

# THE IMRALI POST

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

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# Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

## Panel in Egypt calls for freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | CAIRO | 25 AUGUST 2024

The Arab Initiative for the Freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan organised a panel discussion in Cairo, Egypt yesterday (24 August) as part of the ongoing international campaign 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish question'.

A panel titled 'Abdullah Öcalan: From Kidnapping to Intellectual Creation, a will in the face of arrest' was attended by journalist Majdi Deqaq, Vice President of the Arab Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Dr. Muxtar El Xebashi, Prof. Mihemed Rifat Imam, Egyptian Foreign Affairs Council member Demhur Bemser, a scholar of contemporary history and international relations, Ehmed Bahadin Shaaban, Secretary General of the Egyptian Socialist Party, Raide Zebhani, a scholar of international law, as well as many intellectuals, academics and lawyers.

The panel was chaired by İlhami El Milêcî, spokesperson of the Arab Initiative for the Freedom of Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

In the panel, the struggle and free ideas of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan were discussed. The participants also evaluated the absolute isolation he has been subject to for years and stated that the isolation is contrary to international laws and standards. The participants emphasised that the trial of Abdullah Öcalan is political and far from international law and drew attention to the silence of international powers against the system in İmralı. The participants called for active steps to be taken for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

The panel ended with the following concluding remarks:

"Due to our belief in a just and legitimate struggle, we draw attention to the following points at the end of the panel:

1. Abdullah Öcalan should be rewarded as an example of struggle and resistance. We are proud of Abdullah Öcalan. He is the symbol of the struggle for the rights of the Kurdish people and solution to the problems of the Middle East. His struggle and resistance against tyranny and despotism show the power of human will against obstacles.
2. Human rights must be respected. We strongly condemn the harsh measures against Abdullah Öcalan, the absolute isolation and the inhumane conditions in İmralı Prison. We call for an end to discrimination. Lawyers and family members should be allowed to meet Abdullah Öcalan. We call on the international community to fulfill its responsibilities and put pressure on the Turkish government to release Abdullah Öcalan.

3. Call for a fair trial. The trial of Abdullah Öcalan was not fair and impartial. Moreover, it was a political trial and far from the rule of law. Humanitarian standards and international treaties were violated during the trial. We call for Abdullah Öcalan to be tried by an independent court in accordance with international human rights standards until his release.
4. International support must be given to the Kurdish people. In order for the Kurdish people to gain their political, cultural and social rights, international support must be developed. We condemn all attacks by the Turkish government against the Kurds. We call on the international community to sentence the Turkish government if it continues to violate human rights.
5. The ideological and humanitarian struggle must be continued. We call for continued spread of the ideas of Abdullah Öcalan. Abdullah Öcalan calls for the creation of a democratic world, justice and a free environment. He also calls for dialogue between all ethnicities and religions for a common life. Abdullah Öcalan's works are an intellectual and human heritage that must be taught to future generations.
6. International human rights committees need to be established. We call for the establishment of international legal committees that will take Abdullah Öcalan's case to the international arena and follow his case until justice is served.
7. We appeal to international organisations. We call for an independent investigation into the violations of Abdullah Öcalan's rights and for a formal complaint to Amnesty International and the International Federation for Human Rights, human rights and international organisations to work for his release.

We are proud of the struggle of the intellectual Abdullah Öcalan. His struggle will live in the hearts of all freedom fighters in the world. His struggle is for all humanity, for freedom and for justice.”

— ★ —

## Women in Qamishlo get together to read books by Abdullah Öcalan

NUJIYAN ADAR | QAMISHLO | 27 AUGUST 2024

In Qamishlo, women meet once a week to read and discuss books by Abdullah Öcalan. One of the women is Samiya Xelîl, who first heard about the ideas of the PKK founder and Kurdish thinker in 1998. The 47-year-old told ANF that her life has fundamentally changed after knowing the Kurdish people's leader.

She said: "I was 21 years old when I learned about Rêber Apo's [Abdullah Öcalan] ideas. My husband was a patriot, and I heard about them through him. Before that, I was just the woman of the house and the mother of the children. My husband invited the hevals [comrades] to our house and was active with them. This created a close bond. The repression by the Baath regime increased, and my husband was imprisoned

and tortured for a year and a half. The pressure on our family never stopped, but the oppression made me realize that I was on the right path. The old Samiya had to change and finally leave the house to be useful in society."

Since the revolution in Rojava, Samiya Xelîl has been active in the Şehîd Berxwedan commune, together with her daughter. "Rêber Apo's years of struggle have borne fruit," she said, adding: "The Rojava revolution is a women's revolution and its inspirer is Rêber Apo. Women were oppressed under the Baath regime. Now we have our rights. The revolution fought for women to return to their true nature. Thanks to Rêber Apo's philosophy, women have the strength to fight."

The women in Qamishlo are currently reading "Sociology of Freedom" from Abdullah Öcalan's five-volume "Manifesto of Democratic Civilization," said Samiya Xelîl, adding: "As a group of women, we meet once a week. We read a chapter together and discuss it. It's a good method. It makes us aware of the great developments we have already made. We deal with problems in society and family and feel how important women's struggle is. The topics addressed in the books affect our lives."



## IHD: Ending Öcalan's isolation is essential for peace

ANF | ANKARA | 27 AUGUST 2024

The co-chair of the Human Rights Association (IHD), Hüseyin Küçükbalaban, spoke to ANF, and appealed to the Turkish state to refrain from policies of war and extermination and to take a path that serves social peace. Abdullah Öcalan is the key contact for this. However, he has not been able to assert his right to a lawyer or family visit for years, and since March 2021 there has been no sign of life from the Kurdish representative and his three fellow prisoners imprisoned on the prison island of İmralı.

### **Discussion in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is imminent**

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has classified Öcalan's sentencing to an aggravated life sentence without the possibility of parole as a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. Although ten years have passed since the court decision, no positive steps have been taken by the Turkish state, and no action has been taken either.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will discuss the ruling of the ECHR during its session from 17 to 29 September. Meanwhile, the illegal incommunicado detention of Öcalan and his fellow prisoners has continued for 42 months.

### **Turkey has not taken any steps**

Küçükbalaban said that ten years have passed since the ECHR decision and that the situation has been "under review" by the Committee of Ministers since then.

The last decision on this was in December 2021: "The Committee decided that Turkey should take legislative or other appropriate measures to create a mechanism that would allow the review of aggravated life imprisonment after a certain minimum period and ensure the possibility of release of the person sentenced to life imprisonment. Turkey must submit a list of the persons concerned by the end of September 2022. In the meantime, Turkey has neither made any effort to create the appropriate legal conditions nor has it provided any information to the Committee."

### **"The Turkish state has a strong lobby"**

Küçükbalaban predicted that the Committee will make a similar decision in September, "since Turkey has not fulfilled any of the previous requirements. The action plans submitted in the case group are repeating themselves over and over again. The Kavala and Demirtaş cases will also be analyzed in this session. In the Kavala case, there is already an infringement procedure against Turkey. The Committee is putting pressure on Turkey to implement the Kavala judgment. This is a priority. Infringement proceedings are pending against two Council of Europe countries: Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Turkey's strong lobby within the Court also plays a role in this. For example, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) did not visit Imrali Prison during its visit to Turkey this year." A new peace process is needed The Turkish government repeatedly argues that the Council of Europe's December 2021 demand has been met with the regulation that the release of a life prisoner "in the case of chronic illness, disability or old age" can take place through a presidential pardon.

### **"Öcalan is a key player in finding a solution"**

Küçükbalaban stressed that Abdullah Öcalan is a key player in solving the Kurdish question, and added: "The state also recognizes his key role. As IHD, we have defended peace and the right to peace since the day we were founded. We also say that the Kurdish question must be solved through peaceful politics. We consider the fact that Abdullah Öcalan, who is a key player in solving the Kurdish question, has not been allowed to meet with his family and his lawyers for more than four years because it is both a human rights problem and a departure from a peace-oriented policy. We have repeatedly addressed our request to the Ministry of Justice to visit Imrali, but have received no response. We call on the state and the government to abandon this policy as soon as possible and return to a policy that serves social peace. As a first step, we call on the state and the Ministry of Justice to allow Abdullah Öcalan to be visited by his family and his lawyers."

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## **Call for participation in the 'Long March' for Öcalan in Germany**

ANF | 27 AUGUST 2024

This year's long march for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and a solution to the Kurdish question will take place in September. Numerous Kurdish and internationalist activists from Germany and other Euro-

pean countries will take part in the multi-day demonstration, which will begin on 15 September with a kick-off event in Bielefeld and end on 20 September in Duisburg. The intermediate stops are Hamm, Dortmund and Essen.

“For years, the Kurdish youth movement has been gathering for its traditional event, the Meşa Dirêj [Long March], with a clear demand: A political solution to the Kurdish question can only be achieved if the Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan is allowed to meet with his lawyers and family and is released under conditions that allow him to play a role in the search for a just and democratic solution to the Kurdistan question,’ stated the preparatory committee on the background to the event. The committee released a video inviting people to take part in the march.

The plan for the six-day march is as follows:

15 September - Meeting - Herbert Hinnendahl-Strasse 11, 33602 Bielefeld  
15 September - Day 1 - Conference on the person and ideology of Abdullah Öcalan  
16 September - Day 2 - Bielefeld  
17 September - Day 3 - Hamm  
18 September - Day 4 - Dortmund  
19 September - Day 5 - Essen  
20 September - Day 6 - Duisburg.

Anyone interested in taking part in the march can contact the preparation committee at [mesadirej2024@proton.me](mailto:mesadirej2024@proton.me) or via Instagram (@mesadirej2024) and Telegram (@mesadirej2024).

Abdullah Öcalan, who founded the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in 1978, is considered the most powerful political prisoner of our time. Since he was kidnapped in Kenya more than 25 years ago as part of an international conspiracy involving the USA and Israel, among others, and handed over to Turkey in violation of international law. He has since been held in Imrali Island Prison, sealed off from the outside world. Öcalan, who is now 75-year-old, received his last visit from a lawyer in 2019 and his last family visit was in 2020. In March 2021, a wave of international protests made a telephone conversation between Öcalan and his brother possible, but it was interrupted after a few minutes for unknown reasons.

Since then, there has been no sign of life from Öcalan and his three fellow prisoners Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş. Requests for visits from the Istanbul-based Asrın Law Office, which represents the four Imrali prisoners, are rejected by the Turkish judiciary and requests for information remain unanswered. Extended disciplinary sentences are imposed in prison every six months as legal cover. International initiatives to lift the isolation on Imrali are also ignored by Ankara.

## Saleh Mamon, a member of the Freedom for Öcalan campaign passes away

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2024

Saleh Mamon, who was an active member of the CAMPACC (Campaign Against the Criminalization of Migrant Communities) and the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan campaign in Britain for many years, has passed away.

Saleh Mamon was especially known for his work for the freedom of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, as well as his fight against ISIS and efforts to have the PKK removed from the list of terrorist groups.

Mamon is also remembered for his contributions to the fight against the criminalization of the Kurdish community in Britain.

In an interview with Medya Haber TV a while ago, Mamon underlined the key role of Abdullah Öcalan and called for increased resistance. Mamon said: "The Turkish state must finally end its role as a terrorist state against the Kurdish people."

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## Activists call for participation in the Lausanne-Geneva march

ANF | LAUSANNE | 28 AUGUST 2024

Members of the Revolutionary Youth Movement (Tevgera Ciwan ên Şoreşger-TÇŞ) and the Movement of Young Fighting Women (Jinên Ciwan ên Têkoşer, TekoJIN) called for participation in the long march that will start on 31 August in Lausanne, Switzerland and end in Geneva.

A rally is planned in front of the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, the last stop of the long march.

The youth activists called on the Kurdish people and their friends to join the long march, drawing attention to the isolation of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and demanding his freedom.

The march aims to draw attention to the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan as part of the global campaign 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question' that was launched in October 2023.

In their messages, the young activists stated that they will be in action until the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan is ensured.

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## Nobel Laureate Sauvage: It is time to free Abdullah Öcalan

SERKAN DEMIREL | STRASBOURG | 29 AUGUST 2024

Since 25 March 2021, no news has been received from Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been kept under heavy isolation conditions in İmralı Island Prison for more than 25 years. Abdullah Öcalan has been subjected to absolute incommunicado, and his right to see his family and lawyers has been usurped as a whole. With the aggravated isolation in İmralı, the Turkish state, which violates both its own domestic law and international conventions such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Prevention of Torture, has resorted to disciplinary penalties and bans on lawyer visits, which have no legal equivalent, in order to hide this unlawfulness in the international arena.

On the other hand, international reactions to the ongoing unlawfulness within the scope of the 'Freedom for Öcalan, a political solution to the Kurdish question' campaign, which was launched globally on 10 October 2023, continue to rise. Pointing out that the unlawfulness in İmralı is unprecedented in the world, personalities from different social segments demand an end to the isolation in İmralı and the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

Most recently, 69 Nobel laureates sent a letter to the High Commissioner of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), drawing attention to the conditions of Abdullah Öcalan asking them to fulfil their obligations to secure his rights.

We asked one of the signatories of the letter, the Nobel Prize-winning French chemist Prof. Jean-Pierre Sauvage, about the global campaign 'Freedom for Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question' and the purpose of the letter they wrote.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Sauvage stated that he did not have much to add to the issues highlighted in the letter under his signature, "Mr Abdullah Öcalan has already been severely punished, and it is time to free him," he said.

"The release of Mr Öcalan will also be good for the relations between the Kurdish community and the Turkish government," said the French chemist, who also drew attention to the role of Abdullah Öcalan in the solution of the Kurdish question.

### Jean-Pierre Sauvage

Born on 21 October 1944 in Paris, Prof. Jean-Pierre Sauvage is a chemist specialised in coordination chemistry. He graduated from the National Higher School of Chemistry in Strasbourg in 1967 and received his PhD from Louis-Pasteur University in Strasbourg. He did his post-doctorate at Oxford University and conducted research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) between 1971-2014 and started working as a professor at Strasbourg University in 2016. Prof. Sauvage, who has conducted many important studies in the field of chemistry, was awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

for his work on molecular machines together with Scottish chemist J. Fraser Stoddart and Dutch chemist Bernard Feringa.

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## Prisons

### 11 days in solitary confinement for Kurdish poems in Bafra prison

ANF | 27 AUGUST 2024

Enes İlgen and Serdar Başaran in Bafra T Type Prison were sentenced to 11 days in solitary confinement on the grounds of Kurdish poems they wrote in their notebooks.

