

THE IMRALI POST

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

Issue № 108 / 5 July 2024 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	3
Vigil in Adana: Imrali is the address for the solution to the Kurdish question.....	3
Activists on vigil in front of the UN for 41 months appeal to international organisations.....	3
Activists from Frankfurt am Main take over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg.....	4
Laura Castel Fort: Even in Guantanamo there has been no such an isolation regime as Öcalan suffers.....	5
Young women demonstrate for Abdullah Öcalan's freedom in Strasbourg.....	6
Öcalan's lawyers submit another application for a visit to Imrali.....	7
CoE to discuss ECtHR's 'violation' judgement on Abdullah Öcalan.....	7
Prisons in Turkey.....	9
Trial of journalist Ehmed abducted by the KDP in October postponed.....	9
Protest by prisoners demanding freedom for Abdullah Öcalan reaches day 220.....	10
Iranian state won't allow Zeinab Jalalian any medical treatment unless she signs letter of 'regret'	10
Prisoner Güzel released after 31 years.....	11
Political prisoner released on the verge of death dies.....	11
Military aggression and occupation.....	12
Turkish army bombs Assyrian village of Mîska in South Kurdistan.....	12
KCK: Comrade Helmet will always live in the hearts of his people.....	12
Prominent ISIS leader arrested in special operation by the YPJ.....	14
PUK: Turkey's sole aim is to disrupt Iraq's security and stability.....	14
New access ban in various regions in the Kurdish province of Şîrnak.....	15
HPG reports on war in South Kurdistan.....	16
Turkey resettles 800 refugees in Girê Spi.....	17
"Security wall" between South Kurdistan and Rojhilat turned into military forbidden zone.....	17
Turkish airstrike starts a fire on Mount Metina in South Kurdistan.....	18
KCK: Iraqi Interior Ministry is spreading slander and manipulation.....	19
31 years ago, the Madımak massacre.....	20
The Turkish state kidnaps at least 40 people in Afrin in a month.....	20
HPG publishes balance sheet for June.....	21
KCK: The common struggle of the peoples stands against every massacre.....	23
PUK spokesperson Pîre: Ugly scenarios are attempt of postponing elections.....	25
Pogrom against Syrians: Racist attacks spread across Turkey.....	26
SOHR: 30 Syrians were killed and injured in gunfire by Turkish forces in northern Syria.....	26
TEV-DEM calls on Syrian forces to stand in solidarity and rise up against Turkey's corrupt policies.....	27
MSD calls on Syrians to organise a national congress for liberation.....	28
Mîhçî: Racist attacks are the consequences of war policies.....	29
Turkey and its mercenaries carried out 31 attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria in June.....	30

KCK calls for solidarity with all Syrian peoples against racist attacks in Turkey.....	32
KCK: Turkey deploys ISIS mercenaries to embattled regions in southern Kurdistan.....	34
HPG: Gerillas carried out several actions in Zap, Metîna and Heftanîn.....	36
Residents call for emergency aid as Turkey bombs a village in Duhok countryside.....	37
33 political parties and organisations: Damascus-Ankara rapprochement will deepen the crisis.....	37
Self-sacrificial guerrillas complete training.....	39
El Erec: If all Syrians are united, Turkey cannot do anything.....	40
HPG: Four air actions carried out by Martyr Axîn Mûş Unit.....	41
Footage of guerrilla action in Zap.....	41
International campaign against Turkey's occupation of Iraq and South Kurdistan.....	42
Some village guards resign after being forced to move to occupied Afrin.....	44
Turkish army burns villages in South Kurdistan.....	45
Femicide.....	45
Zilan, a symbol of resistance for Kurdish women.....	46
KCK: Zilan brought the struggle to its peak.....	49
Turkish sergeants who sexually assaulted minors in Çukurca set free.....	50
Men killed at least 34 women in Turkey in June.....	51
Human Rights Violations.....	51
Kurdish workers attacked in Muğla.....	52
Two lawyers detained in Istanbul.....	52
Eight Kurdish journalists sentenced to six years and three months in prison each.....	53
RTÜK revokes license of independent radio station Açık Radyo.....	53
Peace in Kurdistan / Respect for the Will.....	54
Co-mayor of Hakkari Municipality calls for a joint struggle.....	54
DEM Party Councillors prevented from entering the usurped Hakkari Municipality.....	55
6-day 'Respect for the Will March' from Van to Hakkari kicks off.....	56
'Respect for the Will March': The path to democracy passes through Hakkari.....	57
Respect for the Will March: Colonial law applied in Hakkari.....	58
Interview.....	58
Zilar Stêrk: Zilan's action was a turning point.....	58
Opinion.....	61
Erdoğan continues to dig graves for Kurds.....	61

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Vigil in Adana: Imrali is the address for the solution to the Kurdish question

ANF | ADANA | 30 JUNE 2024

The Adana Provincial Organization of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) demanded an end to the usurpation of will in the vigil held together with political parties and civil society organizations in the city.

Although there was no ban on demonstrations and events in the city, Turkish police tried to prevent the action. The crowd, surrounded by the police, held a vigil in the square.

The people at the vigil also commemorated Sheick Seîd and his friends on the 99th anniversary of their execution.

DEM Party Adana Provincial co-chair Seyfettin Aydemir paid tribute to Sheick Seîd and his friends and reminded that Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan was given "aggravated life imprisonment" on the day Sheick Seîd and his friends were executed. Aydemir said: "The Kurdish people know very well that the main problem is an insistence on the lack of solution to the Kurdish question. However, the most important issue of this country is the Kurdish question. Neither democracy will come to this country nor the economy will improve unless the Kurdish question is solved. The solution is clear. The solution is to in Imrali."

Aydemir called on AKP-MHP to end the usurpation of people's will.

— ★ —

Activists on vigil in front of the UN for 41 months appeal to international organisations

ANF | GENEVA | 3 JULY 2024

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

lation of the Kurdish leader on the Turkish prison island of İmralı, the Turkish occupation attacks on Kurdistan, the massacres committed in Kurdish territories and the silence of the UN.

This week's demonstration, which is held at a tent set up in Nation Square where the UN Office is located, started with a minute of silence in memory of the Kurdistan Freedom Martyrs, followed by a speech by Ramazan Kızılkurt from the Action Committee.

Kızılkurt drew attention to the situation of Abdullah Öcalan, who is held under conditions of absolute isolation in İmralı High Security Prison, and said the following:

"As Kurdistanis living in Geneva, we are calling on international organisations to ensure the freedom of Leader Öcalan through a sit-in protest ongoing for 41 months. The deepened isolation of Leader Öcalan in İmralı has been going on for 40 months. Our leader has not been allowed to meet with his family or lawyers, and international organisations do not fulfil their duties and prefer to remain silent. International organisations, especially the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the UN and the Council of Europe (CoE), bear responsibility to take action against the system of isolation and torture that goes against human rights."

Ramazan Kızılkurt stated that the Kurdish people will continue to be in action until the isolation is ended and Abdullah Öcalan is freed.

After the speeches, a press statement was read. The demonstration ended with slogans.

— ★ —

Activists from Frankfurt am Main take over Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 4 JULY 2024

A group from Frankfurt am Main has taken over the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg on week 627.

The vigil has been carried out by different groups of activists from various European countries since June 2012. The Frankfurt group called on the European institutions and in particular the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) to end their silence regarding the illegal isolation of Öcalan in İmralı and not to participate in crimes against the Kurdish people. "Europe must apply its own human rights principles and preserve its independence," said a spokesman for the group, calling for an end to support for the fascist Erdoğan regime and to stop supporting injustice against the Kurds.

Abdullah Öcalan: No sign of life since 2021

Abdullah Öcalan was kidnapped in Kenya more than 25 years ago as part of an international conspiracy involving the USA and Israel, among others, and handed over to Turkey in violation of international law.

He has been isolated from the outside world in the island prison of İmralı. The last time the 75-year-old received a lawyer's visit was in 2019, and his last family visit took place in 2020. In March 2021, a wave of international protests made it possible for Öcalan and his brother to have a telephone conversation, but this was interrupted after a few minutes for unknown reasons.

Since then, there has been no sign of life from Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş. Requests for visits from the Istanbul law firm Asrin, which represents the four İmralı prisoners, are rejected by the Turkish judiciary, and requests for information remain unanswered. As a legal cover, disciplinary penalties are imposed every six months. International initiatives to lift the isolation on İmralı are also ignored in Ankara.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture found after a visit to the island prison İmralı in 2019 that incommunicado detention is inconsistent with international human rights standards. The ban on visits by lawyers violates the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), updated in 2015, the recommendations of the CPT and Turkish prison law.



Laura Castel Fort: Even in Guantanamo there has been no such an isolation regime as Öcalan suffers

SERKAN DEMIREL | GENEVA | 5 JULY 2024

No news has been received for 40 months from Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held in İmralı Island Prison under heavy isolation conditions for more than 25 years. The Turkish state, which insists on keeping Abdullah Öcalan in isolation, denying him the right to see his lawyer and family as a whole, continues to openly violate both the domestic law and many international treaties to which it is a signatory.

International organisations, particularly the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, remain silent in the face of the isolation regime implemented by the Turkish state in İmralı.

In the face of all this unlawfulness, different social segments coming together within the scope of the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question" campaign, which was launched globally on 10 October 2023, continue their legal and diplomatic efforts to break the isolation in İmralı.

Most recently, the İmralı isolation was brought up at the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Movement Against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples (MRAP), which works within the UN, drew attention to the conditions of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan with a conference organised as part of the 56th Human Rights Sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, which started on 18 June and will continue until 12 July.

One of the speakers of the conference, Laura Castel Fort, Catalan Senator, Member of the Spanish House of Representatives and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, spoke to ANF about the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan.

“I think this isolation regime, as I said in the conference room, and as we checked during our mission last year, is a kind of torture. It is an incomparable situation,” she said.

Laura Castel Fort pointed out that: “Even in the H-block prisons during the 70s and 80s, and even in Guantánamo, it has not been this kind of isolation regime, because there was always some kind of communication. But Öcalan has suffered and is in an incommunicado situation. So, I think it is a clear violation of human rights, and it is a very long-lasting violation.”

Laura Castel Fort also criticised the silence of international authorities in the face of the lawlessness in İmralı and said: “When you remain silent in front of violations of human rights, you are backing the perpetrator. And it is even more blatant because this kind of organizations, mostly the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the European Union, are international organizations based on three pillars: human rights, democracy and the rule of law. All of these pillars are violated in the case of Öcalan, and they remain silent.”



Young women demonstrate for Abdullah Öcalan's freedom in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 5 JULY 2024

Members of the Movement of Young Fighting Women (TekoJIN) and internationalist young women started their protests that will continue until 7 July as part of the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question" campaign that was launched globally in October 2023.

For the series of actions organised under the motto *Rêwîtiya Azadiyê* (Freedom Journey), activists wearing t-shirts with the portrait of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan opened stands with Öcalan's books in Kleber square and in front of Strasbourg central train station. The women told passers-by about the isolation regime imposed on the Kurdish leader in the İmralı Island Prison where he has been held since 1999.

Roj Azad made a statement in Kurdish on behalf of TekoJIN and Elisa Ginzburg in English on behalf of internationalist women.

The statement pointed out that conspiratorial forces sacrifice societies for their own purposes, and that the fact that Abdullah Öcalan, the architect of the democratic modernity paradigm aiming at the freedom of societies, has not been heard from for 40 months is a grave unlawfulness.

The statement emphasised that young women will be in continuous action for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and said, "With the action we started today, we state that we will participate in the "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question" campaign with a stronger will."

— ★ —

Öcalan's lawyers submit another application for a visit to Imrali

ANF | ISTANBUL | 5 JULY 2024

Asrin Law Office lawyers Rezan Sarıca, Raziye Öztürk, Faik Özgür Erol and Mazlum Dinç filed an application to Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and Imralı Penal Institution Directorate to be allowed a visit to their clients Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are kept under severe isolation conditions in Imralı F Type High Security Prison and have not been heard from for 40 months.

The right to meet with the families of Abdullah Öcalan and the other three people held in Imralı is being denied by the Turkish authorities, citing "disciplinary penalties". The reasons and file numbers of these disciplinary penalties are not shared with their lawyers despite all applications and objections.

According to Asrın Law Office, "From 27 July 2011 to date, only 5 lawyer visits were allowed between May and August 2019. The last of these five meetings was on 7 August 2019. Only 5 family visits have been granted since 2014. The last face-to-face meeting was with Öcalan's brother was on 3 March 2020. Öcalan has only been able to make two phone calls since the first day (on 27 April 2020 and 25 March 2021). The last phone call on 25 March 2021 was interrupted after a very short time and there has been no news from him since that day."

— ★ —

CoE to discuss ECtHR's 'violation' judgement on Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | 5 JULY 2024

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE) decided to take up the issue of whether the "violation" judgement of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) on Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who was imprisoned in Turkey on 15 February 1999 by an international conspiracy and placed in unprecedented isolation in İmralı, has been implemented.

On 18 March 2014, the ECtHR ruled that the sentencing of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan to aggravated life imprisonment without the right to conditional release (right to hope) violated the Euro-

pean Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The Court ruled that the aggravated life sentence was contrary to Article 3 of the ECHR, which prohibits torture and ill-treatment. The ECtHR made similar judgements on the imprisoned applicants Hayati Kaytan, Emin Gurban and Civan Boltan in the following period.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which monitors the fulfilment of the ECtHR's judgements, has also started the monitoring process for Turkey in order to ensure legal arrangements and changes in practice that will give rise to the "right to hope" regarding aggravated life imprisonment. However, despite the initiation of the monitoring process, the judgements were not included in the meeting agenda of the Committee of Ministers and no written decision was issued.

On 29 July 2021, the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), Society and Law Research Foundation (TOHAV), Human Rights Association (İHD) and Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) submitted a written notice to the Committee of Ministers for the urgent review of the ECtHR's judgments and for the implementation/monitoring of these judgments.

The Committee, which put the issue on its agenda upon the notification, requested information from Turkey regarding the notification of non-governmental organisations and the process of fulfilling the decisions at the meeting held between 30 November and 2 December 2021.

In its response, Turkey claimed that there had been no violations in İmralı since 2009. Ankara left unanswered the findings and recommendations on "securing the right to hope" and "legal amendments on the regime of execution of aggravated life sentences".

The Turkish state only addressed the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) on the physical conditions in İmralı in previous years.

In its submission to the Committee of Ministers on Turkey's allegations on 12 October, human rights and legal organisations noted that Turkey's response did not address the ECtHR's key findings on the "right to hope" and did not discuss the steps needed to implement the judgments. The organisations reacted that the Turkish state had instead provided misleading information.

Asrin Law Office also submitted a new application to the Committee of Ministers on 9 August 2022, demanding that the ECtHR ruling be implemented. In response, the Turkish state admitted that it had exempted Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan from the "right to hope".

At the June meeting of the Committee of Ministers, it was decided to put the group file including Abdullah Öcalan back on the agenda.

At its meeting to be held between 17-19 September, the Committee will monitor the implementation of the ECtHR's violation judgments and requirements.

The Committee will also be able to ask for an explanation from Turkey as to why the judgement has not been implemented, if deemed necessary.

In the meantime, the Committee of Ministers has again taken up the cases of former HDP co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş and businessman Osman Kavala, who were ordered by the ECtHR to be released immediately.

The Committee had previously included these judgements on its agenda and initiated a violation procedure due to the non-implementation of the judgement on Kavala.

— ★ —

Prisons in Turkey

Trial of journalist Ehmed abducted by the KDP in October postponed

ANF | DUHOK | 30 JUNE 2024

Silêman Ehmed, an Arabic editor for the local news website RojNews, who was detained by KDP forces on 25 October 2023 and has been held captive in KDP prisons for 250 days, appeared in court for the first time today.

Ehmed was arrested on 25 October while entering Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region from Syria, where he had been visiting his family. The Security Directorate (Asayish), which is responsible for border security in Duhok Governorate, accused the journalist of "endangering national security", which is Article 1 of Law No. 21 enacted by the Kurdistan Region Parliament in 2003, and that the prosecutor continued to detain him for this reason. According to Ehmed's lawyer, not a single piece of evidence had been produced regarding this alleged crime for 7 months.

