

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Lawyers apply once again to visit Öcalan in İmralı

ANF | ISTANBUL | 9 JULY 2024

Asrın Law Office lawyers Suzan Akipa, İbrahim Bilmez, Cengiz Yürekli and Emran Emekçi made new applications to the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and İmralı Penal Institution Directorate to meet with their clients Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, who are under absolute isolation in İmralı Island Prison.

Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan is completely cut off from the outside world. While there is no response to requests for meetings, in some cases, months later, his lawyers are presented with a justification of disciplinary penalties.

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."

In a statement on 25 March, Asrın Law Office said, "The current state of absolute non-communication is maintained through de facto and arbitrary practices as well as 'judicial decisions' that have no basis in Turkish legislation. The disciplinary penalties that are cited as reasons for the ban on family visits and the decisions that prevent visits by lawyers are contrary to the legislation and constitute a criminal offence for the authorities. In addition, the right to correspondence and telephone communication is not recognised. However, in accordance with the Mandela rules, it is not possible to completely cut off contact with the outside world. Under all circumstances, minimum communication of prisoners with the outside world must be ensured. Not only are the minimum criteria not fulfilled, but also the files and decisions on which these practices are based are hidden from lawyers. With these practices, İmralı Island is kept behind a veil of secrecy. Access to the slightest information about the current situation of our clients held in an island prison has been prevented for 3 years without interruption, especially by their families and our lawyers. We do not have any information about our clients' right to health and other fundamental vital rights guaranteed under domestic and international law."

‘Freedom for Öcalan’ vigil in Strasbourg in its 628th week

ANF | STRASBOURG | 10 JULY 2024

Under the leadership of the Initiative for the Freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, a "Freedom Vigil" has been held in Strasbourg, France since 25 June 2012 in order to ensure the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and to end the isolation conditions imposed on him in İmralı Island Prison where he has been held since 1999.

In the 628th week, three patriots from Giessen in Hessen took over the vigil action, which is undertaken by a group from different countries of Europe every week.

The three activists, Mehmet Şerif Narman, Hacı Mustafa and Ömer İkmân, denounced the silence of international organisations and called on the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) to fulfil its responsibilities.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Mehmet Şerif Narman noted that there has been no news from the Kurdish People's Leader for at least 40 months.

Mehmet Şerif Narman drew attention to the global campaign launched in October 2023 with the demand for Abdullah Öcalan's freedom and a political solution to the Kurdish question, and said, "We hope to break the silence. We must liberate the leadership of humanity."

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Prisons in Turkey

Justice Ministry one again rejects Osman Kavala's request for retrial

ANF | ANKARA | 6 JULY 2024

Osman Kavala, one other Gezi Resistance prisoners, has seen his request for a retrial rejected once again by the Justice Ministry.

Kavala is a human rights defender and philanthropist. He was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole in 2022 on charges of attempting to overthrow the government during the 2013 Gezi Park protests.

Kavala had sought a retrial based on what his defense argued were significant procedural violations and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rulings, which highlighted the arbitrary nature of his detention and called for his immediate release. Turkish courts have so far defied this decision.

The ministry's General Directorate of Criminal Affairs dismissed the retrial request, saying that the decision of the Istanbul court was appropriate considering the context and evidence of the case. The court noted that the arguments for retrial had already been presented and dismissed during previous appeal processes, thus upholding the initial verdict.

Osman Kavala

Businessman and rights defender Osman Kavala was detained on 18 October 2017, in an investigation into the 2013 Gezi Park protests. He was arrested on 1 November and placed in the Marmara (Silivri) Prison.

He was accused of allegedly attempting to 'overthrow the government' in the context of the Gezi protests and 'the constitutional order' in the context of the July 15 coup attempt.

He was acquitted in the Gezi Trial on 18 February 2020. However, he was not released. On the day of his acquittal, he was re-arrested on charges of attempting to 'overthrow the constitutional order.' On 9 March 2020, he was arrested again for the same trial, this time on charges of 'political or military espionage'.

The acquittal decision in the Gezi trial was overturned, and he was retried. On 25 April 2022, he was sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment for 'attempting to overthrow the government'. The appeals court upheld the decision.

Meanwhile, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), in its decision of 10 December 2019, said that Osman Kavala's detention was arbitrary and based on political motives, ruling that he should be released immediately. As this did not happen, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe initiated a 'violation procedure' against Turkey.

In its decision on 11 July 2022, the ECtHR Grand Chamber ruled that "[the decision of 10 December 2019] regarding Kavala, which found a violation of Article 5 in connection with Article 18 of the ECtHR, would render any action based on accusations related to the Gezi Park events and the coup attempt null and void."

The Turkish courts ignored and did not implement the legally binding nature of these two decisions.

Release ill prisoners Nebioğlu and Yıldırım, says the Freedom for Ill Prisoner Initiative

ANF | 6 JULY 2024

The Freedom for Ill Prisoners Initiative demanded the release of seriously ill inmates in its protest in front of the Human Rights Association (IHD). The sit-in has reached its 513th week.

This week's protest drew attention to the situation of prisoners Emrah Nebioğlu and Serdal Yıldırım.

Nuray Çevirmen, a member of the IHD Central Executive Board, said that Emrah Nebioğlu has been in prison since 2022 and added that he was paralyzed as a result of being shot in the head. However, he was not released despite a 94 percent disability report. Emphasizing that it is impossible for Nebioğlu, who suffers from kidney failure and high blood pressure, to survive in prison conditions, Çevirmen demanded the immediate release of Nebioğlu.

During the action of the IHD Istanbul Branch Prison Commission in Beyoğlu, the situation of prisoner Serdal Yıldırım, who had a 98 percent disability report, was exposed.

Yıldırım, who is paralyzed from the waist down, was not released on the grounds that he allegedly represents a security threat, despite reports that he "cannot stay in prison".

IHD member Taylan Bekin said that the applications for Yıldırım's release were not taken into consideration and Yıldırım was left to die in prison.



Kurdish political prisoner denied contact with family, lawyers

ANF | 9 JULY 2024

Warisha Moradi, a Kurdish political prisoner in Tehran's Evin Prison, has been prevented from contacting her family and lawyers since 6 May on the orders of Judge Abolghasem Salavati, the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) reported.

When her lawyers went to court last week ahead of her second hearing, they were told by Branch 15 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran that they would not be allowed to access the case file or even return to the court for the same purpose, according to the KHRN report.

The first hearing, on charges of "armed insurrection" (baghi) through membership of the Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK), was held on 16 June at Branch 15 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran. Moradi was not allowed to defend herself during the hearing, and Judge Abolghasem Salavati also barred her lawyers from presenting a defence.

The second hearing, originally scheduled for 13 May, was cancelled for undisclosed reasons, and on 14 May Judge Salavati ordered Moradi's transfer to solitary confinement in Ward 209 for further interrogation.

The prisoner spent three days in solitary confinement and, together with Pakhshan Azizi, another Kurdish prisoner, began a two-day hunger strike in protest.

Moradi, a member of the East Kurdistan Free Women Society (KJAR) from Sanandaj, Kurdistan Province, was arrested by the Ministry of Intelligence on 1 August 2023 at the entrance to Sanandaj upon her return from Kermanshah, Kermanshah Province, where she had been involved in political and organisational activities.

She spent the first 13 days of her detention in the detention centre of this security institution in Sanandaj, and afterwards, was transferred to Ward 209 of Evin Prison in Tehran.

During this period, she was subjected to pressure and threats to make forced confessions, and on 26 December 2023, after five months of solitary confinement, she was transferred to the women's ward of Evin Prison.



850 prisoners suffer food poisoning in Sincan Prison in Ankara

ANF | ANKARA | 9 JULY 2024

Prisoners in Sincan High Security Prison No 1 stated that they were poisoned by the food they ate last week. Prisoner Bager Sayak, in his weekly phone call with his nephew Ahmet Sayak, said that many prisoners suffered food poisoning after breakfast and were taken to emergency services. Sayak said that a similar situation occurred in other places on the prison campus.

Families of prisoners in Sincan Open Penal Institution stated that at least 850 inmates were poisoned.

Similar cases of food poisoning have occurred in Silivri, Kırklareli, Amed and Pınarhisar prisons in the past days.



Activist Ecevit Piroğlu released on condition not to leave Serbia

ANF | 10 JULY 2024

Activist Ecevit Piroğlu, who was arrested in Belgrade three years ago at the request of Turkey, has been released on the condition that he continue not to leave Serbia. Baki Selçuk, who is in Serbia as a spokesman

for the Voice of the Prisoners platform (Tutsakların Sesi Platformu, TSP), said that Piroğlu was taken from the hospital to a camp and then to the police, and that he is now free.

In the "red list of most wanted terrorists"

Ecevit Piroğlu was arrested at Belgrade airport in June 2021 on the basis of an Interpol "Red Notice" issued by Turkey. He is accused of "terrorism". In concrete, he is wanted for his participation in the 2013 Gezi protests in Istanbul and his support for Rojava. The Alevi Kurd has been politically active in Turkey since his youth. He was a board member of the Human Rights Association (IHD) and was an executive director of the Socialist Democracy Party (SDP). After the Gezi uprising was crushed by the government, Piroğlu went to Northern Syria and joined the fight against the Islamic State. He traveled to Serbia to apply for political asylum: Turkey has Piroğlu on the "Red List" of most wanted "terrorists" and has put a bounty of ten million TL on his head. He faces at least thirty years in prison.

Illegal detention

The extradition proceedings against Piroğlu were discontinued in May 2023 after Serbia's Supreme Court of Appeal ruled that he could not be extradited to Turkey. Piroğlu was released but he was arrested again in January of this year and taken to a deportation center in Padinska Skela. The basis for this new arrest was an order from the Serbian Ministry of the Interior to leave the country immediately. Nevertheless, Piroğlu was still held in custody, although this violates the guidelines of the UN Committee against Torture, Serbian law and previous court rulings. Likewise, the Serbian judiciary ignored Piroğlu's request to leave voluntarily.

Hunger strike ended

Ecevit Piroğlu first went on hunger strike during the extradition proceedings in June 2022. He lost thirty kilograms in 136 days. After the Supreme Court finally suspended the extradition, he ended the resistance. He resumed this protest on February 12 and ended the hunger strike on 26 June. The DKP/BÖG organization called on him to do this when he weighed only 45 kilos and was in very poor condition.

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DEM Party calls for closure of S and Y Type prisons

ANF | ANKARA | 10 JULY 2024

The DEM Party's Law and Human Rights Commission submitted a report emphasising the need for the closure of S and Y type prisons. Speaking at the press conference held at the Commission's Headquarters in Ankara on Wednesday, Co-spokesperson Öztürk Türkdoğan shared the party's information on Y and S type prisons.

Türkdoğan stated that there are currently 403 prisons in Turkey and the total capacity of these prisons is 295 thousand people. However, as of 1 July, the number of people held in prisons increased to 342,526. He said that this situation shows that there are more people than capacity in prisons and that this number

is constantly increasing. Türkdoğan also emphasised that seriously ill prisoners should be released immediately, postponement of release should be stopped and the administrative observation board should be abolished.

In its report, the commission stated that S and Y type prisons are particularly worrying for political prisoners and that these models should be closed down. Türkdoğan said, "These prisons are full of practices against human rights. The current version of the Penal Execution Code (CİK) seriously threatens the health and life rights of prisoners. Therefore, it is imperative that these prisons are closed down immediately and the execution regime is reformed."

Türkdoğan also emphasised that the poor prison conditions have spread all over Turkey, starting from İmralı, and that the conditions need to be improved urgently.

The Commission's report, supported by the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV), the Human Rights Association (İHD) and other civil society organisations, was prepared for submission to the Parliamentary Human Rights Inquiry Commission. The DEM Party stated that it will continue its struggle against human rights violations in prisons and will try to realise these demands with the support of the people.



Prisoner in Kırşehir High Security Prison goes on hunger strike

ANF | URFA | 12 JULY 2024

Necdet Öztürk (35), a prisoner in Kırşehir High Security Prison (YGC), has gone on hunger strike. Öztürk was deported from Antep L Type Prison to Kırşehir High Security Prison (YGC) on 22 April, and was put in solitary confinement.

Öztürk was sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment. He wrote many petitions saying that he wanted to go to the ward where political prisoners were held. His demands were rejected with the claim that there were "no empty cell in the ward where political prisoners are located". The prisoner said in a phone call with his family that he went on hunger strike as of Wednesday. The prison administration put pressure on Öztürk to "move to the common ward", but he refused.

He said that he will continue his hunger strike until his demands are met, and called for public awareness.

His brother Ibrahim Öztürk said the following about what happened: "I went to visit him last week. Even though he had political friends there, they put him in a separate block alone. They did not respond to my brother's petitions to be transferred with his friends. He went on hunger strike because his demands were not accepted. So I called the prison administration. The official I spoke to confirmed that my brother had gone on hunger strike and told me that there was a cell in the common ward for the time being. They told this to my brother and he did not accept it. How can he accept this? My brother is a political prisoner and for this he received an aggravated life sentence. We want my brother to move with his friends. We are also

worried about my brother's condition. His demands should be accepted as soon as possible. We want legal organizations and human rights defenders to follow up on the issue until his demands are accepted."

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Prisoner Yaşa dies in Finland

ANF | 12 JULY 2024

Prisoner Mehmet Ali Yaşa, who was released 74 days before completing his 30-year sentence in Malatya T Type Closed Prison, has died. Yaşa suffered from advanced cancer, and his lawyer applied to the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office to suspend the execution of his sentence. It was decided to suspend the execution of the sentence for 6 months.

Yaşa was released on 16 February 2024, and was first treated at Malatya Training and Research Hospital. He died 45 days ago in Finland, where he went for treatment and to see his family. His funeral will be in Yeniköy Cemetery in Rezan district of Amed center after the necessary procedures.

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Military aggression and occupation

Turkish army target village in Amêdiye

ANF | DUHOK | 6 JULY 2024

The occupation attacks carried out by the Turkish state against South Kurdistan continue.

On Friday night, the Turkish army fired artillery fire at the village of Guherzê in Duhok's Amêdiye district.

According to information obtained from the village, the Turkish army directly targeted it, damaging many houses. Photographs and images show that citizens' houses were damaged and their doors and windows were broken.

It was stated that there was a great panic among the villagers due to the bombing, and children could not sleep all night due to fear.

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New actions by guerrillas in Zap, says HPG

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 JULY 2024

The Turkish army launched a major attack on the Zap region in South Kurdistan on Thursday evening, and heavy fighting is still taking place.

As the press center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) announced in a recent statement on the clashes, guerrillas attacked a Turkish Kirpi armored vehicle with heavy weapons in the area of the village of Sergelê on Friday evening.

The vehicle was destroyed, and three soldiers were killed. At the same time, attacks with heavy weapons and sniper tactics took place in the Girê Amêdî resistance area, killing another Turkish soldier. In addition, another air operation by the Turkish army in the Girê Bahar area was thwarted by the guerrillas on Friday night. A Sikorsky transport helicopter that was under fire was badly hit and had to retreat before troops could be dropped off, according to the HPG.

Losses in Yüksekova denied

In the statement, the HPG also denied reports by the Turkish army about military operations in North Kurdistan. According to the information, extensive operations took place in various areas in Yüksekova (Gever) on June 30 and July 2. In this context, the Turkish military spread the false information that three guerrillas were captured alive, and one person was killed. "The information provided by the Turkish occupation army is a complete lie," the HPG said, adding: "The operations in Gever were unsuccessful, there were no casualties or prisoners of war."

Air strikes by the Turkish army in South Kurdistan

In addition to previous statements about the recent air strikes by the Turkish army on the Medya Defense Areas, the HPG reported that between July 3 and 5, the Lolan and Kendekola areas in Xakurke, Şiyê, Kanî Sarkê and Gûzê in Gare, Mîska and Bêşîlî in Metîna and the Zap region were bombed a total of eleven times by fighter jets. Xakurkê, Metîna and the west of the Zap region were also attacked by combat helicopters.

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Hayat Tehrîr Al-Sham mercenaries kidnap 11 people in Idlib

ANF | 7 JULY 2024

Hayat Tehrîr Al-Sham mercenaries continue to commit crimes against the people in the occupied areas. According to sources in the region, the mercenaries kidnapped many people from the city of Binîsh in the Idlib countryside on Saturday.

