

# THE IMRALI POST

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

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# Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

## Young people march to UN demanding freedom for Öcalan

ANF | GENEVA | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Kurdish youth movement TCŞ (Tevgera Ciwanên Şoreşger) and the movement of militant young women (TekoJIN) demanded the release of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, who was abducted to Turkey on 15 February 1999, and a solution to the Kurdistan question with a long march (Meşa Dirêj) in Switzerland.

The march ended in front of the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. On the approximately fifteen-kilometer-long route, the activists informed people on Saturday about the importance of Abdullah Öcalan for a solution to the Kurdish question. As the demonstrators passed the Turkish consulate, their anger at the Erdoğan regime was made clear with slogans.

Another long march will take place in Germany in mid-September. From September 15 to 20, Kurdish and internationalist activists will demonstrate together for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

The event will kick off in Bielefeld. The action is part of the global campaign "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question"; activists from Germany, France, Austria, England and other countries in Europe are expected.

### Background:

Abdullah Öcalan was last visited by his lawyers in 2019, while his last family visit was in 2020. In March 2021, a wave of international protests enabled a telephone conversation between Öcalan and his brother, 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 law firm Asrin, which represents the four Imrali prisoners, have been rejected by the Turkish judiciary, and requests for information remain unanswered. As a legal cover, extended disciplinary penalties are imposed in the prison system every six months. International initiatives to lift the isolation on Imrali are also ignored in Ankara.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) found after a visit to the island prison Imrali in 2019 that incommunicado detention is contrary to international human rights standards. The ban on visits by lawyers violates the United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), updated in 2015, the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Anti-Torture Committee (CPT) and the Turkish Prison Law.

## Global Days for Öcalan from 1 to 10 October

ANF | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

The campaign *Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan: A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question*, called for a new edition of the Global Days for Öcalan from 1 to 10 October.

The campaign underlined that it was on 10 October 2023, that the international action was launched in Strasbourg, and added: "That location was chosen deliberately, since it is home to the Council of Europe (CoE) and Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the two institutions which hold the key to ensuring Mr. Öcalan receives his human rights under international law.

In the past year we have had a range of accomplishments that are worth mentioning. On the organizational front, we have created a wide range of international networks involving lawyers, trade unions, politicians, activists, artists, musicians, women's organizations, youth groups, and geographical regions. As a result, we have held many press conferences, rallies, protests, sit-in demonstrations, informational tables, and seminars, to get awareness out about our cause."

The campaign organizers said that "alongside this we held international global books days, musical concerts, and dialogue meetings all across Europe and Kurdistan, to discuss how Mr. Öcalan's ideas can act as a blueprint to transform our world towards peace and democracy. Furthermore, we saw thousands of people around the world mail postcards to Imralı Island, in a symbolic attempt to break through his inhumane isolation. We have also sent letters to the CPT President, and inspired others intellectual groups to do the same, including 69 Nobel Prize laureates, who signed a recent letter calling for Abdullah Öcalan's release and a political solution to the Kurdish question.

Our efforts reached such a level that CPT themselves took the unprecedented step of responding to our letters and meeting with us. And also, the international press published several articles on the Kurdish question and the inhuman situation towards prisoners in Turkey and globally. However, despite all of these efforts, we unfortunately have yet to end the isolation against Kurdistan's leader Abdullah Öcalan, who remains illegally hidden by the Turkish state for the past 3 and a half years. Therefore, as we approach the one-year anniversary between October 1-10, 2024, we would like to send out a clarion call for all of us to do even more, as we believe we are close to finally breaking through the international conspiracy that has lined up to deny Mr. Öcalan his philosophical voice and the Middle East his message of reconciliation."

The campaign organizers "called on everyone to accelerate efforts, publish more editorials and essays, conduct more diplomacy, organize more festivals and seminars, hold more reading days of Öcalan's works, contact your parliaments and representatives, and carry out more demonstrations and protests to finally break the isolation. This is an intellectual battle of ideas, and we trust that all of us can succeed if we refuse to give up. Abdullah Öcalan has not abandoned the Kurdish people or humanity despite a quarter-century locked away on a deserted island, so we will not abandon him."

## Group from Pforzheim takes over Vigil for Öcalan in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

The "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil" vigil has been held in Strasbourg since 25 June 2012, promoted by the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Initiative, with the aim of ensuring the physical freedom of the Kurdish People's Leader and ending his isolation.

The vigil is taken over every week by a group from different European countries. This week it was taken over by a group from Pforzheim. This is the 637th week of action.

The new group includes Nevzat Yılmaz, Cafer Selçuk and Abdullah Şirnexî.

Group spokesperson Nevzat Yılmaz said that they will carry out the vigil for a week demanding the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and added: "The aim of this vigil is to ensure the freedom of Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan], who is being held in Imrali prison unjustly and unlawfully. They tried to take the will of a people in the person of Leader Apo. We will continue our action until Leader Apo is free and the Kurdish people are free."

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## Öcalan's book 'The Question of Personality in Kurdistan' published in German

ANF | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Kurdish publishing house Meyman has announced the publication of the German translation of the book 'Die Frage der Persönlichkeit in Kurdistan, die militante Persönlichkeit und das Parteilieben' (The Question of Personality in Kurdistan, the Militant Personality and Party Life) by Abdullah Öcalan. The book by the founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) makes it clear that the big question of personality, the question of "how to live", was already at the centre of political, ideological and organisational discussions at the beginning of the Kurdish freedom movement.

The book, originally published in 1985, is a work from the early years of the party and, juxtaposed with the new paradigm, clearly shows the differences and changes, but also the continuity in the history of a struggle for liberation that has lasted over 50 years.

But this is not the only significance of the book for today's readers. In addition to contributing to a deeper understanding of the history and theory of the PKK, the importance lies in Öcalan's methodology, which becomes visible through the book. The book was a direct reaction to the difficulties observed in the party's

development process. A reaction to the problems in the personalities of Kurdish society and the young revolutionaries of the PKK.

The foreword states: “Like no other book translated into German so far, this book provides a deep insight into the first years of the history of the PKK struggle that has been waged for over 50 years, as well as into the problems and solutions of the personality question of the young militants, their values and principles. For anyone familiar with Öcalan's recent works, the profound changes as well as the continuity become clear. In this process of deep change and continuity at the same time, always with the clear goal of freedom in mind, lies one of the great specialities of the PKK. The key was and is their deep and honest criticism and self-criticism. This method is still the basis of renewal and development and expresses the strength of the PKK and the entire Kurdistan Freedom Movement. Only organisations and individuals who are weak and lack self-confidence avoid criticism and self-criticism. For them, criticism means destruction and self-criticism means total collapse. Those who have self-confidence, however, are strengthened by criticism and self-criticism and are able to pursue their own goals more successfully. If we read this book as part of the history of Öcalan's criticism and self-criticism, its full significance for the history of the PKK and thus for us today becomes more tangible.”

The book can be ordered online from [Pirtukxane](#) from September and will also be available at the [International Kurdish Cultural Festival](#) on 21 September in Frankfurt as well as other Kurdish events and in Kurdish community centres.



## ‘Tîrêjên Rojê’ campaign starts in front of the UN

ANF | GENEVA | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

‘The ‘Tîrêjên Rojê’ Campaign launched by the Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe (TJK-E) on 2 September as part of the ‘Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question’ was declared to the public in front of the United Nations (UN) Office in Geneva, Switzerland.

Responding to the call of the Kurdish Women's Union of Switzerland (YJK-S), women gathered at Nations Square, where the UN Office is located in Geneva. The attitudes of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the Council of Europe and the European Parliament towards the isolation of Öcalan were exposed with banners representing the ‘three monkeys’.

A press statement was made after a minute of silence in memory of journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Bahadîn, who were killed in an UCAV attack by the occupying Turkish state on 23 August in Sulaymaniyah.

Helin Sağlam read the press statement in French on behalf of YJK-S. Sağlam drew attention to the resistance of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan in İmralı and said that Öcalan put forward a women's libertarian, ecological and democratic life model as an alternative to capitalist modernity and for this reason he has been under absolute isolation for more than 25 years.

Helin Sağlam continued: “Abdullah Öcalan's freedom is of vital importance for the peaceful solution of the Kurdish question, democratisation of Turkey and peace in the region. Abdullah Öcalan produces policies in favour of negotiation and dialogue against violence and conflicts. He continues to inspire women's movements around the world as he defends a model of life in which women take the lead against patriarchal oppression. The philosophy of Democratic Confederalism offers a vision of a world based on nature, society and direct democracy as a way of life. This vision has been realised in Northern and Eastern Syria. For all these reasons, we renew our call to the CPT, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the UN and all authorised institutions and organisations. Implement your own laws, put pressure on the Turkish state to implement its own laws and engage in dialogue. Guarantee that the Turkish state respects human rights and international norms.”

After Helin Sağlam's statement, YJK-S spokesperson Selma Sürer made a speech. Selma Sürer gave information about the ‘Tîrêjên Rojê’ campaign and stated that this campaign is a possibility of salvation for all humanity, women and nature by shedding light on all the darkness created by the capitalist system.

Selma Sürer said that the campaign would continue uninterruptedly with actions and activities until 12 October and called on all women, especially Kurdish women and all women in favour of democracy, to support the campaign.

YJK-S members then performed a short skit. The women then visited the tent in front of the UN Office, where the sit-in protest demanding Abdullah Öcalan's freedom has been held every Wednesday since 25 January 2021.



## European institutions make non-binding promises on Imralı

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

In July, 69 Nobel laureates sent an open [letter](#) to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee calling for action on the total isolation of Abdullah Öcalan, and a reply was sent to Professor Kariane Westrheim of the University of Bergen and Chair of the EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC), which had sent the letter.

### ECtHR limited itself to ‘thanks’ for the letter

In the letter of 29 August, ECtHR official Marialena Tsirli merely thanked Kariane Westrheim for bringing to their attention the detention conditions of Abdullah Öcalan. There was no further response to the letter.

Westrheim then wrote a new letter to the ECtHR in which she called on the Court to fulfil its responsibility and send a delegation to Imralı. She recalled that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the ECtHR had a duty to protect human rights in the member states of the Council of Europe:

“Mr Öcalan has been out of contact with the outside world for 42 months, a situation that is very sad and increasingly worrying for the Kurdish people, Öcalan's family and his lawyers, whose requests for visits have been repeatedly refused. As Turkey is a member state, we believe that pressure can be brought to bear on Turkey to allow a visit by a delegation from the CPT or other relevant Council of Europe bodies. I would like to thank the President of the European Court of Human Rights once again for his reply. At the same time, I ask you to work with other EU committees to ensure that a delegation is sent to Imralı.”

## Reply from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Gabrielius Landsbergis, Lithuanian Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, replied to the letter from the 69 Nobel Laureates in a non-committal manner. Landsbergis stated that the 1507th meeting of the Committee of Ministers would examine the issue of the conditions of detention of Abdullah Öcalan and said: ‘As Lithuania's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, I can assure you that we will ensure that the Committee will continue to fully monitor member states' compliance with their commitments’.

## ‘The Council of Ministers must put pressure on Turkey’

Kariane Westrheim also responded to Landsbergis' letter: “We were very pleased to learn that the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers will continue to monitor whether Member States are fully complying with their commitments. This is very positive news, but our experience shows that Turkey often pays little attention to such requests and there is no change in practice. We would therefore call on the Committee of Ministers to send a delegation to the prison island of Imralı to investigate the situation and state of health of Mr Abdullah Öcalan, who has been imprisoned for life. The fact that Mr Abdullah Öcalan has had no contact with the outside world for 42 months is a source of great concern for his family and his lawyers, who are prevented from meeting him. As Turkey is a member state, we believe that pressure can be brought to bear to allow a visit by a delegation from the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.”

## CPT also limited to reluctant words

CPT President Alan Mitchell replied to a letter sent by Spanish MP Jorge Pueyo Sanz that the Anti-Torture Committee was closely monitoring the situation of prisoners on Imralı and referred to a visit to the island prison in September 2022. Mitchell pointed out that the CPT's dialogue with the Turkish authorities on the situation of Abdullah Öcalan and his fellow prisoners would continue and stressed that the Committee would continue to monitor the situation of those detained on Imralı.

