

THE İMRALI POST

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

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

'Freedom Shall Prevail' out in English

ANF | 20 AUGUST 2024

Freedom Shall Prevail ([PM Press](#)) is the first graphic novel exploring the life and struggle of Abdullah Öcalan, affectionately known as “Apo.” After the great success of the Kurdish, German, Turkish, Arabic editions, the book is now available in English.

The book can be ordered with a 20% discount with the coupon code AUGUST until 1 September at https://pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=1579

Highly regarded around the world, Öcalan led the Kurdish freedom struggle as the head of the PKK from its foundation in 1978 until his abduction by the Turkish state in 1999. He has, so far, spent twenty-five years in captivity. In this graphic novel we learn, in his own words, what Öcalan’s childhood was like in the partially Kurdish areas of Eastern Turkey and how his political awareness and commitment grew as a student in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Through the personal struggle of Öcalan we also see the terrible devastation that Kurdish people have suffered and learn about the tumultuous and dramatic history of the relationship between the Kurds and the Turkish state.

As the publishers write, "the book also dives into the theories developed by Öcalan that continue to influence the ongoing struggle today. Expanding on these, the second part of the book gives us a wider consideration of the issues and policies around women's freedom, democratic confederalism and paints an inspiring picture of one of the most impressive attempts to build a genuinely grassroots democratic system anywhere in the world. The struggle going on in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, also known as Rojava, is one that is directly countering gender and racial discrimination and the abuses of the capitalist economic system - in truly interconnected ways.

This wonderfully illustrated graphic novel is a collaboration between award-winning Scottish writer Sean Michael Wilson and Kurdish artist Keko, with backing and research help from the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign and the International Initiative “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan - Peace in Kurdistan,” groups with long term and impassioned commitment to the cause of Öcalan and the Kurdish people’s freedom.”

Vigil for Abdullah Öcalan continues in Maxmur

ANF | MAXMUR | 20 AUGUST 2024

The vigil action initiated on 20 July 2023 to demand freedom for Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan at the Martyr Rustem Cudi Refugee Camp continues on its 397th day with the 78th group.

After a minute's silence in memory of the Kurdistan freedom martyrs, the 77th group handed over the vigil to the new group.

Kadri Şirîşeyî saluted the resistance of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held captive under isolation conditions for 26 years, and said: "We condemn the isolation imposed on our Leader. This isolation is imposed on the Kurdish people in the person of our Leader. The Kurdish people and their friends are working to break this isolation. We, as Maxmur residents, continue our vigil. We have been resisting since the beginning. Peace cannot be achieved unless the isolation is broken. Leader Apo's ideas have spread to the world. A revolution began in India with the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi'. This slogan is the source of inspiration for all peoples."

After the speech, the vigil was transferred to the 78th group, from the Culture and Arts Committee.



Freedom Vigil in Strasbourg in its 634th week

ANF | STRASBOURG | 20 AUGUST 2024

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

Mesut Dağhan, Ayşe Mutlu, Mehmet Elik, Ramazan Aslan and Deniz Tomas from Stuttgart took over the vigil action, which is undertaken by a group from different European countries every week, in its 634th week.

Mesut Dağhan made a statement on behalf of the group and said, "We call on the European Parliament and CPT to lift the isolation of the leader."

Noting that no news has been received from Abdullah Öcalan, Dağhan added: "We call on our people to unite around the leader."

Group member Ayşe Mutlu underlined that their resistance continues for the lifting of isolation and called on the Kurdish people to take to the streets to lift the isolation.



DEM Party MP Ömer Öcalan applies to the Presidency for a meeting with Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | ANKARA | 20 AUGUST 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Urfa MP Ömer Öcalan has applied to the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey for a meeting with Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held under severe isolation in İmralı F Type High Security Closed Prison for more than 25 years. Ömer Öcalan of the DEM Party, who applied to the General Secretariat of the Presidency by fax and mail, drew attention to the fact that Abdullah Öcalan has long been denied the right to meet with his lawyers and family.

Pointing to the decision of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee to take measures against the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan, the application recalled that an application was made to the Parliamentary Human Rights Investigation Commission (İHİK) upon the failure to take any steps in line with this decision.

“The parliamentary Human Rights Inquiry Committee (İHİK) claimed that there was no isolation in İmralı. In a reply dated 23 February, it argued that İmralı prisoners were not allowed to meet with their lawyers and relatives on the grounds of disciplinary penalties, and that there was no ban on letters and faxes. It stated that there was no disciplinary penalty in 2023 regarding lawyer visits, but provided no explanation as to why family and lawyer visits could not be made.”

The application also drew attention to respect for family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).



Lawyers demand an ‘urgent ad hoc visit’ by the CPT to İmralı

ANF | ISTANBUL | 20 AUGUST 2024

Asrın Law Office made a new application to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in relation to their client, Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has long been kept in absolute isolation in İmralı F-Type High Security Prison and has not been heard from for 41 months.

According to the Mezopotamya Agency (MA), the application includes developments regarding Abdullah Öcalan and other prisoners in İmralı, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş, covering the period of May-June-July 2024.

The file sent to the CPT stated that a total of 36 applications were made between 1 May and 30 July, including 24 for lawyer visits and 12 for family visits, but all of them were left unanswered.

It was emphasised that applications for family and lawyer visits have been prevented on the grounds of at least 23 'disciplinary penalties' since 14 September 2018.

On 4 July, a new 3-month 'disciplinary punishment' was imposed before the expiry of the last 'disciplinary punishment' dated 12 April 2024.

In the report submitted to the CPT, it was pointed out that the process in question was carried out in secret from the lawyers and finalised in violation of the law.

In the application, it was said that 3 different earthquakes occurred in the Marmara Sea within the 3 months in question, and public concerns about İmralı increased due to the bans on lawyer and family visits and the unanswered applications.

The alternating hunger strikes and boycotts carried out in prisons since November 2023 against the İmralı isolation were also included in the file.

Asrın Law Office also drew attention to the campaigns against isolation at the international level, especially the appeal by 69 Nobel Laureates for the release of Abdullah Öcalan.

The application, which also highlighted the CPT's duties of detection and prevention, drew attention to the statement made by the CPT on 3 July concerning Azerbaijan, which did not end the violations and did not comply with the recommendations in the reports prepared by the CPT after the visits.

The application stated: "While there has not been a single improvement in the conditions of İmralı Prison since the past, while there has been a terrible level of incommunicado, especially since 2011, while the findings and recommendations in 5 of your reports from your 9 visits in total have not been fulfilled, especially since 2010, while the report of the 2019 visit was allowed to be published after the conditions became outdated, and it was even decided to systematically ban family, lawyer and telephone rights in the September 2020 period immediately after the release of this report, while the 2022 visit report has not been allowed to be released since its submission, while there has been no news from Mr. Öcalan and other applicants for more than 40 months, while all ties with the outside world have been severed, your Committee's failure to follow the procedure set out in Article 10/2 of your convention in particular, and its tendency not to disclose the 2022 report as in the case of Azerbaijan, may lead to the further continuation of the systematic torture regime in İmralı."

The lawyers remarked that the CPT should abandon its usual procedures in the face of the extraordinary conditions in İmralı and called for the CPT to carry out the relevant procedures to eliminate the conditions of ill-treatment and the 'incommunicado' state, listing their demands as follows:

- Arrange an urgent ad hoc visit to İmralı Prison in the face of the fact that the current conditions in İmralı have continued in uncertainty and gradually hardened since your last visit on 22 September 2022, and that the conditions have reached a new level in a period of 2 years,

- Take all necessary initiatives to ensure that the current conditions of detention of the applicants are brought in line with human dignity, that all communication rights that will ensure and protect their ties with the outside world, especially visits by their lawyers and families, are fulfilled, and that systematic unlawful bans are put an end to,
- We demand that a coercive measure be taken to eliminate the conditions of torture, inhumanity and ill-treatment and the 41-month incommunicado state, that the procedure regulated in Article 10/2 of the Convention be initiated and declared, that the general observations made regarding the İmralı extraordinary isolation regime since the past, especially the findings made during the visit on 22 September 2022 be shared with the public, especially in the case that lawyer and family visits cannot be ensured as soon as possible, and that the visit report dated 22 September 2022 be added to the statement within the scope of the procedure.”

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Prisons

ÖHD exposes torture in Kocaeli No. 2 F Type Closed Prison

ANF | ISTANBUL | 16 AUGUST 2024

A press conference was held by the Istanbul Branch of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) about the torture of prisoners in Kocaeli No. 2 F Type Closed Prison.

The meeting saw the participation of many lawyers and was held at the association branch in Beyoğlu. ÖHD member Berivan Bekçi said that the guards behaved in a way incompatible with human dignity during the ward search. She added that the chief guard who participated in the search provoked the prisoners.

Berivan Bekçi said: "The chief guard told the prisoners, 'You are hurting me, you wrote my last name wrong in your petitions, you will call me T. Başkan'."

Bekçi added: "It was reported that after the search, prisoners M. A., M. D. and Adem Dinç were taken to another cell, and half an hour later, prisoner Adem Dinç was told to 'pack his belongings' and taken to his old cell. While Adem Dinç was packing his belongings, the chief guard threatened him and then two guards grabbed Dinç's arms, while another guard squeezed his throat. This time, the chief guard hit Adem Dinç in the face three more times. It was reported that due to these blows, the area around Adem Dinç's right eye was swollen and blood accumulated in his eye."

Continuous strip-searching reported

Berivan Bekçi also said that prisoner Adem Dinç requested a report of assault but was not given one and that she filed a criminal complaint against the guards.

Stating that Mehmet Şirin Tekmenüray, another prisoner, was strip-searched, Berivan Bekçi said that he too was tortured. Bekçi added that Tekmenüray was not given a report of assault despite requesting one, and added: "Despite writing a petition to the prison administration 3 times, no response was given. This situation is against international agreements and domestic law."

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Turkish Parliament rejects opposition's call for general discussion on imprisoned TIP MP Atalay

ANF | ANKARA | 17 AUGUST 2024

The General Assembly of the Parliament convened an extraordinary meeting upon the request of the opposition parties to discuss the Constitutional Court's decision regarding jailed TIP MP Can Atalay.

During the discussions, TIP MP Ahmet Şık was attacked by AKP's Alpay Özalan and other party members while giving a speech on the podium. Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Group Deputy Chair Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit was also attacked.

The opposition's proposal for a general discussion on the Constitutional Court's decision regarding TIP Hatay MP Can Atalay, was rejected by a majority vote.

The Parliament went into recess until 1 October.

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Release of sick prisoner postponed for the 5th time

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 18 AUGUST 2024

Naif Işçi (28), who was arrested after being detained in the Cizre (Cizîr), in the province of Şirnak (Şirnex) in September 2010, was tried for "committing a crime on behalf of an illegal organization without being a member of it", "making propaganda for an illegal organisation", "violating the law on meetings, demonstrations and marches" and "unauthorized possession and transportation of dangerous substances". He was sentenced to 24 years in prison. The Supreme Court reduced the sentence to 16 years, taking into account his young age. However, although the man has completed his execution period, he cannot benefit from his

right to conditional release. His release was in fact postponed for the fifth time on the grounds that he refused to show "remorse" and joined a hunger strike action in prison.

Ahlat T Type Prison Administrative and Observation Board postponed İşçi's release for 3 months with a decision issued on 1 August.

İşçi had a traffic accident shortly before his arrest and had a plate in his left leg. For this reason, his left leg became shorter, and he is now almost unable to walk.

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98% disabled prisoner released after spending 6 years in jail

ANF | 20 AUGUST 2024

Serdal Yıldırım was held captive in Istanbul Metris R Type Closed Prison for 6 years despite not being able to continue his life on his own.

Yıldırım was paralyzed from the waist down after suffering a traffic accident in 2009. He had more than 30 platinum pieces attached to many parts of his body. Although Yıldırım, who lives in a wheelchair, was given reports stating that he "could not stay in prison", his release was prevented on arbitrary grounds.

Yıldırım was eventually released from prison after 6 years.

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Military aggression and occupation

KCK: Iraqi government should not be a partner in the dirty policies of the occupying Turkish state

ANF | BEHDINAN | 17 AUGUST 2024

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) released a statement calling on the Iraqi government not to be a partner in the dirty policies of the occupying Turkish state and to attach importance to friendly relations with a perspective based on the interests of the Iraqi peoples.

The KCK statement on Saturday includes the following:

"The Turkish and Iraqi governments just recently held the fourth meeting of their so-called "high-level security initiative" in Ankara. The fact that the defense minister from the Iraqi side and the interior minister of the KDP from the Kurdish regional government attended the meeting sufficiently explains the agenda and purpose of the meeting. At its end, Iraq's foreign affairs minister, Fuad Hussein, who belongs to the KDP, stated that "any threat to neighboring countries originating from Iraqi territory is against our approval and principles. Countering these also means protecting Iraq's sovereignty". In other words, according to Fuad Hussein and the Iraqi government, the PKK is a threat, even though they do not mention its name. However, the PKK has never acted against Iraqi law. It has always cared about the security and interests of the Iraqi state and its peoples. Both the Iraqi state and the Iraqi people know this very well. They are the closest witnesses of the PKK's struggle against fascist ISIS gangs at great cost. That is why the Iraqi peoples have been friendly towards the PKK, and the Iraqi state has saluted the PKK for its resistance. Given this, how is it that the PKK is suddenly seen as a movement that threatens Iraq's security?

Obviously, the Iraqi government is deeply mistaken. It is the expansionist Turkish state that has occupied and annexed Iraqi territory hundreds of kilometers long and tens of kilometers deep. It is they who burn the nature of southern Kurdistan and the country of Iraq, who implement a policy of total destruction of nature, who forcibly displace the people, and it is they who started to control the ID's of the citizens, affecting their daily lives and interfering in everything. It was Erdoğan and the AKP state that nurtured ISIS in Mosul and attacked Syria and Rojava. It is the Turkish state that sent military forces to Bashiqa without the approval and consent of the Iraqi state, thus settling permanently in Iraqi territory and still trying to increase its power. The Iraqi government's failure to see this, or its consent to it and remaining completely ineffective, passive, and unresponsive to it, is incompatible with the reality of being an independent-sovereign state.

The sovereignty of Iraq has been officially trampled on by the expansionist and occupying Turkish state. The Iraqi government, instead of recognizing this, evaluating its rights arising from national and international law, and taking a stance against the expansionist and occupying Turkish state, is still setting up a "joint operation room against terrorism" in Baghdad. The decisions taken at the last security summit meeting held in Ankara mean the approval of the Turkish occupation, its perpetuation, and becoming a partner in it. It is clear that the Iraqi government, together with the expansionist and occupying Turkish state, is targeting the PKK and the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. In fact, if the Iraqi state had not approved the invading Turkish state's attack on southern Kurdistan and the establishment of dozens of bases, it would not have been possible for the invading Turkish state to act so boldly and increase its attacks despite international law.

The occupying Turkish state is trying to be effective in the Middle East with its neo-Ottomanist policy. It has a supremacist-expansionist complex that still sees many countries in the region, including Iraq, as its provinces. The main policy of the occupying Turkish state is to protect and develop its interests by creating chaos and crisis in the Middle East. For this purpose, it does not hesitate to use all kinds of ethnic and religious contradictions immorally. We call on the Iraqi government not to be a partner in these dirty policies of the occupying Turkish state and to attach importance to friendly relations with a perspective based on the interests of the Iraqi peoples."

Turkey attacks villages in Amadiya

ANF | 17 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 the villages of Mêcî and Burciyan in Amadiya district of Duhok province on Saturday.

The bombardment started a big fire and caused great damage to the houses and gardens of the local people. The flames could not be intervened due to intense bombardment.

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.

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‘Dialogue between Damascus and the Autonomous Administration has become a necessity’

ANF | 17 AUGUST 2024

The Secretary General of the Syrian Change and Renaissance Party, Mistefa Qelecî, spoke to ANHA about the attempts to create sedition and confusion in the North-East Syria region and the negotiation traffic between Ankara and Syria.

Mistefa Qelecî stated that it is important that the dialogue between Damascus and the Autonomous Administration continues. Qelecî said that all parties intervened in the conflict and crisis in Syria and used the region for their own interests, and that these forces fuelled the conflict in the region. “If the conflict and crisis in Syria end, there will be no need for all these forces to stay here. Therefore, they are trying to create discord so that the conflict will continue.”

Mistefa Qelecî emphasised the importance of dialogue between the Damascus government and the Democratic Autonomous Administration and said: ‘Dialogue is not an option; it has become a necessity. We must take this issue seriously. We must put national interests above other interests. The dialogue demanded from both sides is hope.’

Referring to the efforts for talks between Damascus and Ankara, Qelecî said: “There has always been a relationship between the Turkish state and Damascus. Therefore, the issue is related to the interests of states. Unfortunately, the Turkish state still dreams of realising the Misak-ı Milli [The ‘National Pact’ adopted 104 years ago that takes all Kurdistan, that is, the region including northern Iraq and northern Syria, within the borders of the Turkish state]. A possible agreement between the Turkish state and Syria is not in the interests of the Syrian people.”

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MSD assesses the current stage to outline a strategy for future actions

ANF | 18 AUGUST 2024

The stage Syria is going through is a crucial and historical one at the same time. It is crucial as it will determine the fate of the country, and it is historical because the future of Syria will be shaped by its own people. Therefore, the national democratic powers and all Syrians bear moral responsibilities, given what the Syrian people have been subjected to many tragedies. These tragedies include displacement, arrests, forcible disappearance, demographic change, occupation of their regions and a tragic living situation.

