

THE IMRALI POST

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

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Contents

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....	2
76th group take over vigil for Öcalan in Maxmur.....	2
Families of prisoners in Imrali apply for visit.....	3
Prisons.....	3
Guards in Evin jail attack female prisoners.....	3
Prisoner sees his release postponed six times.....	4
Prisoner sees his release postponed for 3 months after spending 30 years in jail.....	5
Keskin: Ill and elderly Kurdish women kept in prison with temperatures of 40 degrees.....	5
Mother denounces harsh isolation conditions of her son in prison.....	6
Strip-searching and cage torture in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Prison.....	7
Military aggression and occupation.....	8
Hundreds of Yazidi families who fled KDP camps reach Shengal.....	8
Turkey and its gangs bomb villages in Manbij.....	9
'The horrific massacres In Deir ez-Zor will not go unanswered'.....	9
Igêdat tribe: Those who speak in our name do not represent us.....	11
HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Koçer and Amûdê.....	12
Renewed infiltration attempt foiled in Deir ez-Zor.....	12
Autonomous Administration calls on Damascus to stop demagoguery and sedition.....	13
HPG says guerrillas carried out series of actions against Turkish forces in South Kurdistan.....	14
At least 14 wounded as Damascus forces and allied groups continue to attack Deir ez-Zor.....	15
Deir ez-Zor Military Council retaliates for the martyrs of al-Dahalah and Jadeed Bakara massacres	16
Kurdish and Arab tribes condemn attacks in Deir ez-Zor: We stand by the SDF.....	16
Over 170 mortars fired at Manbij in three days.....	17
Guerrillas celebrate 40th anniversary of 15 August Initiative in Medya Defense Areas.....	18
HPG: 5 Turkish soldiers killed, 13 injured.....	18
KONGRA-GEL message on 15 August: Occupation and betrayal will be defeated together!.....	19
Turkish warplanes shell villages in Amediye.....	20
KCK: Let's increase the struggle and carry it to victory!.....	22
Two guerrillas' bodies delivered to their families.....	23
Young Kurds, Arabs and internationalists join the guerrilla ranks.....	24
20 occupiers killed, 17 others wounded in actions by Afrin Liberation Forces.....	24
High-level Iraqi delegation to visit Ankara.....	25
Shengal Autonomous Administration: The 15 August Initiative saved the Yazidis from the genocide	25
.....	25
'We will show everyone the invincibility of the Kurdish people and the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla'	26
.....	26
Turkey bombs Biradost.....	28

HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Firat Dilopa Baranê and Dîrok Cûdî.....	28
Martyr Benda Amed YPS JIN Retaliation Unit carries out action in Istanbul.....	29
Femicide.....	30
Protest against the law paving the way for child marriages in Iraq.....	30
Iraqi and Yazidi women: Marrying off a 9-year-old girl is killing in every respect.....	31
Three femicides in one night in Ankara and Istanbul.....	32
Iraqi Women's Conference issues call to Baghdad government.....	32
Ecocide.....	33
Villagers in Kars say solar power plant will modify environment.....	33
Protest against mining project in Hasandin: We will not sacrifice this place to economic rent.....	34
7 detained as soldiers attack villagers protesting against hydroelectric power plant in Muğla.....	35
Human Rights Violations.....	35
75-year-old bedridden man suffers heart attack while being taken into custody.....	35
Peace activist Ali Şükran Aktaş died in Izmir.....	36
At least 25 people detained in four cities in North Kurdistan.....	37
Attack from AKP fascist deputies in the Parliament.....	38
Interview.....	39
Kalkan: Guerrillas developed a heroic resistance in the last 40 years.....	39
Kalkan: Resistance to fascism in Turkey must happen on all levels.....	44
HPG Commander Fazıl Şevger: 15 August 1984 directed against enemy and collaborators - I.....	48
Commander Fazıl Şevger: Guerrilla draw strength from Abdullah Öcalan - II.....	50
Besê Hozat: 15 August breakthrough was a move toward enlightenment in Kurdistan and the Middle East.....	53
Besê Hozat: Systematic torture and isolation against Öcalan.....	56
Opinion.....	59
The future of Iraqi politics in the light of the Turkish invasion.....	59
Deir ez-Zor and insistence on the chaos plan.....	62



Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

76th group take over vigil for Öcalan in Maxmur

ANF | MAXMUR | 10 AUGUST 2024

The vigil action at the Martyr Rustem Cudi Refugee Camp (Maxmur) was initiated on 20 July 2023 to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and to break the isolation imposed on him. The action was taken over by the 76th group as it entered its 386th day.

The ceremony for the handover of the action at the Martyr Families Institution began with a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of the Kurdistan Freedom Struggle.

Dilşin Kara then made a statement on behalf of the 75th group before handing over the action to the next group.

The statement said: "Our culture prioritizes the struggle for freedom and human rights. The health and existence of Leader Öcalan are of vital importance to us.

The people of the world, even the fascists and occupying powers, should not deny this truth. Our leader has been held in solitary confinement for 26 years. He has been prevented from seeing his family since 7 July 2019. At the same time, no news had been received from him for 41 months.

The isolation in Imralı is an attack aimed at destroying the culture of the Kurdish people. We are resisting like Leader Apo and will continue to resist. Our culture means resistance. As the 75th group, we also see the physical freedom of Leader Öcalan as our fundamental duty and reason for living. As the women and people of the Martyr Rustem Cudi Refugee Camp, we will never allow fascism to achieve its goals."

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Families of prisoners in Imrali apply for visit

ANF | ISTANBUL | 16 AUGUST 2024

Mehmet Öcalan, the brother of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, and his guardian Mazlum Dinç applied to the Bursa Public Prosecutor's Office and the Imrali Prison Directorate requesting a visit.

Families of the other prisoners also applied for a visit. Ömer Hayri Konar's brother Ali Konar, Hamili Yıldırım's brother Polat Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş's sister Melihe Çetin requested the prosecutor's office and the prison directorate to allow a visit.

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Prisons

Guards in Evin jail attack female prisoners

ANF | 10 AUGUST 2024

52-year-old Nobel Peace Prize-winning women's rights advocate Nargis Mohammadi was arrested by Iranian regime forces in 2021 due to her campaign against the death penalty.

Mohammadi, who is still held in Evin Prison, has spent most of the last 10 years of her life in jail. Her family, who live in Paris, said that they have not been able to meet directly with Nargis since November.

The family stated that the prisoners have been protesting the death penalty since last Tuesday, based on information they obtained from other families who have relatives in Evin Prison. The family said that the guards attacked and beat the female prisoners.

According to the latest data shared by human rights institutions, the Iranian regime has executed nearly 30 prisoners in the last week. Among those executed is Kurdish political prisoner Reza Resayi.

Mohammadi's family made a statement on Thursday, saying that "prisoners organized a protest due to Reza Resayi's execution and Nargis's health problems. The guards attacked the female prisoners." The family said that the female prisoners were tortured and severely beaten during the attack.

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Prisoner sees his release postponed six times

ANF | URFA | 10 AUGUST 2024

Sinan Sütpek was arrested in the Hilvan (Curnê Reş) district of Urfa (Riha) on 3 May 1993, and sentenced to life imprisonment by the unlawful State Security Court of the time with a political decision.

Sütpek was deported to Urfa, Adiyaman (Semsûr), Bursa, Maraş and Yozgat T Type Closed Prisons during his captivity.

The prisoner's sentence was completed on 3 May 2023. However, his release was postponed for 3 months in line with the report stating "not good behavior" arbitrarily prepared by the Prison Administration and Monitoring Board. After that, the release was prevented for three months each time.

The sixth time, Sütpek's release was postponed for another 6 months on the grounds that he continued to show "not good behavior".

It was learned that Sütpek, who appeared before the Prison Administration and Monitoring Board on 7 August, was only asked by the board what job he would do after his release.

This board meeting, in which Sütpek said he would live in his village in Urfa, lasted less than a minute. The board arbitrarily blocked his release by claiming that he was "inclined to commit crimes."

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Prisoner sees his release postponed for 3 months after spending 30 years in jail

ANF | AGRI | 10 AUGUST 2024

The release of Mehmet Kınat, who has been in jail for 30 years in Patnos L Type Closed Prison, was postponed due to the claim that he was not "behaving well," despite having completed his sentence.

Detained in Şirnak in 1994, Kınat was sentenced to life imprisonment by the State Security Court (DGM) on the charge of "disrupting the unity and integrity of the state" after being detained for days.

Kınat, who completed his conditional release process after 30 years, stated in a phone conversation with his family that his release was postponed for 3 months. He added that the Prison Administrative and Monitoring Board (IGK) prevented his release by claiming that he was not "behaving well."

It was learned that Mehmet Kınat suffers from diseases such as diabetes, stomach, and herniated disc.

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Keskin: Ill and elderly Kurdish women kept in prison with temperatures of 40 degrees

ZEYNEP KURAY | ISTANBUL | 13 AUGUST 2024

The co-chair of the Human Rights Association (IHD), Eren Keskin, visited the women from the village of Bilêxşê in the district of Gercüş (Kercews) in Batman (Êlih) prison. The women were arrested on 13 July for "supporting a terrorist organization." The women were transferred to the M-type prison in Batman. They are elderly, ill women. Keskin told ANF that she is very worried about the dramatically poor prison conditions.

"The mothers were strip-searched"

Keskin was able to visit three of the imprisoned Kurdish women. She pointed out that the women were all of advanced age and had health problems. One of the prisoners, Emine Kaya, is 71 percent disabled. Keskin described how the women were stripped and searched when they were admitted: "They were forced to take off their clothes, which were then X-rayed. When we visited them, they stressed that they were particularly annoyed by this practice. They said that they were very ashamed and sad to be subjected to such an imposition."

"Water once a week"

Keskin warned in particular about the prison conditions: "The women are held in cells at 40 degrees without any cooling. They can only get drinking water once a week, and this water is not enough because it is extremely hot."

Keskin also visited two minors and four young women who were being held in the same prison. They were imprisoned for dancing Kurdish dances. They told her that after their arrest they were forced to listen to racist songs. The young women and minors are being held in the same appalling conditions as the older women.

"This is just cruel"

Keskin said the older women were arbitrarily arrested during a village raid. They were abused and held captive in a house in their sealed-off village for 13 days. They were then taken to the terrorism department of the police in Batman and were remanded in custody by the court for "supporting a terrorist organization."

Keskin said the mothers do not speak Turkish and continued: "These people are old and ill; the conditions in which they are being held are inhumane. This is just cruel torture. They could be put on trial without being detained. It is torture to make people who have already suffered so much persecution in their lives relive the 1990s."



Mother denounces harsh isolation conditions of her son in prison

ANF | AMED | 14 AUGUST 2024

After being arrested in Edirne on 9 June 2022, Imran Esmer was taken to Adana Kürkçüler F Type Closed Prison. Esmer was transferred to Suluca No. 1 High Security Prison in the same city 2 months ago. Esmer is being held in solitary confinement, serving a 6 years and 3 months' sentence for "being a member of an illegal organization".

Esmer's file is still at the Supreme Court of Appeals, and his mother, Medine Esmer, is protesting the fact that her son is being held in solitary confinement.

"One hour a day of fresh air"

Medine Esmer applied to the Human Rights Association (IHD) Amed Branch denouncing the violation of rights her son experienced, and requesting legal assistance. She told MA news agency that her son was being held in a solitary cell despite the fact that his sentence was not approved, and added that she went to

her son's open visit on 12 August. Medine Esmer said: "My son cannot see or talk to anyone there. Again, from the first day he was taken to prison until last week, he was allowed to see his friends for one hour a day."

The woman continued: "Even if my son dies there, no one will know. I am very worried about my son's condition. He shares the same corridor with ISIS prisoners. The fact that my son is in an isolation cell by himself is seriously affecting his psychology and worries us."

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Strip-searching and cage torture in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Prison

ZEYNEP KURAY | ISTANBUL | 16 AUGUST 2024

Fascist practices in Turkey under the AKP-MHP rule increased every passing day. The government, which has been collecting grievances over military tutelage for years and boasting about the end of that period, is imposing tortures that are reminiscent of the 12 September fascist junta in prisons as well as outside.

In one of these prisons, a political prisoner named Abdülkadir Bozkurt, who is in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Prison, said in his weekly phone conversation with his family that he has been held in a cell for three days and that the guards have thrown faeces at him. Serdar Bozkurt, spoke to ANF after speaking on the phone with his brother Abdülkadir Bozkurt.

Strip-searched and had faeces thrown at him

Bozkurt spoke to his jailed brother on 15 August. He said, "My brother Abdülkadir cried and cried, 'Forgive me, I can't stand it anymore,' he said, adding that the prison director, psychologist and chief guard would be responsible for any bad thing that might happen to him. When I asked him what happened, he said that he was subjected to a strip search, put in a cage and had faeces thrown at him. When I asked him if he meant a cell by cage, he said emphatically that it was a wire cage, but he couldn't go into detail because they cut off the phone call. He called again, they cut him off again. He called a third time, but they cut him off again. For this reason, he couldn't fully describe the torture he was subjected to."

Prison psychologist doesn't give any answer

Bozkurt said that the whole family heard the conversation because the phone was on loudspeaker and that his mother fainted. He said: "My mother screamed as if a funeral had broken out in the house. I called the prison immediately and asked for the name of the warden. They said they could not tell me. Then I spoke to the prison psychologist, who did not tell me his name either. When I reminded him that he was responsible for the treatment done to my brother, he first denied it and then blurted out, 'We are currently holding a meeting for your brother.' If there is nothing, if there is no problem, why are they holding a meeting for my brother then?"

It is like Diyarbakir prison no. 5

Bozkurt said that his brother was the victim of a false statement by an informant, and drew attention to the fact that he was sentenced to 25 years in prison and has been a prisoner for 14 years. Bozkurt added that his brother, who was only 18 years old when he entered prison, is now 32 years old. He said that, as if this injustice was not enough, he had also been kept in solitary confinement and tortured for years. Bozkurt said he also informed the DEM Party deputies and ÖHD lawyers about the situation, and added: "My brother rebelled and said that even faeces were thrown at him. Can you imagine? This is the practice used in military prisons during the 12 September 1980 military junta period. This is a practice that is no less than the torture in Diyarbakır Prison No. 5."

‘They stole his youth. I will not let them take his life!’

Bozkurt underlined that the director and psychologist of Tekirdağ No. 2 Prison would be responsible for anything bad that may happen to his brother, and said: "The prison director, psychologist and chief guard will be responsible. I have no hope or expectation from anywhere anymore. The state and the judiciary have already done the evil they were going to do to my brother. I will not allow my brother to be subjected to this torment and torture there. They had already stolen his youth. They will not be able to take his life."

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Military aggression and occupation

Hundreds of Yazidi families who fled KDP camps reach Shengal

ANF | SHENGAL | 9 AUGUST 2024

Hundreds of Yazidi families, who were forcibly held by the KDP (the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq) in the camps in Duhok and Zakho, started to leave the camps and flee, thinking that they were under threat from the hate speech directed against them.

Yazidis fled the camps fearing an attack against them after imams in Duhok and Zakho incited hatred in Friday sermons and KDP's local media accounts fuelled hatred on the social media.

Some of the hundreds of fleeing Yazidi families reached Shengal on Friday. It is reported that the Yazidi IDPs' return to their hometown is still continuing.

There was an accumulation of hundreds of vehicles at the entrance of Shengal. Arriving families are welcomed by the forces of the Shengal Autonomous Administration and Êzîdxan Asayish (local security units).

Earlier today, the Autonomous Administration called on Iraq to take urgent security measures against the possibility of an attack on Yazidis in the camps.

Background: Genocide of the Yazidi in Shengal

On 3 August 2014, the Islamic State attacked the Shengal region in northern Iraq with the aim of wiping out the Yazidi community, which had already been persecuted for centuries. Through systematic massacres, rape, torture, expulsion, enslavement of girls and women and the forced recruitment of boys as child soldiers, the Yazidi experienced what they call the "Ferman" - the 74th genocide in their history. According to the UN, at least 10,000 people were killed, about half of them children. Even among the thousands who starved, died of thirst or died of their injuries while fleeing to the mountains, almost all of them were children (93 percent). ISIS forced boys as young as seven to work as child soldiers in its training camps. Girls were raped and sexually enslaved, and more than 400,000 people were driven from their homes.

According to estimates by the Yazda organization, around 2,700 Yazidi are still missing today, including around 1,300 who were children at the time of their abduction. Many of them are still systematically raped and kept and sold as slaves. Therefore, this genocide in its form also represents a femicide. The organization Nadia's Initiative assumes that 300 to 400 girls and boys under the age of 18 are still in the hands of ISIS. More than 3,500 Yazidi have been rescued, including 2,000 children.

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Turkey and its gangs bomb villages in Manbij

ANF | 10 AUGUST 2024

The Turkish state and its gangs hit the villages of Cat and Ewn Dadat in the Manbij Canton with howitzers late on Friday night.

According to the statement published on the official website of the Manbij Military Council, 33 howitzer shells hit both villages.

As a result of the attack, a fire broke out in the village of Cat.

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'The horrific massacres In Deir ez-Zor will not go unanswered'

ANF | 10 AUGUST 2024

The Command of Deir ez-Zor Military Council released a statement about the latest wave of attacks and massacre of civilians by the Syrian regime forces and their allied mercenaries.

"We firmly believe that these attacks serve the interests of the terrorist organization ISIS, providing an opportunity for its resurgence and the spread of terror," said the statement by Deir ez-Zor Military Council, which includes the following:

"In the early hours of Thursday morning August 7, under the cover of intense artillery and mortar fire, Syrian regime forces and their allied mercenaries, including the so-called "National Defense Forces" launched ground attacks and infiltration operations into areas along the eastern bank of the Euphrates River, Deir ez-Zor.

The indiscriminate and barbaric shelling by the Syrian regime against the populated areas resulted in the martyrdom of two civilians and the wounding of five others in both Dhiban village and Al-Latwa neighborhood. The city of Al-Shuhail also suffered casualties and damage from heavy shelling.