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# Prisons



## Release of ill prisoner Şen postponed five times

ANF | VAN | 31 AUGUST 2024

Despite having completed the term of his sentence, the release of Ali Şen, an ill prisoner in Yozgat No. 2 T Type Prison, has been postponed for the 5th time because he did not show "remorse".

Detained in Mersin in 1993, Şen was sentenced to life imprisonment by the State Security Court (DGM) on charges of "disrupting the unity and integrity of the state" after days of severe torture.

Şen completed the 30-year term of his sentence on 12 July 2023.

The Prison Administration and Monitoring Board (IGK) postponed Şen's release five times on grounds such as "not showing remorse" and "not leaving the organization". Despite his many illnesses, Şen was not released, but was instead deported to Malatya, Yozgat, Konya, Silifke, Eskişehir, Tarsus and finally to Yozgat once again 2 years ago.

### Call for sensitivity

Ismail Şen, the son of the ill prisoner, said: "My father is not being released because he did not accept the imposition of repentance. If anything happens to my father in prison, the prison prosecutor and the prison administration will be responsible. Once again, both the prisoner and his family are being punished. My father is an ill prisoner and needs to be released and treated as soon as possible. My father's release has been postponed for 3 months and 20 days this time. We ask all sensitive civil society organizations and the public to unite around ill prisoners and prisoners whose release has been prevented and to say stop to this cruelty."

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## 82-year-old Makbule Özer released after 254 days in jail

ANF | VAN | 31 AUGUST 2024

82-year-old Makbule Özer was arrested on 9 May 2022, on charges of "aiding an organization" in the Edremit (Artemêt) district of Van (Wan) and released on 7 September that year, only to be arrested again a few months later, after the Forensic Medicine Institute (ATK) reported that she "could remain in prison."

The ill woman was released after completing her 254-day sentence.

### Background

Makbule Özer was arrested last year along with her husband Hadi Özer for "supporting terrorism". The couple were sentenced to over two years in prison. In the case of Makbule Özer, the sentence was suspended for one year due to her poor health.

On 23 July 2018, Turkish police anti-terror units stormed the house of Makbule and Hadi Özer in Edremit. Seventeen people were there at the time, including four minors. The elderly couple, three family members and an acquaintance were terrorized, insulted, beaten and threatened by the officers for around three hours.

They were then arrested and questioned in police custody for two days. The transfer to the responsible public prosecutor's office took place on 26 July. Şükran Yıldız, who was visiting the Özers on the day of the raid, was arrested for alleged PKK membership. Makbule, Hadi, Medeni, Übeydullah and Emrullah Özer were released.

The background to the raid was an incident that occurred a good week earlier in the Rêya Armûşê (İpekyolu) district, 45 kilometers northeast. On the night of 15 July 2018, special paramilitary units of the Turkish police carried out an operation in a house on Yalım Erez Street. Two YPS (Civil Defense Units) members had barricaded themselves there. Only later did it become known that they were Metin Ünalnış (Numan Serhat) and Bilal Şimşek (Serhıldan Ararat). Both fighters initially fought a battle with the operational units. The YPS named two dead and six injured police officers. The Turkish governor only spoke of three wounded officers. Only the two people "who prepared an illegal action" are dead.

Human rights organizations expressed the suspicion that Metin Ünalnış and Bilal Şimşek may have been victims of extrajudicial executions when their ammunition ran out. Several arrests were made that same night.



## Emin Şeker: Violations of rights in prisons are increasing

ANF | VAN | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

The pressure, torture and intimidation policies against ill prisoners are increasing in the jails of Turkey and Kurdistan. Most recently, following the attack on female prisoners in Şakran Prison, the rights violations have once again come to the agenda.

TUHAY-DER Van branch executive, Emin Şeker, who frequently visits the prisons, told ANF that rights violations have reached the highest level. He said: "Prisons have now become places where breathing is unbearable. Practices that make one think of the 12 September 1980 regime are being implemented. While some laws were followed even during the 12 September military junta, none of the laws are recognized now. There are practices that exceed the martial law period. Rights to painting, music, sports and visits are being completely violated. Social activities have been completely eliminated. Among the rights violations is the situation of ill prisoners. There are 1,500 ill prisoners in Turkey and 650 of them are seriously ill. They are not receiving treatment. In addition to handcuff examinations in the hospital, mouth searches are also performed. The officers who take prisoners over the age of 70 are taking them away by pulling their arms and this is torture."

## **'Prison monitoring boards act like courts'**

Şeker said: "The release of prisoners who are entitled to be freed is constantly postponed. Another court has been established inside prisons in addition to the real courts in the courthouse. There is a structure called the 'Prison Observing Board' and this board arbitrarily extends the sentences of prisoners. Prisoners who have been in prison for 30 years are asked questions such as 'Do you feel regret?' and their release is postponed because of the answer to such questions. Everyone needs justice and the law. There is systematic torture in prisons."

## **Double standards in prisons**

Şeker also touched on the situation of ill prisoners over the age of 70-80 in prisons, and said: "Makbule Özer [who was freed last week after 254 days in prison] and Hanife Aslan, who were prisoners in Van, are over 80 years old and cannot even take care of themselves. These old women were constantly going to the hospital and were being taken away with their hands cuffed. This is neither conscientious nor humane. We are constantly meeting with the families of the two women and our call from here is for these 80-year-old women to be released from prison and put under house arrest or other "measures". A few months ago, dozens of people were released in the Hezbollah case by saying they were 'old', but our mothers are still being held in prison. This double standard must be ended."

## **'End the isolation in İmralı'**

Emin Şeker said that the reason for the increase in rights violations in prisons is the isolation experienced in İmralı, and added: "If the gates of İmralı are opened, we believe socially and institutionally that with a message coming from there, the chaos experienced will end, the way will be opened for peace to come to the country and at the same time the rights violations in prisons will also end. The isolation in İmralı is a crime against humanity; the isolation is not only applied to Mr. Öcalan, the isolation in İmralı is reflected in all prisons. The gates of İmralı should be opened. No one should be subjected to such a practice. These isolation policies should be ended, they should be allowed to see their families and lawyers, and they should be given the right to make phone calls."

— ★ —

## **General amnesty: 50 more prisoners released in Heseke**

ANF | HESEKE | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

50 more prisoners have been released from Heseke Prison as part of the tenth general amnesty announced by the Democratic Peoples' Assembly of Northern and Eastern Syria on 17 July 2024.

The Social Justice Assembly released 50 more prisoners from Heseke Prison in cooperation with the Internal Security Forces within the scope of the general amnesty.

The detainees were released in the presence of representatives of the Internal Security Forces Public Relations Office and tribal opinion leaders.

On 21 July, some prisoners were also released under the amnesty. Thus, the number of those released under the latest general amnesty increased to 11.

Some detainees are expected to be released in the coming days.

The 10th general amnesty decision was taken upon the request of the second meeting of the National Union of Syrian Tribes and Components, led by tribal opinion leaders.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, the Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) officials on 17 July.



## Kurdish activist Kenan Ayaz sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison in Germany

ANF | HAMBURG | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

The final hearing of Kurdish activist Kenan Ayaz, who was extradited from Cyprus on a German arrest warrant, took place today at the Hamburg State Court. Ayaz was sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison.

Ayaz was arrested at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus in March 2023 on the basis of a European arrest warrant requested by the Federal Court of Justice and extradited to Germany at the beginning of June. Since then, he has been detained in Hamburg's Holstenglacis remand prison under stricter prison conditions.

Before the hearing, a solidarity rally was organised in front of the court building.

Dozens of people attended the rally organised by the Hamburg Committee for Solidarity with Kenan Ayaz. Writer and women's rights activist Anja Flach said that Kenan Ayaz gave a lesson in humanity to the court in his defence during the trial.

"Let's show our solidarity not only with Ayaz but with all political prisoners," said Anja Flach, adding that whatever the verdict, they will always be in action for the freedom of Kenan Ayaz and other political prisoners.

At the final hearing held at 14.15 in the afternoon, the court committee stated that Kenan Ayaz was sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison for allegedly taking high-level responsibility within the PKK between 2018-2019 and carrying out activities within this framework.

### **‘By supporting Erdoğan, you support the ISIS terrorists’**

Kenan Ayaz, who welcomed the decision of the court with great composure and a victory sign, said the following:

“Whatever the verdict, I am a soldier of my people's struggle for freedom. While the most beautiful women of the world defeated the ugliest men of the world in Rojava, your court is prosecuting me, seeking to sentence me to please the ugliest of these ugly men, the dictator Erdoğan. No matter what sentence you give, it will never stop me from my struggle for freedom. You are prosecuting me and my friends only to please the Turkish state and Erdoğan. By supporting Erdoğan, you support the ISIS terrorists at the same time. This support comes back to your people as death in Solingen and Mannheim. While remembering the people who lost their lives in these dastardly attacks with respect, I send my condolences to the families and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. Your courts, which ignore the terror of ISIS and Erdoğan, contradict your own law by prosecuting us who want to express their demands through democratic means.”

Kenan Ayaz finally expressed his greetings and love to the people of Kurdistan who did not leave him alone, to his German friends in the person of Anja Flach and to all the Cypriot people who fought for him in Cyprus.

Immediately after the court announced its decision, a group of 40 people in the courtroom reacted by chanting the slogans ‘Bijî Serok Apo’ (Long Live Leader Öcalan) and ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ (Woman, Life, Freedom).

### **Lawyer Kühl: We will appeal the verdict**

Kenan Ayaz's lawyer, Stefan Kühl, said that the verdict was unacceptable and scandalous and that they would appeal the verdict within a week.

Kühl stated that Kenan Ayaz expressed his thoughts with great determination throughout the trial and said that his client was a person who fought for the freedom of his people.

Hamburg Left Party MP Cansu Özdemir stated that the verdict was unacceptable and full of scandals. “The court has once again made the Erdoğan regime happy with this verdict,” she added.

### **‘No different from Turkish courts’**

Politician Selma Irmak emphasised that there was nothing legal about the verdict because the sentence was handed for Kenan Ayaz's thoughts. Stating that Kenan Ayaz had never been involved in violence and had expressed his thoughts through politics, Selma Irmak said: “In fact, the sentence means ‘you will not do politics, we are preventing your right to do politics’ to the Kurds.”

Politician Nihat Akdoğan, on the other hand, stated that German courts were taking Turkish courts as an example for themselves. Akdoğan said, “I do not see any difference between German prosecutors sentencing Kurdish politicians with a “copy and paste” logic and the trial of Kurdish politicians in Turkey under

the name of the “KCK case”. Wherever you are in the world, if you are Kurdish and you defend the struggle for freedom, they make you pay for it in some way.”

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## Ill prisoner Şen released after 31 years in jail

ANF | ANKARA | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

Ill prisoner Ali Şen from Yozgat No. 2 T Type Closed Prison was released after 31 years.

Şen, who was detained for political reasons in Mersin in 1993, was sentenced to life imprisonment by the State Security Court (DGM) on charges of “disrupting the unity and integrity of the state” after days of severe torture.

Şen completed the 30-year term of his sentence on 12 July 2023. However, Ali Şen’s release was postponed 5 times because he did not accept the imposition of “repentance”.

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## Prisoners expose violations of rights in Manavgat S Type Closed jail

ANF | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

Tuba Sert, a prisoner in Antalya Manavgat S Type Closed jail, spoke about the pressures that the prisoners were subjected to during a public visit with her family on 2 September.

Tuba Sert said that the chief guard constantly put psychological pressure on the prisoners and that they were subjected to insults and threats.

Sert stated that the female guards in particular told prisoner Zilan Demir to “hurry up and run” after her weekly phone call with her family on 28 August, and when Demir responded by asking “why would I run?”, she was thrown violently into the cell.