This situation imposes on Syrians, who seek the better future for their country, the need to develop policies and strategies on how to end this dire situation.

The Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) is considered one of the most prominent, national and democratic powers. It seriously considers this unresolved issue, facing challenges. In order to make crucial decisions, it was necessary to assess the stage in terms of political changes and developments. The aim is to determine the tasks entrusted to it at all levels.

Therefore, the MSD held its fourth conference under the slogan, “The unity of Syrians is the foundation of a political solution and a guarantee for a democratic and decentralized Syria”. The conference concluded by issuing decisions and outlining strategies at the national, regional, and international levels. Also, the MSD defined its expected tasks in the coming phase. Subsequently, a meeting of the MSD’s general offices was held, where the meeting members developed annual plans to implement the MSD’s policies and strategies, and created a vision for engaging in discussions of various issues with political parties. They also identified the tools and means to accomplish the assigned tasks and achieve desired goals.

Alliances at the National Syrian Level

One of the MSD’s primary tasks is to unite the Syrian people. This represents an objective foundation for a political solution and a guarantee for a democratic and decentralized Syria. This unity should include all sectors within diverse strategies capable of forming alliances at various levels. Social, cultural, religious, political, youth, women, and human rights groups should participate in these alliances. Moreover, they should involve working with democratic powers and figures to prepare for a conference of democratic powers and figures. Therefore, it requires identifying national democratic powers that can be a basis for this conference, playing a significant role.

Although it has been contacted by figures and powers and attended workshops in Europe and the Stockholm meetings, it is necessary in the coming phase to re-evaluate all these powers and initiate new dialogues with them. This aims to reach additional agreements beyond those previously reached. Also, it adopts a flexible and open policy based on the principle of common ground to end divisions created by the Syrian regime and regional and international forces.

Therefore, it is necessary to work on initial agreements to prevent any obstacles. Specific matters can be addressed in later stages, which would require the formation of specialized committees. Various tools can be employed to reach agreements, such as holding workshops that discuss different topics and seek to address them within available capabilities.

Thus, the unity of Syrians requires a work strategy that aligns with the circumstances of the present powers and figures. Efforts should be made within a national framework. It is crucial to hold dialogues and meetings in all Syrian regions on important issues. These issues include the unity of Syria, decentralization, an inclusive national identity, the state's neutrality towards religion, nationality, gender-equality, citizenship, and the withdrawal of all occupying forces. It is essential to emphasize that Syrian resources belong to the Syrian people and must be distributed fairly. Also, rights should be recognized and guaranteed in accordance with international legitimacy.

Following the completion of meetings in the regions held by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), a meeting can be held at the level of the entire North and East Syria region, leading to a general meeting at the level of the entire Syria. Preparatory committees can be formed to involve various powers and figures in these meetings. No one should be excluded from the political intra-Syrian dialogue.

To implement the MSD's expected tasks in accordance with the slogan of the fourth conference, it requires employing numerous innovative tools, methods, and approaches to achieve Syrian unity. The most important and fundamental aspect is to reach common ground, and to not limit Syrian unity to the political sphere.

Instead, the MSD should expand its efforts to include civil society and adopt a strategic approach in this context. There are common grounds among civil society organizations and unions in various Syrian regions. So, if there are alliances with many groups of intellectuals, lawyers, engineers, doctors, businessmen, youth and women's unions, in addition to tribes and clans, under the slogan of a better future for Syrians, it will make significant progress across all domains. Although achieving such a goal may face difficulties due to local, regional, and international interventions, it is not impossible.

Alliances at the Regional Level

Another MSD's crucial task at the regional level is to adopt community diplomacy and strengthen relations with democratic powers in the region. These powers also have a concern regarding authoritarianism, hegemony, and regional and international interventions. Civil, feminist, and youth alliances can be developed at the level of civil society in all its sectors. Common ground can be created with hundreds of democratic organizations based on their specificities regarding general principles that unite them in various fields. This serves as a strategic deterrent at the regional level against the policy of siege imposed by many regimes. These regimes aim to eliminate national, democratic and political powers, and civil society in all its sectors. The technological progress, which has facilitated communication and networking, should be exploited. This will help to create a democratic regional movement and can lead to the formation of an alliance of national and democratic powers at the regional level. This task falls within the MSD's strategic responsibilities.

Alliances at the Global Level

As a result of globalization, many issues have become common among forces, societies, and peoples world-wide. Despite the specificities of peoples' living conditions based on their geographic location, they can find common ground. Relationships can be strengthened with all these powers based on shared principles. In the 20th century, many alliances were formed at the class level. As a result of globalization and through technological progress, it is possible to re-establish stronger and more effective alliances.

Summary

The MSD, at this critical juncture, faces significant tasks at the local, national, and regional levels. These tasks should resolve the outstanding issues amidst the global crisis and chaos. There are great opportunities resulting from the collapse of many regimes. Additionally, there are many fields for establishing new regimes and moving within a strategic vision at multiple levels and stages. This will contribute to saving peoples in Syria and the world from tyranny, injustice, and terrorism. The aim is to achieve freedom, gender-equality, and justice.



SOHR says Turkey sent a large number of mercenaries to South Kurdistan

ANF | 18 AUGUST 2024

According to information confirmed by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), the number of mercenaries recruited by Turkey to fight in the Kurdistan Region in North Iraq has exceeded 550. It was reported that these mercenaries will be under the paramilitary structures such as Al-Hamza, Sultan Suleyman Shah, and Sultan Murad.

The SOHR said that Turkey sent a new group of 150 people to the Kurdistan Region.

In July 22, SOHR sources reported that Turkish authorities were forcing hundreds of fighters to fight as mercenaries against the PKK in South Kurdistan.



Fire started by Turkish attacks in villages of Amêdiyê continues to rage

ANF | 18 AUGUST 2024

Due to the bombardment of the occupying Turkish army, a fire broke out Friday around the villages of Mijê and Kevne Mijê in Amêdiyê district, Duhok province, in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Due to the continuous pressure and attacks of the occupying Turkish army, the people of the two villages had to migrate from their villages before. Apart from the villagers, no state institutions and officials visit these villages.

According to reports from the ground, many vineyards and gardens belonging to citizens were burnt in the fire. The fire, which started yesterday evening, continues to rage as the flames have not yet been brought under control as fighter jets continue to fly over the area affected by the fire. It is customary for the Turkish army to retarget previously shelled areas as soon as relief measures are initiated.

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), 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.

HPG pays tribute to commander Alan Milazgîr and guerrilla doctor Sara Tolhildan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 19 AUGUST 2024

HPG commander Alan Milazgîr and guerrilla doctor Sara Tolhildan were killed in tunnel resistance against the Turkish occupation forces in the Zap region. The People's Defense Forces (HPG) made this public in an obituary on Friday. Regarding the circumstances of the deaths of the two fallen soldiers, the HPG explained that Alan Milazgîr and Sara Tolhildan had carried out a Fedai action against a base in order to protect fighters in a tunnel system from attacks by the occupiers.

The attack, described by the HPG as a "selfless offensive strike", was reportedly intended to protect the tunnel system named after Doğan Savaş in the guerrilla area of Sîda and took place at the end of June; a high-ranking officer was killed. The underground tunnel system in Sîda was particularly badly affected by the use of chemical warfare agents and other banned weapons by the Turkish army. Invading troops tried to take over the facility for around three years.

"Driven by the spirit of apoism, our friends who were involved in the tunnel resistance in Sîda showed an almost superhuman will. They accomplished something historic when they fought back the genocidal and NATO-armed colonial state of Turkey and its occupying army for three years. Alan Milazgîr and Sara Tolhildan are two of these heroes. The traces their names leave in history will always show us the way," explained the HPG. The organization provided the following information about the personal data of the fallen:

Code name: Alan Milazgîr

First and last name: Ender Budancer

Place of birth: Mûş

Names of mother and father: Hazal – Nusret

Date and place of death: June 21, 2024 / Zap

Code name: Sara Tolhildan

First and last name: Leyla Aykut

Place of birth: Adana

Names of mother and father: Gevre – Aziz

Date and place of death: June 21, 2024 / Zap

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Turkish state continues its military deployment to South Kurdistan

ANF | 19 AUGUST 2024

According to Rojnews, dozens of military vehicles belonging to the Turkish state were dispatched to the village of Guherzê in the Amêdiyê district of Duhok on Sunday night.

The entire military deployment is being carried out under the protection of the KDP. Armored vehicles are moving in the occupied areas with the Kurdistan Region flag. The KDP is protecting the Turkish soldiers.

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8 soldiers killed in guerrilla actions in memory of martyrs

ANF | BEHDINAN | 19 AUGUST 2024

The Press Office of People's Defense Forces (HPG) released a statement providing information about the actions carried out by the Martyr Doğan Zinar Unit by aircraft in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The HPG statement on Monday includes the following:

“Between 12-18 August, the bases of the occupying Turkish army in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region were targeted by our Martyr Doğan Zinar Unit by aircraft. The invaders in Girê FM, Girê Amediyê and Girê Bahar Resistance Area were hit from the air 7 times. As far as we could clarify, 8 invaders were killed, 11 invaders were injured, 1 air defence system and 6 positions were damaged as a result of the actions.

These actions are attributed to the memory of all our martyrs in the person of our Apoist self-sacrificial commanders, comrades Alan Milazgîr, Berwar Dêrsîm and Sara Tolhildan.”

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4 wounded as Turkey bombs a village in Afrin-Shehba Canton

ANF | 19 AUGUST 2024

Kamikaze drones of the occupying Turkish army bombed Bêne village in Sherawa district in the Afrin-Shehba Canton, injuring 4 people.

According to reports from the ground, drones targeted the vehicle of a citizen named Abu Zeku from the village of Kafr. Abu Zekûr was wounded as a result of the attack.

After the attack, citizens gathered in the area were also targeted by drones. Three more people were wounded in the second attack.

Tse wounded civilians, who were identified as Heyder Mihemed (45) from Benê village, Yûsif El Aric (27) from Ziyaretê village and Mistefa Rifet Şêxo (28) from Meydan Ek Beze village, were taken to Til Rifat hospital and Avrîn hospital in Fafîn district.

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Turkish attacks against South Kurdistan continue

ANF | 19 AUGUST 2024

Citing local sources, the Rojnews agency reported that Turkish warplanes bombed the town of Mangêşk in Duhok, southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) on Monday.

No information has been obtained yet on the damage caused by the bombardment on Mangêşk town, 30 kilometres from the centre of Duhok.

Local sources stated that a fire broke out in the region as a result of the bombardment.

It is reported that local people intervened in the fire, which, however, has not yet been brought under control.

Background

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), 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.

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Turkish drone hits Qamishlo

ANF | QAMISHLO | 20 AUGUST 2024

A missile fired by a Turkish combat drone hit the centre of Qamishlo on Monday. The missile narrowly missed the ophthalmology department of the local heart and eye clinic and hit the road.

Four people who were outside the hospital were injured, some seriously, the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Northern and Eastern Syria (DAANES) said.

The attack occurred in the late afternoon at around 4 p.m. local time (3 p.m. Central European Time) just a few meters from the entrance to the eye clinic, which is located in the central Sinaa district and very close to the Qamishlo Stadium. Photos show that the missile shot holes in the wall of the building. The shock wave from the impact also shattered the windows of several cars in the area.

Drones war against Rojava

Turkey has been using drones to deliberately attack the civilian population, the Autonomous Administration and the military units in the region for years. The airspace over Syria is controlled by the USA and Russia. The international community is ignoring the drone terror that began in June 2020 with the murder of three representatives of the women's umbrella organization Kongra Star in Kobanê.

According to data from the Rojava Information Center (RIC) and the Autonomous Administration, Turkey has already carried out more than 110 drone attacks on the region this year. At least 28 people were killed and over 50 others injured.



Turkish drones bomb villages in South Kurdistan

ANF | 20 AUGUST 2024

Unmanned combat drones of the Turkish state have bombed parts of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The attacks Tuesday morning targeted villages near Şarbajêr and Balekayetî, the RojNews agency reported, citing sources in the affected areas. It is unclear whether any people were injured. It is also not yet possible to estimate the extent of the damage caused.

According to RojNews, the target of the attack in Şarbajêr was the village of Birzut at the foothills of the massif of the same name in the town of Mawet, which is located in the north of the Sulaymaniyah governorate and a good 200 kilometres from Turkish territory. In the Balekayetî region, the village of Gundê Jor was attacked. The village is part of the town of Haçî Omeran, which is located around 180 kilometres north-east of Hewlêr (Erbil). The KRI authorities have not yet commented on the attacks.

Attacks by Turkey that violate international law have been routine in southern Kurdistan for years. The Turkish air force regularly bombs the territory of the KRI and Iraq, especially where PKK guerrillas are suspected. But civilian settlements are also regularly attacked by the Turkish army. With its aerial terror, Ankara is pursuing a targeted policy of displacement - in particular by destroying civilian infrastructure. The aim is to drive out the guerrillas and permanently occupy KRI territories.

Since Turkey expanded its occupation offensive 'Operation Claw Lock' in South Kurdistan in 2022 June, there have been daily attacks in the region. According to the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Iraqi Kurdistan, at least nine civilians have been killed by Turkish terror since the beginning of the year. Dozens of villages have been forcibly evacuated to make way for new Turkish army bases. The CPT estimates that hundreds of families have lost their homes as a result of the war in Kurdistan over the past two months.



139 ISIS members among the Turkish-backed mercenaries in occupied areas in North-East Syria

ANF | 20 AUGUST 2024

The Centre for Documentation of Violations announced its report on the ISIS members among the mercenaries of the Turkish state in the occupied territories in North-East Syria.

The report mentions the names of 139 ISIS members and ringleaders active within the 'Jaysh al-Watani' group in the regions occupied by the Turkish state and affiliated gangs. The mentioned ISIS members are said to be present in occupied Afrin, Azaz, Girê Spî, Serêkaniyê, Bab and Jarablus region, acting together with the mercenaries of the Turkish army.

According to the report, Omer El Hecî Sultan is one of the ISIS members close to the ringleaders of ISIS. He comes from Syria and is now based in Gire Spî (Tal Abyad). On the other hand, Ebû El Wefa El Tûnisî, a former intelligence officer from Tunisia, is now operating in Serêkaniyê as the ringleader of ISIS.

ISIS ringleaders Ebû Bekir El Bexdadî, Ebû Îbrahîm El Qureşî and Ebû Hisên El Qureşî were previously killed in the occupied territories during operations by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the International Coalition.



Koçer: We are not at a war with Damascus government

ROJ DENİZ/OMER HORO | DEIR EZ-ZOR | 21 AUGUST 2024

Deputy co-chair of the Executive Council of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Northern and Eastern Syria, Hesên Koçer, told ANF that the alliance that the Turkish state has made with some Arab states is an attack on the Kurdish-Arab unity and alliance. He underlined that the Autonomous Administration will continue to stand against the liquidation of the Kurds and their gains. Koçer said: "We have to protect our revolution; our people, our democratic system, our gains."

Koçer spoke about the attacks by Damascus forces and Iranian-backed gangs on the Deir ez-Zor Canton on 7 July, the role of the Turkish state in these attacks, and the Turkish state's plans for the region. Koçer said that the attacks had two main purposes: to create instability and chaos that will spread from Deir ez-Zor to all of Northern and Eastern Syria and to start a Kurdish-Arab war.

Koçer said that those involved in these attacks were gang groups affiliated with the Damascus government, and added that the Damascus government directed and coordinated this attack. "As a result of these attacks, civilians were killed. Many homes were destroyed, and civilian areas were damaged."

The Turkish state wants attacks to continue

Koçer noted that the Turkish state wanted the attacks to continue and therefore wanted to develop relations with the Damascus government and liquidate the Autonomous Administration, and added: "These attacks serve the interests of the Turkish state. These attacks on Deir ez-Zor prove that the Damascus government is not at the service of the Syrian people. It serves the Turkish state and other external powers. This situation does nothing other than deepen the Syrian crisis and spread the chaos within Syria even further. This is their real goal, anyway."

Turkey wants to eliminate Kurds and their gains

Koçer said that the aim of the Turkish state's efforts to form an alliance with Syria and Iraq is to liquidate the Kurdish people and the gains of the people of the region. He added that the attacks by the Turkish state on the region and the plans to cross into Syrian territory are not only to liquidate the Kurdish people because "they target all the peoples in the region. Turkey wants to realize the Ottoman dream. It wants to take the regions occupied by the Ottomans back under its own rule. It has established hundreds of mili-

tary points in Iraq. It has occupied many cities in Syria. In this way, it is trying to establish its own power over the region. In this sense, both the regional states and especially Iraq and Syria need to stay away from such alliances. Unfortunately, today, Turkey is trying to liquidate the gains in South Kurdistan and Rojava through the alliances it has made with these powers."

'Our main goal is to protect our gains'

Noting that the stance and unity of the Kurdish people here is very important, Koçer continued as follows: "The attacks on Rojava show that Turkey's problem is not a party or anything. Its aim is the destruction of democratic forces, the democratic system of the people, their gains and the unity of the people. This is the policy of the Turkish state. Similarly, these latest attacks on Deir ez-Zor are not disconnected from this policy. The attitude displayed by the Arab people in the face of these attacks is especially valuable. The fact that the Kurds also stand by the people of Deir ez-Zor has presented a very good example of the unity of the peoples. As the Autonomous Administration, our main goal is to protect our gains. No one can easily take away the gains we have achieved with great effort and cost for 12 years. We will continue our unity and struggle. The Kurdish-Arab unity needs to develop much more. The alliance that the Turkish state has made with some Arab states is an attack on the Kurdish-Arab unity and alliance. This must be well understood and emphasized."

