğulları said: "The government, which was defeated by the will of the people at the ballot box, is again seeking to usurp the people's will. We will never bow to this trustee mentality that tried to usurp our municipality by police force and detained our co-mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akis. This attack is not only an attack against the will of the people of Hakkari, but also against the will of all the people of Turkey. We call on everyone who is in favor of democracy to take a stand against the trustee mentality."

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Trustee appointed to Hakkari Municipality

ANF | HAKKARI | 3 JUNE 2024

The Ministry of Internal Affairs announced through its social media account that a trustee has been appointed to the DEM Party's Hakkari (Colemêrg) Municipality.

Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who was elected as the Mayor of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) with 48.92 percent in the elections held on 31 March in Hakkari, was detained in Van this morning. The municipality was blockaded after the mayor was taken into custody.

The Turkish Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that Akış was suspended from duty and a trustee was appointed in his place. In a statement on the ministry's social media account, it was stated that there was a case file against the mayor numbered 2014/173 at the Hakkari 1st High Criminal Court, regarding the allegations of "leading a organisation", "being a member of a organisation" and "making propaganda for a organisation". It was noted that the trial in question continues.

It was also noted that there was a new investigation against Akış on the allegation of "being a member of an illegal organisation" and that he was taken into custody within the scope of this new file. The statement said that Akış was "suspended from duty by the Ministry of Internal Affairs as a temporary measure."

Governor Ali Çelik was appointed as trustee.

Lawyer Özer: police and prosecutor have prepared a file together

Akış's lawyer, Azad Özer, met with the prosecutor's office in the morning regarding his client's situation.

Providing information to Mezopotamya Agency, lawyer Özer said: "There is a new investigation opened against my client. There is a confidentiality order on the file and a restriction has been imposed. It seems that this investigation is being carried out secretly. In other words, it is clearly seen that the law enforcement and the prosecutor prepared this file together. We could not find any information about the file. It is a new investigation."

DEM Party calls extraordinary meeting

The Central Executive Board (MYK) of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) decided to hold an extraordinary meeting against the detention of Hakkari Municipality co-mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış and his dismissal by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the appointment of a trustee.

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DEM Party takes uninterrupted action against usurpation of Hakkari Municipality

ANF | ANKARA | 3 JUNE 2024

Mehmet Sıddık Akış of the DEM Party was elected the Mayor of Hakkari province, winning 48.92 percent of the vote in the elections held on 31 March. He was taken into custody in Van this morning and the municipality was blockaded. The Turkish Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that Akış was suspended from duty and a trustee was appointed in his place.

The Central Executive Committee (MYK) of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) held an extraordinary meeting at the party headquarters in Ankara following the usurpation of the Hakkari Municipality. Parliamentary Group Deputy Chair Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit held a press conference after the meeting.

Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit emphasised that the decision to appoint a trustee is a political decision and that the judiciary has become an apparatus of politics. Koçyiğit said, "Suspension from duty, usurpation of will and coup against democracy by fabricating a legal cover is one of the most horrible crimes committed by this government in this century."

Koçyiğit pointed out that the society is being manipulated through perception operations and said, "Turkey is ruled by a party mindset that considers itself superior to the constitution. A government that holds elections when it wants and appoints trustees to municipalities when it wants is ruling Turkey. But there is something it does not take into account; the fact that the people have nailed down democracy."

"Kurdish people have swept the putschist mentality and trustees into the wastebasket in the elections," said Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit and added, "With this decision to appoint a trustee, the government started to take revenge on our municipalities for its defeat in the 31 March elections. To start with, they set a trap against our elected co-mayor in Van, Mr Abdullah Zeydan, and did not give him his certificate of election after he was elected. The people of Van claimed their will and took back what already belonged to them."

Defining the appointment of trustees as an open attack on the will of the people, Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit said: "This is a law of the state of emergency. The will usurpation through Decree Laws is still used today as a policy of intimidation against Kurds through political coups. In other words, the state of emergency imposed on the Kurds never ends. The law of exception applied to the Kurds never ends in this country. The more we insist on democratic politics, the more the government tries to dissuade us from this insistence. The fallacies of normalisation and moderation have been going on for days. Is this normalisation? Is this your first step towards a democratic constitution? The AKP-MHP government's claim of normalisation has collapsed.

The claims of a new constitution have been buried under the wreckage of trustees. It has once again become clear that the claim of a new constitution and normalisation does not include Kurds. Our friends have rolled up their sleeves and are working uninterruptedly to repair the damage left behind by the trustees who lived in pleasure and enjoyment. We all know very well that the politics of trustees is already bankrupt and that the trustees left nothing but bribery, corruption, favouritism and Kurdish hostility."

Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit continued: "This coup d'état has been carried out against all democratic forces and the freedom to elect and be elected, which humanity won centuries ago with great struggles. The democratic public opinion should show its reaction to this issue at the highest level. From political parties to civil society, intellectuals and artists, everyone whose heart beats in favour of democracy should speak out against this unlawfulness. They should show that they stand by the will of the people of Hakkari. If we let them take back what they lost in the 31 March elections by means of trustees, it is not difficult to predict where the wave of attacks and usurpation that started in Hakkari will end up."

Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit also shared some of the decisions taken at the MYK meeting, stating: "We will start vigil actions in front of all our municipalities to defend democracy, to defend the will of the people

and to defend our municipalities against this trustee politics that has turned into an apparatus of the regime. We invite all our people, democratic mass organisations and everyone with a conscience to take part in these vigil actions and to be with us.

Our co-chair, Tülay Hatimoğulları, has a programme in Istanbul today. Tomorrow she will go to Hakkari. DBP Co-Chairs, Keskin Bayındır and Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, have already left for Hakkari with a delegation. We expect them to reach Hakkari today. Apart from that, protests and events to express our democratic reactions are being organised by district organisations all over Turkey today.

A meeting will take place today at 18.00 in Şişhane, Istanbul, which will also be attended by our Co-Chair, Tülay Hatimoğulları. I would like to call for the components of the Labour and Freedom Alliance and all democratic opposition to participate in this event. The foreign relations commission has also initiated work to denounce these unlawful acts in the international arena.”

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Kurdistan People's Initiative calls for street protests “until we take back our municipality”

ANF | 3 JUNE 2024

The Kurdistan People's Initiative made a written statement against the usurpation of Hakkari Municipality through the appointment of a trustee in the place of the democratically elected co-mayor, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who was detained this morning and then suspended from duty by the Ministry of Interior.

The statement released by the Kurdistan People's Initiative on Monday said:

“The people of Kurdistan are facing a new fascist coup. In the 31 March local elections, the Kurdish people achieved a great victory and inflicted an unforgettable defeat on the AKP-MHP government. They won 78 municipalities as a result of great resistance. The AKP-MHP fascist government, which cannot digest this, is pursuing dastardly plans to avenge the defeat. Arresting the mayor of Hakkari is not recognising the will of the people of Hakkari. Appointing a trustee means insisting on colonialist politics. The Kurdish people showed their attitude against these policies at the ballot boxes on 31 March and then on the streets of Van. They will never submit to the trustee coup. As in Van, they will not allow their will to be usurped and will resist until they get their municipality back. We call on all our people living in Kurdistan and Europe to claim the will of the people of Hakkari and take to the streets until we take back our municipality.”

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CHP leader calls for withdrawal of the appointment of trustee to Hakkari Municipality

ANF | 3 JUNE 2024

The Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman Özgür Özel made a statement on his X account after Hakkari Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış was dismissed and replaced by a trustee this morning.

"We reject the fact that an operation was carried out against Hakkari Municipality in the morning hours, the mayor was detained and a trustee was appointed on the grounds of a lawsuit that had been launched 10 years ago and is still ongoing," the CHP leader said.

Özel defined the appointment of a trustee in the place of the democratically elected co-mayor as "ignoration of the will of the people of Hakkari, which was manifested only 2 months ago".

"The appointment of a trustee must be withdrawn. We are on the side of democracy and the will of the people and against the trustee mentality."



Urgent international call following the replacement of the elected mayor with a trustee in Hakkari

ANF | 3 JUNE 2024

Ebru Günay and Berdan Öztürk, Co-spokespersons of the DEM Party Foreign Affairs Commission, released a statement about the usurpation of Hakkari Municipality through a trustee appointed after Memet Sıddık Akış, the elected Co-Mayor, was detained this morning and replaced by the Governor of Hakkari.

"The investigation file used to justify this operation is entirely based on groundless allegations by the police and the prosecutor. The dismissal of Mr Akış, who was democratically elected, is a blatant coup against the will of the people of Hakkari, where the majority of the population is Kurdish," the statement said.

The statement pointed out that the AKP-MHP coalition's attempt to avenge their severe loss in the local elections through attacking the DEM Party municipalities means the abolition of the constitutional right to vote and be elected.

"Judgements by the European Court of Human Rights have shown that the broad and vague definition of "terrorism" articulated by the legal system in Turkey has turned into an instrument used by the govern-

ment to eliminate its political rivals. It is clear that the dismissal of co-mayors and appointment of trustees by the Ministry of Interior is totally unlawful,” the DEM Party said.

The statement continued: “Trustees previously appointed to HDP municipalities have not only sabotaged the will of the Kurdish people, but have also generated massive corruption and financial losses. The economic and political destruction caused by the trustees appointed by the AKP-MHP coalition is a major obstacle to the democratization of the country and the democratic solution of the Kurdish Question. The fact that this trustee policy has become a kind of routine practice, suggests that trustees could be appointed in the near future to municipalities run by all opposition parties, including Istanbul.”

“We would like to emphasize that the appointment of a trustee in Hakkari is not only a “domestic issue”. Turkey is a member of the Council of Europe and is also negotiating with the EU for full membership. Despite many promises of democratization and millions of Euros in funding, Turkey's democratic institutions are subjected to systematic repression, and elected politicians are exposed to judicial oppression,” said the DEM Party, calling on all pro-democracy communities, all parties and international institutions, to take a firm stance against this political coup, to stand in solidarity with the DEM Party, and to defend the political will of the people of Hakkari.

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Hakkari Municipality co-mayor salutes resistance to usurpation of people's will

ANF | 4 JUNE 2024

People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Hakkari (Colemêrg) Municipality co-mayor Mehmet Siddık Akış was deposed from his charge after being taken into custody on Monday. The co-mayor was detained in Van and was then brought to Hakkari. After a 24-hour ban on seeing lawyers, he finally met them and told them to salute the resistance in the city. Stating that he was in good spirits, Akış described what happened as a "coup attempt against democracy" and sent greetings to all segments of society who had been protesting the usurpation of their will.