Tuba Sert said the following: “After this incident, the head guard raided Zilan’s ward with male guards. The guards, armed with batons and handcuffs, closed all the windows and portholes in the corridor and entered the ward. They insulted and threatened Zilan for hours. As prisoners, we wanted to go to the warden, but they did not allow us. We are subjected to serious rights violations due to the practices of the head guard and the warden. Some of the prisoners here are in single cells and some in triple cells. We will fight against oppression, torture and all kinds of rights violations and will not bow down. We will not bow down no matter what the consequences are.”

Tuba Sert's family said that irrational practices are taking place in Antalya Manavgat S Type Closed Prison and expressed their concerns for the lives of the prisoners.

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## Prisoners in Giresun subjected to physical torture and arbitrary treatment

ANF | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

The family of political prisoner Kemal Yiğit in Giresun F Type Closed Prison denounced rights violations after a phone call with their son.

The family stated that sick prisoners are not referred to hospitals, are not given food, and face unlawful practices of the prison administration.

According to the information conveyed by the family, Kemal Yiğit stated that prisoners were subjected to violence at the hands of guards, threatened with death and insulted.

Family members reported that their petitions of complaint were torn and thrown away by the wardens and not processed.

According to the family, Yiğit said that the letters sent to them were not given to them and that they faced disciplinary proceedings in the event of objecting to these practices.

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## Prisoners sentenced to solitary confinement for dancing to Kurdish songs

ANF | BATMAN | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

In Batman T Type Closed Prison, 15 prisoners were sentenced to 15 days of solitary confinement on the allegation of 'making propaganda for an illegal organisation' for dancing halay to Kurdish songs with whistles and clapping.

The affected prisoners are İbrahim Biçecek, Erdal Doğan, İshan Kaya, Kasım Daşçı, Mehmet Emin Özer, Nurettin Dayan, Mehmet Emin Çam, Murat Güngör, Ahmet Erol, Mehmet Şirin Ari, Sait Özer, Şehmus Sevdinoğlu, Cengiz Elçi, Abdulkerim Erdoğan and Dildar Sol.

The Disciplinary Board of the Prison Administration claimed that the prisoners made PKK propaganda by dancing to Kurdish songs.



## People in Silopi welcome prisoner after his release

ANF | SILOPI | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Mehmet Kanit, who was released from Patnos L Type Closed Prison after 30 years, was welcomed by people in his hometown of Silopi (Silopiya).

Kanit was picked up by his family from in front of the prison, and brought to his hometown, where he was welcomed by the Federation of Associations for Solidarity and Assistance with Families of Prisoners (TUHAD-FED), the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Şirnak provincial and district organizations, Silopi Municipality co-mayor, municipal council members, and many other people.

Kanit greeted each person who welcomed him in front of his family home.



## Military aggression and occupation

### Armed attack on the house of Kurdish agricultural workers in Samsun

ANF | 30 AUGUST 2024

A house where seasonal agricultural workers from Urfa were staying in the Salıpazarı district of Samsun was targeted by an armed attack at around 21.00 yesterday evening.

Many bullets hit the walls and windows of the house under construction where the workers lived. While the cause of the attack is unknown, the incident was revealed by a video recording taken by a worker who was at the scene at the time of the attack.





## Manbij Military Council announces balance sheet for August

ANF | MANBIJ | 31 AUGUST 2024

In its balance sheet for the month of August, Manbij Military Council (MMC) stated the following regarding the attacks of the occupying Turkish state and allied mercenaries and the resistance of the fighters:

843 howitzer and mortar attacks were carried out.

Manbij Military Council responded to 7 attacks and repelled them.

7 drone attacks were carried out in the villages of Manbij.

4 drones were shot down.

A total of 11 missile attacks were carried out, including 7 on the village of Ewn Dadat, 3 on the village of Mehseuli and 1 on the village of Cat.

11 civilians, including women and children, were wounded in the attacks and bombardments.

7 mercenaries were killed, and 22 gangs were wounded.

27 mortars were fired at Hoşeriye village, 28 at Cat, 27 at Deric, 24 at Tûxar, 81 at Ewn Dadat, 44 at Jarad, 45 at Erebi Hesên, 78 at Um Cilûd, 14 at Um Edese, 39 at Dendeniye, 209 at Siyade, 18 at Qirtwêran, 59 Kawiklî, 38 at Korhiyok, 29 at Boxaz, 13 at Cebile Hemra, 15 at Yanlî and 17 at Boyhic village.

During the attacks in the month of August, the occupying Turkish state and its mercenaries randomly bombarded the villages north and west of Manbij. In particular, Hoshiyaya, Mehseulî, Cat, Ewn Dadat, Tûxar and other villages were targeted. Manbij Military Council fighters prevented infiltration attempts in these villages.

On 21 August, fighting broke out between the fighters of Manbij Military Council and the mercenaries who wanted to infiltrate Mehseulî village. 2 mercenaries were killed in the clash, and two others were wounded. The remaining gangs fled the scene.

Manbij Military Council emphasised their determination to ensure peace and security in the region and noted that they are ready to respond to any attack directed against residential areas.

## Guerrillas carry out actions in Heftanîn, Metîna and Zap

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

The following information was given in the statement:

### "Guerrilla resistance in Heftanîn and Metîna

In the Heftanîn region, guerrillas observed the movements of the occupying forces in the Bektorya area on 28 August and struck with an act of sabotage. A soldier was seriously injured in the action. In the Golka resistance area in Metîna, guerrillas stopped an advance attempt by the Turkish army on the same day.

### Western front in Zap

The Turkish invasion troops in the Girê Amêdî area have been attacked several times by guerrillas with heavy weapons in recent days. On Tuesday, the establishment of a Turkish position was prevented by targeted fire. When the Turkish army wanted to tow away a Toyota military vehicle that had been destroyed by the guerrillas the day before, the guerrillas intervened again with heavy weapons. On Friday, eight more attacks were carried out on the occupiers in the area.

In Girê Bahar, a Turkish position was attacked and damaged with semi-automatic weapons on 28 August. Last night, snipers destroyed a surveillance camera and a projector installed by the Turkish army in the Girê FM area.

### Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army has used prohibited explosives against guerrillas' tunnel systems in the Girê FM and Girê Cûdî areas in the western Zap region four times since Tuesday.

In the period 27 to 31 August, the HPG recorded 49 air strikes by fighter jets. The bombed areas were Girê Şehîd Cihan in Qandîl, Girê Qele, Kendekola, Şehîd Şerîf, Sinînê, Lolan and Berbizinê in Xakurke, Şêlazê, Serê Metîna and Bêşîlî in Metîna, Girê Bahar in Zap as well as Mêranê, Mam Nêçîr, Heftebax, Girê Kun, Deştâ Kafya, Yekmalê, Sêdarê, Dêrîk, Dêreşê, Girê Egîd and Kanî Sarkê in Gare. Further air strikes were carried out by attack helicopters in the Metîna and Xakurke regions."

## HPG pays tribute to commander Orhan Cihat Bingöl

ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) have announced the death of Orhan Cihat Bingöl. The long-time guerrilla commander, who was also a member of the HPG Command Council, was killed in an attack by the Turkish state in the Medya Defense Areas in early June. The HPG wrote that "Hevalê Orhan, who dedicated his entire life to the struggle for the freedom of our people and resisted continuously on every inch of Kurdistan for almost 33 years. He was a unique revolutionary. He fought tirelessly, with an unshakable, sincere, determined, disciplined, endless enthusiasm and passion. He loved Kurdistan and its majestic rebellious mountains, which he explored step by step and transformed into a lodge of resistance like a dervish. He was a great revolutionary commander whose only commitment was to the freedom of our people."

The statement added: "From ARGK fighter to commander of small units and entire companies in areas and regions, Hevalê Orhan worked at all levels within our guerrilla army. He achieved incredible things, trained thousands of friends with love and passed on his revolutionary experiences. He knew how to be wherever our struggle required him to be, and how to take on the revolutionary tasks of the time. In the 33 years of his revolutionary life, Comrade Orhan fought with the youthful spirit of the PKK, without hesitation and without tiring, until the day he fell a martyr."

The HPG expressed its condolences to the relatives of Orhan Cihat Bingöl and the Kurdish people.

The HPG provided the following information about Orhan Cihat Bingöl:

Code name: Orhan Cihat Bingöl

First and last name: Ali Dinçer

Place of birth: Çewlîg

Mother's and father's names: Kibar - Keke

Date and place of death: 6/6/2024 / Medya Defense Areas

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## ISIS mine explodes in Shehba, wounding 3 children

ANF | SHEHBA | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

According to reports from the ground, 3 children from Afrin were wounded due to the explosion of a mine left by ISIS gangs in Til Qerah village in Shehba region.

Serdar Mehmûd (8), Ela Elo (11) and Selah Elo (9) were taken to Avrin Hospital with injuries.

It is reported that the slightly wounded children were discharged after treatment.

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## Turkish warplanes bomb Mount Bagok

ANF | MARDIN | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

According to reports from the ground, the operation launched by the Turkish army in the region of Mount Bagok in Mardin countryside on 31 August continues.

After the Governor's Office declared 8 villages and rural areas as a 'Temporary Special Security Zone' for 15 days, military activity in the region intensified.

At around 05.30 this morning, the Xirbê Xelo area in the Mount Bagok countryside was bombed by warplanes.

Following the bombardment, the area was shelled by 3 helicopters and gunshots were heard in the area.

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## HRE balance sheet for August: 1,327 attacks on Afrin-Shehba Canton

ANF | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Press Centre of Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) announced the balance sheet of the attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish state and allied mercenaries against Afrin-Shehba Canton in the month of August.

HRE Press Centre shared the following details:

On 5 August, a suicide drone attack took place in the village of Şealê, causing material damage.

On 6 August, a rocket was fired at the Damascus government building, causing material damage.

On 7 August, a rocket-propelled grenade hit Hirbil village, causing material damage.

On 8 August, Hirbil village was targeted by 2 rockets, causing material damage. In addition, 2 suicide drones crashed in Şêwarxa village.

On 9 August, Şêwarxa village was attacked by 2 drones with rockets, causing material damage. On the same day, a 15-year-old child named Lilav Eli Bekir was wounded in Kîştar camp.

On 12 August, 2 rockets hit Şêx Isa village as a result of a drone attack. An attack was organised by a suicide drone. On the same day, a suicide drone attack was carried out in Merenze village. Material damage occurred as a result of the attacks.

On 14 August, a suicide drone attacked the village of Şêwarxa, causing material damage.

On 15 August, reconnaissance aircraft bombed Malikiyê village twice, causing material damage.

On 16 August, Malikiyê village was bombed again. The attack resulted in material damage.

On 17 August, 2 suicide drones carried out an attack in Semoqa village, causing material damage.

On 18 August, Hirbil village was bombed twice by drones. Material damage occurred as a result of the attack.

On 19 August, a suicide drone attack was carried out in Soxanekê village. 4 civilians were wounded when 3 suicide drones were detonated in Bêne village. The names of those wounded in the attack that targeted the vehicle of a citizen named Abu Zequr are as follows: Seydo Mihemed Heyder (45) from Bêne village, Yusif El Erec (27) from Ziyaret village, Mistefa Rifet Şêxo (28) from Meydan Ekbes village, Ebdurehman Mihemed Hemo (78) from Cilbirê village.

On 21 August, reconnaissance aircraft bombed the Soxanekê village twice, causing material damage.

On 26 August, a suicide drone attack caused material damage in Şêwarxa village.

On 29 August, a suicide drone blew itself up in Merenaz village, causing material damage.

On 30 August, reconnaissance aircraft bombed the village of Şêwarxa 4 times, resulting in material damage.



## Ban on entry to a number of rural areas in Amed

ANF | AMED | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Turkish authorities in the Kurdish province of Amed have issued a temporary ban on entry to a number of rural regions. The order, which has been in effect since Sunday, is linked to a military operation by the Turkish army against the Kurdish guerrillas. For the local population, the measure means that a de facto state of emergency applies.