Sources from the region told ANHA that 11 people were kidnapped from the city of Binish in the Idlib countryside, which is under the control of Hayat Tehrîr Al-Sham mercenaries.

The same sources said that the intelligence of the Turkish state and its affiliated mercenaries have raided houses in Ezaz, Bab, Afrin, Rai, Etarib and Ebzemo for two days and kidnapped many people.

A total of 17 people have been kidnapped in the occupied regions, and images of the torture carried out on the kidnapped people were broadcast on Turkish television.

In the images, Turkish officials forced the kidnapped citizens to kiss the Turkish flag.

The Turkish state closed all border gates with Syria and cut off the internet in the occupied regions.



Turkish military deployment to South Kurdistan continues

ANF | 7 JULY 2024

RojNews, citing local sources, reported that a large military force of the occupying Turkish state crossed into Guherzê village in Amadiya district of Duhok province last night.

The same sources reported that military forces and equipment were deployed to Guherzê village on Sunday morning.

Speaking to RojNews, a villager named Şakir said, "Our situation is very bad. I strongly criticise the attitude of political parties and the government. They remain silent against the attacks of the Turkish state. Doesn't the government realise that the Turkish state bombards our villages every day and as a result, most of our fields, gardens and houses are burnt and destroyed? Every day artillery shells and bullets fall on our villages."

The villager stated that they have been complaining to the district police for 15 days but have not received any response so far and that if this continues, the residents will be forced to evacuate the village.

Thousands of soldiers and hundreds of armoured vehicles have recently moved to the cities of Duhok and Hewlêr (Erbil) and deployed to strategic points in these cities in cooperation of the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

In front of the eyes of Hewlêr and Baghdad, the occupying Turkish state has gone even further and established control centres on the main roads and started to check the identity of the citizens of Kurdistan. Many sources report that people are being forced to become spies and pressurised to evacuate their villages.

In parallel, other parts of South Kurdistan continue to be bombed on a daily basis.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) spokesperson Sidi Ahmet Pîre announced during the week that the Turkish state had brought 300 ISIS gang members to the Duhok border and settled them there.

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Turkish intelligence MIT kidnaps six people in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF | 7 JULY 2024

The Turkish National Intelligence Organisation (MIT) kidnapped 6 people who were celebrating the victory of the Netherlands in occupied Afrin after the Turkish team was eliminated by losing to the Netherlands in the European Football Championship.

According to the information obtained, 4 people who were celebrating the victory of the Netherlands and 2 people who posted on their social media accounts were kidnapped by MIT.

Afrin occupied since 2018

The Turkish state established a complete terror regime in Afrin, which it occupied in 2018. Kidnapping, torture, execution, extortion and plunder have become daily crimes.

By documenting human rights violations and abductions by the Turkish army and its gangs in Afrin, the Violations Documentation Centre is trying to draw the attention of the international community to these inhumane acts. The report highlights the fact that abductees are often held arbitrarily and forcibly, and points to the deteriorating security situation in Afrin.

According to the Crime Documentation Centre, at least 28 people were abducted in April. According to the same source, at least 435 people were abducted in Afrin in 2023. Among them are children and 180 patients.

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Turkish bombardment starts a big fire in Duhok countryside

ANF | 7 JULY 2024

The colonialist Turkish state's invasion attacks and plunder in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) continue unabated.

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

A large-scale fire broke out after a Turkish attack on the Rêkanî region in Amadiya district of Duhok on Sunday.

As a result of the targeted attack on civilian settlements, the fire spread to a large area. While a tractor belonging to the people was also targeted in the bombardment, the fire in the region is still not under control.

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.

Taking advantage of 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.

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HPG: Turkish state is bombing villages in Southern Kurdistan to depopulate the region

ANF | BEHDINAN | 7 JULY 2024

The Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) issued a statement providing information about the ongoing war in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

"The colonialist genocidal Turkish state and its occupying army are systematically and deliberately targeting villages and settlements in Southern Kurdistan. The villages of Dergelê, Mîska and Bazê in Metîna and the villages of Sergelê, Belavê, Guherzê, Berçiya, Mijê and Spîndarê in Amediye are being bombarded by the occupying Turkish army and fires are starting as a result of these bombardments. The Turkish state, which has burnt down thousands of villages in Northern Kurdistan in recent history, is now trying to completely the villages in Southern Kurdistan in this way, in order to expel the people and completely occupy the region," said the HPG statement on Sunday.

The Turkish state escalated its genocidal attacks across Kurdistan territory thanks to international silence and inaction in the face of its crimes against the Kurdish people. The invading Turkish state has been esca-

lating its attacks against civilian settlements in South Kurdistan, especially since April 2022. While the increasingly ongoing attacks have killed many civilians, dozens of villages have been evacuated.

There are no official statistics of Turkish military personnel in Iraqi Kurdistan, but local sources report that over 110 military bases have been established up to 35 km inside Iraqi territory. [According](#) to Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT), a US-based human rights organization, Turkey has carried out over 800 attacks on the Kurdistan Region and Nineveh province so far in 2024, resulting in eight civilian deaths.

The Freedom Movement (Tevgera Azadi) in Iraq and the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) have both raised alarm about Turkey's military presence in Iraqi Kurdistan. The Freedom Movement called for vigilance and unity against the Turkish occupation, criticizing the deployment of tanks and troops in Duhok province as a violation of international law and Iraqi sovereignty. Similarly, the Kurdistan Communities Union expressed concern over the lack of response from Baghdad and Erbil to the Turkish occupation, warning that it poses a serious threat to the communities in the region and could lead to permanent annexation.



KCK calls on everyone to raise the intensity of resistance against occupation

ANF | BEHDINAN | 8 JULY 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council issued a statement calling on everyone to "raise the intensity of resistance against Turkish occupation."

The statement said: "The Turkish state continues to escalate its invasion attacks on southern Kurdistan. For this objective, extensive military shipments are being made. The KDP has authorized the use of official highways by the invading Turkish army and has completely surrendered control of the areas where the Turkish army is stationed. So much so that the invading Turkish army has set up checkpoints in the areas where it is present. This demonstrates that the Turkish state is steadily taking over the administration in southern Kurdistan as it expands its invasion.

It is understood from the extensive deployment of troops and transportation of ammunition and armored vehicles via official roads, that an agreement has been reached in this regard. Until now, the invasion attacks were carried out by the Turkish state with the implicit support of the KDP despite the Iraqi state. Now, the Iraqi government also approves these invasion attacks, while the KDP openly supports the occupation. We want to draw attention to this new and dangerous situation, issue a warning, and appeal to the sensitivity of our people and democratic peoples."

The statement continued: "The murderous imperialist Turkish state, faltering in the face of our resistance as a movement and people, is attempting to include other forces into its notion of genocide and extermination. One of these forces is Iraq's government. Given that the KDP's support was insufficient, particularly in light of the occupation of southern Kurdistan, the Turkish state attempted to drag the Iraqi state

into the conflict. The Turkish state decided to do so, especially after the heavy losses it suffered against the guerrillas in the fall and winter of 2023.

The visit of the fascist chief, Tayyip Erdoğan, to Iraq in April was for this purpose. Unfortunately, the Iraqi government did not take a strong stance against the impositions of the Turkish state and was included in the occupation and genocide policies with the agreements it made. There is no other explanation, given that our movement has always been in friendship and solidarity with the Iraqi people and state; how else can one explain the Iraqi government designating us a banned organization?"

The statement added: "Claims by the Iraqi government that agreements were only reached on the grounds of economy, are untrue. During the time, we made our opinion known. We warned, on numerous occasions, that dangerous plans were being made around the Iraqi government and had warned all relevant players. Now we see, step by step, that these plans are being implemented. The new invasion attacks on southern Kurdistan reveal that deals are being reached on the basis of genocide against our people.

We recognize that not everyone within the Iraqi government agrees with the corrupt deals reached with Turkish authorities. Many Iraqi nationalists and democratic forces believe that the links created with the Turkish state are detrimental to the country's interests and, thus, oppose them. Nonetheless, the Iraqi state is progressively being sucked into a notion formed by the current government against our people and movement, and there is no significant opposition to this. This poses a serious threat to Iraq.

Stronger political positions must be taken to end these relations, which are definitely not in the interest of Iraq. The increased attacks on southern Kurdistan demonstrate this. All Iraqis must recognize this truth. Iraqi intellectuals, in particular, should take a stance and warn Iraqi society about such practices that destroy the spirit of fraternity among peoples."

The KCK said: "The Turkish government promotes nationalist, racist, and expansionist goals. It has an anti-Kurdish mentality, and its principal purpose is to achieve the genocide of the Kurds. The ruling AKP-MHP administration is notorious for cultivating nationalist, racist, and fascist sentiments. It has no other policy but to achieve its expansionist objectives. As a result, its economic and political commitments to the Iraqi government are completely unrealistic.

It is dangerous to become opponents of the PKK and the Kurdish people in the face of such danger, and to collaborate in this hostility in exchange for certain promises. Those who are aware of the situation in Iraq must now take a firm stance against it and prevent the Iraqi state from going down this detrimental path. The AKP-MHP administration and its fascist leader, Tayyip Erdoğan, are functioning in an occupying, expansionist, neo-Ottomanist manner. They aim to occupy the borders of Misak-ı Milli, a nationalist and racist ambition. To achieve this purpose, they are attempting to escalate the war, provoke people against one another, and pollute the atmosphere. The fascist architect of this campaign, Devlet Bahçeli, has openly said that their goal is to seize Mosul, Kirkuk, Aleppo, the Mediterranean, and Thessaloniki.

This exact concept is the reason why our movement was recently accused of being responsible for a number of tragic events in Iraq. By blaming our movement for attacks organized by Turkish intelligence and the KDP, the KDP hopes to justify its own treachery and subjugation. As a result, these are both false accusations and dangerous plans."

The KCK underlined that "our movement's attitude and efforts to defend southern Kurdistan and Iraq from ISIS atrocities is known. As a result, our movement and the Kurdistan freedom struggle are highly valued not only by the Kurdish people but also by Iraqi society. The positive attitude of Iraqi society toward the guerilla and our movement makes it hard to carry out such treacherous schemes attempting to defame the liberation struggle in the eyes of southern Kurdistan's people and Iraqi society. With such schemes, the attempt is to lay the groundwork for future treachery and occupation. Intellectuals, democratic people, and institutions in Kurdistan and Iraq should be concerned about these scenarios. This dirty strategy devised by the KDP and MIT, in which the Iraqi government also participates, must be disclosed, society informed, and disinformation prevented."

The statement also underlined that "the KDP has proven that it is a party to the Kurdish genocide by openly supporting the invasion attacks of the Turkish state. It has proved that it has no national concerns or sensitivities and that it acts entirely for the sake of its family and narrow power interests. Unfortunately, the KDP is not only supporting the occupation of Kurdistan but also engaging in political and diplomatic activities for the success of the Turkish state's concept based on Kurdish genocide. This is a regrettable and dangerous situation. A strong and clear national stance is needed against this. The Kurdish people and all organizations, parties, and institutions in Kurdistan must take a strong and clear national stance. Again, Kurdish intellectuals must develop the strongest attitude against this dangerous situation. It is the duty of Kurdish intellectuals, artists, and writers to warn, enlighten, and mobilize the people against these dangers."

The statement continued: "The guerrillas are putting up great resistance against the occupation and genocide. We celebrate this great and meaningful resistance of the guerrillas and once again commemorate with great respect all the comrades who were martyred. Their resistance is the defense of Kurdistan as well as the defense of our peoples' hopes for a democratic and free common life. The target of the enemy is not only the guerrillas and the PKK, but also southern Kurdistan and the free future of our peoples. The gains of the Kurdish people and all Kurdish achievements are the targets of all attacks. In this respect, all national, patriotic, and democratic institutions must have a clear and strong attitude, like the guerrillas against the occupation, genocide attacks, and collaborators. With such an attitude, our people and patriotic and democratic institutions can repel the invasion and genocide attacks and protect the achievements of the people of Kurdistan. It is of great significance to understand this. This is not a conflict between Kurds or a conflict between Kurdish organizations seeing as the KDP has clearly become part of the politics based on Kurdish genocide. It is important for everyone to see this reality and have the right approach accordingly.

The increasing occupation attacks against southern Kurdistan are indicative of a dangerous situation. We call on everyone to be sensitive to this dangerous situation and to develop a strong attitude against occupation, betrayal, and genocide. This attitude must be demonstrated everywhere, particularly in southern Kurdistan and Iraq. Our people in the four parts of Kurdistan must develop a strong attitude against occupation, and our people abroad should also express their reaction and attitude strongly against the occupation of southern Kurdistan. The process we are in is the process of developing an all-out resistance everywhere against total genocide attacks. We call on our people to raise an all-out resistance wherever they are."

HPG says 8 Turkish soldiers killed, 7 posts and 4 tents destroyed in air actions by guerrillas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 8 JULY 2024

The Martyr Doğan Zinar Union carried out four air actions in Zap. The HPG Press Center said in a statement: "Between 29 June and 2 July, our Martyr Doğan Zinar Union targeted the bases of the invading Turkish army in the Martyr Delil Batı Zap region from the air. The invader bases in the Girê Cûdî Resistance Area were hit from the air once and the bases in the Girê FM Resistance Area were hit from the air 3 times. In these actions, at least 8 invading Turkish soldiers were killed, 7 positions and 4 tents were destroyed, and the occupying bases were significantly destroyed."

The statement added: "Although our forces hit the invading Turkish army from the air many times in the last month and inflicted heavy losses, the Turkish state did not disclose any of its losses and completely concealed the results of the guerrilla's techniques-based actions so that they would not be reflected in the public. Even though the occupying Turkish state never admits the consequences of these actions and tries to hide them completely, we show these actions with the corresponding images, to the information of our patriotic people and the public."

— ★ —

Bomb attack in Shengal leaves 4 wounded, including two reporters

ANF | SHENGAL | 8 JULY 2024

The vehicle of journalists who traveled to Til Qeseb town of Shengal (Sinjar) to conduct interviews on the 10th anniversary of the 3 August 2014 genocide was targeted by a bomb attack in the centre of Shengal on their way back.

Four people were reportedly wounded as a result of the explosion, including two reporters of Çira TV and Çira FM radio station and the driver.

One of those wounded, reportedly in serious condition, was taken to Mosul Hospital, while the others were taken to Shengal Hospital for treatment.

Iraqi Security Forces and the local security unit, Êzîdxan Asayîsh Forces, conducted investigations at the scene.

— ★ —

Turkish army burns villages in South Kurdistan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 8 JULY 2024

The Turkish state escalated its genocidal attacks across Kurdistan territory thanks to international silence and inaction in the face of its crimes against the Kurdish people. Turkey has been escalating its attacks against civilian settlements in South Kurdistan, especially since April 2022. While the increasingly ongoing attacks have killed many civilians, dozens of villages have been evacuated.

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.

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

The occupying Turkish army continues to systematically burn villages in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). After the devastating fires in the villages of Dergelê, Miska and Bazê in Berwarî Bala region, Turkish forces bombed Mijê, Kevne Mijê and Spîndarê villages in Amadiya region and started burning the land in this region starting from 5 July.

The fire was partially taken under control on Saturday thanks to the intensive efforts of the local people, but another fire broke out in the area as a result of the bombardments on Sunday.

While the local people were prevented from intervening, the fire spread to the houses in the village centres and many houses were burnt. The fire, which has not been extinguished so far, continues to grow. The people of the region are making intense efforts, but KDP forces do not allow more than 5-6 people to go to the region. On the other hand, vehicles such as fire brigades or construction equipment that can intervene in the fire are not allowed to pass. While the fire in the region is moving at full speed to the village centres and gradually to the city centre, the KDP authorities are only watching and when the people try to intervene in the fire by their own means, they face obstructions. When a fire is under control in a region, the Turkish state immediately bombards that region and starts a fire again. These bombardments are carried out from the Amediyê hill, where the KDP and the Turkish army forces are positioned together.

In a statement on Sunday, the People's Defence Forces (HPG) said that the colonialist genocidal Turkish state and its occupying army are systematically and deliberately targeting villages and settlements in Southern Kurdistan.