Numerous actions were organized in Kurdistan and around the world to protest this illegal detention as no trace of Silêman Ehmed could be found for 211 days. Thousands of journalists and institutions asked about the fate of the journalist and, as a result of the intense pressure, the KDP was forced to tell the lawyers where he was detained and arranged a visit on 22 May 2024.

The trial at the Duhok Criminal Court on Sunday was postponed to 29 July at short notice as the judge in charge called in sick shortly before the start of the hearing. In addition, the KDP's Duhok Security Directorate did not send the documents relevant to the proceedings and journalistic equipment belonging to Silêman Ehmed to the court.

— ★ —

Protest by prisoners demanding freedom for Abdullah Öcalan reaches day 220

ANF | 3 JULY 2024

Political prisoners continue the actions they started on 27 November 2023, demanding "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question".

The prisoners, who took their alternating hunger strike actions to a new stage as of 4 April, decided to boycott the courts and not have phone calls or family visits. The protests in prisons have reached the 220th day.

The prisoners made the following statement on the 130th day of the hunger strike: "Our hunger strike action needed to evolve to a new stage. Therefore, as of 4 April, the birthday of our Leader (Öcalan), we decided to start boycotting hearings and refusing family visits and calls. As prisoners, we are faced with the Kurdish reality, which is one of racist, discriminatory and fascist features. We condemn this policy and decided to boycott the colonial courts, which do not even recognize their own laws when it comes to Kurds. We also decided not to use our weekly phone calls and family visits."

— ★ —

Iranian state won't allow Zeinab Jalalian any medical treatment unless she signs letter of 'regret'

ANF | 4 JULY 2024

The Kurdistan Human Rights Network said that the health of Kurdish political prisoner Zeinab Jalalian, who has been kept in prison for 17 years, has seriously deteriorated and that she urgently needs to receive treatment. However, the Iranian regime prevented her from receiving treatment outside the prison.

The organization said in a statement that Zeinab Jalalian, who had eye pain, vision loss, intestinal problems, skin rashes and stomach disorders, was only kept under observation and then sent back to prison.

The statement added: "In June, the Iranian authorities put a document in front of Zeinab Jalalian twice. The document was a 'letter of regret'. The authorities asked her to sign it. This letter was written by the Iranian Intelligence Agency (Itlaat) and Jalalian was told that she would be deprived of all her basic rights until she signed the document."

— ★ —

Prisoner Güzel released after 31 years

ANF | AMED | 5 JULY 2024

Güzel, who was held in Antalya S Type High Security Prison and whose release was postponed twice for 6 months, was finally freed.

52-year-old Serhat Güzel arrived at Amed Airport with his family, members of the Med Detainee and Convict Families Legal and Solidarity Associations Federation (MED TUHAD-FED), Detainee and Convict Families and Assistance Association (TUAY-DER), and was welcomed by many people with chants and applause.

Giving a short speech at the airport, Güzel said: "I have been released from prison, but a part of me is sad. I am happy to be reunited with my people, but I am still not free. Our struggle will continue." Güzel then set out for Erxeni (Ergani) district with his family.

Serhat Güzel was arrested in Samsun on 15 February 1991, tried at the Diyarbakır State Security Court (DGM) and sentenced to life imprisonment. Over the years, he was held in various prisons; Mardin, Ordu, Amasya, Erzurum, Kırıkkale and finally Antalya S Type High Security Prison. Güzel's release was postponed twice by the Administration and Observation Board on the grounds that he did not show "remorse".

— ★ —

Political prisoner released on the verge of death dies

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 5 JULY 2024

78-year-old Mehmet Emin Soyal, who was arrested on 19 October 2023 in Ereban town in the İdil district of Şırnak province on the allegation of "aiding the PKK" through an investigation conducted by Siirt Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, died in the hospital where he was being treated after his release from prison.

Soyal, who suffered various health problems such as vision and hearing loss, heart failure, COPD and had a 91 percent disability report, was arrested by the court on 23 October 2023 and sent to Batman M Type Closed Prison. Soyal was released on 6 November 2023 upon his lawyers' objection to his arrest.

Speaking to the Mezopotamya Agency (MA) after his release from prison, Soyal said, "Do I regret being Kurdish? I don't regret it. I left prison with a heavy heart because I left my friends behind. Is there a greater persecution than this?"

The body of Soyal, brought to his hometown Ereban, was laid to rest with the participation of his loved ones.



Military aggression and occupation

Turkish army bombs Assyrian village of Mîska in South Kurdistan

ANF | 30 JUNE 2024

The Turkish army targeted Mîska, an Assyrian village, during its bombardment of the Metîna region. The Christian church in the village was also hit in the attack.

The Turkish army has been intensively bombing the Medya Defense Zones and especially the Metina region in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) in the past weeks. As a result of these bombardments, large fires broke out in the lands of the villages of Mîska, Dergelê and Bazê s in the Metîna region.

The latest images from the region show that the village of Mîska, a Christian Assyrian community, was bombed by the Turkish army.

It is stated that the Turkish army first threatened this village to evacuate it, and then bombed it, making the villagers unable to live in the region. The Turkish army, which has been committing war crimes in Medya Defense Zones for years, destroyed the nature of the region.

These war crimes committed by the KDP and the Turkish army were documented and brought to the public's attention by different international and regional media organizations.



KCK: Comrade Helmet will always live in the hearts of his people

ANF | **BEHDINAN** | 30 JUNE 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement paying tribute to KCK General Presidential Council Member Diyar Xerib who fell a martyr along with two guerrillas, Murat Gündüz (Devran) and Abdulkadir Aslan (Şahin Dicle), in a Turkish airstrike in Qandil on July 5, 2019.

The KCK statement includes the following:

“We commemorate our comrade Helmet (Diyar Xerib), the courageous son of the people of southern Kurdistan, a great revolutionary and member of the KCK Executive Council, on the fifth anniversary of his assassination by the murderous and imperialist Turkish regime. As a result, we commemorate all revolutionaries and martyrs of democracy with respect and gratitude, bow in front of their treasured memories, and renew our resolve to keep the martyrs’ memory alive through our struggle.

Comrade Helmet is a valuable comrade who played an important role in the freedom movement and made great efforts. He was not only a great revolutionary, but also an educated person with a deep love for his country, a high awareness of history, and a continuous deepening of thought. He had a deep sense of patriotism and was passionately attached to Kurdistan and the Kurdish struggle for freedom. He had experienced a great awakening and deepening in Rêber Apo’s [Leader Abdullah Öcalan’s] paradigm by combining the idea of patriotism with the system of the Democratic Nation. He opened the horizons of many people with his depth and knowledge and made a significant contribution to overcoming the obstacles faced by the movement. Comrade Helmet had a concentration on solving the problems he encountered. With these characteristics, he did not only have a positive effect on the revolutionary environment by motivating comrades, but also had a very strong affection for the people. He valued and cared for every comrade without distinction.

Because of all these characteristics and attitudes, he is very much loved and respected by his comrades. Throughout his life, he particularly focused on the people of southern Kurdistan, working and striving for them, who had suffered great pain and paid great prices, to attain the democratic and free life they deserved. As a matter of fact, on the day he was martyred, he was meeting with intellectuals and politicians from southern Kurdistan. While doing this, he faced an attack. The martyrdom of such a person is undoubtedly a great loss to our movement and our people. However, for us, martyrs are an opportunity to grow and gain strength. Because martyrs are our greatest source of strength. Keeping their memories alive, pursuing their goals, and struggling to realize their ideals is what makes us grow and succeed. The Kurdish freedom struggle has such an understanding. In revolutionism, martyrs do not die. They are immortal; they live in the hearts and consciousness of the people. Comrade Helmet will always live in the hearts and consciousness of the people of Kurdistan.

Comrade Helmet’s life, his participation in the freedom movement and his struggle should be well emphasized and understood. Comrade Helmet saw the danger by sensing early on that the values created by the people of southern Kurdistan at great cost were being betrayed by the collaborating and treacherous forces, and as a result of his discomfort, he started to search. He saw the fulfillment of this search for freedom represented by Rêber Apo and the PKK, and with great excitement he joined the struggle for freedom and embraced the struggle. Considering the dangerous situation that the collaborationist and treacherous line has brought the people of Kurdistan face to face today, it becomes clear how valuable and meaningful Helmet’s attitude is. In this respect, the people of Kurdistan, especially the people of southern Kurdistan, should understand Helmet’s stance and attitude well. Kurdish politicians, intellectuals, writers and artists should emphasize and bring it to the agenda of the people.”

Prominent ISIS leader arrested in special operation by the YPJ

ANF | 30 JUNE 2024

The YPJ (Women's Defense Units) Media Center announced the arrest of a prominent mercenary leader in ISIS in a special operation by the YPJ, also joined by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Deir ez-Zor.

According to the YPJ statement on Sunday, the terrorist, Muhammad al-Bakhit, also known as Abu Ghamid, had been involved in terrorist activities for a long time, and was taken into custody during a successful special operation.

"Originating from the Al-Shahil area in Deir ez-Zor, Abu Ghamid joined the Free Syrian Army in 2011, during the early changes in the Middle East. He held a leadership position in the Free Syrian Army, actively operating in Azaz, Aleppo, and Idlib. He also fought directly against YPJ and the People's Protection Units (YPG) in the Al-Yarubiyah area," the statement said.

YPJ pointed out that: "Abu Ghamid played a significant role in ISIS's terrorist activities in the region and in Turkey for years. After the liberation of Deir ez-Zor from ISIS, he returned to the Al-Shahil area. Together with another mercenary leader named Ibrahim Al-Hafl, he formed a brigade called the "Bujamaal Revolutionaries Brigade." This formation, affiliated with ISIS, aimed to incite tensions and strife between the locals and the SDF. His actions led to the martyrdom of many fighters and the destruction of military equipment, among other crimes."

The statement said: "On June 26, while secretly crossing from Syrian regime-controlled areas to Al-Shahil in Deir ez-Zor, Abu Ghamid was captured in a special operation by YPJ fighters. At the time of his arrest, he was aiming to incite the local population, especially the tribes, against the SDF, spreading fear and disrupting the existing security and stability in the region."

— ★ —

PUK: Turkey's sole aim is to disrupt Iraq's security and stability

ANF | BAGHDAD | 30 JUNE 2024

The PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) group in the Iraqi Parliament made a statement denouncing the ever-increasing attacks and military activities of the Turkish state in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

"In recent days, the Turkish army has been carrying out operations in the Kurdistan Region, causing great damage to the property of the citizens and leading to local people's victimisation and reactions.

"We condemn these violations of the Turkish army against the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi territory. What is happening jeopardises the security of the country and the people and constitutes a violation of international law," the statement said.

Reacting to the silence of Baghdad and Hewlêr (Erbil), the PUK Group said: "The silence of the Iraqi and Kurdistan Region governments against the large-scale operations of the Turkish army in the Kurdistan Region will undermine the confidence of the people and the international community."

The statement continued: "The reason for the continuation of the violations of sovereignty is Iraq's failure to stabilise and respond to these attacks and violations. In this context, we call on the federal government, in coordination with the government of the Kurdistan Region, to take action to put an end to such violations of sovereignty, as Turkey is currently doing. Turkey's sole aim is to disrupt the security and stability of the country and violate Iraq's sovereignty."



New access ban in various regions in the Kurdish province of Şîrnak

ANF | ŞİRNAK | 1 JULY 2024

The Turkish authorities have again extended the temporary ban on access to more than a dozen mountain regions in the Kurdish province of Şîrnak (Şîrnex). The order, confirmed by the governor's office on Sunday, is related to several military operations against the PKK guerrillas and affects a total of fourteen areas that have been declared temporary special security zones. For the local population, the measure means restrictions in almost all areas of everyday life.

The access ban applies to the districts of Cizîr (Cizre), Silopiya (Silopi), Qilaban (Uludere), Basan (Güçlükönak), Elkê (Beytüşşebap) and the provincial capital Şîrnak, and thus in fact to almost all higher regions. The Cûdî Mountains, the Besta and Feraşîn regions and the Gabar massif are among the areas that are not allowed to be entered. The residents of the settlements and villages there have been asked by the governor's office to adhere to the access ban.

The creation of so-called special security zones is part of a larger development in which military restricted areas are being set up in various parts of North Kurdistan. This means that entire areas are cut off from the outside world and are subject to the control and arbitrary decisions of the military. These measures lead to a considerable burden on the Kurdish rural population and increase the pressure on residents to leave the affected areas. The areas in Şîrnak affected by this militarization have been declared forbidden zones every two weeks since 2023.

Şîrnak is located in the southeast of Turkish territory and lies in the border triangle with Iraq and Syria. The province borders the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and thus the guerrilla-controlled Medya Defense Areas. For months, military operations, some of them large-scale, have been taking place in the region where the 23rd Infantry Division of the Turkish Land Forces is based. The transfer of troops to Turkey's military bases in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is also coordinated via Şîrnak.



HPG reports on war in South Kurdistan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 JULY 2024

The press center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) said in a statement about the war in Kurdistan that massive attacks were carried out by the Turkish army on the Medya Defense Areas. The statement added that those attacks were met by the resistance of the guerrillas in the Metîna and Zap regions.

According to the statement, the Turkish military and the KDP are putting pressure on the civilian population to leave the combat zone. Fires have broken out in many areas due to Turkish air strikes. According to the statement, four soldiers of the Turkish invasion forces were killed in resistance actions by the guerrillas. The HPG gave the following details:

Resistance in Metîna

Four soldiers were killed in actions carried out by guerrillas in the Serê Metîna and Dergelê areas on Thursday and Friday. In Golka, the guerrillas intervened with an act of sabotage against the expansion of the occupation troops' positions in Golka and attacked helicopters flying over the area with semi-automatic weapons. On Friday, a container and a Turkish army position were destroyed by fire from heavy weapons in four separate attacks.

Actions by guerrillas in Zap

YJA Star fighters attacked the Turkish troops in the Kurojahro and Girê Cûdî areas with heavy weapons on Saturday. On Friday, a total of six attacks with semi-automatic and heavy weapons were carried out on Turkish positions in Girê Amêdî.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army used chemical gas and banned explosives six times in a guerrilla tunnel in Serê Metîna on 16 June. Şêlazê and a tunnel facility in the Girê FM area were attacked with explosive drones on Thursday.

Fire after air strikes

Between 27 and 29 June, 17 air strikes were carried out by fighter jets on the areas of Goşînê, Şehîd Şerîf and Kendekola in Xakurke, Gûzê and Girê Zengil in Gare, Girê Şehîd Cihan in Qendil, Şêlazê and Serê Metîna in Metîna and Girê Bahar in Zap. The fires caused by these attacks in Xakurke, Qendil, Gare, Zap and Metîna were still ongoing.

Village in Metîna bombed

On 27 June, the village of Dergelê in Metîna was attacked with heavy weapons and bombed four times by fighter jets. The bombing caused fires to break out in several places on the villagers' agricultural land. The people in the region are being asked by the Turkish army and the KDP to leave the area.



Turkey resettles 800 refugees in Girê Spi

ANF | 1 JULY 2024

The Turkish state continues its demographic change policies in the regions it occupies.

According to information obtained from local sources, the Turkish state settled 800 refugees, who were forcibly deported from Turkey in June, in the city of Girê Spî.

Since April 2022, Turkey has settled 35,800 refugees in Grê Spi.



"Security wall" between South Kurdistan and Rojhilat turned into military forbidden zone

ANF | VAN | 1 JULY 2024

The Turkish state has built a 173-kilometer long concrete wall between Bashur (South) and Rojhilat (East) Kurdistan. Three rows of razor wire were installed along the wall, and 347 kilometers of trenches were dug. The two-kilometer radius of this structure, called the "Firewall", was declared a security area.

After the decision, the pastures where the villagers living on the border graze their animals were included in the prohibited area.

'They want to end agriculture and animal husbandry'

Evaluating what happened in the Rojhilat border region, Saray co-mayor Davut Acar said that a policy was implemented that brought agriculture and animal husbandry to the point of extinction on the border. Acar underlined that the pasture areas used by the villagers in certain parts of the region were included in the military forbidden zone. "The villagers cannot benefit from the regions and that is why they give up both agriculture and animal husbandry. First they created a wall, then a ditch, then a wire mesh area. Animal husbandry and agriculture will end this way."