The ban on entry issued by the governor's office applies to parts of the district of Dicle (Pîran) in the north of the province. In addition to the settlements of Hêredo (Kırpınar), Pîrajma (Kurşunlu) and Şimgirika Jorin (Kayı), which were declared special security zones because of a new military operation, the massifs of Kurşunludüzü and Görese were also included in the ban. According to the governor's statement, the order will remain in force until 17 September, officially to "prevent threats to national security". In addition, the aim is to prevent "violent incidents". Violations of the access ban can result in fines and prison sentences.

The creation of "special security zones" is part of a larger policy of repression and control in which military exclusion zones are being set up in various parts of North Kurdistan. This means that entire regions are cut off from the outside world and subject to the control and arbitrary will of the military. These measures place a significant burden on the Kurdish rural population and increase the pressure on residents to leave the affected areas.



## 2,100 refugees settled in Girê Spî

ANF | AYN ISSA | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

According to local sources, the Turkish government forcibly removed 2,100 Syrian refugees from Turkey in August and settled them in Girê Spî.

Sources said that the Turkish government handed the refugees over to the "Military Police" gangs via the Girê Spî Border Gate to settle them.

The authorities of the Turkish state announced that they would send back one million Syrian refugees in April 2022. So far, they have forcibly removed 38,460 Syrian refugees and 72 Iraqi people from Turkey and settled them in Girê Spî.

On 24 August, the Turkish state handed over a 12-year-old child to the "Military Police" gangs at the Girê Spî Border Gate.



## Footage of mercenaries deployed by the Turkish state from Syria to Amêdiyê

ANF | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

For months, information, testimonies and documents have been emerging that the occupying Turkish state has been transporting mercenaries recruited and trained in Syria to Southern Kurdistan. Hewlêr and

Baghdad remain silent on the occupation and looting activities and their complicity with Turkish-backed mercenaries.

Journalist Huner Ahmet went to Belavê village in Amêdiyê district of Duhok and filmed the gangs deployed by the Turkish state in the region.

Journalist Ahmet witnessed that the mercenaries deployed in the area had long beards and spoke Arabic.

Huner Ahmet said: “The number of mercenaries deployed by the Turkish state for the occupation of Southern Kurdistan reaches 600. All the mercenaries were brought from Afrin and Jindires and are now employed in the construction of new military bases.”

In a statement on 7 July 2024, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) spokesperson announced that about 300 ISIS fighters had been settled in the Berwarî Bala region. Since then, the flow of gangs has continued.

In a report published on 23 July, the Centre for Documentation of Violations in Northern and Eastern Syria announced that the occupying Turkish state had transferred 300 ISIS mercenaries from Syria to Southern Kurdistan.

You can watch the footage from this link: <https://anfenglishmobile.com/kurdistan/footage-of-mercenaries-deployed-by-the-turkish-state-from-syria-to-amediyê-75099>



## HPG publishes balance sheet for August: 56 soldiers killed

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

The HPG (People's Defense Forces) published the balance sheet of war for the month of August.

“The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, following in the footsteps of Comrade Fermandar Egîd (Mahsum Korkmaz), has completed 40 years of its epic struggle and entered the 41st year of struggle. 40 years of uninterrupted legitimate defence of the Kurdish people, waging their armed freedom struggle, surviving all attacks, liquidation concepts and genocide plans and keeping the hope of victory of our oppressed people alive is an achievement in itself. Having learned lessons from all the resistances of the Kurdish people, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla adapted itself to the changing conditions of the age, deepened in the Apoist ideology and paradigm, became competent in tactics and mastered the guerrilla struggle, and has now become a source of inspiration not only for the Kurdish people but for all oppressed peoples,” said the HPG statement released on Tuesday.

The HPG statement continued: “The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla has gloriously welcomed the 15th of August Resurrection Day and the 41st year of the historic guerrilla move. Entering the 41st year of struggle with Apoist sacrificial spirit and full determination, our guerrilla forces continued their resistance uninterruptedly in Northern Kurdistan and Medya Defence Zones. The epic resistance of our immortal sacrifi-

cial commander Berwar Dêrsîm - Seyran Çomak in Çiyayê Agirî has shown to our enemies that the Egîdised, Bêrîtanised and Zîlanised truth of the free Kurdish woman is invincible. The unconquerable resistance of our comrades Eylem Stêrk - Meryem Önür, Sozdar Evîn - Betül Aydın and Armanc Devrim - Hacer Tekin in Elkê and Kato Marînos has been the expression of the same truth in other areas.

These comrades, who were martyred in the month of August, demonstrated in the simplest and most concrete way the leadership, guidance and heroism of free Kurdish women in the person of YJA Star, and the goddess stance that instils the spirit of freedom in all women and our people. Alan Milazgîr, Orhan Cihat Bingöl, Rosîda Mêrdîn, Sara Tolhildan, Sema Cuya Çewlîk, Tîjda Jiyan and our other comrades, who were martyred on different dates but whose martyrdom was announced in August, have written their names in our history of struggle as distinguished examples of Egîdised guerrilla command. We commemorate with respect and gratitude our fallen comrades by walking on the path of Commander Egîd and fighting heroically, and we promise once again that we will follow the martyrs and will definitely achieve their goals."

Regarding the Turkish state's continued attacks and the guerrilla actions in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), HPG stated the following:

"In addition to numerous operations and bombardments in Northern Kurdistan, the occupying Turkish army committed war crimes by bombing the Medya Defense Zones 90 times with banned explosives. Our forces responded to the attacks of the occupying Turkish army based on technique and raising the Apoist sacrificial spirit, deepening in guerrilla tactics, action and movement style and carried out many actions.

In August, the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla displayed a very important war performance and carried out effective actions from the air and land, dealing heavy blows to the occupying army. In August, a total of 152 actions were carried out by our forces, including 19 aerial attacks by our Martyr Dogan Zinar and Martyr Axîn Mûş Units and 133 ground attacks in which many guerrilla tactics were applied together.

The occupying Turkish army and the special war media have concealed the losses suffered as a result of these actions, which have been proven by our forces with documents and images. In the actions carried out by our forces from the air and land, a total of 56 invaders, including 3 high-ranking officials, were punished and 43 invaders were injured."

### **Details of the balance sheet of war for August 2024:**

Fighter Jet Attack: 350

Helicopter Attack: 33

Prohibited Explosive Attack: 90

Number of comrades martyred: 4

**Guerrilla Actions:** Guerrilla actions carried out from the air: 19, Guerrilla actions carried out from the land: 133, Total guerrilla actions carried out: 152



**Enemy Losses:** Number of invaders punished: 53, Number of ranked invaders punished: 3, Number of invaders injured: 43

**Military Equipment Destroyed:** Military vehicle: 1, Ammunition store: 1, Drone: 4, Surveillance camera: 19, Emplacement: 5, Tent: 8, Projector: 5, Photo trap: 1

**Military Equipment Damaged:** Armored military vehicle: 3, Digger: 4, Korkut (Air Defence System): 1, Container: 1, Tent: 4, Surveillance camera: 1, Detector: 1, Emplacement: 18

**Military Equipment Seized:** Explosive: 1, Drone Loaded with Explosives: 1

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## Turkish state bombs Southern Kurdistan at least 24 times

ANF | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

Kameran Osman, a member of the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT), reported that the occupying Turkish state bombarded the territory of Southern Kurdistan at least 24 times during the night.

The CPT member reported that the attacks targeted Girê Bihar, the vicinity of Belave village, Heft Tebeq Mountain, the villages of Kevne Mijê, Sipêndarê, Gîrgaşê in Garê and the Kitkitên and Xakurk mountains in Sîdekan.

On the other hand, Turkish warplanes bombed Koxe Mountain and Tale Mountain in Çoman, Qelatukan area in Pişder, Hewarî Rewendekanî area in Kiwêrekan village and Asos Mountain in Mawet.

Kameran Osman added that there were no casualties in these attacks.

On 18 August, the CPT reported that bombardments by warplanes had been the main cause of civilian casualties in the Turkish state's attacks in Southern Kurdistan since 1991.

“Since 2015, however, drones have become the main cause of civilian deaths and injuries. Air operations account for 69 percent of the casualties caused by the Turkish Armed Forces,” according to the CPT.

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## Body of guerrilla Murad Ahmed Pur returned to his family after three years

ANF | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

HPG (People's Defense Forces) guerrilla Murad Ahmed Pur Heydaranlu was martyred in a clash in Beytüşşebap of Şırnak district in 2021 and his body was buried in the cemetery of the nameless in the city.

The family of Heydaranlu, from the Urmia city of Eastern Kurdistan, gave a DNA sample after the death of their son, and received a response after three years.

Following the DNA match, the family came to the city, retrieved the body from the cemetery of the nameless under police blockade and buried it in the cemetery in Yüksekova district of Hakkari.

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## Turkish attack kills a woman in Sîdekan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

Kameran Osman, member of the Community Peacemakers Teams (CPT), made a statement regarding the attack of the occupying Turkish state on the Sîdekan region.

Kameran Osman stated that a young woman named Bedia Kemal Muhammed, born in 1995, was murdered in the attack carried out at 16.15.

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## General Commander of Manbij Military Council says Turkish attempts to occupy village thwarted

ANF | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Turkish army and its mercenaries increased their attacks on the villages of the Manbij Canton in August. The mercenaries repeatedly attacked the villages of the canton and tried to occupy them. The Manbij Military Council fighters responded to the attacks and did not allow the occupation to take place.

The Manbij Military Council fighters thwarted the mercenaries' attempt to occupy the villages on 7 August. The fighters resisted the attacks, leaving 7 mercenaries dead and 22 injured.

The General Commander of the Manbij Military Council, Ibrahim Hemdan, spoke to ANHA about the attacks on the canton and the resistance put up by the fighters.

Commander Ibrahim Hemdan said that during the period when groups affiliated with the Damascus government and Difa Al Wetani were attacking the Deir ez-Zor Canton, the attacks by the Turkish state and its gangs on Manbij increased simultaneously.

Commander Hemdan said: "The Dirî El Furat (Euphrates Shield) gangs affiliated with the occupying Turkish state attempted to enter villages in the north and west of Manbij, which are protected by our forces. Our fighters did not allow them to occupy the villages in the canton. The Turkish army and gangs could not reach their goals despite fierce attacks and the use of all kinds of weapons. They could not break through the fighters' defense lines."

Commander Hemdan continued: "Our fighters have the military experience to respond to any kind of attack. The experience and defensive skills of the fighters are the most important factors that enable them to thwart the attacks of the Turkish army and gangs. Many gangs were killed in the invasion attacks and 2 tanks belonging to the gangs were also destroyed.

The fighters of the Manbij Military Council, Bab Military Council and Jabhat El Ekrad have developed their military expertise and tactics and gained experience in the last 8 years. We are ready to respond to any kind of attack. Our fighters are ready to respond to attacks on the front line. The defense infrastructure is ready, we have effective weapons. Our fighters are very strong. Our warriors have the power to respond to possible large-scale attacks."



## Father and two sons killed in Turkish UCAV attack in Dukan, Sulaymaniyah

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

An unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) attack was carried out by the occupying Turkish state against a vehicle on the move between Xelekan and Kaniwatman regions in Dukan district of Sulaymaniyah.

According to the statement made by Dukan District Governor Sirwan Serhat, the victims were Muzaffer Hussein Xidir Ewla and his two sons, one of whom was identified as Muhammad Muzaffer.

The victims reportedly came from the Hajiawa neighbourhood in Ranya district of Sulaymaniyah.

On 23 August, an UCAV of the occupying Turkish state targeted a vehicle belonging to the media company Chatr Production carrying Kurdish journalists in the Seyidsadık district of Sulaymaniyah. Journalist Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara were martyred in the attack, while Chatr Production Supervisor Rêbîn Bekir (30) was wounded.

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



## Identity of Asayish commander killed in Turkish drone attack announced

ANF | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Internal Security Forces (Asayish) announced that one of their commanders, Dijwar Qamişlo (Metin Dince), was killed by a targeted Turkish drone attack in Qamishlo on Tuesday.

Metin Dince was born in Nusaybin on 8 October 1991. The city is located in the immediate vicinity of Qamishlo, but on the other side of the Syrian-Turkish border.