In response, our SDF's Deir ez-Zor Military Council and Hajin Military Council engaged in fierce clashes with the Syrian regime-backed mercenaries, estimated to number over 400 individuals, in the vicinity of the infiltrated villages in Al-Latwa, Dihban, Dranach, Garanij and Al-Tayaneh, and inflicted substantial losses upon them. 25 mercenaries were eliminated and 10 others were wounded. Then, an immediate combing operation was initiated to clear the region of remaining mercenaries.

Two of our fighters were martyred, and ten others sustained minor injuries during the clashes with the attacking mercenary groups. The local population, including all tribes and clans, actively participated in resisting and responding to the mercenary attacks. They demonstrated unwavering support for our SDF forces. The region's collective voice unequivocally condemned the attacks, rejecting the transformation of their homeland into a battleground to serve foreign interests. The ultimate goal of these attacks is to seize control of the region, sow discord, and plunge the area into chaos and destruction. This stands in stark contrast to the longstanding harmony and unity among the region's diverse communities, which have flourished under the protection of the Autonomous Administration and our SDF forces.

Conclusive evidence, including videos, confirms that regime forces and mercenaries deliberately targeted civilian homes. These attacks were carried out despite their knowledge of the heavily populated civilian areas, which are distant from the conflict zone.

In a vengeful response to the defeat of their mercenaries, Syrian regime forces intensified their barbaric and indiscriminate artillery and missile bombardment of civilian homes in the early hours of Friday morning. Originating from their base on the western bank of the Euphrates, it resulted in two horrific massacres in the villages of al-Dahalah and Jadeed Bakara. Eleven innocent civilians, primarily women and children, were martyred, with five others wounded.

Our SDF's Deir ez-Zor Military Council remains steadfast in its commitment to defending our people and region against these brutal assaults. We will not tolerate these massacres without a resolute response and will exercise our right to self-defense in accordance with international law. We firmly believe that these attacks serve the interests of the terrorist organization ISIS, providing an opportunity for its resurgence and the spread of terror.

We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our people in Deir ez-Zor and the sheiks and notables for their unwavering patriotism, steadfast support for our SDF forces in repelling these attacks, and

instrumental role in maintaining societal cohesion. Their resolute rejection of external interference and commitment to preserving the region's security and stability are commendable."

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Igêdat tribe: Those who speak in our name do not represent us

ANF | 10 AUGUST 2024

Sheikhs, opinion leaders and people of the Igêdat tribe made a statement condemning the attacks of the Difa al-Watani gangs and other groups affiliated to the Damascus government forces on the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor.

Sheikh Raxib al-Jedan read a press statement to the accompaniment of dozens of locals, sheikhs and opinion leaders.

The statement said: "As the opinion leaders and sheikhs of the Igêdat tribe, we say on behalf of the people of our tribe that we stand with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) against the attacks of Difa al-Watani and other groups affiliated with the Damascus government on our areas. They targeted the homes of people, massacred many civilians and looted civilian and service institutions in order to occupy the area.

The historical and national attitude of our tribe has always been in favour of preserving the social mosaic in Syria. This is because it is forbidden in our religion for fellow citizens to kill each other. On this basis, we will not allow any party to disrupt our national unity, and we will always stand against them.

The position of the Igêdat tribe was respectable in the approach between all parties and provided basic support for national unity at all levels. We warn all those who claim to represent the Igêdat tribe and speak against the people against these schemes. They do not represent us.

The Igêdat tribe lost dozens of martyrs in the SDF ranks, defended the region and stood against all kinds of attacks. We will continue to defend our lands against all threats.

All Syrian people should know the reality of the parties that are trying to shed more Syrian blood. The Democratic Autonomous Administration and the SDF proposed a solution to the Syrian crisis through Syria's internal dialogue.

This attack is contrary to all efforts that seek dialogue and a solution to the crisis."

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HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Koçer and Amûdê

ANF | BEHDINAN | 11 AUGUST 2024

Guerrillas Gelhat Koçer and Doğan Amûdê were killed in June in attacks by the Turkish army in the Metîna region of South Kurdistan. The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) published information about their identities and expressed its condolences to their families and the Kurdish people.

Code name: Gelhat Koçer

First and last name: Abdullah Arslan

Place of birth: Şirnex

Names of mother and father: Xezal – Ahmet

Date and place of death: June 9, 2024 / Metîna

Code name: Doğan Amûdê

First and last name: Ahmed Omer Şerif

Place of birth: Deir ez-Zor

Names of mother and father: Şukriye – Omer

Date and place of death: June 17, 2024 / Metîna

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Renewed infiltration attempt foiled in Deir ez-Zor

ANF | 11 AUGUST 2024

The Hajîn Military Council said in a statement on its social media account that armed groups of Difa al-Watani [National Defense Forces] attempted to infiltrate the eastern countryside of the Deir ez-Zor Canton. The attempt was thwarted by the Hajîn Military Council fighters.

13 people, including children and women, were martyred and 12 people were wounded as a result of howitzer and mortar attacks by Difa al-Watani and other armed groups against the villages east of Deir ez-Zor between 7-9 August.

Deir ez-Zor Military Council announced on 10 August that 25 members of the Syrian regime-backed mercenaries were eliminated and 10 others were wounded as SDF's Deir ez-Zor Military Council and Ha-jin Military Council engaged in fierce clashes.

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Autonomous Administration calls on Damascus to stop demagoguery and sedition

ANF | 11 AUGUST 2024

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) reacted to the statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Government accusing the Autonomous Administration of the recent attacks on Deir ez-Zor.

The Department of Foreign Relations of DAANES stated that the language of the Damascus government is hostile and Syrians know well what these discourses mean.

"The events in Deir ez-Zor started with the attacks carried out by the forces loyal to the Damascus government and its supporters," the Autonomous Administration said.

Remarking that the Damascus government is dragging the country into chaos and corruption with this understanding, the Autonomous Administration drew the attention of Damascus to the occupation and crimes committed by the Turkish state in Syria.

"They insist on continuing with this mentality that massacres the Syrian people. We consider the attitude of the Syrian people rejecting the sedition initiated by Damascus and their support for the forces protecting them important."

The Autonomous Administration called on Syrians living in Damascus-controlled areas not to be fooled by the government's hostile rhetoric and to unite against a possible war.

Appealing to the Syrian Foreign Ministry, DAANES said: "Give up your demagogic rhetoric that will not bring any results."

Finally, the Autonomous Administration stated that internal dialogue is the only way to build a democratic country and added: "We reject all attempts of sedition and will stand against them with the unity of our people."

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HPG says guerrillas carried out series of actions against Turkish forces in South Kurdistan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 12 AUGUST 2024

The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) has issued a statement on the guerrilla resistance to the Turkish invasion of South Kurdistan and the recent attacks by the Turkish army on the Medya Defense Areas.

According to the information, nine Turkish soldiers were killed in guerrilla actions on the western front of the Zap region.

The HPG provided the following details:

“Intervention against the occupiers' infrastructure in Metîna

In Golka in the Metîna region, guerrillas carried out an action against the expansion of the infrastructure for the occupation forces. A construction vehicle was shot at several times with semi-automatic and heavy weapons on 8 and 9 August, and was damaged. After the fifth attack on Friday afternoon, the occupiers began a partial retreat.

Guerrilla resistance in the western Zap region

In the western Zap region, three Turkish soldiers were killed by guerrilla snipers, one on 10 August in Girê Amêdî, two more on 7 August in Girê Bahar. In Girê Cûdî, an attempted advance to a tunnel system was foiled on Saturday morning. Guerrillas attacked with semi-automatic weapons and forced the soldiers to retreat. Four further attacks by the YJA Star and HPG on the occupation troops in the past two days were carried out with heavy weapons. On Saturday night, guerrillas intervened against helicopters in the airspace over Girê Bahar.

Series of actions in Girê Bahar: Six dead

In Girê Bahar, the guerrillas struck another blow against the occupation troops on Saturday. At 3:20 am, snipers targeted a Turkish unit and killed three soldiers. Later in the morning, soldiers searched the scene of the incident with a detector and were attacked again by guerrillas. By the evening, a total of six occupiers had been killed by guerrillas. Another soldier was wounded and the detector was damaged. The HPG is dedicating the series of actions to the memory of the start of the armed liberation struggle on 15 August 1984.

Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army used prohibited explosives against guerrilla tunnels in the Girê FM and Girê Cûdî areas a total of five times on Saturday. The Medya Defense Areas were bombed a total of 28 times by fighter jets

on 8 and 10 August, and the Xakurke, Gare, Zap and Metîna regions were hit. Further air strikes were carried out with combat helicopters.

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At least 14 wounded as Damascus forces and allied groups continue to attack Deir ez-Zor

ANF | DEIR EZ-ZOR | 12 AUGUST 2024

Damascus government forces and armed groups of Difa al-Watani [National Defense Forces] carried out howitzer and mortar attacks in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor Canton on Monday.

According to the initial reports, two civilians were wounded in the attack on Kishkiyê village.

According to the information provided by ANHA, 14 people were wounded in the attacks on El Mewh neighbourhood of Abu Hemam town this morning.

The wounded were taken to hospitals in Deir ez-Zor canton and taken under treatment. Two of them are reported to be in serious condition.

Reports are coming through of further civilians wounded in Abu Hemam and Kishkiyê, but medical teams could not reach the area due to the ongoing bombardment.

According to the latest information, a mosque in Kishkiyê town was also bombarded, causing major damage.

13 people, including children and women, were martyred and 12 people were wounded as a result of howitzer and mortar attacks by Difa al-Watani and other armed groups against the villages east of Deir ez-Zor between 7-9 August. Deir ez-Zor Military Council announced on 10 August that 25 members of the Syrian regime-backed mercenaries were eliminated and 10 others were wounded as SDF's Deir ez-Zor Military Council and Hajin Military Council engaged in fierce clashes.

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Deir ez-Zor Military Council retaliates for the martyrs of al-Dahalah and Jadeed Bakara massacres

ANF | 12 AUGUST 2024

The General Command of Deir ez-Zor Military Council released a statement announcing the details a large-scale retaliatory operation targeting three positions of the regime and its mercenaries on the western bank of the Euphrates River.

“In retaliation for the blood of the martyrs of the al-Dahalah and Jadeed Bakara massacres, who were martyred by artillery shelling from the Syrian regime and National Defense Force mercenaries, as well as all our martyrs, both civilian and military, our Deir ez-Zor Military Council conducted a large-scale retaliatory operation, targeting three positions of the regime and its mercenaries on the western bank of the Euphrates River; the operation resulted in the elimination of eighteen regime members, the wounding of others, and two more mercenaries were eliminated in a sniper engagement. Eleven AK-47 rifles and additional military equipment were seized,” the statement on Monday said.

“During the operations, our forces raided three villages on the western bank of the Euphrates River, east of Deir ez-Zor: Al-Kishma, Al-Bulayl, and Al-Tub. These villages had been used as launching points for attacks on our territory. The operation was successfully executed, and our forces returned safely.”

The statement pointed out that: “Our Deir ez-Zor Military Council considers this operation a clear warning to the Syrian regime and its affiliated forces. Should they continue their aggression against our people and territory, we will exercise our right to self-defense against all regime attacks, which are a reprisal for our people’s steadfast opposition to the regime’s policies and atrocities throughout Syria. We commend our fighters for their bravery and effectiveness in this retaliatory operation. Their success reinforces our confidence in their ability to reach and eliminate all military threats posed by the regime and its mercenaries.”



Kurdish and Arab tribes condemn attacks in Deir ez-Zor: We stand by the SDF

ANF | HESEKE | 12 AUGUST 2024

The notables of Kurdish and Arab tribes gathered in Heseke and condemned the attacks of the Damascus government and its allies in Deir ez-Zor and expressed their support for the SDF.

The statement made by the tribal leaders in Heseke city was read by Sheikh Hesên Ferhan, Co-Chair of the Tey Tribe Council.

The tribal leaders condemned the efforts of armed groups affiliated to the Damascus government forces to sow discord in the region and said, "We, as tribes, stand by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Asayish [Public Order] Forces with our men, women and youth. We will protect the security of our country with all our means."

"Our experience is our strongest weapon against the attempts seeking to disrupt the unity of our components," the statement said.

"Therefore, the protection of the country is a sacred duty for all members of our tribes and clans," the statement said, underlining that the interests of the country are paramount.

"All the tribes and clans in North and East Syria will be rock solid to foil the enemy's conspiracies and will be a protective shield against those who try to disrupt the security of the region. We call on all the peoples of the region to stand by the SDF and the Asayish Forces, putting the interests of the country above all else."



Over 170 mortars fired at Manbij in three days

ANF | 12 AUGUST 2024

According to local and security sources, the Turkish army targeted the villages of Seyada, Dendeni, Um Jilûd, Erebi Hesên, Toxar and Ewn Dadan in Manbij Canton on 7 August with 52 mortar and howitzer shells simultaneously with the attacks on Deir ez-Zor.

The villages of Hoşeriyê and Ewn Dadat were also targeted by attacks with DShK machine guns.

On 8 August, the villages of Kawiklî, Girhiyok, Qertwêran and Biwêhîc were targeted by 70 mortar and howitzer shells.

On 10 August, 33 mortar and howitzer shells were fired at Ewn Dadat and Catê villages, while 16 mortar and howitzer shells were fired at Seyda village.

During these attacks, the village of Seyada was attacked by kamikaze drones.

According to reports, many houses and lands belonging to the people were damaged in the attacks of the occupying Turkish state.



Guerrillas celebrate 40th anniversary of 15 August Initiative in Medya Defense Areas

PIRDOGAN KEMAL | BEHDINAN | 13 AUGUST 2024

Guerrillas organized a ceremony on the 40th anniversary of the 15 August Initiative in Medya Defense Areas, where a fierce war against the occupying Turkish state is ongoing.

Speaking at the ceremony, HPG commander Baran Ararat paid tribute to all the martyrs of the revolution in the person of Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz), the commander of the 15 August Initiative, when the first bullet was fired at the Turkish state.

Commander Ararat saluted the Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, all guerrillas and the patriotic Kurdish people, stating that forty years have passed since that important day, and said: "The real meaning of this step was that the first bullet was fired at the slave mentality and colonialists."

Commander Ararat, who stated that the first bullet was fired not only against the occupation but also against internal betrayal and selling oneself to the enemy, said: "This breakthrough was not only military. It was the intellectual power, courage and philosophy of the Kurdish people."

Commander Ararat said that today's attacks on the lands of Kurdistan and the Middle East are aimed at weakening and taking control over them, and added: "Today, we are waging an unprecedented war against the occupation in the Medya Defense Areas and in every area. Just as we have defeated this enemy with the spirit of 15 August, we will also be waging a historic war from today and give the necessary response to the occupying enemy." The ceremony ended with the HPG and YJA Star guerrillas dancing the halay.

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HPG: 5 Turkish soldiers killed, 13 injured

ANF | BEHDINAN | 13 AUGUST 2024

In South Kurdistan, Turkish occupation forces have been attacked again by an air defense unit of the PKK guerrillas. As the press office of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) said in a statement on Monday, the air strikes were aimed at bases and military camps built by the Turkish army on the western front of the Zap region. According to the HPG, at least five soldiers were killed in the attacks and another thirteen were injured. In addition, five army tents were destroyed and three positions damaged.

The air strikes were reportedly carried out between 1 and 11 August and hit targets on the Girê FM, Girê Amêdî, Girê Bahar peaks and in the Sergele resistance area. The HPG was able to confirm the identity and ranks of some of the soldiers killed and injured. They were staff sergeants Ümit Şahin, Baki Kalan and Ziyar Vural, corporal Halil Ibrahim Güvercin and two mercenaries Tolga Armut and Oktay Cengiz. The HPG dedicated these actions to those who started the armed struggle on 15 August 1984.

The air strikes were carried out by the guerrilla unit named after the fallen commander Doğan Zinar, a regional commander and member of the HPG command council and the PKK reconstruction committee.

Zinar was killed in November 2017 along with twelve other guerrillas in a military operation in Amed. The unit first appeared in June with attacks against the ongoing occupation operation by the Turkish army, also in the Zap region. Recordings of the actions were broadcast by Gerila TV. The guerrilla's most recent air strikes against Turkish occupiers were also documented in a video.

The HPG added that the Turkish government was concealing its recent losses on the war front in South Kurdistan from the public. Despite the high number of soldiers killed and injured as a result of the air strikes, there is a stubborn silence both in Ankara and in the pro-government sensationalist media, which the HPG called the "special war press". The HPG said: "No matter how hard they try to conceal the truth, the occupiers will not be able to avoid being targeted by the Kurdish freedom guerrillas who are following in the footsteps of the great commander Egîd, both from the ground and from the air."



KONGRA-GEL message on 15 August: Occupation and betrayal will be defeated together!

ANF | 13 AUGUST 2024

KONGRA-GEL Co-Presidency Council released a statement marking the 40th anniversary of the August 15 Initiative, when the Kurdish freedom movement fired the first bullet at the Turkish army in Erüh, Siirt in 1984. A 36-strong guerrilla force led by the legendary commander Mahsum Korkmaz - also known by his nom de Guerre Egîd ("the Brave") - carried out the first attack against the Turkish occupying forces that day, which is considered the beginning of the armed struggle of the Kurdish liberation movement.

KONGRA-GEL congratulated the freedom fighters, Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, the prisoners, the people of Kurdistan and progressive humanity on the 15 August Initiative, saying: "We commemorate all the martyrs of the revolution with respect and gratitude in the person of the great commander Comrade Egîd. On this occasion, we congratulate the families of martyrs and offer our greetings and respect."

"Before the 15 August Initiative, despair and helplessness were the fate of the Kurdish people in the four parts of Kurdistan", KONGRA-GEL said, recalling that after the Ağrı rebellion, the occupying Turkish state wrote on Mount Ararat: 'The imaginary Kurdistan is buried here'.