"The Turkish state, which has burnt down thousands of villages in Northern Kurdistan in recent history, is now trying to completely the villages in Southern Kurdistan in this way, in order to expel the people and completely occupy the region," said the HPG statement. Accordingly,

Êzidxan Asayish statement on the attack in Shengal

ANF | SHENGAL | 8 JULY 2024

The vehicle of journalists who went to Til Qeseb town of Shengal to conduct interviews on the 10th anniversary of the 3 August 2014 genocide was attacked in the centre of Shengal on their way back.

Following an investigation at the scene, the Êzidxan Asayish, the local Yazidi security force, announced that the attack was carried out by the Turkish state. Êzidxan Asayish stated that Çira TV reporter Medya Hasan Kemal, Çira FM reporter Murat Mirza Ibrahim and vehicle driver Xelef Xidir, along with 3 other people who were at the scene and whose identities have not yet been identified, were injured in the attack.

It was reported that Çira FM reporter Murat Mirza Ibrahim is a long-time worker of the Free Press and that the fate of one of his brothers, who was kidnapped by ISIS during the genocide of 3 August 2014, is still unknown, while one of his sisters was rescued later.



KCDK-E calls on the Kurdish people to stand up everywhere against Turkish occupation

ANF | 8 JULY 2024

The Congress of Democratic Societies of Kurdistan in Europe (KCDK-E) made a written statement against the ever-escalating attacks and military activities of the Turkish state in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) and the cooperation of the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

"We call on our people to mobilise against the invasion attacks of the genocidal Turkish state against Southern Kurdistan, Shengal and guerrilla areas and to carry out protest actions everywhere," the statement said.

The KCDK-E statement on Monday reads as follows:

"The AKP-MHP fascist alliance, which has failed to achieve results in its total annihilation attacks against the Kurdish people, insists on continuing the war to eliminate all the gains of the Kurdish people.

The genocidal Turkish state has brought this war to a new stage by co-operating with collaborator forces and the states in the region. To this end, all provocation attempts and opportunities are put into practice. In the attacks carried out with the full support of the KDP, the gains and freedom of the Kurdish people are targeted.

Bashûr (South Kurdistan) and Shengal are under a serious threat. The Turkish state wants to occupy and annex Bashûr and Shengal and to carry out genocide just like in Afrin. The KDP is working almost as a

side arm of the Turkish state, preparing the ground for the occupation and mobilising all its means for this.

The intensive military deployment to Bashûr continues with the support of the KDP. By opening the official roads to the invading Turkish army, the KDP has completely relinquished control to the Turkish army. The Turkish state aims to take over the administration in Bashûr by expanding the invasion attacks.

Instead of taking a consistent stance against the impositions of the Turkish state, the Iraqi government has joined the occupation and genocide policies of the Turkish state. This partnership, which will threaten the future of the Iraqi peoples, is a serious danger that does not benefit the Iraqi peoples.

The Kurdish freedom movement has been waging a just and legitimate struggle for the free future of our peoples for more than 40 years. The target of the attacks is the gains of the Kurdish people and all Kurdistan values. It is our future, our lands and our history that are the target of the attacks. Assimilation and genocide are offered to the Kurdish people instead of a free future.

In order for these attacks to be repelled and for the Kurdish people to live in free conditions, all our patriotic people must be aware of the danger and resist with a clear and strong embracement. Only in this way can the attacks of occupation and genocide be repelled. Only in this way can our lands, for which thousands have given their lives, be protected."



Records of ISIS members to be deployed to South Kurdistan exposed

ANF | 9 JULY 2024

More than 800 ISIS members trained by the Turkish state in Afrin with the support of KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, to be taken to Metina, Amadiya and Duhok line were exposed by the South Kurdistan-based Spee Media website.

Pointing out that the occupying Turkish state intensified its attacks on the Metina and Amediye regions, Spee Media revealed with documents that the Turkish state plans to bring more than 800 Syrian paramilitary gangs in Turkish army uniforms.

The document contains the registration details of 416 Syrian paramilitary gangs that the occupying Turkish state plans to bring to South Kurdistan in the coming days. It is learned that some of them were trained by MIT (Turkish intelligence service) in Afrin centre and their total number exceeds 800.

The report stated that these gangs have been used by the occupying Turkish state in recent years to fight against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the People's Defense Forces (HPG).

According to Spee Media website, some of these forces are still being trained by Turkey in Afrin, mainly with small and medium weapons. Spee Media also published [a list of the names](#) of the ISIS members in question.

The list of the names can be rich from this link: <https://smallpdf.com/file#s=6dc754c2-87fb-4958-b85d-38bf3fce7476>



HPG Press Spokesperson: The guerrillas dominate the battlefield

ANF | 9 JULY 2024

Speaking to Stêrk TV, Serdar Yektaş provided detailed information about the situation on the battlefield. Yektaş stated that the last pasha sent to coordinate the battlefield had been dismissed, but the dismissal is still not announced. He emphasised that the guerrillas dominate the battlefield. Yektaş warned that the KDP, which co-operates with the invaders, has now become a part of the war. The spokesperson of the HPG Press Liaison Centre also confirmed that hundreds of ISIS members were moved to South Kurdistan by the Turkish state.

Serdar Yektaş's information on the situation on the battlefield is as follows:

The Situation in North Kurdistan

A unique war is being waged in North Kurdistan. Thousands of military operations took place in North Kurdistan last year. However, the Turkish state does not announce the results of these operations because it has suffered a great defeat in the operations.

They carry out thousands of operations, our comrades face operations in many places, they strike when possible, and inflict losses on the enemy. When the conditions are not favourable, they frustrate the enemy.

Operations with great financial costs are being frustrated. For example, there are continuous operations in Mardin, Savur, Mehser, Bagok, Gever, Hakkari and Zagros regions, as well as in Besta, Cudi, Gabar and Faraşin. The region is banned every 15-20 days anyway. There are also operations in Garzan and Amed. Operations are also being conducted in the Dersim, Erzincan and Erzurum regions. There is a continuous and big war throughout North Kurdistan. But only in some places are there confrontations. Our comrades engage in clashes and inflict heavy casualties on the enemy. We have martyrs from time to time. The Turkish state only talks about the operations when we suffer losses.

Beritan Nurhak Dived Into the Enemy Perimeter

Most recently, there was an operation in which our commander Bêrîtan Nûrhak Çiya (Sultan Dağ) was martyred. They surrounded the area from many points. Comrade Bêrîtan, with a sacrificial spirit, entered the enemy perimeter and killed three invaders. When she entered the second perimeter, fierce clashes took place and she was wounded, but she sacrificed herself in order not to fall into the hands of the enemy. Due to the war conditions, information reaches us a little late.

Most recently, there was an incident in the area called Masiro valley in Van's Başkale district. Two of our comrades were martyred and one was captured. We are trying to clarify this incident, and once it is clarified, we will announce it to our people and the public with their identities.

The Situation in Medya Defence Zones

The guerrilla learned lessons from the attack methods applied by the Turkish state since 2021, took measures, and deepened its tactics. The Turkish state was left inconclusive at this point as well. In 2023, they put forward cooperation with traitors and those who sold themselves. They wanted to make a move in this way, but that also came to naught. In 2024, they have no new tactics left. They are carrying out bombardments and using banned weapons as they did before. They have increased the number of troops in the region. They escalated the intensity of the war. This time, using the traitors, they are trying to employ the tactic they call siege. They already say that they want to conquer these places. But they are wrong about one thing. The Turkish state foresaw all this and took measures accordingly. In other words, the Turkish state is applying the siege tactic in some places like Metina. In some places, they take risks like gambling and drive their troops into the field. The enemy's situation is briefly like this.

The Situation in Metina

In Metîna, the Turkish state is settling in the vacant areas. There were repeated confrontations, and our comrades took effective actions. The army launched a new invasion attack on 16 April. Our comrades immediately identified the strategy and tactics of the enemy in Metîna and put tactics into action against it. Our comrades, seeing the enemy move on us with a different style, also responded with a different style. The resistance in Metîna will also be long-lasting, and the enemy will not be able to get the results they want. They are fooling themselves.

No Results

We are also watching the images shared by the Turkish state. They have placed howitzers in the Rûbar valley and Çukurca. They are firing cannons with a range of 50 kilometres. This is not a success; they are deceiving their own public opinion.

They say the lock is closed, but now let me share the truth with you, let's see who is locked where and how:

The enemy attacked the nature twice in Xakûrkê. They entered some places at a 200-300 metres depth and retreated again.

Then they switched their direction to Şekif. This is a high place and a plateau. It is not difficult to reach there by helicopter.

In the Zap region, especially in Girê Amed and Girê FM, the enemy's efforts have been frustrated in recent months. Our comrades did not only take precautions, but also carried out actions. Now it has calmed down a bit there because the comrades have frustrated them.

Since they realised that they could not get results from here, they carried out an attack from three sides at Girê Bahar on 3 July. We shared the results of this attack. In the current situation, our comrades are giving a harsh response there. The Turkish state carried out this attack with its special forces. All their troops consist of elite forces. They also know that it is not easy to settle here. It can be said that the Turkish army withdrew almost all of its forces in Zap. All their forces were defeated by the guerrilla. Now they are silent, whereas they were praising their special forces just a few months ago.

They also brought in mercenaries and brigades from Syria. This did not yield any results either. Now we hear that they are bringing in battalions of soldiers from Balıkesir and Kayseri. Let them bring them, too.

In the last four days, many actions have been carried out [by the guerrillas] in Girê Bahar and Sergele. These places have become hell for the invaders. If you come to our lands, if you try to invade, if you evacuate Kurdish villages and bombard the region with artillery, if you burn our lands, the heroes of these lands will of course make you pay for it and will not grant you the right to live.

To Those Who Help the Occupiers: We will not Let You Get Away With This!

Our movement has repeatedly warned the Turkish state and those who act with them. We say this to those who come with the invaders and attack us, to those who have guerrilla blood on their hands; we will not let you get away with this.

What does the general picture in the Medya Defence Zones tell?

The enemy's plan to occupy the Medya Defence Zones in a few weeks in 2021 has failed. They have not been able to get results for three years, let alone three weeks.

We stopped the Turkish state, which claims to have such a big army, in this region. We choked this state in Zap, in the Medya Defence Zones.

Choked war, choked tactics: This leads to economic, political and social crises. We already see the situation Turkey is in. What Turkey is going through today is the result of the deadlock it has experienced in Zap and the Medya Defence Zones.

Guerrilla in Control of the Region

Despite the Turkish state's hundreds of thousands of soldiers, techniques, traitors, sell-outs and gangs, the guerrilla is in control of the region. Those who do not know the art of war misunderstand dominance. Dominance is not the presence of a large number of soldiers in an area. Dominance is being able to hit the enemy when and where you want. Now we are in control of the area. We are defending ourselves, our tunnels. We suffer almost no casualties. And when we do, we clarify them and share them with the public. On the other hand, we have hit the enemy thousands of times. They have suffered hundreds of casualties in these last months. But they have only announced a few of them. They are hiding all of them.

They Changed the Last Pasha, They are Hiding it

In the last three years, Turkey has changed the commander of the army, the minister of war, and the commander of the occupation campaign, who was even changed twice. If I am not mistaken, in August last year, they brought in a so-called pasha with the claim of winning the war. But they suffered a lot of losses, they could not achieve success. As far as we heard, they dismissed him too. But they haven't announced it yet to avoid a loss of morale. They make it look like he is in charge, but the second commander of the army was appointed in his place. His name is Metin Toker. He's in the field. He's leading the war. He won't succeed either.

KDP's Role: Beyond Co-operation and Part of the Occupation Now

The KDP's co-operation and enmity against the people have gone beyond these concepts. The KDP is now de facto part of the war of occupation.

From 2021 and 2022, they have built roads. Now it is seen that all these roads are for the Turkish army. Turkish army convoys are reinforced every day through the Sergêlê gate for the Turkish state to carry out the occupation.

The KDP and the border guards (who are also involved) offer all the means for the Turkish state to succeed. They have opened a road like a motorway, so to speak.

Regarding the points and the walls they established against the guerrilla, they would say that they did it to prevent the Turkish army from moving in. But now they themselves have handed over half of them to the Turkish state. They gave them without the Turkish state making such a demand. They use the other half together. MIT, Zeravan and soldiers are stationed in the same outposts.

Iraq and the KDP opened all official roads during the attacks on Bahar and Sergêlê. They openly gave way to the invaders.

The Turkish army first came to the KDP's outposts and settled down, bringing in their ammunition and vehicles. Then they headed towards Sergêlê. All the ready-mixed concrete walls belong to the KDP and

they give them to the Turkish army. They both help and act as porters for them. It is really shameful for the Kurdish people.

Reinforcement of ISIS Gangs

What the PUK spokesperson said (regarding the 300 ISIS members brought to the region) is true. Yes, they brought them to the region. But because ISIS was exposed for its brutality, they brought them in under the name of al-Nusra. We have clear information in this regard. Everyone knows that all these are various versions of al-Qaeda remnants. When they put a cap on their heads, they become ISIS, and when they put another cap on, they become al-Nusra. They are all gangs, and this information is correct.

Reply to the Messages Sent by KDP Members Opposing the Occupation

KDP members sometimes send us messages. 'When you raise the issue of co-operation, you talk about the KDP. We are also in the KDP. We are against occupation. Don't say KDP, say Barzani family', they say. We also believe in their sincerity, but it cannot work that way. If they are loyal to their people, they should criticise their own party first. They should say to the KDP administration, 'why are you handing this country over to the invaders? Did we pay so much price for the Turkish state to come and occupy it? Is that why our blood was shed?'. The KDP is putting all KDP members under suspicion with what they are doing today. This is how we want to respond to those who send us messages."

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One civilian kidnapped, 300 trees burned down in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF | 9 JULY 2024

According to an ANHA report based on local sources, gangs affiliated to the '112th group' of the occupying Turkish state kidnapped a 40-year-old citizen named Menan Miho Nesan.

It was reported that the family of Menan Miho, who comes from Dimili village of Mabata, paid the gangs a ransom of 3 thousand dollars in return for the release of their son, who, however, was not released.

According to his family, Menan was taken to a prison near Kilis and his fate is unknown.

Another source reported that the Ahrar al-Sharqiya gangs affiliated to the Turkish state burned down 300 trees of apricots, cherries and olives in the village of Eltaniya in the district of Rajo.

Afrin occupied since 2018

The Turkish state established a complete terror regime in Afrin, which it occupied in 2018. Kidnapping, torture, execution, extortion and plunder have become daily crimes.

By documenting human rights violations and abductions by the Turkish army and its gangs in Afrin, the Violations Documentation Centre is trying to draw the attention of the international community to these inhumane acts. The report highlights the fact that abductees are often held arbitrarily and forcibly, and points to the deteriorating security situation in Afrin.

According to the Crime Documentation Centre, at least 28 people were abducted in April. According to the same source, at least 435 people were abducted in Afrin in 2023. Among them are children and 180 patients.



Turkish state bombs KDP points in Sergelê

ANF | BEHDINAN | 10 JULY 2024

The Turkish state has intensified its invasion attack against South Kurdistan. The Turkish army, which bombards the region, continues its policy of annexation and depopulation.

The Turkish state bombed Peshmerga points in Sergelê, located near Mount Metîna in Duhok. It was stated that some Peshmerga soldiers were injured as a result of the bombardment.

Another village was evacuated in Amediyê

On the other hand, it was learned that Turkey carried out bombardment on residential areas in the village of Mezi in the Amêdiyê district. After the bombing, the village was evacuated.

Intensive bombarding of Bahar Hill

The Turkish army, which has been trying to settle on Bahar Hill since 3 July, has increased its attacks in this region, and bombed the village of Bêsimte in Garê.



Shiwani: KDP is blocking election of Kurdish governor

ANF | 10 JULY 2024

Iraqi Minister of Justice Xalid Shiwani spoke about why they have not been able to elect a Kurdish governor in Kirkuk. "As Kurds, - he said - we have gained the majority in Kirkuk, which allows us to elect a Kurdish governor. However, the KDP prevented this. If the Kurds had appointed a governor in Kirkuk, arabization policies in the city could have been prevented by 50 percent."

Stating that the Kurdish people are only defending themselves now, Xalid Shiwani added that the people of Kirkuk are paying the price for political mistakes.

The first meeting of the Kirkuk Provincial General Assembly will be held tomorrow, Thursday, at 1pm in the Kirkuk parliament building to determine the administrative authorities of the city of Kirkuk.