“Martyr Metin Dince (Dijwar Qamişlo) responded to the call of humanity to fight against the terrorist organisation ISIS and took his place in the ranks of our forces. He chose the path of freedom to become a fighter of Rojava by fighting against terrorism and to defeat ISIS brutality. He was one of the first people to join the revolution to liberate his land from the tyranny of ISIS and to participate in the offensives to liberate all regions of Northern and Eastern Syria. Martyr Dijwar Qamişlo had great courage and a high spirit of sacrifice.

As the Internal Security Forces, we express our condolences to our people and the family of martyr Metin, and we will follow the path of our martyrs who sacrificed their lives to protect their families and people until security and peace are restored. We will achieve the goal of creating a free, safe and stable country on the path of martyrs.”

The identity information of the fallen commander is as follows:

Name Surname: Metin Dince

Nom de Guerre: Dijwar Qamişlo

Mother's Name: Henife

Father's Name: Mihemed Salih

Place and Date of Birth: Nusaybin, 08.11.1991

Place and Date of Participation: Qamishlo, 23.04.2017

Place and Date of Martyrdom: Qamishlo, 03.09.2024

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## Turkish warplanes bomb a village in Amadiya

ANF | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

According to the information obtained from local sources, the occupying Turkish state bombarded Guherzê village in Amadiya district of Duhok.

It is not known what consequences the intense bombardment by warplanes caused other than the destruction of nature.

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## HPG says it suffered no losses in Turkey's latest attacks

ANF | BEHDINAN | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

The guerrillas in South Kurdistan say they suffered no losses in the Turkish army's latest wave of air raids.

The press center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) said in a statement: "As far as our forces could determine, the Medya Defense Areas have been bombed 40 times by fighter jets, 22 times by combat helicopters and four times with prohibited explosives within the last four days. We have not suffered any losses as a result of these bombings. The Turkish army lied about our losses. There has been none."

The HPG made the following statements about the guerrilla resistance to the Turkish invasion of South Kurdistan and the Turkish army's attacks on the Medya Defense Areas:

### "Xakurke and Metîna: Intervention against helicopters and drones

In the Xakurke and Metîna regions, guerrillas intervened against Turkish military helicopters on 1 and 3 September. The helicopters were forced to retreat. In the Şêlazê area of Metîna, a small drone was shot down by an HPG sniper last Tuesday.

### Western front in Zap

On 29 August, a sniper from the Free Women's Units (YJA Star) destroyed a surveillance camera installed by the Turkish army in the Girê Amêdî area. The occupying forces in the area were attacked three times with heavy weapons on 1 and 2 September, with the YJA Star destroying a radar system and damaging a Turkish position.

In the Girê Cûdî area, a radar system and a position were destroyed by shelling with semi-automatic weapons on 31 August. On 1 September, guerrillas intervened with light weapons against an attempted advance by the Turkish army to a tunnel. In the last three days, the occupation forces in the area have been attacked five times with heavy weapons.

A Turkish position in the Girê FM area was attacked and damaged with semi-automatic weapons at 5:30 a.m. today.

### Attacks by the Turkish army

The Turkish army used prohibited explosives against guerrilla tunnels in the Girê Amêdî, Girê Cûdî and Girê FM areas a total of four times, on 31 August and 1 September. The tunnel complex in Girê FM was also bombed by a drone loaded with explosives on Sunday.

The total of forty air strikes with fighter jets between 31 August and 3 September were directed against the areas of Şehîd Şerîf, Kendekola, Qele, Berbizinê, Girê Mesken and Lolan in Xakurke, Mêranê, Yekmalê, Dêrik, Dêreşê, Rebînê, Girê Kun, Mam çîr and Zêvkê in Gare, Serê Metîna and Şêlazê in Metîna, Girê Bahar in Zap and Şêx Nasir, Sûredê, Soregulê, Bêpalan and Zergelê in Qendîl.

Areas in Metîna and Xakurke were bombed by war helicopters."



## Three Turkish drones shot down in Manbij

ANF | MANBIJ | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

Manbij Military Council announced in a statement that they shot down 2 more drones belonging to the occupying Turkish state. Accordingly, these two drones were shot down in the village of Jaradê.

Manbij Military Council fighters announced that they shot down another drone in the same village about an hour ago, i.e. around 09.30 local time today.

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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## Yet another attack by the Turkish state in Sulaymaniyah leaves 3 dead

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

According to RojNews, a vehicle travelling near Çiwartar sub-district of Şarbajêr district was targeted by an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) at noon.

It is reported that three people in the vehicle were killed in the attack. The identities of the victims have not yet been determined.

On Wednesday, 4 September, the Turkish state carried out a UCAV attack on a vehicle travelling on the Xelekan-Kaniwatman road on the Dukan border in the city of Sulaymaniyah, killing a father and his two sons. The murdered children were 12 and 15 years old.

According to official data, 20 people have been killed as a result of the attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish state against the territory of Southern Kurdistan since the beginning of 2024.

Journalists Gulistan Tara and Hêro Behadîn were killed and 6 journalists were wounded, one of them seriously, in an attack by the Turkish state that directly targeted journalists in Sulaymaniyah countryside on 23 August.

While the Turkish state is openly supported by the ruling KDP in its invasion campaign and attacks directed against civilians, the Baghdad administration recently signed a security agreement with the Turkish state. After this agreement on 15 August, Turkey's attacks have remarkably escalated.

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## Farewell to three civilians killed in Turkish attack in Sulaymaniyah

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

The occupying Turkish state carried out an UCAV (unmanned combat aerial vehicle) attack targeting a car travelling on the Xelekan-Kaniwatman road on the border of Dukan district in Sulaymaniyah city of Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) yesterday. Muzaffer Hussein Xidir and his 2 sons Muhammad Muzaffer (15) and Mubin Muzaffer (12), who came from Haji Awa, were killed in the attack.

Muzaffar Hussein Xidir and his two sons were laid to rest at Makok Cemetery in Haji Awa sub-district of Raperin Governorate in a mass ceremony today.

Family members, relatives and friends of the martyrs and hundreds of patriotic citizens were present at the ceremony.



## Omer Şaristênî: The collaborators are handing us over to the murderers!

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

The occupying Turkish state carried out a drone attack on a vehicle travelling on the Xelekan-Kaniwatman road on the border of Dukan in Sulaymaniyah city of Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) yesterday. As a result of the attack, Muzaffer Hussein Xidir and his 2 sons, Muhammad Muzaffer (15) and Mubin Muzaffer (12), lost their lives. Xidir and his two sons were buried in Makok Cemetery in Hajiawa town in Ranya district of Raperin Governorate today.

Imam Omer Şaristênî, a prominent figure in the region, said: “The sovereignty of our country is not protected, warplanes bomb citizens every day. The authorities must hold those responsible to account, no matter who they are. How long will the occupiers, bloodsuckers and their collaborators be allowed to make plans over us? How come the authorities hand us over to the murderers, turn a blind eye to massacres and not be held to account for all this?”

“What is important is not the number of seats won in parliament, but the protection of the country's sovereignty and the nation's security,” Omer Şaristênî said, adding: “We demand that the blood of our children is not spilled, that the borders of our country are not violated and that our children are not targeted by drones. The local conflicts are very dangerous.”



## PUK in Iraqi Parliament condemns Turkish drone attacks on South Kurdistan

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) group of the Iraqi Parliament said in a statement in parliament: “We strongly condemn Turkey's armed drone attacks on the Kurdistan Region. The silence and lack of action by the governments of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region legitimizes Turkey's attacks.”



The statement added; "In the past 72 hours, a total of seven civilians were killed in two attacks on the borders of Sulaymaniyah (Silêmani) and Dihok provinces. Seven of the victims were from the same family, one of them only a child. Many other people were injured."

The PUK also criticized the Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional governments for their silence, saying that "despite the ongoing attacks, the silence of the two governments, and their failure to take a stand against these attacks is tantamount to accepting the violation of Iraq's sovereignty and granting legitimacy to the attacks." The PUK called for the silence to be broken and a serious stance to be taken.



## KCK: Baghdad needs to withdraw from the agreement with Ankara

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Foreign Relations Committee issued a statement about the latest attacks by Turkey in South Kurdistan.

The statement said: "In the last days, our fellow citizens named Bedi Kemal Muhammad, Muzaffer Hussein Xidir, Muhammad Muzaffer Hussein, and Mubin Muzaffer Hussein were martyred in terrorist attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish army in the areas of Bradost and Raperin. Also, two weeks ago, Gulistan Tara and Hero Bahadin, two of the leading workers of the free press, were martyred in an attack in the region of Sharazor. Again, on August 31, a citizen named Hakim Luqman was brutally murdered in Istanbul by fascist hordes fed by the AKP-MHP just for speaking Kurdish. Seven of our people lost their lives within just two weeks as a result of Turkey's invasion and terrorist attacks. We strongly condemn these terrorist attacks and offer our condolences to the families of the martyrs and the patriotic people of Kurdistan."

The statement added: "These killings occurred after the signing of the agreement between Turkey and Iraq on August 15th. This agreement has not and will not bring anything positive for the Kurdish people and the peoples of Iraq except terror and massacre. What the Turkish state means by talking about the development, prosperity, and economic progress in Iraq is nothing but terror and massacre. Economic development, security, prosperity, education, and other rhetoric used do nothing but cover up this terror and massacre.

What we are currently witnessing is yet another result of the collaboration of the Iraqi government with the alliance of AKP, MHP, and KDP in the Behdinan area. Radical jihadists recruited from ISIS are being brought to Behdinan under the protection of the occupying Turkish army. In recent days, videos of these mercenaries have been shared in the press. They confirm the facts that the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla observed on the battlefield and shared with the public but which the AKP-KDP special war media tried to cover up."

The statement continued: "Since 2021, the occupying Turkish army, which is afraid of entering into direct conflict with the guerrilla and does not dare to enter the guerrilla's war tunnels, has used these mercenaries for this purpose. These gangs and mercenaries, which had been cleared from Kurdistan and Iraq as a result of the struggle of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla, the Peshmerga, and the Iraqi army and the heavy prices paid, are now returning as a result of the agreement signed by the Iraqi government with Turkey. Through it, the Iraqi government has legitimized the AKP-MHP-ISIS-KDP alliance, thus the occupation of Iraq by Turkey and ISIS, the revival of ISIS once again, and its basing in Iraq and Kurdistan.

For more than a decade, Turkey has been terrorizing the peoples of the Middle East, especially the Kurdish people, through ISIS and similar structures, using them for its own expansionist and occupation plans. It has used these gangs from Azerbaijan and Armenia to Libya, Sudan, Somalia, and Algeria, and from there to the streets of Paris and Berlin. In 2014, just as Turkey turned the direction of ISIS from Damascus to Kobane, from Baghdad to Mosul, Shengal (Sinjar), Kirkuk, and Hewler (Erbil), it has now brought the same gangs from Idlib to Amediye, Zakho, and Duhok."

The statement underlined that "bringing ISIS gangs to South Kurdistan under the auspices of the KDP and Turkey and deploying them in strategic locations in Kurdistan poses a threat of genocide and demographic change for both the peoples of Iraq and southern Kurdistan in the long run. Let us not forget that ISIS entered Shengal in agreement with the KDP. Now it has entered Behdinan in agreement with the KDP. There is no guarantee that ISIS will not inflict the genocide they inflicted on the people of Shengal on the people of Dohuk, Zakho, and Amediye. On the contrary, there is such a concrete danger. What ISIS and Turkey have done jointly so far is an indication that they will do so in the future.

Just as the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas fought at the forefront against the Turkish-backed ISIS terrorism and defended the peoples of the Middle East, and especially the existence of the Kurdish people, they are now putting up a historic resistance against the ISIS-backed Turkish occupation and annexation attacks, at the forefront, despite all the difficulties. The resistance against ISIS in Shengal, Makhmour, Hewler, and Kirkuk ten years ago has the same historical meaning as the resistance against the Turkish occupation attacks in Zap, Metina, and Avashin. The attacks of Turkey and ISIS are genocidal attacks that continue and complement each other."