The confidentiality decision regarding the file continues. Ömer Akış, one of the lawyers who met with the co-mayor, said that the news about his clients in the pro-government media was done to "influence the judiciary". Lawyer Akış said: "Our client had to stay in Van due to the late hour of returning from the meeting held in Diyarbakir. He was detained in a house raid in the morning while he was about to set off for Hakkari. The slanders made by the pro-government media that 'he was caught while he was about to escape' do not reflect the truth. The ruling media is also sharing false information about the file, which even we cannot access and which is still under confidentiality order. All this false news has the aim of targeting and influencing the judiciary. Co-mayor Akış told the court that he wanted to attend the court hearing on 5June. Why would a person who said this escape? No one should believe in manipulations."

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Union of Turkish Bar Associations protests usurpation of Hakkari Municipality

ANF | 4 JUNE 2024

Protesting the detention of Hakkari (Colemêrg) Municipality co-mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış and the appointment of a trustee in his place, the Turkish Bar Associations (TBB) said in a written statement: "Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who was elected mayor of Hakkari in the Local Government Elections of 31 March 2024, was taken into custody on 3 June 2024 within the scope of an investigation carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. He was removed from office by the Minister, who appointed the Governor of Hakkari and trustee of Hakkari. From the information provided, it is understood that the allegations against Mehmet Sıddık Akış date back to before the local government elections, that there is a prosecution numbered 2014/173 against him, and that another recent investigation has been opened, and that the said prosecution and investigation were taken as basis for the decision to suspend him from duty."

The statement said: "Dismissal of the mayor of a province, ignoring the presumption of innocence, means an excessive intervention in the right to elect and be elected, which is the basis of democracy."

Demanding that the right to vote and be elected be respected, the TBB said: "In accordance with the principle of parallelism in authority and procedure, the Ministry of Internal Affairs should immediately revoke its decision and reinstate the mayor to his post. The regulation added to the Municipality Law in 2016 should be changed, and practices that would interfere with the right to vote and be elected without a judicial decision should be avoided."

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People in Hakkari protest against usurpation of the municipality

ANF | HAKKARI | 4 JUNE 2024

Mehmet Sıddık Akış of the DEM Party was elected the Mayor of Hakkari province, winning 48.92 per cent of the vote in the elections held on 31 March. He was taken into custody in Van yesterday morning and the municipality was blockaded. The Turkish Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that Akış was suspended from duty and a trustee was appointed in his place.

Masses took to the streets in Hakkari today to protest the usurpation of the municipality. Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları, Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Co-Chairs Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar and Keskin Bayındır, Labour and Freedom Alliance components, CHP delegation and NGP many representatives participated in the protest organised by political parties and civil society organisations.

During the march towards the municipality, slogans such as ‘We will win by resisting’, ‘We don't want a thief mayor’ and ‘Bijî berxwedana Hekkarî’ [Long live the resistance of Hakkari] were frequently chanted.

Tülay Hatimoğulları and her entourage then marched to Bulvar Street where a sit-in protest was staged. The police attacked the crowd with gas bombs. Young people responded to the police attack with stones in some streets.

After the press statement by the politicians, the police attacked the crowd with water cannons and gas bombs. MPs were directly sprayed with gas. Journalist Nevroz Seyitoğlu fainted due to police violence.

People resisted in the side streets of the city after the police attack. MPs also dispersed to the side streets and marched from different branches. Protests continue in the neighbourhoods.



Lawyers’ organisations protest the usurpation of Hakkari Municipality

ANF | 4 JUNE 2024

Reactions to the dismissal of Hakkari Co-Mayor Mehmet Siddık Akış and the usurpation of his office by a government-appointed trustee continue.

Lawyers’ organisations took to the streets in Ankara, Batman and Istanbul to protest the coup in Hakkari.

Ankara

In Ankara, the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), Lawyers for Justice, Association of Contemporary Lawyers (ÇHD), Lawyers for Democracy and Social Law made a statement in front of the courthouse.

ÖHD Ankara Branch Secretary Sipan Cizreli stated that the law has become a cudgel of the government and said, “The political power uses the law as a tool to oppress, suppress and usurp the will of the Kurdish people today, as in the past, and conditions the enjoyment of basic citizenship rights on the condition of “giving up being Kurdish”. The practice and legislation of the current law, which has become the cudgel of the political power, has long been shaped by discriminatory policies against the Kurdish people. The most recent and current example of this discriminatory politics and law is revealed by the trustee usurpations. As it is known, the central state policy implemented in Kurdistan for years is the usurpation of political will and trustee-style administration.”

Cizreli said that the politics of denial against the Kurdish people has been reinforced and the rules of national and international law have been violated by the trustee policies, adding that the discriminatory politics against the Kurdish people has opened the door to great risks for the peoples of Turkey:

“For this reason, it should be well known that we are on the threshold of a historical stop to develop a definite and clear objection. We have once again witnessed the use of the law to usurp the rights and political will of the Kurdish people during this period when the discourse of ‘normalisation’ is in vogue in the country’s politics. In its related statement, the Ministry of Interior listed many allegations that have no legal basis and imposed sanctions on Hakkari Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış, almost acting as a court. The cooperation between the executive and the judiciary has also been revealed with this practice in which all the rules of an independent judiciary have been violated. This decision, which is not based on a finalised judicial decision, is based on completely untrue and artificial allegations. It is an attack on the presumption of innocence and the right to elect and be elected, and has nothing to do with legal principles. Mehmet Sıddık Akış is the elected co-mayor of Hakkari Municipality, the political will of the people of Hakkari. We call on all honourable lawyers, legal organisations and democratic public opinion to object to this unlawful decision and to stand by the people of Hakkari.”

Batman

ÖHD Batman Branch made a statement in front of the courthouse and protested the usurpation of the will of the people of Hakkari. Bar association lawyers participated in the demonstration. Making the statement, ÖHD Batman Branch Co-Chair Şirin Şen stated that the government’s ‘decomposition plan’ is still current and emphasised that the right to elect and be elected is not recognised. Şirin Şen said, “The appointment of trustees for the third time in 8 years is an indication that the enemy law has been put into practice.”

Istanbul

In Istanbul, lawyers from ÖHD, ÇHD, Society and Law Research Foundation (TOHAV), Lawyers for Democracy, Participatory Lawyers, Libertarian Democrat Lawyers Group, Lawyers for Justice, Lawyer Solidarity and Social Law made a statement in front of the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan.

Lawyer Ezgi Önal said, “This is a political blow to the will of the people of Hakkari. The government, which usurped the will of the people with a trustee, has the protests against this unlawfulness banned by the governorships and district governorships, which are also its officials.”

Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin, who also participated in the protest, stated that they condemned the silence of the Istanbul Bar Association against the usurpation of the will.

CHP delegation in Hakkari: The trustee practice is antidemocratic and unlawful

ANF | HAKKARI | 4 JUNE 2024

Following the detention of Hakkari Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış and the appointment of a trustee to the municipality, a delegation of the Republican People's Party (CHP) also arrived in the city. DEM Party Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları, BDP Co-Chairs Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar and Keskin Bayındır and party members welcomed the delegation.

Tülay Hatimoğulları thanked the delegation and said, “We can protect democracy together. We can win against the mentality that prevents the right to elect and be elected. If we stand in solidarity, this is the only way we can defeat this putschist mentality. I would like to thank both CHP Chairman Özgür Özel and you for your support.”

Speaking here, CHP Spokesperson Deniz Yücel said, “We are here to react to the trusteeship practice and to show solidarity with the DEM Party. We are there for whoever is being subjected to injustice and unlawfulness. The trustee practice is antidemocratic and unlawful. The AKP is still governing the country with the laws that were introduced during the 15 July coup attempt. The government is still in an understanding that benefits from the comfort of the coup period. As the CHP, we will continue our solidarity in every field.”

The delegation then left the DEM Party building to hold some meetings.

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Hakkari: Those who resist will win!

ANF | HAKKARI | 4 JUNE 2024

Protests continue in Hakkari against the detention of Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış and the usurpation of his office by a trustee appointed by the Ministry of Interior.

Speaking during the protest demonstration in the city today, DBP Co-Chair Keskin Bayındır said, “A trustee was appointed once again to the will of the people. We do not accept this appointment. This system will collapse thanks to the resistance of the Kurdish people. The will of the Kurds has not been recognised for a hundred years. Even today Bahçeli said that he would not recognise the will of the Kurdish people. They should look at the history of the Kurds; Bahçeli and Erdoğan will leave, but the Kurds will be here again as they have been for centuries. We will defeat their system with our will and power. Their oppression will surely come to an end. Because their end has come. There can be no peace for Turkey as long as there is war against the Kurds. As long as their policies here continue, there will be no peace there either. We will resist to put an end to these plunderers.”

Tülay Hatimoğulları said that a political coup is taking place and said: “Our co-mayor was detained in Van and a trustee was unofficially appointed in his place. First the trustee was appointed, then the law enforcement surrounded the municipality. The Minister of Interior sent the notification later. This is an indication that a gang is running the state. Dear people of Turkey; they mislead you and make various statements. Our co-mayor was taken into custody to be tried over a lawsuit filed against him in 2014. They kept the case file until he became co-mayor. The legal procedure is as follows; the investigation is opened first, and then the process is followed. The mayor cannot be dismissed from office until the final decision, that is, until all legal processes are completed and the final judgement is announced. As a result, if the mayor is convicted, a new mayor is elected from the city council. However, the police took control of the municipality even before the official notification of the trustee arrived, without fulfilling all these steps. This is the AKP's way of governing this country. This is called fascism, coup d'état.”

Tülay Hatimoğulları stated that Kurds are denied the right to elect and be elected and continued, “By appointing trustees, the AKP government is saying ‘You do not have the right to elect and be elected. You are not a full citizen of this country’. Today Bahçeli came out and talked about the DEM Party. He congratulated the Interior Minister. He congratulated the gangs, those like him. We never accept this. We reject gang law. Democracy will win in this country, the people will win, law will win, freedoms will win. We will win. The people will win. Appointing a trustee to Hakkari today does not only mean appointing a trustee to the political will of the Kurds. It also means that a trustee has been appointed to Turkey's democracy and the law on local governments. Against this trustee mentality, all democratic forces should manifest the most powerful attitude together.”

Hatimoğulları pointed out that the AKP appointed a trustee in order to loot the resources of the municipality for their cronies and said, “We will resist. We will resist against the trustee mentality together with all the people of Turkey, with those who are oppressed and exploited in Turkey, with those who want justice, with those who want Turkey to be governed in a democratic way. He should not think that he and his partner sitting in the palace can usurp the will of the Kurdish people from the palace. They tried to steal the Hilvan elections from us by burning ballot boxes with gang-like methods. They cancelled the elections even though we won. The difference increased from 500 to 3 thousand. What does this mean? It means that if you try to usurp the will of the people, the people will respond to you in the strongest way. Those who resist fascism shoulder to shoulder will win.”