The statement continued: "With the 15 August Initiative, the dead soil that the invaders sprinkled on the people of Kurdistan was removed. The grave made by the occupiers on Mount Ararat became the common grave of occupation and betrayal with 15 August."

On this basis, KONGRA-GEL said, 15 August was the foundation of a social revolution and a women's army by showing its effect in four parts of Kurdistan. "If 'Jin Jiyan Azadî' [Woman, Life, Freedom] has become the purpose of life in Kurdistan, the Middle East and the world today, this move is the basis of it."

The statement also drew attention to the global campaign demanding freedom for Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question, and stated that "the most strategic force in the success of this campaign is undoubtedly the guerrilla force".

"Therefore, we as a people must always increase this power. The young men and women of our people in particular should see it as essential to join the guerrilla during the period of defeating the Turkish fascist regime and the Barzani family betrayal."

"The Barzani family has now gone beyond betrayal and surrendered to the Turkish state with all its assets," said the KONGRA-GEL statement, which further included the following:

"Therefore, the 41st year struggle of the freedom guerrillas is very important for the free future of the people of Kurdistan. According to this reality, our people and our friends must raise the struggle for the people's revolutionary war and answer the freedom guerrillas on this basis.

In order to contribute to this process, especially in the social field, in the arms of the democratic nation, social construction activities must be addressed with all components of the system.

For the guerrillas and our people, this is the process of defeating the Turkish state fascism and the Barzani family betrayal. Leader Öcalan's freedom process and the solution of the Kurdish question are also on this basis. The time has come, occupation and betrayal will be defeated together. Let the 41st year be the year of the defeat of fascism and betrayal.

With this thought and belief, we wish victory to the freedom guerrillas and the revolutionary people's war in the 41st year struggle, and we offer our greetings and respect."

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Turkish warplanes shell villages in Amediye

ANF | 13 AUGUST 2024

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 weeks. Troops are being increased and tanks are being deployed in and around Amadiya in particular.

Warplanes of the occupying Turkish state bombed villages in Amadiya district of Duhok province on Tuesday.

According to Rojnews, the planes directly targeted houses of the local people.

Images from the ground show the bombed houses destroyed, while information on the extent of the general damage was not immediately available.

Turkey is penetrating ever deeper into the territory of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). According to information from the local NGO Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) on Sunday, the Turkish occupation offensive "Operation Claw Lock", which was expanded to parts of the Amêdî district in mid-June, now reaches fifteen kilometers deep into the country.

In the previous "Operation Claw Lightning and Thunderbolt", which lasted from April 2021 to April 2022, occupation troops had only advanced seven kilometers into the region and had established themselves in the village of Hiror (Hrure) because the front of the guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) could not be broken through. In order to overcome this, the Turkish army is now strengthening its more than 70 military bases in the KRI, which are operating in violation of international law, and is building seven new bases that are concentrated in the Kanî Masî sub-district in Barwarî Bala, which belongs to Amêdî. The population of several villages has already been displaced in recent weeks as a result of this military violence in the southern Kurdish border region, and other villages are now threatened with the same fate - with the approval of the Barzani party KDP, which is allied with Turkey.

At least 602 villages in the Kurdistan region of Iraq are currently threatened with violent evacuation as a result of Turkish expansionism. This figure was also confirmed by CPT, which named 162 villages whose populations have already been displaced since the start of the Turkish "claw operations" in early summer 2020. In order to achieve the long-term goal of destroying the autonomous status of the Kurdistan region and securing Turkey's control over strategically important areas in northern Iraq, in addition to permanent bombings of guerrilla areas, the Turkish army is also carrying out targeted attacks on civilian settlements - under the guise of border security and an alleged "terrorist threat" to Ankara.

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.

KCK: Let's increase the struggle and carry it to victory!

ANF | BEHDINAN | 14 AUGUST 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council issued a statement to mark the 40th anniversary of 15 August 1984, when the first bullet was fired by the PKK, thus starting the armed struggle.

The statement said: "We are approaching the 40th anniversary of the 15 August breakthrough that brought the Kurdish people back into existence. After 40 years of uninterrupted development, we congratulate this meaningful and historic breakthrough to Rêber Apo, the heroes that enabled the breakthrough, all the martyrs, the patriotic people of Kurdistan, the freedom guerrillas, all comrades resisting in prison, women, oppressed peoples of the world, and our international friends. We express our endless gratitude to all those who took part and contributed to this historic breakthrough and once again commemorate all the martyrs of revolution and democracy with respect, love, and gratitude by commemorating comrade Agit, our great commander and the hero of the breakthrough, and we bow respectfully in front of their precious memories. We reiterate our promise that we will walk on the path of the martyrs until we achieve victory."

The statement continued: "The breakthrough of 15 August has been one of the most meaningful and great steps in history. The Kurdish people, who were about to be annihilated under the grip of occupation, exploitation, and genocide, regained new life with the August 15th breakthrough and regained their will, consciousness, and identity. It ended the history of denial, reaction, and exploitation in Kurdistan and started the history of free and democratic development. The Kurdish people gained honor and glory with the breakthrough of August 15th. This historic breakthrough also led to the resurrection of Kurdish women, who gained free consciousness and will and created the developments that have led to today. The August 15th breakthrough is also a development with regional and global consequences. The effects of Rêber Apo's [Abdullah Ocalan] paradigm on the world and the Kurdish woman's reaching the level of leadership in the women's liberation struggle are two fundamental aspects that reflect the regional and global character of the August 15th breakthrough and reveal its historical significance. Rêber Apo has always emphasized that the August 15th breakthrough was not a purely military action and was not limited to Kurdistan, but was a democratic and universal development. As time passes, this truth is understood better."

The statement added: "15 August is a great historical development that needs to be emphasized and understood in many respects. First of all, the breakthrough of August 15th is a development that has not stopped and is still continuing. For forty years, this breakthrough has been going on without interruption and with great developments. This is one of its most important and distinctive features. Undoubtedly, one of the points that must be emphasized and understood is to know the conditions under which the August 15th breakthrough took place and to recognize the historical individuals who realized this. The August 15th breakthrough can be understood by learning about the practices of the genocidal, colonialist, racist, and denialist mentality developed against the Kurdish people; the cries of the Kurdish people whose language, identity, and culture were banned; and the oppression, torture, and massacres of the September 12th fascist junta against the peoples and revolutionaries; the great memories of the comrades like Mazlum Dogan, Kemal Pir, Hayri Durmuş, and Sakine Cansız, who resisted the greatest persecution in history in the prison of Amed (tr. Diyarbakir). Again, in order to understand the breakthrough of August 15th, it is

necessary to learn about the great passion for freedom, and the love for the country that the people who carried out this historic breakthrough carried in their hearts.

Today's extermination and genocide attacks on our people reveal how vital the struggle expressed in the breakthrough of August 15th is. It is very clear that, as a people, we can only stand against the attacks of occupation and genocide in the spirit of the August 15th breakthrough. And it is certain that by raising the struggle with the same mentality, we can break the invasion and the genocidal attacks in order to defeat the colonialist enemy. The breakthrough on August 15th represents the will to resurrect Kurdistan and its success. In this respect, it is necessary to truly understand and live according to August 15th. Understanding and sustaining this historical development that enabled us to exist until today is what we need the most."

The statement underlined that "the Kurdistan freedom guerrilla continues the August 15th breakthrough and follows the path whose foundation stone was laid by comrade Agit, the great commander of this breakthrough, by resisting the invasion and genocide attacks with great sacrifice and heroism. We salute this meaningful stance and unique resistance of the guerrillas once again on this occasion and congratulate all comrades on the 15 August Resurrection Day. The people of Kurdistan should celebrate the breakthrough of August 15th with great enthusiasm everywhere. On this basis, they should increase the struggle and carry the struggle to victory by standing side by side with the Kurdistan freedom guerrillas, resisting against occupation, genocide and betrayal."



Two guerrillas' bodies delivered to their families

ANF | HAKKARI | 14 AUGUST 2024

The bodies of YJA-STAR guerrilla Leyla Aykut and HPG guerrilla Nadir Budancer (Alan Malazgirt), who lost their lives as a result of a Turkish airstrike and were brought to Hakkari State Hospital on 21 June, were delivered to their families on Tuesday.

The families had given blood for a DNA test a month ago. Following the results of the DNA test, the bodies were taken to the Serê Solan Nameless Cemetery in Hakkari (Colemêrg) by the families.

Aykut was buried in the Beytüşşebap (Elkê) in the province of Şirnak (Şirnex), while Budancer was buried in the village of Iyikomşu (Toraka) in Malazgirt (Malazgîr) district of Muş (Mûş).

Aykut buried on Tuesday night

Leyla Aykut's family and relatives and the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) Elke district organization attended the funeral on Tuesday night. After the religious duties, Aykut's body was buried in the Xirabe Cemetery in Beytüşşebap, next to the grave of his father, Aziz Aykut, who died on 5 December 2019. He was a member of the HDP district organization. After the funeral, the crowd went to the condolence center set up at the house to offer their condolences to the family.



Young Kurds, Arabs and internationalists join the guerrilla ranks

PIRDOGAN KEMAL | BEHDINAN | 14 AUGUST 2024

Young Kurds, Arabs and other internationalists joined the guerrilla ranks after a ceremony that coincided with the anniversary of the 15 August Initiative.

The new guerrillas made a statement after the ceremony, saying: "With the step taken on 15 August under the leadership of Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the legendary commander, comrade Egîd, the grave that was placed before the Kurdish people like a destiny was shattered. The Kurdish people saw a new birth. Comrade Egîd represented the ideology of Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan) and the spirit of resistance of Mazlum, Ferhat, Kemal, Mehmet Xeyri and Sara."

Noting that Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan took revenge for thousands of years on an ideological basis with this step, the Kurdish and internationalist guerrillas said: "In other words, this great revenge took place on 15 August. Our party, the PKK, is first and foremost a women's party. For this reason, young women should support Leader Apo and the PKK and direct their direction to the free mountains."

The new guerrillas added: "As a group of Kurdish and international men and women, we came to the mountains of Kurdistan to fulfill this important duty and on the 40th anniversary of the resurrection, we completed our training and enthusiastically joined the guerrilla ranks. Our call is for all the youth of Kurdistan and the world to join the freedom struggle."



20 occupiers killed, 17 others wounded in actions by Afrin Liberation Forces

ANF | 14 AUGUST 2024

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) made a statement regarding the latest actions they have carried out against the invading Turkish state and allied mercenaries in North-East Syria. According to the statement on Wednesday, 20 invaders were killed and 17 invaders were wounded in the HRE actions, the details of which were listed as follows:

On 9 August, HRE units attacked and completely destroyed the positions of the invaders. 3 mercenaries were killed and 5 others were wounded as a result of the action.

On 11 August, the HRE carried out a three-flank attack on an enemy base in Mare. The HRE fighters penetrated the positions and captured two vehicles equipped with DShK heavy machine guns. The weapons were initially used against approaching reinforcements of the occupying troops and then destroyed. After successfully completing the operation, the HRE unit was able to withdraw without any losses. During the course of the operation, 17 mercenaries were killed and 12 others were wounded. Several positions, vehicles and motorbikes were destroyed. The HRE confiscated a revolver, two rifles, seven Kalashnikov magazines, ammunition, a mobile phone and an ID card.”

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High-level Iraqi delegation to visit Ankara

ANF | 14 AUGUST 2024

According to Iraqi media, a high-level Iraqi delegation headed by Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein will visit Turkey tomorrow.

According to the statement, ‘security’ issues between the two countries are expected to be discussed during the Iraqi visit to Turkey.

The third high-level security committee meeting between Iraq and Turkey was held in Baghdad on 14 March 2024. Tomorrow, they will come together in Ankara for the fourth meeting.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan visited Iraq on 22 April 2024 and signed several agreements with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani.

After Erdoğan's visit, the Turkish state launched a large-scale invasion attack in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). As the invasion attacks continues, hundreds of villages have been evacuated so far as part of Turkey's invasion and depopulation campaign.

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Shengal Autonomous Administration: The 15 August Initiative saved the Yazidis from the genocide

ANF | SHENGAL | 15 AUGUST 2024

The Shengal Autonomous Administration made a written statement on the anniversary of 15 August 1984, when the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) fired the first bullet against the occupying Turkish state, calling it “Day of Resurrection”.

Regarding the initiative led by commander Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz), the Autonomous Administration said, “This action is the rebirth of the oppressed. This resistance has continued until today and brought

about historical gains for the Kurds and the oppressed. With this bullet, slavery was abolished and the genocide policy developed against the Kurdish people was frustrated.”

The statement continued: “The liberation of Yazidis from genocide is thanks to the 15 August Initiative. Today is a day of resistance and liberation of the oppressed. With this spirit, the guerrillas came to our aid during the genocide and saved us. Our society recognised themselves with the spirit of the Êgîds, Mam Zekis and Seid Hasans.”

“On the occasion of 15 August, we once again express that we will increase our struggle for freedom and democracy,” said the Autonomous Administration and concluded:

“We will struggle to build the common life of the peoples in the region and the Democratic Nation model inspired by Leader Abdullah Öcalan’s philosophy of life. By expanding the alliance of the Yazidi people and the peoples of the region, we will assume an exemplary role in Iraq and the world in solving the problems. We will realise this on the basis of Leader Öcalan.”



‘We will show everyone the invincibility of the Kurdish people and the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla’

ANF | 15 AUGUST 2024

Today marks the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the PKK's (Kurdistan Workers' Party) armed struggle. The commander of the People's Defence Centre (HSM), Murat Karayılan, made a statement to Stêrk TV on this occasion, saying the following:

"Dear people, dear comrades, I greet you all and congratulate you on the Day of Resurrection! First of all, we would like to congratulate Rêber Apo [Leader Abdullah Öcalan] on the 40th anniversary of the uprising of 15 August and on the Day of Resurrection on behalf of the entire Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. We emphasise our respect and solidarity with Rêber Apo. We also congratulate the people of Kurdistan, the peoples of the region, the friends of the Kurdish people, all those who work for the movement and our sympathisers on this day and wish everyone every success in the 41st year.

40 years have passed since the historic resistance of 15 August. These 40 years are an epic written in golden letters in the history of the Kurdistan freedom struggle. This epic is written with the blood of the martyrs. We commemorate all the revolutionary martyrs with respect and gratitude by remembering our immortal commander, comrade Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz), and respectfully bow to their memory. We repeat our promise to them: We will stick to our camaraderie promise, we will keep them alive by enhancing the Kurdistan freedom struggle.

Dear people and comrades, the initiative of 15 August was no ordinary initiative. It was a milestone in the history of Kurdistan. It changed everything. It changed the course of Kurdistan's history. It corrected history, turned it upside down and led to uprising and revolution. The revolution of resurrection was first and

foremost an intellectual, social and cultural revolution. It was also a revolution of women. This is how Kurdish society was recreated on 15 August. This did not just happen. In addition to the perspectives, thoughts and unique work of Rêber Apo, the foundation of 15 August was laid by the resistance in the Amed (Diyarbakır) dungeon.

Over the past 40 years, many legendary resistance offensives have been developed and many courageous fighters have emerged. Egîd, Erdal, Bedran, Cemşid, Mahir, Bêrîvan, Bêrîtan, Zilan, Azime, Zelal Botan, Piling Kiçî, Hüseyin Mahir, Cemal Amed, Rojhat Bluzerî, Cuma Bilîkî, Xelîl Dêrik and Kemal Spêrtî are just a few of them. (...) As Kurdistan's freedom guerrillas, we have sworn to defend the whole of Kurdistan. We have kept this promise to this day. Turkish colonialism has been trying to occupy South Kurdistan for seven years. We have stood up to it, we have made sacrifices, we are fighting and resisting. We are keeping our promise. The resistance has been going on for four years. The resistance in Metîna, the western and eastern Zap region is being waged against chemical weapons and other banned war technology. I salute the heroes and heroines there. I salute them a hundred thousand times! They are the vanguard of the will of the Kurdish people against the brutality and cruelty of occupation and colonialism.

Dear people, today the Middle East is in turmoil. The crises have increased. However, we see that Turkish colonialism, the fascist AKP/MHP regime, is endeavouring to turn this crisis into a regional war. In the meantime, they want to develop an alliance between the states that occupy and dominate Kurdistan, they want to develop an alliance against the freedom movement of Kurdistan, our movement. It is obvious that dangerous times lie ahead of us. As a movement, we will fight against this. We will intensify the struggle for the establishment of a free and independent Kurdistan in the Middle East. This war is a struggle for dignity and love of one's country. We will wage this struggle and back down in the face of the traitors and colonialists. But our patriotic people must support us in this holy war against the enemy. We appeal to all Kurdish patriots, parties, organisations and individuals. Recognise this reality and support the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla.

We appeal to the Kurdish and Arab youth: join this sacred struggle. Today there is a war of annihilation against the Kurdish people; there is also danger for the Arab and Assyrian-Syriac peoples. Therefore, unity must be created between the Kurdish, Arab and Syriac peoples on the basis of the paradigm of Democratic Nation. Unity must also be built with the working classes of Turkey. The Turkish state wants to plunge the region into darkness on the basis of Turanism. First of all, the Kurdish people must create national unity and develop a common strategy. As a movement, we see this as an essential necessity, and we will work for this at all levels.

Today, there is a regime of aggravated isolation and psychological torture against Rêber Apo. The dignity of our people, our culture, our dances and our values are under attack. Our people must take part in the global campaigns against these attacks. Everyone should be aware of their responsibility and act accordingly. Self-defence must be developed further. We must build social self-defence against the attacks. We, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, will act in the spirit of Egîd and Zilan, in the spirit of 15 August, in this period, the 41st year of the 15 August Awakening. Within the framework of our tactical perspective and in a creative way, we will wage the war on the ground, underground and from the air even more strongly. We will show everyone the invincibility of the Kurdish people and the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. This is our claim and determination.