The statement concluded: "Based on this, we call on the peoples of Iraq, and particularly the people of southern Kurdistan, the youth, women, and intellectuals, to support and join the resistance of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas. At the same time, we call on the Iraqi government, political leaders, and political parties to understand that an agreement with Recep Tayyip Erdoğan means an agreement with ISIS and is definitely not in the interests of the Iraqi people and state. The plans of a fascist dictator like Erdoğan cannot be thwarted by bowing to him and giving him legitimacy, but by fighting him. It is in Iraq's interest to turn away from this mistake of signing the agreement as soon as possible. Only in this way can future damage and danger be prevented."

## HPG pays tribute to guerrillas Xebat Cûdî, Zamani Amanos, Serhed Jêhat and Yılmaz Dersîm

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) has issued a statement on four guerrillas who fell in North Kurdistan. According to the statement, Xebat Cûdî and Zamani Amanos were killed in an air raid by the Turkish army in the Kêla Memê area of Botan on 17 August.

After their deaths, the area continued to be intensively bombed by fighter jets and helicopters, then ground troops were deployed and fighting broke out. Guerrilla commander Serhed Jêhat and the fighter Yılmaz Dersîm died on 18 August after clashes that lasted for hours when the Turkish air force bombed their base again and they used their last ammunition on themselves to avoid being taken prisoner alive.

The HPG paid tribute to the martyrs as Kurdistan revolutionaries who were willing to make sacrifices and who fought for the freedom and existence of their people until the last moment of their lives. Their unconditional militant attitude was a model for further struggle, and their memory would live on. The HPG expressed its condolences to the relatives and the Kurdish people. In the statement, the HPG provided the following information about the identities and biographies of the martyrs:

Code name: Serhed Jêhat

First and last name: Veysel Sevinç

Place of birth: Agirî

Names of mother and father: Melek – Abdulgafur

Date and place of death: August 18, 2024 / Botan

Code name: Yılmaz Dersîm

First and last name: Barış Kartal

Place of birth: Şirnex

Names of mother and father: Fatma – Abdullah

Date and place of death: August 18, 2024 / Botan

Code name: Xebat Cûdî

First and last name: Reşit Çevik

Place of birth: Şirnex

Names of mother and father: Saadet – Müslüm

Date and place of death: August 17, 2024 / Botan

Code name: Zamani Amanos

First and last name: Serhat Güzel

Place of birth: Mêrdîn

Names of mother and father: Mülkiye - Ömer

Date and place of death: August 17, 2024 / Botan

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## Turkey killed 7 people in Southern Kurdistan in 3 days and silence continues

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The attacks carried out by the occupying Turkish state in cooperation with Iraq and the KDP (the ruling party in southern Kurdistan/northern Iraq) continue. Civilians are being massacred in the attacks carried out by the Turkish state with the approval of Iraq and the KDP. All the citizens targeted by the attacks, among them children, are Kurds who have Iraqi identity and live in the Kurdistan Region.

Despite the increasingly ongoing deadly attacks, both the Iraqi government and the interim government of the Kurdistan Region remain silent against the massacres of the Turkish state.

### 7 civilians killed in 3 days

On 3 September, an artillery attack by the occupying Turkish state targeted Merge Hewş village in Sinîne highland, in Sîdekan district in the Biradost region of Hewlêr (Erbil). A citizen named Bedi Kemal Muhammed was martyred in the attack.

On 4 September, a Turkish UCAV bombed a vehicle on the Xelekan-Kaniwatman road in Dukan district of Sulaymaniyah. Muzaffer Hussein Xidir and his 2 sons, Muhammad Muzaffer (15) and Mubin Muzaffer (12), who came from Haji Awa, were killed in the [attack](#).

Another UCAV [attack](#) by the occupying Turkish state targeted another civilian vehicle yesterday (5 September) in Hermêle village in Çiwarta sub-district in Şarbajêr district of Sulaymaniyah. In this brutal attack, 3 people, including a child, were martyred.

The Turkish state massacred 7 civilians in 3 days, but so far there has been no reaction from the governments of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and other authorities. The world is also watching the massacres against the Kurdish people and chooses silence.

### **23 civilians have been killed since the beginning of the year**

With the latest attacks, 23 civilians have been killed and at least 12 people injured in the massacres carried out by the occupying Turkish state in Southern Kurdistan since the beginning of the year.

### **KCK calls on Baghdad to withdraw from the agreement with Ankara**

Following the latest wave of deadly attacks in Southern Kurdistan, the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Foreign Relations Committee made the following [appeal](#) to the Iraqi government: "We call on the Iraqi government, political leaders, and political parties to understand that an agreement with Recep Tayyip Erdoğan means an agreement with ISIS and is definitely not in the interests of the Iraqi people and state. The plans of a fascist dictator like Erdoğan cannot be thwarted by bowing to him and giving him legitimacy, but by fighting him. It is in Iraq's interest to turn away from this mistake of signing the agreement as soon as possible. Only in this way can future damage and danger be prevented."

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## **KCK: The KDP and Barzani clan are responsible for the occupation and massacres in southern Kurdistan**

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement on the policy of the Iraqi government regarding Turkish occupation and massacres in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

The KCK statement on Friday includes the following:

"As a result of the increasing attacks of the genocidal colonialist Turkish state against southern Kurdistan, many civilians and patriots have been murdered and many have been wounded. We commemorate those martyred in these attacks with respect and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. Our people, patriots, and democratic institutions must show their support.

We once again strongly condemn these dastardly attacks by the Turkish state, and we also condemn the Iraqi government, which creates the ground for these massacres with its relations and agreements with the Turkish state. It is very clear that the increasing attacks, the massacres, and the occupation by the Turkish state are the result of those. It should be known that from now on, the Iraqi government will be held responsible for all attacks, occupations, and massacres in southern Kurdistan and Iraq as much as the Turkish state. Again, the forces that stand behind the Iraqi government, who are partners in this historical mistake or who do not openly take a stance, are also under this shame.

We once again warn the relevant powers, especially the Iraqi government, and reiterate our call for an end to the wrong and dangerous relations with the Turkish state. This dirty relationship of interest, which aims at the occupation and genocide of Kurdistan and will put Iraq under the hegemony of the Turkish state, jeopardizes the democratic, free future of the peoples of the Middle East. The aim of the expansionist, neo-Ottomanist, fascist AKP-MHP government is to occupy according to the Misak-ı Milli ((The so-called 'National Pact' refers to a political declaration made by the leaders of the Ottoman Empire in 1920 during the First World War. The oath defined the territorial borders – including Kurdish settlement areas in present-day Iraq and Syria – and the basic principles for Turkey's future policy. Today, Turkish nationalists often refer to the 'National Pact' to formulate their aspirations for Turkey's territorial expansion) and establish sovereignty over the region by massacring and pitting the peoples against each other. This policy poses a threat to Iraq and its unity. Iraq must be aware of this reality. But still, Iraq is rapidly drifting in a wrong and dangerous direction as a result of these relations that the government has entered into, and the forces that state that they are against this course must take stronger positions. There is a need for open and strong attitudes, not coyly and tacitly. All patriotic and democratic Iraqi forces and intellectuals who are in favor of the unity and sovereignty of Iraq must develop a clear and strong position to prevent the government from the continuation of this course.

The KDP and the Barzani clan are mainly responsible for the occupation and massacres in southern Kurdistan. For the sake of profit, they have become partners in the genocide of Kurds and have become the biggest threat to Kurdistan. The Barzani clan has forced and put the Iraqi state into such relations in order to cover up and legitimize their collaborative and treasonous behavior. This danger must first be recognized, and strong attitudes must be developed against this danger. Kurdish politics, patriotic forces, and Kurdish intellectuals must act with this responsibility and lead the way. Our people should not remain unresponsive to these attacks; they should strongly express their reaction against the massacres and the collaborator treacherous line, strengthen their unity by holding up the legacy of the martyrs strongly, and raise the struggle for freedom.”

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## 34 terrorists captured, 5 others eliminated in SDF's counter-terrorism operations in July and August

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are making significant progress in countering ISIS terrorist cells, restricting their movements, and thwarting their attempts to destabilize the region and endanger civilian

lives despite the security threats posed by Turkish occupation and the Syrian regime and their affiliated militias, and diverting a substantial portion of our resources to maintaining security and preventing ISIS from achieving its objectives.

Despite ISIS's covert activities and attempts to diversify its operations, the SDF, with the invaluable support of the international coalition, have successfully contained the terrorist organization's threat and thwarted numerous attacks during July and August.

In a statement on Friday, the SDF Press Center said: "During July and August, our forces conducted 16 successful counter-terrorism operations, resulting in the capture of 34 terrorists and the elimination of five others. Among those captured were dangerous leaders who had planned numerous terrorist attacks, including an expert in improvised explosive devices (IEDs), a financial official for ISIS in Raqqa, and several members of cells involved in attacks against our forces and civilians. The five terrorists eliminated during these operations included three high-ranking ISIS leaders and a key planner and participant in the January 2022 attack on the al-Sina'a Prison in the Gweran neighborhood, al-Hasakah City. The areas of operations were Raqqa, al-Karama, Deir ez-Zor, Markada, al-Suar, Qamishlo, al-Hasakah."

The statement underlined that: "The fight against ISIS remains a priority for us to prevent ISIS from resurgence. In light of this, we reiterate our call for the international community to provide increased support to our forces and civilians in areas liberated from ISIS. This support is crucial for ensuring the enduring defeat of ISIS. We also highlight the importance of continued support by the international coalition to our forces in maintaining security and stability and countering any threats posed by ISIS terrorist cells."

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## Feminicide

Hêlîme Hecî: Abdullah Öcalan is a great source of power for us

NUJIYAN ADAR | QAMISHLO | 31 AUGUST 2024

58-year-old Hêlîme Hecî lives in Qamishlo. She has been shaping her life around the proposed by the philosophy of Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan since the 90s.

Speaking to ANF, Hêlîme Hecî talked about the thoughts of Leader Öcalan, and reading Sociology of Freedom together with women. She said that she strives to put his ideology into practice. Hêlîme Hecî said about her encounter with the Kurdistan Freedom Struggle in 1990: "We were living in the neighborhood of Qudirbeg in Qamishlo. The lifestyle of the Apoists caught my attention. I had the chance to listen to the Leader's voice recordings. I got to know the Leader and his philosophy by listening to his tapes. Their narratives were our lives, they touched our lives and left a deep impression. For this reason, I opened the door of my house to the hevals [comrades]. We had undertaken the treatment of especially the wounded friends. One group would recover; another wounded group would come. They would secretly

enter and exit the house. The Baath regime was strong at that time, but I was aware that it would not be easy to stand by the Kurdish Freedom Movement."

### **His ideas were living with us**

The Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan's ideas got more support by the people after he was taken hostage, said Helîme Hecî, adding: "On the morning of 15 February [1999], the news of the Leader's arrest spread. I suddenly felt our world darken. It was a dark day. We gathered together and thought about what would happen next. As time passed, we began to face the days stronger thanks to the Leader's resistance and struggle. The Leader was in prison, but his ideas were living with us. The Leader was taken hostage as a result of his struggle for a people. Our greatest response would be to live with the Leader."

### **He showed women the path to freedom**

Noting that the struggle that was carried out secretly in Rojava for approximately 20 years reached its peak with the Rojava Revolution, Helîme Hecî said: "We are comfortably carrying out our activities today. If it were not for Leader Apo's freedom struggle, we would not exist. We would have had to continue our lives under the oppression of the Baath regime. The revolution illuminated our path, Leader Apo refreshed our hearts. He showed women the path to freedom."

### **For the construction of a free life**

Helîme Hecî said that they came together as women in the commune of Martyr Berxwedan (Munzur Qamishlo, killed in Til Temir in 2015), named after her son in Qamishlo and read the Sociology of Freedom. She added: "It is very meaningful for women to come together and read the Leader's writings, understand him and adapt the Leader's paradigm to life. We do not just read the Leader's works and pass by. Discussions are held on every topic. Every woman voices her views. In this way, an intellectual richness is created. Our Leader is a great power for us women. We are trying to build a new free life by placing the Leader at the center of our lives."