DEM Party MPs protest trustee Hakkari coup in Turkish parliament

ANF | ANKARA | 4 JUNE 2024

The Parliamentary Group of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) began to protest the appointment of a trustee to Hakkari (Colemêrg) Municipality by not leaving the Parliamentary General Assembly podium.

DEM Party Hakkari MP Vezir Parlak spoke during the motion about the trustees, and then DEM Party members all went to the podium together. Party members started protesting with signs saying "Municipalities are ours, we will not allow usurpation."

Despite the warnings of Parliament Deputy Speaker Gülizar Biçer Karaca, DEM Party members did not leave the podium. Karaca took a 10-minute break from the board due to the protest. Meanwhile, several CHP MPs offered their support to DEM Party.

8 years of trustees

DEM Party MPs Group Chair Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit said: "We are facing a major unlawful operation and a major trustee regime."

Reminding that trustees have been appointed to the municipalities they won through elections for the last 8 years, Koçyiğit said: "The will of the Kurdish people has been ignored for 8 years. The Kurdish people's right to vote has been suspended for 8 years. The government that has been ruling this country has been telling the Kurds for the past 8 years that they are not citizens, they are not equal, their vote is not equal to the vote of those in Yozgat."

Koçyiğit continued: "What are you trying to get from Hakkari? Which of your interests suffers when DEM PARTY rules in Hakkari? Say it, say it, but say it clearly, so that all the people of Turkey will know. Let all the people of Turkey know about your hostility, hatred, grudge and lawlessness, because we know it. But let's also say this, we will never, ever surrender. You will be defeated. You will be defeated by the spirit of Gezi, the solidarity of Kobane, the upright stance of our comrades, the comrades you put in prison, the smile of our children, the struggle of women for equality and freedom, the struggle of every person who wants democratic change in this country."

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AKP MPs attack DEM Party action in Parliament

ANF | ANKARA | 4 JUNE 2024

The People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) MPs organized a protest at the Turkish Parliament General Assembly against the appointment of a trustee in Hakkari (Colemêrg). The AKP MPs tried to take the posters carried by the DEM Party MPs. A scuffle occurred. DEM deputies fell to the ground, while AKP MPs threw and tore the posters.

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Dismissed co-mayor of Hakkari sentenced to 19 years and 6 months in prison

ANF | HAKKARI | 5 JUNE 2024

Mehmet Siddık Akış of the DEM Party was elected the Mayor of Hakkari province, winning 48.92 per cent of the vote in the elections held on 31 March. He was taken into custody in Van on 3 June morning and the municipality was blockaded. The Turkish Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that Akış was suspended from duty and a trustee was appointed in his place.

The trial of Mehmet Siddık Akış was concluded at Hakkari Heavy Penal Court No 1 on Wednesday. The court sentenced Akış to 19 years and 6 months in prison. An arrest warrant was also issued.

Background

The democratically elected co-mayor of Hakkari Municipality was suspended from office after being detained on 3 June. Governor Ali Çelik was appointed as trustee in his place.

According to a statement released by the ministry, Akış was detained within the scope of an investigation on the allegation of 'membership in an illegal organisation'. However, the details of the investigation are not yet known due to a confidentiality order. The statement included allegations that justified the appointment of a trustee. The allegations in the case against Akış, which has been ongoing since 2014, were listed.

The investigation is based on popular protests in the city between 2009 and 2014. Akış and 15 others, including politicians of the time, are on trial within the scope of this investigation.

In the last hearing of the case, the prosecutor presented a 30-page final opinion on the merits.

The section of the indictment against Akış included phone taps from the mentioned period of the time, allegations of secret witnesses who testified against hundreds of people, and far-fetched comments. Akış, who served as the central district chair of the Democratic Society Party (DTP) and the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) which replaced it, was accused of being a 'member of the Presidium of the KCK/ Hakkari Founding City Assembly'.

The accusation was based on secret witness allegations, comments made on the basis of telephone taps and various protests organised in the city at the time.

A noteworthy detail is Akış's speech on the attack against Kurdish politician Ahmet Türk in Samsun. It is said that Akış addressed the crowd at a demonstration held on 13 April 2010 in the centre of Hakkari which ended without incident. It is stated that anthems were sung during the demonstration and incidents broke out in some neighbourhoods of the city afterwards.

Giving details about the events, the opinion claims that the protests were organised by those who took part in the 'Founding City Assembly Action Commission'. and Akış is accused through this allegation. However, the relevant section also includes Akış's attempt to end the incidents. His words about the need to end the protests are characterised as 'instructions'.

The prosecutor demanded Akış to be sentenced on the grounds of 'interview records, evidence seized from searches, previous actions of the defendant, identification reports regarding the activities he participated in'.



KCK: The usurpation of political will in Hakkari is part of the Turkish state's genocide policies!

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 JUNE 2024

The co-presidency of the KCK Executive Council issued a statement saying that the "fascist AKP-MHP government has once again trampled on the will of the people by appointing a trustee to the municipality of Colemerg (tr. Hakkari)."

The statement said: "The fascist AKP-MHP government has once again trampled on the will of the people by appointing a trustee to the municipality of Colemerg (tr. Hakkari). Beyond that, the co-mayor of the municipality has been detained unlawfully. The opposition within the system and all socialist and democratic forces, especially our people, are rightfully protesting against this anti-democratic practice and expressing their reactions. We condemn this anti-Kurdish, fascist, anti-democratic, colonialist, mentality of the government, and we find the reactions against it justified and appropriate. We support them.

Through the practices in Colemerg, it is clear that the Turkish state wants to usurp the will of the Kurdish people: these are part of the political genocide attacks against the Kurds. This is clearly an anti-democratic, genocidal, and fascist practice. Everyone with a democratic mentality, with sensitivity in favor of the democratic unity of the peoples, and an understanding of co-existence, must oppose this anti-democratic move and stand by the democratic, legitimate, and just struggle of the Kurdish people. This stance must be expanded and maintained until the Colemerg Municipality is returned to the people of Colemerg."

The statement said: "With this practice, the approach, mentality, and policy of the AKP-MHP government towards the Kurdish people have once again been revealed. The government has an anti-Kurdish mentality. The fascist chief, Tayyip Erdoğan, puts this mentality into practice in all its clarity. The government and Tayyip Erdoğan are currently responsible for the implementation of this mentality. They were appointed with this task. This is their reality, and it has been proven once again with their appointment of trustees that any other meaning attributed to them is unrealistic. Therefore, it should be better seen that no approach other than to struggle against this mentality and politics can be correct. The matter should be approached accordingly. Within the framework of this approach, unity and struggle must be strengthened.

It is very clear that the AKP-MHP government wants to succeed after failing in Wan, and achieve its plans by usurping the will of the people of Colemerg. Therefore, what is being done is not only the usurpation of the Colemerg municipality, but the usurpation of the will of the entire Kurdish people. This usurpation of will is within the scope of Kurdish genocide. The AKP-MHP government wants to achieve results in Colemerg in order to apply the same policy in other Kurdish cities too. This intention and danger must be seen and a very strong, organized resistance must be developed."

The statement continued: "The AKP-MHP government is conducting a policy based on Kurdish enmity at home and abroad, trying to make everyone hostile to the Kurds. Kurdish enmity has poisoned the AKP-MHP and turned it into a blind snake that bites everyone. They oppose the holding of elections in northern and eastern Syria, carry out attacks and massacres so that the Kurds are not released from the grip of genocide, become free, or have their own will. Nevertheless, as long as the Kurds do not govern themselves or have free will, this is what they will face for as long as they exist. This is the reason why Syria is being attacked.

It is the AKP-MHP government's mentality and policy based on Kurdish enmity and the enmity of the peoples that still prevent the development of a solution in Syria. Now the Turkish state is trying to drag Iraq into a similar situation. We all see where this approach has brought Turkey and what kind of dangers Turkey is facing. The complete malfunctioning of law in Turkey, a state which is now riddled with gang and mafia structures, and the plunge of society into hunger, poverty, and misery are the results of this approach. While this government is practicing genocide against the Kurdish people, society in Turkey is being almost slaughtered under fascism.

The fascist and genocidal AKP-MHP government aims to maintain the anti-democratic, unfair, unjust, and lawless order in which everyone is an enemy to everyone else. This government also tries to lure the opposition to its fascist policies with political traps, under the name of "softening" and "normalization." This reality must be seen very well by both society and its leaders and politicians, and the struggle for democracy must be strengthened."

The statement added: "Our people should develop an all-out resistance against the genocidal fascism in Colemerg, as they did in Wan, and respond to the usurpation of their will and genocidal attacks in the strongest way possible. This resistance should not stop until society retakes its municipality. Society should constantly be on their feet, in a state of Serhildan. The patriotic youth of Kurdistan must be at the forefront of this struggle and lead the people.

The solidarity of the left, socialist, democratic, and freedom-seeking forces with the Kurdish people is very meaningful. This must continue and develop even further. The way to be oppositional, to be in favor of the democratization and liberation of Turkey, is to openly support the democratic solution to the Kurdish question and to stand against all kinds of approaches which seek to usurp the will of the Kurdish people.

On this basis, we call on all those who struggle for democracy, freedom, justice, and law to stand with the people of Colemerg, the Kurdish people, who have become the representative of all these values, and to take the strongest stance against the usurpation of the AKP-MHP fascist government."

Vigils in front of DEM Party municipalities after trustee coup in Hakkari

ANF | 6 JUNE 2024

A vigil was launched in front of municipalities in Kurdistan against the arrest of People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Hakkari (Colemêrg) Municipality co-mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış after he was taken into custody and the appointment of a trustee in his place. The action started on Tuesday.

Amed

Vigils were organised in front of Amed Metropolitan Municipality and 13 district municipalities are on their third day. Municipal co-mayors, council members and many representatives of civil society organizations also participated in the protests. Banners in Kurdish and Turkish "Municipalities are ours, we will not allow usurpation" were hung on the buildings of all municipalities.

Dengbêjs also participated in the vigil held in Sûr district. The crowd chanting the slogan "Colemêrg ya me ye" continued the vigil with the kilams sung by dengbêjs.

Siirt

In the area where a vigil has been held in front of Siirt (Sêrt) municipality for two days, the slogan "Municipalities are ours. We will not allow usurpation", "The will of the people cannot be usurped. No to trustees" were unfurled. Many people protested the trustee's decision with applause, chants and slogans. A vigil was also launched in the Taraf Municipality of Misirc (Kurtalan) and Hawêl (Baykan).

Batman

Slogans such as "Pressures cannot intimidate us" were shouted at the vigil organized in front of Batman (Êlih) municipality, and attended by representatives of political parties and civil society organizations. Turkish police blockaded the crowd sitting in front of the municipality gate, and

prevented the journalists from taking pictures. Police intervention against journalists was also protested with slogans such as "Free media cannot be silenced".