Lawyers from the Human Rights Association (IHD) and Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) learned about the solitary confinement sentences given to prisoners during their visit to Bafra T Type Prison.

Prisoners who met with lawyers stated that the prison administration raided the wards on 6 June and that Kurdish poems in the notebooks of Enes İlgen and Serdar Başaran were used as a justification for solitary confinement. Two prisoners were given 11 days of disciplinary penalty on 15 August.

According to the lawyers, the Prison Administration's Disciplinary Board justified the decision on the grounds that the poems contained the political and ideological content of the PKK.

The lawyers stated that the prisoners appealed the decision.

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### Prisoners in Kırşehir jail attacked

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2024

In a phone conversation with their families, prisoners Hüseyin Aşkan, Mansur Zan and İsmail Tüzün in Kırşehir High Security Prison (YGC) said that their cells were raided and that they were tortured and put into solitary cells for no reason.

İsmail Tüzün told his family that the assault took place on 26 August. Tüzün said that the cells they were held in were constantly raided, and that they were being provoked by guards.

## Try to prevent release

Hüseyin Aşkan said that while he was in Patnos Prison, they tried to prevent his release for futile reasons.

## Prisoner had his arm broken

Prisoner Mansur Zan explained to his family that his arm was broken due to the torture they were subjected to and that the other prisoners were also seriously injured.

## IHD to visit the prison

The families of the prisoners conveyed the situation to the Human Rights Association (IHD). The IHD Ankara Branch will go to Kırşehir YGC on 2 September to learn about the prisoners' situation.

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# Release of ill prisoner in jail for 30 years postponed

ANF | KIRSEHIR | 30 AUGUST 2024

Despite having completed his 30-year sentence, Bekir Yollu, an ill prisoner held hostage in Kırşehir High Security Prison, was not released on the grounds that he was not showing "good behavior."

Yollu was taken into custody in 1993. He was sentenced to life imprisonment by the State Security Court (DGM) where he was tried for "disrupting the unity and integrity of the State."

The Prison Administration and Monitoring Board ruled that Yollu, who completed his sentence in December 2023, was not showing "good behavior" on the grounds that he participated in hunger strikes, received disciplinary punishments and did not participate in "rehabilitation programs."

The board postponed Yollu's release twice for 6 months.

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# Military aggression and occupation

## Bodies of 8 guerrillas who lost their lives in clashes in Beytüşşebap still in Şırnak Hospital

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 25 AUGUST 2024

The bodies of 4 HPG guerrillas who were reported to have lost their lives in the operations that have been ongoing since 21 June in the rural area of Beytüşşebap (Elkê) district of Şırnak (Şirnex) were taken to the city's State Hospital morgue on 20 August.

The families went from Şırnak and Agirî to the hospital and gave blood samples for the identification of the bodies.

### Four more bodies brought before

The bodies of 4 HPG and YJA Star members who were reported to have lost their lives in the same operation have been kept in Şırnak State Hospital since the beginning of August. The families gave blood for DNA samples on 9 August.

On the other hand, it was reported that the villages of Hemka, Pîrosa and Melêsa, which are the operation areas, are still under blockade.

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## New Commando group of 107 fighters graduates in Raqqa

ANF | RAQQA | 25 AUGUST 2024

On Saturday, the Martyr Chayan Commando Academy graduated a new batch of 107 fighters. The graduate course was named after the martyrs “Gali Kobani” and “Erish Barkha Botan”. The course was a four-month intensive training program designed to equip fighters with the political, intellectual, and military skills necessary for Commando operations.

The graduation ceremony was attended by representatives of civil and military institutions, as well as numerous residents of Raqqa. The event began with a moment of silence for the martyrs, followed by a military parade by the graduating fighters.

In his speech, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) official Mahmoud Qaramuq congratulated the graduates and commemorated the sacrifices of the martyrs. He urged the fighters to continue their struggle for freedom and to remain vigilant against external aggression and internal threats.

The ceremony included a military demonstration showcasing the fighters' skills with light and medium weapons and their ability to execute complex combat maneuvers.

The course is part of the SDF's ongoing efforts to enhance combat capabilities and defend their territories against terrorism and occupation.



## ISIS member captured in a village of Hol

ANF | 25 AUGUST 2024

The Internal Security Forces of North and East Syria announced that they captured an ISIS member during an operation in Jabna village, south of the city of Hol.

During the operation on 24 August, the Anti-Terrorist Units (H.A.T.) captured an ISIS member who was involved in kidnapping other mercenaries from the Hol camp and the Autonomous Administration areas to the occupied areas.



## Five more civilians kidnapped in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF | 25 AUGUST 2024

The occupying Turkish state and its 'Military Police' gangs continue to commit kidnapping, rape, theft, plunder and confiscation of citizens' property in Afrin. According to the information obtained, 'Military Police' gangs raided houses in Sîna neighbourhood in Jindires district centre and kidnapped 5 people and took them to an unknown place.

The abducted civilians were identified as Nebhan Hesên Haco (52) from Şiyê district, Hisên Hesên Xorşîd (32) from Gorda village, İbrahim Yûsif Silêman (40) from Xalta village, Mistefa Şukrî Hemo (34) from Çeqela village in Şiyê district, Selah (55) from Bafûrê village in Jindires district

## Afrin occupied since 2018

Afrin Canton was the westernmost canton of Rojava and North and East Syria, home to 200,000 ethnic Kurds. Though the population was overwhelmingly Kurdish, it was home to diverse religious groups including Yazidis, Alevis and Christians alongside Sunni Muslims.

On 20 January 2018, Turkey launched air strikes on 100 locations in Afrin, as the onset of an invasion they dubbed 'Operation Olive Branch.'

The Turkish Air Force indiscriminately shelled civilians as well as YPG/YPJ positions, while a ground assault was carried out by factions and militias organised under the umbrella of the Turkish-backed National Army.

By 15 March, Turkish-backed militias had encircled Afrin city and placed it under artillery bombardment. A Turkish airstrike struck the city's only functioning hospital, killing 16 civilians.

Civilians fled and the SDF retreated, and by 18 March Turkey was in de facto occupation of Afrin. Between 400 and 500 civilians died in the invasion, overwhelmingly as a result of Turkish bombing. Other civilians were summarily executed in the field.

Prior to the Turkish invasion, Afrin had been one of the most peaceful and secure parts of Syria, virtually never seeing combat during the civil war but occasional skirmishes between YPG/YPJ and jihadist forces on its borders. As a result, Afrin offered peaceful sanctuary to over 300,000 internally displaced people from elsewhere in Syria.



## Fires erupt in five villages in Barwarî Bala as a result of Turkish bombardments

ANF | 26 AUGUST 2024

Bushfires, some of them severe, were raging in five villages in Barwarî Bala as a result of Turkish bombardments on Sunday. According to the NGO Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the villages affected by the fires were Mêrga Qesrê, Girê Sor, Elkîşkê, Cembelkê and Bêlîzanê.

CPT spokesman Kamaran Osman told RojNews news agency that Elkîşkê is particularly at risk. From Sunday morning, the flames surrounded not only several houses, cultivated areas and a cemetery, but also the access road to the village.

At least nineteen families in the village were trapped and had to wait for hours to be evacuated despite requests for help. Osman had no information on injuries or deaths. Regarding the extent of the destruction caused by the flames, he said: "We estimate that around 240 hectares of cultivated and farmland have burned so far."

The bush fires were ignited by heavy shelling by unmanned drones of the Turkish army.

Barwarî Bala - or Berwarî Bala depending on the dialect - which belongs to the Duhok governorate and borders Amêdî, is located with its garden-rich valleys in the southern Kurdish part of the Hekarî Moun-

tains, which are considered a historical Assyrian settlement area. Very close by is the densely populated district of Kanî Masî, in the surrounding area of which the Turkish army already operates several military bases and which serves as a kind of base for Turkey's ongoing occupation offensive in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The KDP, which dominates the government in Hewlêr (Erbil), supports Ankara's occupation campaign.

### **Turkish war policy in South Kurdistan**

Since the Turkish invasion was expanded in June, the military has regularly set fire to civilian settlements in South Kurdistan - in addition to heavy daily bombings from the ground and air. The aim is to force the population to move. According to the Community Peacemaker Teams, numerous villages in the area around Kanî Masî have already been depopulated as a result of Turkish military violence, and other villages are threatened with the same fate. The international community is ignoring Turkey's crimes in its neighboring country.

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## **HPG pays tribute to YJA Star guerrillas Tîjda Jiyan and Faraşîn Gabar**

**ANF | BEHDINAN | 26 AUGUST 2024**

Guerrillas Tîjda Jiyan and Faraşîn Gabar were killed in April in an attack by the Turkish army in the Xakurkê region of South Kurdistan. The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) said in a statement that the martyrs belonged to the Free Women's Units (YJA Star). The HPG expressed its condolences to their relatives and the Kurdish people and provided the following information:

Code name: Tîjda Jiyan

First and last name: Nurbahar Karadağlı

Place of birth: Riha

Mother and father's names: Hediye - Mehmet

Date and place of death: April 2024 / Xakurkê

Code name: Faraşîn Gabar

First and last name: Bahar Akyol

Place of birth: Şirnex

Mother and father's names: Fatma - Abdullah

Date and place of death: April 2024 / Xakurkê

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## New group of young people joins the guerrillas

**PIRDOGAN KEMAL | BEHDINAN | 26 AUGUST 2024**

A new group of young people from Kurdistan has joined the guerrillas. The aspiring fighters declared: "A dirty war is being waged against the women and youth of Kurdistan. By isolating Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], they want to take our society back to the darkness of slavery from 40 years ago and destroy it."

The new fighters added: "Today we see that the fascist Turkish regime is attacking Kurdistan at all levels. In order to destroy the Kurdish people's liberation struggle, their language, culture, identity and, more recently, their dances are banned. We know that one can live without bread and water, but one cannot live without language, culture and identity."

On this basis, we, as women and men from Kurdistan and the Middle East, announce that we join the columns of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla and follow the call of our party, the PKK, to resist betrayal, spying and occupation."

The new fighters said: "Everyone should know that this is a war of freedom that can never be stopped. This is our call to the sons and daughters of the Kurdish people: Come and join the ranks of the guerrillas for our people's struggle for identity and existence against the treacherous line and invasion attacks of the Turkish state."

After the declaration, the fighters began their training.

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## ISIS cell dismantled and two terrorists captured in Shaddadi

**ANF | HESEKE | 26 AUGUST 2024**

On August 23, the Syrian Democratic Forces' (SDF) Military Operations Teams TOL conducted a joint security operation with the support and participation of International Coalition forces in the town of Safian, Shaddadi district, southeastern Heseke. The operation targeted an ISIS terrorist cell responsible for several terrorist acts in the region.

"At approximately 3:00 a.m., the joint forces raided where the terrorist cell was hiding and successfully captured two ISIS operatives, Issa Mohamed Has'has aka Abu Hamza, and Abdullah Mohamed Has'has aka Abu Omar," said the SDF Media Center in a statement about the operation.



During the operation, SDF fighters seized 2 AK-47 rifles, 11 AK-47 magazines, 2 pistols, 4 pistol magazines, 1 Mauser rifle, military daggers and 4 combat knives.

The SDF reiterated their commitment to continue the joint security operations against ISIS remnants in the region.



## Turkish UCAV bombs Şarbajêr

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 26 AUGUST 2024

The district of Şarbajêr in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) has once again been targeted by a Turkish drone. The RojNews agency reported that the village of Sînkê (Shinki) was attacked by an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) at around 11:00 a.m. local time on Monday. It is not yet clear whether the attack resulted in casualties or not.

In recent weeks and months, devastating wildfires have broken out in Şarbajêr as a result of Turkish bombardments. Hundreds of hectares of farmland and agricultural land were turned to ash.

The villages in the town of Mawet, which lies in the north-west of Şarbajêr, are particularly affected by the Turkish bombing. Sînkê also belongs to Mawet. The town is located at the foothills of the Asos Mountains in the north of the Sulaymaniyah governorate and is a good 200 kilometres from Turkish territory. Nevertheless, the Turkish army repeatedly attacks the area with warplanes or drones under the guise of self-defence.

The last known airstrikes by Turkey on Şarbajêr took place at the end of last week. According to the General Command of the Eastern Kurdistan Defence Forces (YRK), the bombings caused damage to agricultural, cultivated and agricultural land. According to the PJAK, Turkish aircraft carried out two waves of attacks on suspected targets of their units, but hit agricultural land used by the civilian population in the villages of the Assos massif.

On Friday, a Turkish drone struck Kurdish media employees during a reporting trip through the district of Seyîdsadiq, east of Sulaymaniyah. Two journalists, Gülistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn, were killed in the attack and six colleagues were injured.



## 732 Yazidis return to their homes from camps in Duhok

ANF | SHENGAL | 26 AUGUST 2024

The Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration announced that 732 Yazidis had returned to their homes in Nineveh and Shengal (Sinjar) from the camps in Duhok province.

According to the statement, efforts for the return of Yazidis from camps to their homes will continue.

## **Background: Genocide of the Yazidis in Shengal**

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

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



## **Guerrillas carry out an airstrike in Western Zap**

**ANF | 26 AUGUST 2024**

According to the information received, the Şehîd Axîn Mûş Unit of the guerrillas carried out an airstrike against the Turkish invaders in the Girê Amediyê Resistance Area in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region.

It was reported that 1 Toyota type military vehicle was destroyed, and 1 invader was wounded in the action at 12:47 on 26 August.



## **'Turkey aims to disturb peace and stability by destroying the Autonomous Administration'**

**ANF | HESEKE | 26 AUGUST 2024**

The Agriculture and Irrigation Council of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) is holding its annual meeting at the Serdem Hall in Heseke.

Speaking here, PYD (Democratic Union Party) Presidency Council member Foza Yûsif evaluated the political developments in the region. Foza Yûsif emphasised that the North and East Syrian region is going through a critical and sensitive process and stated that the economic war in the world has also negatively affected the region.

Foza Yûsif also drew attention to the ongoing attacks of the occupying Turkish state against the region and said, “In the early 2023-2024, intensive attacks were carried out against Northern and Eastern Syria. The aim of these attacks was to displace the people, change the demographic structure and increase poverty.’

Yûsif recalled that these attacks especially targeted infrastructure and service institutions and that the Turkish state aimed to disturb the peace and stability of the region by destroying the Autonomous Administration. However, she said, despite all these difficulties, the peoples of the region have resolutely stood by the Democratic Autonomous Administration.