Co-mayor Acar added: "As if the fortresses were not enough, they dug ditches and built walls. They opened an area for profit for various circles with walls."

'Displacement policy'

Acar said: "We have been able to go to the other side of the border for hundreds of years. Now there is a gate, they officially say go and come, but this also turned out to be a lie. The action is completely based on political motives."



Turkish airstrike starts a fire on Mount Metîna in South Kurdistan

ANF | 1 JULY 2024

According to RojNews, Turkish warplanes bombarded Mount Metîna in Amadiya district of Duhok around 11.00 local time today.

Reports say that a large-scale fire broke out in the area due to the bombing and Kurdistan Region civil defence teams have not yet intervened to extinguish the fire.

While the occupying Turkish state has increased its attacks on Mount Metîna in recent days, it deployed a large number of troops, heavy weapons and armoured vehicles to the villages in the region. Many villages were evacuated due to the attacks. Baghdad and Hewlêr (Erbil) remain silent in the face of Turkish occupation.

According to RojNews, further fires are threatening the villages of Guherzê and Sergelê, which are also located in the east of Amadiya. In Guherzê, volunteers have been trying to extinguish the flames since the fire broke out on Sunday. The fire in Sergelê is said to have been raging since Friday. As the authorities are refusing to take action, no information is available on the extent of the damage or possible casualties.

Turkey has massively expanded its occupation operation in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in recent weeks and is preparing its long-announced "summer offensive" against the Kurdish guerrillas. Massive troop concentrations have been taking place for days. Troops are being increased and tanks are being deployed in and around Amadiya in particular.



KCK: Iraqi Interior Ministry is spreading slander and manipulation

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 JULY 2024

The Foreign Relations Committee of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) released a statement refuting the accusations of the Iraqi Interior Ministry that a PKK-affiliated group was responsible for the fires in the Kurdistan Region.

The KCK statement released on Monday includes the following:

“It has been claimed by some media outlets that the forces behind the fires in the provinces of Kirkuk, Hewler (Erbil), and Duhok were a group affiliated with the with the PKK. We reject these accusations of having conducted these fires. It is known to society that these attacks have been carried out by MIT (Turkish intelligence service) and Parastin (KDP intelligence service).

With its resistance, principled and decisive stance from the past to the present, the PKK is a power that the peoples of Kurdistan and the Middle East recognize, trust, and honor. The PKK, which has taken the right attitude wherever there is a threat and injustice against society, is today waging a fierce and relentless war against the Turkish colonialists that try to occupy and annex Iraq and southern Kurdistan step by step. With the means and support provided by the KDP administration, the soldiers of the occupying Turkish army disrespect our people in Zakho, Duhok, and Hewler and are now openly conducting their once covert military operations. The occupying Turkish army is blocking Iraqi roads in broad daylight, forcibly conducting identity checks, arresting people, forcing them to migrate, and even martyring them through drone and artillery attacks.

Against these crimes of the occupying Turkish army, which continue to increase every day, the KDP continues to play a collaborationist role, while the Sudani government remains unresponsive and silent. The freedom guerrilla of Kurdistan is resisting against these occupation attacks against southern Kurdistan and Iraq by using all the means at its disposal. The fascist Turkish state is suffering a heavy defeat despite the use of countless banned weapons and chemical bombs against the guerrilla, the commission of all kinds of war crimes, and the introduction of the most advanced technologies into the service of the Turkish army. The occupying Turkish army, which has difficulty deploying at the locations it has occupied so far, only conducts transportations under Iraqi and KDP uniforms.

It is a pity that the Iraqi Ministry of Interior has disclosed such a statement, while our movement is waging a great resistance against these occupying attacks. When ISIS attacks started in Iraq, it was our movement that mobilized with all its strength to protect the Iraqi people and the Kurdish people, without a single agenda of self-interest. It took an active part in the liberation of Erbil, Makhmur, Kirkuk, Shengal (Sinjar), and Mosul from ISIS. It paid a heavy price for this cause, and the then Iraqi Prime Minister thanked our movement for it. The allegations that we burned the bazaars and markets of the people of Kirkuk, Erbil, and Duhok, which we did our best to protect against ISIS attacks and gave martyrs in the process of doing so, is slander and manipulation. We entrust the Kurdish and Iraqi people who watched our forces fight to protect them, to decide whether these allegations are true or not.

We call on the Iraqi state and the Ministry of Interior to act more responsibly in the face of MIT's directives, to be more responsible towards these false allegations targeting our movement, and to disclose the identities of the true culprits. We also call on the democratic and resistant Iraqi peoples to take the necessary attitude against such lies and to take action against any step or discourse that legitimizes the Turkish occupation."

— ★ —

31 years ago, the Madımak massacre

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

The Madımak massacre took place on 2 July 1993 and was directed against participants in a cultural festival held in honour of the Alevi folk poet Pir Sultan Abdal in the central Anatolian city. The guests of the festival, who stayed at the Madımak Hotel, were mainly Alevi artists, poets, thinkers, singers and folklore dancers, but also critical intellectuals of different denominations.

A religiously and nationalistically incited mob used the presence of the avowed atheist and well-known writer Aziz Nesin, among others, as a pretext to set fire to the hotel. The trapped people could not escape from the burning building because the angry mob blocked their way and cheered the fire. Although the police, military and fire brigade were alerted, they did not intervene until hours later. The events were broadcast live on state television for hours. 35 people, including two hotel employees, died in the fire at the Madımak Hotel.

The names of the victims were as follows: Muhlis Akarsu (45), Muhibe Akarsu (44), Gülender Akça (25), Metin Altıok (53), Mehmet Atay (25), Sehergül Ateş (29), Behçet Sefa Aysan (44), Erdal Ayrancı (35), Asım Bezirci (66), Belkıs Çakır (18), Serpil Canik (19), Muammer Çiçek (26), Nesimi Çimen (62), Carina Cuanna Thuijs (23), Serkan Doğan (19), Hasret Gültekin (22), Murat Gündüz (22), Gülsüm Karababa (22), Uğur Kaynar (37), Asaf Koçak (35), Koray Kaya (12), Menekşe Kaya (15), Handan Metin (20), Sait Metin (23), Huriye Özkan (22), Yeşim Özkan (20), Ahmet Özyurt (21), Nurcan Şahin (18), Özlem Şahin (17), Asuman Sivri (16), Yasemin Sivri (19), Edibe Sulari (40), İnci Türk (22) as well as the hotel employees Ahmet Öztürk (21) und Kenan Yılmaz (21).

— ★ —

The Turkish state kidnaps at least 40 people in Afrin in a month

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

The Violations Documentation Center published a report on the people kidnapped in Afrin, which has been under the occupation of the Turkish state since 2018, in June.

According to the report, at least 40 people were kidnapped within a month and their fate is still unknown. It is recorded that ransom was demanded from some families.

The names of the kidnapped people were listed as follows: Arif Mihemed Kedlo (52), Mihemed Farûq Kedlo (58), Temam Sefûr (48), Arif Hesên Reşîd (70), Omer Mihemed Reşîd (60), Şaban Hisên Hemo (60), Fayîq Îsamîl Îsamîl (56), Îsmâil Bîlal Silêman (35), Mihemed Selah Sîn Elî (45), Şêx Mihemed Mihemed (70), Îzet Bîlal Îsmâil (56), Xelîl Şêxo Reşîd (47), Mihemed Nesan Mistefa (40), Mihemed Miqdad Yûsif (35), Delîl Hisên Hecî (34), Cemal Heyan (35), Selah Elî Ebdo, Tahir Mihemed Şukrî (54), Hisên Mûsa Şêxmûk (75), Ehmed Ferîd Reşo (39), Yûsif Henîf (24), Ednan Namî Osman (26), Mihemed Zemcî Murad (35), Fayîq Zemcî Murad (33), Îmad Mistefa Xelîl, Rêzan Mihemed Mihemed (44), Nêçîrvan Mistefa Elî (37), Reşîd Semîr Elî (24), Yehya Taha Berekat (37), Edhem Derwîş (15), Elî Nûredîn and Reşîd Kolîn.

The report said that the fate of the kidnapped people remains unknown, and that ransom was requested from the families of some of the kidnapped people.

Over 10,300 people kidnapped since 2018

The Turkish state established a complete terrorist regime in Afrin, after its occupation in 2018.

According to the Violations Documentation Center, at least 30 people were kidnapped in the month of May.

According to the Syrian Human Rights Organization, at least 10,332 people were kidnapped, and 463 people were murdered between 2018 and April 2024.

— ★ —

HPG publishes balance sheet for June

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 JULY 2024

On average, the Turkish army used poison gas and unconventional bombs more than four times a day in June in the war against the Kurdish freedom movement and the population in the Medya Defense Areas of Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna.

In addition, there were countless attacks by conventional weapons. The Turkish army has been trying to occupy the regions with all its might since February 10, 2021. However, the guerrillas have continued to offer fierce resistance in the war tunnels and on the field for the fourth year now, inflicting heavy losses on the Turkish army.

The use of chemical weapons by the Turkish army in particular is a war crime and should be punished by the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). However, the use of poison gas, although documented and published dozens of times, is ignored by the international community. The protests of the democratic public and the Kurdish institutions have gone unheard. This allows NATO partner Turkey to systematically continue and intensify these war crimes.

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) press center has documented the following uses of poison gas and improvised bombs in the past month:

- *On May 30 and 31 and June 1, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked 21 times using poison gas.
- On May 29 and June 1, the war tunnels in the Girê Amedî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked eight times using improvised bombs.
- On June 2 and 3, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked 27 times using poison gas.
- On June 4 and 5, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked using poison gas 13 times.
- On June 4, the war tunnels in the Girê Amedî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked using improvised explosive devices four times.
- * On June 6, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked using poison gas seven times.
- On June 7, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked using poison gas three times.
- On June 8, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked using poison gas once.
- On June 9, the war tunnels in the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked once using unconventional bombs.
- On June 11, the war tunnels in the Girê Amedî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked once using unconventional bombs.
- On June 13 and 14, the war tunnels in the Girê Amedî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked once using poison gas.
- On June 13 and 16, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked six times using unconventional bombs.
- On June 16, the war tunnels in the Serê Metîna resistance area in the Metîna region were attacked once with poison gas and six times using improvised bombs.
- On June 18 and 19, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked once each with improvised bombs.

- On June 20, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked once using improvised bombs.
- On June 21 and 23, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked five times using improvised bombs and twice with chemical weapons.
- On June 23, the war tunnels in the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked twice using unconventional bombs.
- On June 24, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked four times using unconventional bombs.
- On June 24, the war tunnels in the Girê Cûdî resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked twice using unconventional bombs.
- On June 25 and 26, the war tunnels in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region of Şehîd Delîl were attacked three times using unconventional bombs.

— ★ —

KCK: The common struggle of the peoples stands against every massacre

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council issued a statement about the anniversary of the Madımak Massacre carried out on 2 July 1993 in Sivas.

It was one of the bloodiest massacres in Turkey's history. 33 people who were visiting Sivas to commemorate Pir Sultan Abdal were burned alive in the Madımak Hotel where they were staying. Dozens of intellectuals and artists had left Ankara for Sivas that year on 30 June 1993 to participate in the activities in memory of Pir Sultan Abdal, held by the Pir Sultan Abdal Cultural Association (PSAKD).

The KCK statement said: "The Madımak Hotel was set on fire, and 33 Alevi people were burned to death. We condemn this inhuman, brutal massacre and the fascist, racist, and bigoted mentality behind it. We respectfully commemorate the 33 people who were brutally burned to death. And we once again commemorate all the martyrs of revolution and democracy with respect, love, and gratitude and bow to their precious memories, which we once again pledge to keep alive in our struggle.

The struggle of the peoples will hold to account the racist, fascist, and reactionary mentality, and achieve the historical longing of the peoples for freedom."

The statement added: "Due to their democratic, communal, libertarian, and peaceful philosophy, the Alevi community has been subjected to attacks by statist, power-oriented, colonialist, reactionary, and fascist

forces throughout history and has been subjected to countless massacres. In the course of the process in which the nation-state model is working to form an individualistic human and society, attacks on the Alevi community have increased massively.

The massacres perpetrated by the Turkish state are the most prominent of these. Systematic massacres were carried out by the genocidal colonialist Turkish state, and the Sewas massacre is one of them. With these systematic massacres, they wanted to eliminate the Alevi faith, culture, and the Alevi community. All attacks and massacres against Alevis have been for this purpose. In this respect, the attacks against Alevis and the attacks against the Kurdish people are very similar. Just as the Turkish state wants to commit genocide against the Kurds, it also wants to commit genocide against the Alevis. In this respect, there is a historical unity of fate between the Kurds and the Alevis. In fact, a significant part of the Kurdish people belong to the Alevi faith."

The statement continued: "Rêber Apo [Abdullah Ocalan] has attached great value to the oppressed Alevi community. He has made great efforts both to liberate the Alevi community and to research their identity, which was under the shackles of assimilation. He considered the struggle of the Alevi community important and made significant efforts to ensure that it was in friendship and alliance with the Kurdish struggle for freedom, along with other peoples and beliefs. In fact, the organization of the Sewas massacre was mainly in order to prevent the meeting of the struggle of the Alevi community with the struggle developing in Kurdistan. Alevi intellectuals who saw the struggle of the Kurdish people and approached it positively, were murdered to prevent this. The fact that the massacre was organized in Sewas is no coincidence, because Sivas (Sewas) is a region where both the Kurdish-Alevi people and the Turkish-Alevi people live together."

The KCK said: "The Turkish state has resorted to similar methods, attacks, conspiracies and massacres to prevent the unity of the Kurdish struggle for freedom with the socialist and democratic movement in Turkey. However, despite all the suffering inflicted on our peoples, the state has never achieved this goal and the solidarity and common struggle of the peoples could not be prevented. On the contrary, the relations between peoples have gradually developed, stepping closer the free life that our peoples long for. Our duty is to further strengthen these ties between the peoples and realize the freedom of the peoples.

In such a period when we commemorate the Sivas massacre, it is our historical responsibility to act accordingly, to strengthen the relations between the peoples on this basis and to further develop the united struggle based on the solidarity of the peoples and their equal coexistence. On this basis, we call on all democratic forces leading the struggle of the peoples, beliefs and the oppressed to act in accordance with their historical responsibilities and to intensify their efforts to realize the historical freedom aspirations of our peoples by further developing the united struggle."

PUK spokesperson Pîre: Ugly scenarios are attempt of postponing elections

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 2 JULY 2024

PUK spokesperson Seedî Ahmet Pîre made a press statement about the accusations of the South Kurdistan and Iraqi Interior Ministries.

Seedî Ahmet Pîre said that, as PUK, they condemned the burning of people's shops and demanded an investigation into the events.

KDP is afraid of elections

Referring to the internal conflicts experienced by the KDP, Pîre added: "The internal conflicts experienced by the KDP are a scenario that will disrupt the Kurdistan Region Parliament elections. Such dirty claims are put forward to postpone the parliamentary elections. The KDP is afraid of the elections and does not want them to be held."

Pointing out that KDP turned the burning of bazaars and markets into its own election propaganda, Seedî Ahmet Pîre said: "The PUK did not accept the postponement of the elections. For this reason, the KDP creates ugly and malicious scenarios against us."

More than 300 ISIS mercenaries were settled in Berwari Bala

Pointing out that more than 300 ISIS mercenaries were deployed in the Berwarî Bala region, Seedî Ahmet Pîre said that they wanted to sacrifice Sulaymaniyah to the Turkish state with fake reports and complaints.

We are preparing for elections, not for civil war

Pîre said: "Today, an official from the Iraqi Ministry of Internal Affairs mentioned that they would deploy a force whose name he did not disclose, which is something that worries us. We are preparing for elections, not civil war."

Pîre said: "Previously, they wanted to negotiate with us to postpone the elections. We rejected this. What is being done now is an effort to create some excuses to postpone the elections."

Pogrom against Syrians: Racist attacks spread across Turkey

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

The mass lynchings that started in the Kayseri province on 30 June on the allegation of sexual assault of a 7-year-old child targeted Syrian Arabs.

While state forces did not intervene in the racist aggression, attacks spread to many cities on the second day.