In this context, we, the command of the People's Defence Centre, send our respectful greetings to all our people, our friends, all our employees and comrades. We call on everyone to fulfil their duties at this historic time. We wish them every success in this important period. We wish everyone success in the struggle for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and the freedom of Kurdistan and the peoples of the region. Down with colonialism and betrayal! Long live the revolutionary people's war! Bijî Serok Apo!"

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Turkey bombs Biradost

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 16 AUGUST 2024

The Turkish Air Force has once again bombed the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Targets in Biradost were hit by several fighter jets early Thursday evening, reported the news agency RojNews, citing local sources.

The bombs were dropped on the towns of Sinîn, Tengiya Singa and Lolan and sparked a wildfire in at least one place. There were no further details on the extent of the damage. It is also still unclear whether anyone was injured. Civil defense has not yet been deployed.

Biradost (also Bradost or Sîdekan) is a sub-district of the Soran district and is located northeast of Hewlêr (Erbil). The region is repeatedly subject to air and ground attacks by the Turkish army. In mid-July, two shepherds were injured in Biradost when pastures and fields on the slopes of the Şekiwyân massif were shelled. The grenades landed in the middle of a herd of animals, and many of the cattle died in agony. In April, a 43-year-old Peshmerga was killed in a Turkish air raid on a village in Biradost.

Since Turkey expanded its occupation offensive "Operation Claw Lock" in June, there have been heavy daily attacks and arson in South Kurdistan. The aim is to drive out the population. According to the NGO Community Peacemaker Teams, numerous villages have already been depopulated as a result of Turkish military violence, and other villages are at risk of the same fate.

This year, at least nine civilians have also been killed by Turkish air and ground attacks. The international community is ignoring Turkey's crimes in its neighboring country.

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HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Firat Dilopa Baranê and Dîrok Cûdî

ANF | BEHDINAN | 16 AUGUST 2024

The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) published the identities of two guerrillas who fell as martyrs earlier this year. The statement said: "Our comrades Firat Dilopa Baranê and Dîrok Cûdî were killed at different times while carrying out their duties in the Medya Defense Areas."

Guerrilla Dîrok Cûdî belonged to the Arabic-speaking ethnic group Mihelmî (Mhallami), while guerrilla Firat Dilopa Baranê was Kurdish and came from Gever. The HPG expressed their condolences to the families of the martyrs.

The HPG published these details about the martyrs:

Code name: Firat Dilopa Baranê

First and last name: Ferhat Bozkurt

Place of birth: Colemêrg

Names of mother and father: Mecbure–Ikram

Date and place of death: April 2024 / Medya Defense Areas

Code name: Dîrok Cûdî

First and last name: Solîn Başturk

Place of birth: Til Hemîs

Names of mother and father: Fatma–Şêxmûs

Date and place of death: July 2024 / Medya Defense Areas

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Martyr Benda Amed YPS JIN Retaliation Unit carries out action in Istanbul

ANF | 16 AUGUST 2024

The Martyr Benda Amed YPS JIN Retaliation Unit said in a statement: "Our retaliation unit burned a large bus belonging to a fascist in the Arnavutköy Sancak Tepe Neighborhood of Istanbul on the night of 14 August 2024."

The statement added: "The AKP regime has tied its existence to fascism, and keeps fascism alive like a raging bull and makes it attack the Kurdish people.

We have shown our essence by winning the history we lost. "We have fought for our language, culture and existence. Today, fascism is trying to take away our values by attacking our culture and our halay.

These murderers are getting rich with Kurdish blood and living their lives. It is our duty to bring their wealth down on their heads. Every action we will take against fascism is for our freedom, for our existence. With the spirit of the 15 August Initiative, we will continue to detect and strike anything belonging to the fascist enemy and its supporters."

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Feminicide

Protest against the law paving the way for child marriages in Iraq

ANF | SULAMANIYAH | 13 AUGUST 2024

Some Shiite parties in the Iraqi parliament submitted a draft law to the parliament that paves the way for marriages at the age of 9.

The Kurdish Social Kobestî organisation protested against the bill in Sulaymaniyah.

The statement was made by Mardîn Uzêr on behalf of the Kurdish Social Kobestî Organisation, saying the following: "The amendment to the Personal Status Law will harm women and children. In the Middle East and Kurdistan, peoples with very different ethnic and religious identities live together. The insistence on changing this law will create a great danger for the whole society. We, the Social Kobestî Organisation, demand the rejection of the draft amendment to the Personal Status Law. We especially appeal to the Kurdish parliamentarians in the Iraqi Parliament; present and do not allow the approval of this draft amendment."

The statement pointed out that: "If the bill is voted through, it will also pave the way for amendments to the Civil and Criminal Codes because the amendment of the Personal Status Law will legitimise major crimes against women. With this law, marriages will not be subject to the authorisation of the courts. Again, the amendment to be made to this law is contrary to the Declaration of Human Rights signed by Iraq and the Iraqi Constitution."

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Iraqi and Yazidi women: Marrying off a 9-year-old girl is killing in every respect

ANF | 13 AUGUST 2024

Some Shiite parties in the Iraqi Parliament submitted to the parliament a draft law amending the Personal Status Law, which takes custody of children away from the mother and paves the way for marriage at the age of 9.

Iraqi and Yazidi women made a written statement against the amendment to the law, which says the following:

"The Iraqi parliament is discussing amendments to the Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959. There is no place for women's rights in Iraqi laws. Existing laws do not represent women's freedom and gender equality. All laws are written and approved by male hands and male minds. The change in this law jeopardises the lives of women the most. Laws against women, children and their rights are drafted by men. It is the masculine state mind that discusses and changes them.

We consider the proposed amendment to this law as a threat to the lives of every woman living in Iraq. In the current situation, women have no right to protect themselves in any way. With such laws, the state establishes inequality between men and women, which gives men more power over women. Women in Iraq are at risk in all areas of life. Women's rights are violated politically, economically, educationally and legally. The marriage of a 9-year-old girl is a massacre. It is a massacre of society in the person of women. To marry off a 9-year-old child is to kill life.

This amendment to the law will officially pave the way for the marriage of girls at the age of 9. The legitimisation of this will lead to the physical, mental and social murder of women and girls.

We are in the 21st century and this is the century of women's freedom. Women all over the world struggle with the philosophy of "Jin jiyen Azadi" [Woman, Life, Freedom] and resist against the dominant patriarchal understanding. Instead of listening to the voices of liberated women, Iraq, on the contrary, discusses and wants to implement femicide. We consider the amendment of the law in the Iraqi parliament as an attack on women's struggle.

As Iraqi women, we strongly reject and condemn this decision. This law must be abolished completely without amendment. We call on all institutions and organisations fighting for the rights of women and children in Iraq to raise their voices against this. The place of 9-year-old girls is not in the home and having children, their place is in playgrounds, parks, streets and schools."

Three femicides in one night in Ankara and Istanbul

ANF | 15 AUGUST 2024

Öznur Akkaya, 23, who lived in the Mehmet Akif neighborhood of the Küçükçekmece district of Istanbul, was murdered on the street by Gökhan Akkaya, with whom she was in the process of divorce. The perpetrator, who tried to escape the scene, was caught by citizens.

In the Bağcılar district of Istanbul, K.Ç. was seriously injured after being stabbed by her husband I.Ç. The woman lost her life in the hospital she was taken to, while her husband was taken into custody.

In the Mamak district of Ankara, B.B. was murdered by her husband Z.B. The couple was in the process of divorce. Z.B. later committed suicide.



Iraqi Women's Conference issues call to Baghdad government

ANF | BAGHDAD | 16 AUGUST 2024

The conference was organized by the Iraqi Women's Association, the Yazidi Free Women's Movement (TAJÊ) and the Or Cultural Association with the theme of "Be the Voice of Self-Defense Against Femicide with a Joint Struggle".

The final declaration prepared after the conference was sent to Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia Sudani.

The declaration called on the Iraqi government to recognize the massacre committed against the Yazidi community in Shengal as "genocide".

In addition, a request was made to the international community and organizations that recognize the genocide to initiate legal proceedings against ISIS and its collaborators.

The declaration emphasized that the fate of 3,504 women, 869 men and an unknown number of hundreds of children abducted by ISIS is still unknown, and called on the Iraqi government to take action to find these people.

In addition, Sudani was asked to close Shengal airspace and to stop the nearly 100 airstrikes carried out by the Turkish state since 2017.

The official recognition of the Shengal Autonomous Administration in the Iraqi constitution was also among the important demands included in the declaration.

The conference's final declaration also opposed the proposed changes to the Personal Status Law in Iraq, stating that such changes risked turning Iraq into a sectarian and religious state.

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Ecocide

Villagers in Kars say solar power plant will modify environment

ANF | KARS | 10 AUGUST 2024

The AKP government has accelerated its work to build a Solar Power Plant (SPP) in the village of Tekneli in Kars (Qers). However, the villagers are concerned about the irreparable damage caused by the project, which is progressing rapidly after the irregularly prepared EIA report. The project threatens animal husbandry and beekeeping in the region.

While the legal struggle initiated by the villagers continues, the attempts to implement the solar power plant project have not yielded any results. The villagers have not received a positive response from the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Provincial Directorate of Environment and Urbanization, the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry and the Kars Governorship in their applications to ÇEMTAŞ Çelik Makina Sanayi ve Ticaret AŞ.

Villagers protest the project

The villagers said that if the SSP project is implemented, the real estate within the pasture borders will be rented for grazing purposes, the vegetation where endemic species live will be damaged, and the village animal husbandry will be destroyed.

In addition, they said that the migration from the village will accelerate, beekeeping activities will end, and water resources will be damaged because the drinking water line to the surrounding villages passes through this region.

Irregular reports

Kahraman Özçağın, who is the lawyer of the villagers opposing the SSP, drew attention to the environmental threats. Özçağın said that the villagers applied to the Provincial Directorate of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and opposed the construction of a solar energy plant in the area surrounded by the village pasture. The villagers explained in detail why they objected to the SPP in meetings held and that these objections were recorded in the minutes.

The lawyer also said that the objections presented during the preparation process of the EIA report were recorded under the headings 'as specified below'. Özçağın underlined that although the EIA report process

required for the establishment of the energy plant was ongoing, the relevant companies started leveling operations on the land without permission. Stating that irreparable damage could occur in the future, Özçağın said that they applied to the Provincial Directorate of Environment and Urbanization, Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Villagers applied to Administrative Court

The villagers applied to the Kars Administrative Court and requested a stay of execution. In their application, the villagers drew attention to the fact that the EIA report prepared regarding the Solar Power Plant project was against the procedure and law and requested that the report be canceled.

The villagers underlined that the integrity of the pasture should be protected with the examination to be carried out in the area within the pasture borders of the village legal entity and stated that irregularities were committed by carrying out the EIA report in the winter while it should have been evaluated in the summer months.

The villagers said that there were approximately 80 households and a thousand people living in Tekneli, and added that they made a living from animal husbandry and that the land was used for grazing large and small cattle and for winter fodder needs for four months. Therefore, they said, it was not possible for them to accept the EIA report.



Protest against mining project in Hasandin: We will not sacrifice this place to economic rent

ANF | AMED | 10 AUGUST 2024

A rally was held in Hasandin Plateau in Kulp district of Amed (Diyarbakır) against the mining project that will negatively affect 6 neighbourhoods and dozens of hamlets. Hundreds of people including members of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), representatives of civil society organisations, co-mayors of municipalities and ecologists attended the rally organised by Istanbul Association of Kulp Residents (KULP-DER) and Pasûr (Kulp) Hasandin Plateau Protection Platform.

Speaking at the rally, Ahmet Inan, a member of the Environment Commission of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, stated that water resources were being dried up by mining activities and warned that the mines would harm the livelihood of the people and the environment.

Diyarbakır City Protection and Solidarity Platform Co-spokesperson and Diyarbakır Bar Association President Nahit Eren said, "Here, in Kulp, we used to meet our fish needs from the river, now there is none left. We will no longer allow this plunder. The people of this plateau are coming together and claiming

their plateau. We know that the chemicals used in the mining work to be carried out here will poison the Tigris River, which runs throughout Mesopotamia. We are here to protect our future. We will keep watch here every day if necessary. We will not sacrifice this place to economic rent."

Ayten Ateş said, "This is our life. We were born here. We will not give our parents' place to anyone," while Behzat Cengiz said, "If a mine enters here, it means our extinction."

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7 detained as soldiers attack villagers protesting against hydroelectric power plant in Muğla

ANF | MUĞLA | 10 AUGUST 2024

On 5 August, gendarmerie teams and construction equipment were dispatched to the region for the construction of a Hydroelectric Power Plant (HEPP) in Söğütlü neighbourhood in Fethiye district of Muğla province in western Turkey.

The HEPP is planned to be built on the stream, the only water source of the region. While the villagers have been protesting in the region since, the construction equipment entered Akçay under the protection of gendarmerie teams and started work to change the direction of the water.

The villagers who wanted to prevent the work were attacked by the gendarmerie. During the crackdown, 7 villagers were beaten, handcuffed behind their backs and detained. According to reports, Recep Alkaya, one of the villagers who was beaten, suffered an injury in the head.

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Human Rights Violations

75-year-old bedridden man suffers heart attack while being taken into custody

ANF | HAKKARİ | 12 AUGUST 2024

75-year-old bedridden Süleyman Sabri Mavi fell ill while being detained by police at his home on the evening of 10 August and was immediately taken to the District State Hospital. Doctors stated that Mavi was in mortal danger and informed his family that his condition was critical.

Mavi, who is visually and hearing impaired and bedridden due to organ failure, is being treated at the hospital. It was learned that he will be transferred to the Van High Security Prison when his health condition allows.

Süleyman Sabri Mavi was tried in Yüksekova (Gever), in the province of Hakkari (Colemerg) in 2012 on charges of "membership of an illegal organization" within the scope of the "KCK" investigation and was sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in prison. The Court of Cassation 3rd Criminal Chamber recently approved the decision of the local court in 2019.

In the same case, 24 people, including politicians, were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 8 to 17 years, and these sentences were also approved by the Supreme Court.



Peace activist Ali Şükran Aktaş died in Izmir

ANF | İZMİR | 14 AUGUST 2024

Ali Şükran Aktaş died on 12 August at the age of 58 in a hospital in Izmir from the effects of cancer. Aktaş, who was a Kurdish alevi, was part of the peace group from Europe that traveled to Turkey in 1999 to find a solution to the Kurdish question and was imprisoned.

A few weeks before he went to Turkey, a first peace group from the mountains of Kurdistan had followed a call from Abdullah Öcalan and was also arrested in Turkey.

The group from Europe, which included Ali Şükran Aktaş, Haydar Ergül, Aygül Bidav, İmam Canpolat, Yusuf Kiyak, Aysel Doğan, Hacı Çelik and Dilek Kurt, nevertheless flew to Istanbul on 29 October 1999. They were also immediately arrested and later sentenced to prison terms of between seven and fifteen years.

Aktaş was released in 2005 and stayed in Turkey. Due to his continued commitment to peace, he was imprisoned for another nine months in 2013. In 2020, he was elected to the board of directors of a peace foundation (Barış Vakfı).

The body of Ali Şükran Aktaş was taken from the hospital to an Alevi community center in the province of Izmir and from there to his hometown of Malatya (Meletî). His remains were accompanied by DEM MP Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit and Haydar Ergül.

The funeral is scheduled to take place this morning, Wednesday, in Darica, Aktaş's home village. Among those expected to attend the funeral are DEM chair Tülay Hatimoğulları, DBP chairs Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar and Keskin Bayındır, as well as politician Sabahat Tuncel, who was recently released after several years in prison.



At least 25 people detained in four cities in North Kurdistan

ANF | 15 AUGUST 2024

13 detained in Mardin

In the morning, simultaneous house raids were organised in Artuklu, Mazıdağı, Kızıltepe, Derik and Nusaybin districts of Mardin.

In Artuklu, Turkish police detained a person named Bayer Akpınar and handed him over to the gendarmerie.

In the raids in Nusaybin, Çiya Tanhan and 4 other people were detained, while at least 8 people were detained in Kızıltepe, Mazıdağı and Dêrik districts.

4 detained in Erzurum

House raids were conducted in Karayazı, Karaçoban and Çat districts of Erzurum in the morning.

Aydın Sefil, İsmail Işık, Cüneyt Büyükkaya and Serhat Kaçar were detained on the grounds of their online media posts. The detainees were charged with ‘making propaganda for an illegal organisation’.

4 detained in Urfa

In Ceylanpınar district of Urfa, police raided several houses in the morning. During the raids, Hüseyin Kılıvan, Süleyman Kahraman, Abdullah Rabinduz and Muhammed Bekiroğlu were detained on the allegations of ‘making propaganda for an illegal organisation’.

4 detained in Adıyaman

4 people were detained in Kahta and Gölbaşı districts of Adıyaman on the allegation of ‘making propaganda of an illegal organisation’.

Muhammed Yusuf Ayseren, Mehmet Öktülmüş and Furkan Orhan who were detained in Kahta and Kurdistan Communist Party MYK (Central Executive Board) member and Spokesperson Yasin Yetişgen, who was detained in Gölbaşı, were taken to Adıyaman Provincial Security Directorate.

Attack from AKP fascist deputies in the Parliament

ANF | ANKARA | 16 AUGUST 2024

MPs from the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) physically attacked an opposition MP on Friday during an extraordinary meeting called to discuss the recent Constitutional Court decision on the status of Hatay MP Can Atalay.

The session, which took place after the top court ruled that Atalay's removal from parliament was unconstitutional and "null and void," saw tensions escalate when Ahmet Şık, an MP from Atalay's Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), took to the floor.

During his speech, Şık sharply criticized the ruling party, accusing them of lacking integrity. "You have no shame. You have no dignity," Şık said. His remarks were met with uproar from AKP members, leading to a brief suspension of the session by Deputy Speaker Bekir Bozdağ.

The situation further deteriorated when AKP Izmir MP Alpay Özalan, a former footballer known for previous altercations in parliament, charged at Şık and physically assaulted him on the rostrum. Özalan was soon joined by other deputies from the ruling party.