DEM Party deputies march to the Ministry of Interior against the ‘trustee coup’

ANF | ANKARA | 6 JUNE 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) group deputy chairpersons Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit and Sezai Temelli made a press statement in front of the Parliament Press Gate against the dismissal of Hakkari Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış who was arrested, sentenced to prison and replaced by a government-appointed trustee.

Speaking here, Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit said the following:

"We have spoken a lot against the trustee regime. Elections were held on 31 March and the government itself emphasised a new era. He stated that he had received the messages given by the voters. But they did not receive any message from the voters. On the contrary, they have again launched an attack against the society, against the people, against the will at the ballot box, against democracy. It is meaningful that they started this attack from Hakkari. Because the only way for this regime to survive is to attack the Kurds. It is based on rendering the ballot box meaningless and usurping the will of the people.

However, we know very well that the unlawfulness in Hakkari, the coup against the will of the people will not be limited to Hakkari, and that this coup will spread to the whole country step by step. Everyone, in all four corners of Turkey, should stand against this unlawfulness. If we defend democracy together, we can win together. The whole public knows that the Ministry of Interior's conspiracy and the accusations leveled by it are not included in the case file.

They built a garrison, but they could not steal the will of the people of Hakkari. They are trying to usurp what they could not get with the garrison. They deployed quite a number of soldiers and special operations police in front of the governor's office. Why shouldn't the people of Hakkari defend what belongs to them, their municipality and their will? They surrounded the city with soldiers and police. From our 70-year-old mothers to our 7-year-old children, they indiscriminately spray gas and batter them. We do not accept this fascism and violence. We took democratic action to defend the will of the people on the floor of this Parliament. Our democratic legitimate action was attacked by the AKP. Imagine that 150 AKP deputies wanted to lynch 15 deputies in the Parliament. We are faced with a mentality so far from democracy and humanity that they tore our banners. From here, we would like to address both the public opinion in Turkey and those who committed this unlawful act; the Ministry of Interior should immediately end this law enforcement violence. It must immediately stop this violence against our co-chairs, MPs, delegation and most importantly our people.

There is an attempt to establish a dual law in Turkey. One law is applied to Kurds and another law is applied in the west of Turkey. In Kepez, the mayor was dismissed and the council elected a mayor in his place. Why don't you allow such a process to be carried out in Hakkari? We would like to ask this question once again to the interior minister and the AKP government. Erdoğan said yesterday, 'It was done according to the law'. Which law is this exactly? Is it the law with which you ignored the will to elect and be elected, or the law with which you dismissed our co-mayors from office with conspiracy cases? Or the law

with which you stole the will of the people of Hakkari for the third time? Which law are you talking about! We invite the AKP government to abide by the law and democratic customs. We invite them to understand the message of the people on 31 March and act accordingly. End this lawlessness as soon as possible and remove your law enforcement forces from the streets of Hakkari as soon as possible."

After the statement, DEM Party MPs marched to the Ministry of Interior, chanting the slogan 'Trustee is a coup. No to coup'.

DEM Party members in front of the Ministry of Interior are having talks with the ministry officials.



Resistance continues in Hakkari: People should stand up everywhere!

ANF | HAKKARI | 6 JUNE 2024

Memet Sıddık Akış, the elected co-mayor of Hakkari, was removed by Erdoğan's regime in an illegal political coup on 3 June. Akış was then inexplicably sentenced to 19.5 years in prison based on "secret false witness" statements made 14 years ago. The file, which was not opened during all these years, was suddenly reopened and Akış was sentenced in a matter of two days.

Following the detention of Akış and the appointment of a trustee to the municipality, the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) started a vigil in front of the municipalities it won in the 31 March local elections.

While the protests against the seizure of the municipality in Hakkari continue across the country, DEM Party co-chairs Tülay Hatimoğulları and Tuncer Bakırhan, Democratic Regions Party (DBP) co-chairs Keskın Bayındır and Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar took to the streets after meeting with civil society organisations in Hakkari and met with the people.

Co-chairs and hundreds of people marched through the streets of the city, frequently chanting 'Long live the resistance of Hakkari, 'Kurdistan will be the grave of fascism', 'We will win by resisting'. Many trade unions and political parties also supported the march, as well as the residents of the city.

Speaking after the march, DBP Co-Chair Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said: "The trustee is a historical thing. Kurds are being subjected to lawlessness. This practice has spread not only in Kurdistan but all over Turkey in the form of lawlessness, injustice and poverty. Starting in 2016, the burden of trustee appointments is now on the shoulders of all of Turkey. The president of this country said: 'Kurds were marginalised by wrong state policies. We embraced them with sincerity'. Everyone knows very well that this is not true.

Two days after this speech, they made their policies clear by appointing a trustee to Hakkari, the memory of the Kurdish people's resistance. We have witnessed what has been going on here for three days. We are

in a city where the law enforcement is engaged in the organization of prostitution, special warfare and drugs. A trustee is appointed for the third time in this city with a budget of 135 million liras. We are in a city where the AKP organised elections with the budget of the municipality. The trustee left huge debts in many places and destroyed Kurdish gains. This is not something that only the trustee did. They did this together with the state. We will stand against the trustee regime wherever we are. The trustee regime in Kurdistan and Turkey is a conspiracy against the people. We will resist against the futurelessness left by the trustee.”

Speaking afterward, DEM Party co-chair Tuncer Bakırhan said, “A coup is taking place here, accompanied by the deployment of the military. These measures are usually taken by those who are guilty. Here, too, they are the ones who are doing wrong. And you call this democracy and the results of the ballot box. Erdoğan said after the election that they would respect the results, but he did not respect the will of the people of Hakkari. This is not democracy. This is not recognising the Kurdish will. This is a trustee coup. This is a dual law. We ignore those who ignore the results of the ballot boxes. We do not recognise your usurpation of the municipalities that were won by the people. The Kurdish people will never forget what you have done. When there is an election, our people will call you to account for this.”

EMEP Deputy Chairperson Selma Gürkan said, “They gave a try in Van and they failed. Now, they are doing it here. Mehmet Sıddık Akış was dismissed and sentenced by the decision of the government. DEM Party members were not sentenced for theft and shamelessness. But the trustees committed theft and irregularities. Many AKP mayors have looted the resources of the municipality. This order will not continue like this. Trusteeship is not a situation that concerns only Hakkari. If the trustee is successful here, no municipality in Turkey is safe. This government is a problem of democracy and we need to eliminate this problem.”

Speaking on behalf of the Federation of Socialist Assemblies, Erdal Ataş said, “We will not abandon any won positions to them. The resistance here will bring great success in labour, women's struggle, ecology, youth and every field. No matter what they do, our struggle will continue.”

DBP co-chair Keskin Bayındır said: “We will resist, we will do this under the leadership of women and youth. They cannot stand in front of the will of this people. Our people should protect their will, not only here but everywhere. Our people should stand up and resist. The will here should spread everywhere. We appeal to the conscience of the Kurdish people: the day is the day to claim their language, land and will.”

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Hakkari Municipal Council rejects the usurper, elects an acting co-mayor

ANF | HAKKARI | 7 JUNE 2024

The Hakkari Municipality won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in 31 March local elections was usurped by a government-appointed trustee on 3 June. Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık

Akış, whose office was usurped by the decision of the Turkish Ministry of Interior, was arrested with a prison sentence of 19 years and 6 months in a case that has been ongoing for 10 years. While the blockade of the municipality building continues, the elected DEM Party members of the Municipal Council convened on Friday. In the meeting held at the party's provincial building, the council members rejecting the usurper issued a declaration and elected an acting co-mayor of the municipality. The municipality council unanimously elected Viyan Tekçe, the elected co-mayor, as the acting co-mayor of the municipality.

Reading the declaration, DEM Party Deputy Co-Chair for Organisation, Vezir Coşkun Parlak, stated that the people of Hakkari had clearly demonstrated their attitude against fraud and tyranny in the 31 March elections and that the people of the city had always protected their will.

Parlak stated that the people responded on 31 March to those who used all kinds of pressure and force apparatus and furthermore engaged in the immorality of offering bribes. He continued: "This attitude had also been manifested against the trustee nominated by the government on 31 March 2019. In those elections, those who relied on the trustee were beaten by the people in the ballot boxes. Forgetting all these experiences and resorting to the same ways again is a manifestation of the state of crisis experienced by the ruling partners. Following the detention of our Co-Mayor, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, Hakkari Governor was appointed as a trustee to the municipality in accordance with a statement from the Ministry of Interior. The fact that such a decision was made without waiting for the decision of the court on 5 June is proof that the decision in question was taken with political motives."

Reacting to Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan's remark 'The law did what was necessary,' Parlak said: "The law is not applied in Hakkari. The law is not applied to Kurds. Resorting to the method of usurpation through trustees, which has long been tried but has not yielded any results, and has been proven to cause damage, brings with it great irresponsibility in terms of today's Turkey. Equipping the second century of the Republic with antidemocratic practices and methods like the first century undermines the hope and construction of a democratic Turkey. The peoples' demand is clear; a Turkey where democracy prevails, law is supreme and the peoples govern themselves, Kurdish, Turkish and all other ethnic identities and beliefs live together freely."

Pointing out that the councillors, the elected will of the municipality, do not accept the usurper, Parlak said: "There is only one place we are based on, and that is our people. It is our greatest responsibility to protect the mandate of will given by our people to our council members. With this responsibility and consciousness, we came together with our Hakkari Municipality Council members today and made some decisions to protect the will of the people of Hakkari. What should happen in a Turkey, where legal norms are applied is that the municipal council elects an acting mayor from within itself after the arrest decision. For this reason, we have elected our co-mayor Viyan Tekçe as the acting mayor as a result of the vote we held as the municipal council after the suspension of our Hakkari Municipality Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış."

Underlining their determination to continue to resist and protect the will of the people, Parlak said, "Those who usurped those seats by hiding behind tens of thousands of soldiers and police officers will not be recognised by the people and will be remembered with shame throughout history. The will of the people of Hakkari is the elected Mehmet Sıddık Akış and Viyan Tekçe. The will of the people is the elected municipal council. This will always be here and will continue to protect the rights of the people. We will continue to resist until our struggle ends in victory."

Viyan Tekçe, who was elected as acting Co-Mayor, stated the following: "We are on the 5th day of the coup against our people. Mehmet Sıddık Akış's case is a trap and conspiracy case. This government, which does not recognise the laws, should reverse its decision and our co-mayor should be reinstated. The municipality is just a building for us. For 5 years, we will be with our people and serve them. We promise this to our people. We conducted election work under very difficult conditions and made a great effort. We will not give up, and we are here with our people."