'We want a political solution through dialogue'

Emphasizing that the Autonomous Administration is making efforts to establish a dialogue with the Damascus government and to politically resolve the Syrian crisis, while at the same time defending themselves from the attacks, Koçer said: "What we did in Deir ez-Zor is to engage in our own self-defense. We engaged in our legitimate defense. The Damascus government is the one attacking and killing civilians. We do not attack anyone unless we are attacked. We have to protect our people, our democratic system, and our gains. If the military path is chosen as a solution, this will cause Syria to experience worse results. The fundamental reason for this crisis that has been going on for 12 years is precisely that the military path is still being chosen. No discussion, no dialogue. As the Autonomous Administration, we want political dialogue. We want to protect Syrian territory and solve the Syrian problems together with all Syrian components. We do not want to fight, but if there is an attack, we will respond. We do not want a war with the Damascus government. Yet, if we are attacked again, we will not hesitate to respond. We have to protect our revolution."

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Guerrillas carry out actions in Zap and Metîna

ANF | BEHDINAN | 21 AUGUST 2024

Two drones belonging to the Turkish occupation forces were shot down by HPG (People's Defense Forces) and YJA Star (Associations of Free Women) in the region of Zap in South Kurdistan.

The HPG Press Center said on Tuesday in an overview of the war events of the last three days that the shooting down of the two small drones took place on Saturday and Sunday in the Girê Cûdî and Girê Bahar areas, which lie on the western front of the Zap.

Guerrilla units carried out four further operations in the same area on both days. As a result of those operations, a soldier was injured, and helicopter activities were countered twice by guerrilla artillery. In addition, female fighters fired heavy weapons at a group of soldiers.

In Metîna, the guerrillas targeted a construction machine on Sunday. The badly damaged machine is said to have been used to expand a military road that is supposed to lead to the Serê Metîna resistance area. "Construction work was stopped during the operation," said the HPG statement.

Almost 50 air strikes by the Turkish army

As for the latest attacks by the Turkish army in South Kurdistan, the HPG said that their tunnels beneath the Girê FM were bombed at least eleven times with prohibited explosives over the weekend. Another attack by the Turkish army with banned bombs targeted Girê Amêdî.

The HPG also recorded at least 46 air strikes by Turkish fighter jets in the same period. The towns of Kolît, Qele, Lolan, Şehîd Şerîf, Sinînê and Berbizinê, and thus parts of Xakurke, were bombed 14 times. A further 18 air strikes were directed against Zêvkê, Deşta Kafya, Girê Kun, Zengil, Girê Sîser, Kanî Sarkê and Dola Mêranê in Gare.

In Metîna, bombs fell on Dergelê, Şêlazê, Beşîlî and Serê Metîna ten times, and on the western front of the Zap region, Girê Bahar was bombed four times.

The HPG recorded further attacks in Serê Metîna on Sunday.



More village guards hand over their weapons refusing to fight in South Kurdistan

ANF | 21 AUGUST 2024

More and more members of paramilitary village guards in North Kurdistan are refusing to obey an order from the Turkish army for a cross-border military operation against the PKK guerrillas in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Most recently, it was announced in the province of Siirt (Sêrt) that ten village guards had quit their service.

Due to state threats, some of them have left their villages to protect themselves and their families.

Village guards in Hakkari (Colemêrg), Amed, Mardin (Mêrdîn) and Şîrnak have also left the service of the Turkish state because they did not want to take part in the occupation operation in South Kurdistan. The

ten men from the villages of Belenoluk (Hêşeta Berêspî), Söğütönü (Nureşîn) and Bentsköy (Serxanis) in Sêrt-Berwarî (Pervari) had already temporarily laid down their weapons in the past. After being ordered to go on a mission again, they refused, saying that they had no business in North Iraq.

Warning from HPG

A warning from the HPG guerrillas also apparently played a role in the decision. Anyone who betrays their own people will sooner or later face the consequences, the People's Defense Forces (HPG) declared three months ago and explicitly called on the village guards not to take part in the major invasion of the Medya Defense Areas.

Tense atmosphere in villages

The atmosphere in the villages in Siirt is tense. A local resident, who wanted to remain anonymous for security reasons, told Yeni Özgür Politika that there was a division in the population and said that some village leaders had not given up paramilitary service. Others who had given up their weapons were being pressured to leave the villages. "People are being threatened, - he said - not openly and directly, but subtly. Four or five people have left the village because of the threat. They are now preparing to move to other cities. This is not only the case here. The situation is similar in other districts. People are supposed to take part in the operation for money, but many refuse."

Village guards

Village guards are Kurdish paramilitaries in the service of the Turkish state. The village guard system was established in Turkey in 1985 to combat the Kurdish liberation movement and has its roots in the Hamidiye Regiments in the Ottoman Empire. The paramilitary units, founded according to tried and tested colonial methods, are now officially called the "Security Guard" and are used as local experts and cannon fodder in Turkish military operations in Kurdistan. Their mission also includes foreign missions.



Infiltration attempt in a village of Manbij foiled

ANF | MANBIJ | 21 AUGUST 2024

Turkish-backed mercenaries attempted to infiltrate the village of Mahsanli in Manbij Canton at around 05.30 in the morning.

Faced with the response of the Manbij Military Council, one of the mercenaries was killed and many others were wounded in the ensuing clash.

The Manbij Military Council announced in a statement on Wednesday that their fighters prevented the infiltration attempt. 3 drones bombarded the village and material damage occurred as a result of the attack.



İlham Ehmed: Either the Damascus government will accept us, or it will face a new wall

ANF | QAMISHLO | 21 AUGUST 2024

The workshop organised under the leadership of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) under the slogan 'Defining the Kurdish identity and the Syrian people in the democratic nation system' continues at the Zana Hall in Qamişlo.

İlham Ehmed, Co-Chair of the Department of Foreign Relations of Northern and Eastern Syria, took the floor in the second session titled 'Kurdish Political and Organised Identity Formed After the Revolution and the Perspective of the Solution to the Kurdish Question'.

Stating that great changes took place with the 19 July Revolution, İlham Ehmed said: "In the 13 years since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, an important dimension has been reached in the solution of the Kurdish question in Northern and Eastern Syria. There is a process of struggle in Syria and Rojava. Since 2011, however, another stage has been entered. Before the revolution, the struggle carried out by Kurdish parties in Syria was organised at their own level. Since 2011, it has taken a different form. The process of gaining rights, cultures and relations between peoples in Syria has started a new process."

İlham Ehmed drew attention to the legacy of the Freedom Movement in Syria and Rojava and talked about the gains of the revolution. "Many prices have been paid for the recognition of the identity of the Kurdish people. Many successes have been achieved to this end. Some groups, parties or individuals are working against this success. They especially target the Kurdish language. They oppose it with science, and some of them are not even in that science. For example, the regime does not accept children who study in our Kurdish language schools. This is wrong, it is a lack of faith in the future. There are tens of thousands of children studying in our schools."

İlham Ehmed continued: "It is not possible to go back to before 2011. There are nearly one million students. On the basis of this lack of awareness and undeveloped struggle, they want to violate the rights of a society. The longing of all Kurds was to send their children to school in their mother tongue one day. Today that longing has been fulfilled here. However, these counter-policies weaken the struggle of the Kurdish people. Our society should not allow this. This is the most important and fundamental achievement of the revolution."

Drawing attention to the military forces of the revolution, İlham Ehmed pointed out that the whole people should protect their own forces. "One of our other achievements is our military forces. With this power of ours, the world is forming coalitions. This coalition will lead to legitimacy. The existence of defence forces is a necessity. Those who blackmail have mental illnesses, and they do it on purpose. We should protect our forces and be proud of them. The world says it is a disciplined force. At this level, our power is acceptable."

Îlham Ehmed stated that the institutions of the Democratic Autonomous Administration are on duty against all kinds of attacks and said, “It is a success in the establishment of the Autonomous Administration, from communes to assemblies and institutions. We have criticism, but we should not be disappointed. There are attacks by the Turkish state against our service institutions. Our institutions are working against many attacks. It is not right to stand against institutions. We stand by the gains of the revolution until death. Voluntary participation is important for institutionalisation.”

“One of the achievements of the Kurdish revolution is the creation of a new consciousness,” said Îlham Ehmed, “If life is organised according to this new consciousness, then it means that the revolution has succeeded. However, this has not been done completely. The history of Kurds is always full of resistance. Kurdish resistance is for a new life. This struggle is fought in our revolution. We have prevented many attacks and plans through the alliance of peoples.”

“The solution of the Syrian issue will be based on the solution of the Kurdish question,” Îlham Ehmed said, drawing attention to the Damascus government's approach to the Kurdish question. Ehmed continued, “The right to the Kurdish language should be included in the Syrian constitution. Our fundamental right should be fulfilled. The right to self-organisation should be established. The regime should finally change. A decentralised self-government system should be accepted and the state should not be centralised. Either the regime will accept us, or it will face a new wall. Many meetings were held in search of a solution to the Kurdish question. The regime refuses to provide even 2 hours of education in Kurdish, i.e. it completely denies the right to the Kurdish language. They do not allow a Kurdish party.”

Drawing attention to the alliance of Kurdish parties, Îlham Ehmed stated that the people should play their part. Remarking that consensus is important for unity, she stated, “It is called Kurdish or national alliance. If there is no agreement between the parties, there is no national alliance. Consensus at the top level is important. In fact, society can play a role in this issue. If the society insists on this issue, if it has the will, believe me, it will bring the parties to the table within a week. So far, the society has not played a role. The society should say ‘either you will come or we won’t accept you’. Our society should have concepts and projects.”

Îlham Ehmed remarked that there are opportunities and dangers ahead of the Kurds in the coming days. “In Syria, Iraq and Turkey, there is an insistence on not recognising the Kurdish identity. For example, every success in Bashûr (Southern Kurdistan, Northern Iraq) was taken away from them, and the Turks were brought to Bashiqa through the latest alliance. This means that the Iraqi issue will be handled by Turkey. They are trying to destroy all the gains of the Kurds. Turkey's role is great. The Turkish state is also in alliance against Northern and Eastern Syria. Deir ez-Zor is an example of this. The current situation is not encouraging. There are risks, but there are also opportunities for success. There is a need for ownership and protection.”

HPG pays tribute to guerrilla Berwar Dêrsîm

ANF | BEHDINAN | 22 AUGUST 2024

Guerrilla commander Berwar Dêrsîm fell as a martyr. According to the Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG), the Turkish army carried out a comprehensive military operation in the Glîdax area in the Serhed region of North Kurdistan from 7 to 10 August. There were heavy clashes with the guerrillas.

Guerrilla Berwar Dêrsîm was reportedly killed in battle in Glîdax on 8 August. She was commander of the Free Women's Units (YJA Star) in the Serhed region and was a member of the command council of the HPG and YJA Star as well as the special unit Hêzên Taybet.

"Our comrade Berwar was a free Kurdish woman with great courage and self-confidence," the HPG said in an obituary, adding that she dedicated her life completely to the fight for the freedom of her people and women and was a great revolutionary and teacher of free living.

The HPG expressed their condolences to her family, the people of Serhed and the people of Kurdistan and provided the following information about her identity and biography:

Code name: Berwar Dêrsîm

First and last name: Seyran Çomak

Place of birth: Wan

First and last name: Mihnaz-Sultan

Date and place of death: 8 August 2024 / Serhad

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Afrin Liberation Forces claim responsibility for a number of actions

ANF | 22 AUGUST 2024

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) carried out a series of retaliatory actions, in which one Turkish soldier and 8 gang members were killed.

The HRE shared the following details about the actions: "On 13 August, an invader was neutralized in an assassination attack on the Mare line, and the next day, on 14 August, bases belonging to the occupying Turkish army in the Mare and Bab regions were targeted.

In these actions, one Turkish soldier was killed, and 3 soldiers were injured.

On 16 August, another attack neutralized a gang on the Mare line. On 17 August, another action was carried out on the Sherawa line. HRE forces infiltrated enemy positions in the region and completely destroyed them. The action was expanded by targeting other invaders who were trying to escape and hiding in tunnels. In the action carried out, a total of 6 gang members were killed and 9 were injured.

As a result of these actions, the HRE also seized some enemy equipment. It was recorded that as a result of the actions taken, a total of one Turkish soldier and 8 gang members were killed, while 3 Turkish soldiers and 9 gang members were injured."

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Turkish drone strikes Asayish building in Qamishlo

ANF | QAMISHLO | 22 AUGUST 2024

Turkey is attacking the autonomous region of North and East Syria with drones on an almost daily basis.

An Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UAV) of the occupying Turkish state targeted the building of the Internal Security Forces (Asayish) in Qamishlo on Thursday.

According to reports from the ground, the attack took place in the Enteriye neighbourhood in the morning and resulted in injuries. Rescue and health teams have been dispatched to the site and the neighbourhood has been cordoned off by security forces.

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Internal Security Forces: Our will to resist Turkey's attacks is stronger than ever

ANF | QAMISHLO | 22 AUGUST 2024

An Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UAV) of the occupying Turkish state targeted the building of the Internal Security Forces (Asayish) in the Enteriye neighbourhood of Qamishlo this morning.

In a statement about the attack, the Internal Security Forces said the following:

"While the fascist Turkish army's attacks against the security and stability of our people continue, material damage occurred today as our military headquarters in the city of Qamishlo was targeted.

This attack is a psychological war against the people of the region and is aimed at preventing our forces from fulfilling their security and peace duties, responding to citizens' complaints and providing the necessary services to protect their security and peace.

These attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish army try to prevent us from fulfilling our duties towards our people and our regions, but our will to resist these attacks which undermine the security and stability of the regions is stronger than ever.”



Turkish airstrikes target Şarbajêr and Asos

ANF | 22 AUGUST 2024

An unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) of the occupying Turkish state bombed the village of Gelale in Şarbajêr district of Sulaymaniyah on Thursday.

On the other hand, Turkish fighter jets shelled the Asos Mountains in the border region between southern and eastern Kurdistan (Iraq-Iran).

There is no information yet about damage and possible casualties in the area of the mountain about 60 kilometers north of Sulaymaniyah.

The PJAK (Kurdistan Free Life Party) and the YRK (Eastern Kurdistan Defense Forces) are particularly active in the Asos Mountains, which lie a good 200 kilometers from the Turkish-Iraqi border. The Turkish army regularly attacks the region.



803 more IDPs living in camps in Hewlêr return to Mosul

ANF | 22 AUGUST 2024

The Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement announced that 803 more IDPs living in the Behirke and Herşem camps in Hewlêr (Erbil) have returned to their homes in Mosul.

According to the ministry, the returnees have been provided with the necessary material and moral support.

The Ministry stated that they continue to register the names of IDPs who want to return to their lands and to ensure their return.

In its statement, the Ministry pointed out that they continue their follow-up work to provide material and humanitarian assistance to the returning migrants.



HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Rosîda Mêrdîn, Mazlum Doğan and Berxwedan Qamişlo

ANF | BEHDINAN | 23 AUGUST 2024

Guerrillas Rosîda Mêrdîn, Mazlum Doğan and Berxwedan Qamishlo fell as martyrs last March. The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) said in a statement that Rosîda Mêrdîn was a long-time media worker and commander of the Free Women's Units (YJA Star). Mazlum came from Afrin and Berxwedan was an Arab internationalist. Both fought against ISIS in Rojava. The HPG expressed its condolences to the families of the martyrs and the people of Kurdistan and stated that the freedom struggle continues.

The HPG provided the following information on the identity of the martyrs:

Code name: Rosîda Mêrdîn

First and last name: Emine Demir

Place of birth: Mêrdîn

Names of mother and father: Yıldız–Nezir

Date and place of death: 17/3/2024 / Medya Defense Areas

Code name: Mazlum Doğan

First and last name: Besam Ali

Place of birth: Efrîn

Names of mother and father: Mehe – Adnan

Date and place of death: 17/3/2024 / Medya Defense Areas

Code name: Berxwedan Qamişlo

First and last name: Amir Ahmed El Casim

Place of birth: Qamişlo

Names of mother and father: Siham – Ahmed

Date and place of death: 1773/2024 / Medya Defense Areas

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Kurdish guerrillas carry out actions in Zap and Metîna

ANF | BEHDINAN | 24 AUGUST 2024

The Kurdish guerrillas continue to resist Turkish occupation troops in the Medya Defense Areas. According to a report on the current war situation in the region presented by the Press Office of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) on Friday, enemy troops have been attacked by the guerrillas at least ten times in the last three days.

The HPG detailed the actions as follows:

“Metîna region

On 20 August, Turkish soldiers in Serê Metîna were attacked twice by guerrillas of the Free Women's Units (YJA Star) with heavy weapons. In addition, helicopters circling over the Bêşîlî and Dergelê resistance areas were targeted and forced to turn around. On 21 August, a military position in Golka was shelled and damaged.

Western front of the Zap region

On the western front of the Zap region, the guerrillas first took enemy troops in the area around the Girê Cûdî hill under artillery fire on 20 August, and then attacked the soldiers in Girê Amêdî with medium-heavy weapons. In Girê Bahar, a Turkish soldier was shot dead. On 21 and 22 August, three further actions followed in Girê Amêdî, in which occupying troops were confronted with heavy military equipment.

Attacks by the Turkish army

As for the attacks by the Turkish army, the HPG reported that their underground tunnel systems in Girê FM was bombed with improvised explosive devices at least seven times in the period covered by the statement.

In addition, Turkish troops carried out a further 29 attacks on guerrilla areas using combat aircraft. Nine of these air strikes affected targets in Xakurke, and 17 other locations in Gare. The HPG recorded three air strikes in Zap and Metîna. In addition, several combat helicopters were deployed in Xakurke, Metîna and on the western front of the Zap."