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Kurdish and Syriac political parties, organisations call for urgent action against Turkish invasion

ANF | 10 JULY 2024

The Joint Diplomacy Committee, consisting of Kurdish and Syriac political parties and organisations as well as the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK), has sent an "urgent appeal" to the Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres, US President Joseph R. Biden, Council of Europe (CoE) Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg regarding the Turkish state's invasion attacks on Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq).

The following is an open letter written on behalf of the Joint Diplomatic Committee of Kurdish and Syriac Political Parties and Organisations of the KNK Foreign Relations Commission:

"Starting in 2011, the wave of the Arab Spring spread to Iraq and Syria. The Turkish state, seeking to take advantage of this situation, took action to return to the borders of Misak-ı Milli (the 'National Pact' adopted 104 years ago that takes all Kurdistan, that is, the region including northern Iraq and northern Syria, within the borders of the Turkish state) and to revive Neo-Ottomanism, and as a first step, it launched mass murder and occupation attacks against the Kurdish people. In 2014, the Turkish AKP-MHP government, in line with these aims, established relations with the gangs in Iraq and Syria and used them for these purposes.

Inciting the people in Mosul and Kirkuk against each other

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has frequently stated that he will occupy all of these areas from Aleppo to Mosul, including Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Shengal and Behdînan, defining them within the borders of Misak-ı Milli. Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the racist and fascist MHP party, which is the deep state of the Turkish state, has been openly introducing Kirkuk as the 82nd and Mosul as the 83rd Turkish province for years. Together with Erdoğan, he is implementing this by inciting the people in Mosul and Kirkuk against each other and creating chaos and crisis, especially by arming the Turkmen supporters.

Afrin, Serêkaniyê and Girê Spi, then Southern Kurdistan

The Turkish state tried to invade Kobanê by means of its gangs in 2014 but was confronted by great resistance and defeated. Unfortunately, with the manipulative diplomacy it used in international politics, it achieved results and occupied Afrin in 2018 and Serêkaniyê and Girê Spi in 2019.

In parallel, it prepared the ground for invasion by increasing the number of military bases in Southern Kurdistan, a federation under the sovereignty of the Iraqi state.

A deepening of a serious crisis and instability for the whole Middle East

The Turkish state has tried to advance its occupation attacks under the pretense of "fighting against the PKK".

However, in Southern Kurdistan, as VOA has recently shown, Turkish troops have entered 30 kilometres into the region with thousands of troops and 300 tanks, as if they were the owners of the region, and have been carrying out identity checks on the people, i.e. Iraqi citizens in and around Duhok. This new situation is undoubtedly not only a great threat to us Kurds, but also a deepening of a serious crisis and instability for the whole Middle East. On the other hand, it is a flagrant disregard for international law and a trampling on international treaties.

The Turkish state with the Erdoğan-Bahçeli regime wants to implement the Misak-ı Milli at all costs. For this, they have accelerated their diplomatic and military movements from the beginning of 2024. They have made the Iraqi government passive through manipulative politics.

Turkish occupation will directly affect global politics

The achievement of the Misak-ı Milli strategy in Kurdistan will lead to the occupation of Iraq and Syria, regional conflict and the displacement of millions of people. Therefore, the war strategy currently being implemented in Kurdistan concerns the entire Middle East and the world. Since the Middle East is also decisive in terms of global politics, this occupation by the Turkish state will directly affect global politics.

Stop this occupation!

We, the undersigned Kurdish political parties and civil society organisations, call on the governments of Iraq and Syria, the Arab League, the UN, which is responsible for the implementation of international legal norms, the CoE and NATO, of which the Turkish state is a member, and the EU and the USA, which have strategic relations with the Turkish state, to stop this occupation.

As Kurds, we have never bowed down to any occupier. While stating that we are determined to resist for our country and our free future, we invite everyone to stop the Turkish state, which has turned into a fireball, and to take the initiative for a political solution to the Kurdish question.”

People of Behdinan rise up against Turkish occupation

ANF | BEHDINAN | 10 JULY 2024

The people of Behdînan blocked the road between Amêdiye and Şêladizê and started an uprising against Turkish occupation and the collaboration of the KDP, the ruling party in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

While the anti-occupation demonstration continues, KDP forces are trying to disperse the people by force.

The Turkish state has been expanding its occupation of the region for years with the help of the KDP. As if southern Kurdistan were not Iraqi territory with Kurdish autonomy, but Turkish territory, Turkish troops are carrying out identity checks, building military bases and attacking villages and mountains. Since 17 April 2022, the Turkish army has been trying to gain control of the mountains of southern Kurdistan. However, the guerrillas are putting up fierce resistance to the Turkish occupation. In recent days, Turkish troop contingents have been deployed to Amadiya. While people from many villages in the region have had to flee due to the soldiers and airstrikes, Kurds in many places around the world are protesting against the collaboration of the KDP with Turkish fascism.

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Journalists in Shengal call for measures against Turkish attacks

ANF | SHENGAL | 10 JULY 2024

The vehicle of journalists who went to Til Qeseb town of Shengal to conduct interviews on the 10th anniversary of the 3 August 2014 genocide was attacked in the centre of Shengal on their way back on 8 July. Çıra TV reporter Medya Hasan Kemal, Çıra FM reporter Murat Mirza Ibrahim and vehicle driver Xelef Xidir, along with 3 other people who were at the scene and whose identities have not been identified, were injured in the attack.

Journalists and media workers in Shengal issued a statement calling on the relevant parties to take the necessary measures to protect journalists.

"As journalists in Shengal, we strongly condemn the attack on the press vehicle of the Çıra TV crew. This attack against humanitarian and moral values targeted the free press, threatening the safety of journalists who have the sacred duty of bringing the truth to the people," said the statement.

"Journalists and reporters need to be protected in the fulfilment of their duties. We call on the relevant parties to take appropriate measures for the safety of journalists. On the other hand, we call for a swift and transparent investigation into the incident and demand that the perpetrators be brought to justice and sentenced," the statement added.

The statement concluded: "Attacks against journalists are against freedom of thought and the right to information within the scope of human rights. We hereby declare that we will stand against all forms of violence and terrorism against journalists. Together, let us strengthen press freedom and the protection of journalists around the world."

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Shengal Tribes Council calls for action to stop Turkey's crimes against humanity

ANF | SHENGAL | 10 JULY 2024

Shengal Tribes Council made a statement against the ongoing occupation attacks of the Turkish state against southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Remarking that the attacks of the Turkish state against the people of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region continue, the Council said: "Villages are being evacuated and bombed in order to scare the people. Citizens are driven away from their homes with false allegations that no one will believe, and the aim is to turn this region into a military zone. We know very well that PKK fighters fought against ISIS terrorism at a time when the Turkish state was supporting the gangs. All the actions of the Turkish state are aimed at harming the Iraqi people of different nationalities, especially the Kurdish people. For this purpose, they want to annex the occupied territories to their own state."

The statement also drew attention to the attacks of the Turkish state amounting to war crimes: "Civilians have been severely harmed and the nature of the Kurdistan Region has been plundered. All this is due to the support of the KDP (the ruling party in South Kurdistan) and the silence of the Iraqi government. While all this is happening under the eyes of the US and the International Coalition, no one is speaking out. As Iraqi sheikhs and tribal leaders, we reject these systematic attacks. We call on the international community, the Baghdad government and the Iraqi parliament to assume their humanitarian, moral and legal responsibilities and stop these crimes against humanity."

The statement continued: "We declare that the international community and the Baghdad government must take the necessary measures to prevent this brutal attack on our lands and our people. Against the occupying Turkish state's aim to change the demographic structure of Iraq and plunder its riches, we are ready to protect Iraq's sovereignty. We reject the invasion of the Turkish army. The attacks of the Turkish state are nothing but a crime. These attacks increase our determination to defend Iraqi territory, sovereignty and people. Our goal is to ensure that Iraq becomes a fully federal and democratic state that embraces everyone."

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Revenge Unit hits Turkish invaders in Amediyê and Bamernê

ANF | BEHDINAN | 10 JULY 2024

The Martyr Bedran Gundikremo Revenge Unit Command made a statement regarding the two separate actions they carried out against the Turkish army attempting to invade Southern Kurdistan.

Providing details of the actions, the Revenge Unit said: "On the night of 9 July 2024 at 21:00, we hit a truck of the treacherous invading Turkish state, the murderer of our people, carrying war equipment to invade Southern Kurdistan, near the Kanê village of Amediyê. In this action, the truck caught fire and was destroyed and the soldier driving the truck was seriously wounded. On 10 July 2024 at 13:00, we hit a military vehicle of the invading Turkish army moving on the Bamernê road. The military vehicle was destroyed."

"The invading Turkish army, which is trying to occupy our country Kurdistan, will be our target wherever it is, and will not be spared from receiving deadly blows. These actions were carried out as revenge for the Turkish state's bombing and burning of villages in Southern Kurdistan," the statement underlined.

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Heavy military deployment at Üzümlü Border Gate

ANF | HAKKARI | 11 JULY 2024

The Turkish state's shipment of armored vehicles continues from the Üzümlü Border Gate in the Çukurca (Çelê) district of Hakkari (Colemêrg).

According to information provided by local sources, the Turkish army, which threatened the people living in the area not to go out, closed the customs gate in the early hours of the morning to allow the military convoy to pass.

According to the information received, many convoys have already passed through South Kurdistan.

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Turkish occupation attacks: High-level delegation from Baghdad visits Kurdistan Region

ANF | HEWLER | 11 JULY 2024

A delegation led by the National Security Advisor Qasim Ereji is visiting Hewlêr (Erbil) following the decision of the Iraqi Army General Command and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani.

The delegation will examine the security situation in the Kurdistan Region, attacks, occupation, military deployments and checkpoints established in Duhok.

Qassem Ereji is expected to meet with the Minister of Interior and other officials from the interim government of the Kurdistan Region.

The decision to send the delegation was taken by the National Security Council, which met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani.

According to the government's military spokesman, General Yahya Rasul, the meeting discussed "the intervention and violations of Turkish forces in the common border area". The spokesman expressed "rejection of the Turkish military aggression and any aggression against Iraqi territory."



HBDH militia set a recycling centre and a carpet factory on fire in Bodrum

ANF | 11 JULY 2024

The HBDH (Peoples' United Revolutionary Movement) Kemal Pir Militia reported that on 6 July they set fire to a recycling centre and a carpet factory belonging to a fascist person in the Dereköy holiday resort in Bodrum with sabotage techniques.

"Both targets were destroyed in the action carried out in the memory of the 14 July Death Fast resistance activists and high material damage was detected," the statement said.

The statement said: "The spirit of historical resistance on 14 July, which raised the line of resistance against surrender, continues to inspire our people who spend every day with uprisings, the resistance of the guerrillas fighting sacrificially against the occupation and genocide attacks all over Kurdistan, and our guerrilla and militia army in the mountains and cities. As long as the environment of isolation and torture remains, we will continue to be the 'Laz Kemal's salute' and continue to hold the enemies of the people to account at any time and anywhere!"



KDP abducts a female journalist covering Turkish military activity in Amadiya

ANF | 11 JULY 2024

According to the Zoom Medya agency, the KDP abducted a journalist, a cameraman and a driver accompanying them while they were reporting on the Turkish military deployment in Amadiya in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The Turkish army is stepping up its occupation attacks and, with the help of the KDP, the ruling party in southern Kurdistan, is moving as if it were on its own territory. Turkish military personnel are carrying out identity checks and driving out the villagers.

While the KDP obviously wants to prevent reporting on the increasing Turkish military activity in the region, what happened to the Zoom Medya team is still unknown. The KDP government acts in a dictatorial manner and, similar to its model in Ankara, repeatedly has journalists arrested or abducted.

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Guerrillas shoot down a Sikorsky helicopter and two drones of the Turkish army

ANF | BEHDINAN | 11 JULY 2024

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) Press Centre released a written statement providing information on the latest situation and developments in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The HPG Press Liaison Centre said, "The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla marked the anniversary of the 14 July Great Death Fast Resistance by carrying out effective actions in memory of our pioneers, comrades Kemal Pir, Mehmet Hayri Durmuş, Akif Yılmaz and Ali Çiçek who determined the resistance line of our party PKK. We express our determination to continue our struggle with the same Apoist consciousness and sacrificial spirit in the footsteps of our immortal pioneers, and we commemorate all our martyrs with respect and gratitude in the person of the 14 July Martyrs."

The HPG provided the following information about the latest actions carried out by the guerrillas and the attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish army in Medya Defense Zones:

"Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region;

On the 9th and 10th of July, guerrillas from YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) shot down two drones of the Turkish army in Girê Cûdî Resistance Area.

On 9 July, YJA Star guerrillas targeted the invaders on the move in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area and stopped their movement.

On 9 July, YJA Star guerrillas struck the invaders in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area with heavy weapons, destroying a container and a tent.

On 10 July, guerrillas targeted the invaders on the move in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area and stopped their movement.

On 9 July, YJA Star guerrillas struck the invaders who attempted to take position in Girê Bahar Resistance Area twice.

On 10 July at 23:40, 1 Sikorsky helicopter belonging to the occupying Turkish army, which was set to land in Girê Bahar Resistance Area, was heavily hit and shot down by the guerrillas. The place where the helicopter crashed was bombed by the Turkish army with attack helicopters.

On 10 July, the invaders who attempted to take position in Girê Bahar Resistance Area were intervened three times.

Metîna region;

On 9 July at 22:30, guerrillas intervened in the helicopter activity in Serê Metîna Resistance Area.

On 10 July, guerrillas targeted the invaders in Golka Resistance Area with heavy weapons, damaging a container and a military position.

Attacks carried out by the Turkish army with banned explosives;

On 10 July, the guerrillas' tunnels in Girê FM Resistance Area were bombed 12 times with chemical gases and 5 times with banned explosives.

On 10 July, the guerrillas' tunnels in Girê Amediyê Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region were bombed 2 times with banned tactical nuclear bombs.

On 10 July, the Şêlazê Resistance Area in Metîna region was bombed once by drones loaded with explosives.

Aerial attacks carried out by the Turkish army;

On 9 and 10 July, the Turkish warplanes carried out 21 strikes on guerrilla areas, targeting the areas of Şehîd Şerîf, Girê Şehîd Hawar, Girê Berbizinê in Xakurkê region 6 times, the Şehîd Îbrahîm in Zap region, the areas of Dêreşê, Mijê, Girê Zengil in Garê region, the areas of Gûzê, Girê Reşît, Xêrê, Yekmalê, Deşta Kafya, Şiyê 9 times, the Girê Bahar Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region 4 times, the Bêşîlî Resistance Area in Metîna region.

On 10 July, the Girê Bahar Resistance Area in the Western Zap region was bombed by attack helicopters."



Turkish invasion attack in Bagok Mountain

ANF | MARDIN | 11 JULY 2024

Turkish soldiers launched an invasion attack in the rural area of Bagok Mountain in Mardin's Nusaybin district on Thursday evening.

Within the scope of the operation launched in the area between Marînê and Girêmîra rural neighborhoods, many armored military vehicles and gendarmerie special operations teams were dispatched to the region.

Military activity in the region continues.



Cooperation between Turkey and KDP confessed on TRT News

ANF | 12 JULY 2024

The Turkish state's invasion attacks against Southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) continue, as well as military deployments to the region. While the Turkish Republic is working hard to prevent any counter reaction against the annexation practices in the region, it has mobilised the entire warmongering media.

Daily broadcasts legitimise the Turkish operations and incriminate the PKK, with one of the main aims being to prevent legal and diplomatic problems. An intense effort is being made to this end.

One of these efforts took place on the state-run TRT News yesterday. Can Acun, one of the Foreign Policy Directors of SETA, who participated in the TRT News program, spoke about the Turkish state's occupation attempts in Southern Kurdistan.

Giving information about the activities of the special forces of the KDP in the occupied areas together with the Turkish troops, Acun talked about the occupation activities of the Turkish state in many areas, especially Garê in the Medya Defence Zones.

Acun did not forget to mention Shengal, the "Development Road Project" and Rojava, and the most striking confession was what he said about the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Trying to legitimise the invasion attacks of the Turkish army in the region, Acun said, "At the moment, while the Turkish army is advancing, we see that the peshmerga are giving us more logistical support." He also admitted that the KDP was evacuating villages.