Groups mobilised with the Turkish flag and racist slogans and hunted refugees in Kayseri, Reyhanlı in Hatay, Bursa, Kilis, Adana, Antep, Izmir and Istanbul. Workplaces and houses belonging to refugees were attacked and set on fire.

Videos of the stabbing of a Syrian person in Antep were circulated on virtual media.

Due to the racist attacks, reactions also rose in Syria and Rojava cities occupied by the Turkish state and turned into clashes.

Protests in the occupied regions in Syria

Turkish flags were taken down, set on fire and many vehicles were destroyed in Afrin, Bab, Azaz and border areas.

Protesters gathered in front of the Turkish military headquarters in Afrin, which has been under occupation since 2018 and where the Turkish state has established a terror regime, chanting "Down with the collaborators of the national army trained and controlled by Turkey". The military occupation forces used weapons against those protesting against the racist attacks. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, two protesters were killed.

Protesters lowered the Turkish flag at the Bab al-Salama border crossing. Protests also took place in many other cities.

— ★ —

SOHR: 30 Syrians were killed and injured in gunfire by Turkish forces in northern Syria

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

In the wake of the racist lynching, burning and looting incidents directed against Syrians in Turkey, which started in the province of Kayseri on 30 June and then spread to many other cities, tensions also rose in

the occupied regions in northern Syria. Angry masses burnt Turkish flags and tried to seize military bases and border points held by the Turkish forces and allied groups.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that the number of people killed following the clashes and random shooting in Afrin and different areas in the northern Aleppo countryside yesterday, has risen to seven.

According to the observatory, six people, including five former fighters, were killed by Turkish forces in Afrin. One other person was killed in Jarablus.

Yesterday, SOHR reported that more than 20 others were injured in clashes and random shooting, amid ongoing clashes and the angry protests that took place in a number of cities and towns in northern Syria within areas controlled by Turkish forces and their proxies in northern, in eastern Aleppo countryside, in the HTS-held areas in Idlib and countryside and the western countryside of Aleppo. The protests followed racist violations against Syrian refugees in Turkey without actions by the Turkish authorities to protect the Syrian people.

SOHR stated that protests took place in HTS-held areas and areas of the “National Army” in Aleppo countryside, in Bab Al-Hawa Crossing and Khirbat Al-Jouz in Idlib countryside and Abin, Sama’an, Al-Tawama, Al-Ebizmo and Al-Atareb in western Aleppo countryside in HTS-held areas.

Moreover, acts of violence, shooting and assaults took place in A’zaz, Al-Bab, Jinderes, Al-Ghandoura, Al-Ghazawiya, Afrin, Marae’, Bab Al-Salam Crossing and Jarablus Crossing, with ongoing protests, attacks on Turkish vehicles and cutting of roads.

Al-Atareb City and Al-Ebizmo Town in the western Aleppo countryside witnessed chaos and attacks on Turkish checkpoints and vehicles.

Furthermore, clashes erupted with machineguns between armed protesters and members of Turkish forces in front of the Al-Saraya Building in Afrin city in the northern Aleppo countryside.



TEV-DEM calls on Syrian forces to stand in solidarity and rise up against Turkey’s corrupt policies

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

The Democratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM) issued a written statement on the protests of the peoples in the occupied territories that followed the racist lynching campaign against Syrians in several cities of Turkey.

The statement drew attention to the attempt of the occupying Turkish state to re-establish relations with the Damascus government and stated that Ankara is trying to get closer to Damascus at the expense of the sacrifices of the Syrian peoples.

The statement pointed out that: "Ankara and Damascus were envisaged to re-engage. With this step, Turkey aims to compete with Iran in Syria, break the will of the Syrian peoples and defeat their hopes for a better democratic Syria. The occupying Turkish state and its fascist government exploited the will of the Syrian people for the sake of their own political, economic and occupation interests. Socially, morally and politically, it played on the feelings of the Syrians, causing them to suffer and migrate."

Remarking that the only way to ensure social justice, to protect national values and to frustrate the occupation plans is through the unity and solidarity of the Syrian peoples, TEV-DEM called upon all national and social forces in Syria to 'stand in solidarity more than ever and to rise up against the corrupt policies of the occupying Turkish state'.



MSD calls on Syrians to organise a national congress for liberation

ANF | 2 JULY 2024

The Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) issued a written statement regarding the reports of talks between the occupying Turkish state and Damascus and the latest wave of protests in the occupied territories.

The statement saluted the Syrian people's stance "against oppression, repression and racism" and the spirit of uprising, saying: "The legitimate demands and goals of the Syrians are the compass of our struggle and political work."

Stating that the Turkish state is trying to re-engage with the Damascus government by using the hopes, demands and goals of the Syrian people in line with its own interests, MSD said: "All this shows that the salvation of Syrians lies in unity, solidarity and the elimination of contradictions."

The statement also drew attention to the recent events in northern Syria and the racist policies against Syrian refugees in Turkey. MSD said, "The recent events are an indication that only Syrians can support and protect each other. We continue our work for the safety and peace of all Syrians in this challenging period. We embrace every political movement that seeks to break the laws of subservience and ensure autonomy. Syrian land belongs to all Syrians. The main and only way to overcome our suffering is through national dialogue. This is also the way to have the opinion of the Syrian people recognized internationally as the basis of the solution project."

The MSD called on the Syrian political forces to assume responsibility for the future of the people and the country and called on all Syrians to organize a national congress that will be the basis for the liberation of Syria.



Mihçı: Racist attacks are the consequences of war policies

ANF | ISTANBUL | 3 JULY 2024

Dozens of workplaces and vehicles belonging to Syrian refugees were burned and looted in the attacks that started after the spread of allegations that a Syrian man raped a child in the province of Kayseri on 30 June. At the same time, there were protests against Erdoğan's statement that he would get closer to Assad in regions such as Afrin and Girê Spî, which were occupied by the Turkish state and controlled by ISIS, Al Nusra and similar mercenaries. Erdoğan's mercenaries burned Turkish flags and clashes broke out there, too. Turkish racists, who saw an opportunity to burn the Turkish flag, carried out attacks similar to those in Kayseri in many places.

Emergency meeting call from DEM Party

Dilan Kunt Ayan, Urfa (Riha) MP for the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and member of the Immigration and Integration Sub-Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Human Rights Investigation Commission, called the relevant commission to discuss the steps to be taken to prevent further attacks and ensure the security of Syrian refugees, especially their right to life. Dilan Kunt Ayan called for an urgent meeting, and said: "Although it is known that more than 3 million Syrians in the country will not go back to their country or other countries, this hatred has been fed and grown in public opinion by politicians, especially during the election processes, through politics over refugees. At the point reached today, all decision-making actors and the state, especially the Human Rights Investigation Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, have a responsibility to end the racist burning, destruction and attacks and to call the public to moderation."

War policies are the source of the problem

Speaking to ANF, DEM Party Immigrant and Refugees Commission co-spokesperson Murad Mihçı stated that the issue had its roots in war policies in the first place and added: "These attacks are the result of the approval of war policies. In parliament, all deputies, except those of the then HDP, voted to accept those war policies. At that time, as HDP, we explained why we said no. Because no progress can be achieved through war policies. Ultimately, a wave of migration occurred due to imperial attacks in that region. On the other hand, today the bridges between those people have been broken due to Turkey's immigration policies and its view on refugees."

We strongly defend peace

Mihçı underlined that they will continue to defend peace even though they are made a target by certain groups after every statement they make. "As a party, we are coming together with democratic institutions in the country to discuss the racist attacks and urgently decide what we can do. Our MP Dilan Kunt Ayan presented a proposal to the parliament. We are trying to create a working environment to try and defuse tensions. We made various statements. We were targeted by certain groups in every statement we made, in

every speech we made. But we stubbornly defend that dialogue between all peoples in the world can only be achieved through peaceful policies, and that is why we defend peace."

— ★ —

Turkey and its mercenaries carried out 31 attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria in June

ANF | 3 JULY 2024

The Turkish state and its mercenaries, who have increased their ongoing attacks against Northern and Eastern Syria, carried out 31 attacks against a total of 33 villages in the month of June.

The attack balance sheet for June is as follows;

"On June 1, 2024, the village of Seyada in the north of Manbij Canton was targeted by howitzers. No information regarding the damage could be obtained.

On June 2, the village of Xerab Kort, located in the northwest of the city of Qamishlo, was targeted by heavy weapons. As a result of the attack, a fire broke out in the cultivated lands.

On June 2, the village of Semoqa in Afrin-Shehba Canon was targeted by heavy weapons. No information could be obtained regarding the outcome of the attack.

On June 2, the area between the villages of Seyada and Ereba Hesên in the north of Manbij were attacked by medium and heavy weapons. As a result of the attack, a fire broke out in the cultivated lands.

On June 3, a vehicle was targeted by drones in the southern region of Kobanê city. Two Internal Security Forces members were injured.

On June 4, the villages of Seyada and Yalanlı in the northwest of Manbij were targeted by 14 mortars and howitzers. Great material damage was caused in the attacks.

On June 4, power lines in the western countryside of Girê Spî city were targeted by heavy weapons. As a result of the attack, electricity was cut off in houses and villages in Girê Spî rural area.

On June 5, the village of Semoqa and Shehba Dam were bombed with heavy weapons. As a result of the attack, citizens' houses and gardens were damaged.

On June 5, power lines in the western countryside of Girê Spî were targeted once again.

On June 5, the village of Aqîbe in Sherawa city of Afrin-Shehba Canton was targeted. As a result of the attack, a fire broke out in the forest area.

On June 6, the village of Semoqa in Afrin-Shehba Canton was targeted by heavy weapons. Citizens' houses and gardens were damaged in the attacks.

On June 7, the village of Sheala in Shehba was targeted by mortars. No information could be obtained regarding the outcome of the attack.

On June 9, Turkish soldiers at the border shot a child and a teenager from the village of Doda between Qamishlo and Amûdê. As a result of the fire, 16-year-old Mistefa Hisên Selmo was killed and the young man next to him was injured.

On June 10, Manbij's Erep Hesên village was hit by 5 mortars and howitzers, and Dendeniyê, Camûsiye and Seyada villages were hit by 38 mortars and howitzers. On the same day, Manbij's Qert Wêran and Kawikli villages were also hit by 26 mortars. Houses and gardens suffered great damage in these attacks.

The surroundings of the village of Teana in Shehba were fired on. No information was received regarding the attack.

On June 12, the surroundings of the village of Minix in Afrin-Shehba Canton were hit by mortars.

On June 13, the village of Um El Kêf, located to the west of the city of Til Temir in Cizîrê Canton, was bombarded with mortars and artillery. As a result of the bombardment, property belonging to citizens was damaged.

On June 15, fighters of the Bab Military Council responded to the attacks by the Turkish mercenaries against the village of Cebla Hemra in the west of the Bab.

On June 17, Cebhet El Akrad fighters repelled the attempt of the invading Turkish state gangs to enter the village of El Biwêhîc, located in the west of Manbij canton.

On June 12, the surroundings of the village of Minix in Afrin-Shehbay canton were bombed by mortars.

On June 13, the village of Um El Kêf located to the west of Til Temir city in Cizîrê canton, was bombed by mortars and artillery.

On June 15, fighters of the Bab Military Council defeated the attempt by Turkish gangs to enter the village of Cebla Hemra in the west of the city of Babê.

On June 17, Cebhet El Akrad fighters defeated the attacks by the Turkish state against the village of El Biwêhîc, located in the west of Manbij canton.

On June 19, the villages of Ewn Dadat and Mehseuli in the north of Manbij were bombed. As a result of the attack, a fire broke out and the fire spread to agricultural lands.

On June 20, the village of Semoqa e in Afrin's Shehba district was bombarded by artillery shells.

On June 24, the surroundings of the village of Seyada in Manbij were bombed.

The village of Um El Hosh in Afrin-Shehba Canton was bombed.

On June 25, the villages of Zewaniyê and Koletiyê in Şêrawa were bombed.

On June 27, the area between Koltep and Bexdik villages in the west of the city of Kobanê was bombed by howitzers and armed unmanned aerial vehicles. As a result of his attack, a fire broke out in the fields.

The village of Derc in the north of Manbij was bombed with heavy weapons. As a result of the attack, a citizen named Îbrahîm Semo (45) was killed and a citizen named Xalid Kamil Hîlal (26) was injured.

The village of Shewarxe and the surroundings of Shehba Dam in Shera city of Afrin-Shehba Canton were bombed by howitzers.

On June 29, the Turkish army and its gangs bombarded the village of Shewarxe with howitzers. Citizens' gardens were damaged as a result of the bombardment.

The villages of Cat, Toxar, Hoşeriyê, Ewn Dadat and Seyada in Manbij were bombed.

Fighters of the Manbij Military Council shot down a drone belonging to the Turkish state in the village of Derc e in the north of Manbij Canton.

The Turkish army and its mercenaries bombed the villages of Um El Kêf and Til Cuma in the west of Til Temir. Information regarding the damage could not be obtained."



KCK calls for solidarity with all Syrian peoples against racist attacks in Turkey

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 JULY 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement in relation to the attacks on Syrian refugees in Kayseri and Turkey in general, proposing the system of Democratic Nation as a response to the attempts to divide the peoples.

The KCK statement on Wednesday includes the following:

"We strongly oppose the fact that Syrian refugees have been targeted in Turkey in recent days, with lynchings, targeted shootings, and raids on their homes, vehicles, and workplaces. These are the results of the manipulation that is being catalyzed by the racist and fascist Turkish state.

This inhumane situation must end as quickly as possible. The manipulation attempts of the racist, fascist, and conspiratorial AKP-MHP regimes must be monitored closely, and any attempt to mislead must be resisted. One must not harbor hostility towards other peoples, hold negative feelings towards them, or act

aggressively towards them. This is unacceptable in human society. The AKP-MHP administration is playing dirty games. It is consciously attempting to achieve its fascist goals by pitting people against one another. These attacks, which began in Kayseri and extended to other locations, are the result of an AKP-MHP plot against society. In this regard, we issue a plea to everyone to exercise reasonable judgment.

The fascist administration of the AKP-MHP has played a significant role in the growth and worsening of Syria's instability. By directing the course of the conflict, the Turkish state has deliberately and purposefully lured millions of Syrians to Turkey, using this as a means to blackmail Europe through its refugee policy, while also committing occupation and genocide against the Kurdish and Syrian peoples in the areas it has dehumanized through the mercenaries it has recruited.

In northern Syria, the fascist Turkish administration has been trying to implement the Misak-i Milli [The so-called 'National Pact' refers to a political declaration made by the leaders of the Ottoman Empire in 1920 during the First World War. The oath defined the territorial borders – including Kurdish settlement areas in present-day Iraq and Syria – and the basic principles for Turkey's future policy. Today, Turkish nationalists often refer to the 'National Pact' to formulate their aspirations for Turkey's territorial expansion] plan through a neo-ottomanist approach. For years, the homicidal imperialist dictatorship has done all in its power to escalate the Syrian conflict. It has fed, supported, financed, and equipped violent fascist groups that commit crimes against humanity. It perpetrated atrocities and genocides. The Turkish state has fueled and escalated fascist mercenary armies guising as religious groups and used them to reach its expansionist ambitions. It went further to launch an occupation offensive against Rojava and Syria, changing the demographics of the areas it occupied. It slaughtered, displaced, and made people miserable. Death, torture, rape, and other crimes have become commonplace in the areas annexed by the Turkish state. The AKP-MHP administration persists in its policy of transforming Syria into a bloodbath in which people are pitted against one another. It aims to turn not just Syria but also Turkey into a bloodbath.

The AKP-MHP government's approach to Syrian refugees has also been within the framework of this dirty policy. It is becoming clearer by the day that it is a great deception and distortion that Tayyip Erdoğan and the AKP are pro-Arab or that they defend Arab society. The fascist chief, Tayyip Erdoğan, does not care about the Arab people. His whole effort is to make the Arab people hostile to the Kurds, to make the Kurdish people and the Arab people turn against each other. Likewise, he wants to pit the Kurdish people against the Turkish people and the Arab people against the Turkish people. He is trying to keep his collapsing power alive by making the peoples break against each other. He wants to prolong its life by leaving the Kurds, who are waging the most just and legitimate struggle for freedom and democracy in the world, without self-government and self-defense. He uses everything as a bargaining chip to achieve this goal. Within this framework, he is also trying to use the Arab people as a tool for his genocidal colonialist dirty mentality. The racist and fascist attacks against the Syrian people in Turkey are a result of the anti-people policy carried out by the fascist regime of the AKP-MHP.