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Two wounded as village guards attack people in Ağrı countryside

ANF | AĞRI | 24 AUGUST 2024

In the village of Bazirgan (Yukarı Satıcılar) in the Diyadin district of Ağrı, the village guards, who often attack the residents, targeted a family this time.

As a result of the enmity that started two years ago due to the village guards' desire to seize the village land, the village guards raided the village, set many houses on fire and attacked the residents. Despite the attacks, the villagers did not leave their land.

The village guards attacked the village again in the morning. When the residents responded, the village guards used guns and seriously wounded two people, one of whom was a woman.

The health teams dispatched to the scene took the injured woman to Ağrı Research Hospital, but she was transferred to Erzurum due to her serious condition. The other wounded person is still being treated at Ağrı Research Hospital.

While the tension in the village continues, entry to and exit from the village has been 'banned.' It is not yet known whether the state has taken any measures against the village guards.

Village guards

Village guards are Kurdish paramilitaries in the service of the Turkish state. The village guard system was established in Turkey in 1985 to combat the Kurdish liberation movement and has its roots in the Hamidiye Regiments in the Ottoman Empire. The paramilitary units, founded according to tried and tested colonial methods, are now officially called the "Security Guard" and are used as local experts and cannon fodder in Turkish military operations in Kurdistan. Their mission also includes foreign missions.

Feminicide

PYD Women's Assembly Congress: “We must unite to protect our people”

ANF | HESEKE | 20 AUGUST 2024

The Democratic Union Party (PYD) Women's Assembly convened its 3rd congress with the slogan "The philosophy of Jin, Jiyan, Azadi is the guarantee of a moral, political and democratic society"

The congress held in Serdem Hall in Heseke is attended by 400 delegates from the other three parts of Kurdistan and abroad.

Representatives of YPJ (Women's Defense Units), Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, Democratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM), Syrian Democratic Assembly (MSD) and Kongra Star are also participating in the congress.

Making the opening speech of the congress, which started with a minute of silence, PYD Co-President Asya Abdullah stated that 19 August was the anniversary of the martyrdom of Sewsên Bîrhat and commemorated the fallen commander.

Asya Abdullah remarked that, "In this congress, we commemorate the commander and his fighters with respect and gratitude. As women, in order to protect our identity and embrace our history, we must march within the framework of the philosophy of Jin, Jiyan, Azadî [Woman, Life, Freedom]."

Drawing attention to the absolute isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Asya Abdullah said, "As the Women's Assembly of the Democratic Union Party, we must increase our struggle to end the isolation of Leader Abdullah Öcalan and ensure his physical freedom."

Asya Abdullah also called for strengthening the struggle with the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' against the dirty policies against women and the power and capitalist system.

Pointing to the achievements of Kurdistan women, Asya Abdullah said, "Women laid a strong foundation with their achievements and wrote their names in history. We can defend ourselves with YPJ. The free woman who stands against her enemy resists for her identity, for the democratic nation project and to live the philosophy of Leader Abdullah Öcalan."

Asya Abdullah concluded, "We women must unite to protect ourselves and our people. We must stand against occupation and demographic change. We must work together to protect our revolution."

After Abdullah's speech, the PYD Women's Assembly presented awards to the members of the Women's Assembly of Martyrs' Families.

During the congress, Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan's evaluations were read, followed by a screening about the work of the PYD Women's Assembly in the last two years.

The congress continues with the evaluation of the activities of the assembly.



New femicide in Urfa

ANF | URFA | 23 AUGUST 2024

G. Ç. (60) killed his wife Gülizar (59) with a firearm in the rural neighborhood of Gogan (Yukarı Göklü) in the district of Xelfetî (Halfeti) in Urfa (Riha).

The people around called the medical teams that arrived at the scene and took the seriously injured woman to Halfeti State Hospital, where she lost her life. Her body was taken to the morgue of the Urfa Forensic Medicine Institute for autopsy procedures.

On the other hand, it was learned that G. Ç. also killed N. K. (50), with whom he allegedly had a feud, in the rural neighborhood of Derto (Dergili) with a firearm before killing his wife. Ç. was arrested and sent to the Urfa T Type Closed Prison.

JinNews said that 21 women and 4 children were murdered in July, while 22 women and 2 children lost their lives under suspicious circumstances.



DBP Women's Assembly: Free press members will be the voice of truth in every way

ANF | 23 AUGUST 2024

The Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Women's Assembly made a written statement paying tribute to women journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn who were murdered in an aerial attack by the fascist Turkish state in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq today.

The statement said: "Today, a car carrying journalists in Sulaymaniyah was bombed by a Turkish airstrike. We were deeply saddened to learn that two female media workers, Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahaddin, were killed in this attack. We condemn this massacre against free press labourers and Kurdish women journalists. We wish a speedy recovery to the journalists who were reported injured in the attack."

The statement continued: “The AKP-MHP fascist regime, which makes politics over the genocide of the Kurdish people, continues its dirty games by trying to expand the battlefield in Southern Kurdistan with new reconciliation agreements. The AKP-MHP regime, which is against the Kurds, wants to realise its Neo-Ottomanism dreams by drastically occupying Kurdistan lands. The administration of the Federal Region of Kurdistan, which paved the way for the occupation and became an accomplice, also caused the massacre of the children of Kurdistan. The people of Kurdistan will never accept this. KDP must immediately stop being a partner in this disgraceful crime. With such attacks, they are trying to silence the free press and hide the war crimes they commit in Kurdistan so that they do not reach the world public opinion. However, it should be known that the labourers of the free press tradition, in the pursuit of truth, will not melt the pen of their friends on the ground and will be the voice of truth in every way. We express our condolences to the Kurdish people.”

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CFWIJ urges Turkey to cease its ruthless targeting of journalists

ANF | 23 AUGUST 2024

The Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ) condemned the deadly Turkish airstrike which claimed the lives of two female journalists in Sulaymaniyah city in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq earlier today.

The vehicle struck by Turkish UCAV belonged to Chatr Production, a media company operating in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). The free press workers in the vehicle were targeted while they were working for a television programme. Journalists Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara were martyred in the attack, while Chatr Production Supervisor Rêbîn Bekir (30) was wounded.

In a statement on its X account, CFWIJ said: “Women Press Freedom mourns the devastating loss of Kurdish journalists Gülistan Tara and Hero Bahadin, who were tragically killed in a targeted attack by the Turkish army in Sulaymaniyah. Six other journalists were injured in this senseless assault. We strongly condemn this cowardly act of violence against these journalists who championed truth and press freedom. Our hearts ache for their families and colleagues. We demand the Turkish army cease its ruthless targeting of journalists in the Kurdistan region and call for swift justice and accountability.”

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MKG and DFG: No pressure, threat or attack can silence the voices of journalists

ANF | 23 AUGUST 2024

The Mesopotamian Women Journalists Association (MKG) and the Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) made a joint statement regarding the attack carried out by the Turkish state against free media workers in the Seyidsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah.

The statement said: "Attacks against journalists are not limited to Sulaymaniyah. In the airstrike carried out by Turkey on 20 November 2022 in Derik, a district of Northern and Eastern Syria, 9 people, including Hawar News Agency reporter Isam Ebdullah, lost their lives and 3 people were injured. Similarly, on 24 August 2023, a Turkish drone attacked a vehicle carrying JIN TV employees on the Qamishlo-Amudê road, resulting in the death of JIN TV employee Necmeddin Feysel Hecî. In a Turkish drone attack on Shengal on 8 July 2024, Çıra TV reporter Murad Mirza Ibrahim lost his life. In the same attack, Çıra TV employees Mydia Hussen and Khalaf Khdir were injured."

The MKG and DFG added: "Freedom of the press is one of the cornerstones of democratic societies, and no amount of pressure, threat or attack can silence the voices of journalists who are determined to uncover the truth and follow the truth. The Free Press is the most fundamental guarantee of the public's access to accurate information. However, this guarantee is being weakened every passing day by targeting courageous journalists who follow the truth. However, despite all this pressure and attacks, we, as journalists, will never give up our determination to follow the truth. The power of truth will grow with every voice that is tried to be silenced."

The statement continued: "These painful events in which our colleagues lost their lives are painful proof of how journalists fulfill their duties under difficult conditions. Gulistan Tara, Hero Bahadin, Isam Ebdullah, Necmeddin Feysel Heci and Murad Mirza Ibrahim are journalists who worked selflessly to ensure that the public learned the truth and lost their lives in the line of duty. We reiterate that we will keep their memory alive with our pens and cameras."

The two organizations wished "a speedy recovery to our injured colleagues, and offer our condolences to the families of our lost friends and to all our friends who struggle in the tradition of the free media. We respectfully bow before the memories of Gulistan Tara, Hero Bahadin, Isam Ebdullah, Necmeddin Feysel Heci, Murad Mirza Ibrahim and Nagihan Akarsel."

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YRJ: The Turkish state and the KDP are the murderers of journalists and women

ANF | QAMISHLO | 24 AUGUST 2024

The Women's Press Union (YRJ) made a press statement on the deadly Turkish attack in Sulaymaniyah city of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) yesterday (23 August) in which two journalists were martyred.

The statement was made in the Mihemed Şêxo Culture and Art Centre in Qamishlo with the participation of media workers and journalists, who displayed a banner with images of the two slain journalists, Gülîstan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn, and chanted the slogan 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' [Woman, Life, Freedom].

The statement in Kurdish was read by YRJ member Hebûn Omer, who strongly condemned the attack against journalists and expressed condolences to the families of martyred journalists and all free press employees.

The statement pointed out that targeting journalists is an inhuman and immoral offence against free thought and said: “The free press has bravely highlighted the awareness towards occupation and its actions, and, therefore, it has always been the target of the occupiers. The invading Turkish state is one of the most criminal states in terms of human rights violations and actions against journalists. In its history, it has always tried to hide its black face and immoral actions by murdering and arresting journalists. The Turkish state, an enemy of women and journalists, targets free press workers in order to distort and conceal the truth. The brutal attack on Gülistan Tara, a leader of the free women's press tradition, the pillar of truth, and our colleague Hêro Bahadîn was carried out for the same purpose.”

The statement said that the attack on the journalists comes at a time when a dangerous and corrupt alliance between Iraq and Turkey, mainly based on the cooperation and espionage of the ruling KDP party in the Kurdistan Region, has been established against the Kurdish people and the freedom movement.

Pointing out that the attack was a result of this corrupt alliance, the statement said, “We see these forces as directly responsible for this brutal attack. The occupying Turkish state must be prosecuted for these crimes against journalists. For this, we call on Kurdistan and world public opinion not to remain silent.”

The statement pointed out that journalist Gülistan Tara, who was a student of Mazlum Doğan and Gurbeteli Ersöz, became a great follower of the truth with her pen and camera for 24 years, and said: ‘Martyr Gülistan Tara has done many works to enlarge the legacy of the free women's press and displayed a pioneering position.’

The statement said that Hero Bahadîn is a female journalist from Southern Kurdistan and has become a torch of truth with her brave stance against the occupation of the occupying Turkish state and the line of betrayal.

The statement commemorated all martyrs of the free press in the person of journalists Gülistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn and said, “We bow in front of their sacred memory. We will fight with great determination to protect and grow the legacy of the martyrs, and we will follow in the footsteps of our fallen comrades.”

Pointing to the occupying Turkish state and its spy KDP as the perpetrators of deadly attacks against journalists and women, the statement emphasised that the will of the free women's press will never be defeated by these brutal attacks.

The statement concluded: “There is a breath of captivity and freedom in Kurdistan. As long as there is a free women's press, the flag of the freedom struggle in Kurdistan will remain high. As the free women's press, we will follow Gurbeteli Ersöz, Gülistan Tara, Hêro Bahadîn, Rosida Mêrdin and all the martyrs of the free press with great determination and courage under all kinds of attacks. We will fight with greater determination with our pen and camera for the protection and dissemination of this legacy throughout Kurdistan.”

TJK-E: Attacks will neither silence the free press nor stop the Kurdish freedom struggle

ANF | 24 AUGUST 2024

The Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe (TJK-E) released a statement calling for protests following the deadly Turkish drone attack on female journalists in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The statement released by TJK-E on Saturday includes the following:

“Gülistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn, two Kurdish Free Press workers, were killed in a Turkish drone attack. We condemn with hatred this despicable attack carried out by the AKP-MHP fascist regime, which makes politics over the genocide of Kurdish women and people, and we express our condolences to the free press workers, their families and our people. We promise to keep Gülistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn's dreams of a free life alive.

The AKP-MHP fascist regime wants to realise its Neo-Ottomanism dreams through genocide and occupation policies. The collaborator and treasonous KDP administration, which is a partner of these genocide and occupation policies, is an accomplice in this crime against humanity. It is responsible for the massacres. Attacks by the Turkish state are not limited to Southern Kurdistan. The Autonomous Administration forces and civilians are also massacred in Rojava and Shengal, and a war is being waged against the Kurdish language in Northern Kurdistan. The concept of the fascist AKP-MHP regime is being implemented. But these attacks will neither silence the free press nor stop the Kurdish freedom struggle.

On this basis, we once again commemorate the Kurdish Free Press workers Gülistan and Hêro with love and respect. We call on all women, our people and democratic public opinion to take a stance against betrayal and genocide and to participate in the actions to be organised under the leadership of TJK-E.”

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Ecocide

Occupation forces kidnap 6 civilians, burn thousands of trees

ANF | 19 AUGUST 2024

The Violations Documentation Centre published a report on the crimes committed by the occupying Turkish state and affiliated gangs.

According to the report, the Turkish-affiliated ‘Jaysh al-Watani’ gang kidnapped Heysem Elî Elî (41) and his brother Rifet Elî Elî (36) from Afrin’s Jindires district and their aunt Rifet Cem from Berad village of Sherawa district. Mensûr Xosanî and his brother Mihemed Xozanî from Dera were also kidnapped by the mentioned gang group.

On the other hand, the Sultan Silêman Shah (Emşat) gang kidnapped some citizens in Mermitik village in Shiye district.

Local sources reported that the gangs also kidnapped a person named Riya Ebdurehman Hesên (42) from Telefê village of Afrin in Azaz city and took him to their centre in Bilbilê district.

A person from the Qelemûn region who settled in Afrin sold the house of a person named Mûsa El Mûsa to a person named Mihemed El Îsa Abu Zubeyîr from the southern countryside of Aleppo.

Meanwhile, gangs affiliated to the al-Hamzat group burnt thousands of trees near Feqira village in Jindires district and the cillage of Zara in Bilbil district.



Fire on Mount Shengal brought under control early this morning

ANF | 21 AUGUST 2024

A fire broke out in the Şêxmend region and Dirêcê villages located west of Mount Shengal. The fire was brought under control in the early hours of the morning.

According to RojNews, the Autonomous Administration and the Êzîdxan Security are making great efforts to extinguish the fire. The Shengal Autonomous Administration called on the people of Shengal to reach the fire area and support them.

The fire had quickly spread to the Gêra Qîraniya, Milê Hasan and Xezalê regions. YBŞ-YJŞ fighters eventually managed to bring the fire under control.

Hundreds of trees, vineyards and gardens on the mountain were burned.

This is the second time this year that a fire has broken out on Shengal Mountain for an unknown reason.



Human Rights Violations

Three Syrians imprisoned in Mersin over photos with YPG flag

ANF | MERSIN | 18 AUGUST 2024

Seven people have been imprisoned in Mersin for their posts on social media. A total of 15 people were detained on 14 August during house searches in the central districts of Akdeniz and Tarsus. The people concerned were questioned at the police headquarters in Mersin and brought before the courts on Friday. The public prosecutor's office applied for arrest warrants for twelve people for 'terror propaganda' and for three people from northern Syria for membership of a banned organisation.

While eight of the detainees were released, Namık Kocakaya, Cihan Parlak, Nihat Elçik and Kemal Özlü were remanded in custody for 'terror propaganda'. Adil Mustafa and two other people from northern Syria were jailed for "membership in a terrorist organization" for allegedly sharing photos taken twelve years ago in front of the People's Defence Units (YPG) flag.

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At least 50 people abducted in Afrin and Azaz in 14 days

ANF | 18 AUGUST 2024

According to a report by the Violations Documentation Centre, the Turkish state and affiliated mercenaries abducted at least 50 people in Afrin and Azaz between 1-14 August. Both regions are under the occupation of the Turkish state and ruled by a terrorist regime.

Among those abducted are children and women. The Documentation Centre listed the names of the abductees as follows:

Hesen Elî Elî (47), Mihemed Elî Elî (33), Ebdurehman Resûl (42), Mihemed Ebdurehman (55), Mihemed Mistefa Fewzî (44), Omer Mihemed Reşîd Elo Gêlo (35), Bahoz Edhem Îbrahîm Hemkelî (27), Ehmed Xelîl Elî, Xelîl Îbrahîm Şawtî, Ciwan Hemîd Horo, Mihemed Seîd Omer (43), Omer Mihemed Elo, Ednan Mihemed Elî Hecî (63) ve oğlu Elî Ednan Hecî (20), Azad Mihemed Reşo (40), Reşîd Şukrî Reşîd (53), Zekereya Horo (60), Ziyad Horo (25), Mihemed Mihyedîn Cemal (34), Mihemmed Seydo Mistefa (29), Mehmûd Mihemed Qertel (32), Ziyad Mihemed Mihemed (24), Cihad Mihemed Îbrahîm (50), Mihemed Îbrahîm (32), Selah Ehmed Siwêdan (54), Mihemed Îsamîl (22), Ciwan Silêman (23), Ehmed Mihemed Mistefa (46) and Ebdurehman Hesen (58).