In addition, Acun tried to distort the Turkish state's bombing of the points belonging to the KDP forces in Sergelê in the past days by saying "The PKK did it". He also showed how the Turkish Republic uses the special warfare methods applied in Kurdistan by stating that there is a tension between the PKK and the KDP.

While the Turkish army's occupation and annexation under the leadership of the KDP has been voiced many times by the public, the KDP constantly used a language accusing the PKK. Acun's evaluations once again clarified the questions of who- where and how much- is involved in the occupation and annexation operations in Kurdistan, standing as a confession of the facts.

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Two wounded as Turkey bombs civilian settlements in Bradost

ANF | 12 JULY 2024

According to RojNews, the Turkish state shelled Lolan plateaus and Shekiwyan Mountain in Bradost area in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) on Friday. Two villagers were wounded as a result of the attack.

As the attack continues, medical teams cannot reach the wounded.

Reports from the ground say that the Turkish state also bombarded villages in the Duhok countryside. Due to the ongoing attacks, details about possible casualties or material damage were not immediately available.

At least 162 villages evacuated, over 600 others under threat

Having escalated its attacks in South Kurdistan in recent months, the Turkish state has been intensively deploying troops and armoured vehicles and even going further and setting up checkpoints. The Turkish state especially relies on the co-operation of the ruling KDP in its invasion attacks.

The Community Peacemakers Teams (CPT), a non-governmental organisation registered in the United States but based in South Kurdistan, reported that at least 162 villages have been evacuated and more than 600 are under threat of evacuation due to attacks by the occupying Turkish state. According to the CPT, the Turkish state has burnt at least 20 thousand acres of land since the beginning of the year.

According to local sources, the Turkish state has deployed its occupation forces within 50 kilometres of South Kurdistan.

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‘Turkey has built 50 new bases, committed 100 violations in South Kurdistan in a week’

ANF | 12 JULY 2024

According to RojNews, Jabar Omar, an official of the Coordination Framework, told Iraqi media that the Turkish state violated Iraq's sovereignty 100 times in a week and the Iraqi Foreign Ministry did not react to this.

Stating that the actions of the occupying Turkish army in Duhok are very dangerous, Jabar Omar said, "The Turkish army has built 50 new military bases, 5 of which are very large, and deployed thousands of soldiers there. As a result of Turkey's attacks, hundreds of families migrated and dozens of villages were emptied. 20 thousand acres of fields and forests have also turned to ashes."

Jabbar Omar criticised the silence of the Baghdad government and said: "This silence must be broken, and the world must be informed about Turkey's violations against the territory of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. The Turkish state should be complained against to the International Court of Justice."

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KCDK-E calls for protest actions everywhere against Turkish occupation and genocide

ANF | 12 JULY 2024

The Congress of Democratic Societies of Kurdistan in Europe (KCDK-E) released a statement calling on the Kurdish people to “mobilise against the invasion attacks of the genocidal Turkish state against Southern Kurdistan, Shengal and guerrilla areas and to carry out protest actions everywhere."

Bashur and Shengal are under serious threat

The statement released by KCDK-E on Friday reads as follows:

"The AKP-MHP fascist alliance, which has failed in its total annihilation attacks against the Kurdish people, insists on continuing the war to eliminate all the gains of the Kurdish people."

The genocidal Turkish state has brought this war to a new stage by co-operating with collaborator forces and regional states. To this end, all provocation attempts and opportunities are employed. The gains and freedom of the Kurdish people are targeted in the attacks carried out with the full support of the KDP.

Bashûr (Southern Kurdistan) and Shengal (Sinjar) are under serious threat. The Turkish state wants to occupy and annex Bashûr and Shengal and to perpetrate a genocide just like it did in Afrin. The KDP is

working as a side arm of the Turkish state, preparing the ground for the occupation and mobilising all its means for this.

The KDP has completely abandoned control to the Turkish army

The intensive military deployment to Southern Kurdistan continues with the support of the KDP. By opening the official roads to the invading Turkish army, the KDP has completely abandoned control to the Turkish army. The Turkish state aims to take over the administration in Southern Kurdistan by expanding the invasion attacks.

Instead of taking a consistent stance against the impositions of the Turkish state, the Iraqi government has joined the occupation and genocide policies of the Turkish state. This partnership, which will threaten the future of the Iraqi peoples, is a serious danger that does not benefit the Iraqi peoples.

Our future, our lands and our history are targeted by the attacks

The Kurdish freedom movement has been waging a just and legitimate struggle for the free future of our peoples for more than 40 years. The target of the attacks are the gains of the Kurdish people and all the values of Kurdistan. It is our future, our lands and our history that are targeted by attacks. Assimilation and genocide are offered to the Kurdish people instead of a free future.

In order for these attacks to be repelled and for the Kurdish people to live in free conditions, all our patriotic people must be aware of the danger and resist with a clear and strong embracement. Only in this way can the attacks of occupation and genocide be repelled. Only in this way can our lands, for which thousands have given their lives, be protected.

Our people must stand up strongly against occupation, betrayal and genocide

Our people must be aware of the consequences of the increasing danger, and stand up strongly against occupation, betrayal and genocide by expressing their democratic reactions wherever they live. Wherever we are, we must shout out our reaction and attitude against occupation on the streets. We call for total resistance against total attacks and collaborationist betrayal.

On this occasion, we should take all the actions planned in Europe over the weekend as an occasion for mass protests, and we should oppose the genocide of the Turkish state in a state of continuous mobilisation."

Femicide

JINNEWS Agency says at least 37 women killed by men in June

ANF | 8 JULY 2024

According to the Women's News Agency JINNEWS, at least 37 women and 10 children were murdered in June, and 7 women and 2 children lost their lives under suspicious circumstances.

In the details of the report, 16 of the women were murdered by their husbands, 5 by the men they were divorcing, 3 by their ex-husbands, 2 by the men they had separated from, 3 by men they knew, 5 by unidentified men, one by a son-in-law, 2 by their fathers, one by a relative and one by her boyfriend.

The cities where most femicides happened were listed as follows: "5 in Ankara, 4 in Izmir, 4 in Adana, 3 in Eskişehir, 2 in Mersin, 2 in Konya, 2 in Dİlok, 2 in Mêrdîn, 1 in Colemêrg, 1 in Rize, 1 in Amed, 1 in Riha, 1 in Kayseri, 1 in Denizli, 1 in Niğde, 1 in Xarpet, 1 in Aydın, 1 in Kırıkkale 1 in Antalya, 1 in İstanbul, 1 in Tekirdağ."



Political prisoners in Evin jail issue statement condemning death sentence against Sharifeh Mohammad

ANF | 11 JULY 2024

Sixteen political prisoners from Evin Prison have issued a statement condemning the death sentence imposed on Kurdish trade unionist Sharifeh Mohammadi and calling for its repeal. The [statement](#) was published by the Narges Mohammadi Foundation.

In addition, 55 political prisoners in Evin Prison will begin a hunger strike today, Thursday, to protest the unjust death sentence handed down against Mohammadi.

Sharifeh Mohammadi, a trade union activist from Rasht, was recently sentenced to death by the first branch of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Court in Rasht. This verdict was delivered by judges Ahmed Darwish Goftar and Mehdi Raskhi.

Mohammadi was accused of "rebellion" due to her involvement in the Coordination Committee for the Formation of Trade Union Organizations and her alleged affiliation with the Komala party. The court's decision is based on articles 211 and 287 of the Islamic Penal Code, ratified in 2013.

The statement reads as follows:

"Sharifeh Mohammadi, a labor activist, after seven months of temporary detention, enduring torture and interrogation in various cities' detention centers, has been sentenced to death in a baseless and threadbare scenario.

This is not only the death sentence of Sharifeh but the death sentence of all "us" labor, political, civil, human rights, and women's rights activists.

We see this sentence as a potential danger and a prelude to issuing heavier sentences in the future.

What is most apparent in this death sentence is a policy of repression intended to stifle the voice of protest and demands that had reached a significant level with the revolutionary uprising of 2022, and to intimidate and force back women who have stepped forward with a louder voice than before in the realm of "rights" advocacy.

We, a group of women prisoners in Evin Prison, have heard the voice of the "Campaign to Defend Sharifeh Mohammadi," which has called on all awakened consciences to take action for Sharifeh's freedom.

We stand with Sharifeh and all those threatened by the death sentence and demand an end to executions.

Signed

by:

Sarvenaz Ahmadi; Anisha Asadollahi; Hasti Amiri; Reyhaneh Ansari-Nejad; Golrokh Iraee; Sakineh Parvaneh; Nahid Taghavi; Nahid Khodajo; Nasrin Khodari-Jovadi; Vida Rabani; Mahbubeh Rezaei; Mahnaz Tarrah; Sepideh Qolian; Narges Mohammadi; Varisheh Moradi; Maryam Yahyavi

Evin Prison – 9 July 2024"

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YPJ: We will be an impenetrable barrier against all annihilation attacks

ANF | 11 JULY 2024

Between June 30 and July 2, the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) held its fourth conference with the participation of representatives from all fields of struggle and the Women's Freedom Movement. Gathering 115 delegates from Kurdish, Arab, Assyrian, Turkmen, and international activists under the slogan, "With the power of free women, we will protect the women's revolution and the homeland, and guarantee the freedom of leader APO," the conference displayed a high level of enthusiasm and morale.

Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's directives, messages from women's organizations, and discussions on the political-military situation, organizational-ideological restructuring, revolutionary people's war, and planning for the new phase were all read and debated with a firm conviction that the struggle will undoubtedly triumph in establishing freedom. This marked the successful and fruitful conclusion of the conference.

"Holding our conference on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the revolutionary Zilan (Zainab Kanaji) underscores our commitment to the principles of women's freedom and the path of resistance and sacrifice embodied in her persona. We reaffirm that Zilan's legacy will illuminate our journey towards freedom and victory," said the YPJ General Command, which further stated the following:

"Our conference thoroughly discussed the policy of torture and absolute isolation implemented in Imrali against the leader. To counter these policies and achieve the physical freedom of leader APO [Abdullah Öcalan], our conference affirmed that the YPJ will mobilize all its energy and strength for APO's freedom and will play a leading role in the campaign "Freedom for Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question." On this basis, we dedicate this conference to leader APO, salute the guerrilla fighters struggling for honor and dignity, and congratulate our conference for all women fighting for freedom.

Our conference assessed the political and military situation in its entirety. Dominant powers attempt to resolve the crisis through military means rather than dialogue and solutions, violating all human and moral values for their dirty interests. Consequently, our conference concluded that the depth and breadth of the issues can only be addressed and resolved through women's leadership and wisdom. The Women's Protection Units bear the responsibility for this protection. Our conference also emphasized that any local or international alliances will not be accepted if they do not serve the interests of the region's people and the gains of the women's revolution. Regardless of the cost, the YPJ will protect the achievements of women and the region's people.

Today, especially in Kurdistan, and across the entire geography of the Middle East and the world, the most heinous forms of violence, rape, suicide, murder, and repression are practiced against women. Patriarchal mentality strangles women at home, and occupying forces target them in all areas of life. With the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries attacking Rojava and northeastern Syria, women face various psychological, physical, and intellectual assaults. Therefore, based on the revolutionary people's war strategy, women in society must educate themselves in defense and join the ranks of the Women's Protection Units to end the occupation and protect themselves from the patriarchal, sexist, and genocidal mentality. This way, we can achieve our freedom and protect the values of the freedom revolution.

Alongside all these developments, our conference evaluated the activities of the past two years from ideological and organizational perspectives. Deficiencies and weaknesses in practical implementation were discussed in detail, and conference members presented their self-criticism. To achieve a higher level of struggle in war and life, the decision to rebuild the YPJ was made. On this basis, the establishment of the central headquarters for women's protection in northeastern Syria was decided to elevate the pace of struggle and organizational level. As the YPJ played a pioneering role at the start of the revolution and made significant sacrifices, henceforth, protecting these achievements and the historical legacy of the revolution will be among its top priorities.

As the Women's Protection Units (YPJ), we will organize life according to the revolutionary people's war strategy. In the face of the special war policies pursued by the dominant male mentality, the force that will

protect humanity and life is women's essential protection. The YPJ is the organizational definition of essential protection for all women in the region and the world. The values of the revolution can only be realized through strong, conscious women connected to their homeland and land, seeing honor not in themselves but in the freedom of their homeland and people. The YPJ is an organized women's identity. The YPJ embodies the essence and integration with the values of the revolution and the ideas of leader APO. The YPJ is an independent and organized force to protect all women. Based on the democratic national model, the YPJ represents the identity of Arab, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian, Turkmen, Circassian, and Chaldean women, as well as all women worldwide.

As the Women's Protection Units (YPJ), just as we defeated ISIS, led by the fascist Turkish state and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) colluding with it, we will be an impenetrable barrier against all annihilation attacks. To build a democratic Syria and a democratic Middle East, we will tirelessly protect all women and people in the region. The YPJ has the strength, will, and determination to crown the hopes of the people and women and the martyrs of the women's revolution with victory. On this basis, we renew our vow, stating that the spirit of sacrifice of the martyrs Zilan, Arin, Rivan, Sara, Ruken, Avista, Barin, Shervin Shardar, Surkhin Rojhelat, Azadi Derik, Zozan Hasaka, Hebun Anteria, Ivana Hoffman, and thousands of women's freedom martyrs will lead us until the women's revolution is achieved, building a free tomorrow for all humanity."

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Human Rights Violations

Police raids village in Gercüş, takes many into custody

ANF | BATMAN | 6 JULY 2024

Turkish soldiers raided the village of Bilêxşê in the Torê region of Gercüş (Kercews) in the morning.

The villagers gathered in the mosque, while soldiers searched several houses. During the raid, 7 people were beaten and detained.

The military attack, which started in the Mawa Mountain region of Hasankeyf (Heskif) district of Batman (Êlih) on June 18 and spread to the rural areas of Kercews district on June 22, continues.

The blockade and house raids in the village of Bilêxşê village continue. A house raid was also carried out in the Bayındırlık District in the center of Batman. Abdülcélil Gitmez and his wife Yüksel Gitmez were detained and taken to Batman Provincial Gendarmerie Command.

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Relatives of the disappeared meet in Amed on the 33rd anniversary of the murder of Vedat Aydın

ANF | AMED | 6 JULY 2024

Relatives of the disappeared people and members of the Amed Branch of the Human Rights Association (IHD) came together in front of the Right to Life Monument in Koşuyolu Park in Rezan (Bağlar) district of Amed for the 804th week of the "Let the disappeared people be found, and the perpetrators be tried" action.

This week, justice and truth were asked for People's Labor Party (HEP) Amed Provincial chair Vedat Aydın, who was abducted from his home to be detained on 5 July 1991, and whose lifeless body was found within the borders of Xarpêt's Maden district, on 7 July.

People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Sur Municipality co-mayor Adnan Öрман (who is the son, nephew and cousin of three forcibly disappeared people), the family of HEP Amed Provincial chair Vedat Aydın, as well as many citizens attended the action.

IHD Amed Branch President Ercan Yılmaz, told Vedat Aydın's story.

Aydın was detained at his home by three JITEM personnel, who introduced themselves as police officers, on 5 July 1991. His body was found in Maden district of Elazığ, two days later, on 7 July.

Aydın, who had been arrested during the 12 September 1980 military coup, had spent 4 years in prison. After his release, he started working to establish the Human Rights Association (IHD) with a group of Kurdish intellectuals. Aydın, who was elected to the Board of Directors of the IHD Diyarbakır Branch in 1990, was arrested on 28 October 1990 for speaking in Kurdish at the IHD General Assembly held in Ankara.

Aydın made his defense in Kurdish at the hearing of the trial against him. He was elected to the Presidency of the IHD Diyarbakır Branch at the end of 1990, and was the provincial chair of the HEP Diyarbakır Provincial Congress in June 1991, after a 4-month detention period.

After being taken from his home on the night of 5 July 1991 by 3 JITEM personnel who introduced themselves as police, his tortured body was found under a bridge in the Maden district of Elazığ on 7 July.

At least 8 people lost their lives and dozens were injured as a result of the police attack on the march organized by hundreds of thousands of people attending the funeral in Diyarbakır on 10 July 1991, to the Mardin Kapı Cemetery.