During the attack by AKP MPs, Özalan hit DEM Party Group Deputy Chair Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit. Koçyiğit's eyebrow was split during the fight.

DEM Party issued statement about the attack

DEM Party co-chairs Tülay Hatimoğulları and Tuncer Bakırhan made a written statement about the attack.

The statement said: "The government, which could not stomach the opposition's call for an extraordinary meeting of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, has found the solution in attacks that amount to physical violence. The attack on our female deputies by male AKP deputies is political banditry. These attacks do not recognize the will of the people, the law, and are political incompetence. None of our friends, especially our Group Deputy Chair, will step back in the face of these attacks."

The DEM Party Women's Assembly also made a statement and said, "Once again, the representatives of political power have demonstrated their sexism. The government, which has made it a policy to suppress those it cannot defeat politically with violence and tyranny, has once again put into effect the policy of suppression aimed at silencing the voices of the opposition and women. In the attack, our Group Deputy Chair Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit was the target of violence by the representatives of the fascist power."

Interview

Kalkan: Guerrillas developed a heroic resistance in the last 40 years

ANF | 10 AUGUST 2024

In the second part of this extensive interview with Medya Haber, Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the development of resistance by guerrillas in the past 40 years and the situation today, especially in relation to the continuous Turkish attacks and the KDP stance.

We are also approaching the 40th anniversary of the historic August 15th breakthrough. Earlier, when you evaluated July 14, you said that the question should be asked as to what would have happened if July 14 had not happened. What can be said if we ask the same question about the August 15th breakthrough?

If the August 15th guerrilla breakthrough had not happened in 1984, if this war of freedom had not been waged persistently and stubbornly for 40 years, what would have remained of Kurdishness in Kurdistan? What would Kurdistan have become? What would the situation have been in Turkey? What would the situation have been in the Middle East? We should ask this about the August 15 breakthrough and also about the July 14 great death fast, because these are connected to each other like a fingernail with a finger.

The decision to resist for freedom was made in prison. It was comrades like Mazlum, Ferhat, Hayri, and Kemal who took it, and it peaked with the great death fast resistance on July 14. It was the guerrillas that put this decision made on July 14 into practice and transformed it into organization and action. Based on this, the August 15 breakthrough was launched. Our party was organized as guerrillas. The youth leadership formed as guerrillas. Also, the women's freedom movement and its liberation struggle emerged within this guerrilla. The theory and philosophy of Rêber Apo's came to life in the great death-fast resistance of July 14 and the breakthrough of August 15. Both were brilliant, successful implementations of this philosophy that complemented each other. Of course, there were shortcomings and mistakes, but the result was a great success. This is the fortieth anniversary of this great breakthrough. For forty years, the Kurdish people, women, and young people have been waging a war for freedom, following the philosophy of Rêber Apo and under the leadership of the guerrillas. It is an uninterrupted war. In the 1970s, the Vietnam War of Liberation was very popular. The struggle was very intense in the mid-'70s and lasted 15 years. Everyone was flabbergasted by how long these people fought and how they endured. In Kurdistan at that time, when the national question, the freedom struggle, and the war situation were discussed and evaluated, this was mentioned. Nobody believed that there could be such a long war in Kurdistan. Now that this war has completed its 40th year, it has lasted without interruption. Undoubtedly, there was a preparation period of more than ten years before that, and Rêber Apo always underlined the importance of this, since all the foundations were laid there. And it was put into practice with the breakthrough on August 15. What is the spirit, emotion, thought, principle, organization, style, and understanding that created that practice?

All of these were concretized over the previous ten years. The Kurdish resistance did not start with the PKK. For at least the last 200 years, throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the Kurdish people have always been in resistance. We cannot claim that the PKK started resistance in Kurdistan, but it is the first time that such a conscious, planned, organized, and uninterrupted 40-year freedom struggle has been waged. It is a first in the history of Kurdistan. In the history of the freedom struggles of the peoples of the world, it has surpassed them all. It has at least doubled Vietnam in terms of time.

I want to take the opportunity to salute the Kurdish people, youths and women, and the Kurdish guerrillas who have been waging this 40-year war. I congratulate our national day of resurrection to all comrades, especially Rêber Apo, our guerrilla forces, HPG and YJA-Star, their commanders and fighters, our people, and international friends.

Comrade Agit, the immortal commander of the breakthrough, was later joined by comrade Zilan. She pioneered the establishment of the women's guerrilla. I commemorate with respect, love, and gratitude all the heroic martyrs of this heroic breakthrough by commemorating those two comrades. How could such a struggle be sustained for forty years? There has always been and is great enthusiasm, excitement, consciousness, belief, and stubbornness. Rêber Apo once said that it was a leap of faith and a leap of persistence when he defined August 15th. He said it was the breakthrough of insisting on being human. He saw August 15th as the most fundamental breakthrough in the struggle to be human. Like I said, even before it finally took place, it already existed as a thought, a wish, and a dream. As I said with regard to the resistance on July 14, those who did not correctly understand the situation at the time were not in a position to put up such resistance. The same applies to August 15. This also applies to the resistance of those great pioneering revolutionaries, commanders, and freedom fighters, like Agit, Zilan, or Erdal. They would not have been able to take those steps if they had not properly understood the current situation at the time; they would not have been able to create such great awareness and conviction. All this is the result of Rêber Apo's philosophy. Those comrades are the products of Rêber Apo's genius and creative labor on the one hand and the great courage and sacrifice of Kurdish youth and women on the other. This courage and sacrifice, this consciousness, and this belief must be well understood. The correct approach is the one present in the reality of the martyrs. The creators of all these forty years are the heroic martyrs; they are its pioneers.

Now coming to the question, when we look at what is happening today, when one looks at the various practices and approaches of various forces attached to the AKP-MHP fascism, and at the fact that some circles are still developing brutal attacks in alliance aiming to destroy the PKK, crush the guerrillas, and complete the Kurdish genocide, one will see the truth. After so much struggle and so many achievements created by that struggle over more than forty years, all developments in the name of freedom in Kurdistan still have the signature of the great prison resistance, the July 14 great death fast. For forty years, the power that has created this has been the August 15 breakthrough and the guerrilla war that has continued on this basis.

Despite this, there are still those who hope that they can prevent this struggle and, accordingly, launch attacks on a daily basis against it. If there hadn't been such a heroic struggle, if we hadn't given so many valuable martyrs, there would be nothing left in the name of Kurdishness, freedom, and humanity in Kurdistan, Turkey, and the Middle East. There would be no value or moral left in the world either. If a free and democratic world can be imagined and seen as a livable world, an alternative world, it is inspired by the freedom struggle in Kurdistan. It is envisioned by being influenced by the values revealed by that

struggle, the women's liberation revolution, the guerrilla struggle, and mainly the ecological, democratic, and women's liberationist paradigm developed by Rêber Apo. Without these, there would be nothing exciting, tangible, and concrete in the name of freedom, democracy, and alternative life.

In the system of capitalist modernity, the power and statist forces have slaughtered everything with their raging attacks. They are committing genocides. Rêber Apo called it social genocide, a sociocide. There is sociocide. Humanity was almost wiped out and destroyed. It is this forty-year war of freedom that resists this, thus creating social life and showing everyone that free life can be realized on the basis of women's freedom.

August in general is a month of great struggle. The history of Kurdish freedom started with August 15th and it continues with the struggle. Every anniversary of this great resistance was marked by great martyrs. There are both Erdals who martyred in August and also comrade Zeki Shengali, Atakan Mahir, comrade Ibrahim, Huseyin Mahir, and comrade Azime. There are hundreds of martyrs in August. I commemorate all of them with respect and gratitude.

The 40th anniversary is important. After forty years of fighting for freedom, one must assess the level of consciousness and organization of a people and the courage and sacrifice they have gained. No one can now deny the Kurdish society. The Kurdish people, women and youth, cannot be defeated; no one can break their will. They cannot prevent them from achieving freedom. No matter how much and intense the attacks, at the end, the enemy will definitely lose. As it is said, they are drowning in the blood they shed. From our point of view, we need to evaluate the following: When this breakthrough was taking place and being prepared, there were many who opposed it. First of all, we must see them well. There were those who opposed this breakthrough in the name of Kurdisness. There were also those who did it in the name of leftism. I can even say that they created a unity of various organizations in Turkey and Kurdistan in order to attack the August 15 breakthrough in Europe. There were those who called on the Kenan Evren junta to "let us lead you in destroying the PKK." We will not forget them. We never forget collaboration and betrayal. The August 15 breakthrough was met with collaborationism and betrayal. Since August 1985, the Barzanis have been fighting against this breakthrough. They are not just fighting it now. They started this war back then. They were even trying to prevent it before. When they could not prevent it and the breakthrough was realized, they joined forces with the Turkish state and started their attack against the guerrilla. And they are still attacking today. There were also those who followed them. We should never forget this either. Moreover, the struggle is very instructive. Forty years of experience are the greatest treasure of the Kurdish people. If the lessons of these forty years are learned, if one understands and brings to consciousness these forty years of struggle, one becomes the strongest patriot, with a libertarian, revolutionary, and human stance. The August 15 breakthrough and the lessons of forty years of freedom struggle are enough to bring a person to this level.

How did the last forty years pass? How was this war fought through the years? Every moment of it was full of difficulties and obstacles. As Rêber Apo said, it was a breathless process. Indeed, it is necessary to understand and learn from Rêber Apo's evaluations. It is necessary to bring every moment of this war to consciousness, to reveal and take its lessons. It raises our consciousness, helps us organize, strengthens our faith, and makes us invincible. This is what makes us the strongest.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary, I call on everyone to show more efforts to understand the forty years of freedom struggle correctly, to draw the correct lessons, to be sufficiently aware of the meaning and

importance of the leadership of the party and the guerrilla, as well as the popular resistance. Comrade Hayri drew particular attention to this when launching the July 14 resistance. He said that if those who say they are fighting for the freedom and liberation of Kurdistan are consistent, they should take armed struggle as a basis. It was an instruction, an order, a testament. Our movement, the Kurdish people, youth and women fulfilled this instruction. It was embraced and its requirements were fulfilled. May our martyrs rest in peace. Today, the guerrilla, the party, people, youth and women's movements are stronger, more conscious, more organized, braver and more sacrificing than ever. They will never fall back, they will go even further, will always develop the struggle for freedom much more in order to keep alive the goals and memories of our martyrs. I salute the August 15 breakthrough, commemorate the martyrs with respect and gratitude, and celebrate our guerrilla.

With regard to the war that has developed as a result of the breakthrough; what is the situation of it after forty years?

The HPG BIM published the balance sheet for July just recently. Everyone should take a look at it, because under the AKP-MHP fascism, the Turkish Ministry of Defense and the General Staff are hiding the outcomes of this war and are trying to cover up everything. It is conducting a despicable invasion and annexation attack, but there is not a word about it in the Turkish press that is controlled by the AKP-MHP. They are trying to hide what they are doing from everyone. To counter this, the HPG informs the public on a daily basis and publishes its monthly balance sheets. Two Sikorsky helicopters and a UCAV were shot down. Dozens of aggressive invaders were punished, and many of them were wounded. A significant amount of military material was destroyed, and more than 200 strikes were carried out. Of course, the enemy didn't stop either. They carried out hundreds of attacks and bombardments and used chemical weapons, tactical nuclear bombs, thermobaric bombs, and phosphorus bombs. These are all there in the statements of the HPG-BIM. Obviously, the war is focused on the Medya Defense Zones. Right now, it is most intense in Zap and Metina. But not just there; also in North Kurdistan and in the other areas of the Medya Defense Zone, a high-intensity war continues. There are HBDH militias and YPS forces that are waging war in the city as well as in the mountains. One can point out that there is a great deal of resistance on many levels. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the August 15 breakthrough, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, all of our self-defense forces are celebrating, and they do so by further developing their tactics and techniques. They are fighting sacrificially everywhere to realize the spirit and the goals that were brought about through the breakthrough of August 15. There is a heroic resistance. The guerrilla does not let the fascist genocidal occupation and annexation pass. Not in Zap, not on Mount Bahar, not on the ridges of Metina, not on the slopes. Every day, they are taking action after action. Within so many attacks, the fascist AKP-MHP hordes cannot move; they cannot get results. This is a clear fact. On behalf of our party leadership, I salute this heroic resistance developed by the HPG and YJA-Star guerrillas. I congratulate them on their success, and I especially congratulate everyone who contributed to the shooting of the helicopters and the UCAV. At the same time, I commemorate the heroic martyrs with respect, love, and gratitude. They are the ones who have managed to most intensively unite with the forty-year history of resistance. The guerrilla does not recognize any obstacle; they are going against the fascist, colonialist, and genocidal enemies with great courage, will, and enthusiasm, and they are holding them to account. They are taking revenge for their oppression of the Kurdish people. The guerrilla is a force of revenge, a force of accountability, and it acts with this consciousness. Therefore, no oppressor can get away with anything. In the 41st year, this struggle will continue with the same embracement and willpower.

At this point, I would like to emphasize one aspect; in September 2002, we announced the establishment of the Medya Defense Zones and declared them liberated areas. Now they are bringing all kinds of 'village guards', gangs, and mercenaries into the region and trying to take the areas, but everyone should be aware that we are sticking to our declaration of that time. Whoever enters these areas without the consent of the guerrillas and intends to occupy them will be fought. We will resist, fight them, and finally hold them accountable.

But to come back to the current situation, there has been a change since July 3. What kind of change happened, and how did it happen? Previously, the hordes of the AKP-MHP were landing troops on the hills and mountains with helicopters; they opened the roads from the Turkish border, thus trying to occupy them. They made so much effort and held some places, but they could not occupy the places they targeted. What happened since July 3rd is different from that. They were using that tactic again, but once again, they have not succeeded. In order to be successful, together with the KDP and the Iraqi administration, they are establishing a new border with armored vehicles and tanks on the line from Batufa, Bamerni, Enishke, Kadisha, Amediye, and Derelok to Sheladize. At the same time, they are trying to encircle the area from the south. On the one hand, they are attacking from the north with landings and by building new roads, and on the other hand, they are attacking from within the south. They are completely encircling this area. What is the importance of this? All these towns and cities involved in this plan are under the Iraqi and KDP administrations. The Turkish troops pass and settle with their permission. Tens of thousands of Turkish soldiers, hundreds of tanks, and armored vehicles move and settle together with the KDP and Iraqi forces. The Turkish border has now shifted to such a tactic. The Turkish state, under AKP-MHP fascism, calculates with the occupation and annexation of so many places. Now some people say that the KDP is supporting it, that the Iraqi state is turning a blind eye, and so on, but this is not the case. There is no support, no turning a blind eye; this is a joint operation. These three forces are carrying out this operation together. The Turkish Republic is occupying these areas under the name of a buffer zone, and the Iraqi administration, the KDP administration, and the Barzanis have sold this area to the Turkish Republic. They have not only sold it; they themselves are also waging a war against the freedom guerrillas resisting this occupation and annexation. And in exchange for what? The Iraqi state gets some electricity and water. In exchange for electricity and water, they have sold the homeland. What is the KDP doing? It is making money. It sells oil secretly. The Barzani family has become one of the richest families in the world. This is on the basis of the secret partnership they have developed with the Turkish Republic.

Now the KDP says that they don't know how the Iraqi ministry came up with the idea that the PKK set fire to the markets, but these are just lies. They have to provide evidence; otherwise, nothing they say can be believed. Why do they say these things? If the people of southern Kurdistan and Iraq understood what the KDP and the Iraqi government were doing, they would tear them apart in the air. They are openly committing a crime. What can be done? Which society can accept something alike? We call on the people of the South and the Iraqi people to inform themselves more about what is going on and the realities of the political actors. Our friends have made a call, and I strongly agree with it. Nobody should believe in demagoguery. They are spreading so many lies. In order to cover up and conceal their betrayal, collaborationism, and the selling of the lands of Iraq and South Kurdistan to the Turkish Republic, and to prevent it from being discussed, they make up lies, saying that the PKK is doing this and that. They are trying to deflect the agenda. The KDP press, like the AKP-MHP press, wages a strong special and psychological warfare. Every day, they are spreading new lies. No one should believe them. The current situation should be better understood. There is no war between the PKK and the KDP; there are occupation and annexation attacks by the Turkish Republic; there is a KDP that is a partner in this; there is collaborationism;

there is betrayal. Kurdistan has been marketed and sold in exchange for material benefits. The freedom guerrillas of Kurdistan, the guerrillas of the PKK, are resisting this. What would they do if the guerrillas wouldn't resist? The guerrillas have sworn an oath to strive for freedom and to protect it. They always fulfill their oath. And they are not afraid to go to the limit, and indeed, they continue to do so.

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Kalkan: Resistance to fascism in Turkey must happen on all levels

ANF | 11 AUGUST 2024

In the third part of this extensive interview with Medya Haber, Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the attacks on Kurdish culture and language as well as the situation in Iran in relation to Gaza.

Under fascism, society faced constant attacks. There is such an agenda in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan. The AKP-MHP fascist attacks on language, nature, and culture have been discussed recently. How accurate are these discussions? How correct are the attitudes? What do you think the right approach should be?