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Interview

Karasu: Turkish state turns right to visits and phone calls in prison into tools of warfare

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 JUNE 2024

KCK Executive Council member Mustafa Karasu said that "the essence of the policy of the Turkish state and the current AKP government is to liquidate the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom in every dimension and to commit genocide against the Kurds."

The isolation being imposed on the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, continues. On 3 May, another six-month visit ban was announced in the press. Reactions against this isolation are increasing day by day and a multi-faceted struggle is being waged. How do you evaluate the current situation and developments?

The essence of the policy of the Turkish state and the current AKP government is to liquidate the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom in every dimension and to commit genocide against the Kurds. The pursuit of this policy serves as the foundation for all other policies. This fact must be recognized, especially when evaluating the policies of the governments in Turkey. The policy being carried out in Imralı is also the policy of genocide against Kurds.

Rêber Apo's [Abdullah Öcalan] uprising and his struggle for freedom were always struggles against this policy of genocide. Rêber Apo initiated the struggle based on the determination that Kurdistan is a colony. Already back then, he emphasized that the main aim of the Turkish state is to turn Kurdistan into an expansion area for Turkish nationalization. In just half a century, Rêber Apo managed to create an organization, a political movement, and a society that is struggling against this policy of genocide.

Those who pursue this genocidal policy aim first and foremost to prevent society from becoming organized or having political will. They want to liquidate the organization and its leader, who fights against genocide. Rêber Apo has been targeted from the very beginning, as he is both the founder of this organization and the one who determines its ideological and political philosophy. When the Turkish state failed in

the struggle against the PKK and Rêber Apo, he was taken into captivity through an international conspiracy. The conspiracy against Rêber Apo was carried out in order to liquidate the freedom movement and the struggle against genocide, and this is also the purpose of the heavy isolation policy implemented in İmrālî today.

The policy of genocide is applied first and foremost to Rêber Apo. All other genocidal policies and practices take their source from here. If one looks at the policy being implemented in İmrālî, one can understand the policy that is and will be implemented for the Kurds. There are some who believe that regardless of what happens in İmrālî, different policies may be applied towards the Kurdish democratic political sphere, the organized forces of the Kurdish people, and society. Those people have failed to understand the reality of genocidal colonialism and its policies toward the Kurdish people. On the other hand, comparing the policy implemented by the Kurds with the policies of different peoples and nations elsewhere in the world leads to wrong evaluations and a wrong political approach. As a matter of fact, many individuals within the Kurdish political sphere and its friends are guilty of such misguided approaches.

The struggle to oppose the isolation imposed on Rêber Apo and to liberate him directly means the struggle for the freedom of the Kurdish people. In fact, if the struggle for Rêber Apo's health, security, and freedom is not put at the center of the entire freedom struggle, this struggle cannot be successful. If a society, organization, or political movement does not take care of their leader in captivity, they cannot take care of themselves; such a struggle will not bring freedom.

This reality is being analyzed by our people, their international friends, and generally the democratic forces; therefore, the struggle to liberate Rêber Apo has evolved to such an extent and on so many dimensions in the last few years. Since Rêber Apo is seen as an important ideological and political leader, not only for the Kurdish people but also for the peoples of Turkey, the Middle East, and all oppressed and exploited societies of the world, especially women, the global campaign for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo is growing stronger and stronger.

The main reason why Rêber Apo is subjected to such severe isolation is the fear of his ideological power and political ability. This in itself shows how important the liberation of Rêber Apo is for the peoples and women. The isolation in İmrālî is being imposed on the peoples of the Middle East and all humanity, especially the Kurdish people and women.

The reason why the AKP-MHP government is able to act this oppressively and anti-democratic, is the lawlessness and pressure exerted on İmrālî. Preventing Rêber Apo's thoughts from coming to life, or preventing people from demanding his freedom, is an act of oppression in itself. In fact, the hostility of the AKP-MHP government to democracy, and their violence against the smallest democratic struggle, is because they know that Kurds and democratic forces will benefit from democratization. In short, Kurdish enmity is taking the shape of enmity of democracy. Now that this reality can be seen even clearer, our people and the democratic forces are embracing Rêber Apo more and taking the struggle to new heights in many ways.

Undoubtedly, the struggle for physical freedom for Rêber Apo is developing. The global campaign, launched on October 10 by friends all over the world, and the day of reading Rêber Apo's books on December 10 are important and meaningful. This struggle must develop further to yield results. Our people say that solely the fact that Rêber Apo is still in captivity should be reason enough for us to give self-criti-

cism. Based on this self-criticism, the Kurdish people in the four parts of the country and abroad should participate more actively in this struggle. If the democratic forces in Turkey and the Middle East and the Kurdish people raise this struggle further, it will lead to the further development of the struggle for the freedom of Rêber Apo in the world.

The struggle to reunite with and physically liberate Rêber Apo has been going on for decades, and it has already achieved significant results. This struggle has been going on since 1998, 1999, i.e., for 26 years, led by those who put themselves in front of Rêber Apo and formed the slogan, 'You cannot darken our sun!' Many people gave their lives for this struggle. As a result of this, the liberation of Rêber Apo, and therefore the liberation of the Kurdish people, has come closer. Although this colonialism maintains denial and genocide in a strict manner, the ground on which it is based has weakened with the struggle of the Kurdish people and democratic forces.

Through the freedom of Rêber Apo, the liberation of the Kurdish people will be achieved. It also means the collapse of the genocidal colonialist policy. It will pave the way for the democratization of Turkey. In this respect, the current level of struggle must be raised in every sphere. It is important that the protests for the freedom of Rêber Apo have become protests in which tens of thousands of people participate. The serhildan of Wan demonstrated how results can be achieved when large groups of people participate in protests. It is necessary to concentrate on improving the existing level of protest. It is necessary to find new forms of organization and action. Repetitive actions do not produce results. When previous forms of action are used, they must be more effective. Otherwise, they become routine, and stagnation sets in. In this respect, it is important to increase the quality and impact of the actions taken every day. The social and political environment in Turkey, the Middle East, and the world is ready for the development of this kind of struggle.

Calls to the Turkish state, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), and the Council of Europe (CoE) will not achieve results. Undoubtedly, these institutions and their practices should be exposed, but only with struggle will these institutes be forced to take a step. There is significant potential within the youth in northern Kurdistan that can be mobilized for struggle. Organizing and mobilizing them with creative methods will play an important role in the development of the struggle.

There is also significant resistance in the prisons against the isolation in Imralı, which is also supported by the families of those imprisoned. What is the importance of resistance in prisons for Kurdish people and their friends?

The prisons have always played an important role in the development of the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom. The slogan 'You cannot darken our sun', and the struggle against the conspiracy that it stands for, were pioneered by them. It was they who pioneered the embrace of Rêber Apo. They formed a barricade of fire protecting Rêber Apo and thereby set the claim that this struggle must have. The support of the prisons towards Rêber Apo should be an example for everyone. Again, their latest attitude and course of action express the most correct attitude. They take the right stance and follow the right principles. Saying "we will live as our leader is living" is not only a form of action; it is an ideological-political stance.

Within the circumstances of prisons, misconceptions and wrong tendencies always emerge. In the 1980s, during the years of struggle against fascism that came upon the coup d'état of September 12, Rêber Apo

organized a prison conference because mistakes and wrong tendencies emerged. Since then, it has become a tradition to hold conferences in prisons and to correct mistakes and wrong tendencies. In fact, the course of action in prisons today, like the conferences, functions as a correction of the general struggle.

The Turkish state has turned the right to have meetings and phone calls in prison into tools and methods of special warfare. The government prevents the imprisoned from having their fundamental rights. In this respect, the decision of the prisons to live in the same conditions as Rêber Apo, is in a way an attitude against the special war being waged. This is the spirit of July 14th. They are the successors of such a tradition of resistance. This is the tradition of loyalty to Rêber Apo, the freedom movement, the martyrs and the people. Living like Rêber Apo also requires thinking like Rêber Apo and having a philosophy of freedom. In this respect, this prison resistance achieves important results. It will be better understood that Rêber Apo has always been a person of organization and action. Those who understand Rêber Apo's stance will become great militants and freedom fighters.

The struggle of the families of those in prison also has a tradition. In the 1980s, despite all kinds of insults and oppression, the families of prisoners did not give up their solidarity with their children. The government tried every way and method to prevent families from taking responsibility for their revolutionary prisoners. The families were tortured, detained, and insulted, but this only increased their anger. They became aware of the Turkish state's policy and politicized at the gates of the prisons. Just as those resisting in the prisons are the continuers of the July 14 resistance, today's prisoners' families are the successors of the families who struggled in front of the prisons in the 1980s and 1990s. We still remember how the families of prisoners, our mothers, were insulted, beaten, and dragged on the ground during the 2018–19 prison resistance. These incidents have enraged our comrades and those of us in prisons, and they have made our families more determined to continue the struggle. The families of prisoners' and the Mothers of Peace are the moral values of our struggle; they are the pillars of our revolution. Today, our mothers, whether they are the mothers of prisoners, martyrs, or guerrillas, are the mothers of the entire Kurdish society. They are the moral values of this struggle. It is the stance of our mothers that makes our struggle invincible. Those who hurt our mothers will never be guilt-free. In this respect, genocidal colonialism will not be guilt-free. In addition, the Saturday Mothers are an important part of this struggle. The whole public is aware of the pressure exerted on them. We salute them with respect and believe that their actions in the 1000th week of their protest will be an important turning point in learning about the fate of their children.

It is not right to leave the weight of resistance solely in the prisons, and therefore the struggle for the freedom of Rêber Apo, on the families of prisoners. Rêber Apo is today's pioneer of the prison resistance. The prison resistance has become the resistance for the freedom of Rêber Apo. In this respect, all our people and democratic forces, especially the youth and women, should participate in this resistance.

Today, tens of thousands of freedom fighters are imprisoned for participating in the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom. In fact, one could say that the Kurds have broken the world record for being imprisoned for political reasons. There is no other society in the world that is imprisoned as much as the Kurds. The Kurds also hold the record for the number of women imprisoned for political reasons. In fact, the entire Kurdish population is being imprisoned through those who have been imprisoned physically.

The prisoners represent the honor of Kurds at the highest level. All Kurdish people, whether they have children or relatives in prison or not, should be proud of their resistance and should support the prisoners. Some of them spent decades in prison for the freedom of the Kurdish people. Despite serving 30 to 35

years in prison, they live to protect their people and the struggle for freedom. Those who have served and completed their sentences are not being released from prisons because of this reason. The people who remain in prison and resist should be protected, respected, and their resistance supported. If they manage to resist under such difficult conditions, the Kurdish people should support this resistance and strengthen Rêber Apo's struggle for freedom.