On 8 August, the gang group 'Jaysh al-Watani' kidnapped Nermin Adel Mihemed, her son and her brother, Malid Adel Mihemed, in Azaz city.

According to the statement, the ‘Military Police’, a paramilitary criminal apparatus established by the Turkish state in the occupied territories, kidnapped İlham Naso and his wife Fexri Reshid Hemo and their sons Shiyar (4) and Gıvara (14) in Merata village of Afrin on 13 August.

Fehime Resho and Luey Mihemed Hemo (24), Emir Hemu, Nuri Hemo, Xelil Resho, Ebdurehman Hemo, Ferhan Reshid Hemo, Rengin Hemo, her husband Ehmed El Ehmed and her son Nasser El Ehmed are also among those abducted.

The report said that in the first 14 days of August, ‘Jaysh al-Watani’ gangs raided many houses in the customs building on Rajo Street in Afrin and abducted many people, including Nuri Mistefa Hisên, Ebdo Mistefa Ehmed, Luqman Seydo (38).

The Documentation Centre stated that most of the abducted people were sent to unknown locations and their fate is unknown.



Three construction workers imprisoned in Balıkesir for listening to Kurdish music

ANF | BALIKESIR | 22 AUGUST 2024

Three construction workers were arrested in the western province of Balıkesir for listening to Kurdish music in a park.

Özgür İpek, Mehmet Arın and Cemal Güzel were listening to Kurdish music in Atatürk Park in Altıeylül district in the evening when police officers asked for their ID cards on the grounds of ‘complaints from the neighbourhood residents’. When the three men refused to give their ID cards saying that they were only listening to music, the police used violence and detained them.

Kadir Güzel, brother of detained Cemal Güzel, stated that his brother and his friends were attacked by tens of police officers and some people in the neighbourhood during their detention. The three workers who were detained by violence were also attacked in the detention centre and were not allowed to get a medical report.

After the procedures at the police station were completed in the morning, the three workers were referred to Balıkesir Courthouse. They were charged with ‘making propaganda for an illegal organisation’ and ‘resisting the police’ and referred to the court with a demand for their arrest. Appearing before the Criminal Judicature of Peace, the three men were remanded in custody on the same grounds.



Two media workers killed in Turkish drone attack near Sulaymaniyah

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 23 AUGUST 2024

Turkish UCAV bombed a vehicle carrying free press workers in Seyidsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah today. According to reports, the vehicle belongs to Chatr Production, a media company operating in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The free press workers in the vehicle were targeted while they were working for a television programme.

According to the latest information, Gülistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn lost their lives as a result of the bombing. Rêbîn Bekir (30), a resident of Sulaymaniyah and responsible for Chatr Production, was wounded in the attack. Rêbîn Bekir is reported to be receiving treatment in a hospital in Sulaymaniyah.

Turkey has been using drones for the extralegal killing of ‘enemies’ in southern Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) for years. The targets of the attacks are people who are in any way associated with the PKK by the Turkish state. From this perspective, this also includes the entire autonomous region of North and East Syria. More than 110 drone attacks have already been recorded there this year alone, many of them with fatal consequences. Hardly a day has gone by in the KRI in recent weeks and months without an attack or mobility by Turkish drones. The international community is ignoring this air war by the Turkish state against the people of Kurdistan.

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Many taken into custody in Istanbul and Mardin

ANF | 23 AUGUST 2024

At least nine people from the Kurdish democratic opposition have been detained in Istanbul and Mardin on Friday.

Those detained during raids in Istanbul and taken to the Turkish police's counter-terrorism (TEM) department early in the morning include the co-chairs of the DEM Party Esenyurt district organisation, Rojda Yılmaz and Abdullah Arına.

In Mardin, at least 7 people were detained in the raids conducted by gendarmerie and police in the Mazıdağı district in the morning. Detained people were taken to Mardin Provincial Security Directorate TEM branch, accused of ‘making propaganda for an illegal organisation’.

Political operations against the Kurdish democratic opposition take place almost daily in Turkey. Anyone who is politically, socially or civically active never knows when they go to sleep whether their front door will be smashed down by the police in the morning. The main target of the operations is activists and

those involved in the HDP's successor, DEM Party. The third largest party in the Turkish parliament is accused of having links with the PKK. The party rejects the accusations and criticises the action taken against its members and supporters as politically motivated.

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RSF alarmed by surge in violence against journalists in Iraqi Kurdistan

ANF | 23 AUGUST 2024

Since the end of June, against a backdrop of political tensions in Iraqi Kurdistan, one journalist has been killed by an airstrike, at least five have been detained and another sentenced to three years in prison. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) calls on the Kurdish authorities to protect journalists working in the region.

Medya Kemal Hassan, a 21-year-old TV journalist, is still recovering from the shock of coming under fire from an armed drone on 8 July, when she was wounded in the back and her colleague, **Murad Mirza Ibrahim**, 27, a fellow employee with the Kurdish media outlet *Çira TV*, was fatally injured.

They were returning from covering the 10th anniversary of Islamic State's seizure of Tal Qasab, a village in northern Iraq's Sinjar (Shengal) district, when the drone opened fire, causing Ibrahim to be thrown from their vehicle. Badly injured, he died three days later.

"I called for help but there was no one there to help me," she said. "At the checkpoint, I shouted to the soldiers that my colleague was about to die, and they finally agreed to help us." [According to some Kurdish media outlets](#), the drone that fired on them was operated by Turkish armed forces that have been carrying out operations across the border between Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan.

Since June, RSF has seen an increase in arrests of Kurdish journalists and violence against them by the various actors present in Iraqi Kurdistan. This is taking place amid growing tension in the run-up to parliamentary elections in the region in October, which is fuelling rivalry between the pro-Turkish ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and the main opposition party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"Iraqi Kurdistan is becoming increasingly dangerous for journalists. The airstrike that killed Murad Mirza Ibrahim more than a month ago remains unpunished. The same goes for violence against journalists by local security forces. We call for an investigation into Ibrahim's shocking killing. We also call on the Kurdish authorities to end the intimidation and violence for which they are responsible. Journalists in Iraqi Kurdistan must be able to work in complete safety, at a time when political rivalries are peaking," said Jonathan Dagher, Head of RSF's Middle East desk.

Spate of arrests of journalists

RSF has observed a surge in press freedom violations since late June, including attacks against journalists, arrests and a conviction, bringing the number of journalists currently detained in Iraqi Kurdistan to three:

3 August: The ruling KDP's "Asayish" security forces attacked reporter **Omed Baroshki** and other journalists and activists as they tried to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the death of **Wedad Hussein Ali**, a *Roj News* journalist [killed](#) on 13 August 2016. The security forces beat Baroshki, handcuffed him and detained him for several hours. A month earlier, Baroshki was the subject of a police warrant ordering him to appear in court in Duhok, a city in the north of Iraqi Kurdistan, on 15 September to stand trial. When arrested on 22 February and then released on bail the next day, he says he was charged under the law on misuse of communication devices, and not the press law.

29 July: **Suleiman Ahmed**, a Syrian Kurdish journalist who edits the Arabic section of the Kurdish news website *RojaNews*, was sentenced to three years in prison by a court in Duhok for alleged affiliation to the Democratic Union Party (PYD). Arrested in October 2023 while crossing the border between Syria and Iraqi Kurdistan, Ahmed has been detained arbitrarily in Iraqi Kurdistan ever since.

13 July: *Channel 8* reporter **Nijyar Mohammed** and photo-journalist **Behez Akreyi** were detained for several hours after being arrested while covering Turkish military advances in the city of Duhok. **Murat Yazar**, a Rome-based Kurdish photo-journalist with Turkish nationality who won a 2024 Pulitzer Foundation grant, was arrested the same day while working on his documentary project on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. His family had no news of him for eight days, until his release on the evening of 21 July. "I was under intense psychological pressure due to the promises of imminent release that were repeated every day but did not materialise," he told RSF.

26 June: **Ahmad Shamki**, a reporter for the Kurdish news website *7 ROJ*, was arrested in Duhok district for allegedly defaming the mayor of the town of Sheladze while investigating the allocation of a public contract. He was released on bail three days later. "The mayor warned me that if I did not drop the investigation within 24 hours, he would file a complaint against me. I refused, explaining to him that I was simply doing my job as a journalist," he told RSF.

Caught in the crossfire between old rivals

RSF pointed out that: "Since Iraqi Kurdistan won autonomy in 1992, conflicts between the many actors present in the region have increased the threats to journalists. As well as the rivalry between the ruling KDP and opposition PUK, and the armed PKK, these actors include the Baghdad-based Iraqi government, the Kurdish security forces known as the Asayish, and the Turkish armed forces, which are backed by the region's pro-Turkish political parties. Turkey occasionally launches [airstrikes](#) against those they accuse of being "militants" affiliated to the PKK, which Turkey regards as a "terrorist organisation."

‘There is a local and intelligence intervention in the Turkish attack against journalists’

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 23 AUGUST 2024

An UCAV of the occupying Turkish state targeted a vehicle belonging to the media company Chatr Production carrying Kurdish journalists in the Seyidsadık district of Sulaymaniyah earlier today. Journalist Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara were martyred in the attack, while Chatr Production Supervisor Rêbîn Bekir (30) was wounded.

Kemal Heme Reza, General Manager of Chatr Production, made a press statement and said:

“The Turkish state undoubtedly carried out this attack, which resulted in the martyrdom of two journalists, as a result of local and intelligence intervention. Some media organisations put forward the lie that those martyred in the attack were PKK fighters. All those martyred and wounded in the attack are journalists and have nothing to do with politics.”

Reza said that Gulistan Tara was from Batman province in North Kurdistan. Hêro Behadîn was born in Sulaymaniyah and was from the village of Tîmarin. Rêbîn Bekir was also from Sulaymaniyah.

Kema Heme Reza called for upholding the truth against media outlets spreading false rumours.

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"Bring the killers of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn to justice"

ANF | 24 AUGUST 2024

Kurdish journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn were killed in the bomb attack carried out by the Turkish state on a vehicle in the Seyîdsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah (Silêmanî). Six other journalists, including Chatr Company director Rêbin Bekir (30), were injured.

Trade unions, associations and political parties protested the attack and called for the killers to be brought to justice.

IHD condemned killings of journalists

The Human Rights Association (IHD) said in a statement that “Kurdish media workers continue to be the target of bombs. Kurdish media and journalists, who were tried to be silenced with disappearances in custody and bombings of newspaper buildings in the 1990s, continue to be the target of bombs. On Friday, as the result of a drone attack on a vehicle in Sulaymaniyah in the Kurdistan Regional Government, two

female Kurdish journalists (Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn) lost their lives. As human rights defenders, we consider this incident a massacre of journalists. It is known that Turkey has been conducting military operations in the region for some time.

We call on the Iraqi Government, the Republic of Turkey and the Kurdistan Regional Government to take responsibility bringing the killers to justice. We also demand that the details of the attack be facilitated for independent institutions to investigate. Free Media cannot be silenced.”

DEM party: the pens will not remain on the ground

The Women's Assembly of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) also issued a written statement, saying that the targeting of the vehicle carrying journalists was a deliberate and organized attack. “By targeting women journalists who exposed the attacks on the Kurdish people and women in the Federal Kurdistan Region, an attempt was made to cover up the war crimes committed in the region. The aim of this attack is to deepen the annexation and occupation policies and to prevent an international reaction against such policies.”

The statement continued: “These attacks on the Kurdish people, the gains of the Kurdish people, and the struggle for freedom have been carried out by agents and paramilitary forces before. Our journalist Nagihan Akarsel was murdered in Sulaymaniyah as a result of one of these attacks. The imperial powers and paramilitary structures that carried out this attack will not be able to intimidate the struggle of the Kurdish people, women, or women journalists.

We will not allow the war crimes committed to be covered up with civilian massacres. The Federal Kurdistan administration must immediately make a statement about these killings. It must expose the powers behind this massacre and hold them accountable. Otherwise, it will be directly responsible for and a party to these killings. Just as we keep our journalist Nagihan alive with her ideas, writings and struggle wherever we are, we reiterate our promise that we will keep the struggle of our comrades Gulistan Tara and Hero Bahadin alive as well. The pens of Kurdish women journalists of the free media will not remain on the ground.”

DISK BASIN IŞ: Attacks must end

DİSK Basın İş posted a statement saying, “Journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn lost their lives in the attack on the vehicle carrying journalists in Süleymaniyah. Journalists who ensure the public's right to receive news and who perform a public service in this sense are also civilians, and international laws prohibit the targeting of civilians and therefore journalists in any type of conflict. We condemn this attack on our colleagues and offer our condolences to their families. All attacks on journalists must end immediately.”

Hêro Bahadîn's father: 'They bring the enemy to Kurdistan and slaughter our children'

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 24 AUGUST 2024

Bahadîn Abdullah, the father of Hêro Bahadîn, who was martyred in an airstrike by the occupying Turkish state that targeted journalists in the Seyîdsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah yesterday, spoke to the press.

Bahadîn Abdullah condemned those who are hostile to the Kurdish people and those who are partners in the arrival of these enemies to Kurdistan and said: "They slaughter our children with our money and oil. It is death itself and a great shame for the KDP-affiliated Anti-Terror Organisation to have distorted this incident."

Bahadîn Abdullah stated that the attacks against the Kurdish people should not be accepted by the United Nations and human rights organisations, "The attacks have crossed all borders. Many people like my daughter have been massacred," he added.

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CPJ: Turkish authorities should swiftly investigate the deadly attack against journalists

ANF | 24 AUGUST 2024

An UCAV of the occupying Turkish state targeted a vehicle belonging to the media company Chatr Production carrying Kurdish journalists in the Said Sadiq district of Sulaymaniyah on Friday. Journalist Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara were martyred in the attack, while Chatr Production Supervisor Rêbîn Bekir (30) was wounded. All three journalists worked for Chatr Multimedia Production Company.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic August 23 drone strike that killed two journalists and injured a third in Iraqi Kurdistan," said Yeganeh Rezaian, the CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists) interim MENA program coordinator, in Washington, D.C. "Turkish authorities should swiftly investigate this attack and determine if the reporting team was targeted for their work."

Rebin Bakir, an Iraqi video editor and social media officer injured in the August 23 attack, is in stable condition after treatment at Shar Hospital in Sulaymaniyah for broken legs and hands, according to Hawzhin Shwan, a Sterk TV reporter and anchor, who spoke to CPJ.

The three were on a reporting mission in an unmarked car along the Sulaymaniyah-Halabja road near the village of Goptapa when they were hit, Kamal Hamaraza, head of Chatr Multimedia Production Company, told CPJ, adding that they were journalists "with no direct or indirect connection to politics or military activities."

“We have faced ongoing threats from Turkish attacks due to our consistent coverage of their operations and violations in the Kurdistan region,” Hamaraza said.

Salam Abdulkhaliq, spokesperson for the Kurdistan Region Security Agency, told CPJ that the agency “will publish publicly if they issue anything.”

CPJ stated that their email requesting comment from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations did not receive a response.

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Interview

Mustafa Karasu: Isolation of Abdullah Öcalan is unlawful and arbitrary

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In this interview, Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the isolation of the Kurdish people’s leader, Abdullah Öcalan, and the importance of the 15 August 1984 breakthrough, when the PKK fired its first bullet.

The total isolation of Kurdish people’s leader Abdullah Öcalan continues, while at the same time, protests against it are also growing. How do you assess this current situation and the latest developments?

Before evaluating the isolation of Rêber Apo, I congratulate Rêber Apo on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of 15 August, the national Resurrection Day. Likewise, I congratulate all our freedom fighters and our people.

An intense isolation is being imposed on Rêber Apo. Just last week, comrade Besê evaluated it in more detail. So I just wanted to point out some specific points. In order to justify the continuation of the isolation, special war propaganda is being conducted. So they keep making up lies to fool people and change the agenda. Just the other day, they said that they would like to give Rêber Apo his right to hold meetings, but that it is our movement that would prevent this. This situation has not been going on for a day, a week, or a month; it has been going on for years.

Why don’t they let him meet with his family or lawyers for years? They are making baseless propaganda, creating lies and deception, but of course no one will believe this. The whole world knows how sensitive we are about Rêber Apo. In fact, there is no other movement in the world that is so protective of its leader. Even though Rêber Apo has been in captivity for 26 years and, since then, has been isolated, our movement, our leadership, and our people are protecting Rêber Apo with all our means. We are waging a strug-

gle in line with Rêber Apo's ideology and policy. The rumors that there are problems between him, our movement, and our people or that our movement does not want to meet with Rêber Apo are completely false and black propaganda.

Rêber Apo is in total isolation, and an intense struggle against this is taking place. In fact, the responsibility of the struggle for his physical freedom now goes far beyond the movement and the Kurdish people. It has become a responsibility that people around the world are taking on. The fact that 69 Nobel Prize-winning intellectuals have signed a petition for the freedom of Rêber Apo and sent letters to international organizations and the Turkish government has clearly demonstrated that the physical freedom of Rêber Apo has become the demand of all humanity. This isolation is unlawful and arbitrary; it has no legal basis.

They openly admit that they are afraid that if they were to allow his meetings, Rêber Apo would start talking, which would have a great impact on society and politics. The genocidal policies of the Turkish state would be exposed and harmed. This is the essential reason why they prevent any meetings. They express this themselves in different ways. According to what we have recently learned, a delegation of the Turkish state openly confessed during their meetings in Europe that Rêber Apo was expressing his thoughts and giving a message to the people, and that is why they are not letting him meet with the outside world. To deny a prisoner, a political prisoner, or rather a hostage, any contact is completely arbitrary and has no justification. Everything they cite as alleged justifications is lies and false constructs. The struggle against this situation continues and will continue. Certainly, we, our people, and humanity will not give up the struggle for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo and will develop it.