My comrade Cuma gave a comprehensive interview on this issue last week. He not only listed the practices that are being carried out, but he also clearly put forward and expressed the answers to the question of what the attitude of the people, particularly women and young people, should be and how they should struggle. I agree with everything he stated. There is nothing to add to this. The AKP-MHP coalition is attacking the Kurdish language and culture; they arrest young people and torture them. Some seem surprised by this, but that is the reality of the Turkish state. This state has been doing this for 100 years, and in the last twenty years, it was the AKP-MHP that was leading this. The people that are now surprised: were they blind until now, or did they just not care about what was going on? There is a big blunder here. I would like to draw attention to that dangerous situation. I mean, this negligence must be overcome. The MHP is in power; it is the MHP that rules the Turkish state today, ideologically, politically, and practically. On what basis has the Tayyip Erdoğan administration been surviving for years? It survives based on the MHP. Well, is there a more fascist force than the MHP in Turkey? Is there a force that is more hostile to Kurds, women, and society in general than the MHP? Some circles don't call the MHP fascist; what do they think? That the MHP has changed, that it has become moderate? People shouldn't deceive themselves like this. As we have always pointed out, resistance against fascism must happen on all levels, because fascism is a total attack on all levels. First they attack Rêber Apo, then the guerrillas and the PKK. If you don't unite with them, they will attack everything you stand for, everything your identity consists of; may it be your language, culture, land, forest, or all the sources of wealth above and below ground. This is not happening now; it has been like this since the foundation of this state. Everyone should be aware of this. We should not deceive ourselves. Let us open our eyes, our hearts, and our consciousness, and let's see what kind of annihilation attack the Kurdish people are facing. Rêber Apo has warned us many times. He said, 'Tomorrow you will not be able to speak your language, stay in your village, find bread, or be called by your own name. They won't even give you a grave.' We say that we are doing everything in line with

Rêber Apo, but we forget what he predicted long ago. We should not forget, and we must not fall into heedlessness. There is the fiercest attack on society and nature, on everything Kurdish. The prisons are filled to the brim. Humanity is facing a massacre. Young girls and women are being subjected to rape. The underground and above-ground riches of Kurdistan have been looted and plundered for years. Forests are being devastated. Its water is being negotiated with Iraq for the realization of the Kurdish genocide. Kurdish water and energy. All sources of wealth are being used to keep a handful of money lords alive. There is an attack on life itself. And even the deceased are not left to rest in peace.

Some still act as if there is a democratic government in Turkey, as if life under them is worth living and that there were only a handful of attacks. They say that you have to oppose it a little, and that would be enough. 'They ban our govend? Then we'll dance anyway.' It's not as simple as that. There is a total fascist, colonialist, and genocidal extermination attack. The same, even more severe and similar to the *ferman* [genocide] that ISIS directed against Shengal on August 3, 2014, has been applied to the Kurdish people in North Kurdistan for decades. I'm not saying we should do this or that. I agree with what comrade Cuma said. We need to be more radical, more effective, and more comprehensive in the actions that we take. If they dare to attack your language like that, it means you have to strengthen the awareness in this regard. Can we boycott speaking Turkish? Can we boycott going to Turkish schools? Can Kurdish society show such a will? One has to evaluate such options. Fascism can only be broken with effective, active resistance.

In this respect, especially young people, they must be more conscious, consistent, and organized. They should be more active. I talked about radical struggle before and said that there is a need to be more radical because passivity against fascism led to the current situation. Passive, liberal, limited, and weak attitudes made AKP-MHP fascism so aggressive. If there had been stronger resistance, it would not have dared to do these things. They see that the more they attack, the less organized society is, and the easier it is to oppress, scare, frighten, and assimilate. Genocide is being practiced, and the Kurdish people are wanted to be Turkified. The Kurds must be able to break away from Turkishness and return to their own roots and identity to a comprehensive degree. They must be able to exist and live as Kurds. And of course, this is only possible through strong organization. I mean, what will you do if you get a diploma from these Turkish schools? You should be happy if you learn to read and write in your own language. Rêber Apo said more than 40 years ago: "I went to the best statist schools and forgot everything I knew and learned until then." What are Kurdish youth looking for in those schools? What are they trying to find? Are they going to find what Rêber Apo couldn't find? I mean, they can't. The youth are responsible for this more than anything else. Young people should think correctly, look holistically, and get rid of heedlessness. What is going on and what the state tries to implement can be called systemization. The biggest crime is systemization. One has to break with the system in the most radical way. One has to break away from this male-dominated mentality, politics, anti-Kurdish, anti-woman, anti-social mentality, and system. We will build our own lives together as a society. This does not only apply to Kurds. The way to salvation for all laborers, workers, women, and the oppressed everywhere is through this. Only when you get rid of this system, when you break away from it, can you save yourself. I invite everyone to this to become organized accordingly.

As far as the conflictual and complex situation in the Middle East is concerned, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, was recently killed in Tehran. What force or forces carried out this attack, and why was this done in Tehran?

We are currently evaluating these issues. But this latest incident has not been fully evaluated by our administration yet. It has not made any statement. It will do so and may give a statement if it deems it necessary. In this respect, I can give a brief personal opinion. What about the war in Gaza, and what happened in Tehran? These are not disconnected things. It is not a very different situation. The attack in Tehran was a result of the war in Gaza. In Gaza, in front of everyone's eyes, millions of people are massacred for self-interest, for simple material interests. The conflict was fought for that. There were those who wanted this to break out. How was the Israeli government able to attack immediately in such a comprehensive manner? It seems that it was ready beforehand. Also, other forces, like America, were ready to support it. And who was the one who rushed into this preparation and made provocations? It was Tayyip Erdoğan. Everyone knows this. Tayyip Erdoğan made ISIS attack Kobane. Tayyip Erdoğan also led Hamas into such a war out of nowhere. He was hoping that he would frustrate Israel's energy and trade corridor and impose his own. But when he saw the determination of Israel and the US, he started begging and pleading. For nine months, he has been begging for a ceasefire. So if you wanted a ceasefire, why did you attack and start a war? When he realized that the war would not go the way he wanted and that he had been tricked, deceived, and used as a provocateur, he tried to get out of this situation, but he couldn't.

After the war started, we saw many powers joining hands and making a fuss that it was Iran that started this war, that the Iran-Israel war had started, and that they were creating virtual wars. How many people in this world want an Israeli-Iranian war? How many powers were there that tied their interests and existence to a war between Israel and Iran? We saw these. And who was at the forefront of them? Tayyip Erdoğan and the AKP administration. I mean, one just needs to watch their press, their statements, and with whom they have held meetings in the last nine months. They have been seeking and trying with all their might to provoke an Iran-Israel war. They wanted to do it in Gaza, but it didn't work. They wanted to do it through Greece, but it didn't work either. Now, they want to develop a fight between Hezbollah and Israel this time. Some forces within Israel also want this. I can't evaluate the interests of all of them at this point, but the AKP and MHP leadership definitely want this more than anyone else. Why was Ismail Haniyeh killed in Tehran and not elsewhere? He was staying in Tehran the longest. He stayed in Turkey the longest. He carried a Turkish passport. We know he traveled there from Turkey. He was protected by the Turkish intelligence service. He stayed in Qatar for a very long time. Everyone knew this. It was being said and written. Why was this attack done in Tehran and not in Qatar or Turkey? For the very thing I mentioned, to start an Israeli-Iranian war. Now, as soon as the incident happened, one must simply follow the programs of the AKP press, and one understands. They are saying that the war has started now. They did it like this with Hezbollah before, and now this is their next step. They are spreading everywhere that Iran and Israel will go to war because they have tied their own interests to this war. If Israel and Iran fight, they will both be dependent on Turkey, everything in the region will change, and the AKP will save its power position. If this does not happen, the system of capitalist modernity and the current AKP-MHP policies will be in contradiction, and conflict will arise between them. If it does not make Israel fight Hezbollah and Iran in Lebanon, it will end up fighting Israel in Cyprus. Cyprus and itself will be next. That is why Erdoğan is afraid. AKP-MHP fascism has dragged Turkey into a disaster. Rêber Apo has repeatedly expressed this and warned everyone. He said that a democratic Middle East based on Kurdish freedom is good for everyone. Accordingly, he proposed a democratic Middle East confederalism. Otherwise, he said, it would be a disaster. And the biggest disaster would be Turkey. Now the Tayyip Erdoğan

administration has put Turkey into a disaster and is trying to get out of it by drawing Iran into the war. It is trying to prevent the disaster from deepening. What conclusion do I draw from all this? Who did it? They point to Israel. It could be possible. Some forces may have done it. Why was it done in Iran? It is definitely time to start an Iran-Israel war. Who wants an Iran-Israel war the most? The AKP-MHP administration. For Israel, some forces are also partners with them. So I am surprised why no one is questioning Hakan Fidan, the Turkish intelligence service, or the Erdoğan administration. He was staying in Turkey, his residence was in Turkey, and he was traveling with a Turkish passport. Wasn't Turkey responsible for ensuring his safety? Why didn't they take care of him? Why didn't they ensure Ismail Haniyeh's safety? Did they say Hamas is over, and we have nothing more to do with Ismail Haniyeh? Were they complicit in this? Those who are truly investigating this incident must investigate Erdoğan's involvement. They cannot draw any conclusions without taking his role into consideration. As the saying goes, whoever benefits the most from an incident should be the one to be questioned. Now it is said that this incident will lead to an Israeli-Iranian war, and if that happens, it will benefit the AKP MHP the most. They want it to happen. They did it with Ismail Haniyeh; this time they are trying to save their own skin by calling Mahmoud Abbas. This is actually a very sufficient reason to look for traces of Turkey in this incident.

As a movement, we are against such a war. Definitely, the people are oppressed through them. Just as the people of Gaza were oppressed, such a war will bring the oppression of new peoples. These are not wars of freedom, not wars of democracy, not antifascist wars. They are colonial wars. They are wars of interest. They are imperialist wars. It is a war of exploitation. We must oppose it then. I can also say this about the Iranian administration. The Iranian administration acted really prudently in the face of the provocations in Gaza. It did not give in to provocations. Now this is a more serious provocation, and Iran has a new administration. The president and the administration have changed. We expect the new administration to better understand and evaluate these realities. Therefore, we think that it will show prudence not to come to these provocations. We think that it is also in Iran's interest to show it. Therefore, Iran should definitely not come to Turkey's provocation by other powers. It should not be a party to such a war.

Two female activists are currently on death row in Iran, which has caused a lot of serious reactions. What can be said in this context, as well as regarding the new government that you have already mentioned?

Women's movements are more sensitive, and many of them made strong statements, made calls, and emphasized strong criticism. They want to prevent it. These are important and meaningful, and we attach importance to this attitude and these calls. It is very important that the women's movement has shown such sensitivity and activity.

The mass movement that developed under the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' has become an ideological and cultural revolution in Iran. It will celebrate its second anniversary in mid-September. The fact that it came from women's power and that it was led by women gave it special importance. If women are so effective, so conscious, and so organized, then there is something there. We have already evaluated, in the past, why the Iranian government opposed this so much. It caused so many attacks, imposed executions, and imprisonments that it seems unintelligible. This movement is the honor and glory of Iran. This attitude of the women of Rojhilat and Iran led the women of the world. It saved Iran's honor in the world. It is indeed necessary to show an attitude of respect and gratitude. But for the male-dominated mentality, the power, and the state, this is not understandable; instead, they attacked. The current government had many options for action, but they decided to insist on saying that foreign forces were behind it. The women in Rojhilat and the women in Iran want freedom. They want to decide self-determined what clothes they wear.

What does this have to do with foreign powers? Where and with which foreign power did the woman establish relations? These are extreme plumb prejudices. The other is that a new administration has been elected. The current president condemned the violent crackdown on these movements then too. He said that the problem should be solved and that women's demands should be listened to. He also pledged that he would do that. The environment created by the 'Jin Jiyan Azadi' revolution led to the election of this president. The president should be aware of this. He made a promise, and because of this, he actually won the election. Now that he is in power, everyone expects him to fulfill his promise, to evaluate the environment in which he was elected correctly and approach it accordingly. These executions, repressions, and arrests must end, especially for women. With a new evaluation, there should really be a change and liberal steps. This will strengthen Iran in every respect. As the Kurdish Freedom Movement, we are of this opinion. It would not weaken Iran; it would strengthen it in every respect. Our expectation is to stop these things, like executions, immediately. That is our call. Beyond that, we need to listen to women; we need to listen to and understand young people. They are the pillars of society. They are the sustaining executive force. It is necessary to develop change, transformation, and order according to what they want. This will not weaken Iran; it will strengthen it and cause development. It will make Iran a power based on society and unite the country with its history. All freedom movements, including women's liberation movements, have always been present in Iran. Today, if Iranian women have been uprising for two years, if they have demanded freedom with the slogan 'Jin Jiyan Azadi,' if they have influenced the world so much, it is because they are based on that history. Therefore, it also unites Iran with its history. We hope and expect that the new administration will change and correct these issues quickly.

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HPG Commander Fazıl Şevger: 15 August 1984 directed against enemy and collaborators - I

PIRDOGAN KEMAL | BEHDINAN | 14 AUGUST 2024

The anniversary of the start of the PKK's armed struggle is approaching. 40 years ago, the guerrilla actions shook the peace of the Turkish coup regime like a bombshell. In an interview with ANF, HPG Commander Fazıl Şevger spoke about the significance of this day.

What was the situation in Kurdistan before 15 August? What were weapons used for?

Before answering your question, I would like to salute Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], the Kurdistan guerrilla and all our people on the 40th anniversary of the 15 August uprising. I remember with gratitude all the martyrs of 15 August and would like to mention Commander Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz) here. I bow to their memory with the utmost respect. We repeat our promise once again: we will defeat the enemy no matter what.

To understand what happened on 15 August, one must know what was going on in Kurdistan at that time. If we look at the history of humanity in general, we will see that when there is a threat of extinction, there is no choice but to resist. The Kurdish people have been in a similar situation, especially in the last 100 years. They have been in a cycle of genocide and everyone has turned a blind eye to this situation.

Undoubtedly, the Kurdish people have always put up great resistance to these attacks, but due to the lack of national, philosophical and ideological awareness, no strategic leadership could emerge among the Kurds. There was great resistance, but unfortunately, the uprisings of the Kurdish people were unsuccessful. After so many uprisings, the Kurdish people had reached a stage where the enemy thought that they had buried the Kurdish people under the ground and covered them with concrete. During this period, Rêber Apo started the struggle. He created a development in terms of thought, philosophy and organization in the Kurdish people. He uncovered the lost history of the Kurdish people, the region and the world. This organization, which was founded by a group of young people, grew day by day, and became more and more effective. It aroused hope in the people. Faith in the organization grew. It became stronger and stronger. Therefore, the enemy saw a great danger in the organization. He had to stop it in order to be able to carry out his genocidal plan. The Turkish occupying state used all kinds of dirty methods against the Kurdish people and the Apoists. Then NATO and Gladio intervened and the fascist junta of 12 September 1980 staged a coup. There was only one way to counter this: armed struggle.

We are approaching the anniversary of the 15 August uprising. What made this day so important?

When the fascist junta staged the coup on 12 September 1980, Rêber Apo, with his foresight, recognized the significance of this attack and organized the retreat abroad. From there, the struggle continued. Dark clouds were gathering over Kurdistan again, and great plans and plots had been put into action. In such a situation, the struggle in Kurdistan was as laborious as digging a well with a needle. With the rule of the junta, many leading cadres of the freedom movement were arrested. Rêber Apo's struggle from outside the country and the resistance in prisons thwarted the enemy's plans and saved the movement and the Kurdish people from the clutches of genocide. The resistance that began in the Diyarbakır prison, led by comrades Mazlum, Ferhat, Kemal, Hayri, Akif and Ali Çiçek, hit the enemy hard. The enemy could not break the will of the prisoners despite the worst tortures.

This resistance gave the Kurdish people great hope and courage. We can say with certainty that this was the beginning of a new life for the movement and the Kurdish people. The resistance in the prisons strengthened the freedom movement, but it was necessary to lead the resistance from outside as well. Rêber Apo knew very well that we cannot protect our people and our movement from genocidal attacks if we do not have the strength to defend ourselves. The enemy used all kinds of vile means and weapons to destroy the Kurdish people and the movement. The 15 August uprising took place at a time when everyone believed that the PKK had been liquidated. Many people believed that the enemy would now resume genocide against the Kurdish people. They believed that after the PKK was liquidated, there would be no force that could stand in the way of this. The collaborators wanted to bring Rêber Apo and the movement under their control. Many people were demoralized.

A group of friends who were following Rêber Apo and his philosophy, however, prepared intensively for the actions on 15 August 1984 in Eruh (Dihê) and Şemzînan (Şemdinli) and proclaimed the founding of the HRK (Kurdistan Liberation Forces). This uprising, led by Heval Egîd, was a historic first. Although this attack was ostensibly directed against the enemy, in reality it hit the traitors and collaborators who had oppressed the Kurdish people for thousands of years and plunged them into poverty and misery. Faith and hope for a free life were reborn in the people. The Kurds buried under concrete came to the surface again on 15 August. This broke the chains of slavery. Therefore, this step is of great importance not only in terms of arms and military power, but also in terms of ideology, philosophy, culture and organization. It means a new beginning and a new life.

How did the Turkish state react?

The enemy was shocked by the action in Eruh. After overcoming the initial shock, it approached the PKK with the same attitude it had used to the previous uprisings, thinking that it would destroy it within 72 hours. All previous movements were wiped out by massacres. However, Rêber Apo had carefully analyzed the shortcomings revealed in history as well as the enemy. The Apoist movement was different from the other movements. The cooperative spirit of Haki Karer and Kemal Pir eliminated the racist ideas that turned people against each other. The enemy committed a cultural genocide against the Kurdish people, deprived them of their thinking and ideology, and created slaves and oppressed personalities. In order to fight for freedom, free people had to be created first.

For this reason, Rêber Apo developed the philosophy of the free individual. Through education and struggle, he lifted the Kurdish people from the ground to the skies. He saw the oppression of women and did not approach this issue with the classic ideas of socialism. He did not put the women's question in the background, but developed the line of women's liberation. The fascist regime was very afraid of this. For this reason, the occupiers launched an all-out offensive. The Turkish state resorted to brutal methods to break the political, social, etc. effects of the awakening. It began a vile war against the freedom movement and the Kurdish people. Thousands were arrested. The torture in Turkish prisons resembled the actions of the Nazis. Thousands of murders by "unknown perpetrators" were committed by the state. Thousands of villages were burned down. Hundreds of thousands of people were expelled into the diaspora. The Kurdish people were left with two options: either accept the village guards and become collaborators, or be massacred, exiled or arrested.