Hesen Koçer, Deputy Co-Chair of the Executive Council of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, drew attention to the strategic development of the work. Stating that there are deficiencies and mistakes in the current economic system, Koçer said, “In the coming year, we should endeavour to overcome these deficiencies and develop a stronger economic strategy.’

Koçer emphasised the importance of the Autonomous Administration supporting the construction of a social system. “The economy is not just about money, it is a social phenomenon,’ he said. Koçer stated that human labour should not be measured in money, but in freedom, and that an economic system based on the labour of individuals in society should be established.

Hesen Koçer stated that some decisions will be taken to develop agriculture and the economy in the region.



## ‘Despite their contradictions, Ankara and Damascus have reached a consensus against AANES’

ANF | ALEPPO | 26 AUGUST 2024

The Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) and the Future of Syria Party organised a panel titled ‘The future of Syrians in the rapprochement between the Turkish state and the Damascus government’ in the Sheikh Maqsoud (Şêxmeqsûd) neighbourhood of Aleppo. The panel was attended by members of political parties, civil society organisations, independent personalities and opinion leaders from Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah (Eşrefiyê) neighbourhoods.

‘The rapprochement between the Turkish state and the government in Damascus will deepen the crisis in Syria,’ said Mihemed Xerîr, Co-Chair of the MSD Aleppo Office.

Referring to the reasons for the Turkish state's insistence on rapprochement with the Damascus government, Mihemed Xerîr said: "Several influential files have impacted the Turkish state's attitude. One of them is the establishment of a democratic system on the Syrian border. The Arabs and Russia see this rapprochement as in their interests to get rid of the Syrian crisis."

"Despite the growing contradictions between them, Damascus and Ankara have reached a consensus against the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and democratic change in the region,' Mihemed Xerîr said, referring to the common goals that will enable rapprochement between the Turkish state and the Damascus government.

Independent politician Abduleziz Hemdosh said: "The Turkish state does not build its relations with its neighbours on political principles, but on security principles. The recent security agreement with Iraq is proof of this. After the security crisis in 1998, the Turkish state signed the Adana Agreement with Syria. This agreement was only directed against the Kurdish people and the Kurdish cause."

Mistefa Qelecî, Secretary General of the Change and Renaissance Party, said: "The international powers have no intention of ending the Syrian crisis, they only think about their own interests."

Referring to the secret talks between the Turkish state and the Damascus government, Qelecî concluded: "The Turkish state and the government in Damascus are only focused on their own interests. They continue to negotiate among themselves without addressing the problems of the peoples."



## AANES on Solingen attack: ISIS poses a serious threat to the security of the region and the world

ANF | 26 AUGUST 2024

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) released a statement about the knife attack in Solingen, Germany that killed three people and wounded eight others on Friday evening.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack which targeted participants of celebrations to mark Solingen's 650th anniversary. In a statement on Saturday, ISIS said the perpetrator targeted Christians and was a "soldier of the Islamic State" who carried out the attack "to avenge Muslims in Palestine and everywhere".

In a written statement on the attack, the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria condemned the 'terrorist attack' and pointed out that ISIS poses a serious threat to the security of the region and the world. It underlined that a common struggle should be waged against the terrorist organisation.

Remarking that the source of the support given to terrorism should be dried up, AANES recalled that the occupying Turkish state supports gang groups such as ISIS and Al-Nusra under various names. The Autonomous Administration expressed condolences to the families of the victims and to the people of Germany, and wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.

Drawing attention to the new plans of ISIS, AANES said: “There is a new danger; the terrorists are trying to reorganise with the violent ideology of ISIS. Some regional powers, especially Turkey, are facilitating these plans. The consequences will be bloody for the whole world. We, the people of North and East Syria, are at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and its ideology. We fulfil our moral and humanitarian responsibilities to stop this international danger. We call on all counter-terrorism forces to support the struggle of our people and act on the basis of the experience we gained 5 years ago together with the International Coalition against ISIS.”

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## HPG reports aerial attacks by the guerrillas against the Turkish army

ANF | BEHDINAN | 27 AUGUST 2024

The Press Liaison Centre of the People’s Defense Forces (HPG) released a statement providing information about aerial attacks carried out by the guerrillas against the Turkish invasion forces in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement on Tuesday, the bases of the occupying Turkish army in Şehîd Delîl Western Zap region were targeted by the Şehîd Doğan Zinar Unit with aircraft between 18-24 August.

“The invaders in Girê Amediyê and Girê Bahar Resistance Area were hit from the air 2 times. As far as we could clarify, 1 invader was killed, 1 other was wounded, 3 positions and 1 surveillance camera were destroyed and 4 tents were damaged as a result of these actions,” said the HPG statement.

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## Turkish army’s last resort to overcome the Zap syndrome: Concrete emplacements

AMARA HARUN | BEHDINAN | 27 AUGUST 2024

The invasion and annexation attacks of the colonialist fascist Turkish state against southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) continue with the support of the ruling KDP and the approval of the Iraqi state. New information about the role of the KDP in the invasion and annexation attacks emerges every day. The latest information is from Behdînan region.

In the area of Berê Silê, a touristic picnic area just east of the city of Amediyê, the Turkish state has opened a concrete construction site. Officially, this is a park, called Amediyê Park, and it is located in the area controlled by the Zêrevanî forces, known as the special forces of the KDP.

Girê (Hill) Amediyê is located west of Zap. During the last four years, when the occupation and annexation attacks continued intensively, Girê Amediyê witnessed the epic resistance of HPG and YJA Star guerrillas who stood in front of the occupation as an impenetrable fortress. The occupying Turkish army suffered heavy losses here and continues to do so. The aerial attacks by the Şehîd Axîn Mûş and Şehîd Doğan Zinar Units in particular pushed the occupation very hard in the summer months. Many high-ranking invaders, including the command staff at the rank of lieutenant colonel, were targeted and killed by the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas. It seems that stopping the occupation army in this way and inflicting heavy casualties on them has obviously pushed them very hard.

This area, which until recently was known as ‘seyrangeh’ by the local people who used to have picnics with their children, has been turned into a construction site by the Turkish army. This is very important in terms of showing another dirty face of the war being waged in Kurdistan. It is an example of how the Turkish Republic and its affiliated companies make dirty calculations on the blood of the guerrillas who gave their lives to stop the planned occupation and annexation and to protect the gains of Kurdistan.

The tender for the construction site established by the occupying Turkish army in Berê Silê, in other words Amediyê Park, was awarded to Süleyman Odabaşı, a collaborator from Diyarbakır. This collaborator company, which received the tender for the military construction site in the region as Odabaşı Transportation and Incorporated Company, is producing ready-made positions for the Turkish army. This construction site appears to be run and closely guarded by soldiers. Each concrete emplacement is reportedly 2 metres high and weighs 9 tonnes.

The occupying army is clinging to these positions in order to overcome the Zap syndrome and deep deadlock in Zap. It is thus trying to get rid of the blows it receives from land and air. The biggest harbinger and proof that this is not a panacea for the occupiers and that the Zap syndrome will continue to be a nightmare for the occupying army is the continuous actions of the guerrillas on the ground.

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## Turkish tanks deployed to Dêreluk Dam

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2024

According to information received from local sources, between 01:00 and 02:00 on the night between 27 and 28 August, the Turkish army brought two tanks loaded onto trucks through the Serzerê Border Gate, which is under the control of the KDP.

It was learned that these tanks were taken through the city of Amediyê and transported to the location of the Dêreluk Dam.

The Dêreluk Dam is located just above the Zap River, between the Girê Bahar and Kurojahro hills, where the eastern and western sides of Zap meet.

It was reported that the tanks, moved through the area with the collaboration of the KDP, were brought from the location of the Dêreluk Dam to the eastern end of the Girê Bahar, i.e. in the area called Geliyê Reşova, to be used against the guerrilla tunnel positions.

Last year, the KDP had already settled in the area where the Dêreluk Dam is located, and Turkish soldiers were deployed on its upper lines.



## Guerrilla's family: We want the KDP to hand over the remains of our Serdem

NUJIYAN ADAR | GIRKE LEGE | 28 AUGUST 2024

The sister of Serdem Cudi, one of the guerrillas killed by the KDP but whose remains were not handed over, said: "What breaks our hearts is not Serdem's martyrdom. Serdem fought honorably for the freedom of his people. The fact that he was killed by those who call themselves Kurds broke our hearts."

In Xelîfan, on the Zap River, on the night of 28 August 2021, a guerrilla group of 7 people was attacked by KDP forces, and as a result of this attack, 5 guerrillas were killed. One of these martyrs was Serdem Cudi (Yusif Ibrahim). Serdem Cudi's brother Yusif Ibrahim and sister Gulcin Ibrahim spoke to ANF.

### Kurdish people are aware of the KDP's treason

Yusif Ibrahim said: "Guerrillas protect the honor of the Kurdish people. If there were no guerrillas, the honor of the Kurdish people would be denied. Guerrillas are those who sacrifice their lives for their people. They resurrected the Kurdish people, whom the Turkish state said "we covered with concrete". If there were no guerrillas, our people would not exist. Guerrillas wage their people's identity war in the mountains for days without food, water and sleep, against an enemy that does not recognize humanity and attacks savagely."

Stating that the history of the KDP is full of dirty pages, Yûsif Êbrahîm said: "The KDP's treason is not limited to the last days, it covers a long period of time. Heval Serdem and his comrades were martyred by the KDP in Khalifan. The KDP is the enemy of the Kurdish people. The Kurdish people are aware of the KDP's betrayal. This betrayal has been exposed. If it were not for the KDP, the Turkish state would not have been able to advance even one step in South Kurdistan."

### Our calls are ignored

Yûsif Êbrahîm said that they had been demanding the bodies of Martyr Serdem and his comrades from the KDP for 111 days during the tent protest set up at the Semalka Border Gate, and added: "Despite all our calls and demands, no one heard our voices. We want the bodies of our martyrs. We want to know where they are hiding our martyrs. We were ignored for 111 days. We could not get the remains of our martyrs."

We know that the bodies of our martyrs are in the hands of the KDP. If it calls itself a Kurd, it should hand over our bodies."

### **Kurdish children are being murdered**

Gulçin İbrahim condemned the attacks carried out by the Turkish state in cooperation with the KDP, and said: "Kurdish children are being murdered by the hands of the Kurds. My brother Serdem was killed by the KDP. We wanted my brother's body and we still want it. We wanted to bury Serdem next to his comrades in the cemetery. Despite our efforts, they did not give us the martyr's body. The great enemy of the Kurdish people is the KDP. It is killing Kurdish heroes by getting in the way of the Turkish state. What breaks our hearts is not the martyrdom of Serdem.

Serdem fought, struggled and made sacrifices for the freedom of his people with his honor. However, it is the fact that Serdem was martyred by those who call themselves Kurds that broke our hearts."

Gulçin İbrahim called on the KDP to be serious and requested once again the remains of her brother Serdem. She said: "We fought for 111 days and our struggle continues. We participated in the tent protest. There was mass participation in the protest. Calls were made, but not a single word was heard from the KDP. They continued to deny the existing situation. The KDP should know this well, we will get Serdem's body even if years pass."

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## **Attack kills a mother and son in Qamishlo**

**ANF | QAMISHLO | 28 AUGUST 2024**

The explosion of a mine planted in a car claimed the lives of 45-year-old Xalide Mihemed Şerif and her 24-year-old son Ednan Silêman near the bus station and the post office in the Enteriye neighborhood of Qamishlo on Wednesday morning.

A week ago, on 22 August, a building of the Internal Security Forces (Asayish) was [targeted](#) by a Turkish drone, which resulted in injuries.

Last week, Qamishlo was bombed twice by drones, with further attacks taking place near Dêrik and in Afrin.

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## Iraqi army shoots down a Turkish drone in Kirkuk

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2024

The Iraqi army announced that it shot down an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) belonging to the Turkish state.

It was stated that the drone was shot down in the skies over Kirkuk.

The Iraqi Air Force Command and security officials in Kirkuk issued a joint statement on the targeting of the Turkish unmanned aerial vehicle.

According to the statement made by Abdulselam Ferhan, Deputy Commander of the Iraqi Air Force, the UAV was targeted by 5 missiles near the Chîmen checkpoint, and that the UAV crashed after one missile reached the target.

Abdulselam Ferhan stated that the Turkish UAV crashed in the Tisîn neighbourhood of Kirkuk, and noted that the security forces deployed to the scene started an investigation.

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## Martyr Kendal Breizh: A story of struggle from the Podcast studio to the battlefield

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2024

Olivier François Jean Le Clainche, a native of Morbihan, France, was born in Malestroy in 1977. Renowned for his passion and professionalism as a journalist, he dedicated his career to amplifying marginalized voices and advocating for social justice and environmental causes. Despite not having Breton ancestry, Le Clainche deeply admired his Celtic heritage. His voice resonated through the airwaves of Radio Pro Gwyned, a Breton radio station committed to social justice and cultural preservation. However, a burning desire for a world free from injustice led him to exchange his microphone for a rifle.

During the height of the war against ISIS terrorism in Syria, Le Clainche traveled to northeastern Syria to join the fight for liberation. He saw in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) a reflection of his ideals of a society based on democracy, equality, coexistence, and women's freedom.

In July 2017, he joined the SDF under the nom de guerre Kendal Breizh. Le Clainche proved his bravery on the battlefield, participating in the liberation of Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor from ISIS terrorism. When the Turkish invasion of Afrin began, he was among the first to defend the city against the Turkish army and its mercenaries. On February 10, 2018, just days after arriving in Afrin, he was martyred during a brutal Turkish airstrike on the city.



## People protest against Turkish-Russian patrol in Cizîrê Canton

ANF | 29 AUGUST 2024

People protested against a Turkish-Russian patrol through the village of Dêrna Axa in the district of Çilaxa in Cizîrê Canton. While the military vehicles were pelted with stones, the Russian military fired gas cartridges at the crowd. A young woman, Evîn Îsa, was hit and injured by an armoured car. She was hospitalised.

The patrols by Russian and Turkish troops through the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria are the result of an agreement that Turkey concluded with Russia on 22 October 2019 following the occupation of Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) and Girê Spî (Tal Abyad) in violation of international law. The patrols were suspended for a long time and were only recently resumed.