The Turkish state and its policies have been exposed, and because they have been exposed, they are resorting to all methods of special warfare. The fact that the Turkish state is resorting to special warfare propaganda and making black propaganda, claiming, for example, that our movement does not want to meet with Rêber Apo, shows how stuck it is. It cannot give a reasonable justification for why it has not allowed the lawyers or the family to come to Imralı for years. This reflects the reality of the Turkish state. It is a state that is based on special warfare. Its policy against the Kurds does not conform to any law, politics, or morality.

The essence of its fight against the Kurds is a war of perception and lies, a war to deceive and distort societies. Nothing the Turkish state says regarding the Kurdish question should be believed. Society, politicians, and the world should not fall for their lies. Lying, distortion, not showing the truth, and deceiving the world and society are the basic characteristics of this state. What kind of fascist power the Turkish state is is clearly understood from the isolation and psychological warfare against Rêber Apo. Many intellectuals and writers around the world are demanding his release. Their embrace and solidarity need to be seen as part of the global struggle for freedom and democracy.

Rêber Apo's thoughts and paradigm are of high significance not only for the Kurdish people, the peoples of the Middle East, or Turkey, but for all of humanity. At a time when capitalist modernity is corrupting society and the world, Rêber Apo's paradigm is a prescription for the salvation of humanity. In this respect, the people see his struggle for freedom as their own struggle for freedom. That is also the reason why solidarity with him is growing exponentially.

15 August 1984, marks the 40th anniversary of an essential breakthrough in your movement. It was a day of resurrection that is being celebrated today in Kurdistan and in many parts of the world. The significance of the day is often assessed, and attempts are made to classify it correctly, but what I would like to ask specifically is what particular consequence 15 August had on the prisons. You were in the infamous prison of Amed (Diyarbakir) during that period. How was the 15 August breakthrough reflected in prison?

Before coming to my answer to your question, I would like to commemorate comrade Agit, the commander of the 15 August breakthrough, with gratitude and respect. Comrade Agit was the commander who initiated and gave the spirit of this struggle. I also commemorate with gratitude and respect comrade Erdal, comrade Huseyin Mahir, comrade Zeki Shengali and comrade Atakan Mahir, who were also martyred in the month of August. Also, I want to commemorate with gratitude and respect comrade Alan Malazgirt and comrade Berwar Dersim, whose martyrdom was recently announced by the People's Defense Center (HPG). Hundreds and thousands of our friends were martyred in the month of August; I commemorate them all with respect. All of them were following in the footsteps of comrade Agit. They fought in the most difficult conditions and overcame the greatest difficulties in order to make the breakthrough of August 15 a success.

When the breakthrough of 15 August took place, we were in prison. At that time, the pressure in prison had eased thanks to the January 1984 resistance within the prison. During that time, a family came to visit us. They told us that the friends had come to the Botan region and that they were making preparations in order to start guerrilla warfare. This news was sent to boost our morale. At first, I didn't tell anyone this information, since I could not confirm whether it was just a rumor or already a fact. I didn't tell anyone for a few months. Then I only told one friend about it. When the breakthrough finally took place on 15 August 1984, the friends around me immediately became curious; there were discussions about who had made this move and who knew about it.

Previously, during the death fast in 1982, we knew that our friends were making preparations and planning armed action because of information brought through the families. We heard that our movement was making preparations and wanted to regroup and fight. Our contact with the outside was very limited, and we received partial information about forming a guerrilla towards the end of 1983. We also received a part of a book called "The Kurdistan Problem and the Way of Solution." This book was brought by a friend who was exiled from Xarpet (tr. Elazig) to Amed. We tried to evaluate this information and these books, but we just reached limited results. The impact was all the greater when we heard of the 15 August breakthrough. This move relieved a great burden on the friends. They realized that the tortures were not in vain and that the suffering they had endured for standing up for this cause became meaningful on 15 August.

The enormous impact of 15 August on the prisons eliminated the corrosive effects of the previous pressures. Until then, there had been resistance, but it had worn out because of the great pressure. On 15 August, everything changed. Already after 14 July, there was a significant change, and the struggle and belief were reinforced. A new period had begun in the prisons, both in terms of organization and resistance, but 15 August took this to a whole new level, and everyone gained new morale. It made the friends realize the importance and value of their resistance and suffering. This was a very crucial development.

On 15 August, the role of the prisons changed. The prison resistance served as a bridge in the period between 1980 and 1984, when there was just very limited struggle on the outside. After the military coup in 1980, our party retreated. In this process, the prison resistance filled this gap and formed a bridge of resis-

tance through 14 July and the death fast. 15 August had an important impact on the formation of this resistance. In addition, one of the most important effects of August 15th in prison was the failure of the state's prison policies.

The Turkish State aimed to intimidate and surrender those imprisoned, and then execute the leaders of this resistance. But when 15 August took place, even before, when they could not liquidate the movement, but instead it became a peoples struggle, the situation radically changed. The guerrillas entered the country in 1983, and the Turkish state launched operations against the Medya Defense Areas, such as Operation Sun and the operations in the Behdinan region. Because they could not crush the movement, and essentially because Rêber Apo made a great effort to recover the movement, the Turkish state started to carry out executions everywhere. They executed civilian and judicial prisoners. At this time, it was our movement that carried out the most armed actions against fascists, gangs, spies, and those who oppressed the people in Turkey.

Before the military coup of 12 September 1980, for the first time in the mountains of Kurdistan after 1938, bigger weapons were used. At that time, in groups of ten, big weapons were used, not just pistols. These weapons were used for self-defense while they moved in the mountains. There were some clashes; gendarmes and soldiers were killed, and our movement carried out many actions against the torturing police officers. Before 12 September, we were the movement that fought the most against the fascist groups, torturing policemen and colonialist Turkish soldiers. But while other organizations were executed, they could not execute us.

The reason for this is that our organization backfired. If executions had been carried out after the 15 August breakthrough, we would have answered them. Instead of weakening the struggle, executions would have angered the people and strengthened the struggle. For this reason, although executions were carried out in all organizations, they did not execute us. We were struggling, and the 15 August breakthrough was realized. It prevented executions and reduced the pressure in prison. Generally speaking, it prevented the neutralization of our movement. Therefore, the effects of 15 August in the prison provided great morale, and the old repression did not return. The mood of the friends who had been repressed and tortured really changed; even our gait changed.



Karasu: A society lacking culture and art is a dead society

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In the second part of this interview, Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the impact of the 15 August 1984 breakthrough on today's Kurdish culture, as well as the impact of the politics of the AKP-MHP government on every aspect of life in the country, including sport. Karasu also spoke about the current stage of the war against guerrillas and the resistance of the HPG.

Abdullah Öcalan describes the 15 August 15 breakthrough as the Kurdish resurrection. Looking at Kurdish culture, language, and literature today, what impact did August 15th have on this dimension? According to your movement, what kind of attitude is needed to preserve this impact?

Culture and art are the most basic sources of life for a people and a society. If a society lacks culture and art, it is a dead society. Before August 15th, in a way, Kurds were dying. Their hopes were dashed, their emotional ties were weakened, and their enthusiasm for life was broken. The Kurdish society had become a society that only lived from one day to another; it barely worked and fed itself and had little hope for life and the future. There can be no strong art or literature in such a society. Art and literature reveal emotion and hope. It reveals belief in the future and expectations of the future.

In this regard, the August 15 breakthrough yielded some very important results. Through it, Kurdish society regained hope. That's why Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] used to say, "Hope is more valuable than anything else." There is a Japanese proverb that says that if you lose your property, you have lost something, but if you lose hope, you have lost everything. Indeed, the Kurds had lost hope, but it was recreated on August 15. New emotions, excitement, and faith in the future came up again. Kurdish society was revitalized. The Kurdish people realized again that they are a nation, a society by themselves, that they can be liberated and democratized, and that they can create hope for the future.

The impact of August 15th in terms of emotions, hopes and values is enormous. The essence of human life is created through art, literature and culture. It is those that make life meaningful. But for art, literature and culture to emerge, there must be hope, there must be faith in the future, there must be factors that create change and dynamism in society. This is what the August 15th breakthrough created. It was an explosion of emotion, excitement, enthusiasm, and new belief in the future. People's eyes shone; their outlook changed. And what followed was an explosion in culture, art and literature. The Mesopotomanian Cultural Center was founded based on the developments that followed August 15. This in turn played an essential role in creating the values that were upheld in the later Serhildans.

Music, literature, poetry, and so many other things were developed. Kurds started to live with a new enthusiasm. They became aware of life and started to live like Kurds. Previously, there had been a process, a period of running away from their Kurdishness. Kurdishness was not dead, but it seemed hopeless. In this respect, the Turkish state's policy of genocide and turkification had a certain effect. The August 15th initiative created great social dynamism with the emotions, thoughts, and values it created, creating great developments in art and culture. Looking at the history of humanity, one can see that the periods when art and literature have developed the most are periods of great revolutions and struggles. The great French literature emerged during the period of enlightenment after the renaissance. Russian literature was mostly created by the dynamism of society both before and after the revolution; a new life emerged at that time. Aleksandr Pushkin's novel 'How to Live', for example, reveals the new thoughts and feelings in Russian society, which later led to great developments. In this respect, Rêber Apo calling August 15 the Kurdish renaissance, the Kurdish resurrection, really hits the nail on the head. Rêber Apo revealed how emotions in Kurdish society were killed, broken and destroyed; how Kurds were moving away from a life of morale and hope. August 15th changed this situation and created a great change. Today, in order to prevent this transformation, the Turkish state is attacking, particularly literature, art, culture, and language. Because these are the factors that create a society. It is a life based on new, deepened emotions, in which actions are chosen in harmony with one's own emotions. It is literature, art, and culture that enable us to live a meaningful life. That is why the Turkish state is now attacking the *govend*, Kurdish music and language and why it

is not allowing concerts. Instead, it allows concerts that will serve its own policy of Kurdish genocide. We hear that some Kurdish artists attend concerts organized by this state; this is special warfare. We condemn this in the strongest possible terms. No Kurdish artist can put himself at the service of the state for such a policy. No Kurdish literature can be created on this basis. Those who act in this way show that they have no understanding of the meaning of art. They see art only as entertainment or as a way of making money. This is neither art nor artistry. If there really are artists who do this, they should definitely give it up. Otherwise, they will be cursed in Kurdish history.

Everything in Turkey is shaped by the politics of the government. Sports is one of these fields. The 2024 Paris Olympics were held, and even though Turkey participated with more than a hundred athletes, it returned without a single gold medal. There were serious discussions on the reasons for this situation. How do you address this situation?

Actually, this is a result that reveals what the AKP-MHP government is. The AKP-MHP government has rotted everything in Turkey. It has rotted morality, conscience, culture, art, and it has even rotted sports. Sport is not like it has been before. It has ceased to be a competition. Every country wants to compete, wants its athletes to win. This is natural. But the AKP-MHP government has turned it into a kind of war. They present every victory as a battle won in a war. Immediately after, in their media, they always draw a direct parallel and say that they will also be successful in the fight against the Kurds. In Turkey, everything, be it politics, art, sport or anything else, has been put at the service of special warfare. This also applies to soccer, for example, which has played an important role in their concept of special warfare, especially since the 1990s.

Now one really feels sorry for those athletes. They put in so much effort, they work, and they are under stress. When they lose, they will be called traitors; that is why they have to win. For them, it is like a war; when you lose, it's a big defeat. They are not comfortable. They are leading them to a war, not a race. That is, at the same time, also the reason why they lose. They cannot think clearly. They compete in anxiety and lose. This was the case during the AKP rule, especially in the last twenty years. In this environment of oppression, sports are being turned into a war, a special war, a part of the war against the Kurdish people.

The sports minister is blaming the federation for the lack of success, while the government is responsible. They are really shameless. They are all his men anyway. The AKP doesn't even hire workers from others anymore. Even when it hires civil servants, it hires only those who are loyal to it. The federations are all under their orders, but he still blames them. He is the one to blame; it is the AKP's MHP government and its ministers who have brought sports to this state. It is the chauvinism they have built on this sport. Those athletes give their labor; they are wasted. Athletes take care of their lives, give their lives, and everything, but they are used like this. They are all pressured to win a war. War against the world. If you put such a burden on those young people, they cannot even get a bronze medal when they could get a gold medal with that psychology. In this respect, the sports minister is responsible, not the federation. This government is responsible. The sports policy of this government in Turkey should be examined and criticized on this occasion. It must be removed from being an instrument of this special war.

The August 15 breakthrough marked the beginning of Kurdish guerrilla warfare. Today, thousands of male and female guerrillas are waging a historic resistance in many parts of Kurdistan. Murat Karayilan, commander of the headquarters of the HPG, shared important information with the public about the extent of the war. What can you say about this ongoing war? What awaits us in the 41st year of the breakthrough?

First of all, I salute all HPG commanders and all fighters who are waging this great struggle. I also commemorate all the martyrs with great respect and gratitude. Indeed, our young comrades are waging a historic struggle. This is not just the resistance of a handful of people – of ten or fifty people. It is the resistance and value of a people. And they resist under the most difficult conditions. Our comrades who are currently fighting the war with the tactics of tunnel and mobile team warfare in the Medya Defense Zones are waging a historic and exemplary struggle. All Kurdish people should see them. These are our comrades, who deserve all kinds of respect.

Before talking about the resistance in the Medya Defense Zones, there had been a very important resistance in northern Kurdistan in this last period. Some crucial clashes have taken place, in which some very valuable friends were also martyred. In this regard, I commemorate with respect and gratitude all our friends and all our valuable comrades who were martyred in northern Kurdistan recently. Their determined struggle will enable society to continue its struggle with determination.

The resistance in the Medya Defense Zones has truly gained scale. Recently, there have been important actions taken by the Dogan Zinar Air Defense Unit. They dealt important blows to the enemy. The enemy has changed its strategy. So far, they have come overland from the north and have tried to advance step by step through battles. However, this has now changed thanks to the collaboration of the KDP. Now they are entering KDP areas via Habur, using the KDP's paved roads, and trying to gather their forces in the south in order to encircle and attack the guerrillas. At the moment, they are attacking not only Zap, Metina, and Avashin, but also Gare through Dereluk since they come on the roads from the south. They are currently attacking all over Bergare, carrying out airstrikes, and burning and destroying villages. In this respect, the war reached a new dimension after July 3, with the collaboration of the KDP. Now, in a way, Turkey is using southern Kurdistan as if it were its own region. In the past, it used to attack from the north, from the border, using its own roads and terrain. It used to come wave by wave, first sending airplanes, helicopters, and UCAVs. Now it is not like that. Now their strategy has turned into an attack that completely encircles the guerrilla areas of Metina, Zap, and Avashin from the south. On the other hand, as I pointed out, Gare has also been targeted. The villages in Bergare are currently being burned. Right now, there are fires everywhere in the Medya Defense Zones. The public should be aware that airplanes attack the region dozens of times every day. Every airplane attack means fire. Therefore, there is constant fire in the Medya Defense Zones. Kurdistan is on fire, and the KDP is watching. Such is their patriotism, such is their love for their homeland. Especially after spring, for six months until winter, every airplane attack means fire. Think about the fires in Turkey right now. The slightest thing causes fires. There are also fires in Greece. What would happen if nature were struck by airplanes dozens of times on a daily basis? This is the case in the Medya Defense Zones. There is an intense war. Not to forget also in Xakurke. There is war everywhere.

The Turkish state says it will take over everywhere. They are working on exactly this with the support of the KDP. The reason why they have been saying so much lately that they will do this is because they now consider southern Kurdistan to be an area governed not only by the KDP and the Iraqi government but also by itself. It sees it as their own areas of dominance, like Merdin (tr. Mardin) and Sert (tr. Sirt). That's

why they talk like that. But of course, the resistance against this continues and will continue. The guerrillas respond to the attacks of the Turkish state with appropriate tactics, tunnels, and mobile teams. Each tunnel is like a castle, and from there, mobile teams are constantly deploying and attacking. Another feature of the tunnels is that they dominate the area. The occupying Turkish soldiers cannot approach areas where there are tunnels. Thus, mobile teams mobilize and strike a blow against the enemy. Whereas the guerrillas used to only be able to attack in rainy weather, they have now learned to attack in all seasons, whether under rain or open skies. This war will continue. Because this resistance is the Kurdish people's resistance to freedom. It is a war about existence or extinction.

They are waging a war to destroy the Kurdish people. They are waging a war to genocide the Kurds. They neither recognize the existence of the Kurds nor the existence of the KDP. They currently collaborate with them for the single reason of using them against the PKK. In an environment where the PKK does not exist, the KDP is finished. There is nothing it can do. They want to destroy the Kurdish people with their nation-state understanding. They want to turn the whole of Kurdistan into an expansion area for the Turkish state. This is what the Turkish state is aiming for. All Kurds must be aware of this. The enmity of the Turkish state is not only against the Kurdish left and socialists. For the Turkish state, it does not matter what political thought the Kurds have. They are hostile to them in any way. The Turkish state's enmity towards the Kurds has no political color. It is hostile to all Kurds simply because they are Kurds, because they have a Kurdish identity, and because they want to live their own identity and culture. Don't fool yourself.