## **Şenyaşar family continues action for justice in front of Parliament**

ANF | ANKARA | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

On 14 June 2018, the bodyguards and relatives of AKP Urfa MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız attacked the Şenyaşar family's shop in Suruç during the election campaign.

In the attack, brothers Celal, Adil, Mehmet, Fadıl and Ferit Şenyaşar were severely injured and hospitalized. Relatives and supporters of AKP MP Yıldız killed Celal and Adil Şenyaşar in hospital, and their father Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar, when he went to the hospital to see his sons. He was brutally murdered, being lynched in front of his wife, Emine Şenyaşar.



Emine Şenyaşar took her protest in front of the Parliament 12 days ago.

On Monday, she held a press conference together with her son, DEM Party Urfa MP, Ferit Şenyaşar.

Ferit Şenyaşar said that his mother had not received the justice she had been expecting from the judiciary for years and that she came to the Parliament to make her voice heard. Addressing the Speaker of the Parliament Numan Kurtulmuş and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Şenyaşar once again reiterated the demand of his mother. He said that his mother's demand for justice was ignored and emphasized that the Parliament should take action on this issue.

Şenyaşar said: "My mother waited in front of the Urfa Courthouse for 846 days, in front of the Ministry of Justice for 124 days, and now she has been seeking justice in front of the Parliament in Ankara for 12 days. We are calling on the Parliament to do its job so that this oppression ends."

Emine Şenyaşar said she will continue her action with determination despite her health problems, until justice is done.



## 421 rape and violence incidents against women in Iraq in past 6 months

ANF | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Iraqi Judiciary Medical Sexual Incidents Department published its sexual assault and violence report for the period January-June 2024.

According to the report, there were 421 rape and violence incidents in 6 months. The report stated that 327 of these attacks were against women.

According to the data of the Human Rights Strategic Center, 53,889 domestic violence applications were made to Iraqi courts, and 13,857 complaints were reported since the beginning of the year, while 18,436 were reported in 2023, and 21,585 in 2022.



## Male violence: 31 women and 5 children murdered in Turkey in August

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

According to JINNEWS' August violence report, 31 women and 5 children were murdered, 15 women and 3 children died under suspicious circumstances last month.

According to the report, Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Mersin and Antalya are among the cities where women were murdered. Femicides took place in 21 provinces in total. Istanbul, with 4 murders, and Konya, with 3 murders, are the first two places.

The majority of women were murdered by the men closest to them. While 6 women were murdered by their intimate partners, 8 women were murdered by their married men. In other cases, women were murdered by their relatives such as their grandchildren, relatives, husbands in the process of divorce, fathers and brothers.

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## Ecocide

### No intervention to extinguish fire on Gabar Mountain

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

A fire broke out in Güneş and Ziyaret hills where tree cutting is ongoing on Gabar Mountain in Şirnak.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but there is no intervention to extinguish the fire, although soldiers and guards are present at the scene.

It has been learned that the fire has spread to different points.

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# Human Rights Violations

## 900 thousand students will receive education in new academic year in Northern and Eastern Syria

ANF | RAQQA | 31 AUGUST 2024

The Democratic Autonomous Administration Education and Training Council announced on 14 August that the new academic year (2024-2025) will begin on 1 September.

The Council said that the first term will end on 2 January 2025, while the second term will begin on 15 January and end on 15 May 2025.

Azad Berazi, Vice President of the Northern and Eastern Syria Education and Training Council, told ANHA News Agency that the number of students in the 2023-2024 academic year is 860 thousand. Students are receiving education in 4,100 schools. The number of teachers is 40 thousand, while the number of those working in the field of education is 50 thousand.

Berazi said that the number of students in the new academic year was approximately 900 thousand, but the number of teachers remained the same.

Regarding the preparations for the new academic year, Berazi said: "The Education and Training Council provided the needs of schools such as books for the new academic year. It opened training sessions for administrators and teachers."

According to the Education and Training Council, 693 schools needed repairs, while repairs in 151 schools have been completed, and repairs in other schools are ongoing.

Education is provided in Kurdish, Arabic and Syriac in Northern and Eastern Syria.

Berazi said: "In order for the different language groups in Northern and Eastern Syria not to be separated from each other, the Education Council granted students who completed the 4th grade of primary school the right to choose the language of another group in addition to their mother tongue."

## Three more civilians kidnapped in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF | 31 AUGUST 2024

The 'Military Police' gangs of the occupying Turkish state kidnapped 3 people in the Ashrafiye neighbourhood of Afrin on 27 August.

On the other hand, 'Faylaq al-Sham' gangs raided the house of an elderly citizen named Jalal Mihemed Şêxo (84) in Meydan Ekbis village of Rajo district on 29 August and stole 3 thousand dollars and all the belongings in the house.

### 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, Alevi 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.

## GÖÇİZDER protests freezing of its accounts and vow to continue its work for refugees

ANF | ISTANBUL | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

By decision of Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya and Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek, the assets of 39 individuals and 19 organizations, including the GÖÇİZDER association, which deals with the situation of migrants and internally displaced persons, were frozen. The decision was published in the Official Gazette and came into force on Monday.

GÖÇİZDER invited people to a press conference on the court decision at the association's building in Istanbul on Monday. Members of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), the Anatolian Association for Aid and Solidarity with Families Who Have Lost Their Relatives (ANYAKAY-DER), the Kurdish Research Society, the Solidarity Network for Migrants and Refugees and the Solidarity Network for Human Rights Activists attended the event.

### **"This is an attempt to exercise repression"**

Mine Buse of the Migrant and Refugee Solidarity Network stated that with the decision to freeze GÖÇİZDER's assets, the regime is trying to put increasing pressure on civil society organizations and threaten them. She said: "But we know that this repression will not succeed. Today, in this order where war and exploitation continue, GÖÇİZDER will continue its work. As a migrant and refugee solidarity network, we would like to emphasize that GÖÇİZDER will not continue its work alone. In view of this decision, we call on all those who are committed to work and democracy to stand in solidarity with GÖÇİZDER against this decision."

### **"This repression will not succeed"**

Kamile Kandal, co-chair of GÖÇİZDER, stressed that the reprisals were not a new occurrence and pointed out that members of the association had already been brought to court for similar reasons in the past. She stressed that they had always been fully acquitted and stressed that freezing assets against their association represented an attack on the personality and constitutional rights of the association and its members.

### **Ministers' justification unlawful**

In justifying their decision, the ministers referred to a case before the 4th Criminal Court of Ankara in which the association was linked to "a terrorist organization". Kandal explained that the court had obviously decided differently, however, and accused the ministers of interfering in the judiciary: "The same court acquitted the association of membership in this illegal organization in the same case, which is now trying to establish a connection to terrorism. The decision published by the Ministry of Finance, which again claims a connection to terrorism, leads us to believe that the principle of the rule of law was deliberately overridden and that political motives were at play. What we can say is that legal decisions should be made, not political decisions."

This approach is an attempt to isolate the association, said Kandal, adding: "They want to sever the bond between the people and civil society organizations. The fact that the government is taking such a decision despite a verdict is a disregard for the law and the judiciary. However, we would like to stress that this repression will not lead to any results."

### **"Our solidarity with those seeking protection continues"**

Kamile Kandal concluded by announcing that the association would continue its work despite all repression, and said: "In a region, in a world where war and exploitation continue, where millions of people are forcibly displaced and turned into refugees, we as an association will continue our work, our research, our defense of the rights of migrants and refugees and our solidarity, despite all attempts to defame us and criminalize us through decisions made in back rooms."

### **Fighting for the rights of refugees and migrants since 2016**

GÖÇİZDER was founded in Istanbul in 2016 to build effective social solidarity with migrants and people on the run. In this context, the situation of the approximately 500,000 internally displaced people in 2015/16 as a result of the destruction of northern Kurdish cities played a particularly important role. With its reports and investigations, the association tries to focus on the situation of internally displaced persons and to support them in taking action against violations of rights. Since it repeatedly addresses the most serious human rights violations and war crimes committed by the Turkish state, the association is repeatedly targeted by repression.



## **MKG: Journalists were subjected to continued repression and attacks in August**

ANF | AMED | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Mesopotamia Women Journalists' Association (MKG) announced its report "Rights Violations against Women Journalists in August".

The report stated that the attacks against Kurdish journalists were especially prominent last month: "Kurdish journalists Hêro Bahadîn and Gulistan Tara lost their lives and 6 journalists were injured in an attack carried out by Turkey in Sulaymaniyah. In addition, journalists were prevented from fulfilling their duties in various ways, some of them were physically attacked and seriously injured."

The report said that serious restrictions were also experienced in the field of freedom of thought and expression: "Investigations, lawsuits and indictments against women journalists stand out as a part of these pressures. This situation shows how serious the systematic pressures on press freedom have become. In addition, various access restrictions on digital platforms have also attracted attention. On 2 August, access to Instagram was blocked, which was lifted on 10 August. In addition, many people's X (formerly Twitter) accounts were blocked in August. These developments show that restrictions on freedoms are increasing in

the digital sphere as well. This report clearly demonstrates the serious violations of rights and threats to press freedom faced by women journalists in Turkey. It paints an extremely worrying picture of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.”

The report lists the violations of rights recorded during the month of August as follows:

- Journalists Attacked: 1
- Journalists Subjected to Ill-Treatment: 15
- Journalists Prevented from Covering: 2
- Journalists Subjected to Lawsuits: 1
- Number of Imprisoned Women Journalists: (1-31 August) 6

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## ISIG: 179 workers killed in work-related accidents in August

ANF | ISTANBUL | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Health and Safety Labor Council (ISIG) published the work-related deaths report for the month of August. According to the report, 179 workers lost their lives last month.

Nine of the workers who lost their lives were children. The sector with the most deaths was construction/roads with 47 deaths. This was followed by agriculture/forest with 39 deaths, transportation with 24 deaths, accommodation with 10 deaths and mining with 8 deaths.

The report added that 23 percent of the deaths were due to falls from heights, 20 percent were traffic accidents and 18 percent were during crushing and collapses.

The report stated that the most work-related deaths occurred in Istanbul, with Aydın in second place.

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## Three civilians kidnapped in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

Local sources reported that the Turkish intelligence organisation and the al-Sharqiya mercenary group abducted three people from the village of Meka Jêrin.

The abducted locals were identified as Mihemed Henan Seydo (37), Elî Mihemed Menkawî (36) and Hisên Ebdullah Ede (37).

### **More than 10,400 people have been abducted since the occupation**

The Turkish state established a full terror regime in Afrin, which it occupied in 2018. According to the Violations Documentation Centre, at least 30 people were abducted in May and at least 40 people in June.

According to the Syrian Organisation for Human Rights, at least 10,332 people were abducted and 463 people were killed between 2018 and April 2024.

### **Once home to diverse religious groups**

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## Four more people kidnapped in Afrin, says human rights organization

ANF | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Syria-Afrin Human Rights Organization said that the Turkish intelligence agency MIT and mercenaries acting under the name of “Political Security” carried out house raids in the village of Der Belut in the city of Jindires in Afrin on Wednesday, 4 September.

It was reported that during the raids, Ehmed Mihemed Nur Hebeş (47), Mistefa Tahir Ebdo (45) and Omer Ehmed Henan (25) were detained by force and taken to an unknown location.

In addition, the paramilitary organization “Military Police” established in the occupied area kidnapped a citizen named Selah Ehmed (50) in the village of Semala in the city of Rajo. The fate of the kidnapped person is unknown.

On 5 September, local sources reported that the Turkish intelligence agency and the Al Sharqiya gang group kidnapped three people registered in the Meka Jêrin village of Afrin.

### Over 10,400 people have been kidnapped since the occupation

The Turkish state established a complete terror regime in Afrin, which it occupied in 2018.

According to the Violations Documentation Center, at least 28 people were kidnapped in July, 30 people in May and 40 people in June.