As peoples, we have the power and wisdom to live together. We can and must rebuild our lives everywhere based on the brotherhood of peoples and the consciousness of co-existence without setting new borders, without changing demographics. It is our most basic desire that peoples live together and equally in peace, love and brotherhood. As the Kurdish freedom movement, we work and struggle for this. Rêber Apo's [Leader Abdullah Öcalan] paradigm of democratic nation guarantees the brotherly co-existence of peoples. According to the understanding of the democratic nation, the most correct and valuable approach to overcome the existing problems is for peoples to live together in love, peace, fraternity and equality.

Once again, we condemn the racist and fascist attacks, and call on everyone to stand strongly against these fascist attacks in solidarity with all Syrian peoples, particularly the Arab people."

— ★ —

KCK: Turkey deploys ISIS mercenaries to embattled regions in southern Kurdistan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 JULY 2024

The KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Foreign Relations Committee released a statement reporting that the Turkish state, which has failed to achieve results against the guerrilla, is deploying ISIS mercenaries into the areas it seeks to occupy in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), in addition to the village guards and Roj mercenaries.

"ISIS gangs, who are currently fighting the Kurdistan freedom guerrillas, are poised to be a plague on humanity; like a ticking bomb, they will cause great harm. A solid reaction must be mounted against the Turkish state's invasion of Iraq and southern Kurdistan and the deployment of these fascist ISIS gangs, said the KCK statement on Wednesday, which includes the following:

"On July 1, 2024, we drew attention to the false and manipulative [statements](#) of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. During a process of important developments, it is crucial that the facts are reported correctly and action is taken accordingly.

To conceal its immoral and unlawful conduct, the colonialist and occupying Turkish state resorts to all manners of provocations and disinformation. The underlying reason for this is the deadlock it faces in its war against the Kurdish freedom guerrilla. The Turkish state has suffered massive military losses, as evidenced by the HPG's [June](#) balance sheet. In June alone, the guerrilla carried out 185 operations, and 46 Turkish occupation soldiers were punished. In the past month, the colonialist and occupying Turkish state has launched hundreds of air strikes and attacked with chemical weapons and further prohibited explosives.

The conflict in Kurdistan is exceedingly intense and violent. Kurdistan's independence guerrilla represents a resistance movement aimed at protecting Kurdish values and achievements. Although the colonialist and occupying Turkish state employs the most advanced technology and weapons of the day, as well as chemical weapons and further banned explosives, without caring about any international law of war, it is clear that it faces a serious challenge from the Kurdish freedom guerrilla. It is obvious that the colonialist and occupying Turkish state is stymied in this battle. Since it has failed to achieve results against the guerrilla, it is deploying fascist ISIS mercenaries into the areas it seeks to occupy, in addition to the village guards and Roj mercenaries.

Our people and the rest of the world are well aware that Kurdistan freedom guerrilla demonstrated selfless resistance against ISIS attacks in Hewler (Erbil), Kirkuk, Makhmur, and Shengal (Sinjar) and defended humanity's honor at tremendous sacrifice. This valiant, glorious, and determined war against the fascist

ISIS mercenaries spread to North and East Syria, where it was again the guerrilla that brought the Turkey-backed ISIS mercenaries to the brink of extinction.

The connections between the fascist ISIS gangs, which are a blight upon the people of the region and the rest of humanity, and the colonialist and occupying Turkish state are well documented. The fascist AKP state has always openly supported and harbored the ISIS gangs. Turkey has sponsored and organized the ISIS groups that have inflicted atrocities from Turkey to Moscow and throughout Europe. Today, the occupying Turkish state is deploying ISIS gangs across southern Kurdistan, trying to gain traction in its futile war against the guerrilla. While deploying these fascist ISIS mercenaries, the Turkish state is also bombarding North and East Syria on a daily basis to give its mercenaries breathing space.

As before, the Kurdistan freedom guerrilla will never allow the colonialist and occupying Turkish army and fascist ISIS gangs to succeed.

The attitude of the KDP, which has condoned the settlement of ISIS mercenaries in southern Kurdistan and continues to collaborate with the invading Turkish regime, is shameful. It is providing weapons, ammunition, and forces to the occupying Turkish state. While it is unacceptable for any movement in southern Kurdistan to remain silent about the Turkish occupation and the deployment of ISIS mercenaries in the region, the KDP has gone even further to strengthen its ties with the occupying regime. All patriotic intellectuals, academics, journalists, and democrats must take a firm stand against the KDP's collaboration in order to prevent the Kurdish people from losing their freedom and unity again during this period of significant change.

The people and state of Iraq know ISIS well; they have been subjected to ISIS atrocities and attacks and experienced immense agony and tragedies through them. The Iraqi people and state are well aware that it was the Kurdistan freedom guerrilla that defeated and repulsed the attacks of the fascist ISIS gangs. The people and state of Iraq must take a firm stand against the resettling of ISIS in Iraq and southern Kurdistan by the colonialist and occupying Turkish state, in collaboration with the KDP. They should not be passive bystanders and should instead be more sensitive, and through their reaction, they should ensure that ISIS is not given a new chance.

The international public should be aware of this as well; these ISIS gangs, who are currently fighting the Kurdistan freedom guerrillas, are poised to be a plague on humanity; like a ticking bomb, they will cause great harm. A solid reaction must be mounted against the Turkish state's invasion of Iraq and southern Kurdistan and the deployment of these fascist ISIS gangs.

The Kurdish people fought the most noble fight in history against the ISIS terrorists. Today, regardless of where they are, our people must not only fight the gangs of ISIS with the same consistency as back then, but also the genocidal and occupying Turkish regime. Together with our people, all forces aligned with patriotism and democracy must be sensitive to the KDP's evil relations and respond accordingly."

HPG: Gerillas carried out several actions in Zap, Metîna and Heftanîn

ANF | BEHDINAN | 4 JULY 2024

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) Press Center issued a statement informing about the guerrilla resistance against the Turkish occupation forces in South Kurdistan and the recent attacks by the Turkish army on the Medya Defense Areas.

According to the statement, women guerrillas from YJA Star (Free Women's Units) killed two soldiers and shot down a drone. The HPG provided the following details of the actions:

Resistance in Heftanîn and Metîna

"In the Demka area of Heftanîn, a woman guerrilla shot dead a Turkish army soldier on 29 June. In Dergelê in the disputed Metîna region, the Turkish invasion forces were attacked with semi-automatic and heavy weapons on 27 June, and two military tents were destroyed. Another attack with heavy weapons took place on Tuesday evening in the Golka area.

Western Front in the Zap

In the resistance areas of the western Zap region, guerrillas used sabotage tactics and light, semi-automatic and heavy weapons against the Turkish occupation forces in eleven different actions on 29 and 30 June. An act of sabotage took place in Girê FM, while an unarmed drone was destroyed in the airspace above Girê Cûdî and a soldier was shot dead by a sniper in Girê Amêdî. In further attacks by the YJA Star and HPG in Girê Amêdî, two enemy positions were damaged. On 2 July, the Turkish troops in the area were attacked four times with semi-automatic and heavy weapons, stopping an attempted advance.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army has been trying for almost two months to break the guerrilla resistance in a tunnel in the Girê FM area. According to the HPG, banned explosives were used in the tunnel system 15 times between 29 June and 1 July. In Girê Cûdî, banned explosives were also used in a tunnel on 29 June.

The Şêlazê and Serê Metîna areas in Metîna and Girê Bahar in Zap were bombed by attack helicopters yesterday. In addition, between 30 June and 2 July, the HPG recorded a total of 18 air strikes with fighter jets on Serê Metîna and Girê Bahar as well as on the Şehîd Şerîf, Lolan and Sinînê areas in Xakurke and Deştâ Kafya and Girê Zengil in Gare."

Residents call for emergency aid as Turkey bombs a village in Duhok countryside

ANF | DUHOK | 4 JULY 2024

Local sources reported that the Turkish army bombarded the village of Sergelê in Amadiya district of Duhok on Thursday.

According to reports, a large-scale fire broke out in the area as a result of the bombardment. The fire reportedly reached the houses of residents and poses a life threat.

Local people called for urgent help against the fire and the attacks of the Turkish state.

The attack took place at a time of intense military deployment by the Turkish state to southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

In the past days, a large military dispatchment was observed in Amadiya district.

Amidst the ongoing silence of Baghdad and Erbil, Turkish forces set up checkpoints and started performing identity checks in Duhok, while forcibly evacuating many villages.

In a [statement](#) on 3 July, the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Foreign Relations Committee reported that the Turkish state is deploying ISIS mercenaries into the areas it seeks to occupy in southern Kurdistan, in addition to the village guards and Roj mercenaries.

“The international public should be aware of this as well; these ISIS gangs, who are currently fighting the Kurdistan freedom guerrillas, are poised to be a plague on humanity; like a ticking bomb, they will cause great harm. A solid reaction must be mounted against the Turkish state’s invasion of Iraq and southern Kurdistan and the deployment of these fascist ISIS gangs,” KCK said.

— ★ —

33 political parties and organisations: Damascus-Ankara rapprochement will deepen the crisis

ANF | 4 JULY 2024

Thirty-three political parties and organisations in North and East Syria issued a joint statement on the attempts of the Turkish state and the Damascus government to re-establish relations.

The statement released on Thursday includes the following:

"In 2011, the Syrian people rose against the Syrian regime for dignity and freedom. Many countries intervened in Syria affairs, turning their peaceful revolution into a sectarian armed conflict for control of power. At that time, the Turkish regime declared its red lines. However, as events unfolded and armed terrorist groups were defeated against the Syrian regime's alliance, Erdoğan began to change his rhetoric and moved towards dialogue with the regime, aiming to achieve what he could not through these groups by occupying Syrian regions and annexing them to Turkey. Turkish policy has since been aligned with the Syrian regime to fulfill its ambitions. As it accelerated the reconciliation process and handed over armed terrorist groups to the Damascus government, popular groups in occupied areas rose against Turkish policy, expelled Turkish forces, and closed crossings. Yet, Turkish regime loyalists among the armed terrorist groups, supported by Turkish forces, killed many Syrian civilians.

The so-called 'Syrian National Coalition' has taken it upon itself to defend the Turkish occupation and support the occupier's policies in Northern Syria, at the expense of the people's demands for freedom and dignity.

We, the undersigned political parties and movements, condemn the Turkish regime's actions and its loyalists against the demands of patriotic Syrians. We call on the international community and the United Nations to support all the Syrian people's demands for freedom and democracy and to implement Resolution 2254 for solving the Syrian crisis to achieve justice and equality for all Syrian components.

We stress that any reconciliation between the Turkish regime and the Syrian regime will not bring any improvement to the Syrian situation. Instead, it will legitimize the Turkish occupation and further deepen the Syrian crisis. The Syrian people and the Syrian homeland will become victims of this reconciliation policy, legitimizing external interference in Syrian internal affairs.

We call on all democratic political forces, whose hands are not stained with the blood of the Syrian people, to convene a Syrian national conference, starting from North and East Syria, to form a foundational step towards resolving the Syrian crisis through dialogue and creating a force to pressure the regime towards internal Syrian dialogue to resolve the crisis.

We also urge all political forces in NE Syria to open up to internal dialogue to resolve the outstanding issues.

We appeal to our people to rally around their democratic project and military forces, which are the region's safeguard, and recognize that the Autonomous Administration is the hope for all Syrians to resolve the Syrian crisis without further bloodshed."

The signatories of the statement are as follows:

1-Democratic Union Party (PYD); 2-Democratic Green Party; 3- Kurdistan Democratic Peace Party; 4- Kurdistan Liberal Party; 5- Kurdistan Communist Party; 6- Kurdistan-Syria Democratic Party; 7- Syrian Kurdish Democratic Party (PDKS); 8- Syrian Kurdish Democratic Left Party; 9- Kurdish Left Party in Syria; 10- Future of Syria Party; 11- Kurdistan Democratic Change Party; 12- Contemporary Kurdistan Party; 13- Kurdistan Workers' Union; 14- Arab National Council; 15- Syrian Contemporary Democratic Party; 16- Kurdish Democratic Organisation Party in Syria; 17- Reform Party-Syria; 18- Syriac Democratic Party; 19- Kurdistan Brotherhood Party; 20- Kurdish Democratic Day Party in Syria; 21- Demo-

cratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM); 22- Kongra Star; 23- Conservative Party; 24- Free Struggle Party; 25- Kurdistan Future Party; 26- Kurdistan Democratic Party - Western Kurdistan; 27- National Coordination Council-Democratic Change Movement; 28- Syriac Unity Party; 29- Kurdistan National Unity Party; 30- Syrian Kurdish Democratic Party (Al-Parti); 31- Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (Yekiti); 32- Revolutionary Left Wing in Syria; 33- Syrian Party

— ★ —

Self-sacrificial guerrillas complete training

DILARA EMEL | BEHDINAN | 4 JULY 2024

A group of self-sacrificial (Fedai) guerrillas have completed their training in the mountains of Kurdistan and set off for their new locations. The graduation ceremony took place on 30 June, the anniversary of the death of [Zilan](#) (Zeynep Kınacı), who blew herself up in a Turkish military unit in Dersim in 1996 and thus set a beacon for the Kurdish freedom movement. Zilan's action 28 years ago gave rise to the Fedai line, the self-sacrificial fighters who collectively accept death in order to achieve their goal.

At the closing ceremony, a guerrilla commander said that Zilan had carried out her action in response to an assassination attempt on Abdullah Öcalan in Damascus. The failed assassination attempt was an attempt to destroy the Kurdish people and the freedom movement by eliminating the PKK founder, the commander said: "But Comrade Zilan's Fedai action sent the message that Rêber Apo[Leader Abdullah Öcalan] is not alone and that the guerrillas are behind him and are ready for anything at any time."

"We will fight like Zilan"

The line established by Zilan can be seen today in the resistance of the guerrillas against the Turkish occupation attacks in the Medya Defence Zones, the commander said and continued: "The daughters and sons of Kurdistan, like Zilan, are resisting in the battle positions and repelling the enemy attacks with great courage and willpower. Our comrades in the war tunnels in Zap and Metîna are carrying out continuous actions against the constant air and ground attacks and the use of chemical weapons by the enemy. Every action in this unparalleled resistance is a message of joy to our people, and we, too, are ready to fulfill every responsibility that falls to us. Our people and our comrades in the prisons continue to be attacked. Every day people are murdered, our mothers are tortured in the streets, our youth are killed. We say to our people: you are not alone, the guerrillas are behind you. As Apoist Fedai, we are ready at any time. Wherever there is an attack on our people, we will be there. And we say to the enemy: Our people are not alone, we will fight like Zilan and succeed like Zilan."

— ★ —

El Erec: If all Syrians are united, Turkey cannot do anything

ANF | 5 JULY 2024

The Secretary General of the Syrian Democratic National Alliance Party, Ehmed El Erec, spoke to ANHA about the protests in the occupied territories, the plans of the occupying Turkish state and the developments in Syria.

Stating that the war between Israel and Hamas, the conflicts between Israel and Iran-Hezbollah and the war between Russia and Ukraine have also affected the occupied territories in Syria, Ehmed El Erec said that the Turkish state, taking advantage of these developments in the world, occupied the region and changed its demography.

Pointing out that the policy of the Turkish state is to weaken the power of the peoples, especially the people of Syria and Iraq, by taking advantage of the conflicts, Ehmed El Erec continued: "Erdoğan is trying to realise his dream of Misak-i Milli [The so-called 'National Pact' refers to a political declaration made by the leaders of the Ottoman Empire in 1920 during the First World War. The oath defined the territorial borders – including Kurdish settlement areas in present-day Iraq and Syria – and the basic principles for Turkey's future policy. Today, Turkish nationalists often refer to the 'National Pact' to formulate their aspirations for Turkey's territorial expansion]. The attacks on South Kurdistan and North-East Syria are carried out within this framework. Erdoğan is also intervening in some Arab and African countries, threatening the security of the peoples. In order to do all this, the Turkish state openly supports gangs and uses them as a tool to realise its plans."