## Cologne Court: Travel ban against Peace Delegation to Kurdistan unlawful

ANF | COLOGNE | 29 AUGUST 2024

The Administrative Court of Cologne ruled on the lawsuits filed by two women from Hamburg against the Federal Police's prohibition of their departure to Iraq in June 2021. The two plaintiffs were part of an international peace delegation that wanted to travel to southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) in order to contribute to ending the attacks by the Turkish state in violation of international law. The court ruled that the prohibition of the departures and the one-month travel bans to Iraq were unlawful.

### International Peace Delegation of the Defend Kurdistan Campaign

On 12 June 2021, participants of a Peace Delegation of the Defend Kurdistan Campaign wanted to leave for Hewlêr (Erbil) in Northern Iraq via Düsseldorf Airport. Around 160 people from 14 countries took part in the Peace Delegation to raise awareness in European societies about the war in Kurdistan and the attacks by the Turkish military in violation of international law and to contribute to a peaceful solution to the Kurdistan conflict.

### 'Significant interests of the Federal Republic of Germany jeopardised'

At Düsseldorf airport, the federal police refused 17 participants, including Hamburg Left Party leader Cansu Özdemir, permission to leave the country and issued one-month travel bans. The authorities justified their actions by citing, among other things, the Federal Republic of Germany's relations with Turkey,

which, they said, would be 'further negatively affected' by travelling. They stated that this would jeopardise the 'considerable interests of the Federal Republic of Germany'.

### **Attack on international solidarity**

After the appeals against the bans were rejected, two participants from Hamburg filed a lawsuit against the federal police in June 2022. They defined the actions of the federal police as an attack on international solidarity with Kurdish society and an unlawful criminalisation of their commitment to peace in Kurdistan, which violated their fundamental rights. The Cologne Administrative Court ruled on these complaints on Wednesday.

### **The bans were unlawful**

After the proceedings of the two plaintiffs were heard separately at short notice, the court came to the judgement in both cases that the bans were unlawful. The court based its judgement primarily on the fact that the authorities were unable to provide sufficient individual evidence that the plaintiffs wanted to participate in propaganda activities of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is banned in Germany, in northern Iraq, as alleged.

### **Rally in front of the administrative court**

A rally was held in front of the court building, at which representatives of the German Left and the Kurdish movement expressed their solidarity with the plaintiffs and condemned the repression by the federal police in speeches.

### **Increased travel bans against political activists**

Although the bans on which the decision is based date back more than three years, Wednesday's judgement has a certain relevance. According to AZADÎ's observations, travel bans against political activists have become more frequent in recent years in order to hinder them in their activities. As recently as the end of July, a group of five travellers on their way to Shengal (Sinjar) in northern Iraq were stopped at Munich airport. All travellers were banned from leaving the country for one month. The group wanted to take part in commemorative events to mark the tenth anniversary of the genocide against the Yazidis in Shengal.

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## **Autonomous Administration: Turkey is responsible for the explosion that killed a mother and her son**

ANF | QAMISHLO | 29 AUGUST 2024

On 28 August, a mother and her son were killed as a result of the explosion of a mine planted in car in Qamishlo city center.

In a written statement, the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAAANES) said, “The explosion, which Turkey and gang groups are behind, aims to create chaos in the region and break the will of our people.”

DAANES pointed out that: “In front of the eyes of the whole world, the Turkish state is taking revenge for the victory of our people against terrorism and the project of violence.”

“We remind the whole world once again that Turkey's attacks against civilians and infrastructure are an attempt to avenge the victory of our people against terrorism,’ the Autonomous Administration said, adding: “The Turkish state is enabling the revival of ISIS in order to break the resistance of our people against it. The increasing ISIS mobilisation in Syria and other regions is a result of this.”

The Autonomous Administration expressed its condolences to the families of the martyrs and noted that it is the duty of all legal, humanitarian and security institutions to stand against the genocidal policies of the Turkish state.

“We will continue our historic resistance to realise the hopes of our people,’ the Autonomous Administration said, remarking that the ongoing attacks are hindering efforts to stabilise the region and dragging the region into a war that will pose great dangers for everyone.

“The more the enemy persecutes us, the greater will be our determination to survive and our resistance,’ the Autonomous Administration concluded.

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## A civilian killed, another wounded by explosion in Amûdê

ANF | AMUDE | 29 AUGUST 2024

An explosion occurred in the Mesakîn neighbourhood of Amûdê, the cause of which has not been determined yet. Two people were injured as a result of the explosion on Thursday.

It is learned that 35-year-old Hanî Xelef, who was seriously wounded, died in the hospital in Qamishlo, while 74-year-old Tirfe Colî, who also sustained an injury, was discharged from the Amûdê Hospital after receiving treatment.

Yesterday, a mine planted in a car exploded in the Enteriye neighborhood of Qamishlo city, claiming the lives of 45-year-old Xalide Mihemed Şerif and her 24-year-old son Ednan Silêman.

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## March in Kobanê: “With the will of free women, we will end the occupation and genocide policies”

ANF | KOBANE | 29 AUGUST 2024

A central march was staged in the Euphrates Canton against the invading Turkish state's attacks on North-East Syria and women.

During the march that started from the Free Women's Square in Kobanê, posters of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Behadîn, who were martyred in a Turkish drone attack against the journalists' car in Sulaymaniyah on 23 August, and Xalide Mihemed Şerîf and her son Hejar Ednan Silêman, who were martyred in the car explosion in Enteriyê neighbourhood of Qamishlo yesterday, were displayed.

Carrying posters of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan, Kongra Star pennants and banners reading ‘With the will of free women, we will end the occupation and genocide policies’, hundreds of people chanted the slogan ‘Murderer Erdoğan’. The march ended at the Peace Square, where Euphrates Canton Kongra Star Organisation Coordination Member Zozan Bekir addressed the crowd.

Bekir stated that they would avenge the martyrs with the philosophy of ‘Jin Jiyan Azadî’ [Woman, Life, Freedom] and added: “They cannot break our will through these attacks. We will end the mentality of occupation and genocide with the power and will of women.”

Zozan Bekir also drew attention to the joint patrol of Russian forces with the occupying Turkish army in the village of Dêrna Axa in Çilaxa in the Cizire Canton this morning. Noting that a panzer belonging to the Russian forces hit and injured a young woman, Zozan Bekir said, “Conducting joint patrols in our region, Russian and Turkish forces brutally attacked our people who stood against this patrol. They drove their panzers on the people and hit a young woman. In other words, these attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria, especially against women, are not only carried out by the Turkish state, but also by the guarantor states. We will put an end to these massacres.”

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## HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Eylem Stêrk, Sozdar Evîn and Armanç Devrim

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 AUGUST 2024

The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) has announced the names of three guerrillas who were killed in North Kurdistan.

Eylem Stêrk and Sozdar Evîn were killed in late July in a military operation by the Turkish army in the (Beytüşşebap) Elkê area of Botan, and Armanç Devrim was killed on 12 August in the Kato Marînos area

of Van. The HPG praised the three women as determined freedom fighters of Kurdistan and expressed their condolences to their families and the Kurdish people.

The HPG obituary gave the following information:

Code name: Eylem Stêrk

First and last name: Meryem Önür

Place of birth: Şirnex

Names of mother and father: Kadriye – Ahmet

Date and place of death: July 30-31, 2024 / Botan

Code name: Sozdar Evîn

First and last name: Betül Aydın

Place of birth: Çewlîk

Names of mother and father: Valide – Nusrettin

Date and place of death: July 30-31. July 2024 / Botan

Code name: Armanç Devrim

First and last name: Hacer Tekin

Place of birth: Colemêrg

Names of mother and father: Asya - Hacı

Date and place of death: August 12, 2024 / Wan

## PUK: KDP's betrayal 28 years ago has turned into a deep wound

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2024

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Politburo made a written statement on the anniversary of the KDP's occupation of Hewlêr (Erbil) on 31 August 28 years ago in agreement with the Baath regime.

"28 years ago, the Baath army occupied Hewlêr upon the official request of KDP. This betrayal turned into a deep wound for Kurds," said the PUK statement on Friday.

"The betrayal of 31 August is a symbol of political and national shame. However, this betrayal continues to be defended without any shame," the statement said.

The PUK Politburo added: "Although 28 years have passed, the wounds of this betrayal have still not healed. The political, social, economic and cultural effects of this betrayal are still continuing. On the other hand, the wrong politics of the KDP continues to repeat itself."

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## Manbij Military Council repels infiltration attempt in two villages

ANF | MANBIJ | 30 AUGUST 2024

The Manbij Military Council (MMC) repelled attacks by pro-Turkish mercenaries on two villages in the region.

According to the MMC statement on Friday, jihadists under Turkish command attempted to infiltrate the villages of Cat (al-Gat) and Awn Dadat, located north-east of the city centre, in the morning.

"There were simultaneous breakthrough attempts by a group of mercenaries. However, the attackers quickly withdrew as a result of clashes," said the statement, according to which an unknown number of mercenaries were killed in the fighting.

Manbij is located 30 kilometres south of the Turkish border and occupies a key strategic position in Turkey's plans to expand its illegal occupation zone in northern Syria. The city, which is administered by the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES), is located on the important M4 highway, which runs through northern Syria like a lifeline and was a strategic supply route for ISIS. In addition to the Manbij Military Council, the Enîya Kurdan (Kurdish Front) and the Idlib Revolutionary Brigade are also responsible for the defence of the region.

Since Manbij was named by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as the primary target for a new invasion of northern and eastern Syria in 2022, the war of attrition against the city has intensified. There are regular attacks by the Turkish army and allied jihadist militias as well as infiltration attempts, which are mainly directed against civilian settlement areas with the aim of displacing the population. The positions of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are also repeatedly under attack. The international community ignores Turkey's crimes in its neighbouring country.

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## Armoured vehicle terror: A young man's leg broken in Nusaybin

ANF | MARDIN | 30 AUGUST 2024

Umut Aslan (20) was hit by an armoured police vehicle travelling on his motorbike in the centre of Mardin's Nusaybin district on Friday.

Aslan fell on the ground and reportedly had one of his legs broken.

Aslan was taken to Nusaybin State Hospital by an ambulance called to the scene and taken under treatment. The young man is not in a life-threatening condition.

In a report published in June 2023, Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakır Branch stated that 44 people, including 21 children, had died in the last 15 years as a result of being hit by armoured vehicles and vehicles driven by soldiers and police officers in the Kurdish region. Reacting to the policy of impunity, IHD said, "We demand effective judicial and administrative investigations against law enforcement officers who are the perpetrators of actions that lead to deaths and injuries due to the policy of impunity."

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## Fire started by Turkish bombardment on Mount Gare raging for three days

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2024

The occupying Turkish state continues its attacks on the territory of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) uninterrupted. While many areas have already been depopulated due to bombardments, the nature of Kurdistan is being destroyed due to attacks and fires.

According to reports from the ground, the fire that broke out on Mount Gare after the latest Turkish bombardments has been going on for 3 days.



It was reported that the fire near the village of Dêrşî on Mount Gare has not yet been brought under control.

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## Feminicide

Women's organizations in Turkey fear increase in femicides if the government's new plans approved

ANF | 25 AUGUST 2024

The Turkish state has long been based on a synthesis of Islamism and fascism. Part of this policy is to allow the authorities and religious institutions access to the family sphere. Now the Ministry of Family and Social Services, controlled by the Islamist ruling party AKP, has published a perspective paper and an action plan "to protect and strengthen the family." The action plan announced by Family Minister Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş includes a block warden system. Each building is to have a "family advisor for religious guidance and spiritual information."

The work of the advisors is to be focused on the basis of an assessment of "social risks." These "advisors" come from so-called civil society organizations. In the past, similar tasks were carried out by Islamist sects or right-wing extremist associations. Women's organizations and civil society warn that this project violates secularism and individual freedom and promotes social discrimination and violence against women.

Tülin Osmanoğulları, representative of the "Stop Femicides" platform in Izmir, told Yeni Özgür Politika newspaper that the regime had built misogynistic alliances with the 2023 elections and has since then attacked women's rights even more strongly at all levels. For example, members of the Islamist Hüda Par entered parliament on the AKP ticket. A party that, with its predecessor organization Hezbollah, is involved in countless murders and torture in the style of ISIS.

Tülin Osmanoğulları said: "The government is trying to blame its own defeat on society. It appointed a trustee for Hakkari (Colemêrg) and passed a law on the killing of stray animals. Now, in a country where violence against women and sexual violence against children have increased significantly, it has published a perspective paper and an 'action plan for protecting and strengthening the family'. It wants to open religious counseling centers and offer religious and spiritual counseling to families. In this way, the absolute power of men in the family is to be emphasized with reference to religious sources. The idea is to convey that it is wrong to defend yourself against men and their violence."

### **"There is no longer a family to strengthen"**

Osmanoğulları continued: "Women are mostly killed as a result of the government's family policy by men from whom they want to divorce or separate. The men who have been given uncontrolled power are now not only killing women, but even their own children. In other words, there is no longer a family to strengthen. Family-oriented policies or religiously oriented counseling centers do not solve the problem, but only lead to an increase in murders, violence against women and sexualized violence against children. We can see this very clearly in the results of our monthly surveys. The government's policy has become a very serious social problem. We do not accept this policy. We do not give up our rights, freedom and equality. We will continue our fight until Law No. 6284, which is intended to protect women, is effectively implemented."

Law No. 6284 regulates the protection of women and the punishment of perpetrators, including a restraining order for perpetrators of violence and protective measures for victims. It defines measures ranging from material support to a new identity for women. The AKP and its coalition partners have repeatedly brought up the abolition of this law.

### **"It's about messing up society"**

Rojbin Bor, an activist with the women's movement TJA, pointed out that the expansion of "religious and spiritual counseling services" for families aims to shape society on the basis of certain religious and cultural values and to increasingly weaken its pluralistic structure.

Bor said: "This practice will lead to a Sharia mentality like in Iran, where the murder of women is justified just because a strand of hair is visible. We are aware that such action plans are nothing more than the preparation of a Sharia regime. An attempt is being made to prepare women for a new Sharia system and to convince them of it. By instrumentalizing religion, society has already been convinced of hunger, poverty, deprivation, misery and even death. Not only that, Turkey, which ranks last in the world in terms of women's rights, has, instead of protecting women's right to life, focused over the last ten years on creating a submissive, accepting woman who obeys men and destroying those who do not fit this definition as witches."