Background

The Turkish state campaign of the 90s

The Turkish state campaign in the 90s against the Kurdish struggle for independence, was one of the most violent periods in the country's recent history. And as a part of a Turkish political tradition, the Turkish state started to use its centuries-old tactics against it: mass killings and forced migration of ethnic groups.

It all started with the murder of Vedat Aydın

Vedat Aydın was the head of the People's Labor Party (HEP) Amed (Diyarbakır) branch. He was a prominent figure and widely respected politician at that time. When he was taken into custody by the Turkish police on 5 July 1991, it wasn't big news for anybody. The Turkish state's oppression against Kurdish politicians was immense and custody or even torture was common at that time.

But things got complicated. The following day, Turkish officials denied that Vedat Aydın was in custody. There were reports of Turkish counter-guerrilla units killings in Şırnak, Cizre and Mardin but no one was thinking that a prominent figure like Vedat Aydın would be targeted.

On 7 July, an unidentified body was found under a bridge in Maden, a district of Elazığ province about 50 kilometres north of Amed. There were signs of extreme torture and multiple gunshot wounds on the body. Aydın's family rushed to the morgue in Maden and identified the body.

Turkish police ready to kill

This murder sent shockwaves through the Kurdish community, especially Amed, Vedat Aydın's hometown. Turkish authorities handed Aydın's body to his family three days later. They were told that it was because of juridical processes. But it was something else. The Turkish state had its own preparations for the funeral. And when everything was set, they paved the way for the funeral.

More than a hundred thousand people attended the funeral. The ceremony was led by prominent figures of Kurdish politicians as well as human rights defenders and intellectuals. Aydın's coffin was brought to Sümer Mosque in central Amed. After prayers, the crowd walked to Mardinkapi Cemetery for the burial.

The crowd was stopped before the cemetery's entrance by the Turkish police. The police were saying that they wouldn't let such a large crowd enter the cemetery. As there were talks to remove the police barrier, shots were heard.

The masked so-called special forces opened fire against the crowd. There was immense panic. Gunshots continued for 3-4 minutes. Four people were killed on the spot. Several were wounded and taken to the hospital.

After the first attack, the police removed the barrier and let the crowd move to the cemetery. The crowd gathered back again.

Aydin was buried after a short speech by his brother Deniz Aydın.

People deliberately targeted

Everybody thought that it was over and the crowd dispersed and most people started walking to the city center. But the road was blocked by Turkish police again. This time, there were more policemen, more special forces and armoured vehicles. The police let the crowd walk into the city in small groups. After most people passed the police barrier, only a few thousand people were waiting for the police's permission to walk to the city center.

First there were three shots. Then hundreds of armed policemen started to open fire on the remaining people. A helicopter and an armoured vehicle were escorting the attack. People who were trying to flee the area were captured and beaten by Turkish police.

MPs Ahmet Türk, Orhan Doğan, Hatip Dicle and other Kurdish politicians were tortured along with journalists and human rights defenders.

The attack lasted around 20 minutes. It left 23 people dead and more than two thousand wounded. 19 were buried at night. Only 4 families were granted permission for a proper funeral.

23 people killed but no one appeared before court

No Turkish officials or policemen appeared before the court for the killing of innocent civilians. The murderers of Vedat Aydın were never found.

The murder of Vedat Aydın was the beginning of an era. An era of political murders and extrajudicial killings. Between 1991-99, several thousand Kurds were killed, including MP Mehmet Sincar. About two million Kurds were forced to migrate, about 17 thousand villages were burned to the ground.



Legal harassment against ÇHD lawyers continues

ANF | ISTANBUL | 6 JULY 2024

The independent legal profession in Turkey continues to be the target of the judiciary. A court in Istanbul has imposed reporting requirements on two lawyers suspected of terrorism.

The lawyers, Naim Eminoğlu and Doğa İncesu, are members of the Association of Progressive Lawyers (ÇHD). Since Tuesday, they have been in police custody in the Vatan Presidium, sadly known for being a notorious torture center, after they had previously been arrested during a search of their apartment by the police anti-terror unit.

The Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office accuses the ÇHD lawyers of "membership in a terrorist organization." On Friday, the authorities submitted an application to the relevant criminal chamber for an arrest

warrant to be issued against Eminoğlu and İncesu. The court rejected this and ordered police reporting requirements instead as a "preventive measure".

The mechanism is considered an alternative to detention and is used widely by the Turkish judiciary to keep undesirable people under control. The basis is the "release under control" law that came into force in 2013. People from the opposition and civil society are particularly affected.

Eminoğlu and İncesu were freed on Friday evening. However, they must now report to the police regularly and are not allowed to leave the country. It is still unclear whether and when charges will be brought against them.

The ÇHD, meanwhile, condemned the action against its members and the independent legal profession in general, saying it amounts to "lawfare" - that is, warfare by legal means.

The state is subjugating the judiciary in order to persecute political opponents, destroy their reputation and effectively get rid of them, the Istanbul section of the ÇHD said at a press conference on Thursday, adding: "Our legal work is being criminalized as membership in a 'banned organization' and 'terrorism.'"

The involvement of pro-government media in this warfare through smear campaigns also contributes to stigmatizing the lawyers with the aim of neutralizing them. "We will not allow that," said the lawyers.

State repression against ÇHD

The ÇHD association, founded in the 1970s, has been the focus of Turkish repressive authorities for decades. Its members are known for their fight to enforce human and civil rights and mainly take on political mandates, including in trials before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) against Turkey.

ÇHD chair Selçuk Kozağaçlı, for example, who has been in prison for "terrorism" since 2017, represented the relatives of 54-year-old Metin Lokumcu, who was killed in 2011 during protests against Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's election campaign events in the Black Sea coastal region when the police used tear gas. He was also involved in the case of 15-year-old Berkin Elvan, who was hit in the head by a tear gas canister during the Gezi protests in 2013 and died after nine months in a coma.

He represented the relatives of those killed in the Soma mining accident and survivors and relatives of the victims of the Suruç (Pirsûs) attack. On 20 July 2015, a suicide bomber monitored by the Turkish Secret Service (MIT) carried out an attack on a gathering of socialist youths who wanted to support the reconstruction of the Syrian-Kurdish city of Kobanê. Thirty-three people, mainly young people, were killed.

15 members of teachers' union beaten and taken into custody

ANF | ANKARA | 10 JULY 2024

In Ankara, a police attack took place on a protest by the education union Eğitim-Sen. The teachers tried to march to the parliament in protest against the "Teaching Profession Law" that was being debated in parliament. The police attacked the protesting teachers with batons and pepper spray. 15 of the protesters were taken into custody. In particular, people who were sprayed with pepper spray from close range collapsed.

"We will resist to the end"

Despite the attacks, the teachers continued their protest, but were stopped again. Finally, through persistence, they reached Parliament Park. Eğitim-Sen General Chair Kemal Irmak said: "If the police are stubborn, we are even more stubborn. We will resist to the end. We will bring back our arrested friends."

Teaching profession law: neo-liberalism, corruption and repression

Eğitim-Sen is clearly critical of the draft law. The trade union said that "its content discredits the teaching profession, offers no solutions to the economic problems of teachers and abolishes the principle of equal pay for equal work. It weakens the personal rights of teachers and increases discrimination and inequality among teachers." The union criticizes the fact that the draft law does not contain any regulations on the pay of teachers at private schools and instead distinguishes between the public and private sectors.

Teaching in Turkey: A ticket to a precarious life

The draft law does not sufficiently address the actual needs and expectations of teachers and does not contain any comprehensive efforts to improve their social status. The teaching profession in Turkey is extremely poorly paid. The highest gross salary for teachers is just over 1,000 euros, and this is despite living costs that are sometimes even higher than in Germany due to inflation. Prospective teachers are even expected to receive far less than half of that. The situation is far more precarious for teachers at private schools.

At the same time, teachers obviously fear even greater attacks by the regime on their teaching freedom. The draft law regulates in detail the disciplinary punishments for trainee teachers and teachers. The union sees a clear threat to the security of teachers' jobs, similar to the planned, completely non-transparent promotion options, and reminds of the arbitrary treatment that already exists towards teachers. The introduction of "performance-related" promotions also increases competition and devalues the teaching profession in general.

ISIG: Nearly 900 workers killed in their workplace in the first half of 2024

ANF | ISTANBUL | 12 JULY 2024

The Health and Safety Labor Observatory (ISIG) said that at least 878 workers lost their lives in work-related accidents during the first six months of 2024.

The monthly breakdown of occupational homicides, as ISIG rightly calls these accidents, is as follows: January saw 161 deaths, February had 149, March recorded 124, April had 165, May saw 142, and June recorded 137 worker fatalities. Among the deceased, 33 were women and 845 were men.

The dead workers were employed in various sectors, including 303 in industry, 227 in construction, 207 in services, and 141 in agriculture. Notably, the agricultural sector's fatalities nearly reached 30% of all occupational deaths in June, coinciding with the seasonal increase in labor-intensive work during the warmer months.

"Work-related fatalities increased in the second half of each year due to seasonal work," noted ISIG.

Thirty-three child workers dead

The report said that thirty-three of the workers killed were under 18, while the ages of 42 workers could not be determined. The age distribution of the dead is as follows: 13 were 14 years old or younger, 20 were aged 15-17, 175 were aged 18-29, 361 were aged 30-49, 215 were aged 50-64, and 52 were 65 or older.

The report underlined the increasing number of child worker fatalities, especially in the industrial sector. Over half of the child worker deaths occurred in the agricultural sector, with six fatalities in June alone.

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Journalist Sadık Topaloğlu to remain in custody for an extra day

ANF | ISTANBUL | 12 JULY 2024

A confidentiality order was imposed on the file, and Sadık Topaloğlu continues to be kept at the Istanbul Police Department in Fatih.

Topaloğlu's lawyer said that his client was asked questions about a file in which he was previously tried at the police station. The lawyer stated that there was no investigation opened against Topaloğlu and Savaş, and that a detention decision was taken by the prosecutor's office on duty.



“Respect The Will” March

"Respect the Will" March continues on 7th day

ANF | HAKKARI | 6 JULY 2024

For a week, the "Respect the Will" March has been heading from western Turkey to the southeast to demand recognition of the will of the voters in the Kurdish region.

The destination of the march is the Kurdish resistance stronghold of Hakkari (Colemêrg), which was again placed under compulsory state administration at the beginning of June.

The legitimate and freely elected mayor, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who ran for the DEM party in the local elections in March and was elected with almost 49 percent of the vote despite massive attempts at fraud and the deployment of thousands of soldiers as "ghost voters", was removed from office after two months and sentenced to almost 20 years in prison in a political terror trial for supporting the PKK.

The Turkish Ministry of the Interior has transferred the official business to a trustee, despite the appointment of DEM politician Viyan Tekçe as interim mayor by the city council.

Break in Van on Friday

The participants in the protest march spent Friday night in the province of Van and set off from Başkale (Elbak) on Saturday morning towards Hakkari.

Among the approximately 350 participants are co-mayors and deputies of the DEM as well as representatives of civil society organizations and politicians from other parties. After about four kilometers, a stop was made to make a statement about the action.

Feray Mertoğlu, co-chair of the SYKP (Party for Socialist Reconstruction), told journalists that the march against the trustees is continuing despite massive obstruction by the state. "For three electoral periods, Kurds have been denied the right to vote and to stand for election. In order to preserve its own comfort, the government does not allow the Kurdish population to govern itself and elect its own mayors. The compulsory administration in Kurdistan is a result of the refusal to resolve the Kurdish question by democratic means. People, including the revolutionary and bourgeois opposition, must not remain silent about this. If we remain silent, women will be locked in their homes, workers will be unemployed and nature will be destroyed."

Background

Eight years of compulsory administration in Kurdish communities

In 2016 and 2017, 95 elected mayors in Kurdish communities were deposed by the Turkish Ministry of the Interior and 93 of them were imprisoned. After the 2019 local elections, 48 elected mayors were removed from office and 39 of them were arrested. After the local elections on March 31, 2024, it has now hit Mehmet Sıddık Akış. It cannot be ruled out that other mayors from the DEM party are on the government's hit list. Numerous former elected representatives from Turkey now live in exile in Europe.

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'Respect for the Will' march to Hakkari continues

ANF | HAKKARI | 7 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.

The legitimate and democratically elected mayor, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who ran for the DEM party in the local elections on 31 March and was elected with almost 49 percent of the vote despite massive attempts at fraud and the deployment of thousands of soldiers as "ghost voters", was removed from office and sentenced to almost 20 years in prison in a political terror trial for supporting the PKK. The municipality was usurped by a government-appointed trustee on 3 June despite the determination of the other elected co-mayor, Viyan Tekçe, as interim mayor by the city council.

On its fifth day, the march continued with the participation of DEM Party Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları, who made a speech in the Zap Valley on their route.

Tülay Hatimoğulları said, "In this march against the trustee regime, we demand respect for our will, our right to elect and be elected, the law and the constitution."

DEM Party Co-Chair said, "Unfortunately, the trustee mentality does not recognise this and trustees are appointed. Our protests continue everywhere against this mentality that carries out a political coup. We are marching from all over Turkey and Kurdistan to demand respect for our will. Respect the voters and what comes out of the ballot box and recognise the election of co-mayor."

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Last 10 kilometres in the ‘Respect for the Will’ march from Van to Hakkari

ANF | HAKKARI | 8 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.

The legitimate and democratically elected mayor, Mehmet Sıddık Akış, who ran for the DEM party in the local elections on 31 March and was elected with almost 49 percent of the vote despite massive attempts at fraud and the deployment of thousands of soldiers as "ghost voters", was removed from office and sentenced to almost 20 years in prison in a political terror trial for supporting the PKK. The municipality was usurped by a government-appointed trustee on 3 June despite the determination of the other elected co-mayor, Viyan Tekçe, as interim mayor by the city council.

There are 10 kilometres left for the participants to reach the centre of Hakkari. DEM Party Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları, DBP Co-Chair Keskin Bayındır, HDP Co-Chair Cahit Kırkazak, DEM Party components, co-mayors, councillors and nearly 500 citizens have participated in the march.

HDK Istanbul Provincial Co-spokesperson Ali Bal said, "This is a march of objection against the policies of the government all over the country. It is also a march against the trustee regime. It is an objection against femicide, ecocide and isolation. The AKP-MHP government is usurping the will of the people through a coup. We will never accept this. This march has been a hope for the development of a united struggle and we will realise this step."

DEM Party MP Burcugül Çubuk said, "We thank those who came from all over the country to take part in this march. We are facing a trustee regime that forced us to march and made us realise our strength again. They are afraid of everything that the people of Kurdistan have achieved with their will. Hakkari is not far from Izmir and Istanbul. Because everything that is done in Kurdistan will also be done here. As peoples, we will continue to struggle against the trustees with the slogan 'Jin, jîyan, azadî' [Woman, Life, Freedom]. The trustee regime is the usurpation of the Kurdish people's right to elect and be elected. We will continue to struggle against this usurpation with all our people."

After the statement, the march continued. The participants, who will stop at two points during the day, will make a mass press statement in the city centre at 16.00.

‘Respect for the Will’ march completed: Protests will continue

ANF | HAKKARI | 8 JULY 2024

The ‘Respect for the Will March’, which was started against the usurpation of Hakkari Municipality from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) on 3 June by a government-appointed trustee, ended with a press statement on Monday.

Hundreds of people gathered in front of Hakkari Governorate where a press statement was made. DEM Party Co-Chair of Hakkari Provincial Organisation, Hümeýra Armut, thanked the people and said that they will continue to struggle against the usurpation of people's will.

DEM Party Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları said, "This delegation has been on the road for nine days. People from Istanbul, Tekirdag, Izmir, Izmir, Ankara, Çukurova, Turkey and Kurdistan have travelled from all over the country. They travelled from city to city and came here. We have marched from Van to here without interruption. We had a demand during this 9-day march. Respect for the will. What is will? In a democracy, the will means the people, but in a dictatorship, the will means the palace, one man. What is will? Democracy, justice. But in authoritarian fascist regimes, the will is law enforcement, trustees, replacing those elected with those appointed. We call for respect for the will. In Turkey, the enacting of the right to elect and be elected means recognition of the people's will at the ballot box."