Of course, there were some who surrendered, but the hope that the freedom movement aroused in the hearts of the Kurdish people prevented the extinction of the Kurdish people. A new spirit grew in the people and gave them new life. Thousands fought for freedom. The freedom movement thwarted the attacks of the Turkish state and the hegemonic powers. Let me say this again: 15 August was a historic beginning for the Kurdish people in the face of so many defeats and attacks by the occupiers. The rebellion in the heart of Botan had started again. History would once again write the epic tale of the Kawas fighting against the cruel Dehaqs. The enemy gave the Kawas 72 hours to destroy them, but the movement grew day by day, and today marks the 40th anniversary of 15 August.

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Commander Fazıl Şevger: Guerrilla draw strength from Abdullah Öcalan - II

PIRDOGAN KEMAL | BEHDINAN | 15 AUGUST 2024

In the second part of this interview with ANF, HPG Commander Fazıl Şevger said that the guerrilla drew its strength and determination from Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan].

When the action on 15 August occurred, there were various forces in Kurdistan. What attitude did these forces take towards this historic step?

The 15 August uprising caused great fear among the collaborators and traitors. Therefore, these forces initially wanted to prevent the movement. They did not want the party to spread throughout Kurdistan. They tried all methods. After the armed struggle began, they tried to stop the resistance. The KDP and the Barzani clan were particularly in charge of this. They continued uninterruptedly on this path.

Since then, there have been many changes in the Kurdish freedom movement. What were these changes and what were the results?

The war was started in 1984 despite all the adversities. Since guerrilla warfare was a new type of warfare in the Middle East, there was a lack of experience. The guerrilla drew its strength and determination from Rêber Apo and trusted the people. The people saw the guerrilla as a part of them and supported them with all their strength. In view of the lack of material resources, the Apoist ideas and philosophy of the guerrilla movement offered a great opportunity. The Kurdish freedom movement repelled all the enemy's attacks. The enemy was defeated by the guerrillas. The guerrillas spread to the four parts of Kurdistan and the Kurdish youth went to the free mountains. With the development of science and technology, a new era of warfare began. It was clear that the guerrilla would renew itself in this age.

It was no longer possible to continue with the old methods. The guerrillas recreated themselves on the basis of democratic modernity. They deepened ideologically, diversified tactically and specialized in technical aspects. Today the guerrillas thwart enemy attacks both from the air and on the ground. With its tunnel warfare and mobile units, the guerrilla has defeated the enemy. A state supported by the full strength of NATO has not been able to take a peak held by the freedom guerrilla in the past three years. This war is a new era in the history of humanity. The enemy is waging a dirty war against our people and Rêber Apo at all levels.

Rêber Apo has been isolated for years. No information has been received about him for more than three years. Such vileness has never been seen in the history of humanity. All kinds of dirty and inhuman methods are being used against the Kurdish people. Despite this, the Kurdish people are not giving up. Every day, chemical, thermo-baric and nuclear weapons are used against the freedom fighters in the mountains of Kurdistan, but the enemy is stuck in the mountains of Kurdistan and cannot move a step. In contrast, the guerrillas have made great progress in the field.

The KDP and the Barzani clan are representatives of the collaborationist line. How have they reacted to the guerrillas' progress?

Betrayal and collaboration have played an extremely negative role against the resistance, both then and now. From the beginning of the freedom movement to today, collaborators have always sided with the enemy and were the first to attack us. Stêrka Sor was the first group to attack us. Comrade Haki Karer was murdered by these traitors. Rêber Apo exposed all these traitorous and unscrupulous forces in his own way. The traitorous line was condemned among the Kurds. The traitorous forces were crushed. The Barzani clan has been repeating the same thing over and over since the KDP was founded. Rêber Apo has written letters and spoken to the Barzani family dozens of times, telling them: 'Don't oppose us, we will help you in whatever you need. Let's fight together,' but the Barzani family was not for national unity.

They sided with the enemy. They took on the task of eliminating the Kurdish freedom movement. They swore that no one would ever fire a bullet at the fascist Turkish state. They have their hands in the blood of Kurdish children. Many pioneers of the Kurdish people were massacred by them.

The guerrillas are fighting in North Kurdistan and in the Medya Defense Areas. How can the guerrillas make such progress in the face of Turkish attacks on the one hand and the KDP's betrayal on the other?

We have been waging a very comprehensive war since 2015. For nine years, we have been in a permanent war in all four parts of Kurdistan. This is especially true in the Medya Defense Areas. We are fighting with all our strength to protect the honor and dignity of our people. The Turkish state has attacked us with all its might. Of course, we have had martyrs, but we have defended Kurdistan with the blood of our martyrs and the enemy has not been successful so far. In all regions that the Turkish state wants to invade, there are battles between the enemy and the guerrillas. At the end of these nine years, the fascist AKP-MHP clique has been defeated. The Turkish army attacks with the most advanced and with prohibited weapons, but it is unable to act against the apoist Fedaiyin. Therefore, the Turkish state is trying to achieve results by using ISIS and the KDP.

If the KDP had not helped, the Turkish state would have already accepted its defeat. We are the children of this country and the Turkish army cannot therefore defend itself against the guerrillas in the mountains of Kurdistan. Now the KDP has also become part of the Kurdish genocide. Our movement makes statements on this issue every day. The KDP and the Barzani family have become the mouthpiece of Erdoğan and Bahçeli. Parastin has become part of the MIT. The KDP-affiliated press has become the special war press of the AKP-MHP regime. They have all completely submitted to the Turkish state. They want to destroy the PKK with all their might. They want to defame our party, but in the 51 years of our struggle, the Kurdish people have developed an awareness, they know right and wrong.

How will the freedom fighters of Kurdistan behave in the face of the total war against the guerrillas and the Kurdish people?

Today, the freedom movement has a very important role and task. It has taken on the task of fighting for freedom for all oppressed peoples. The guerrillas know their role and mission and are convinced that they will fulfill this historic task. The eyes of humanity are on the resistance of the freedom guerrilla, Rêber Apo and Kurdistan. Our enemy knows that if we are defeated, the hope of all oppressed peoples will be broken. All hegemonic powers and so-called human rights institutions support the Turkish occupation state. In order for the Kurdistan freedom guerrilla to fulfill this task as soon as possible and end Rêber Apo's isolation, all young people should turn to the free mountains. The Kurdish people, the peoples of the Middle East and the world, revolutionary movements, women's movements, workers, artists and all freedom forces must rally around Rêber Apo.

Finally, is there anything else you would like to tell the Kurdish people?

Everyone knows how Rêber Apo built the struggle from the ground up. He freed the Kurdish people from the grip of genocide and made them a fighting people. We are waging every kind of struggle to realize our historical goals and to physically liberate Rêber Apo. We are preparing for victory over the fascist and genocidal enemy. As Rêber Apo's fighters, we will rebuild the Kurdish people's revolution and, come what

may, live in a free country with Rêber Apo. Once again, we welcome 15 August. I pay tribute to all the martyrs of Kurdistan with great respect.

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Besê Hozat: 15 August breakthrough was a move toward enlightenment in Kurdistan and the Middle East

ANF | 15 AUGUST 2024

KCK Executive Council co-chair Besê Hozat answered questions about the 40th anniversary of the 15 August breakthrough and the new threats against the Yazid people in a special program she attended on Medya Haber television.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the breakthrough that was achieved on 15 August. The place of this historical move in your struggle is known. Looking at the current situation, how do you elaborate on the historical breakthrough?

First of all, I salute the 15 August breakthrough and our peoples and commemorate comrade Mahsum Korkmaz with great respect, love and gratitude. I commemorate all the martyrs of freedom and revolution with great respect, love and gratitude and reiterate the promise that we will definitely bring their dreams and aspirations to success and victory.

Again in this month of August, there were very valuable comrades that martyred. Comrade Atakan Mahir, Zeki Shengali, Engin Sincer, Sari Ibrahim, and comrade Azime. Many valuable friends martyred in the recent period. In northern Kurdistan, comrade Herakol Ekin fell and the comrades Firat, Bahoz, Sema, Ronahi and Dilgeshe fell recently in the Medya Defense Zones. In August, many comrades martyred both in northern Kurdistan and in the Medya Defense Zones, especially in the region of Zap and Metina, whose names I have mentioned and many more I cannot mention.

The August 15 breakthrough has great meaning and significance for the Kurdish people, for the peoples of the Middle East, and particularly for women. To consider the 15th of August breakthrough, the guerrilla struggle, and the armed struggle only as a narrow military struggle of a people, the Kurdish people, as a war of legitimate defense would be an insufficient way of understanding and defining it. From our point of view, the August 15th breakthrough is a move toward enlightenment in Kurdistan and the Middle East. With the August 15th breakthrough, a great revolution of mentality took place in Kurdistan, a great people's revolution took place, and a women's revolution took place. The disbelief, frustration, pessimism, and hopelessness created by the enemy in Kurdistan society were destroyed. Kurdish society woke up again and became aware of itself. This affected Middle Eastern society, and today, it is leading the democratic revolution.

In other words, the August 15th breakthrough created a very strong ground for change, renaissance, and enlightenment in the Middle East in every aspect and in every dimension. It revealed the revolutionary reality and the militant reality of the movement. This developed within the people's army. Later on, it was

comrade Beritan who formed the identity of the women's army. Just as comrade Agit formed the identity and personality of the people's army, comrades Beritan and Zilan formed the identity and line of resistance of the women's guerrillas, the women's army. This is not a classical army. The guerrilla army in Kurdistan, with its men and women, the people's army and the women's army, is a highly ideological, philosophical, organized, strong-willed, and conscious structure with a revolutionary, libertarian identity. Their struggle has become the vanguard struggle of the people. Within this struggle, true democratic politics was born. It formed the basis for the achievements in Rojava, the values created in northern Kurdistan, and a strong consciousness in southern and eastern Kurdistan. It created the reality of an organized people. All these gains emerged through this struggle. The society that has become conscious, strong-willed, organized, and liberated has created a very strong legacy of freedom.

Undoubtedly, the military dimension of this, the legitimate self-defense dimension, is of key importance. Through this, an intertwined level of development has emerged. And today, our people, the peoples of the Middle East, and humanity are in dire need of this. In a place like the Middle East, at a time when the 3rd World War is taking place, when the blood of peoples is flowing everywhere, when terrible suffering is being experienced, and when society needs great defense, organized power, and self-defense, the guerrilla struggle is even more vital. In terms of Turkey in particular, in terms of geography, in a country where so many genocidal attacks are being carried out on the Kurds, legitimate defense and self-defense are indispensable. This is an essential need.

In this sense, following the footsteps of comrade Mahsum Korkmaz and comrade Beritan, our people's army and women's army restructured themselves, and according to the character and reality of this age, according to the understanding of democratic modernity, it has revealed a very important level of struggle and legitimate self-defense. Both in tactics and technique, the guerrillas, the people's army, and the women's army are giving the second-largest army of NATO, one of the most numerous armies in the world, a real challenge today.

For five years without interruption, the Turkish army has been conducting an all-out attack with all kinds of techniques. It uses all kinds of power and all kinds of dirty methods. From chemical weapons to all kinds of other banned weapons, but still they cannot get results. It is in shambles. Now the guerrilla has modernized itself according to the reality of this age and continues to even further develop. The effects of this will be seen more and more strongly in northern Kurdistan in the coming months and years. I believe that with the restructured understanding of democratic modernity and the restructured guerrilla warfare, understanding, and tactics, this legitimate struggle will be continued in the strongest way.

Recently, Iraq has closed down three political parties. Among these parties was the Êzidis [Yazidi] in Shengal [Sinjar]. And this coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Shengal genocide. After this, Iraq's attitude and approach are actually becoming clear. How do you evaluate these developments?

We strongly and angeredly condemn this approach by Iraq. What damage has the Freedom and Democracy Party of the Êzidis (PADÊ) caused to Iraq? They must explain this, and they must explain it to the Êzidis. Iraq is shutting down a party that has been engaged in politics and diplomacy to defend the existence and freedom of Êzidis after the 74th ferman, in order to make the voice of Êzidis heard in the world. It defends the rights and freedoms of Êzidis and explains the 74th ferman to the world. It struggles for the freedom and rights of the Êzidis. What is the harm of such a party to Iraq? Why did Iraq shut it down? Êzidis, their representatives, and the co-chairs of the democratic administration of Shengal made some

statements in this regard. They said that this is a continuation of the ferman. They said that what Iraq is doing now makes them a partner in this ferman. This is a very heavy assessment. But it also pointed to some realities.

ISIS did not attack Shengal alone. On August 3, 2014, ISIS was an allied force of the AKP. There is still huge support from Erdoğan and the AKP for ISIS. In fact, ISIS attacked Shengal with the encouragement of the AKP and Erdoğan. Erdoğan also played a role in the genocide in Shengal; he is guilty. And now, as a result of the impositions and pressures of the fascist regime in Turkey, ruled by Erdoğan, Bahçeli, the AKP-MHP, and Ergenekon, and the impositions and pressures of the KDP, Iraq has decided to shut down PADÊ. Of course, no Êzidi can accept this.

Likewise, Tevgera Azadi is a movement struggling for democracy in southern Kurdistan and Iraq. It is influenced by the paradigm and thoughts of Rêber Apo and takes him as its basis. It does not have any organizational ties with our organization. Neither it nor the Democratic Front. They are based on Rêber Apo's paradigm, and they are waging a struggle for democracy in southern Kurdistan and Iraq. They work for the development of democracy. Now what harm can or did they do to southern Kurdistan and Iraq? Of course, we have been aware of the activities of Turkey and the KDP for years. It is exerting very intense pressure on Iraq to close down these structures. Most recently, on July 3, Massoud Barzani went to Baghdad. He met with many embassies and also met with many government and non-government circles in Iraq. Massoud Barzani had the closure of these organizations in his file. We know that very well. They have been working on this for years. After this closure decision, Hoshyar Zebari and similar KDP officials have already announced how happy they are. They got results from their work.

Turkish state officials shared the same feeling. Now, of course, there is this side of the issue. Iraq took such a step to please the Turkish state, to please the KDP, and to fulfill their demands and impositions. But in doing so, it adopted an extremely impersonal and characterless attitude. There may be impositions and demands of the Turkish state, but the Turkish state is waging a war of genocide against the Kurds and Êzidis. It is waging a war of genocide against the peoples of the Middle East. It is waging a war of extermination and massacre, and the KDP is a partner in this policy. Such impositions by the Turkish state, the AKP-MHP regime, and the KDP are understandable. But does Iraq have to accept them? Iraq claims to be an independent state. Doesn't that state have its own will? Doesn't that state have its own stance and character? Doesn't it have a principle? It is clear that this government has no own stance and no character. A very simple approach has been taken for dirty, simple interests. We consider this behavior of the current government to be a great insult to the history of Iraq, a great insult to the Iraqi people, and a great insult and a great insult to Iraqi society. The thing to do against this is to struggle against it.

The ferman on the Êzidis continues in the Êzidi camps in the south. Yesterday, some imams made a statement and the Êzidis in South Kurdistan were threatened. This resulted in a great outrage in the Êzidi camps. As far as we were able to follow the developments, basically all the Êzidis in the camps want to return to Shengal. They are piling up at the Semalka Gate, where they do not let them pass through. Some of them found other ways and returned directly to Shengal. No one wants to live in those camps. They see this as part of the ferman. The fear of the ferman has entered their hearts. The Êzidis in the camps are in great fear and panic. Sure, there really is this danger. Right now, both the KDP and the AKP-MHP are waging a war against the peoples hand in hand with ISIS. They have brought hundreds of ISIS fighters to Behdinan, and they intend to bring even more. It is they who are burning and destroying villages.

They want to settle these mercenaries and gangs there. Who do those mercenaries and gangs see as their main enemy? The Êzidis. Not only there, but generally in southern Kurdistan and Iraq, such groups are organized. ISIS is not finished. ISIS maintains a significant amount of its power in Iraq, Syria, and many parts of the region. Therefore, of course, Êzidis are in great danger. They should not stay in those camps. They could experience a great ferman like August 3rd. Just as the KDP left the Êzidis defenseless in 2014, it left them alone facing the ISIS genocide supported by the Turkish state. The same thing can happen in those camps. Therefore, of course, it is a great danger to live and wait in those camps. For years, the KDP has taken those camps hostage and has been conducting a blackmail policy on those camps. Against the world, against everyone.

It has also turned them into a vote depot. By force, by force of arms, and by material means, they are able to get their votes in the elections. On the other hand, they have them do all kinds of dirty work. The KDP tries to create mercenaries and gangs by themselves. From prostitution to drugs, they do all kinds of filth and dirty work on Êzidis in those camps and make Êzidis live under a different kind of ferman there. Since 2014, the ferman has actually continued in those camps; just the form has changed. There is a cultural ferman there, a cultural genocide. They make Êzidi girls, women, and children do all kinds of dirty, ugly work there. Such a situation has arisen. This situation reveals the reality of the KDP much more clearly in the eyes of the Êzidis.

As I pointed out before, we need to fight strongly against all these attacks. Êzidis are no longer the old Êzidis. They are an organized society. They have political and social power. They have developed self-confidence and willpower. They have become an organized society, and an organized society is the greatest power. No matter who it is, It can be women, youth, a people, or an oppressed group. When you are organized, you become stronger. Then you have willpower and courage. Today, there is serious consciousness, enlightenment, organization, and willpower among Êzidis.



Besê Hozat: Systematic torture and isolation against Öcalan

ANF | 16 AUGUST 2024

KCK Executive Council co-chair Besê Hozat spoke about the isolation imposed on Abdullah Öcalan.

We would like to address the complete absence of communication with the leader of the Kurdish people, Abdullah Öcalan. Also, I would like to talk with you about the global campaign for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, which you have evaluated in several broad formats. In particular, what should be the approach and participation in this campaign now?