### **"Hate crimes and pogroms are being fomented"**

Bor continued: "There are millions of people of other religions and denominations in this country. This situation will lead to inequality and discrimination against people of different faiths and cause social unrest. This in turn will lead to hate crimes and pogroms, of which there have already been examples in the past, being fomented again by the government. Social peace will continue to deteriorate as the conflict between secular and religious values intensifies. In order to preserve a secular and pluralistic social structure, one must therefore be vigilant and oppose such policies. It is important that women's rights activists, civil society organizations and all relevant groups take an active role in promoting gender equality and human rights. If such policies are implemented, measures must be taken to protect gender equality and women's rights. Such policies must be carefully evaluated to ensure that they do not harm social peace."

## YPJ: Killing journalists means silencing the voice of truth

ANF | 25 AUGUST 2024

The Media Center of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) released a statement paying tribute to Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn who lost their lives in a Turkish UCAV attack in Sulaymaniyah city in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on 23 August.

"The fascist Turkish state's attack on journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn was aimed at hiding the Turkish state's plans to occupy and seize South Kurdistan," said the YPJ statement on Sunday, which includes the following:

"The forces of the Kurdistan Region and Iraq in South Kurdistan are destroying the gains of the Kurdistan Freedom Movement in cooperation with the Turkish state, which sees its salvation in the genocide of the Kurdish people and the region. The Turkish state continues to carry out such terrorist and inhumane attacks in the region. Gulistan and Hêro followed the truth about the Turkish state's attack and invasion of South Kurdistan, which it carries out alongside those who practice slavery and treacherous forces in the country.

Gulistan and Hêro, through their struggle with the camera, pen, and media, insisted on conveying these truths to the world. Therefore, on August 23, Gulistan and Hêro were attacked by the Turkish state in Sulaymaniyah. Gulistan and Hêro never stopped their struggle and sacrificed their lives to reveal the existing truths. The history of Kurdish journalism is intertwined with the history of the Kurdish people's struggle. Today, the Kurdish people's resistance, thanks to the work of journalists fighting for the truth, is clear, and history cannot deny this spirit and courage that insist on independence and freedom. In front of the entire world, the Turkish state carries out its brutal attacks with armed aircraft. The Turkish state attacks politicians, academics, fighters, and journalists in front of the entire world in a manner that defies the laws of war. The fascist state killed the fighter and journalist Dilovan Gever in West Kurdistan in a brutal way in 2019 while she was covering the Turkish state's invasion of the city of Gri Spi.

As always, human rights organizations and agencies remain silent about the attacks carried out by the Turkish state. All authorities and officials in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq must be fully aware that they are openly cooperating with the genocide against the Kurdish people in South Kurdistan. Targeting and killing journalists means silencing the voice of truth. The forces of South Kurdistan and Iraq must not allow the Turkish state to launch such inhumane attacks on their land.

We express our condolences to the dear families of Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn. The struggle for free women's media to expose the truths about the fascist Turkish state, from Gurbetelli Ersöz to Agirî Yılmaz, Dilovan Gever, Gulistan and Hêro, is a history filled with resistance, and for this reason, they will never surrender.

We, as fighters and journalists fighting for the freedom of our people and our land, fight to demonstrate resistance, and we promise to continue and enhance the struggle of Kolestani and Hero."

## European Women's Solidarity condemns the deadly Turkish attack against journalists

ANF | 25 AUGUST 2024

The European Women's Solidarity (AKD) condemned the killing of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn in an UCAV attack carried out by the occupying Turkish state against a vehicle carrying Kurdish journalists in Seyîdsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah on 23 August.

In a written statement on Sunday, AKD condemned the attack which claimed the lives of Sterk TV reporters Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn and left 6 other journalists wounded.

The statement by the European Women's Solidarity said the following:

“The colonialist Turkish state continues its dirty war it has been waging in Southern Kurdistan for years, having intensified in recent years, targeting women politicians and journalists in particular.

In South Kurdistan, the Turkish state bombs anywhere it wants as if it was its own territory. It carries out assassinations against the revolutionaries it determines. The increasing attacks by the fascist palace regime after the KDP's visit to Turkey are conducted with the support and cooperation of the KDP.

The fascist Turkish state, which has suffered a defeat in the Medya Defence Zones and could not achieve the ‘victory’ it declared every moment, continues to assassinate civilians, journalists and politicians for the sake of its ‘I am winning’ propaganda. Local collaborators and agents prepare the ground for these massacres.

The alliances of the fascist Turkish state, which does not abide by any morality of war, are primarily responsible for all these massacres.

After the assassination of Kurdish women revolutionaries Sakine Cansız and Evîn Goyî in Paris and Nâgihan Akarsel in Sulaymaniyah, the male-dominated fascist power could not stop the women's liberation struggle.

We commemorate our comrades, our sisters, journalists Gulistan and Hêro with respect. We promise that we will keep their memory alive in our determined struggle, and we will call them to account.

As the European Women's Solidarity (AKD), we will not remain silent against all colonialist, occupying and massacring forces.

Let the fascist AKP-MHP government know that with every person murdered, we stand up stronger again!

Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn are immortal!”

## ‘We Are Hope, We Are Peace’ campaign explains content of Family Law in Northern and Eastern Syria

NUJIYAN ADAR | QAMISHLO | 26 AUGUST 2024

The ‘We Are Hope, We Are Peace’ campaign launched on 1 July by the Sara Organization for the Fight Against Violence against Women, which operates in Northern and Eastern Syria, continues at full speed. This campaign, which will be completed by the end of August, aims to introduce the Family Law.

The Family Law, by securing civil rights and banning polygamy and child marriages, introduces strict sanctions regarding domestic violence and takes measures to protect women and children. It also aims to ensure that family relations are conducted fairly by making regulations on issues such as divorce and marriage.

The Family Law consists of a total of 41 articles under 6 headings: marriage, divorce, the effects of divorce, the livelihood of relatives, crimes related to kinship and families.

Delal Osman, a member of the Sara Organization for the Fight Against Violence against Women, spoke to ANF about the aim and progress of the campaign.

### **Focusing on raising awareness of men**

Delal Osman said: "We started such a campaign to respond to the increase in violence against women. We realized that the campaign would be important because the male-dominated mentality deals with women in line with reactionary traditions and customs, oppresses women and takes away their rights. In line with this initiative, we are focusing on raising the awareness of men rather than women. We are holding discussions with men and deeply addressing the foundation of a democratic family."

Osman added: "Violence against women has not ended. We are aware of the intense tendencies towards women, and in line with the weight of this, we want to prevent the killings and violence against women that take place under the name of ‘honor’. In fact, women also needed to be made aware of the legal dimension. They needed to know that there were laws that defended women’s rights and that it was time to express the reflections of violence against their bodies and minds."

### **Encouraging a democratic family model**

Delal Osman said that the campaign was carried out in line with the introduction of the Family Law and that visits were made to villages, towns and districts in the region. "These visits take place in the form of home visits, meetings, seminars and panels. We also distribute brochures and provide information about every article of the Family Law. The aim of the initiative is to explain the rights provided by the law to women who are not aware of the Family Law and to encourage a democratic family model. The interest of society in the initiative is positive, and the discussions are intense. Many people have heard of the Family Law but were not familiar with its content. We also observed problems related to traditional family structures and violence."



## Women journalists in South Kurdistan: Turkish occupiers fear the power of women

DİDAR ŞEHLA | SULAYMANIYAH | 26 AUGUST 2024

On 23 August, the Turkish state bombed a vehicle belonging to Chatr Production with drones in the Seyîdsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah (Silêmanî). The vehicle was carrying journalists. Two of them, Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara, were killed.

Journalists Peryan Ehmed and Bêrîvan Bergareyî spoke to ANF about the ongoing protests condemning the killing of their two colleagues.

**Journalist Peryan Ehmed** paid tribute to the killed journalists, and said: "Targeting women shows that the invading Turkish state is afraid of the power of women."

Criticizing those in power in South Kurdistan, the unions and the parties for their silence and indifference against terror and massacres, Peryan Ehmed added: "We will always be on the path of truth and rights. We will not lose our way, and we will respond to attacks and take revenge for our martyrs."

**Journalist Bêrîvan Bergareyî** said that the terror of the Turkish state is not independent of the support of those betraying our people.

She added: "We condemn this attack. It is not possible for the Turkish state to follow someone without the support of some in South Kurdistan. The enemy thinks we will be afraid, but we will never be afraid. We will follow the path of our martyrs, and, of course, we will respond to their attacks and dirty practices."



## Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit: Turkey committed a war crime by massacring journalists

ANF | ANKARA | 26 AUGUST 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Group Deputy Chair Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit evaluated the latest developments at a press conference held in the Parliament.

Koçyiğit also commented on the killing of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn in an UCAV attack carried out by the occupying Turkish state against a vehicle carrying Kurdish journalists in Seyîdsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah on 23 August.

"I would like to salute the Free Press labourers who do not leave their pens on the ground, who are in the fields, squares, battlefields, war zones for the people's right to information despite the war and difficult conditions all over the world, who broadcast from war trenches and who do not back down no matter what," said Koçyiğit.

Remarking that Turkey committed a 'war crime' with its attacks against journalists, Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit continued her speech as follows: "This is an extrajudicial execution. If you freely go and target civilian vehicles and civilian settlements of another country in the airspace of another country with UCAVs, and massacre Free Press labourers, journalists and the people living there, this is called extrajudicial execution. Even in war, journalists are not touched. But unfortunately, Turkey has committed a war crime in Sulaymaniyah by targeting civilian settlements and civilian vehicles many times and massacring the people and Free Press workers there."

"The AKP-MHP government is responsible for the massacre. The government, which does not resolve the Kurdish question through democratic methods, turns everywhere into a war zone, establishes military bases in almost every square metre of South Kurdistan, and tries to open the door to a new war through military agreements, is personally responsible for these deaths," she underlined.

Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit stated that incidents of violence have increased due to the policies of the AKP government and said, "The AKP is organising violence and lynch culture. Violence is spreading like an epidemic. It is a misogynist government and attempts against women's lives every day. It fuels and feeds this violence that amounts to a genocide. If these perpetrators knew that their crimes would not go unpunished, they would not commit these crimes. We are facing a spiral of violence that spills over from the Parliament to the streets, from violence against women, to violence against children, violence against animals, violence against immigrants, violence against the poor, violence against others. This is a lynch culture. This culture is being revived by the government itself. We are passing through days and thresholds where everyone must take a stance against this risk and violence."

Koçyiğit also commented on the escalating attacks against the values of the Kurdish people, stating: "People who sing and dance to Kurdish music are arrested and attacked. In a place where the judiciary, the police and the government take sides in such incidents, protecting racists, the conditions for talking about social peace and living side by side disappear. Today, the AKP government is dividing society in two with its policies. It is dividing in the real sense. We are millions from Edirne to Hakkari, we are the real owners of this country, we are not guests of this country. Of course, we will speak in every inch of this country. We never, ever accept being a 'shadow citizen' that you impose on us."

Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit continued: "Erdoğan said yesterday in Bitlis: 'Gone are the days when our people were marginalised because of their identity and language. The days of oppression and bans are completely behind us, never to return'. We ask Tayyip Erdoğan in an environment where people who dance to Kurdish songs are arrested, people who sing Kurdish songs are beaten and lynched; how come the bans and oppressions are gone, how come people are not discriminated against because of their origin and language? If he only looks at the statements made by his partner in the last week, he will see the truth and reality. But his task is not to see the truth. His task is to obscure the truth, to create perception and manipulation. If Kenan Evren were alive, he would give a standing ovation to the anti-Kurdish policies of the AKP and MHP. In that sense, we are confronted with a policy that falls very much behind the 12 September mentality and Kenan Evren."

Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit also drew attention to the experiences of prisoner Abdulkadir Bozkurt, who was threatened with death and attacked by guards in Tekirdağ Closed Prison No 2, and the situation of other prisoners. She referred to the reports of other prisoners through their families and demanded the Ministry of Justice to investigate the allegations of torture and isolation on site.

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## PYD Young Women's Assembly holds panel on necessity of ending violence against women

ANF | QAMISHLO | 27 AUGUST 2024

The Democratic Union Party (PYD) Young Women's Assembly organized a panel titled "We will end violence against women, cultural and political genocide through organization." Many women from civil society organizations and political parties attended the panel.

The panel held in the PYD hall in Qamishlo discussed two topics, 'violence against women' and 'cultural and political genocide.'

Talking about violence against women, PYD Cizîrê Canton Young Women's Assembly executive, Sara Hesên, said that there are many types of violence against women, including physical, psychological, economic, intellectual and social violence, and stated that violence is not only directed at women, but also at the entire society.

Drawing attention to the fact that the enemy uses these methods to weaken and control the people, Sara Hesên said that the most appropriate methods to end violence are organization and education.

Talking about cultural and political genocide, Berîtan Roş, spokesperson for the Northern and Eastern Syrian Young Women's Union, said: "The enemy is working 24 hours a day to destroy the language, existence and culture of the people in the region on the basis of political genocide."

Drawing attention to the special attacks and war carried out and carried out by the occupying Turkish state against Northern and Eastern Syria, Berîtan Roş underlined the importance of awareness and solidarity.

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## Exploitation of women in agriculture sector in Turkey and North Kurdistan

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2024

Cherries, hazelnuts and olive oil as well as many other agricultural products from Turkey or North Kurdistan and the occupied areas in Northern and Eastern Syria are on the shelves of German supermarkets.

While agriculture in the occupied areas in Northern and Eastern Syria is based on colonial plunder by the Turkish occupation and its mercenary groups, large-scale agriculture in Turkey and North Kurdistan is also based on brutal exploitation. Women in particular work as seasonal workers to keep their families afloat.

According to research by the Mezopotamya (MA) news agency, women in Gevaş (Westan) in the province of Van (Wan) receive just 600 TL per day (just under 16 euros) for a twelve-hour workday in temperatures over 35 degrees. They work without any protection from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In addition, women are even denied payment of this starvation wage, while food prices in Turkey and North Kurdistan have reached European levels. The women say that the wages are not even enough to cover their basic needs. Due to the living conditions in North Kurdistan, women are forced to work in the fields and plantations of large landowners.

### "Prices are rising every day"

Komru Komi, one of the workers, told MA: "We are a family of seven. I work with my husband. All my children go to school, and we have a lot of expenses. I have to work to pay for stationery and clothes. We start working at 6:00 in the morning and leave at 6:00 in the evening. The daily wage we get is 600 TL, which is not enough for anything. Every day, prices are increasing. There is no other work in Van. People are migrating. We want factories and textile workshops to be opened so that our young people do not have to migrate. We want our young people to be able to stay on their own land."