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Karasu: The AKP-MHP government is based on Kurdish enmity

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 JUNE 2024

In the second part of this in-depth interview, Mustafa Karasu, KCK Executive Council member, spoke about the Turkish state's attacks against the guerrillas in South Kurdistan, the role of the KDP as well as the Kobane Trial.

The fascist Turkish state's invasion attacks against the Medya Defense Areas, where the guerrillas are waging a historic resistance, continue to increase. The KDP, on the other hand, provides all kinds of support to the fascist Turkish state in order to relieve the difficult situation the Turkish state is in. In this sense, how should the guerrilla resistance be embraced and what kind of attitude should be taken against the fascist Turkish state and especially the KDP?

The Turkish state has been attacking the Medya Defense Areas for decades. In the last three years, it has increasingly sustained these attacks. These attacks are part of an operation for complete occupation. The Turkish state will not leave any of the places it has entered by itself again. When it finds the opportunity, it will occupy the whole of southern Kurdistan. Its strong interest in Kirkuk and organizing there should be seen as part of this invasion operation. It has established a base in Bashiqa, and even though Iraq says this base must be left, the Turkish state has not left. The Turkish state emphasizes at every opportunity that Mosul and Kirkuk provinces are within the Misak-ı Milli and belong to them. At the time of the declaration of the National Pact, there was no policy of denial, assimilation, or genocide of the Kurds. There was talk of Kurdish self-government in Kurdistan. Today, the Kurds are being subjected to physical and cultural genocide, and Kurdistan is being turned into an expansion area for Turkish nationalization. The KDP is cooperating with such an anti-Kurdish and genocidal state. It is now a partner in the genocide of Kurds.

At the moment, their attacks are spreading even further. But there is historical resistance against this, especially since the fall of 2023. The Turkish army is being dealt heavy blows, and they are forced to constantly withdraw their soldiers who have become unable to fight and bring in new troops instead. Since it cannot achieve results in this way, it is trying to involve the KDP more actively in the war. As a matter of fact, the KDP is establishing outposts in areas close to Turkish troops, protecting and providing logistics for these troops. On behalf of the Iraqi border troops, most of whom are members of the KDP, the KDP is increasing the siege around the guerrillas. The main purpose of the Turkish visits to Baghdad and Hewler was to liquidate the guerrillas. The Turkish state wants to use the 'Development Road Project' as a tool to drag the Iraqi state into it.

In order to liquidate the guerrillas and the freedom struggle as a whole, they want to turn the PUK into a complicit as well. Just as the KDP legitimizes the attacks of the Turkish state in Rojava, Shengal (Sinjar), Makhmour, and the Medya Defense Zones, it is now trying to legitimize the attacks of the Turkish state on the PUK. The KDP is even insisting that the Turkish state increase pressure on the PUK and is therefore promising to fight more actively against the PKK if the Turkish state manages to drag the PUK to war. When the PUK objected to those attempts, the KDP said, "I cannot use my full power in the war against the PKK." As if their own betrayal was not enough, they wanted the PUK to join their policy of betrayal. In this way, they aim to cover up their own guilt. The KDP goes as far as to portray the war against the PKK as a war between all southern parties and political forces. The KDP is this deep in betrayal. Though, we must say that the attitude and struggle against this stance of the KDP is insufficient. This issue is closely related to the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom. Taking a stance against the KDP's betrayal is very important in terms of carrying out the struggle for freedom and democracy of the four parts of Kurdistan with the right principles. It is also necessary to take a stance against the KDP to protect the guerrillas, which is the biggest and most sacrificial force in the history of Kurdistan and has played a historical role in bringing the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom and democracy to a very important level in every part of Kurdistan. It is a patriotic duty to take a stance against the KDP, which openly sides with the Turkish state. A high level of patriotism is crucial for the success of a people's struggle against a colonialist and genocidal power. In this respect, it is very important to take a stance against the KDP. It is not possible that it commits so much collaboration and betrayal, and no stance is taken against it. This situation lowers the measures of patriotism and makes them vague. It creates great danger and harm for the struggle of the Kurdish people.

Someone who recently appeared on Medya Haber TV in northern Kurdistan said, "Don't call the KDP traitors, society does not want them to be called traitors." We know well that people in northern Kurdistan call the KDP traitors. What else would people name a party that works with the enemy to kill their children? The Turkish state wants a genocide against all Kurds. It does not accept the status in the south either. Everyone knows that the Turkish state has said that they "will not make the same mistake in Rojava as [they] did in the south." In other words, when they find the opportunity, they will take action to abolish the status in the south too.

The KDP is supporting the Turkish state in its attempts to liquidate the PKK. It besieges guerrilla areas, ambushes guerrillas, and blocks roads to prevent reinforcements, logistics, and ammunition from being sent to guerrilla areas. It legitimizes the Turkish state's attack on the Medya Defense Zones. The Turkish army has established dozens of bases in southern Kurdistan. The Turkish Intelligence Service (MIT) is roaming in southern Kurdistan, targeting PUK areas. It legitimizes the occupations in Rojava; the KDP-affiliated formation called ENKS cooperates with the occupation forces and gangs. In Shengal, it both encourages the attacks of the Turkish state and has the Turkish state assassinate Êzidî [Yazidi] commanders and members of their administrations with the intelligence it provides. It provides intelligence in relation to patriots in Makhmour as well and enables the Turkish state, in this way, to murder those people. The KDP, which has relations and partnerships at all levels with the fascist AKP-MHP government and implements the policies of Kurdish enmity and genocide in the most reckless manner, should be called a traitor.

If the KDP, which is in relations with the genocidal Turkish to such an extent, is not called a traitor, then the measures of patriotism have fallen to their absolute minimum. This is the biggest danger for Kurds. Lowering the measures of patriotism is the greatest harm to the Kurdish freedom struggle and the society that is facing genocide. In this respect, instead of questioning why the KDP is being called a traitor, those

who do not need to be questioned and criticized. The inadequate attitude towards the KDP needs to be criticized. Inadequate attitudes towards the KDP pave the way for continued betrayal.

The fascist AKP-MHP continues its attacks not only militarily but also politically, in order to complete the Kurdish genocide. Politicians were given heavy sentences in the so-called 'Kobane Trials'. The reasons and consequences of these trials and the sentences given, continue to be discussed. What kind of goal is being pursued with these sentences given to politicians?

The Kobane Trial is a conspiracy case, as members of the HDP have stated. The fact that this trial was initiated four years after the Kobane protests is clear evidence that this trial is a political conspiracy. The trial was carried out according to the instructions of the AKP-MHP government; it continued for seven years and sentences were handed down according to the instructions of those who plotted this trial. It is said by everyone, except the AKP-MHP government, that the judiciary is under the command of the political power.

One of the most fundamental pillars of the genocide policy against Kurds is political genocide. The executions of Sheikh Sayit and his friends, as well as the executions of Seyit Riza and his friends, were part of this political genocide. The arrest of the 49'ers was also part of it. As well as the imprisonment of thousands of revolutionaries and patriotic people, especially in Amed in the 1980s. The international conspiracy against Rêber Apo and him being kept in heavy isolation for 26 years is also political genocide. Today, tens of thousands of revolutionaries, patriots, democrats, and politicians being sentenced for tens of years is also political genocide. The genocidal colonialist Turkish state wants to complete its genocide policy against the Kurds on the basis of these dimensions of political genocide. In Turkey, the constitution and laws are aimed at genocide, and in cases where the constitution and laws are not legally permissible, the constitution and laws are set aside, and political genocide is practiced. The sentences given in the Kobane Conspiracy Trial are such.

The aim of political genocide policies and practices is to discourage the struggle for freedom and democracy. It is aimed at liberalizing and pacifying the thoughts of political prisoners by keeping them in prisons for years and "rehabilitating" them. They aim to push these prisoners to internalize the state in thought and action. By keeping people in prisons, the state aims to keep society unorganized and leaderless.

In the Kobane Trials, the HDP co-chairs Figen Yuksekdag and Selahattin Demirtas were given maximum sentences. In this way, the state is trying to dissuade people from becoming co-chairs and, generally, from taking responsibility within democratic parties. This is how they respond to the insistence of the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom. They are also trying to dissuade the Turkish socialists and democratic forces with these brutal prison sentences, saying that if these circles affiliate with the Kurds, they will be burned in the same way. Thus, it has been seen once again that the state fears the joint struggle of the democratic forces of the Kurdish people and the democratic forces of Turkey.

According to the mentality of the Turkish state, doing politics with the Kurds constitutes a crime. Since the existence of the Kurds is not recognized and genocide is the goal, the struggle against this policy is seen as the biggest crime. Let me emphasize one point: Turkey has a one-article constitution. This is to genocide the Kurds. The laws are also organized accordingly. When they cannot achieve this de jure, they try to achieve it de facto. Then, through extensions such as courts of appeal, the Supreme Court, and the Constitutional Court, these sentences are normalized as if they were given according to the rule of law. In this

way, people who have not even been sentenced according to the Constitution and laws are kept in prisons for years.

In short, the aim of those prison sentences is to intimidate politicians and deprive society of its political leaders. Thus, society is also threatened.

Around the elections and before the Kobane Trials there were discourses about a potential 'softening-normalization' process. Looking at the sentences handed down in the Kobane Trials, what remains of this 'softening-normalization' process?

Before the elections, a perception operation was carried out against the Kurds as if there would be a normalization process after April 1. The palace-centered special warfare institutes and the MIT tried to create this perception. Some influential spheres within the KDP also tried to spread these perceptions in order for the AKP to get some Kurdish votes in the elections. Some people within and around Kurdish democratic politics have also expressed, in good faith, an expectation that they would like to see this happen. Of course there are reasons for this. The Kurdish people and the democratic political arena have been under heavy pressure for many years. Despite their electing co-mayors of municipalities in elections, the state appoints trustees. In this respect, they naively wish for an environment where there will be no oppression. They are approaching according to their intentions and aspirations, not according to the real situation. We understand such expectations and desires. Making evaluations and comments without understanding the underlying realities does not lead to the achievement of aspirations; on the contrary, it pushes them further away. Against the perception-building efforts surrounding a normalization process, we say that whether AKP wins or loses, it will not change its policy against the Kurds and the forces of democracy. Of course, if it had won, it would have implemented its repressive policies more harshly than before. It is trying to do so now, but now the AKP-MHP government has weakened. Therefore, it will experience some setbacks in implementation. Since their fundamental mindset and policy has not changed, the AKP-MHP will try to achieve the same goal through different ways and methods. This will be in the underlying reason for any normalization process: to neutralize the Kurdish people's freedom struggle and democracy forces, thus completing the genocide policy.