Ehmed El Erec said that the Turkish state has made Afrin a tragic place for the people due to its crimes against women, children, nature and settlements.

Ehmed El Erec pointed out that the Turkish regime uses political Islam to turn people against each other and fuels wars to maintain its existence. He added: "The Entente, the Syrians in the ENKS and all Syrians are now aware of Turkey's policies."

Emphasising the cooperation of some Arab states with the occupying Turkish state, Ehmed El Erec said: "We demand that Arab states, especially Qatar and Kuwait, stop supporting the fascist Turkish regime and end their policies, especially against the Syrian people. As Syrians, we do not want enmity with the peoples in the region."

Stating that there is a secret war between Turkey and Iran over Aleppo and that Turkey's desire to occupy Aleppo remains, Ehmed El Erec said, "The solution to the conflicts in Syria is through the unity of the Syrian people, dialogue and a national congress in Syria. First of all, we must build our unity, prepare a new Syrian Constitution that will protect the honour of all Syrians and solve the problems arising from the war. Turkey cannot do anything when all Syrians are united. The decision for a political solution in Syria is in the hands of Syrians. I believe that the new year will bring many surprises for the Syrians."

HPG: Four air actions carried out by Martyr Axîn Mûş Unit

ANF | BEHDINAN | 5 JULY 2024

The HPG wrote in a statement: "Our Martyr Axîn Mûş Unit, which was established in memory of our Apoist sacrificer comrade Axîn Mûş (Hülya Demirer), a member of the HPG and YJA Star Command Council and the commander of the Immortals Battalion and Amed Province, carried out 4 separate actions with aircraft."

The statement added: "Our Martyr Axîn Mûş Unit, targeted the invaders who wanted to position themselves in the Sergelê area on 4 July 2024, hitting the invading troops gathered together twice, the Kirpi type armored vehicle once, and the ammunition belonging to the invaders once, with full accuracy from the air. In total, in the 4 air actions carried out by our Martyr Axîn Mûş Union, 5 invaders were killed, 1 Kirpi type armored vehicle and ammunition belonging to the invaders were destroyed."

— ★ —

Footage of guerrilla action in Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 5 JULY 2024

Gerîla TV published footage of an action carried out 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 targeted the Turkish soldiers who gathered in the Sergelê area in Şehîd Delil Western Zap region at 09:10 on 4 July 2024.

Strikes with heavy weapons left two soldiers dead and six others wounded, while their ammunition was destroyed.

The action was carried out by guerrillas from YJA Star (Free Women's Troops).

The footage can be watch from this link: <https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/footage-of-guerrilla-action-in-zap-74127>

— ★ —

International campaign against Turkey's occupation of Iraq and South Kurdistan

ANF | 5 JULY 2024

A campaign was launched addressed to the Iraqi people, government, parliament and the United Nations against the occupation and crimes committed by the Turkish state in South Kurdistan and Iraq.

The campaign, led by Nihad Al Qadi, is supported by a number of civil society organisations, lawyers, academics, activists and human rights defenders.

The petition, addressed to the Iraqi people, government, parliament, the United Nations and the international community, denounces the invasion attacks and crimes of the Turkish state and calls for the immediate expulsion of Turkish forces from Iraq and South Kurdistan.

"For some time now, the Turkish state has been carrying out military attacks with heavy, internationally banned weapons against the Kurdistan Federation in the Republic of Iraq," [the campaign text](#) said.

"Occupying a dangerous depth, the Turkish state has established more than 70 large military bases and dozens of fixed and temporary points," the text said, adding that new attacks have been launched against Duhok and Zakho, 8 new military camps have been established, more than 300 military armoured vehicles and more than a thousand Turkish troops have been reinforced.

"In defiance of all international norms, the Turkish state has begun to control the movement of Iraqi citizens and residents by setting up checkpoints on main and vital roads, while displacing dozens of Christians and residents of Kurdish villages," the text said.

"We also appeal to international forces concerned with maintaining international peace and security to help stop the Turkish invasion before it extends into Iraqi territory and reaches Kirkuk," the signatories said, noting that the Turkish state is pursuing a clear strategy to occupy Iraqi territory, as it did in Afrin.

The signatories stated that the Turkish authorities dream of annexing the region they call Mosul Governorate and that Kurdistan, Nineveh and Kirkuk are included in these occupation ambitions.

"We are here on behalf of the signatories of this call with its legal and national content and we demand that the forces of our people be mobilized to provide a suitable platform for the advancement of the following issues," the text of the campaign said, listing the following items:

1. To unite the will of all social parties concerned with human rights and civilian forces around the demand for the establishment of security, safety and peace in the occupied and threatened territories, and to make their voices heard in order to establish respect for sovereignty and to prevent all forms of violations,
2. To make a joint general appeal for the official administration to lodge a complaint with the United Nations General Assembly,

3. To mobilise international support by exerting pressure to convey the voice of the people to the relevant Turkish authorities,
4. To work for the cancellation of agreements allowing Turkish forces to enter Iraqi territory under any pretext whatsoever,
5. To call for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraqi territory, within the framework of the demand for an end to the military presence of all foreign forces in Iraq,
6. To raise the call upon the Arab League to stand by the Iraqi people, its federalism, the sovereignty of its state and the integrity of its territory,
7. To ensure that the damages to the land and property of citizens are compensated.

Signatory Organisations

Iraq Human Rights Forum-Iraq; Sumerian Observatory for Human Rights – Netherlands; Iraq Canadian Centre for Human Rights / Canada; Al-Rafidain Human Rights Association in Iraq; Iraqi Citizenship Association for Human Rights; Iraqi Human Rights Association in the United States; Iraqi Pensioners Association; Human Rights Defence Committee / Australia; Iraqi Cultural Parliament in the Diaspora; Gilgamesh Kurdish Research and Study Centre; Community of Arabs Supporting the Kurdish Cause; Netherlands Institute for Kurdish Studies and Research; Committee for the Defence of Followers of Religion and Sects in Iraq

Personalities

Dr Ghaleb Al-Ani, human rights activist / Germany; Dr Tayseer Abdul-Jabbar Al-Alusi, academic, civil rights activist / Netherlands; Saad Kazem, Secretary of the Iraq Canadian Centre for Human Rights / Canada; Ali Hussein Abboud, human rights activist / President of Al-Rafidain Human Rights Association in Iraq; Halim Al-Asam, human rights activist / Al-Rafidain Human Rights Association in Iraq; Hamid Murad, President of the Iraqi Human Rights Association in the United States; Professor Muhammad Hassan Al-Salami, lawyer and human rights activist; Mehdi Al-Issa, President of the Iraqi Pensioners Association, Iraq; Dr Ahmed Al-Rubaie, specialist physician and human rights activist; Professor Judge Zuhair Kazem Abboud, retired judge / Sweden; Haseeb Sheikhani, lawyer / Kurdistan; Dr Sadiq Atemesh, retired university professor / Germany; Dr Hassan Halbous, doctor specialised in civil activism / Germany; Dr Sarbast Nabi, university professor / Kurdistan; Dr. Munira Amed, Gilgamesh Kurdish Studies and Research Centre / UK; Dr Saman Shali, academic and political researcher / USA; Suhail Al-Zahawi, writer / Norway; Ms Nawal Naji Youssef, civil activist and member of the Iraq Canadian Centre for Human Rights; Ms Majida Al-Jubouri, civil activist and member of the Iraq Canadian Centre for Human Rights; Dr Madih Al-Sadiq, civil activist and member of the Iraq Canadian Centre for Human Rights; Ms Mayken Adam, human rights defender / United States of America

Some village guards resign after being forced to move to occupied Afrin

ANF | 5 JULY 2024

In the northern Syrian city of Afrin, occupied by the Turkish state and its gangs since 2018, protests started due to the latest wave of racist attacks in Turkey.

According to the information obtained, some village guards in Hazro district of Amed (Diyarbakır) were asked to go to Afrin upon the start of the protests.

In Eyndar and Dedaş neighbourhoods, village guards named H.D., M.B., H.P., C.P. and H.C. stated that they did not want to go to Afrin and resigned.

Background

In the wake of the racist lynching, burning and looting incidents directed against Syrians in Turkey, which started in the province of Kayseri on 30 June and then spread to many other cities, tensions also rose in the occupied regions in northern Syria. Angry masses burnt Turkish flags and tried to seize military bases and border points held by the Turkish forces and allied groups.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), seven people were killed following the clashes and random shooting in Afrin and different areas in the northern Aleppo countryside. According to the observatory, six people, including five former fighters, were killed by Turkish forces in Afrin. One other person was killed in Jarablus. On the other hand, more than 20 others were injured in clashes and random shooting, amid ongoing clashes and the angry protests that took place in a number of cities and towns in northern Syria within areas controlled by Turkish forces and their proxies in northern, in eastern Aleppo countryside, in the HTS-held areas in Idlib and countryside and the western countryside of Aleppo. The protests followed racist violations against Syrian refugees in Turkey without actions by the Turkish authorities to protect the Syrian people. Clashes erupted with machineguns between armed protesters and members of Turkish forces in front of the Al-Saraya Building in Afrin city.

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.



Turkish army burns villages in South Kurdistan

KURTAY SERHAT | BEHDINAN | 5 JULY 2024

The attacks of the occupying Turkish army, which have intensified in recent days, target not only the guerilla areas but the whole of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

While the villages of Dergelê, Bazê and Mîska in the Metîna region ended up on fire after the bombardments carried out by the occupying Turkish army, now fires have started in the villages of Mijê, Kevne Mijê and Spîndarê on the slopes of the Garê mountain.

The fire started by the bombardment of the Turkish troops stationed in Girê Amediyê in the morning continued to rage throughout the day, spreading to vineyards, gardens and villages.

The local people, who want to prevent the fires from growing further, are prevented by the KDP authorities and are not allowed to intervene in the flames.

Turkey has massively expanded its occupation operation in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in recent weeks and is preparing its long-announced "summer offensive" against the Kurdish guerrillas. Massive troop concentrations have been taking place for days. Troops are being increased and tanks are being deployed in and around Amadiya in particular.

Amid the silence of Baghdad and Erbil, Turkish forces set up checkpoints and started performing identity checks in Duhok, while forcibly evacuating many villages.

In a [statement](#) on 3 July, the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Foreign Relations Committee reported that the Turkish state is deploying ISIS mercenaries into the areas it seeks to occupy in southern Kurdistan, in addition to the village guards and Roj mercenaries.

"The international public should be aware of this as well; these ISIS gangs, who are currently fighting the Kurdistan freedom guerrillas, are poised to be a plague on humanity; like a ticking bomb, they will cause great harm. A solid reaction must be mounted against the Turkish state's invasion of Iraq and southern Kurdistan and the deployment of these fascist ISIS gangs," KCK said.



Feminicide

Zilan, a symbol of resistance for Kurdish women

ANF | 30 JUNE 2024

Zeynep Kınacı (Zilan), who sacrificed her life in Dersim on 30 June 1996, was born in Malatya province in 1972. Her family was originally from the village of Elmalı in Malatya and the tribe Mamureki.

After attending primary, secondary and high school, Zilan continued her university education at the Department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance at İnönü University in the province of Malatya.

She worked as an x-ray technician at Malatya State Hospital before joining the Kurdish Freedom Movement. She was from a middle-class family affected by feudalism and with reflections of a small bourgeois Kemalist structure.

Dedication and determination

Zeynep Kınacı (Zilan) led a kind of free life in the family environment. She became acquainted with leftist ideas and Kurdishness during her high school times. Her interest grew more during her university years. She later grew closer to the PKK movement.

In 1994, she started running front activities in Adana and spent a year on related work. Regarding this process, she said: "I didn't go through a serious process of training. I actually failed to make further advances and to succeed due to the absence of sufficient support after the arrest of executive members, causes making the individual more civilian and less effective, and reasons hindering a transformation of my personality."

In 1995, she joined the guerrilla ranks in the province of Dersim. Within her time in the ranks of the Kurdish freedom movement, she got to know all the aspects of her personality. She grew stronger in respect of dedication and determination. In 1996, she showed a militant stance in the face of the war concept formed against the national liberation movement.

'I want to be the Kurdish women's symbol of resistance'

Zilan, who carried out a suicide attack against Turkish soldiers participating in a flag raising ceremony in Dersim city center on 30 June 1996, used to say: "I want to be the Kurdish women's symbol of resistance", and became a new manifesto of life for Kurdish women and Kurdish history.

The action by Zilan, who detonates the explosive on her body after diving into the crowd of soldiers, leaves 5 soldiers dead and 35 others wounded, most of them seriously. This action was a turning point for

the Kurdish Freedom Movement and leaves a lasting and deep impression on both the Kurdish people and guerrillas.

Zilan in her own words

Martyr Zilan wrote:

"My name is Zeynep Kinaci. I was born in Malatya in 1972. My family comes from the village of Elmalı. We belong to the Mamureki tribe. I studied tourism and psychology at İnönü university in Malatya.

Before I joined the liberation movement, I worked at the state clinic in Malatya. I am married: my husband comes from the village of Xliya. He also went to the university of Malatya. During a clash in Adana, he was captured by the enemy in the winter of 1995. My family was fairly well off and I had a liberal upbringing. My interest in the left and Kurdish movement was aroused during my university studies, although at the time I was not attracted to any particular movement...

I believe that my support for the PKK and the liberation movement had its roots in the fact that my family was concerned to preserve their Kurdish identity. We had a number of patriotic friends but we were not organised or anything like that. Also, the economic problems which beset my family prevented me from discovering my own identity for a long time...

But slowly the situation changed, so that I was able to make a mature and confident decision to join the liberation movement. In 1994 I started to fight at the front in Adana for one year. In 1995, I joined the ARGK [Guerrilla] units in the Dersim region. It was at this time that I made a big development, both personally and politically...

Our fight under the leadership of the PKK has saved the Kurdish people from its total destruction and led it onto the road of liberation. To inspire a people whose national values, soul, consciousness and identity belonged to the enemy, to stand up and fight, demands a great sense of responsibility, historical knowledge, courage and determination...

The PKK and its founder Apo have roused a people from its slumber. A people which had no leadership, lacked patriotism and intellect, whose history was denied by its oppressor: a people who served the enemy and imperialism and had become increasingly dehumanised was inspired to take up the struggle and fight for its independence...

The great poet Ehmede Xani once said: "If we had an honest and honourable leader, we would never have been enslaved by the Turks, Arabs and Persians." A people whose individual members always and only act in their own interests, or in those of the family or the tribe and was always ruled by bogus leaders, has long been exposed to this curse...

History shows that no national struggle can be victorious without a leader who devotes his life to the people, who feel its pains and its desires, who selflessly recognises the practical tasks of the liberation struggle.

A people who were totally alienated, whose political social and cultural values were exploited, posed a great challenge for the PKK leadership. Our party has started on the road to liberation under extremely difficult circumstances. Its attitude to religion, to questions of identity and family are unique....

The arming of women and women's conferences and congresses have been organised by our party. The life of the party leadership, its courage, dedication to the cause, its intelligence, far-sightedness, its closeness and sensitivity to the ordinary people, its methods and experience is incomparable by the standard of any movement. Its interpretation and analysis of events is non-dogmatic...

The party leadership has developed the Kurdish revolution through the correct synthesis of revolutionary theory and practice and in full consonance with the Kurdish reality. It has achieved this neither by imitation nor through dogma, but creatively....

The often adduced reason for retarding our personal development, such as the influence of the bourgeois and feudal ideas, the special war, and hostile influences, which usually form the starting point for sterile self-criticism are facile and inadequate. I believe that the most effective self-criticism is the practical realisation of our historical tasks. The enemy wages a total war against us. Our answer must be total resistance in the struggle for our freedom.

Resistance has become the characteristic basic principle of the PKK. We have to lay claim to this historic heritage and act according to the demands of this period...

This makes actions like voluntary death an inevitable necessity. Under certain conditions it is a tactic which will affect the enemy as much as boost the morale of our own people...

At a time when the enemy is trying to achieve its aim by assassination attempts on our leader, this is the only response left. Such an action creates a siege situation for the enemy who lacks any moral grounds for their own action and is in a permanent state of confusion and crisis. It will show to friend and foe alike our total determination and preparedness to achieve our freedom, even at the price of our lives....