Tülay Hatimoğulları recalled Erdoğan's remark that he would respect what came out of the ballot box and said, "But he did not respect what came out of the ballot box as happened in Hakkari. Our elected co-mayor Mehmet Sıddık was sentenced to 19 years in prison, unjustly and unlawfully. Before the decision was made about him, the person who is meant to be standing in the governor's office behind us was appointed by the Ministry of Interior as a trustee to the municipality, that is, instead of the elected. There was no court ruling against him yet when he was ousted. In other words, it was a blatant injustice, a blatant violation of the law. In Kula, Manisa, the mayor was taken into custody and arrested, and in his place, the municipal council member elected the mayor. What did we do in Hakkari? Our municipal council met and elected Viyan Tekçe as acting mayor. What needs to be done now is the official appointment of Viyan Tekçe as our mayor, but they are not doing this."

Remarking that they had been in action since the usurpation, Tülay Hatimoğulları said: "In Istanbul, which is a quarter of Turkey in terms of population and economy, our vigil for our municipalities and respect for the will continues with the participation of all the forces of democracy. During the 9-day march, people did not stop walking in the heat that melted the asphalt. Those in the palace and the governor, that is, the appointed trustee, should see the will and determination of the people. You cannot replace the elected with the appointed. The constitution expresses clearly how one can get elected, judged dismissed and replaced by whom."

Tülay Hatimoğulları stated that what this government is doing is a violation of the will of the Kurdish people and continued, "By violating the will of the Hakkari people, it is also violating the Constitution. Therefore, we say here once again that the Constitution must be implemented. The conventions to which Turkey is a party must be implemented. Turkey is bound by the Charter of Local Self-Government and should act accordingly. It must act in accordance with the Venice Protocol. These trustees appointed today

are not only a crime according to the laws in Turkey, but also against the European conventions to which Turkey is a party. We shout once again from here. We claim our will. The trustee should be withdrawn immediately, Viyan Tekçe should be appointed as acting mayor immediately. We will continue our actions and activities against those who disrespect our will today as we did yesterday, not only as the DEM Party, but also with all democracy forces in Turkey and all segments in favour of justice and rights."

Tülay Hatimoğulları concluded: "There were reactions against the trustee from all over Turkey. Because this problem is not only a problem of the Kurds. This problem is not only Hakkari's problem, not only the DEM Party's problem. The appointment of a trustee means that our right to elect and be elected, which is the minimum condition of democracy, is taken away from us. It means that other municipalities are not safe either. We invite everyone to respect the will of the people in Turkey. We are ending our march here today with this press statement, but only this march. Our vigils will continue. Our protests and actions demanding respect for people's will continue all over Turkey, as will our struggle with our friendly organisations, those in favour of democracy and human rights, those who respect and defend the right to elect and be elected."



Interview

"The situation in Imrali cannot get worse than this," says
lawyer Ibrahim Bilmez

SERKAN DEMIREL | BRUSSELS | 10 JULY 2024

There has been no news for 40 months from Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held in severe isolation conditions in Imrali Prison Island for more than 25 years. Abdullah Öcalan, whose right to visit his family and lawyer has been usurped, is kept in a state of absolute lack of communication. Despite his lawyers' requests to eliminate this unlawfulness, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which has the sole authority to enter Imrali, is content with the statement "We are following the issue closely."

ANF talked to Ibrahim Bilmez, one of the lawyers of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who attended a conference held at the United Nations Geneva Office and drew attention to the lawlessness in Imrali.

'We are facing an unprecedented situation'

First of all, could you summarize the stage reached in the Imrali isolation system and the legal struggle you are waging against it?

Here we are under the umbrella of the UN. There are hundreds of states that are members of the UN. I started by saying, 'I will describe a prison and if you know another prison with similar conditions to this one, please tell me at the end of the conference.' This wasn't just a simple sentence. Indeed, we are faced with an unprecedented situation in Imrali. No legal system would accept such isolation and such an exception. Therefore, this isolation is not acceptable.

Let me put it this way. The prison called Imrali has F Type status under the Ministry of Justice, and even F Type status is unacceptable. The conditions there are of total isolation. Human rights organizations in Turkey have struggled for a long time against this. The conditions in Imrali prison are many times harsher than the conditions in F-Type prisons.

We have not heard from our client, Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, for 40 months. We have not heard anything from Mr. Öcalan since his second phone call on 25 March 2021. That phone call was with his brother and was interrupted after a few minutes. Mr. Öcalan said to his brother, 'I want Turkey to implement its own laws. And I want to meet with my lawyers as soon as possible.'

We haven't heard anything from him since that day. We apply to both the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and the Imrali Prison Directorate twice every week to be granted visits for us, the lawyers. We also apply every week on behalf of families. None of these requests are even answered. Thereupon, we apply to the Bursa Execution Judgeship, and when it rejects, we appeal to the High Criminal Court. When the chamber is rejected, we appeal to the Constitutional Court.

We waited for a long time for the Constitutional Court to take action on this issue. Unfortunately, no positive decision comes from there. We have more than 60 pending applications to the Constitutional Court. Unfortunately, the Constitutional Court acts as a barrier instead of fulfilling the requirements of the Constitution and the law.

It keeps our files and applications there. Therefore, the Constitutional Court contributes to this isolation. If the Constitutional Court makes a negative decision, we take it to the ECHR. This is the domestic law part. We are doing everything to overcome the isolation, but we cannot achieve any results.

When the Constitutional Court gives a negative decision, even if we take it to the ECHR, we are faced with a separate problem there. In fact, cases at the ECHR last an average of five or six years. We have to wait.

In 2012, we had Mr. Öcalan and five other clients who were held in Imrali at that time. The reason these five people were brought to Imrali was to end the isolation. Instead, these five people were subjected to the same isolation as Mr. Öcalan. They brought them to Imrali from F Type prisons, but they did not even use their rights in F Type prisons here. Those who went there after them have not been able to meet with their lawyers to date. They cannot meet with their families or benefit from telephone rights. They too fell into

isolation in İmralı. We assessed this situation as group isolation. And we made an application to the ECHR for them. This was an application we call mass isolation. The ECHR has not made a decision on this issue since 2012. 12 years have passed, unfortunately, an institution like the ECHR has not yet made a decision. We think that this attitude of the ECHR is political.

'As lawyers, we are excluded from all processes'

They wonder how such isolation and lawlessness can be imposed on people. Here's what they do: They use disciplinary measures to prevent family members from visiting. Every three months, the İmralı Prison Administration Monitoring Board automatically imposes disciplinary punishment on Mr. Öcalan and our three clients there. They prohibit meeting with the family for three months. And this is how they explain the reason for the ban on visits.

We never learn the reason for these disciplinary punishments. As lawyers, we are also excluded from these processes. Despite all the applications we have made, neither the decisions containing disciplinary punishment are sent to us, nor are we given the file upon our objection, nor are we allowed to examine the file. We are not notified of anything. As lawyers, we are completely excluded from the judicial mechanism.

Bursa Execution Judgeship is responsible for lawyer meetings. This institution prohibits meetings with lawyers. It automatically issues a ban decision every 6 months. And the reason for these prohibition decisions is hidden from us. We are not included in this process. We also object to this and take it to the ECHR. This is the legal aspect of the matter.

What I am telling you has no place in any legal system. It is not possible to implement the lawyer ban in this way. This means eliminating the essence of the right to defence. Constantly banning lawyers and disciplinary punishments and banning family visits is torture. This situation was also expressed in previous reports of the CPT.

'We are at the worst point'

You said it before: One of the biggest factors in the deepening of the İmralı isolation is the attitude of the CPT. The CPT, which last visited İmralı in September 2022, has still not announced its report. You ask the CPT to visit İmralı again. In the face of all this, the CPT still remains silent. How should we evaluate the CPT's attitude?

I do not think that the CPT's stance contributes to ending isolation in İmralı. The CPT has been involved from the beginning. Since Mr. Öcalan was handed over to Turkey through a conspiracy and this system in İmralı was built, the CPT has been involved with this system in some way.

To date, he has visited İmralı 9 times, published the reports of 8 visits, and criticized Turkey in all of these reports, saying that the conditions in İmralı were unacceptable and that there was a very heavy isolation. In fact, the CPT itself used the term *incommunicado* in its last report.

However, Turkey did not fulfill any of the criticisms made in the CPT's reports. And today we are at the worst point. We haven't heard from our client for 40 months. There is no lawyer or family visit. There is

no response to the letters we wrote. There is no communication. We can actually only assume that our clients are in İmrālî.

As lawyers, we are not even in a position to confirm this. We are not in a position to confirm their health. Therefore, if there is such a situation and the CPT has been involved in the process from the formation of this system until today, we cannot say that the CPT has no responsibility. It does have responsibility.

'İmrālî is not an ordinary prison'

The CPT has not yet announced the report of its last visit to İmrālî. Yes, it is true, Turkey's consent is required for the CPT to share its report with the public. But we reached a point in which there has been a very severe isolation for 25 years, and no news for 40 months. İmrālî is not an ordinary prison. There is an unusual situation. There is a very extraordinary situation. Mr. Öcalan's advanced age and health problems are in question. Our other three clients have been in prison and in harsh conditions for almost 30 years. Therefore, CPT cannot approach İmrālî as an ordinary prison. If Turkey does not allow the disclosure of this report, it is time for the CPT to implement the requirements of Article 10/2 of its own procedure.

'The CPT must make a statement to the public now'

Within the scope of this article, the CPT can make a statement about the country that does not allow the disclosure of that report or about the countries that have not implemented the corrections recommended by the CPT in that report for many years. It makes a statement to the international public and declares that the country does not comply with the law and the European Convention and violates it. No country that has the rule of law written in its constitution would want to be faced with this statement. But Turkey is slowly moving to this point. In our opinion, the CPT should now make this statement. It's about time, because it can't get any worse than this.

'The CPT should do whatever is necessary'

I met with people who visited İmrālî, such as former CPT presidents Mauro Palma, Marc Neve and Jean-Pierre Restellini. These people said that the CPT could be more active and that the CPT could resort to the public statement you mentioned in the face of Turkey's attitude. So why does the CPT refrain from making this statement?

In fact, this question should be asked to CPT officials. We express these demands and thoughts in our meetings with CPT officials. But they prefer to remain silent. They just say the same thing to us every time; 'We are following the process. We are in communication with Turkey. This isolation is unacceptable for us as well.' they say.' They don't say anything else. Unfortunately, they do not do what they say they should.

The CPT has internal balances; they may be thinking about them or they are afraid of the reaction Turkey might show. But as I said, we cannot experience a worse situation than the situation we are experiencing today in terms of the İmrālî isolation. That's why the CPT must do whatever is necessary now.

'İmralı's position is against the law'

When we look at the reports of CPT officials who first visited İmralı, they point out that it is not suitable for a prison as a location. CPT officials who attended these visits stated that they had serious discussions on this issue with Turkish officials at that time. At this stage, we see that the CPT is staying away from expressing this situation. On what basis are your applications to the ECHR? Do you have any applications stating that your right to defense has been violated due to the location of İmralı?

These arguments are already present in all the applications we make. It is against the law for a prison to be isolated like this, on an isolated island. It is not an accessible place. It has been declared as a completely military area. İmralı normally has F Type status. There are many prisons in the country, with F Type status. Lawyers can go to these prisons and meet with their clients. But İmralı was placed on an island and declared a military zone. We were only taken there by state-owned ship under the supervision of the gendarmerie. So there is no way to reach it. There is no way to get information from there.

This is the situation we are experiencing right now. Four people are imprisoned on an island and have not been heard from for 40 months. Therefore, the conditions are unacceptable. But we have come to a very bad point. Yes, the island conditions were not suitable for Mr. Öcalan's health condition. But today we have come to such a point that we cannot even hear from our clients. The CPT needs to take action as soon as possible. They should ensure that we go and hear from our clients. They also need to go to İmralı again as soon as possible. It is not enough for them to simply approve the statement of Turkey's latest report. Because it's been two years since that happened. They need to go again.

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Lawyer Bilmez: According to the ECHR, our clients have been under torture since 2014

SERKAN DEMIREL | GENEVA | 11 JULY 2024

There has been no news for 40 months from Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held in severe isolation conditions in İmralı Prison Island for more than 25 years. Abdullah Öcalan, whose right to family and lawyers visit has been usurped, is kept in a state of absolute lack of communication. In the face of this unlawfulness, the authorized institutions, especially the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), which has the sole authority to enter İmralı, remain silent.

ANF spoke to one of Abdullah Öcalan's lawyers, Ibrahim Bilmez. The first part of this interview can be read [here](#).

As Abdullah Öcalan's lawyer, one of the institutions through which you bear the lawlessness in İmralı is the UN Human Rights Committee. In your speech at the conference held at the UN Geneva Office, you called on the authorized bodies of the UN to take action against the İmralı isolation. What kind of responsibility do these bodies have, and at what stage are your applications here?

For a long time, we used international law mechanisms through the bodies of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Council of Europe. I explained to you the ECHR's approach: It still has not responded to our application about isolation for 12 years.

In the past, we made applications to the relevant UN bodies and commissariats. In order to overcome the isolation, we made an application to the UN Human Rights Committee on 29 July 2022. This Committee also functions as a universal international court like the ECHR.

It receives individual applications and makes a judgment on behalf of those countries. Its difference from the ECHR is that it has jurisdiction all over the world. In this context, we also made an application here with our petition explaining the situation. The UN Human Rights Committee accepted our request on 6 September 2022 and requested measures from the Turkish government.

Pointing out that the isolation conditions are unacceptable, the Committee requested Turkey to immediately pave the way for Abdullah Öcalan and the other three prisoners in İmralı to have unlimited access to the lawyers of their choice.

Despite this decision of the Committee, Turkey did nothing and did not fulfill the request. We conveyed this situation to the UN Human Rights Committee again. Thereupon, the Committee requested measures again in January 2023. But Turkey did not comply with this request.

Today, our case at the UN Human Rights Committee still continues. We are sure that the UN Human Rights Committee will condemn Turkey. Because this isolation is not compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, the UN conventions, or Turkey's own constitution.

Again, on 17 May 2024, we applied to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. We applied to the Torture Rapporteur because the isolation conditions in İmralı are conditions of torture. It is not possible to name this situation with any other term, because these conditions are clearly torture conditions.

'According to the ECHR, our clients have been under torture since 2014'

In 2014, we applied to the ECHR regarding the aggravated life imprisonment sentence. The ECHR ruled that the sentence of aggravated life imprisonment constituted a violation of Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights. In other words, it stated that the ban on torture was violated in İmralı. It said that the method of execution of the aggravated life imprisonment sentence was torture. According to this decision of the ECHR, our clients have been under legal torture since 2014, when this decision was issued.

I say all this regardless of the isolation conditions. Already, isolation conditions mean torture. We conveyed these demands to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

We are also prevented from doing our own profession. Our clients are given disciplinary penalties and family visits are prevented. We are not involved in those processes. These decisions are not notified to us. Even though we applied when we learned about this situation and requested that these decisions be forwarded to us, those decisions are not sent to us.

Lawyer banning decisions are being made again. We are not informed, and we are not included in this process. Therefore, we cannot practise our own profession. That's why we also applied to the UN Special Rapporteur defending the independence of judges and lawyers. We continue to follow this file.

'Silence is connected with the approach to the Kurdish question'

As you stated, we have witnessed that both domestic and international law are not implemented in İmralı. On the other hand, despite this unlawfulness, the relevant bodies remain silent in the face of this isolation. How should this silence be addressed?

I think that the silence of states and supra-state official organizations is entirely related to the Kurdish question. It is a situation related to the approach towards the solution and non-solution of the Kurdish question. As a result, it is not possible to claim that the isolation conditions of Mr. Öcalan is independent of the solution to the Kurdish question. Mr. Öcalan's position is known. Abdullah Öcalan is seen both as a leader by the Kurdish people and as an important actor in the solution to the Kurdish question. Millions of people signed campaigns in the past, showing Mr. Öcalan as their political will. At that time, people were being tried and arrested solely because Mr. Öcalan was called *Mr.* Despite this threat of arrest, so many people signed. This is the situation on the Kurdish front.

On the other hand, although the state tried to "demonise" and lynch Mr. Öcalan in the press and in public during the trial process in 1999, actually knew about Mr. Öcalan's past efforts and search for a solution to the Kurdish question. In other words, the state also accepted Mr. Öcalan as an actor. That's why he held secret meetings behind closed doors in İmralı after 1999.