Processes of softening and normalization require a change of policy. Neither the AKP nor the AKP-MHP alliance has a policy change. The rhetoric of softening and normalization without a policy change, means nothing more than covering up old policies. If there is to be normalization, the use of the judiciary as a political tool must be overcome. On the contrary, it seems that this will continue, let alone be overcome. Some detainees are being released in order to add legitimacy to the politicized judiciary. Still, we have seen that the judiciary will continue to be used as a political tool with the preparation of an indictment covering up the murder of Sinan Ateş and the verdicts in the Kobane Trial. The arrest of dozens of May 1 protesters is clear evidence that the pressure on the forces of democracy will continue.

Why has the judiciary in Turkey become a political apparatus of the government? Why has it created so much polarization? Why has it established an unprecedented system of repression? Why does it want to reinforce this repressive order with new laws? Without answering these questions, any talk of softening and normalization is nothing more than deceiving the public. The judiciary has been politicized to such an extent in order to suppress and liquidate the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom and the forces of democracy. A repressive order has been established at this level, and the 'others' have been marginalized, and polarization has been created like never before in Turkey's history. In order to suppress the Kurdish people's

struggle for freedom more easily and to implement the genocide policy, unprecedented pressure has been put on the democratic forces. So much so that even the CHP was declared a traitor when it made some democratic statements. Because it is thought that every democratic discourse weakens the genocide policy against the Kurds. In this respect, the discourse of softening and normalizing without a change in policy towards the Kurds is nothing but a deception.

The Kurds and democratic forces say that the source of the oppression in Turkey is the policy of isolation and oppression in İmralı. Without a change in Kurdish policy starting with İmralı, it would be a fantasy to expect the political environment in Turkey to soften. Devlet Bahçeli said that “no one should expect a softening after the Kobane Trial.” He said that the sentences handed down in the trials were political. He openly expressed that a normalization process will only be initiated if the policy of the MHP is adopted. With his statements, Devlet Bahçeli gave Özgür Özel the following message: “If you are Kurdish-hostile, you will be accepted; otherwise, our pre-election discourse and approaches towards the CHP will continue.” Özgür Özel could have told Devlet Bahçeli that the Kobane Trials are, of course, political. But by responding only to the Sinan Ates case, Özgür Özel glossed over the fact that the judiciary is under the command of politics.

The AKP-MHP government is based on Kurdish enmity. This is why the MHP has taken part in this alliance, and that also signals that this will continue. Still, they want to create the perception that a process of normalization is possible. It is not. To assume that this is possible, one must be blind to the politicization of the judiciary, the repression, and the polarization. These are no different from the policy of attack against the Kurds. People ought not to bury their heads in the sand.

In fact, the CHP has fallen into Tayyip Erdoğan’s trap. The AKP-MHP will continue its old policies, and when the CHP and its chairman fight against this policy, Erdogan will blame them for opposing the strategy of softening and normalization. The other alternative is that the CHP will not oppose or fight against the AKP-MHP government’s policies on fundamental issues. The new leader of the CHP would be softened and would no longer be an obstacle to the AKP-MHP government. Thus, while the public voted for the CHP against the AKP-MHP alliance, the CHP will be in a situation contrary to the will of the people.

Debates regarding Turkey’s constitution are being held in an environment of brutal attacks against Kurds. There is now an attempt to introduce the practice of ‘influence agency’ through the judiciary. How do you evaluate these discussions and the ‘influence agency’ practice?

With the argument that they are opposing the constitution developed by the coup d’état and want to formulate a civilian constitution, the AKP aims to make a constitution that is even more fascist than its current state, aiming solely to legalize the Kurdish genocide. They will want to make a constitution that normalizes and legitimizes the Kurdish genocide and the suppression of the Kurdish people’s struggle for freedom. They will accuse their opponents of defending the coup constitution if they disagree. The agenda for a new constitution is an agenda to divert society. How could it be expected that the AKP, whose main alliance is the MHP, would form a civilian and democratic constitution? Surely, those who long for a new constitution the most are the MHP and Devlet Bahçeli. It is clear that the İYİ Party and the Grand Union Party will also be on this front. A so-called civilian constitution can be made with these parties, but this constitution will not be democratic; in fact, it will make the old constitution look better. In fact, there are almost no unchanged articles in this constitution except for the preamble and other articles directly related to the Kurdish genocide. There used to be articles like 168 and 171 in the penal code. By replacing them

with the 'Anti-Terror Law', they made those old laws favorable. They paved the way to legitimize throwing everyone into prison.

With the 'influence agency', they want to enact an openly fascist law that would rival all fascist penal code articles, even the anti-terrorism law. Which democratic civilian constitution can those who are considering such a law come up with? Anyway, when they say civil constitution, they do not mean a democratic constitution. There cannot be a law as subjective as the 'influence agency' law. Criminal laws look for concrete evidence, but the 'influence agency' law requires no concrete evidence. Judges will decide whether a person is an agent of influence or not. With this law, anyone who criticizes the policies of the government will be easily labeled as an influence agent. The new argument used to increase polarization, marginalization, and declaring enemies will be 'influence agency'. With this law, all Kurds will be accused of spying for the PKK. The Kurds' demands for freedom and democracy and all their actions will be evaluated in this way. Some circles are claiming that the talks of democracy, freedom, Kurds, and Kurdistan are the doing of foreign powers who want to divide Turkey. Therefore, all who make such demands are the spies of foreign states. Those who talk about democracy and democratization will be accused of spying with the argument that they are opening space for Kurds and separatism. In short, not only Kurds but all democratic forces opposed to the government will be punished as spies. Even this law proves that the AKP-MHP government has no intention of abandoning its current policies. There will be neither normalization nor a constitution with this government. There is nothing good to be done with this government. This government is a government of evil. These evils can only be overcome by overthrowing this government.

Undoubtedly, the Kurds and the democratic forces want this constitution to change. However, making a democratic constitution requires a democratic mentality and a democratic environment. There is no such environment. Kurds and democratic forces have been demanding a new constitution for 40 years; they were the ones who opposed the 1982 constitution from the beginning. Now, the AKP-MHP government wants to make a constitution that does not accept the existence, identity, culture, and mother tongue education of Kurds. With a new constitution, the current government wants to deny the existence of the Kurds even more. On this basis, the Kurds and democratic forces can put forward their own constitutional understanding and expose the AKP-MHP government's constitutional understanding and the reasons why the government is putting forward such an agenda. Otherwise, getting caught up in the AKP's constitutional agenda would be to loosen the struggle and feed society with false expectations.

What attitude should the Kurdish people, the democratic forces and, of course, the opposition forces within the system take in such a process where the struggle is tried to be loosened with 'soft special war' methods?

If the democratic forces of the Kurdish people and Turkey do not establish a broad alliance of democratic struggle, the opposition forces within the system cannot do much against AKP-MHP fascism. The AKP-MHP fascist power has been weakened. The people have rejected the policies of this government. First and foremost, it has rejected the MHP mentality that determines the policies of this government. Now, the AKP government is politically hostage to the MHP. This eight-year alliance has turned the AKP into the MHP. There is no longer any difference between both parties. The vast majority of former AKP members have already left the AKP. Now there is an AKP made up of those who defend classical state policy and those who are with the AKP only for self-interest. With this character, the AKP has become very weak. In this respect, the possibility of a successful struggle against the AKP-MHP government has increased. The results of the municipal elections have prepared the ground for this. In this respect, the laxity of the intra-system opposition forces and their lack of determination to fight against the AKP-MHP government im-

pose a historic task on the radical democratic forces. The current environment requires radical opposition forces to play the role of real opposition to the AKP-MHP government. If the democratic forces of the Kurdish people and Turkey strengthen their alliance and engage in an active struggle against the AKP-MHP government, then the opposition forces within the system can also show the strength to fight the current government.

At the moment, the CHP's attitude towards the AKP-MHP government is being criticized. However, the radical democratic forces, including the DEM Party, should be criticized even more. Unless the broadest forces of democracy are brought together against fascist governments, no effective and fruitful struggle can be waged. It is irresponsible that they do not create a strong alliance against AKP-MHP fascism. Is democratization then expected from the CHP or, as some think, from the AKP? No ideological difference, no political difference of opinion can be an excuse for not forming such an alliance. The inability of the left in Turkey to make a move in the midst of such a crisis is due to its narrow and self-limited understanding of organization and struggle. The Kurdish democratic forces and their alliance, which have the strong social support needed for democracy and freedom, are most responsible for creating such an alliance and the struggle for democracy. Kurdish democratic forces should reconsider the HDP's ideology and understanding of alliances at the time of its foundation. This idea is what is needed today. The fact that the AKP government and its Kurdish collaborators attack the idea and politics of the HDP the most is due to the fact that the idea of the HDP is the real alternative to the current government. The 'third way,' which was brought to the agenda with the idea behind the HDP, is also the way to form the broadest democratic alliance. Those who oppose the alliance policy are those who oppose the third way. The third way does not mean not engaging in political tactics. On the contrary, there is a need for the Kurdish people and democratic forces. The Kurdish people and the democratic forces of the peoples of Turkey need to build an alliance of democracy with the widest spectrum. Undoubtedly, the HDP is a party with many components and many common denominators. At the same time, they can form alliances with other forces, parties, and movements. What is desirable is to create parties and political movements with as many or even more components than the HDP. But there can also be alliances where different political forces come together. Such alliances are most welcome because they are able to lift greater responsibility towards the people.

Undoubtedly, those who form such alliances and fight against the AKP-MHP constantly remind that the opposition forces within the system, for which the people vote, must also oppose and fight against the policies of the AKP-MHP government in line with the will of the people. Those who voted for the forces within the system did not vote for reconciliation with the AKP-MHP government and a soft struggle against their unaccepted policies. They voted for the CHP against the AKP-MHP and made it the first party because the CHP talked about democratization. Then they should fight against this undemocratic government. If they don't do this, the support of the people will decrease. The AKP-MHP is waging a special war on the CHP to ensure that the support of the people decreases. Knowing this reality, the forces that will actually develop the struggle for democratization must organize themselves and develop the struggle.

Karasu: The AKP-MHP government has become a power of evil

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 JUNE 2024

In the third part of this in-depth interview, KCK Executive Council member, Mustafa Karasu spoke about the AKP-MHP government and its policies against Kurds as well as the Israeli war against Palestine.

As the AKP-MHP government insists on attacking your movement, the Kurdish people and the democratic forces, it deepens the crisis within Turkey. How should this situation be understood?

The 1990s, like today, were years when the dirty special war intensified. The Turkish state committed around 15 thousand unsolved murders (carried out by the state and Hizbulkontra), thousands of villages were burned down, over five million of our people were forced to migrate to metropolises and Europe, thousands of our people were imprisoned, and we faced severe torture. All this in order to suppress serhildans and crush the guerrillas. As a result of this dirty war, not only the economy has collapsed, but a social and cultural crisis has emerged. The morality and conscience of society have been corrupted through Kurdish enmity. Those who are enemies of Rêber Apo, the PKK, and the Kurds are allowed to do anything. They act like they have the right to do all kinds of dirty work. All social and cultural values have been corrupted; in other words, everything has gone haywire. At that time, drugs were being smuggled by the state itself to raise funds for the war. The war in the 1990s turned the state into a mafia. All kinds of dirty deeds and immorality were carried out under the name of being hostile to Rêber Apo and the PKK.