### "We have no choice"

Belkiza Tiniç works twelve hours a day to support her family. She underlined that it is almost impossible to make ends meet, but that she has no other choice: "My husband works in construction and his wages are not enough to keep the family going. There are no job opportunities in Van. We try to make a living with what we get here. My husband doesn't want me to work like that, but we have no choice. How can we make a living with the money he earns on the construction site? Our whole struggle is to bring something home."

### "We can't even buy two kilos of meat"

Another woman who works in the fields to pay her children's school fees but did not want to give her name said: "I have to work to send my children to school. The wages are far too low for the work we do, but we can't do anything. The state of the economy is under everybody's eyes, and you can't buy anything

anymore. None of us can buy what we would like. If we go to the butcher with the money we get, we can't even buy two kilos of meat."

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## Journalists in North-East Syria: Gulistan Tara taught us the reality of life and women

ANF | 28 AUGUST 2024

A Turkish drone attack claimed the lives of journalists Hêro Bahadîn and Gülistan Tara and left 6 other press members wounded in Seyidsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah city on 23 August 2024. Journalist Gülistan Tara trained many journalists in North and East Syria and left behind a great mark with her death.

Women journalists who received education from Gülistan Tara told ANHA about their experiences.

Loristan Derwêş, who has been working as a reporter for Jin TV since 2019, said that she first met Martyr Gülistan Tara when she started working and learned journalism from her.

### 'Thanks to her, I learned about the reality of women'

Stating that Martyr Gülistan Tara had a big heart, Loristan Derwêş said that she made people love life and work with her intellectual and vocational education. Loristan Derwêş said, "She enabled me to recognise the personality, purpose and truth of women. She was persistent in achieving her goal. Martyr Gülistan had a great determination to succeed. She conveyed this determination to her students and had a sincere dialogue with those around her. I continue my work on this basis. We will teach the new generations what Martyr Gülistan taught us."

### 'We will follow her path'

Zozan Remedan, member of the Jin TV Office Management in the Euphrates Canton, said the following: "We met with Martyr Gülistan Tara in 2018 and worked together. Martyr Gülistan was a very good friend and a very good teacher for us. She was a pillar of the press for women. She made great efforts for us to reach this stage. That is why one is speechless when talking about her labour. Martyr Gulistan helped us in every difficulty we faced. We carry out our work with this strength. We get all our strength from the pioneers of the Free Press. Now we need to see ourselves more responsible. We will share all the facts of the occupiers with the society moment by moment. We promise that we will follow the path of Martyr Gulistan, write and be the eyes and voice of truth."

### Gülistan Tara

Journalist Gülistan Tara was born on 24 January 1983 in Batman, Northern Kurdistan. As a woman who grew up in a patriotic family subjected to the violence of the occupying Turkish state, she started to fight for the freedom of her people in 1999 at the age of 16. She had been working for the Free Press since

2000. With her work in many fields in the Free Press for more than 20 years, she became the voice of truth, the oppressed, women and the people everywhere.

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## Kongra Star on Qamishlo attack: No one can defeat the will of free women

ANF | QAMISHLO | 28 AUGUST 2024

Kongra Star, the women's umbrella organization in North-East Syria, made a press statement in front of Mihemed Şêxo Culture and Art Centre in Qamishlo to condemn the attack in the city center earlier today, which claimed the lives of a mother and her son.

Kongra Star Spokesperson Rihan Loqo stated that their friend Xalide Mihemed Şerîf (45) and her son Hejar Ednan Silêman were martyred in the attack and said, "The aim of the attacks of the occupying Turkish state is massacre and destruction of women's gains. For this reason, it targets the pioneers of the revolution and those who came together around the philosophy of Jin Jiyan Azadî."

Rihan Loqo stated that Xalide Mihemed Şerîf was one of the pioneers of the society and was known for her patriotism.

Stating that this attack was carried out with the approval of international powers, Rihan Loqo also condemned the silence against the increasingly ongoing attacks. She emphasised that no one can defeat the will of free women and said, "We will stand against the attacks with the philosophy of 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' until the end."

The statement ended with the slogans 'Şehîd namirin' (Martyrs are immortal) and 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadî' (Woman, Life, Freedom).

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## Indictment against journalist Zeynep Kuray accepted

ANF | ISTANBUL | 29 AUGUST 2024

Journalist Zeynep Kuray is facing another trial in Turkey. The Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office accused her of making propaganda for an illegal organization. The indictment lists her posts in social media and her journalistic work as evidence. The journalist is accused of making propaganda for organizations close to the PKK on Facebook, Twitter/X and YouTube from 2014 onwards.

The alleged evidence includes photos of YPG and YPJ fighters taken during a report in Kobanê in February 2014. Reports shared on social media about a YPG press release and memorials for Ulaş Bayraktaroğlu

and Ibrahim Kaypakkaya as well as about protests in Istanbul against the Turkish army's use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish guerrillas are also considered criminal offenses.

The indictment also included photos of Sakine Cansız, Fidan Doğan and Leyla Şaylemez, the three Kurdish women who were murdered by the Turkish Secret Service in Paris in 2013.

The Prosecutor's Office accused Zeynep Kuray of insulting the Turkish army with her contributions and of supporting the armed struggle of the PKK and other organizations. The indictment was accepted by the 26th Chamber of the Istanbul Court for Serious Crimes. The trial will begin on 2 December 2024.

Zeynep Kuray is an internationally award-winning journalist who has been persecuted by the Turkish judiciary for years. She also works for ANF. She has already been in prison, including in connection with the so-called KCK operations. There are currently other trials pending against her that are related to her work as a journalist. One of these proceedings is directed against Kuray's reporting on the resistance to the deforestation of the Akbelen forest in Muğla.

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## Human Rights Violations

### Resistance continues in the village of Sürgücü

ANF | MARDIN | 25 AUGUST 2024

The people of the rural village of Sürgücü (Ewîna) in the Savur (Stewr) district of Mardin (Mêrdîn) have been resisting the Dicle Electricity Distribution Inc. (DEDAŞ) teams and the soldiers accompanying them, who want to move the electricity meters onto the poles since 22 August.

When the village was raided again on Saturday morning, the villagers took to the streets to protest the abuse. The villagers, who walked from street to street in the village, called on all the people to take to the streets with the slogans “Berxwedan Jiyan e” and “Bijî Berxwedana Ewîna”.

While the soldiers set up barricades on the march route with shields and armored vehicles, the people also set up barricades with stones on the Sürgücü-Savur road.

The DBP and DEM Party delegations visited the villagers who continued their protests against DEDAŞ's work separately. The delegations, who met with DEDAŞ Provincial Director Halil Homan, conveyed to the villagers DEDAŞ's offer that "no retroactive penal action will be taken."

The villagers did not accept DEDAŞ's offer and stated that they would continue to resist and would not allow the teams to enter their villages.



## DEM Party sees all its bills and motions rejected by AKP-MHP-dominated parliament

ANF | ANKARA | 25 AUGUST 2024

The opposition, which tried to monitor the government and pave the way with bills as well as questions and motions of inquiry, could not break through the AKP-MHP government's majority.

The 29th term of Parliament will begin on Tuesday, 1 October at 15:00. Officially open between 13 June 2023 and 31 July 2024, no legislative activity that the AKP-MHP government did not agree to could take place in the Parliament. The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) submitted 5,666 motions of inquiry in the one-year period. The relevant ministries did not feel the need to respond to most of them. The number of motions of inquiry submitted by the DEM Party was 625, and all of them were rejected by the votes of the ruling party deputies. 78 of these motions of inquiry were submitted to the General Assembly as Group proposals, and these were also rejected in the same way. The DEM Party's proposed law 136 was also not accepted.

### DEM Party's law proposals

Some of the proposed laws submitted by the DEM Party that were rejected were as follows:

- DEM Party Group Deputy chairs Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit and Sezai Temelli submitted a bill to increase the minimum wage and the lowest retirement salary by at least half of the highest poverty line announced that month and every 6 months.
- Group Deputy chairs submitted a bill to the Presidency of the Assembly to declare the districts affected by the fires in Izmir as disaster areas.
- Group Deputy chairs submitted a bill to the Presidency of the Assembly to implement the provisions of conditional release in the 25th year in line with the ECHR's right to hope provision in the execution of aggravated life imprisonment, which is a life sentence and has a conditional release ban on constitutional crimes.
- Dem Party Mûş MP Sümeyye Boz submitted a bill to amend some laws for the equal representation of women in local governments and their equal participation in local decision-making mechanisms.
- Group Deputy chairs submitted a bill to the Presidency of the Assembly to establish a Food Safety Institution to eliminate microbiological and chemical hazards in food, eliminate deficiencies in the current system regarding food safety, ensure food safety through scientific and technological applications, and eliminate food-related public health problems.

- DEM Party Group Deputy chairs Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit and Sezai Temelli submitted a bill to provide monthly rental assistance of 25 percent of the highest hunger threshold announced by the unions to each household earning below the poverty line and not owning a home.
- Group Deputy chairs submitted a bill to the Presidency of the Assembly to end trustee practices. A bill was submitted to repeal Article 45 (b) of the Municipality Law No. 5393, the additional paragraph added by this paragraph, and temporary Article 9.
- Four deputies from Mardin said that the provinces of Amed and Mardin affected by fires and their surroundings should be declared a disaster area in order to prevent these and similar fires that could be categorized as ecological destruction, to eliminate the damage they cause to the ecosystem and human life, and to determine and regulate the material and moral damages that citizens face.
- DEM Party MPs Beritan Güneş, Kezban Konukçu and Yılmaz Hun, members of the National Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Commission, submitted a Bill of Law and a Proposal for Research on the right to base the salary of Private Sector Teachers.

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## Many detained as KDP forces attack workers in Hewler

ANF | HEWLER | 25 AUGUST 2024

Contract workers organised a protest demonstration in Hewlêr (Erbil), South Kurdistan at 10.00 am today to demand their rights.

KDP Asayish (local security forces) attacked the workers who gathered in front of the Council of Ministers building and detained many of them.

The crackdown on the workers is reported to be continuing.

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## KDP sentences a teacher for giving '3 boxes of biscuits to guerrillas'

ANF | 26 AUGUST 2024

A teacher from Sîdekan was sentenced to one and a half years in prison by the Hewlêr (Erbil) Criminal Court because he allegedly gave a guerrilla three packets of biscuits. The court said that Luqman Najm was guilty of "collaborating" with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) through the alleged gesture, the RojNews news agency reported on Sunday. After the verdict was announced, there were protests in the courtroom because family members were outraged at the outcome of the case. Najm's lawyers also protested the

ruling and immediately announced an appeal. The court was accused of having made a political decision "in the interests of the rulers".

Luqman Najm, who is also known as an opposition activist, was illegally detained by the security forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) for nine months. The father of three came under the KDP's scrutiny during protests against constant salary delays and cuts by education workers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Najm was temporarily arrested twice for his participation in demonstrations. During his detention, his civil service rights were also revoked at the instigation of the KDP.

It was only a few days ago that Luqman Najm was illegally detained once again by the KDP security. Relatives said that after the charges were brought, they feared that Najm could disappear behind bars for a long time if they protested.

Ultimately, the public prosecutor's office had demanded a prison sentence of up to six years for the teacher. The intimidation apparently worked and the family quietly tried to get Najm released.

This situation has been occurring more and more frequently in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq recently.



## ‘Turkey’s murder of journalists is another failed attempt to silence the free press’

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 29 AUGUST 2024

On 23 August, the Turkish state bombed a vehicle belonging to Chatr Production with drones in the Seyîdsadiq district of Sulaymaniyah (Silêmanî). The vehicle was carrying journalists. Two of them, Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara, lost their lives as a result of the targeted attack.

A ceremony was held in the Azadi Park in Sulaymaniyah to bid farewell to Gulistan Tara before her final journey to her hometown, Batman province in Northern Kurdistan.

Kemal Heme Reza, General Manager of Chatr Production, made a statement here and condemned the Turkish state's attack on free press journalists and the attempts of the Anti-Terror unit of the KDP to distort the incident. Reza reiterated their promise to follow the path of free press martyrs Hêro Bahadin and Gulistan Tara.

“From the first moment of the attack, we reported that our comrades were in that region for journalistic activities. However, the occupying Turkish state targeted our team with drones in violation of international laws. We consider this attack within the scope of the crimes committed by the occupying Turkish state in the whole of Southern Kurdistan, targeting civilians, causing deaths and serious injuries, and we see it as another failed attempt to silence the free press,” Kemal Heme Reza stated.

The statement stressed that Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadin aimed to convey the truth to the public opinion and to reveal the true face of the enemies of Kurdistan. “Our comrades tried to reveal through the media the attitude of the Kurdish public opinion against the crimes and occupations committed in Kurdistan and to show the oppression and atrocities of the occupying states to the world and the international community.”

The statement continued; “Chatr Production condemns the attack and invasion of the terrorist Turkish state and the attempts of the KDP's Anti-Terror unit to cover up the crime committed by the Turkish state and to distort the case of the murder of journalists. We call on the international organisations and the representative offices of the world countries in Iraq and Kurdistan Region to consider the murder of journalists as a reason to stop the silence against the Turkish state's crimes against civilians in Southern Kurdistan. Serious attempts must be made to stop the crimes of the Turkish state in Southern Kurdistan. We promise our friends and comrades Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadin that we will follow their path and their ideas and sharpen our pens against occupation and injustice.”

Ahmed Tekik, Gulistan Tara's brother, also spoke at the ceremony, saying: “Gulistan was my sister, but she was more than that, she was our friend and comrade. Gulistan was a journalist with a pen and a camera.”

Ahmed Tekik emphasised that, “Gulistan was martyred, but today we are all Gulistan.”



## Three people in Istanbul remanded in custody for singing Kurdish songs

ANF | ISTANBUL | 27 AUGUST 2024

A total of five people, including Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Esenyurt District co-chairs Rojda Yılmaz and Abdullah Arınan, were taken into custody in the districts of Istanbul on 23 August. The reason for the detention was stated to be dancing the halay and singing along to the Kurdish song “Bêrîtan” at the Dem Party Youth Assembly's Gülistan Doku Football Tournament final match on 18 August.

After the prosecutor's office completed its procedure, Yılmaz and Arınan were referred to the judge on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization", while the other three people were referred to the judge on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" and "being a member of a terrorist organization".