' Abdullah Öcalan is a great chance for the people of Turkey'

Later, the Oslo talks were held between the PKK and state officials. Then, after 2012, a process called the "solution process" was developed. Mr. Öcalan was addressed directly. Therefore, it must be said clearly that Mr. Öcalan is a great opportunity for both the Turkish state and the Turkish people. He has a very sincere approach and will toward the solution of the Kurdish question. We witnessed this situation first-hand when we went to İmralı.

Mr. Öcalan was always trying and searching for a solution. And we witnessed that he had the power to do this. He examined all the issues similar to this issue in the world. He developed the most reasonable solution suggestions. He enabled the formation of the Dolmabahçe Consensus. He really has great sincerity and strength to solve this issue. Therefore, we are not talking about an ordinary person. That's why it is necessary to connect this isolation with the Kurdish question. Therefore, the silence of international organizations and states regarding this isolation is related to their perspective on the Kurdish question.

There may also be hegemonic powers that do not want the Kurdish question to be resolved democratically and peacefully. They are aware that the unresolved Kurdish question weakens Turkey and the Middle East.

The Kurdish question, along with the Palestinian question, is one of the most burning problems in the Middle East. As Mr. Öcalan has stated many times in his defense, if Turkey had solved the Kurdish question, for example, if it had supported the structure in Rojava rather than seeing it as an enemy, perhaps we would be at a very different point today.

Turkey could only do this by democratizing. Some powers may not want a democratized Turkey, a Turkey where peoples are liberated, Kurdistan and a Middle East. Therefore, international relations are a bit complex and complicated in this regard.

For all these reasons, there is a structure called law. It is necessary to comply with the requirements of the law. What is required by law is that the isolation imposed on Mr. Öcalan be lifted and removed as soon as possible. International judicial mechanisms need to at least make the necessary interventions on this issue.

'Turkey cannot ignore the freedom campaign'

On 10 October 2023, a global campaign was launched under the name "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, Political Solution to the Kurdish Question". This campaign continues to grow by including different social segments. This campaign also draws attention to the fact that Turkey is becoming increasingly isolated in the international arena. What would you like to say about the importance of this campaign?

First of all, I think this campaign is very important. I think Turkey has no chance of ignoring this campaign. Even if Turkey closes its eyes and ignores this campaign, the reality is there. Turkey's image is being damaged by this campaign.

Mr. Öcalan's solution perspectives for the Middle East are rapidly becoming more well-known and discussed both in Europe and the world. Conferences are held on these issues. Thanks to this campaign, this isolation condition has become more visible and audible. Although international organizations and states remain silent, democratic public opinion in many countries is now starting to speak out. Therefore, it is impossible for Turkey not to be affected by this. I think that if this campaign continues to grow stronger in this way, a positive result will be achieved in the near future.

'We can break isolation with solidarity'

Is there anything you would like to add?

Solidarity is very important in breaking isolation. There is a state practice and reality that does not implement its own law and international law. Unfortunately, other states and international powers largely turn a blind eye to this situation. For this reason, all international democratic public opinion and especially civil society organizations need to raise their voice and take action on this issue. We expect their solidarity. I think we will overcome this isolation with solidarity.

Opinion

Bozan: The law applied in Kurdistan is a colonial law

ANF | ISTANBUL | 7 JULY 2024

DEM Party Mersin MP Ali Bozan said that different laws are applied for Kurdish and Turkish citizens in Turkey and described this situation as "colonial law". Bozan said that this law manifests itself especially in cases such as the appointment of trustees to Kurdish municipalities and failure to intervene in forest fires.

Pressure increased after local elections

After the March 31 local elections, said Bozan, the AKP-MHP government's pressure on the Kurdish people increased. The government, which took a step back as a result of the resistance in Van, arrested the elected co-mayor of Hakkari (Colemêrg) and appointed a trustee in his place. This situation showed that "normalization" policies did not include the Kurdish people.

The state's failure to intervene in the forest fires in Amed and Mardin showed that the oppressive regime would not be limited to the trustees alone. Bozan said that the fires were caused by DEDAŞ's lack of maintenance and emphasized that the state's approach to the fires in Kurdistan was different from the fires in western Turkey.

Silence and colonial law

Bozan said that the silence against forest fires in the West of the country is a result of the state's policies towards Kurdistan. Bozan said that this situation is in the subconscious of citizens living in the West, and added that the Turkish state applies a double standard law.

Bozan said that the trustee policies were also a part of the isolation practices against Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, and added that the state's approach to the Kurds became harsher during the periods when the isolation of Öcalan was increased. Bozan stated that the resistance against the trustee coup was also a struggle to end the isolation imposed on Abdullah Öcalan.

Reactions in the West are insufficient

Bozan said that the reactions of the social opposition in Turkey to the usurpation of the people's will in Hakkari (Colemêrg) were important but insufficient, and underlined that the trustee issue is now not only the problem of the Kurds but also the whole of Turkey.

Bozan said that social opposition against the AKP-MHP government should be strengthened and that resistance should be increased both in the parliament and on the streets.



Ilham Ehmed: We want the regime to take new steps

HIVDA HEBUN | QAMISHLO | 9 JULY 2024

The foreign affairs representative of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Northern and Eastern Syria (DAANES), Ilham Ehmed, told ANF that Turkey is seeking to annex large parts of Syria. The Autonomous Administration expects that the government of Bashar al-Assad will insist on Turkey's withdrawal from the occupied territories in order to normalize relations.

Ehmed highlighted the similarities between the regimes in Ankara and Damascus, and said: "These regimes are not open to democracy. They are not even open to change; human rights, the legitimate rights of peoples, the rights of religious denominations."

The Kurdish politician pointed out that both governments are therefore in a deep internal crisis. "Both are experiencing very serious and deep contradictions in their relationship with their own societies, with the people living on their territory. The Turkish state has serious problems with its population. The government in Damascus has the same problems. There are efforts to reach an agreement between the Turkish state and the government in Damascus. Russia and Iraq play a role in this. Everything that will undermine the dignity of the people of Syria is on the negotiating table."

Turkey's withdrawal from Syria must be a precondition for an agreement

Ehmed said: "In the initial phase of the Syrian crisis, the Turkish state interfered in Syria's affairs in many ways. With military attacks, the Turkish state exceeded the limits of the Adana Agreement. It is pursuing a policy of occupation and annexation. The Turkish state and the regime in Damascus have also changed their organizational structure. They are not open to democracy and do not recognize the concerns and rights of the peoples. They trample on these rights in every way. For years, the Turkish state has supported mercenary groups and presented itself as the protector of the Syrian people. Now it is sending messages of support to the regime in Damascus. Damascus wants to relieve the pressure on it and the Turkish state wants to get rid of the refugees. Turkey wants to make its presence in Syria permanent. To do this, Ankara is trying to revive old alliances. This shows that new military invasions are being prepared. However, it is clear that there are obstacles to this agreement. Because both the Turkish state and the government in Damascus do not have the independence to make their own decisions. The Syrian issue has become an internal problem and Turkey insists on changing demographics. Therefore, the security and interests of the people of Syria must be considered first and foremost. In this sense, the withdrawal of the Turkish state from Syrian territory should be the precondition for an agreement. Any other agreement will not only be to the detriment of the people of North and East Syria, but will harm the entire population of Syria."

The Turkish state must leave the occupied territories

Ehmed continued: "First of all, the Turkish state must leave the occupied territories in Syria. It seems as if the regime insists on this condition. If these two regimes come to an agreement, then the first thing to do is to deal with common problems. One of these common problems is the concerns of the peoples of the

region. This is not only about Northern and Eastern Syria, but also Northern and Western Syria. The Turkish state occupies areas in Northern and Eastern Syria. Some areas were also taken from the regime in Damascus by Turkey. It will indeed be difficult for both states to resolve these problems among themselves."

It is dangerous if relations return to the previous status quo

Ehmed continued: "When it comes to the interests of states, the interests of peoples and societies are of little importance. States crush them anyway. This is especially true for the groups that states perceive as enemies. The Turkish state sees northern and eastern Syria as its enemies, while the government in Damascus sees Northern and Eastern Syria as well as Northern and Western Syria as its enemies. If they want to return to the old relations on this basis, it obviously entails many dangers. The old relations were based on disregard for the rights of peoples.

The interests of the regime are much more important here. The interests of the peoples are not important. This brings great dangers.

There can be no solution without involving the whole country

We say again: if there is to be a solution, then it must include all of Syria. In addition, the sanctions against Syria naturally affect Syria's international relations. We want the regime to take steps and change. The return of those who have been criminalized by the regime, the return of all refugees to their homes, the withdrawal of the Turkish state from the occupied territories - if this is the approach, then the Syrian issue can be resolved."

Russia promotes relations between Ankara and Damascus

Ehmed mentioned that the "development road project" agreed in the talks between Ankara and Baghdad should pass through Syrian territory or along the Syrian border. She commented: "Syria is a neighboring country of Iraq, so violent groups travel back and forth between these two countries. Most of the trade also takes place on these roads. All of these are problems, of course. Although Iraq wants to play a role here, it does not have enough power to bring about a general solution. The extent to which Iraq can play a role depends on the many difficulties it is facing. In fact, Russia wants something like this to happen. With the war in Ukraine, Russia is in a very difficult situation. The burden of the Syrian war has also become heavier and Russia has not been able to benefit from this situation. We do not know what conditions Russia is imposing on either side. But it wants to reduce its own burden. Consequently, Russia is also responsible for what is happening in the region. That is, it has assumed this responsibility to a certain extent. However, the war in the Middle East is expanding. It is not clear what will happen at any moment in Lebanon, which borders Syria. An outbreak could happen at any moment. Any change in Lebanon will have a direct impact on Syria. But Russia wants to close the Syria file. It wants to end the problem of the opposition. However, we believe that this is only a temporary solution, like the one in Dara. As long as Russia does not think of a permanent solution, this wound will always remain open and continue to bleed."

Racist incitement by the Turkish state leads to attacks on refugees

Ilham Ehmed also pointed out that the attempts at rapprochement between the Turkish state and Syria have caused unrest in Turkey, and said: "Racism in Turkish society has reached a very dangerous level. The refugees from Syria have integrated into Turkish society and are working, but all the propaganda for Turkishness creates great hatred and antipathy towards other peoples. In this way, the ground is being laid for a civil war. The attacks on refugees from Syria are the result of this policy. This also applies to the attacks on Kurds. Today, Syrian refugees are being forcibly deported from Turkey. Villages are being built in Afrin to change the demographic structure of the region. The Kurds are being displaced and replaced by Arab populations. But these people are also being forcibly resettled. This is a crime in itself, for which accountability must be taken. This must stop immediately. This is abuse of war refugees. In order to solve the Syrian crisis and to preserve the dignity of the peoples of Syria, it is important that all ethnic groups living in Syria unite. That would mean an end to the abuse of the population."

Our region is a region where people can find refuge

On the refugee issue, Ehmed said: "We have already explained that we have a project to solve the refugee issue. Our region is a region where these people can find refuge. In this sense, the United Nations should have a concept regarding self-government. Erdoğan keeps saying that he will invite Assad to Turkey. This statement is actually aimed at society in Turkey. Racism in Turkey has been fueled to such an extent that it now wants to calm people down in this way. In other words, with such statements, people are trying to convey to the people in Turkey that they want to deport those seeking protection."



The guerrilla is the hope of the people of South Kurdistan

AMARGI ARHAT BA | BEHDINAN | 12 JULY 2024

The KDP's biggest fear is that the growing anger of the people of Bashûr (southern Kurdistan, northern Iraq) will turn into an organised force, because it knows the people's rebellious tradition.

The Turkish state continues its occupation plan with all kinds of co-operation and support of the KDP. Neither the guerrilla nor the people have patience left for the KDP's sinister role in this war. The residents of Amediyê who witnessed the convoys of the Turkish army passing through the centre of the city; the villagers of Guherzê, whose vineyards and gardens are hit by howitzer and mortar shells every day; those who were forced out of the villages of Mijê and Spîndare; the residents of Sergelê, whose land is burning even today, are waiting for the day when they will get rid of the sinister KDP and the invading Turkish army. The greatest hope of the people, who are portrayed as if they were uncomfortable with the presence of the guerrilla there, is that the guerrilla will emerge victorious from this war.

The KDP's biggest fear today is that the growing anger of the people will turn into an organised force, because the KDP knows that the people of South Kurdistan are rebellious and come from a tradition of rebellion. We know how much the KDP fears the will of the people from the elections that it has postponed

for years. The KDP, even afraid of organising the elections, which is the primary necessity of democracy, for years, will of course be on the side of the occupier, not on the side of the people in the days when these occupation attacks have become evident.

After the attacks of the Turkish army on 3 July, the KDP media resorted to lies in order to calm the reactions of the people and to make it seem as if everything is rosy in the region.

No country's media makes such an effort to normalise an occupation on its territory.

Today, while watching the news reported by the K24 channel in the city of Amediyê, we realise again that the KDP media knows no limits in lies and special warfare.

First of all, the K24 reporter talks about how many tourists the city of Amediyê attracts during the day, how majestic and beautiful the landscape is. I wonder if they see the occupying Turkish soldiers who roam in and around the city as tourists. What view are they talking about? Is it the view of the smoke and explosions from the chemical weapons fired against the guerrilla positions on the Amediyê Hill near the city? Or the view of the burning forests in Sergelê and other villages on the slopes of Amediyê? Which view? The view of the burnt bodies of Kurdish children hit by howitzers and mortars fired by the Turkish army?

The K24 reporter then shows a few street scenes to show how peaceful the city of Amediyê is. If he moved his camera a little to the side, he would have a good view of the lands set on fire by the Turkish invaders, and if he moved his camera a little higher, he would get the Amediyê Hill, which has been almost pulverised by the bombardments of the Turkish army, so the angle of the shots is very narrow, showing only a few people shopping in front of a shop. Then a few interviews with pre-prepared dialogue. The interviewee says that the city of Amediyê attracts thousands of tourists a day, that there is nothing extraordinary around and that they live in peace.

The KDP special warfare team is very adept at playing three monkeys.

However, can the people of Amediyê ignore the sounds of explosions even if they cover their ears? Can they not feel the heat radiating from their burning forests even if they never leave their homes? Even if they wear masks, how can they not smell the odour of chemical gases emanating from Amediyê Hill? How can they ignore the invaders who pass through the centre of their cities in convoys with their dirty boots?

Let's say that they do not see or hear, and they claim that they live in peace. Isn't this thanks to the guerrilla that has been resisting the occupation in that region for two years? Isn't it thanks to the heroes who faced all kinds of war crimes for two years on the Amediyê Hill, but still did not allow occupation so that the Turkish army would not turn towards the cities? Undoubtedly, if the guerrilla had not fought there for two years, no one could claim to live in peace in the city of Amediyê. If there is any peace, it is thanks to the guerrilla blood flowing on the hills above that city.

There is no peace in the Amediyê area, but the biggest occupation operation in the history of South Kurdistan. Turkish troops did not come there to watch the magnificent view of the city of Amediyê. They have brought nothing but blood, tears, death, rape and massacre wherever they have set foot in the Middle East, and they will not bring anything to Amediyê. For this reason, those who claim that the inhabitants of Amediyê live in peace today and try to justify the Turkish army's invasion operation will also be respon-

sible for the suffering that will be experienced by those very people when this invasion operation cannot be stopped.

Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan), in his evaluation titled Southern Perspectives, said, "The KDP is a collaborative power and depends on the dominant will. When the dominant will wants, it is drawn into this conflict by various methods. It was indeed drawn in. In other words, it is a dependent power, it cannot do otherwise. On this basis, the Turkish regime both supported and protected the loyalty to a federal Kurdish state. Its aim in this was to isolate the PKK from the South and gradually turn the Kurdish collaborator forces in the South against the PKK." The collaborationist and treacherous character of the KDP was thus analysed decades ago.

Leader Apo's predictions and analyses on the political, military and social structure of the region offer a perspective for the guerrilla struggle even after decades. For this reason, it is the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla that best interprets the occupying character of the Turkish nation state, best analyses what the Turkish state has done and will do there, and with this foresight and consciousness, is the honour defender of the people of South Kurdistan.

The KDP's media can only deceive the Barzani Family's stooges by saying "There is peace in Amediyê, tourism is developing in Amediyê", but never the patriotic Kurdish people of South Kurdistan who come from the tradition of rebellion. Especially they can never mislead the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla.

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