As you pointed out, there is no news or information from Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. There is a systematic system of torture and isolation. He was not allowed to conduct any meetings with his lawyers during those years. From 2013 until 2015, there were some meetings with delegations of the HDP. Through those, the public, our people, and we have become more informed about the situation of Rêber Apo and the policies implemented in İmralı. However, this does not mean that the isolation has been broken or overcome and that the conditions of health, safety, and freedom of Rêber Apo have been ensured. In fact,

26 years of imprisonment is itself a system of isolation and torture. For more than 41 months, there has not been any news from Rêber Apo in any way. There is an absolute lack of communication. Actually, it is not 41 months, but more. When we talk about 41 months, we are referring to the last phone call that Rêber Apo had with Ömer and Mehmet Öcalan in March 2021. But that wasn't a meeting either. The phone call did not provide any information about Rêber Apo's state of health, nor did it tell us anything else about the current conditions on Imrali. Nothing was discussed in that call. It just lasted one or two minutes. Anyway, Rêber Apo also criticized that kind of exchange. "You are being played," he said. "My lawyers should meet with me." He pointed out that it is his right to meet with his lawyers. Nothing much could be understood from that call, and when Rêber Apo took a stance against this form of exchange, the state intervened and cut off the call. Therefore, rather than these 41 months, we can say that there has been an total lack of communication since June 12, 2019.

From May 2 to June 12, the lawyers had three meetings with Rêber Apo, and there were also several family meetings, but since then there has been no information. Also, through those meetings, we learned little about the situation of Rêber Apo, the conditions in Imrali, and the security and health conditions. But after that, an absolute lack of communication and isolation continued. In other words, there has been no communication with Rêber Apo since June 12, 2019. There is no information about what the general situation is in Imrali, and there is also no information about what the health and security situation of the fellow prisoners is. Now, while this is the reality, AKP officials are trying to deceive the people so that Rêber Apo can meet with his family whenever he wants. They say that he would be allowed to meet his family, but that it would be the movement that would prevent those meetings from taking place. They spread this kind of propaganda. They try to create a picture like Rêber Apo would want to find a solution, but the movement would prevent it. It is understood that they are waging a very intense special war and developing perceptual operations. The more the enemy fails to provide an explanation for the current isolation, the more it gets stuck because of the social and public reactions and the attitudes and reactions expressed by many international, leftist, socialist, libertarian, and democratic circles. It cannot explain this criminal situation. Because right now the Turkish state is committing a crime against the law, a crime against humanity. It has completely abolished and violated both its own and international law. The situation in Imrali right now is a crime against humanity, no matter how you look at it. In order to cover up this crime, in order to create a different perception, and in order to somehow explain what they cannot explain, they are lying. This is how they try to deceive and fool these groups. This reveals the gravity of the situation the Turkish state is in.

Recently, there was a United Nations session. This situation of isolation and an absolute lack of communication was also put on the agenda there. Many questions were asked of the Turkish delegation, and they could not explain the situation. They did not even dare to name it as what it is: isolation. Why are they applying these disciplinary penalties that they name as reasons why Rêber Apo cannot conduct a meeting? What disciplinary offense can be committed by a person who is in absolute isolation? This is a policy. The global campaign for the freedom of Rêber Apo has brought about very important results and put the Turkish state in a difficult situation. The Turkish state is so stuck that it does not know how to explain and legitimize this crime against humanity. It is inventing a thousand and one covers for it. They lie and try to deceive everyone. No one is fooled by this.

There is going to be a meeting of the Committee of Ministers (CM) of the Council of Europe (CoE) in September. The so-called 'Right to Hope' is going to be on the agenda. The lawyers from the Asrin Law Office were evaluating the upcoming meeting and made it clear that they were preparing for this meeting

to raise important demands there. We are following these developments closely. The CoE and the CM are, in fact, also partners in this crime of isolation. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) are accomplices to this crime committed by the Turkish state. They are the forces that established the Imrali system, this system of isolation, torture, and genocide. And they have been watching this for years and remained silent about the torture and genocide policies of the Turkish state. Now, these forces need to take a serious change of stance. These forces should no longer be partners in this genocidal crime, this crime against humanity. Turkey does not abide by any international convention or law. Therefore, international institutions are also responsible for this. First and foremost, the CoE, the CPT, the CM, and all the other institutions and mechanisms affiliated with the CoE. The CoE is the main culprit in the current situation. It must put an end to this criminal situation. It should not be a partner in this. Instead, it must put forward an approach and policy in accordance with law, justice, human values, and morality. This is important; this system of torture and isolation must end.

There has been a significant legal struggle as well. The fact that we can discuss this today is the result of a broad struggle. It is the result of the global freedom campaign. Just recently, 69 Nobel Prize winners have expressed their support for the struggle for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and against the Imrali system of torture and isolation. They wrote letters to many places and decisive institutions. The CM and the CoE are just two of them. As far as we observed, they also wrote a letter to Erdoğan and many other institutions and international organizations. This is an extremely valuable approach. This kind of work needs to continue. For 26 years, Rêber Apo has been resisting in Imrali in the name of human values. He is resisting for the freedom and equality of peoples, for democracy, for the freedom of women, and for the freedom of all oppressed identities. Therefore, he represents the conscience of humanity and the values of humanity. Today, everyone in the world who seeks justice, freedom, equality, and truth is defended by Rêber Apo's resistance. The freedom of Rêber Apo is the freedom of all of us. It is the freedom of all peoples. It is not only the freedom of Kurds; it is the freedom of humanity. In this respect, we need to continue this struggle more strongly; we need to further spread Rêber Apo's paradigm. This work is very valuable.

The Middle East pillar of these efforts is too weak. There are also some gaps when it comes to the efforts made in Europe, worldwide and in Asia. But especially in the Middle East, the importance of these efforts is now being understood much more. It is necessary to carry Rêber Apo's ideas, projects, perspectives, and paradigm to all societies and peoples of the Middle East and to all of their intellectuals, artists, democratic groups, women's movements, youth movements, and democratic circles. Also, it is needed to bring all these people together through the paradigm of Rêber Apo, because right now the center of the 3rd World War is the Middle East. The Middle Eastern society is crying blood. Violence, war, massacres, and genocides are taking place everywhere. Right now, Kurdistan is the center of genocide. The Turkish state is implementing a terrible genocidal policy against the Kurds, while Israel is implementing a terrible genocidal policy against the Palestinians. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been massacred by the Israeli army. The other day, they bombarded a school, and over a hundred people were massacred. Genocides are being practiced, and gradually, this 3rd World War is intensifying and spreading, centered on Kurdistan, Palestine, and the Middle East as a whole. The Turkish state is doing its best to spread this war even further. Likewise, Israel is also deepening this war with its current genocide policies. Rêber Apo's projects, the paradigm of the Democratic Nation, and the system of Democratic Confederalism are the most fundamental concepts to form a solution to all the problems faced in the Middle East. As Middle Eastern society becomes acquainted with these ideas and as Middle Eastern intellectuals and other circles, groups, and move-

ments in the region who are in search of freedom, equality, justice, and democracy become acquainted with these ideas, I believe that a very strong democracy movement and struggle for democracy will develop in the Middle East. The Kurds and their freedom movement have been pioneering this for nearly 50 years. There is a serious awareness in this regard.

But if we manage to develop this more strongly on the basis of spreading the paradigm and ideas of Rêber Apo to the region, this will bring the democratic revolution in the Middle East closer, and this situation in which dozens, maybe even hundreds, of peoples are suffering under chaos, war, and massacres, where hundreds of thousands are losing their lives, will come to an end. It is necessary to particularly develop the struggle within the campaign for the freedom of Rêber Apo in the Middle East very strongly. Again, the women's movement must also play a very strong role in the campaign. Until now, of course, women and young people have led the movement to a great extent. They have played a crucial role, especially in social mobilizations. The women's movement, especially the women's movement through Jineolojî, has made significant labor, effort, and struggle in carrying the paradigm of Rêber Apo. However, we see that the ideas developed by Rêber Apo regarding women's freedom have the greatest impact on the world today.

In the history of mankind, there have been many movements and groups of people who have pondered, thought, theorized, and practically fought for women's liberation, just as Rêber Apo, and, of course, there have been many female leaders. Various socialist leaders have also made very important determinations and evaluations on the subject of women and have engaged in an important intellectual effort on this issue. However, no one has been able to concentrate and deepen on women's liberation as deeply as Rêber Apo, to engage in such a deep intellectual, theoretical, ideological, philosophical, systematic, and intellectual level, and to demonstrate the practical power and application of this. This is a fact. If we manage to carry the thoughts, labor, effort, and struggle developed by Rêber Apo on women's freedom, I strongly believe that we are able to achieve crucial results. The Kurdish freedom movement will carry out this struggle together with the women's movement. Therefore, we definitely need to wage a stronger struggle. If we can carry out a stronger multidimensional struggle, both in terms of spreading the paradigm, the social struggle, particularly the struggle to be waged by the women's movement, and the legal struggle, we can definitely physically liberate Rêber Apo in a short time, and the global campaign will be successful. The current level of the campaign and the results it has produced herald this to us.

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Opinion

The future of Iraqi politics in the light of the Turkish invasion

While the current picture confirms an intricate political scene for Iraq, the stance against the new plans and agenda of the Turkish occupation, which is the main agenda, will play a decisive role in the future of the dynamics in the country.

ATAKAN ARARA | 11 AUGUST 2024

The Behdînan initiative of Turkish diplomacy

The relations developed with the Iraqi central government, especially the "Development Road", are related to the Turkish Republic's handling of Iraq's instability as an opportunity. The "acquiescence" of Baghdad to the occupation of Kurdistan on the basis of energy and economic "aid" was the most prominent initiative of Turkish diplomacy in Iraq throughout 2024. Ankara, which has not yet put an end to such pursuits, also aims to prevent the reactions that may rise due to Iraq's many-voiced politics. As a matter of fact, the practices in Behdînan today are reflected on the ground in favour of the Turkish Republic as a result of these policies.

Conflicts of the Shiite-Sunni bloc

Although all channels are trying to create the perception that all parties in Iraq are against the Kurdistan Freedom Movement, the proxy wars between the Turkish Republic and Iran are also making themselves felt in the region. Within the scope of Tehran's moves against Ankara's expansionism in Iraq, launched in 2021, Tehran continues to launch operations against all partners of the Turkish Republic in Iraq. In the elections held in the same year, the Sadr Movement, the Iraqi Taqadum Party led by Muhammad Halbousi and the KDP formation were shaped as the alliance of the Turkish Republic in Iraq. Iran, on the other hand, sees this as a Sunni bloc against itself and is devoting all its power in Iraq to the destruction of this alliance.

Tehran's operations against the 'Ankara alliance'

Taking action after the elections, Tehran first turned towards the Sadr Movement, the largest section of the alliance. Having eliminated Sadr and his circle from Iraqi politics, Iran then targeted some military and political formations affiliated to Sadr. The elimination of Sadr, who signalled a return to Iraqi politics under the name of 'National Shiite Movement' after a two-year break, also affects the change of balances in Iraqi politics.

Parliamentary presidency pressure

Tehran then dismissed Halbousi, who was elected as the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament through the Iraqi Federal Court under its influence. Continuing its political and military pressures, it has not allowed the election of the Iraqi Parliament Presidency for 9 months.

Last step: KDP

Lastly, Tehran also turned to the KDP and had many decisions taken by the same court over the elections in Southern Kurdistan. The KDP's adventures with the Erdoğan government have caused the people of Southern Kurdistan to suffer great blows, both administratively and economically. The process that opened the status of Southern Kurdistan to discussion after 30 years is still ongoing.

Reflections of Shiite contradictions between Qom and Karbala

Iran's biggest problem with Iraqi Shiites stems from the imposition that the Shiite centre is the Iranian city of Qom. The Shiite Arabs, on the other hand, state that the politics imposed by Iran is Persian Shiism and that the memory of Karbala and Najaf should be the centre. These two views occasionally lead Shiite political circles in Iraq to form political, military and economic alliances with the Sunni Arab world. Due to the different views between the parties, there are frequent changes in partners and alliances.

The return of Sadr

Sadr's return to the political arena by establishing relations with the US in the new period may play a more triggering role in the crisis and contradictions in Iraq. In this sense, Sadr's recent relations with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are linked to the developments. In the same context, the Barzanis' relations with the UAE over the elections are considered on this basis and evaluated as the moves of the other side.

Complicity in occupation will bring down the al-Sudani government

While the current picture confirms an intricate political scene for Iraq in the coming days, the stance against the new plans and agenda of the Turkish occupation, which is the main agenda, will play a decisive role in the future dynamics in the country.

The al-Sudani government, one of the first stops where this situation will be reflected, has closed its ears to the voice of the Iraqi people. The "silent partnership" of the al-Sudani government, which is also preparing for the Iraqi general elections planned to be held in 2025, causes reaction in the public. Likewise, the Iraqi people, who have a vivid memory of the Turkish occupation, remind that the government has the potential to launch major protests if it takes further steps. While this situation has a decisive role for the future of the al-Sudani government, the steps developed so far are working in the direction that the current government cannot come back to power.

Exchange between Ankara and Baghdad

Another important issue for the parties is what will happen to the agreements made by the Turkish Republic on the basis of new occupation plans in Iraq, where governments change frequently. Trying to establish deep relations with Baghdad on the basis of the "Development Road" project, Ankara held the second meeting for the project and started to export electricity to Iraq again. On the other hand, the Turkish army is allowed to move freely in Iraq and Southern Kurdistan territories. The efforts to criminalise the Kurdistan Freedom Movement in Iraqi public opinion are also a result of the bilateral relationship.

What will happen to Erdoğan's agreements if al-Sudani leaves?

Seeking to secure the agreements it has made, Ankara is also working to survive with the least damage in a possible change in the context of Iraq's daily changing political balances. On the other hand, all indications are that the government will change. The fact that the incoming new government does not undertake the "agreements" of the previous government has almost become characteristic in Baghdad. While

this is one of the biggest fears of Ankara, it is trying to convince the Iraqi state with all its institutions and dynamics as soon as possible.



Deir ez-Zor and insistence on the chaos plan

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Deir ez-Zor was attacked again from the area under the control of the Syrian administration. There had been attacks on this region before and many people had lost their lives. Their aim is to detach the region from the Autonomous Administration, to create an Arab-Kurdish conflict and to seize the oil regions. There are plans and endeavours to take down other Arab-populated regions one after the other should Deir ez-Zor fall. In fact, plans are being realised primarily to remove the Arab population from the Autonomous Administration regions and to leave the Kurds alone and crush them. The Damascus administration wants to re-establish its authority by making the people forget what they have brought upon them, deflecting the agenda and using Arab nationalism.

The influence of Iran and Russia

The problem has other dimensions beyond the Damascus administration. No one cares about the suffering, poverty and losses of the people. All powers are seeking to strengthen their power and spheres of influence. Iran is one of these powers. It is known what Syria has become. Iran supported Bashar al-Assad to stay in power. Similarly, Russia supported Damascus in order to stay in the region. Assad was able to survive thanks to this support. The Kurds did not fight Assad. Despite all Turkey's impositions, the Kurdish people fought against ISIS and did not join their alliance. That is why Turkey targeted the Kurds, declared them enemies and terrorists. If the Kurds had accepted Turkey's impositions and joined its alliance, Assad would not have had a chance to survive. Assad owes his survival mostly to the Kurds.

Turkey is trying to incite Damascus and the people of the region against the SDF

The facts are constantly being concealed and distorted. Turkey is trying to incite Damascus and the people of the region against the SDF in order to get Damascus onside. They are waging an incredible psychological war. They are propagandising that Arab tribes have revolted against the SDF. Turkish official circles are calling for the oil of the region to be handed over to the Syrian people and taken out of the hands of terrorists. They put pressure on the US and Coalition forces. They negotiate with them to break their relations with the SDF. Wherever there is an initiative against the SDF and the Kurds, the Turkish state jumps on it. It thinks and organises whatever evil there is.

Iran organises militias to attack Deir ez-Zor

Iran is not limited to helping the Syrian government. It also plays with the beliefs of the people of the region. It carries out intensive work among the people to develop Shiism. Syria is not in a position to stand against this. Moreover, Iran has known problems and contradictions with the US. The USA is also present in the region. Iran is busy organising and mobilising the people against the US. Together with the Damas-

cus administration, they portray the SDF as a US collaborator. They want to involve the SDF in their contradictions with the US. SDF does not want to be an instrument in these conflicts. Still, Iran organises militias to attack Deir ez-Zor and supports them with heavy weapons. Iran does not say that it is officially taking part in these attacks, but everyone in the region knows that it is Iranian officials who are leading and directing the attacks. They say that the tribes are against the SDF, but these rockets and missiles are not the work of the tribes.

The people paid a very heavy price

Deir ez-Zor is one of the last regions cleared from ISIS. It is one of the first regions where demonstrations and revolts against the Damascus government took place. The people paid a very heavy price. Now there is stability and democratic governance in the region. In fact, they govern themselves. They also maintain trade relations with the other side of the Euphrates, with the regime-held region. They also contribute to the economy of that side. Despite this, attempts to drag the region into a conflictual and chaotic environment do not stop. These attacks both bring economic destruction and jeopardise the life safety of the people. Many people have been killed and injured for no reason at all.

Human life does not have much value in this geography. That is why people are so easily wasted, killed and sent to their deaths. Since the people are not educated and organised, they are not in a position to defend themselves and determine their direction. Turkey sends some of them to Libya, Karabakh, etc. to fight for itself. It brings them forward in the occupation of Syria. It keeps them on the front line so that its soldiers do not die.

The Autonomous Administration wants to solve their problems through peaceful

methods

Iran and the Damascus administration do not take a different approach either. However, the Autonomous Administration, the SDF, wants to meet with the Damascus administration and solve their problems through peaceful methods within the integrity of Syria. These forces do not want anything from Damascus. They only want a democratic Syria. Instead of preferring the democratic option, Damascus continues to impose the over-centralised and one-party regime of before 2011. Turkey is also resorting to all kinds of malice to destroy the Kurds. Has there been any statement from Turkey regarding the recognition of the Syrian Kurds' rights and identity? No. It forces Damascus to destroy the Kurds and complete the genocide.



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