The resistance of the comrades will continue. I send my greetings to them. At the same time, our people, our intellectuals, and all Kurdish parties must express their solidarity more clearly. They cannot just stand by and make occasional statements. Regardless of whether they come from the north, east, south, or west of the country, all Kurdish parties must take responsibility and support this struggle. People, particularly young people and women, must give all kinds of support to this struggle. No one can say that, because the guerrillas are fighting and resisting anyway, they themselves have no role to play. This is not a conflict of the guerrillas; it is about the survival of a people, and that concerns everyone. That's why more concrete support for the struggle is necessary.

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Karasu: Every day, there are political genocidal operations in Kurdistan

ANF | 24 AUGUST 2024

In the third part of this interview, Mustafa Karasu, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the Iraq-Turkey agreement, the ongoing genocide practice against Kurdish people and the recent visit of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to Turkey.

Looking at the recent Ankara visit and the agreement signed, it seems that Iraq, which has assumed a certain role in these invasion attacks, will continue this attitude and may even advance it further. What kind of dangers does the current Iraqi government expose Iraq and the Iraqi people to?

They have made an agreement, and it seems that they want to take it even further. It is mainly the policies of the KDP that have brought Iraq to this point. Turkey and the KDP together put pressure on Iraq in order to drag it into this war. The KDP was always trying to involve Iraq and the PUK in this. This is how it wants to achieve results. Now that they have dragged Iraq into the war, they are trying to expand this policy through the PUK. The KDP is such a power; everyone knows that. The KDP liquidates Kurdish organizations that it sees as rivals through the relations it has established with the colonialists, the enemies of the Kurds. For example, how did it expel the PUK from Hewler (Erbil)? It collaborated with Saddam. Saddam's tanks and soldiers came, removed the members of the PUK from Hewler, and the KDP settled there. Now they are trying to do this with the help of the Turkish state. The KDP has wanted to liquidate the PUK from the very beginning. But then, when the PKK emerged on the stage of history and became a power, it wanted to focus on it first. They blackmailed Iraq, threatening that they would cooperate more with the Turkish state and cause problems for Iraq. Indeed, there is pressure and imposition from the Turkish state, but Iraq would not have come to this point if the KDP had not been involved. It was the KDP that wanted the closure of Tevgera Azadî the most. It was the KDP that had PADÊ shut down in Shengal (Sinjar). Again, it is the KDP that wants the Democratic Party in Iraq to be shut down. They inform the Turkish state and create pressure through it.

The Turkish state is now inside Iraq, and the Iraqi government approves it. The Iraqi foreign minister went to Turkey as the head of the delegation, then the foreign minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government has gone, and there were some other KDP members of the delegation. That is Fuat Hussein's KDP policy. Why did Fuat Hussein go? Why did the foreign minister of the KDP go? They are clearly like advisors to the Iraqi government on "how to wage war against the PKK." They are collaborating with the Turkish state. The current Iraqi government seems to have really poor knowledge and reading of history. It seems not to be aware of the reality of the Turkish state and puts politics on daily events. At the moment, the Turkish state uses blackmail, particularly regarding water. Now it is loosening this a little bit to give the Iraqi government a small success. This policy is definitely not in Iraq's interest.

The current government, Sudani and his deputies will regret maintaining these relations with Turkey. They will regret that they gave in to the blackmail of the KDP like this. How will Iraqi history remember them? It will not remember them in a good way. Not recognizing the reality of the Turkish state, submitting to its carrot and stick policy. The current Iraqi government has surrendered to this carrot-and-stick policy. They say that the economic sphere will be a bit more relaxed because of the relationship with Turkey, but this is just a sellout. To make this agreement with the Turkish state on the basis of finding some economic relief or opportunity means selling Iraq. In today's world of capitalist modernity, there is too much daily and materialistic thinking.

Popular, social, national, and long-term thinking is weak. This is the situation of the current Iraqi rulers. They lack historical consciousness; they decide on their politics based on daily developments. How can you declare the PKK an enemy, a banned organization? The former Prime Minister Haider Abadi and many Iraqi officials thanked the PKK for defeating ISIS. If ISIS had not been defeated, what would be the situation in Iraq now? In Rojava, North and East Syria, the PKK played a huge role in the defeat of ISIS. Many of its fighters were sent and martyred. This is how ISIS was defeated. They gave fifteen thousand

martyrs in North and East Syria; in Rojava, tens of thousands were wounded in order to defeat ISIS. Who stopped ISIS in Shengal? You were going to be the cause of genocide; the PKK saved your honor. It saved Shengal from genocide, and it saved Iraq's honor. Now you stand up and say that the PKK is a banned organization. Is this so unprincipled, so devoid of conscience, morality, and political ethics?

Turkey will like it, and the KDP will like it. The KDP is blackmailing, supposedly to please the KDP. The more you please Turkey and the KDP, the more you sink. Pleasing them means sinking Iraq. What did Tayyip Erdoğan say to Maliki when he was in power? Maliki had criticized Turkey a little bit, and Erdoğan directly reacted, saying, "Who are you? Nobody takes you seriously. Iraq is still a country with countless problems. Who do you think takes you seriously in this condition?" He insulted the Iraqi Prime Minister. Now that he is laughing in your face, let's see what he will say to you if you stand against Turkey and show an honorable stance. He is laughing in the faces of Iraqis for not daring to take an honorable stance. We leave them to history. They don't realize what they are doing; they really lack a sense of history.

Let me be clear: if there was a Sunni government, it would not have surrendered so much to Turkey. Separately, right now, the Sunnis are relying on Turkey to squeeze the current government; this is true. But let's say if there was a Sunni government, they would not have surrendered to Turkey so much. They have a higher awareness of history. They know the Turkish state better. Because, in a way, Shiites have not been very involved in politics in the history of Iraq. They have always remained outside political dominance and political activity. The Shiites have always been outside Iraqi politics, Iraqi social struggle, economic structure, and military structure. Therefore, it seems that their historical consciousness or political consciousness is really weak.

The Iraqi people and the political forces in Iraq must resist this. Also, the Kurdish people in southern Kurdistan should see the danger of the current policies, and the political parties should be aware of this too. They should oppose these agreements between Iraq and Turkey. All Kurdish political parties must oppose it. Those who do not live actually a kind of surrender. In this respect, the PUK is also under threat.

The Iraqis say that the Turks will receive training in Bashika. You are fooling yourselves. You have legitimized the Turkish occupation. Who will get Turkey out of there? Do they think they will? Tomorrow, they will say that we took this place by shedding blood. "It was already ours historically." That's what they say; they call it Misak-i Milli. Kirkuk, Mosul, and the north of Syria are part of Misak-i Milli. There is only one difference, of course, and it is important. When Misak-i Milli was accepted, there was no Kurdish denial. There was no Kurdish denial in the Ottoman Empire. These people are not like that; they are Kurdish deniers. Abdullah Cevdet, one of the founders of the Committee of Union and Progress and the founder of the philosophical basis of Kemalism, was a Kurd from Arapgirli. When the Kurdish Teali Society was founded, Abdullah Cevdet went and congratulated them. "You are doing very well. Kurds should also develop." He says this because there was no Kurdish denial. When they were among the founders of the Committee of Union and Progress, they were in it because there was no Kurdish denial. But today, the current Turkish state is practicing Kurdish denial. There was nothing like this in the Ottoman Empire. This is a new situation. It is a situation that emerged after the Lausanne Treaty. In this respect, they are contradicting their own history.

The fascist Turkish state continues its genocidal war against the Kurdish people on the one hand and tries to suppress the opposition inside on the other. However, after the municipal elections, AKP-MHP fascism was in a very tight situation. Can the current attitude of the opposition be considered only as obstruction or pacifism?

It is important to know what the policy of the Turkish state is now. For example, the other day, a woman was arrested for giving a street interview. When anyone speaks out, when anyone opposes the AKP, they are arrested. Every day, there are political genocidal operations in Kurdistan. People are arrested only because they are Kurdish, because they defend their identity, and because they do politics in the HDP.

The opposition is confronted with a problem. If it does not realize this, it will not be able to implement meaningful policies and will not be able to achieve results. The reason why the AKP government is so hostile to democracy is its hostility towards the Kurds. Since it is pursuing a policy of liquidation and oppression against the Kurds, it is hostile to democracy. If it wants to stand up for democracy, for a struggle for democracy and oppose the anti-democratic stance of the AKP-MHP government, but does not have a consistent Kurdish policy, then it can only fail. Then its policy will simply be futile and meaningless. The opposition must realize this. The current government opposes democracy because the Kurds could benefit from it. This means that the reason for the hostility to democracy is the lack of a solution to the Kurdish question. They will have to produce a policy based on the solution to the Kurdish question. They will have to oppose the Kurdish policy of the AKP-MHP government. Only then can they wage a consistent struggle for democracy. To what extent do they recognize this reality and take a stance against the AKP and MHP?

Look at the newspapers and magazines of the opposition; there is nothing about the Kurdish question. Why? If they bring up the Kurdish question, the AKP-MHP government will be angry at them. It can't be like this. They speak on TV and call themselves social democrats, but when the Kurdish question comes up, their eyes turn. They are no different from AKP and MHP supporters. This is not the struggle for democracy; it is fake. In this respect, all democratic forces, if they want to wage a true and consistent struggle for democracy, should be sensitive to the Kurdish question. They should take an open attitude towards the oppression of the Kurdish people. They should make it an important part of their agenda. It cannot be the fifth or sixth item on the agenda. Whoever says they oppose the AKP government should also oppose the Kurdish hostility that characterizes the AKP-MHP government's policies.

If you don't put forward the right approach on the Kurdish issue, even if you oppose the AKP-MHP government, it has no political meaning and no result. In this respect, I don't want to say too much. I emphasize that all opposition forces must have the right Kurdish policies if they struggle against the AKP-MHP or fascism. The right struggle for democracy can only be waged on this basis.

While Israel's genocidal attacks against the Palestinian people continued, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas traveled to Turkey. He gave a speech at the Turkish Parliament. What can you say about what is happening in Palestine and Mahmoud Abbas?

Palestine is suffering great pain. We strongly condemn Israel's current Palestinian policy. Currently, a great massacre that has reached the level of genocide is taking place. They don't want to destroy Palestine. Mahmoud Abbas is one of the leaders of the PLO, and we respect their struggle. But expecting something from this AKP-MHP government and thinking that it supports the Palestinian struggle is a big mistake. We

have taken part in the Palestinian struggle, and we gave martyrs. On the other hand, we have also received the contributions and support of the Palestinians. In this respect, there is a bond between us and the struggle of the Palestinian people. There is an emotional and historical bond. Mahmoud Abbas and everyone should be aware of this. It is the struggle waged by the leftist forces, as we have emphasized before, that has made the Palestinian question so influential in the world and that has made it embraced by the peoples of the world. It is the result of the leftist forces' embrace of Palestine. So many people around the world have stood up for Palestine. In the late 1960s and 1970s, so many leftist and revolutionary forces from Turkey came to Palestine to support the Palestinian cause. It is precisely these forces that are being attacked the most by Erdogan and his entourage today. They are attacking the leftist forces that threw the American soldier into the sea. Now the AKP-MHP government is exploiting the Palestinian issue. I am not talking about Islamic circles outside of it, but Erdogan and the MHP are exploiting the struggle of the Palestinian people. They are trying to use the Palestinian struggle to cover up the Kurdish genocide and make people realize it more easily. Erdogan is not defending Palestine. He didn't quit the trade immediately. He waited seven to eight months until he limited it. When a deputy from the Saadet Party was confronting them with this in parliament, AKP members attacked him; he fell and died of a heart attack. They still haven't quit trading.

Mahmoud Abbas should not have made himself a tool of a fascist power like the AKP-MHP. Supposedly, it was in retaliation for Netanyahu's speech in the US. This is not how it works. The Palestinians cannot sympathize with a government that commits genocide against the Kurds. They cannot legitimize and normalize it. We want to emphasize this one more time. Turkey has historically had the best relations with Israel. Turkey was the first to recognize Israel in the Middle East. In fact, they wanted to improve it even before the October 7 incident. Why? They were saying that if they improve their relations with Israel, they will get the support of Europe and the US on the Kurdish genocide. They have always had good relations with Israel in order to get the support of the US and Europe for the Kurdish genocide. Right now, it is just to keep its own power alive because it is very squeezed. The Saadet Party, Yeniden Refah, and the democratic force were confronting them, so they were finally forced to cut down their trade to a certain point. They started to act anti-israelian to keep their own power alive.

The Palestinian people and the Palestinian political forces should not be a tool for such a genocidal state and power. They can address the people of Turkey. They can be in contact with the people of Turkey and the political forces in Turkey. But they should not become a cover for this policy of such a government. I call on Palestinians to be sensitive on this issue.

Opinion

Erdoğan's dream was shattered by the guerrillas

KURTAY SERHAT | 17 AUGUST 2024

In one of his numerous statements, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan used the phrase: 'We are waging the biggest fight against terrorism in the history of the Republic.' This sentence was also an admission that the Turkish state is waging a gigantic war against the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas. Over the last four years, the state has been mobilised with all its institutions and has thrown itself into this war with every fibre of its being. At the same time, the state is trying to pretend that everything is under control and that it is carrying out very successful operations. It is trying to make this gigantic war appear normal. As the regime cannot declare absolute victory without having fully achieved its goal, it is trying to influence public perception as much as possible. The special war media and psychological warfare play a decisive role in this. Completely false and manipulative news is used to keep the racist and fascist masses constantly on the move, sometimes by making the extent of the war invisible and sometimes by officially expressing its importance.

There is no doubt that this method has met with a certain degree of acceptance so far, but the longer the war goes on, the more society feels its devastating consequences. As a result, the state's narrative and actions are no longer as accepted as they used to be. Furthermore, it is not possible for the state to succeed with its control of discourse when there is a force like the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla that does not hesitate to make the truth unvarnished public at any time.

If you look at the official statements from 2021 to today, you can easily see how desperately the state is constantly contradicting itself. What was said yesterday is the opposite of what is being said today. Each of the key state institutions has become a propaganda centre. While the institutions of the state act in this way, their leaders are in a competitive struggle to grab their share. Erdoğan had already said once or twice before that 'we are waging the biggest war against terrorism in the history of the republic'. The defence minister must have told himself that it was him who was waging this war, and so he raised the bar even higher. When he visited the border on the occasion of the Ramadan Feast, he declared: 'The Turkish armed forces have carried out the most intensive and effective activities since our war of independence.'

The dream of a 'new Atatürk'

In 2015, the Turkish state put a 'decomposition plan' into practice. A new regime based on new alliances began to build the second century of the Republic of Turkey on the annihilation and denial of the Kurdish people. Erdoğan, as the founding leader of this regime, began to dream of becoming the second Atatürk. For this to happen, there had to be a second 'war of independence or liberation'. Since such a war could not be waged against a state, a global or regional power, the Kurdish people, who had already been massacred and systematically murdered by the Turkish regimes for a century, were chosen as the ideal enemy. Under this motto, the construction of the fascist regime that exists today was begun and all the country's resources were mobilised for war.

Erdoğan planned to announce his final victory on the 100th anniversary of the Republic with a grand military parade, as the victorious leader who raised the flag in Qandil and hammered the last nail into the Kurds' coffin. To do this, he would have had to advance to Qandil by October 2023, with the active support of NATO. That was Erdoğan's 'war of independence'. By recalling the important turning points of this war, we will analyse how it began and how it is currently being fought.

The defeat of Gare and the consequences

Hulusi Akar, the Minister of Defence at the time, declared that the offensive launched at the beginning of 2021, which he described as 'claw lightning and claw thunder', would be completed by the autumn of that year. The operation was to cover the whole of Avaşîn as well as large parts of Zap and Metîna. The attack, as he said, was to be as swift as 'lightning and thunder' and the planned objective had to be achieved as quickly as possible. To this end, the Turkish state received both the approval and the support of international and some regional powers. In particular, it secured all kinds of support from NATO. The four-day attack on Gare took place from 10 to 14 February 2021. The operation announced by Erdoğan a few days earlier with the words 'I will announce good news in the next few days' ended in a fiasco. Therefore, another attack was launched as plan B. The defeat of Gare would be a topic in itself, so I will only briefly remind you of that, because we cannot fully understand the situation if we do not include the four-day attack in the picture. So, the current war is the continuation of the attack on Gare.

They were met with surprises from the guerrillas

On 23 and 24 May 2021, the Turkish army began to move into the region at lightning speed from the peaks of Avaşîn, where they had previously landed with helicopters. Fierce fighting ensued until 1 June 2021, and eventually the Turkish troops had to retreat to the peaks where they had previously been dropped off just as quickly. As Hulusi Akar said, their aim was to advance quickly and complete the operation by the autumn. The aim was to advance as far as Qandil. The invasion troops, who advanced quickly, were in for a nasty surprise. A few days later, Hulusi Akar had to say: 'The terrain is too steep, the helicopters can't find a place to land.' The guerrillas did not suffer losses from the heavy bombardment as they had hoped and did not give up their positions and the terrain. Moreover, they began to go on the offensive themselves and inflict heavy blows on the occupying forces. The Turkish strategists had not reckoned with this situation.

KDP comes to the rescue

When the Turkish army withdrew from Avaşîn on 1 June 2021, the KDP immediately came to the rescue and sent a military convoy with armoured vehicles and heavy equipment to Metîna on 5 June. Clashes broke out when the KDP units in Metîna attempted to take action against the guerrillas in the war tunnels in the Çarçel region. After the clashes and the provocation they started, the Turkish state began to land troops in Avaşîn again on 7 June 2021 without wasting any time. The KDP then established three separate fortresses in Çarçel. The guerrilla forces there were forced to abandon some of the war tunnels they had built in order to avoid an intra-Kurdish confrontation. On 9, 10 and 11 September 2023, the Turkish army landed troops in the bases established by the KDP in Çarçel. These bases still serve as a command centre for the ongoing attacks in Metîna. The Turkish army ended its invasion attacks, which began in early 2021, by withdrawing from many areas in Avaşîn, Zap and Metîna at the end of the year and postponed its continuation until 2022.