Dear President,

I see myself as a candidate for a voluntary death. I willingly concede that to give our lives is, from the standpoint of your unending and tireless work for our liberation, not enough. I hope to be able to contribute much more than my life. Through your struggle you have succeeded in bringing our people to life. You are the guarantor of the Kurdish nation and a guardian of world humanism. Your life gives us love, courage and belief....

I consider this action as a duty. I am convinced that to overcome my weaknesses and the realisation of my freedom, this action has to be carried out. I want to follow the examples of our comrades, Mazlum, Kemal, Hayri, Ferhat, Bese, Beritan, Berivan and Ronahi...

I want to be part of the total expression of the liberation struggle of our people.

By exploding a bomb against my body I want to protest against the policies of imperialism which enslaves women and express my rage and become a symbol of resistance of Kurdish women.

Under the leadership of Apo, the national liberation struggle and the Kurdish people, will at last take its richly deserved place in the family of humanity.

*My will to live is very strong. My desire is to have a fulfilled life through a strong action.
The reason for my actions is my love for human beings and for life!*

Zilan (Zeynep Kinaci)

1996

— ★ —

KCK: Zilan brought the struggle to its peak

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 JUNE 2024

Zeynep Kinaci (nom de guerre: Zilan) is one of the most well known militants of the Kurdish women's movement. At a time when the Kurdish women's movement was under massive attack, the then 23-year-old took the initiative and carried out an action in Dersim (tr. Tunceli). She detonated a bomb in a military parade, killing and injuring several soldiers. Zeynep Kinaci also lost her life as a result of the action on June 30, 1996.

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement paying tribute to Zilan and calling on the Kurdish people, international friends and all militants of freedom to make an effort to deepen their understanding of Zilan, to make this understanding known everywhere and to participate more strongly in the global freedom campaign for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

The KCK statement released on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of Zilan's martyrdom includes the following:

"If someone truly wants to understand Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan) and his role within the Kurdish struggle for freedom, he or she must act, live, and struggle like Zilan. Back then, she stated that she took this action as a sign of her great love and devotion to free life, which is embodied in Rêber Apo. She strikingly demonstrated how great results can be achieved when one manages to organize their consciousness and will for freedom. She expressed this truth not by talking about it but by living it. Expressing the truth by living accordingly is one of Zilan's most fundamental characteristics. Zilan is a great personality who surprised those who were hostile to life, freedom, and humanity by attacking them. At the same time, she brought new hope to her friends and humanity, but particularly women.

Comrade Zilan has shown through her life and her action that a free life without great action is impossible. If one is to be free, he or she must conduct great action and be a person of struggle. This understanding is very close to the way of free life that Rêber Apo has defined for Kurdistan. Rêber Apo has stated many times that there can be no free life in Kurdistan without the consciousness of freedom and the struggle for it. He, in fact, started this struggle based on this philosophy. After analyzing the reality of Capitalist Modernity, Rêber Apo broadened this understanding and pointed out that this is valid not only for Kurdistan but for our age and all over the world. Comrade Zilan is the personality who most deeply lived according to this truth.

In this respect, Zilan is the person closest to Rêber Apo. Although they have not physically seen each other, being so close to the reality of Rêber Apo and being integrated with him to such an extent is another striking characteristic of Zilan. This is a result of deepening the struggle for and commitment to freedom. In this sense, Zilan has become the symbol for understanding and integrating with Rêber Apo's philosophy. As we have pointed out above, if one wants to understand Rêber Apo, he or she must live and struggle like Zilan.

Another aspect that defines Zilan's greatness is that she fought and defeated the male-dominated mentality. With her action, she showed that it is the woman who is the most patriotic, the most socialist, the most self-sacrificing, and the most libertarian. In this way, it has brought sovereign masculinity to historical account, eliminated historical injustice, and given justice to those who have the right to it. Today, this line has turned into the greatest freedom movement that stands for the freedom of life with the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî'. Our free women's movement has deeply analyzed and revealed this historical reality.

Undoubtedly, the most fundamental expression of Zilan's personality is that it reaches the peak of self-sacrifice. Comrade Zilan organized herself on the same line of being self-sacrificial as Egid (Mahsum Korkmaz, the first commander of the Kurdish guerrilla. He fell martyr in combat on March 28, 1982, in the province of Şirnak), and she brought this struggle to its peak. She left her mark on the way the guerrilla fights and lives. She showed that those who struggle for freedom are stronger in the face of the material-technical power of the rulers and that this power comes from the will of organized people who are deeply committed to freedom. She has proved Rêber Apo's statement that the greatest technique is human. The Kurdish freedom guerrilla fights with this understanding, defending the people, freedom, and human dignity against the fascist, genocidal, and occupying army everywhere.

Once again, we commemorate our great militant of freedom, comrade Zilan, and bow with respect in front of her precious memory. It is more important than ever to live the way she did and to deepen in her understanding of life. Particularly in such a historical period, in which we are in a fierce fight with the fascist, genocidal and colonialist enemy. On this basis, we call on all our people, international friends and all militants of freedom to make an effort to deepen their understanding of comrade Zilan, to make this understanding known everywhere and to participate more strongly in the global freedom campaign for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Participation in the global campaign in the spirit of Zilan will surely bring us success."

— ★ —

Turkish sergeants who sexually assaulted minors in Çukurca set free

ANF | HAKKARI | 2 JULY 2024

Turkish specialized sergeants who sexually assaulted two minors during a concert in Çukurca district of Hakkari were set free after a short detention.

The sexual assault took place during a concert on the last day of "Çukurca Photo Safari and Nature Sports Festival" organized by Hakkari Governorate in the district.

Young people attending the concert intervened against the specialized sergeants when they noticed the sexual harassment of children aged 16 and 17. The assaulted sergeants were taken to hospital and the families of the sexually harassed minors filed a complaint.

While 2 of 5 specialized sergeants involved in the sexual assault were detained upon complaint, they were released after giving their statements at the police station.

It is reported that the concerned specialized sergeants filed a complaint against the young people who intervened them.



Men killed at least 34 women in Turkey in June

ANF | 4 JULY 2024

According to the news compiled by *bianet* from local and national newspapers, news websites and agencies, men killed at least 34 women and five children in June.

In addition, 30 women died under suspicious circumstances, making it unclear whether the killings were gender-based or not.

Men killed 193 women in the first six months of the year.

Suspicious deaths by provinces

The women killed were from the following provinces: Ankara (2), Antalya (1), Aydın (3), Eskişehir (1), Hakkari (3), Istanbul (2), İzmir (1), Isparta (1), Kırklareli (1), Kocaeli (1), Konya (2), Manisa (1), Nevşehir (1), Samsun (1), Siirt (2), Şırnak (1), Tekirdağ (2), Urfa (3).

Men forced 21 women into sex work and threatened to kill at least 12 women.

In the first six months of 2024, men killed 193 women, harassed 35 women, abused 78 children, subjected 274 women to violence, and raped eight women. Additionally, men forced at least 199 women into sex work. The deaths of 149 women were reported in the media as "suspicious," and men killed at least 21 children.

In the first six months of 2023, men killed 152 women, harassed 27 women, abused 64 children, subjected 357 women to violence, and raped six women. Men forced at least 173 women into sex work. The deaths of 128 women were reported in the media as "suspicious," and men killed 13 children.



Human Rights Violations

Kurdish workers attacked in Muğla

ANF | MUĞLA | 30 JUNE 2024

A family from Mardin, who worked in a greenhouse in the neighborhood of Kumluova in the Seydikemer district of Muğla, was attacked by a group of 20 people.

Abdulhalim Yavuz said an argument took place on the road around 6 p.m. on June 28, while his nephew Resul Yavuz was leaving work. Yavuz said: "During the argument, one person threatened my nephew, accusing him of not giving him way, and called someone on the phone. Another group of around fifteen people, including the head of the Kumluova district, came."

Yavuz said: "When my brother and I got there, my nephew was sitting covered in blood. A crowd was waiting with machetes, knives and sticks. When we asked them why they did this, they started attacking us. They want to kick us out of here because we are Kurds. During the argument, they constantly said they didn't want us there, swore and insulted us."

— ★ —

Two lawyers detained in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 2 JULY 2024

Contemporary Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Istanbul Branch executive Naim Eminoğlu and branch member Doğa İncesu were detained in house raids in the morning. The lawyers were taken to Istanbul Provincial Security Directorate and were restricted from seeing their lawyers for 24 hours.

ÇHD made a statement on its social media account about the detentions and said, "One of our branch executives, lawyer Naim Eminoğlu and our member lawyer Doğa İncesu were detained from their homes by the political branch police this morning and taken to Vatan Security Directorate. Stop the attacks against lawyers! Release our friends immediately! Istanbul Provincial Security Directorate has informed us that the lawyer's access to defense counsel has been restricted for 24 hours. We call on all our colleagues to stand in solidarity against unlawful arrest warrants, arbitrary restrictions and attacks against the defense."

— ★ —

Eight Kurdish journalists sentenced to six years and three months in prison each

ANF | ANKARA | 3 JULY 2024

Eight Kurdish journalists have been sentenced in Ankara to six years and three months in prison each for membership of an illegal organisation, while three others were acquitted. The convicted are employees of the Mezopotamya Agency (MA) agency and the women's news agency JinNews: MA editor-in-chief Diren Yurtsever, MA correspondents Berivan Altan, Selman Güzelyüz, Hakan Yalçın, Emrullah Acar, Zemo Ağgöz and Deniz Nazlım as well as JinNews employee Öznur Değer. They are accused of being members of the PKK due to their journalistic activities. Habibe Eren, Ceylan Şahinli and Mehmet Günhan, on the other hand, were acquitted.

A total of twelve media professionals from the free Kurdish press were initially charged in the trial. Eleven of them were detained in October 2022 and nine were remanded in custody for seven months. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office based the charges on statements by anonymous witnesses, while confiscated storage media and wiretap logs were presented as further "evidence".

Lawyer Resul Timur described the proceedings as a "censorship trial", stating that the case is exemplary for the treatment of media in Turkey that do not bow to the *raison d'état* and refuse to be vicarious agents of the rulers' policies. "These journalists are in the dock because they have dedicated themselves to the path of truth and also scrutinise the state from time to time. The Kurdish media have shown this courage for four decades. This is precisely why they belong to the school of the free press," said Timur at the start of the trial in May 2023.

The defence lawyer emphasised that the prerequisite for initiating a preliminary investigation was an initial suspicion, which in this case obviously did not exist, nor did any tangible evidence. Timur suspects that the "statements" of the anonymous "witness" were only fabricated and constructed in order to bring about a predetermined guilty verdict for the wrongly accused media professionals. He said that the indictment is essentially due to the fact that the police and the public prosecutor's office took offence at critical articles.



RTÜK revokes license of independent radio station Açık Radyo

ANF | ANKARA | 4 JULY 2024

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) has revoked the license of the independent radio station Açık Radyo. The decision comes after the station was penalized for a broadcast that mentioned the Armenian Genocide on 24 April.

The cancellation of the license was based on the station's failure to comply with previous sanctions imposed by RTÜK, which included administrative fines and a five-day suspension of broadcasts. Despite

paying the fines, Açık Radyo continued its broadcasts, something RTÜK considered a violation of the sanctions.

RTÜK member İlhan Taşçı publicly criticized the decision, stating, "The reason given is the station's non-compliance with a previous five-day suspension order for inciting hatred and hostility. However, the broadcaster had paid the fine but did not cease broadcasting. This situation should have been interpreted in favor of the broadcaster."

Speaking about the previously imposed penalty, Necdet Ipekyüz said: "I have already written a dissenting opinion about the penalty. We will deliver it this week. There are various exemplary decisions taken by Turkey on the Armenian question. For example, Diyarbakır Bar Association was tried in 5 cases, 4 of which ended in acquittal. There are many similar cases. Despite these examples, the problem of not discussing an issue and turning it into a punishment is deepened even further."

— ★ —

Peace in Kurdistan / Respect for the Will

Co-mayor of Hakkari Municipality calls for a joint struggle

ANF | ISTANBUL | 30 JUNE 2024

The Hakkari Municipality won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in the 31 March local elections was usurped by a government-appointed trustee on 3 June. Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who was removed from office by the decision of the Turkish Ministry of Interior, was arrested with a prison sentence of 19 years and 6 months in the scope of a case that had been ongoing for 10 years.

As reactions and actions against the political coup of the government continue, the co-mayor Viyan Tekçe met with members of the press in Istanbul on Sunday.

Viyan Tekçe was accompanied by the Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK) Co-Spokesperson Esengül Demir and Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Istanbul Provincial Organisation executives.

Representatives of labour, peace and democracy forces and non-governmental organisations also took part in the meeting held in Şişli.

DEM Party Assembly member Aylin Hacaloğlu started her speech by commemorating those who lost their lives in the Sivas Massacre and emphasised the importance of unity against the usurpation of people's will.

Co-Mayor of Hakkari Municipality, Viyan Tekçe, stated that they were not allowed into the municipality building after the usurpation.

Stating that it is meaningful that the usurpation started in Hakkari, Viyan Tekçe said, "The people of Hakkari manifested their will despite all the pressures, but the AKP government did not respect the will of the people and appointed a trustee. The people reacted and continue their struggle."

Viyan Tekçe stated that she was in Istanbul to make her voice heard against anti-democratic practices and to show solidarity with the forces of democracy and said, "We want to fight together with the people of Istanbul and Turkey to put an end to the trustee regime of the government. Municipalities are people's houses and people are claiming their houses."

Viyan Tekçe emphasised that the appointment of trustees meant taking away the right to elect and be elected and said that the AKP government applied double standards in law.

DEM Party Hakkari Municipality Council member Necip Coşkun stated that the meeting aimed to strengthen the joint struggle against the trustee regime. Coşkun said, "Our activities as council members in Hakkari municipality are prevented by the trustee administration."

Hakkari Municipality Council member Evin Tan said that they came to Istanbul to increase solidarity and that their meetings would continue. Tan expressed that they would like to come together with the people of Turkey more often.



DEM Party Councillors prevented from entering the usurped Hakkari Municipality

ANF | HAKKARI | 1 JULY 2024

The Hakkari Municipality won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in the 31 March local elections was usurped by a government-appointed trustee on 3 June. Co-Mayor Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who was removed from office by the decision of the Turkish Ministry of Interior, was arrested with a prison sentence of 19 years and 6 months in the scope of a case that had been ongoing for 10 years.

DEM Party Councillors came to Hakkari Municipality on Monday to set the agenda for the July Council meeting but encountered a police barrier at the entrance gate of the municipality.

The police told the councillors, "The municipal council will not convene. If you have private and personal transactions such as paying bills inside, you can pass." While the elected councillors requested to meet with the executive assistant, the police rejected the request, saying: "He is not available at the moment. You cannot meet him."

The councillors took minutes of the obstruction and the prevention of the council meeting.



6-day 'Respect for the Will March' from Van to Hakkari kicks off

ANF | VAN | 3 JULY 2024

A 6-day 'Respect for the Will March' from Van to Hakkari was launched today in protest at the appointment of a trustee on 3 June to Hakkari Municipality won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in the 31 March local elections.

The arrival of masses from Turkey and Kurdistan cities in Van city center was followed by a press statement in Musa Anter Park with the participation of DEM Party Co-Chair Tuncer Bakırhan, MPs, co-mayors of municipalities and representatives of non-governmental organisations and local people.

Bakırhan said that nowhere in the world has a march been organised with the demand of "respect for the will". Remarking that the organisation of a march with this demand was a shame for the country, Bakırhan said, "Ballot boxes were set up all over Turkey, people chose their will to govern them, but their will was not recognized. The march for respect for the people's will is a shame for this country. People elect their rulers, who, however, are ruled out one by one with various excuses. It is a pity for the people living in Turkey, a great shame. Either you will not put the ballot box or when the ballot box is set up you will say 'Kurds cannot vote'. You will mark the houses of Kurds and put a red cross on them. But if you put the ballot box, you will respect it. If you don't respect it, the people who elected those rulers will protect their will."