The last nine years look like the 1990s. There have been years of escalation in the dirty special war. Just like in the 1990s, an economic, political, social, and cultural crisis has emerged. Since everything was indexed to the dirty war, art, culture, and sports were turned into tools of the special war against the Kurdish people. The special war against the Kurdish people and the democratic forces has corrupted and polluted everything in Turkey. Turkey has become a corrupted and polluted country in every respect. A fascist dictatorship that has never been seen anywhere in the world has been established. Society has been turned into enemies. In fact, a state of civil war has been created. The AKP-MHP government has become a power of evil. A fascism has been created that focuses on what evil will be done to society and opposition forces in the morning and evening. A Turkish-type fascism unprecedented in the world has been built. The execution of a government whose policies are determined by the MHP as an alliance could not be expected otherwise.

In these nine years of AKP-MHP rule, MHP has spread everywhere like an octopus. From the police to the judiciary and bureaucracy. The MHP is a parallel state in Turkey. Since the AKP government has no purpose or principle other than to stay in power through political games, it is trying to prolong its life by turning a blind eye to various forces becoming parallel states. This is Erdoğan's politics, his pragmatism. This policy has now become self-defeating. What was once said about the Fetullahists is now said about the MHP. Because of this status as a parallel state, Devlet Bahçeli is making threats on a daily basis and is trying to adjust the government and other political forces.

The AKP-MHP government smuggles arms and drugs to raise money for the war. By attracting all the black money centers, mafias and gangs of Europe to Turkey, it has provided resources to its economy through black money. Currently, Turkey has become the country where all mafia organizations are based.

It also harbors and feeds gang organizations such as ISIS, and then markets them when the time comes. Turkey has become the blackmail state, the ransom state of the world. Such a country does not only experience economic, political, social and cultural crises. The most widespread drug use in Turkey occurred during the period of AKP-MHP rule. Again, dragging women into prostitution increased during this period of government. Femicides also increased during this period, since this government maintains its power through misogyny. The woman is seen as an object on which power and sovereignty are based.

These dirty war policies polluted the state, society, and all institutions. It created the groundwork for the emergence of these mafia structures and gangs. What can be seen now is that there are internal fights about power. The gangs have risen even above the legal state; therefore, the state itself has become a gang state. In such a situation, conflict is inevitable. The gang organization that is now coming to light is only the tip of the iceberg. The gangs affiliated with the MHP are being organized and growing under the slogan 'Vatan Millet Sakarya'. But there are gangs based not only on the MHP but also on the AKP. Those, on the other hand, organize and grow under the slogan 'Religion, Faith, Call to Prayer'. Turkey has turned into a country parceled out by religious-nationalist gangs, and without a doubt, the war between those groups will increase even more. The MHP and the gangs under its protection will not give them the opportunity they have by saying, "When it comes to the homeland, everything else is unimportant." This slogan has become the basic slogan of all fascists, gangs, and anti-democratic forces.

As the war between Israel and Hamas continues, the number of Palestinians killed has exceeded 36 thousand. Reactions against Israel are increasing day by day. Turkish President Erdoğan, on the other hand, continues to embrace Hamas openly. What is the current stage of Israel's war on Palestine and what is Erdoğan's influence on the Palestinian people's struggle?

The Jewish-Arab conflict has a history of three thousand years. This fight existed even before the emergence of Islam. Religious and nationalist understandings ensure the continuation of this fight. As long as religious-nationalist and nation-state understandings are not abandoned, this fight cannot be ended. The solution to this problem cannot be the destruction of one by the other. In this respect, Democratic Confederalism, which refers to a democratic non-state administration in which all communities recognize each other, is the only solution. It is not a confederation of states. It is a democratic system where all different ethnic and religious communities are free and have their own governments. All other parts of society and all other peoples are also organized on a democratic basis, and they come together in a democratic confederal formation. Palestinians and Jews can live together in a democratic system that is not one in which one becomes a state and exercises sovereignty over the other. It is a system in which the Palestinians are free and self-governing in their own land. In the 21st century, this is the way to solve problems. It is necessary to overcome the nation-state mentality that has caused great suffering for humanity. The result of religious-nationalist understandings is today's Israel-Hamas war.

Israel persecutes the Palestinian people under the pretext of Hamas. Of course, the mentality and actions of Hamas are unacceptable. Hamas has become a provocateur organization. However, massacring the Palestinian people in response to Hamas' attacks is a crime against humanity. The human conscience does not accept this. Like this Israel is doomed. Neither Hamas nor Israel will win. This war has revealed that both mentalities have lost.

The whole world is now taking a conscientious, humane, moral, and democratic stand against Israel. This is due to the fact that in the 1960s and 1970s, the Palestinian liberation struggle hosted revolutionary and

socialist organizations of 72 nations and national liberation fighters. The Palestinian people have thus established a relationship of friendship with the revolutionary democratic forces and peoples of the world. The PKK also stayed in Palestinian camps from 1979 on and benefited from the facilities of Palestinian organizations. The basis and source of the Palestinian people's high level of support in the world today is that they opened their space to revolutionary organizations in the 1960s and 1970s. This reality has created today's support. This is the reality that has created the magnitude of this support. This support has nothing to do with Hamas. It is the relationship that the Palestinian people and their organized forces established with the peoples of the world and revolutionary organizations 50–60 years ago. Palestinians and those who support the Palestinian struggle must be aware of this reality. It is not a public opinion created by Hamas and organizations with a similar mentality. It is a public opinion created by the democratic forces that have been in touch with the Palestinians for decades. Without recognizing this reality, one cannot understand the solidarity shown to the Palestinian people in the world today and the source of the reaction against Israel and its supporters.

Fascist Erdoğan's pretense of being pro-Hamas is just a policy of threats and blackmail. He is saying that "if you want us to oppose Hamas, you will support my Kurdish and regional policy." In essence, he is pursuing a policy of blackmail: "Support my Kurdish genocide policy, and I will change my Hamas policy." The Turkish state does not want peace and stability in the Middle East. It has the understanding and policy that it needs war and chaos so that the Turkish state will be needed. At the moment, Turkey is the only state that wants the Israeli-Hamas war to spread and become an Israeli-Arab, Israeli-Iranian war. It is the AKP-MHP government in Turkey.

Let's take for example Iran; President Ibrahim Reisi was killed in a helicopter crash. The TV channels affiliated with the AKP-MHP government have been the ones that have speculated the most on this issue and raised the possibility that he might have been shot by Israel. When these TV channels and the press are observed, it becomes clear that Turkey wants the war between Israel and Hamas to become widespread.

Everyone can see whether the AKP is truly siding with Palestine. The AKP insulted a member of parliament who disclosed that Erdoğan had the most trade agreements with Israel while claiming to support Palestine. They killed the person who said this, yet they did not end trade until after the March 31st elections. This alone shows that for the AKP-MHP government, what the Palestinian people are going through is only a political tool. Surely, no one believes that a government that persecutes other peoples and communities, especially Kurds, acts morally and conscientiously towards Palestine.

For decades, Turkey has been carrying out a policy of genocide against the Kurds with the support of the US and Europe through its relations with Israel. Today, if it has problems or takes a stance with Israel or any other power, it is because it wants to gain support for the Kurdish genocide. The Turkish state's foreign policy is based on this. Its blackmails, threats, and criticism of certain powers, are all aimed at gaining such support. Both the Kurdish people and the democratic forces should be aware of this reality.

Opinion

Resistance in İmralı made success inevitable

GULCIYA BARAN | BEHDINAN | 2 JUNE 2024

Courts whose eyes are covered with black tape cannot speak of justice and fairness. 25 years and 3 months of isolation clearly reveal this fact. Relevant organisations remain silent in the face of this unlawfulness. With its recent attitude, the CPT, which is supposed to monitor this situation, has completely handed over the strings to the Turkish state.

The colonisers burned hundreds of villages, carried out massacres and slaughtered the pioneers of the people in order to suppress the rebellions. With the emergence of Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], the Kurdish people woke up from the sleep of death. The country was no longer unclaimed. With the establishment of the PKK, all state powers realised the danger to their system of capitalist modernity. So, they mobilised, held meetings and made plans. As a result, they decided to carry out an international conspiracy. Leader Apo was captured on 15 February 1999 and taken to İmralı Island.

The founder of the idea of democratic modernity, which has become an alternative all over the world today, has been in isolation in İmralı for 25 years and 3 months. The occupying states thought they could capture the will of millions in a cell. These 25 years and 3 months, however, showed their defeat and failure. Today, Leader Apo's philosophy has become a manifesto of struggle in many countries. Millions of people have accepted Rêber Apo as their leader and mobilised for his physical freedom.

With his resistance and the struggle in İmralı, Leader Apo frustrated the projects of the states to design the Middle East. The governments now know that every word from the mouth of Leader Apo can change the general agenda of the world. To prevent this, contact with him is not allowed. Although the conspiratorial forces want to close their eyes and ears to this isolation, they cannot escape the current reality. Today, Leader Apo is everywhere. The Turkish state and all capitalist powers are making a series of plans every day. They are holding Leader Apo hostage by applying absolute isolation. They assumed that when they cut Leader Apo's connection with the outside world, the freedom guerrillas would be liquidated and the people would lose hope.

Leader Apo himself made the most accurate assessment on this subject and said, 'I am wherever my defence is'. Therefore, Leader Apo is everywhere and has become everyone's picture and map. The occupiers do not accept this fact easily, and for this reason they have not allowed any information to be obtained from Leader Apo for the last 3 years and 2 months. Everyone should be aware of this situation and not be deceived. It is true that for 3 years and 2 months no information has been received and that the isolation is getting heavier, but the isolation has been in place for 25 years and 3 months. With this isolation, they want to take revenge for the failure of the 1925 plans they have been pursuing for a hundred years. That is why they are constantly making plans.

Against this isolation system and the International Conspiracy, the freedom guerrillas, the Kurdish people and the forces in favour of freedom turned their bodies into firebombs and burned themselves in the heart of the enemy. Thus, they formed a ring of fire with their bodies so that no one could approach Leader Apo. This situation has never been seen in any period of history. These events were experienced for the first time in Kurdistan. The slogan 'You cannot darken our sun' was written in golden letters in the history of humanity. The war that the guerrillas wage every day based on this legacy of resistance, the stance of the rebellious people and the support of millions of freedom lovers, hit the invaders like a slap in the face.

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