The court ruled that Rojda Yılmaz and Abdullah Arınan be released on condition of judicial control, while the other three people, whose names could not be learned, were remanded in custody.





## Groups in Aleppo learn dances from North Kurdistan against Turkey's cultural genocide

ANF | ALEPPO | 27 AUGUST 2024

The Turkish state resorts to every means to eliminate the culture and existence of the Kurdish people. On 27 July, Turkish police detained 15 people who were dancing the halay to Kurdish songs in the cities of Sirt in North Kurdistan and Mersin in Turkey.

In response to the cultural genocide attacks targeting the Kurdish people, the Hîlala Zêrîn Women's Culture Movement, in cooperation with the Aleppo Cemîl Horo Culture and Art Center, opened special sessions to teach the folk dances of North Kurdistan.

27 members from the Cemîl Horo and Hîlala Zêrîn Movements are participating in the sessions. The students learn folk dances from Botan, Amed, Van, Mardin and Varto regions called “qûre, bagiyê, milanî, koçerî and şemê”.

Horîk Elo, a member of the Stêrkên Efrînê Group said that they supported the Kurdish people in North Kurdistan by learning the halays specific to their region and condemned the policies of intimidation, assimilation and attacks carried out by the Turkish state against Kurdish culture.

Horîk Elo also said that the members of the Stêrkên Efrînê Group hope to celebrate Newroz in North Kurdistan next year.

Saya Osman, a member of the Hîlala Zêrîn Movement, said that the members of their folk dance group try to learn the halays from other regions of Kurdistan.

Thanking the teachers of the sessions, Saya said: "It is known that the Turkish state has banned Kurdish songs and halays in Bakur Kurdistan. We see this education period as a step to protect Kurdish culture from the genocidal attempts of the occupying and fascist Turkish state against the identity and culture of the Kurdish people."

Osman expressed her support for the struggle of the people of North Kurdistan to protect their Kurdish identity and culture.

## Turkish invaders arrest Syrian journalist working for AFP in al-Bab city

ANF | 27 AUGUST 2024

Bakr Qassem, a Syrian journalist working for several media outlets including AFP, was arrested by the Turkish intelligence service and the so-called Military Police in al-Bab city on Monday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported.

According to SOHR, Bakr Qassem and his wife Nabiha Taha, both of whom work as journalists for local and international agencies, were stopped and beaten by members of the Turkish intelligence service stationed in al-Bab city centre.

Bakr Qassem has reportedly worked for Agence France-Presse since 2019, as well as for the Turkish state agency and the AKP-controlled Anadolu Agency.

Al-Qasem was later transferred to the village of Hawar Kilis, situated on the Syrian-Turkish border in northern Aleppo, at the request of Turkish intelligence. He is reported to have faced several charges, including preparing reports for the benefit of several parties.

After the release of the journalist's wife, members of the Turkish intelligence service stormed his house and confiscated all electronic devices, storing devices, cameras, mobile phones, laptops, gold and money, according to SOHR.

Nabiha Taha told AFP she and her husband were detained on Monday in the city of Al-Bab where they live, near the border with Turkey, as they returned by car from covering an event.

Taha said she was released a short time later, but Qassem was still detained, adding that she did not know "the reason for his arrest nor the place where he is being held".

She said their telephones were seized and their house was searched, with Qassem's computer and cameras also confiscated.

AFP editor Sophie Huet and SOHR demanded the journalist's immediate release.

## Kurdish protester with eye injury sentenced to 31 months in prison in Iran

ANF | 27 AUGUST 2024

Matin Hassani, a 23-year-old Kurdish civilian who was injured in the eye during anti-government protests in Bukan, West Azerbaijan Province, in November 2019, has been jailed in the city's prison to serve a 31-month prison sentence, the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) reported.

The young man was summoned to the Bukan court in recent days and was arrested on 26 August after reporting to the authorities.

On 23 January, security forces arrested Hassani in Bukan and took him to the Ministry of Intelligence detention centre in the city.

After initial interrogation, the young man was transferred to the city's prison before being provisionally released on 22 February on bail of 10 billion rials – nearly 20,000 USD.

On 16 May, Hassani was sentenced to a total of 31 months in prison by Branch 101 of Criminal Court 2 of Bukan on charges of “inciting or provoking people to war and murder with the intent of disrupting national security” and “propaganda against the state”.

Hassani was injured by gunfire from military security forces during anti-government protests in Bukan on 16 November 2019, suffering damage to his left eye.

Despite the passage of four years, a pellet remains in his left eye due to the risk of surgery as a bullet hit the nerve part of the eye.

Hassani had previously been arrested by security forces in December 2019 while receiving treatment at a medical centre in Tehran, and was released on bail from Tehran's Evin Prison some time later.

Over the past year, he had been threatened by the security services for meeting with the families of protesters killed during the "Jin, Jiyaz, Azadi" [Woman, Life, Freedom] anti-government uprising and visiting the graves of those killed.

## YRA Co-Chair: Kurdish journalists who expose Turkey's dirty policies cannot be stopped

HIVDA HEBUN | QAMISHLO | 27 AUGUST 2024

The Free Press Association (YRA) Co-Chair Dilyar Cizîrî spoke to ANF about the attacks of the Turkish state against Kurdish journalists. Co-chair Cizîrî stated that it was the Kurdish free press that exposed and prevented the politics that the Turkish state and its supporters sought to spread in the region and said, "If the politics and policies of the Turkish state in Syria have been exposed today, the free press has a great role here. The free press has also played a major role in the fact that the unique system and defence power created in Rojava and North-East Syria has made an impact all over the world. It was the free press that first exposed the Turkish state's relationship with ISIS. For this reason, the free press has always been their target. It has constantly been subjected to attacks."

### 27 press members martyred in Rojava

Cizîrî recalled that 27 of his fellow press workers have been martyred in different attacks so far in this struggle and said, "In Rojava, the Jin TV car was targeted by an UCAV on 23 August 2023. It is noteworthy that on 23 August, the day the Jin TV car was struck, the car of press workers was targeted again, this time in Sulaymaniyah. In this attack, our female journalist friends were targeted again. Here, the Turkish state is clearly proving that its biggest fear is the Free Press, which exposes the truth, its dirty war policies and the occupation games it is trying to implement in the region. It sees the Free Press as a major obstacle and wants to liquidate it."

### Gulistan Tara did not recognise the borders drawn by the enemy

Stating that Gulistan Tara, who was martyred in the attack in Sulaymaniyah, worked in Rojava and did important work, Cizîrî continued: "She was a journalist in pursuit of the truth. She did not recognise the borders drawn by the enemy, she crossed them and worked wherever there was a struggle. She made great efforts in Rojava and continued his work in South Kurdistan. As a result of the co-operation of the KDP and the Turkish state, she was targeted. The KDP and the Turkish state are pursuing the same policy. Their media organs made a dirty broadcast to legitimise the attack. KDP executives are in a race to sell themselves to the Turkish state. Just as the free press exposed all their dirty politics in Rojava, it continues to expose the dirty politics of the Turkish state and KDP in North and South Kurdistan."

### The Turkish state commits a crime

Dilyar Cizîrî noted that international law and conventions make journalists and medics untouchable in war zones and said, "Unfortunately, the Turkish state is using its military ammunition and weapons against free press workers in front of the eyes of the whole world. International organisations remain silent. In fact, they can hold the Turkish state to account and impose economic, military and diplomatic sanctions. To our regret, they have not adopted such a deterrent approach so far. We submitted all the documents related to the targeting of the Jin TV car to these organisations, together with witness statements,

but nothing came of it. These organisations should make their stance clear within the framework of their duties and responsibilities.”

### **The Free Press workers have liberated themselves from the power of sovereign states**

YRA Co-Chair Dilyar Cizîrî emphasised that the children of the people, who grew up on the idea of a democratic nation, the philosophy of the Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and the legacy of the pioneers of the Kurdish Freedom Movement, also pioneered the free press: “Free press workers have liberated themselves from the power of sovereign states. Regardless of attacks and pressures, they will not move away from the fact that the Kurdish people are facing genocide. This people need freedom. The struggle is being waged on this basis. It will continue to grow with great determination against the Turkish state and all other invaders.”



## **Eight Kurdish civilians and activists arrested in Iran**

ANF | 27 AUGUST 2024

At least eight Kurdish civilians and civil rights activists from Gilan-e-Gharb, Kermanshah Province, have been arrested by the Intelligence Organisation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in recent weeks, the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) reported.

The detainees, identified as Mohsen Esfandiari-Tabar, Arash Olfati, Maria Khani, Jahangir Azadi, Lotfollah Parviz, Hamidreza Rahimian, Salman Parhan, and Mostafa Rostami, were arrested in various locations including Tehran, Hamedan, and Gilan-e-Gharb. They were then transferred to an IRGC-run detention facility in Kermanshah.

Speaking to KHRN, a source familiar with the situation said: “In recent months, following the celebration of this year’s Newroz in Gilan-e-Gharb, pressure from the IRGC Intelligence Organisation on activists in the city has increased. As part of this pressure, several civilians and civil rights activists from Gilan-e-Gharb have been arrested in recent weeks in a fabricated security scenario.”

Esfandiari-Tabar, an army officer originally from Gilan-e-Gharb but living in Tehran, was arrested at his family home in Tehran on 29 July and taken to the IRGC Intelligence detention centre in Kermanshah.

On 13 August, IRGC forces raided the homes of Khani, Azadi, Parviz, Rahimian, Parhan and Rostami in Gilan-e-Gharb and arrested them without warrants.

Olfati, a civil rights activist based in Hamedan Province, was also arrested on 15 August.

All eight have been transferred to the IRGC’s detention facility at Nabi Akram military base in Kermanshah, where they have been denied access to their families and legal counsel.

Commenting on the matter to state media on 15 August, Kermanshah's Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor, Hamidreza Karimi, said: "For some time now, two channels on the social networks Instagram and Telegram have been operating in one of the western cities of the province with the aim of dividing people. In view of the activities of these two channels, security and intelligence forces have taken action under a court order to identify the administrators of these channels".

In response to the arrests, a group of civil rights and political activists from Kermanshah issued a statement condemning the arrests and calling for the immediate release of the activists.

The statement said: "Over the past few days, we have witnessed the arrest of several civil rights and environmental activists in Gilan-e-Gharb; individuals who are considered to be committed and leading members of the 'Nejat-e Zagros' (Saving Zagros) campaign. Despite the passage of many days since these arrests, the families and relatives of the detainees remain unaware of their physical condition and fate, and repeated follow-ups with the security agencies have so far been fruitless. We, a group of civil rights and political activists in Kermanshah, declare through this statement that, given the long history of fabrications and false security scenarios against civil rights and political activists, we strongly warn against any fabrications and creating divisions and sowing discord in the region."

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## NUJ urges immediate investigation into deaths of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hero Bahadin

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) condemned the killings of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hero Bahadin, killed on 23 August.

The journalists were traveling by car in the Said Sadiq district of Sulaymaniyah Province, northern Iraq, when a suspected Turkish drone hit their vehicle. The drone strike also injured journalist Rêbîn Bekir and killed six others as they traveled on the road connecting Sulaymaniyah city and Said Sadiq district whilst on a reporting assignment.

The NUJ joined the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in urging the authorities of Turkey and Iraq to launch an immediate investigation, ensuring that the perpetrators responsible are held accountable. The drone attack is not the first targeting journalists in the Kurdistan region, and has been described by Anthony Bellanger, IFJ general secretary, as reflecting "the extreme dangers faced by journalists working in conflict zones and highlights the urgent need for immediate measures to ensure their safety and hold those responsible for these crimes accountable."

On 8 July, a Çıra TV media crew was bombed in a drone attack in Sinjar, northern Iraq, resulting in serious injuries to journalist Murad Mirza Ibrahim, who died of his injuries three days later. Journalist Mydia Hussen was injured in the same attack.

The NUJ and IFJ affiliate Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate, call on authorities to ensure a thorough investigation into the women journalists' deaths. Journalists must be able to report safely and the NUJ urges both Iraqi and Turkish authorities to ensure their protection.

Bellanger added, "It is hoped that this tragic incident will increase international awareness of the risks that journalists face and lead to efforts to provide them with the necessary protection."

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## DEM Party delegation visits village in Bismil left without electricity by DEDAŞ

ANF | AMED | 29 AUGUST 2024

A delegation consisting of the executives of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) visited the neighborhood of Kazancı (Hacıya Kurdan) in the Bismil district of Amed. The neighborhood had the electricity cut off by Dicle Electricity Distribution Inc. (DEDAŞ). The delegation included DEM Party Amed MP Berdan Öztürk, DEM Party Amed Provincial co-chairs Gülşen Özer and Abbas Şahin, Bismil municipality co-chair Mizgin Ekin, and DEM Party provincial and district executives.

### 'DEDAŞ is oppressing people'

DEM Party Amed Provincial co-chair Abbas Şahin made a statement and said: "The policies implemented by the state in Kurdistan have been implemented through the AKP-MHP for the last few years. After the privatization of electricity distribution, which is a public service, we see that DEDAŞ, which should serve people, has become a structure that oppresses people. There were heart patients, high blood pressure patients and patients on dialysis in our neighborhood with a population of 2,000-3,000. Yet electricity was cut off at 03:00 at night in order to put pressure on people. We condemn this and will follow up on this."

Şahin said that electricity is of vital importance not only for the patients in the neighborhood but also for the people who make a living from farming, and added: "The fact that there is no water in connection with electricity is actually a human tragedy. We are protesting here the insensitivity of the authorities. We will not allow institutions that should serve the people with the money of the people to actually oppress them. We will expose this everywhere. The government has left our village without electricity and water by using DEDAŞ as a means of threat."

DEM Party Amed MP Berdan Öztürk said that DEDAŞ's oppression continues and that it gets this power from the AKP-MHP government. "They know that the people living here earn their living by farming. Approximately 20 thousand acres of cultivated cotton fields have been left without water. The dirty politics of the AKP-MHP government is being carried out by DEDAŞ. This is not acceptable. You have to provide equal service for every citizen. There are people living here who are connected to machines. We won't allow this to happen."

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## Iranian court sentences Sunni Kurdish cleric to 15 months in prison

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2024

Sunni Kurdish cleric Saber Khoda-Moradi has been sentenced to 15 months in prison by the Special Clerical Court in Hamadan, the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) reported.

Khoda-Moradi, an imam at a mosque in the village of Qukh in Saqqez, Kurdistan Province, was informed by telephone in recent days that he had been sentenced on charges of “propaganda against the state”.