Bakırhan said, "If you see Kurds as citizens of this country, you all have to respect their declaration of will. You usurped their will for two terms and appointed trustees in the place of their elected representatives. The best example is Van. The municipalities are trapped in debt and no services are provided. There is migration and unemployment. There is no infrastructure, no water. The facilities of the municipality have been made a present to some people. You have destroyed and usurped everything related to the Kurdish language, culture, language, belief and life and you shamelessly say 'we don't accept it'. We will make you accept it."

Bakırhan emphasised that the appointment of a trustee in Hakkari should be reversed and said, "Give up this unlawful approach. Release Mehmet Sıddık Akış. If you are confident in yourselves, appear before us with your candidates in the next election, come with your governors, bureaucrats and trustees and do your propaganda. Let us respect whoever people choose. Otherwise, this country loses. Can such a thing happen? This is Turkey's shame. This shame must be abandoned. I call on those who govern this country to give up this shame."

Stressing that they will continue their struggle, Bakırhan said, "Turkey is going through a serious economic crisis, poverty is rampant, people cannot make a living, there is no freedom and democracy, but we are dealing with the trustees. If you care so much about the people of Hakkari and Van, open the borders and let people trade. Open the borders so that people from outside the country can come to Van and

Hakkari. Open the plateaus you have banned, let people do agriculture and animal husbandry. Distribute Turkey's national income in a fair and equal way to the Kurdish provinces, then come and compete so that people can say that this government is acting fairly. Then you might have a chance. But with rejection, denial and oppression, you will never have a chance anywhere in Kurdistan."

After the statement, the march, which will continue for 6 days, started. Thousands of people marched with the slogans "No passage for the trustee" and "Colemêrg ya me ye" [Hakkari is ours].

The participants will walk approximately 20 kilometres today and reach the district of Gürpınar today.

— ★ —

‘Respect for the Will March’: The path to democracy passes through Hakkari

ANF | VAN | 4 JULY 2024

A 6-day 'Respect for the Will March' from Van to Hakkari was launched on 3 July in protest at the appointment of a trustee on 3 June to Hakkari Municipality won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in the 31 March local elections.

On its second day, the march continued in the Gürpınar district of Van following a press statement in Tekmala Şêx Safiyeddîn hamlet.

DEM Party Mardin MP Saliha Aydeniz stated that they are marching for the people of Hakkari and the will of the peoples, "We are marching for the future of Kurdish and Turkish peoples. The AKP-MHP fascist government does not recognise the will of anyone. This march is an opportunity for all peoples. The trustee practice must be reversed. We will fight until this decision is reversed."

Saliha Aydeniz said that the crisis in the country is deepening day by day and continued, "The way out of this crisis is to recognise the will of the people. The trustee is a coup. Kurdish people and their friends are marching against this coup. If this coup continues, this country will turn into an open prison. We are marching not only for the appointment of trustees but also to break the isolation of Mr Öcalan. For the isolation to be broken and for the future of the country, Mr Öcalan must be freed. Our struggle will continue until these policies are ended. The opposition should also know that the path to democracy passes through Hakkari, the freedom of the Kurdish people and the freedom of Mr Öcalan."

— ★ —

Respect for the Will March: Colonial law applied in Hakkari

ANF | VAN | 5 JULY 2024

A 6-day 'Respect for the Will March' from Van to Hakkari was launched on 3 July in protest at the appointment of a trustee on 3 June to Hakkari Municipality won by the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in the 31 March local elections.

On its third day, the march continued in the Başkale district of Van, where a press statement was made.

Speaking in front of a banner that read "Respect for the will, no trustee", Van MP Zülküf Uçar said: "The will of the Kurdish people was usurped, and a coup d'état was carried out in the person of our Hakkari co-mayor Sıddık Akış. This is nothing but the manifestation of a century-old colonialist mind. For a century, the Kurdish people's will, existence, status and, finally, the right to elect and be elected have been taken away. This is a march demanding respect for the will against this fascist and colonialist mind. This is a march against the mindset that targeted Mr Abdullah Öcalan in İmralı and spread to all other prisons. We will continue to struggle and resist until rights and law are restored in the country and the status and mother tongue of the Kurdish people are truly constitutionally guaranteed."

Uçar stated that their action was not limited to the march, but that millions were behind them. He added: "Democracy and justice will be achieved through the struggle of the Kurdish people and their friends. Today we also honour Vedat Aydın, who was murdered by JİTEM (Gendarmerie Intelligence). We will continue resisting together with the people of Hakkari."

— ★ —

Interview

Zilar Stêrk: Zîlan's action was a turning point

ANF | BEHDINAN | 2 JULY 2024

Zilar Stêrk, a member of the KCK Executive Council spoke about the significance of the self-sacrificing action carried out by Zeynep Kinaci (Zilan). She also said that the struggle that Zilan carried out for Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan back then is needed today more urgently than ever.

Zeynep Kinaci (Zilan) carried out a self-sacrifice action against the Turkish army on June 30, 1996. What was 1996 like for the Kurdish people, the Kurdish freedom movement, and the enemy in political and military terms?

As Kurdish society, we face many problems and difficulties with regard to the protection of our own nation, existence, identity, politics, self-defense, society, organization, education, knowledge, and personality. We also face difficulties in restructuring these. It was Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] who created and developed solutions to our problems. If it were not for him, it would be a matter of debate whether we, the Kurdish people who have been subjected to genocide, would have been able to organize, struggle, and develop such a strong cause. That is the reason why the enemy is attacking Rêber Apo so heavily. With the emergence of Rêber Apo and the freedom movement, our enemies – the imperialist, oppressive, and hegemonic powers – joined hands and waged a special war against the Kurdish struggle for freedom and against Rêber Apo. The Turkish Gladio structure was established in Kurdistan, organized under the name of JITEM, and together with the mercenaries of Hizbulkontra, they massacred our patriotic people.

The enemy tried to create personality problems within the societies of Kurdistan to sabotage the freedom movement in this way. There were particularly problems of pioneering, leadership, and militancy. Rêber Apo focused on these problems, especially in the years 1992 to 1995. If one looks at the analyses of Rêber Apo, one will clearly see that Rêber Apo concentrated all his power on solving our internal problems. A struggle and an ideological war were being developed by Rêber Apo. Particularly in 1995, he wanted to bring about a breakthrough within the freedom movement. As he said at that time, 'In 1996, we will take new steps to rebuild ourselves. We have great goals.' He had prepared the movement in every way for this next step. Of course, the enemy was also aware of this and tried to take measures against it. This measure was the physical destruction of Rêber Apo. They wanted to kill Rêber Apo in the first step, and in the second step, they wanted to liquidate the freedom movement and subject the entire Kurdish people to genocide.

On May 6, 1996, the enemy organized an assassination attack to physically destroy Rêber Apo. A bomb-loaded car exploded in front of the Party Academy where Rêber Apo was staying. The aim of this attack was to leave the Kurdish people leaderless. They wanted to turn the clock back in time, when the Kurds were without Rêber Apo. However, precautions were taken because the party knows its enemy well. This consciousness was also formed by the pioneers of the movement, its cadres, and militants. Thanks to the measures taken by Rêber Apo and the movement, this attack was thwarted.

Can we say that comrade Zilan realized the threat against Rêber Apo and therefore carried out this action against the enemy? What messages did she convey both internally and externally to the enemy through her action?

Comrade Zilan decided to carry out a sacrificial action against this concept of destruction and annihilation that the enemy was applying to Rêber Apo. At this time, comrade Zilan had not even been in the movement for two years, and she hadn't been a guerrilla in the mountains of Dersim (tr. Tunceli) for long too. Comrade Zilan, a conscious and patriotic person, conducted an action that was against the attack on the existence and free life of Kurds. It was by far not only a military action. With the consciousness and will she received through Rêber Apo and the freedom movement, comrade Zilan decided to carry out a self-sacrificial action. Yes, it was a very strategic military action; it determined the tactics and strategy of

the period in guerrilla warfare, but it also paved the way for many other things as well. It was a very sacred and great action. This action of comrade Zilan was an answer for us.

Can it be said that comrade Zilan's action, personality and ideas represent a turning point for both the Kurdish freedom movement and the Kurdish women's freedom movement?

Indeed, comrade Zilan's action was a huge turning point for the struggle, and particularly for the women's struggle, on an ideological, social, and political level. Zilan blew up backward understandings in relation to real socialism and the military and political blockage. She frustrated the concept of the enemy. It is necessary to do deep analyses about her. In the case of Zilan, Kurdish women created an explosion of freedom within themselves. With comrade Zilan, new developments emerged in Kurdish men as well. The backwardness of men also blew up in this fedai action. Comrade Zilan affected everyone, men and women, with her stance.

She caused serious social, cultural, personal, and military changes. Thousands of Kurdish youths have set out to follow her path. For example comrade Sema Yüce was following in comrade Zilan's footsteps, when she carried out her action in Canakkale Prison. In her letter she wrote; "I wish I could have done an action like comrade Zilan".

With comrade Zilan's action, Rêber Apo also made radical changes. His focus on women's freedom and analyzing the shortcomings of real socialism deepened. Through this, he built the ideology of women's liberation. Rêber Apo once said about Zilan, that she is "our commander, we are her fighters". Comrade Fikri Baygeldi, followed the path that comrade Sema took as the path of free women and adopted it. Rêber Apo is very interested in the reality of Kurdish men and Kurdish women. The ruling powers in Kurdistan had established a very special patriarchal system, but Rêber Apo managed to create a society that overcame this and the fear of death. Our comrades who are currently fighting at the forefront follow this spirit, will and way of life.

How should the relationship between life, war and struggle be evaluated? How is it related to Zilan's action?

We have nothing to fear anymore. A person who defeats death in her or his personality is very attached to life. In Zilan's action and personality, a very strong desire to live can be spotted. She killed death. In Kurdistan, the line between life and death was blurred. Before the struggle, life had no meaning anymore; life only took place on a biological level. Life gains meaning through struggle. One struggles in order to give meaning to her or his life.

For 50 years we have been waging a struggle for existence, identity, cultural, political, self-defense, economic and social struggle. In this way, life in Kurdistan has gained some meaning. Life in Kurdistan has become precious. Thanks to Rêber Apo, thanks to Zilan, Sema, Fikri Baygeldi, and many other comrades, life has found meaning. Now human life is valuable. The belief of the Kurdish people is now the belief in free life. All our comrades who are currently fighting in the tunnels of resistance are the successors of Zilan, Gulan and Sema.

Zilan saw the threat against Rêber Apo, read and foresaw the conspiracy very well and made a historical initiative against it. But the conspiracy continues today in a deeper, more widespread and dirtier way. How do you evaluate the leadership of women in the global campaign for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and a democratic solution to the Kurdish question?

To defend Rêber Apo means to defend the Kurdish people, to defend free thought and ideology, to defend free life itself. Rêber Apo managed to revitalize and rebuild the Kurdish society. It is a fundamental duty to defend him. In her letter, comrade Zilan gave the Kurdish people and us the duty to defend Rêber Apo. Thanks to this system and paradigm, the number of friends and comrades of the Kurds have increased all over the world.

We used to say that there were no friends of the Kurds other than the mountains of Kurdistan. Now, under the leadership of our international friends, breakthroughs are being made in the struggle for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Our people and women need to do a lot of research on this issue. It is necessary to participate in this global campaign in every sense. Everyone should take their participation one step further and make their lives meaningful. From today onwards, participation in the movement must increase even more. Let your children defeat death. What are you afraid of?

The participation of Kurdish women in this movement is very important. They are doing a lot of work and showing great effort, and it is them who are leading this movement. Women play a leading role at the international level as well, and I salute their efforts and work, but women should play an even more decisive role. They should clarify their guidelines at the autonomous level and formulate their claims. They should develop more independent actions. Once again, I salute our friends who are organizing this campaign and this resistance. I call on them to enrich the style of this movement and continue with even more effective actions.

— ★ —

Opinion

Erdoğan continues to dig graves for Kurds

ZEKI BEDRAN | 4 JULY 2024

Developments in the Middle East are at a level that excites observers. Contradictions, conflicts and searches are never ending. The Middle East has turned into a ball of contradictions and conflicts, but those who know the history of the region say that two fundamental problems play an effective role in these conflicts. These are the Palestinian question and the Kurdistan question. Kurdistan was divided between four states after World War I. After World War II, the state of Israel was established, and the Palestinians were largely expelled from their lands. Of course, Palestine and Kurdistan were brought to this state with the help and support of the imperialist powers.

As the first nation state to be established, Turkey pioneered the eradication and assimilation of the Kurdish people. The Turkish model was later adopted by Iran, Iraq and Syria. These four states have always been united when it came to the Kurds and have acted like seeking to destroy them. The status of Kurdistan, or rather its statusless state, has become a world system. Especially after Turkey joined NATO, this statusless state has deepened.

Turkey and the Kurdish policy

The Turkish state is playing the most influential role in the region and in the world to ensure that the Kurds remain without status. When demonstrations broke out in Syria in 2011, the Erdoğan administration immediately opened its borders and mobilised for the overthrow of the Bashar al-Assad government. The reason for such a quick action was again the Kurds. He assumed that Bashar's regime would fall. He immediately took a position in case the Kurds could take advantage of this situation and gain a status. Erdoğan thought, "Bashar will not last anyway, he will go like Gaddafi and others, and I will kill more than one bird with one stone". By supporting the Ikhwanis, he would have a large population in Syria and establish influence in the Middle East. He was dreaming of the Ottoman Empire and making expansionist calculations. He wanted to utilise the opportunity.

However, their calculations failed. Both the Kurds and the Assad administration resisted. The Kurds repelled ISIS and defeated ISIS together with the international coalition. The Assad government survived with the support of Iran and Russia. However, Erdoğan's calculations dragged Syria into a bloody maelstrom. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives and millions were forced to migrate. Syria, as a heavily wounded country, is still in the throes of it. Erdoğan, together with his racist partner MHP, continues to organise and plan evil.

Erdoğan's plans did not work out, and he reversed himself on many issues. He ended up begging Israel and prostrating himself before Arab states. But he did not give up his enmity against the Kurds and did not stop attacking them. He again conducted his negotiations with the US and European powers over the Kurds. It is the same in his relations with Russia. To summarize, he negotiates with the whole world over Kurdish enmity and tries to get support.

Erdoğan and the Syria policy

Erdoğan has been saying for some time that he also wants to normalise relations with Syria. For this, he had put Russia into play. The Putin administration was also having difficulties with the war it found itself in and the embargo. Previously, he had collaborated with Turkey, especially on the occupation of Afrin. They were accustomed to oppressing peoples for their own interests and to sell them off to each other. Despite Russia's attempts, Bashar al-Assad did not meet Erdoğan. He rightly said, "If I sat at the table with him, I would be endorsing his occupation in Syria". As a condition for a meeting, he suggested that Turkey withdraw its troops from Syria. However, his latest statement is different. He made this statement after Putin's special envoy's visit to Damascus. He said that they could normalise their relations with Turkey.

Syria's change of attitude

Why did Syria change its attitude? This is an important issue that requires discussion. It needs to be monitored and researched. There will be elections in the US soon and there is a possibility that Trump will be re-elected. In that case, the US may withdraw from Syria and Turkey will be left alone as an occupier. Turkey actually does not want the US to leave Syria. All Erdoğan's pressure and criticism of the US are only about the Kurds. As long as the US is there, it will take time to crush and disperse the Kurds. The conjuncture may change, and a Kurdish status may emerge. He says to the US, "Leave the YPG and SDF and let me do what you want".

Should the US get out, Erdoğan would end up saying, "We will crush the Kurds, fine, but then I cannot stay in Syria. As Syria gets stronger, it will provoke Arab nationalism and make me unable to stay there. I cannot protect Idlib and al-Nusra etc. as I do now". As a matter of fact, he has no problem with selling these forces. In the end, if things don't go as planned, he could sell them too and get out of Syria. His main concern is primarily to finish off the Kurds and change the demographic structure on their borders.

Why did Bashar al-Assad change his attitude? His attitude is also related to these developments. "If the US withdraws, it will be easier for us to move on the Kurdish regions together with Turkey. I will seize the oil regions, etc. After the Kurds are finished, we will have no difficulty in coming to an agreement with the Turkish invaders," is his calculation.

It seems that there will be new mobilisations in the region!



Contact e-mail: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Websites: freeocalan.org | ocalanbooks.com | Videos: vimeo.com/freeocalan