A new offensive called 'Claw Lock'

The Turkish occupying state announced a new offensive, this time under the name 'Claw Lock'. This new name already showed the army's diminishing prospects of success. After 14 April 2022, the air attacks were intensified, and on the evening of 17 April 2022, helicopters began landing troops on almost all the peaks in the east of the Zap. From 17 April to 24 May, the fiercest battle in the history of Kurdistan took place.

The guerrillas had expected such an all-out invasion attack and used every opportunity accordingly. The preparations, the new forms of guerrilla action and the tactics used baffled the Turkish army. Neither armed drones nor F16 fighter jets were able to prevent Turkish helicopters from being shot down or hit. The Turkish army had to evacuate its dead and wounded in Şîladizê from the combat zone with the help of the KDP. Particularly in the Kuro Jahro area, the dead and wounded soldiers began to be transported away on mules, as the helicopters could no longer approach.

On 24 May, the guerrillas dealt a fatal blow to the Turkish army. Revolutionary operations were carried out in the Kuro Jahro and Cehennem areas. Now it was the guerrilla forces who struck like lightning and with deadly force. The losses suffered by the Turkish army in these revolutionary operations could no longer be concealed.

Turkish attack expanded

Unrest spread within the command staff of the Turkish army. Hulusi Akar, who arrived at the border on the same day, gave the order to continue after a meeting with the command. He also extended the attack to some areas in the west of Zap and Metîna in order to eliminate the uncertainty in the leadership and show the guerrillas his determination. Hulusi Akar must have believed that the systematic use of chemical weapons and unconventional bombs would certainly produce results, as he said in several statements: 'We will complete this task and achieve this lock by autumn.' The guerrillas resisted and fought with superhuman will. They resisted relentlessly against all kinds of heavy bombardment, chemical weapons and unconventional bombs.

The calculation did not work out

The Turkish army was in dire straits. Their calculations did not work out; government representatives travelled to the borderline almost weekly. Providing the soldiers left behind in the steep terrain and on the peaks with supplies and evacuating the wounded was now a problem in itself. Dozens of helicopters were hit and shot down. In addition, images of the bodies of soldiers killed by the guerrillas were made public. In this way, the false stories of heroism told every day by the special war media were cancelled out. Finally, the autumn and winter months arrived, and here, too, they had miscalculated. The Turkish army had to retreat headlong in many places to save themselves from the deadly blows of the guerrillas.

Time runs out until October 2023

The Turkish army began its offensive in 2023 later than in previous years. Due to the earthquakes in February and the subsequent election campaign, as well as the changes at command level, the invasion attack only began in the middle of the year. Initially, troops were deployed in the places from which they had been forced to withdraw the previous year. The decisive date was the renewed air landing of troops in Girê Cûdî on 20 July. In the meantime, the Turkish army was under great pressure, as it had to declare victory by October. It was unable to overcome the guerrilla obstacle and suffered one setback after another within a month. The Turkish army saw it as a way out to quietly replace the command structure. On 9 September, it then began to land troops in Amediyê, from where it had to withdraw again. Troops were also airdropped in the Çarçel area in Metîna, where the KDP had been building roads and fortresses since 5 June 2021. The main difference was that the troops airdropped directly on the bases that the KDP had built in these areas in previous years and that they were also transported by the KDP via the roads it had built. At the same time, the transport of armoured vehicles and construction machinery was increased with the help of the KDP.

Despite the KDP, the heavy losses continued

This was a great relief for the Turkish army, as the guerrilla forces often shot down or destroyed helicopters during attacks and especially when landing troops. It wanted to utilise this advantage that the KDP offered. The Turkish army therefore decided not to withdraw from the Amediyê and Girê Cûdî areas in the winter, unlike in previous years. To this end, it established bases with the support of the KDP and began to create a security line around these military bases. In order to reach the peaks where the Turkish army was positioned, two or three KDP security lines had to be crossed. Despite all this, the guerrillas carried out systematically coordinated actions and revolutionary operations during the autumn and winter months, which were made public in every detail in the form of video footage and documentation. It thus became clear that the strategy created by the Turkish state with the help of the KDP had also collapsed.

A bitter and ordinary centenary celebration

Erdoğan's dreams of raising a flag in Qandil at the beginning of the second century of the Republic and becoming the second Atatürk were shattered, and the victory parade planned with pomp and circumstances was replaced by a bitter and ordinary ceremony. Interestingly, it was not the MHP, the most important partner of the Erdoğan regime, that showed loyalty. It was the KDP that demonstrated its allegiance to the regime in Ankara, with Nechirvan Barzani attending a reception organised in Hewlêr (Erbil)

to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Turkish Republic and cutting the cake. This was an important message to Erdogan, saying: 'Don't give up, we are with you, we can still make it.'

AKP, MHP and KDP share a common destiny

The AKP/MHP regime and the KDP are a kind of community of fate, and they are politically and economically dependent on each other at the same time. While the fascist AKP/MHP regime, which was built on the destruction of the Kurds, crashed into the guerrilla resistance with full force and suffered severe damage, the Barzanî clan and its KDP are now unmasked in the middle of this war. The current situation is due to the resistance of the guerrillas. While the guerrillas are fighting, the fascist AKP/MHP regime is increasingly crumbling. With this progressive collapse, the KDP panicked more and more, as the end of Turkish fascism also eroded its basis of existence and its true face became more and more apparent. The guerrillas were officially declared the common enemy. The KDP must do everything in its power to avert the fate of the AKP/MHP regime, which is also its own. It is the executor of a system that was built on the basis of a genocide against the Kurdish people a hundred years ago. It endeavours to continue the policy of genocide and to profit from it, which is why it persistently clings to this status quo.

The guerrillas overcame the KDP's security barriers

The Turkish army, whose strategy based on supporting the KDP also collapsed, gradually reached a dead end. One such problem was that if they wanted to hold a main peak, they also had to control several secondary peaks in the vicinity to prevent attacks on the main peak. But to prevent attacks, other peaks must also be held and so on. So, the Turkish army was faced with a situation that offered new surprises every day. They therefore asked the KDP for help. However, the guerrilla forces skillfully overcame all the KDP's security barriers and managed to infiltrate, attack and eliminate Turkish army positions. Now the situation has become even more untenable for the Turkish army, which has quickly deployed troops in many areas that it is unable to protect. The guerrillas have mastered all dimensions of the terrain and are developing ever more deadly tactics that are in no way comparable to those of previous years. For example, air strikes, revolutionary operations, coordinated guerrilla actions and the mastery of military weaponry are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and so, of course, are the tactics of the war tunnels. Just how deadly the guerrillas' new tactics have become in the last two years can be seen from the statements made by Turkish state representatives.

NATO's support and Iraq's collaboration

After its historic defeat, Turkey once again approached the USA and NATO for help. It invoked Article 105 of NATO. The USA and NATO thus forced the Iraqi central government to co-operate with the Turkish state without any basis in international law. The KDP had already been actively cooperating with the Turkish state, but in the new situation they have involved the Iraqi central government and, of course, started to reinforce new ammunition and war technology.

The state produces crimes and exploits society

If we look at the past hundred years, the Kemalist regime that was built on Kurdish genocide could not break the will of the Kurdish people and their determination to resist despite all their massacres. The state created a deep-rooted hostility towards the Kurds and a racist mob that could be mobilised at any time.

This situation gradually became a magic key for the ruling cliques to benefit from the blessings of the state and remain in power. Those who could do nothing else began to occupy the centres of power solely on the basis of hostility towards the Kurds. Erdoğan and his interest partners are among these unqualified and lumpen figures. So, the difference between them and the previous centres of power is that they are of low calibre and do not recognise any humanitarian or moral rules. After 100 years of such a society and state bureaucracy created on the basis of hostility towards the Kurds, Erdoğan fit at the head of this state like tailor-made...

The Kurdish freedom movement could foresee that Erdoğan would end up committing a major massacre of the Kurds in order to maintain his power and establish his own despotic regime. Eventually, Erdoğan began to declare that he was more anti-Kurdish than anyone else. The established fascists began to give him standing ovations, pat him on the back and mobilise all the country's resources for his triumphal procession. In this way, the state established a special war regime for Erdoğan. The dialogue with the Kurds was suspended and the war escalated in July 2015.

This war has gone through many phases and continues at full intensity. Erdoğan wanted to announce his victory on 29 October 2023. The Kurds put up resistance and this resistance prevented the success of Turkey's war policy. On the contrary, it reached a major impasse. The other centres of power in the established order began to point the finger at Erdoğan. That is why the Turkish defence minister and Erdoğan are reacting by equating this war with a 'war of independence'. They say: 'We are in a war of independence; either you are on our side or on the side of the enemy.' The Turkish state, through its centuries-long policy of genocide against the Kurds, has reached a point where it has turned into a criminal machine and a monster that is eating up society. We can best see this concrete situation in the results of the war.

The balance sheet of the past four years

The figures for the last four years in particular give a clear picture of how the Turkish army is failing in this war and struggling in this quagmire.

- From January 2021 to 30 July 2024, the Turkish army carried out 9,949 airstrikes by F-16 fighter jets.
- Combat helicopters, howitzers, mortars and kamikaze drones attacked 6,745 times.
- Tactical nuclear weapons were used eleven times and unconventional bombs and chemical weapons 5,284 times.
- A total of 21,953 bombardments were carried out in 31 months.
- From July 2015 to 31 December 2020, the Turkish army carried out 2,856 airstrikes and 3,388 ground attacks with mortars and howitzers.
- From 30 July 2015 to 30 July 2024, a total of 28,197 bombardments were carried out.
- In just nine years, i.e. from July 2015 to 30 July 2024, a total of 12 million tonnes of bombs and 23 million tonnes of ammunition and munitions were used.

In the light of this data, it becomes clear how the Turkish army is wearing itself out on the battlefield. When you look at the guerrillas attacking the Turkish army with ever new innovations on the ground and from the air, you can only speak of a genuine military revolution and invincibility.

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Special war policies in Hakkari: Prostitution, drugs and gangs

ANF | HAKKARI | 18 AUGUST 2024

Hakkari (Colemêrg), located in the triangle of Bakur (North), Başûr (South) and Rojhilatê (East) Kurdistan, has become the target of the Turkish state's special policies. Within the scope of the special war policies implemented by the Turkish state, prostitution, drug sales and use, the mafia and gangs have increased. Murder, torture and ill-treatment have become daily practice. The city's people are the target of armored vehicles and police bullets.

Speaking to ANF about the special war policies implemented by the state, DEM Party Colemêrg Provincial co-chair Hûmeyra Armut said: "After 2015 in particular, special war policies were implemented heavily in various provinces and Hakkari and Şırnak were among these. In fact, special attention was given to these two cities. While the state prevents even a bird from flying here, drugs can be easily brought into the city and sold. Similarly, prostitution is also carried out freely. Most of these things are actually carried out by state officials. We have also seen drugs found in police vehicles. There are many examples of this kind."

‘Indictment and submission policy’

Hûmeyra Armut, drew attention to the fact that the state has been implementing a policy of intimidation and submission on the people of Colemêrg since 2015, and added: "What happened in Hakkari after the 31 March [2024] local elections should be examined in detail. This was a period when the special war policy was at its peak. The state concentrated on targeting this area. Hakkari is a city with a dense young population. The state wants to squeeze the youth into a narrow area. Theft, prostitution and drugs are being tried to be normalized here. These are not coincidences; they are part of a systematic assimilation process. The festivals and concerts that are held are also in this direction. Recently, a sergeant major harassed a 17-year-old girl at a festival held in Çukurca. Such incidents are conscious actions aimed at corrupting society through youth and women. In addition, usury has also become widespread in the city, and we believe that this situation is created by the system."

‘The aim is to turn the city into a military area’

Emphasizing that the number of suicides among women and young people in Colemêrg has increased in recent years, Armut said: "Young people are forced to migrate to metropolises because they cannot find a living space here and are desperate. In this way, the state is trying to alienate and separate young people from their lands. They are being dragged into drugs. The aim is to destroy the city, leave it with nothing, empty it and turn it into a military area. Çukurca has now become a military area and security forces are seen everywhere. A special war policy is being implemented in Hakkari and an environment of fear is being created. Young people who want to exercise their right to protest are being targeted by bullets. Young

people who make Kurdish music and dance the Kurdish halay are being detained. Local artists who sing Kurdish songs are being arrested because of their songs."

'Kurdish language and culture are being denied'

Armut said: "The basis of special war policies is the denial of Kurds, the denial of the Kurdish language, art and culture. The aim is to create chaos. The AKP government is trying to legitimize itself by doing politics through the Kurds in order to maintain its own power. As a result, an understanding that does not accept the Kurds and their language is emerging. The policy pursued by the AKP is a policy of total hostility. We are working intensively to prevent this, and we must form a common line of struggle against special war policies."



Turkish troops prepare to enter Baghdad - ANALYSIS

ATAKAN ARARAT | 20 AUGUST 2024

The relations Turkey has entered into with Iraq within the scope of the "Development Path Project" are gradually evolving into a military area. The relations being developed are being shaped on the basis of opening different fronts against the Kurdistan Freedom Movement. The agreement reached between Ankara and Baghdad under the name of "Memorandum of Understanding" in recent days has paved the way for Turkish troops to be sent to Baghdad. An official cover has been found for practices ranging from military deployments to village evacuations in South Kurdistan. The KDP's Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, who declared that Iraq has entered a new period, has also been the spokesperson for this situation.

From joint operations room to joint command

The military, political and diplomatic initiatives previously developed within the scope of the "Joint Operations Room" in the field of South Kurdistan and Iraq for the Kurdistan Freedom Movement have entered a different phase with the agreement reached between the two governments. A joint coordination center was established between the two forces centered in Baghdad and Bashiqa in the Iraqi field, and the implementation of the policies was initiated.

The Turkish army will also be deployed in the capital of Iraq within the scope of the clause of the 4th article of the agreement; 'a joint security center will be established in Baghdad, which will be affiliated with the joint operations command'.

Articles 5 and 6

The establishment of a military committee in Article 5 of the agreement and the parties sharing intelligence information within the scope of Article 6 reveal the scope of Ankara's annexation policy. With these articles, the Turkish army's military transfers to South Kurdistan for months, the establishment of new

bases, the evacuation of villages and the plundering of the region's geography are being tried to be complied with international law.

The Turkish state has also been cautious against government changes in Iraq and has kept the agreement valid for one year.

New names involved

The new development that will also bring about many changes in the field is the members of the "Joint Operations Room"; The meeting took place among figures such as Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, MIT Undersecretary Ibrahim Kalin, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hüseyin, Kurdistan Region Interior Minister Rêber Ehmed, Iraqi Defense Minister Sabit Abbasi, and Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim Erci's acting head of the intelligence service, Waqqas Muhammed Hüseyin al-Hadithi.

Bashiqa

The Republic of Turkey, which made official its military presence in the city of Bashiqa in Mosul, which is against international law, with the diplomatic discourse that 'it will be transferred to Iraq', has also thrown the ball into Iraq's court on this issue. The fact that land belonging to Iraq will be "transferred to Iraq" remains a separate issue. In addition, with this phrase, the responsibility of the Bashiqa base, which is occasionally targeted by Shiite forces, against possible attacks has been left to Baghdad.

In parallel, channels such as Habertürk and CNN, which have been broadcasting programs aimed at the propaganda of the agreement for days, are trying to give clues implying that the Republic of Turkey will not leave Bashiqa but settle there even more. In fact, messages are being given that the Republic of Turkey can apply the same model in the places it occupies in Syria and Rojava.

Turkish troops could enter Baghdad

While the Sudani government aligns itself with Ankara's policies in return for promises of energy and economic needs, the foundation for the deployment of Turkish troops in Baghdad in the near future has been laid with new agreements. It is reported that Ankara is also keeping the force it will send to Baghdad ready within the planned mechanisms. It is noted that the force to be sent to Baghdad will work under the coordination of Foreign Minister Fidan.

Sudani government officially included in occupation plans

The Sudani government, which previously said that it did not have relations with the Republic of Turkey through certain channels or was not included in its plans, made official its relationship with the Erdoğan government at the Ankara summit. The Sudani government, which left no room for interpretation with the "Memorandum of Understanding", laid the foundation for Iraq to enter a critical process.

KDP: The spokesman of the occupation

Immediately after the agreement, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad from the KDP, who appeared before the cameras with Turkish Foreign Minister Fidan, acted as the spokesman for the Turkish occupation. While

Fuad explained with a “dignified air” what kind of “service” they had brought to South Kurdistan and Iraqi lands, he was unaware that the people of South Kurdistan were gradually surrendering the gains of Raperin to Turkey. The KDP, which has been lobbying on behalf of the Turkish occupation in both regional and international areas since the first months of the year, has continued this work, from its leader Masoud Barzani to Foreign Minister Hussein.

The ambiguous stance of Shiite political parties

In addition, the “passive” opposition of Shiite political parties and segments against Turkish expansion is not seen as satisfactory by the Iraqi public. The ‘opposition’ of political circles in Iraq, which has been limited to statements, has begun to be questioned more. While the Iraqi capital has a politically charged atmosphere, the fact that the country's political figures have left their base without reflexes in the face of the Turkish invasion is also a matter of debate.



Contact e-mail: imralipost@freeocalan.org

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