The sentence follows an earlier summons in July 2023, when Khoda-Moradi appeared before the Special Clerical Court in Hamadan.

In May 2023, Khoda-Moradi was also summoned by the same court for supporting the anti-government ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadi’ (Woman, Life, Freedom) uprising, and sentenced to 74 lashes and seven and a half months’ imprisonment suspended for three years on charges of “disturbing public opinion” and “propaganda against the state”.

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## Opinion

### Sur in the shadow of history: Destruction of cultural heritage and erasure of identity

ISHAK DURSUN | 27 AUGUST 2024

The ancient Sur district of Amed is one of the most important cultural heritage areas of the region with its historical and cultural richness dating back thousands of years. Sur, which contains many historical structures belonging to Islam, Christianity and other faiths, has great value not only for the region but also for the entire world with its rich cultural heritage. Sur was added to the World Cultural Heritage List by UNESCO on 4 July 2015, a confirmation of the historical and cultural importance of the region recognized at an international level. However, the events that have occurred in the Sur district in recent years show that this unique heritage of the region is in danger.



## **Demolition of historical structures and deterioration of social fabric**

With its traditional Amed houses, narrow stone-paved streets and still-living folk culture, Sur offers a mosaic where different beliefs and cultures live together peacefully. The Grand Mosque is revered as the fifth Haram-i Sharif of the Islamic world, while the Church of the Virgin Mary is one of the important symbols of the Syriac Orthodox faith. However, the clashes that occurred in Sur in 2015 and 2016 as a result of the demand for autonomous government, the state's war response, and the subsequent state of emergency, developed as a process aimed at destroying and damaging this rich heritage to a great extent.

Following the state of emergency, the historical structures of Amed and the people living in Suriçi were forcibly displaced. According to a report previously prepared by the TMMOB Amed Branch regarding the period, the demolition process in Sur accelerated immediately after the lifting of the state of emergency bans.

Following the announcement by the Turkish Ministry of Interior on 9 March 2016 that operations in Sur had ended, satellite images showed that the demolition process in Suriçi had accelerated on 10 May 2016. New satellite images emerged on 16 August indicating that the demolition had spread further.

On 11 July 2017, the areas where the structures were built were identified using satellite images. The TMMOB report indicated that the number of registered structures that were demolished was 47, while it was noted that 247 structures worthy of registration were subject to demolition. During this process, important structures such as the Armenian Catholic Church, Mehmet Uzun's House, Cumhuriyet Primary School, and Zincirkıran Tomb were also completely or partially demolished. These demolitions are not only a physical loss but also an indication of the erasure of the cultural and historical memory of the region.

## **The extent of destruction**

Before the demolition of the structures within the Walls, the authorities of the Cultural Protection Board were transferred to the Environment and Urbanization Directorate. This change led to a random demolition without consulting UNESCO. In addition, it was determined that the historical stones extracted in the region were sold in an organized manner, and that special stones of some registered structures were used in different structures.

The sale of stones resulted in the collection of stones in certain areas and the acquisition of serious profit. As a result of the connivance of state officials, many historical stones and artefacts were destroyed. The stolen stones later appeared in different places in the city. Although the intense attitude of the city dynamics in Amed stopped some demolitions, the destruction of the memory of the past continued. This situation, exposed with evidence by the TMMOB Amed Branch, has been accepted by state institutions.

## **Construction of new buildings with prison architecture**

Following the demolition in Sur, a zoning policy that completely ignored the cultural identity of the region was adopted. What is particularly striking is that the architecture of the new structures built after the destruction of the historical fabric was designed in a style reminiscent of the Diyarbakır Type E Prison.

This prison architecture is completely contrary to the original structure and history of Sur, and not only destroys the cultural and social fabric of the region, but also opens deep wounds in the memory of the local people as a form of punishment.

### **UNESCO's warnings and Turkey's response**

UNESCO warned Turkey about the demolition and new construction in Amed Sur at its 45th Extended Session held in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, in 2023.

The UNESCO session stated that the demolition of registered structures, archaeological excavations, the relocation of the people and the disruption of the social fabric, which made agricultural activities in Hevsel Gardens impossible, caused the loss of outstanding universal values.

UNESCO stressed that, in accordance with Article 172 of the World Heritage Convention, any intervention that could affect the outstanding universal value of the area must be notified to UNESCO in advance. Turkey's failure to inform UNESCO about the demolition and construction works carried out in the buffer zone has caused serious criticism in the international arena. In addition, UNESCO called on Turkey to immediately stop these projects, but despite this call, concrete work in the field is still insufficient.

### **Attacks on the cultural identity of Sur**

The Tigris River, Hevsel Gardens and the structures within Sur stand out as areas that affect each other and also contain separate problems. While illegal sandpits and other destruction in the Tigris River disrupt the ecological balance of the region, the superior universal values in Hevsel Gardens are also negatively affected by this destruction.

New structures built within Sur that do not match the cultural identity and architecture of the city pose the danger of changing the socio-cultural structure of the region. This change also leads to the deterioration of the street texture and neighborhood culture. As a result of the evacuation of six neighborhoods, agriculture in Hevsel has become impossible, while ecological destruction and land occupation deepen this process.

### **Assimilation policies and the erasing of Kurdish identity**

The destruction experienced in Amed Sur is not only considered as physical destruction, but also as a systematic attack on the cultural identity of the region. This process can also be read as the systematic erasure of the Kurdish identity and culture. These policies carried out through usurping trustee administrations also aim to destroy the historical and cultural fabric of the region. The erasing of art, culture and local identity is developing as a part of the assimilation policies of the region.

In this context, despite UNESCO's warnings, the construction works carried out by Turkey in Sur and the policies that destroy the cultural identity of the region continue to attract the attention of the international community. While the Sur district of Amed, as an area bearing the traces of civilizations spanning thousands of years, requires the preservation of not only its physical structures but also its cultural and his-

torical memory, Turkey's current policies aim to erase the historical identity of the region instead of protecting these values.

Amed city dynamics show that Turkey has serious problems in cultural heritage management regarding this process experienced in Sur and that the international community should follow this issue more closely. It shows that UNESCO and other international organizations should take more effective measures against these destructive policies of Turkey and that more efforts should be made to ensure the protection of the historical and cultural riches of the region. Otherwise, the cultural and religious riches that have existed in Amed Sur for centuries may face irreversible destruction.



## Turkish state targets pioneering revolutionary women in Kurdish society

**ZEKI BEDRAN | 28 AUGUST 2024**

The Turkish state systematically continues its assassinations and attacks to eliminate the resisting forces of the Kurdish people. Since the guerrilla and the people resist, it cannot bring its genocide strategy to a conclusion. In order to complete the genocide, the organised resistance of the people must be broken. The elimination of the pioneers will bring about the elimination of all the gains of the Kurdish people. When the Kurdish people are left without an organisation and without a vanguard, the resistance will be broken, and no gains and positions will be left. Whatever the Kurdish people have achieved today is thanks to their organisation. The Turkish state did not even mention the name of the people when they were unorganised and unconscious.

### **Turkish intelligence is working like a murder machine**

First of all, it is necessary to understand and explain correctly the reasons why the women and pioneers of Kurdistan are being attacked so much. Today, Turkish intelligence (MIT) is working like a murder machine. Once upon a time, murders were committed by JİTEM (Gendarmerie Intelligence), Hezbollah and other dark forces. Now the MIT, the army and the traitorous Kurds and recruited gangs they have tied to themselves are being used. In the past, the state did not openly claim responsibility for the murders. They even denied the existence of JİTEM. By blaming inhumane practices and murders on Hezbollah, they argued that their hands were clean. They were the ones who used Hezbollah and put it into action.

### **Proudly claiming responsibility for the murders**

Most recently, the Turkish state murdered Gulistan Tara and Héro Bahadîn in Sulaymaniyah. They knew they were women and journalists. The attack was based on intelligence. In this respect, it is not possible that they did not know who was in the car. Now the state authorities, MIT, are proudly claiming responsibility for these murders. They have a licence to commit murder. There is a situation of turning a blind eye and remaining silent in the states where the murders are committed. Influential powers such as the USA,

Europe and Russia are either complicit in this lawlessness and war crimes or support/encourage them by remaining silent.

### **The team organising the murders harbours a deep hatred and enmity against women**

Nagihan Akarsel was also murdered in Sulaymaniyah. It is clear that the team organising the murders harbours a deep hatred and enmity against women. They also targeted many women pioneers in Rojava. They shot many women, from those who worked as administrators in the Autonomous Administration to those who fought heroically against ISIS. The fact that women lead revolutions and influence societies is a sufficient reason for death sentences to be taken against them. Especially if these women are close to the Kurdish and Freedom Movement, they already deserve death! The Turkish rulers are blinded.

### **The unity of the Kurdish people is undermined**

One of the reasons for these attacks in and around Sulaymaniyah is to intimidate the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan). The PUK did not engage in betrayal like the ruling KDP. It did not support the occupation of the Turkish state and did not bear hostility against the guerrilla. Erdoğan administration threatened PUK members a lot. He made promises and is still dealing with them. As can be seen, the scope and reason for the attacks are very important. The unity of the Kurdish people is being undermined. It wants to crush the Kurds by fragmenting them and using them against each other. The primary goal is for the four parts not to unite, not to have status!

### **Who will remove this army from Southern Kurdistan?**

While the Turkish state is driving its army into the interior of Iraq, it is not acceptable for the KDP, which is involved in these dangerous plans, to remain silent. Who will remove this army from Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq)? How do those who are partners in the occupation and those who support the shedding of Kurdish blood plan the future? Will the KDP tell the Turkish state 'Withdraw your troops, is this what you told us'? It is not possible. Will those who live in Baghdad confront the Turkish state when some of the Kurds join forces with the occupiers? That will not happen either. They will say that 'they are the hosts, they are inviting the invaders, let them do whatever they want'. That is what is already happening now. Erdoğan presented projects and proposals to Baghdad, and they joined these plans in order to take advantage of the war against the Kurds and to be more influential in Southern Kurdistan.

### **KDP media legitimises the murder of guerrillas, intellectuals and patriots**

KDP media is interested in wheat prices in Rojava. They are trying to reflect what is happening according to themselves. They are very diligent to make the Autonomous Administration fail and expose it. On the other hand, Southern Kurdistan is filled with Turkish troops. Mountains are being bombed. Forests and land are burning. Villages are being evacuated. All hell has broken loose in that geography, but the KDP media manages to pretend that this is not the case. They use the language of 'the war between the Turkish state and the PKK' as if they are neutral. Two foreign powers are fighting on their soil, and the KDP media is posing as a neutral party! You do not support the guerrillas, the PKK, you have no patriotism left, but are you obliged to support the Turkish state, which is the enemy of the Kurdish people, which is trying to eliminate the Kurdish people with its name and its achievements? What kind of press ethics and Kurdishness can be explained by projecting pioneering women who have dedicated their existence to their

people as PKK members and deserving of death? The KDP media legitimises the murder of guerrillas, intellectuals and patriots arguing they are PKK members. The media, which should enlighten the people, has turned into an instrument that obscures the truth and exonerates the enemy and murderers by the hands of the KDP.

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## They cannot silence the free press

HELIN HARUN ÇEKDAR | BEHDINAN | 28 AUGUST 2024

A war is going on in Kurdistan in which morality, law, universal conventions and norms are not taken into account. For years, a great system of torture and isolation has been applied against the Kurdish People's Leader, Abdullah Öcalan, in the İmrālî prison. All kinds of methods, special warfare and intensive techniques are being used against the PKK and its militants, a humanitarian movement created by Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan) at great cost. Simultaneously, a total war is being waged against the Kurdish people through exploitation, torture and massacre. The KDP and the Barzani government are also working for this state.

## The KDP is responsible for all crimes

The colonialist Turkish state, knowing that the Kurdish people do not submit and cannot be easily destroyed by external attacks, puts forward the KDP and Barzani government, which history has written as a betrayer, as a 'Trojan horse' every time in order to break the will of the Kurdish people. It is the KDP that has always rushed to the Turkish state's policy of 'setting the Kurd against the Kurd'. Only the KDP and the Barzani government could attack its own blood, lineage, language, identity, nation and land like a poisonous snake. Today, it has assumed this role in a despicable way. By acting as an agent of the Turkish state, it has preferred to be a degenerate officer of the fascist state, providing intelligence information on everyone who was massacred, from Kurdistan Freedom guerrillas to intellectuals, writers, politicians and press members. The KDP is primarily responsible for the initiation of the de facto annexation by the Turkish army.

## The massacre is too clear to be covered up

KDP officials did not refrain from signing an agreement to act as an agent of the fascist Turkish state by insisting on shedding Kurdish blood. After the agreement, they officially carried out the first treacherous attack by murdering two female journalists and injuring 6 press workers on 23 August 2024. The reconnaissance and intelligence for this attack was provided under the leadership of the KDP and Parastin (KDP's intelligence service). This massacre is so clear and concrete that the occupying Turkish state and the KDP cannot cover it up with special war methods.

## Betrayal is the most despicable method of self-insult

One of the purposes of this massacre was to intimidate and silence the free press, which reflects the massacres in Kurdistan and the extent of the dirty alliance. Another purpose was to intimidate the people of

Southern Kurdistan, the pro-democracy press, politicians, writers and sensitive circles. It was also for the KDP to win a good job with the intelligence they provided to the Turkish state. For a good deed, they betrayed the Kurdish lineage and formalised the Turkish massacre. The KDP has denied its national existence. There is no scientific, religious and sociological explanation for its betrayal. It is an unnatural, non-universe, inhuman, undefined, meaningless and nonsensical case. Betrayal is also the most despicable method of self-insult.

### **History will never forget and forgive the betrayers**

With their own will and by living the truth, the Kurdish people will call those responsible to account for the murder of two free press workers, Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn. History will never forget and forgive the betrayers. The Kurdish people will not leave the blood of their own children on the ground; they will protect the legacy of the free press left by Gurbetelli Ersöz, Halil Dağ, Ali Kanîroj and Rosîda Mêrdîn and their likes. The truth of the Kurdish people will always continue to be reflected by the employees of the free press.



Contact e-mail: [imralipost@freeocalan.org](mailto:imralipost@freeocalan.org)

Websites: [freeocalan.org](http://freeocalan.org) | [ocalanbooks.com](http://ocalanbooks.com) | Videos: [vimeo.com/freeocalan](https://vimeo.com/freeocalan)