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

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## ‘Everyone should speak, write, think and live in Kurdish’

ANF | AMED | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Kurdish Language Platform (Platforma Zimanê Kurdî) made a statement at the Association of South-eastern Journalists in Amed (Diyarbakır) regarding the 2024-2025 school year. The meeting was attended by political party executives and representatives of civil society organisations in the city.

Speaking here, Kurdish Language Platform Spokesperson Şerefexan Cizîrî said, “Kurdish children in Northern Kurdistan will not be given Kurdish education. Our children will again face a challenging assimilation process. This is a very cruel, difficult and inhuman event. It is not accepted in any religion and belief. This attitude is not in accordance with children's rights, pedagogy and pedagogical realities.”

Cizîrî stated that the official ideology in Turkey has always put obstacles in front of Kurdish education and pointed out that Turkish was imposed on Kurdish children in schools through filtered methods. He added: “The right to education in Kurdish must be recognised. The denial and assimilation of Kurdish identity must end.”

Addressing MPs, politicians, intellectuals, writers and the public, Cizîrî said, “Everyone should speak, write, think and live in Kurdish. Together we will proudly repeat: We are Kurds, our language is Kurdish, our country is Kurdistan.”

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## DEM Party: Kurdish children's most basic right to education in mother tongue is usurped

ANF | ANKARA | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Child, Labour and Education Commissions held a press conference at the party headquarters in Ankara regarding the new school year.

DEM Party Children's Commission Co-Spokesperson İhsan Seylan and DEM Party Deputy Co-Chair for Labour and Social Policies Commission Sevtap Akdağ Karahalı spoke at the meeting.

Seylan pointed out that the economic collapse caused by the AKP-MHP government affects children the most.

“The construction of a good and free present and future depends on a good education system,’ Seylan emphasised, adding, “The burden on the shoulders of thousands of children who have started to work to cover their school expenses is getting heavier and heavier.”

Sevtap Akdağ Karahalı said, “The government is trying to legitimise the labour of children through MESEM (Vocational Education Centre). They have created a system where children die in factory corners. There are 6.5 million children in severe poverty in Turkey and one out of every 5 children in Turkey cannot access sufficient and nutritious food.”

Sevtap Akdağ Karahalı drew attention to the assimilation policies and said: “As the 2024-2025 school year begins, the right to education in one's mother tongue is still a hundred-year-old problem. Millions of children will start and continue this school year without being able to use their mother tongue. The right to education in one's mother tongue, one of the most fundamental human rights, is guaranteed by international conventions. However, in Turkey, this right continues to be usurped for Kurdish, Arab, Armenian, Syriac, Circassian and Laz peoples and a monolingual education model is implemented. It is unacceptable that the demand for education in the mother tongue is reduced to elective courses. We remind the government of international resolutions on fundamental rights and international conventions.”

Sevtap Akdağ Karahalı concluded: "Let's strengthen the struggle for an equal and free system in education together."



# Peace in Kurdistan

## 328 organisations announce Peace Declaration in Amed

ANF | AMED | 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

In Amed (Diyarbakır), 328 civil society, business, labour and professional organisations announced the Peace Declaration they prepared on the occasion of World Peace Day on 1 September at Dağkapı Square (Şêx Seîd Square). Diyarbakır Labour and Democracy Platform components and representatives of signatory organisations took part in the declaration.

Reading the statement, Diyarbakır Bar Association President Nahit Eren pointed out that the most basic aim of human beings is to live in safety and dignity, free from fear. Underlining that it is a fundamental right to live in peace in a world without wars, Eren said: "However, wars, conflicts and violence continue in many parts of the world in front of the eyes of the international community with all its cruelty and destructiveness. In the last 10 months alone, more than 40 thousand people have lost their lives in the attacks in Palestine. As always, children and women have been the most affected by the attacks. Despite all these negativities, we must continue to persistently defend our right to peace against wars for a livable world."

Nihat Eren remarked that they are aware of the necessity and importance of peace as a society that has experienced the destruction and pain caused by war, conflict and violence, and said, "The processes initiated in the past years for a democratic resolution to the Kurdish question and supported by the society by attributing great importance to them, unfortunately could not be concluded in line with social expectations. Despite the resumed conflicts, operations and violence, the expectation and hope for a solution process that prioritizes peace in all segments of society and is based on dialogue and negotiation are still strong."

Stating that the representatives of civil society, professional and business organisations who came together in Amed in February made an observation and a call for a solution to the Kurdish question, Eren stated the following: "It has been determined that the country's democratic development bottleneck and the economic crises in the country are directly related to the insistence on the unresolved Kurdish question and the ongoing security policies, that a new will for a solution should be formed, that the weapons should be silenced, that the obstacles in front of the roles of the actors should be removed and that the Parliament should assume responsibility for the solution of this painful issue."

It has been experienced that insistence on security policies also harms social peace and the will to live together, Eren said, referring to the recent crackdown on Kurdish culture and language. He stated: "The de-

tention, arrest and sentencing of those who dance to Kurdish songs with the allegation of organisation propaganda has once again shown how wrong the understanding that has interpreted and seen the solution in the context of the Kurdish question as the recognition of only “individual rights and freedoms” from the past to the present, avoiding defining the solution within the context of collective social and political rights, is.”

Eren concluded: “We believe that peace should be the most important and prioritised agenda of Turkey, and therefore we see it as a duty and responsibility towards the society and the country to contact all those responsible for building a process in which peace is talked about again. In this context, we rightfully and strongly invite all actors, social and political dynamics to fulfil their responsibilities to secure an environment of non-conflict for the peaceful and democratic solution of the Kurdish issue.”



## 'Peace, Dialogue and Democracy Conference' publishes final resolution

ANF | BERLIN | 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

The '[European Forum for Freedom and Peace](#)', founded by academics, journalists, writers, artists and politicians from Turkey and Kurdistan (some in exile), held an international peace conference in Berlin over the weekend. The group defines itself as a movement against the 'undeclared global war'.

The international conference was held at the Mercure Hotel and dealt with global conflicts and aimed at promoting dialogue, tackling war crimes and supporting peace efforts. The event focused on the current wars in Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and Kurdistan. One focus was the Kurdish question and the isolation of the Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan in Turkish custody. The forum emphasised that peace, freedom, democracy and dialogue are needed more urgently than ever in today's divided world.

Latife Akyüz shared the following information about the sessions held at the conference:

"Peace has gained a brand-new societal identity far beyond the empty handshake of states.

On September 1st, World Peace Day, the European Forum for Freedom and Peace (EFFP) gathered in Berlin to promote international solidarity against the ever-increasing wars plaguing the world.

The forum drew attention to the violent alliances of states in all the wars dominating our current headlines, from Ukraine, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Kurdistan, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Artsakh, Sudan, Western Sahara, East Turkestan, Tamil Eelam, and West Papua – all of which seem disconnected but first, but upon deeper reflection share many common variables. Consequently, the conference drew attention to the fact that the struggle for peace against the war alliances maintained by states and their weapons industries needs to be internationalized.

On the first day of our two-day conference, international experiences on the struggle for peace were shared. Panelists from Colombia, Palestine, South Africa, the Philippines, Ireland, and Iceland shared their experiences of peace processes in their respective countries.

This allowed speakers to highlight striking similarities between each other's struggles and the state-based policies of war each of them faces. As such, they each highlighted how the various states they suffer under veil their massacres in silence and suffocate any proposals for peace.

Yet, they were undeterred and hopeful, powerfully expressing their proposals for peace and international solidarity amidst the climate of hopelessness that the aggressor states are trying to foster. One such proposal discussed was the absolute necessity of establishing a system to monitor war crimes in each country.

In the second and third panels, the experiences of Turkey and Kurdistan were discussed in detail.

The details of the Turkish state's policy of total isolation against Mr. Abdullah Öcalan on Imrali Island prison were presented. It was stated that the isolation policy aims to destroy not only the personal existence of the Kurdish people's leader Öcalan, but also the idea of peace and the peoples' dreams of freedom. The fact that demanding Öcalan's freedom is closely intertwined with the Kurdish peoples' demand for peace was emphasized. Moreover, these panels looked at why the previous peace talks in Oslo between Turkey and the PKK ultimately failed and the necessity of restarting them in conjunction with Mr. Öcalan's release.

The panelists, who were direct witnesses to the Oslo process, gave concrete examples of how the Turkish state was never sincere, and thus never took the steps it should have taken to compel the PKK to lay down their arms in a just roadmap for truth and reconciliation.

Moreover, the Turkish state's attempt to strangle the Rojava revolution by supporting jihadist gangs (such as ISIS), especially while the talks in Imrali continued, became the last straw. The panelists also emphasized that history will not repeat itself and that the re-establishment of the peace table is only possible with the lessons learned from Oslo. It was emphasized that since the strategic-ideological position of the Turkish state has changed, a new process must now be established for the next peace negotiations.

In the fourth and fifth panels, war crimes by various states were discussed. The "Third World War", which until yesterday circulated as a speculative observation, has turned into a reality right before our eyes. It was emphasized that it requires more insistence, more effort, and more virtue to build peace against war profiteers and oppressive states who mutually benefit from death and destruction.

Ultimately, it was stated that the need for societal peace has become more necessary than ever, as women and children are faced with daily massacres, and where homophobia, racism, sexism, and the destruction of nature are the new normal of our collapsing world. It was also emphasized that a peace that defends the rights of all living beings, not only human beings, is our only solution.

During the day-long workshops, a series of declarations were adopted, which were deemed necessary for peace."

## Final resolution and decisions

Journalist Ertuğrul Mavioglu shared the final resolution and the decisions taken at the conference to develop the peace struggle:

1. We aim to jointly contribute to peace and democracy by drawing on the experiences of women's movements. As a result, the architect of the "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" (Women, Life, Freedom) philosophy, Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, must have his illegal state of inhumane isolation lifted. Women especially have no chance of achieving our full voice and rights until this isolation is lifted, as his philosophical ideas are a guidebook to carry the struggle of all women who are subjected to state and male violence, especially the Peace Mothers, Saturday Mothers, Plaza del Mayo mothers, and other similar women's groups.
2. Historical and political developments have fused together the situation of Mr. Abdullah Öcalan's freedom and the solution of the Kurdish issue along the axis of democracy and human rights. The European Forum for Freedom and Peace thus vows to do their part in overcoming the authoritarian and fascist regime in Ankara that continues to hide Öcalan's voice from our world.
3. In order to realize a just and everlasting peace, an archive of peace efforts throughout the globe should be created. This will allow all struggles to learn from each of our experiences. Alongside this, campaigns promoting the idea of peace should be organized and spread to all segments of society (diplomacy, law, media, entertainment, art etc.) to influence public opinion. We must strive for peace with more passion and enthusiasm than those rapacious forces killing our planet do everyday.
4. The forum has thus set itself the goal of organizing concerts, festivals, campaigns, and meetings, while also creating digital platforms and producing art for peace in the near, medium, and long term, in order to increase the hope and excitement for a peaceful world.
5. And lastly, we all have a dream that we intend to make reality. We can stop colonialism, stop the arms factories from producing killing machines that are enough to destroy the world several times over, stop the massacres that turn the four corners of the world into a living hell, and stop the war madness that impoverishes millions and pushes them to migrate from their homelands to survive, while deepening inequality and destroying mother nature. This is our call: Come and share our dream of peace, which acts as a living testament born from our lived experiences of pain and perseverance."

# Interview

## Kalkan: The most meaningful resistance for freedom and democracy in history takes place in İmrālî

ANF | 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

In a new in-depth interview, Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, talked about the approaching of the first anniversary of the international campaign "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, political solution to the Kurdish question".

*We are now in September 2024, and after all this time, the total isolation of Kurdish peoples leader Abdullah Öcalan is still continuing. But the resistance against this system also continues. Not only by Öcalan himself, but also the global campaign for his physical freedom and the democratic solution to the Kurdish question regularly makes the headlines. How do you assess the developments in this regard?*

I would like to salute the historic İmrālî resistance of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] with respect. The isolation, torture, and genocidal system there have now been imposed for 25 years, 6 months, and 16 days, and it still continues. The conspirators, the creators of this İmrālî system, continue their aim of suffocating the struggle for freedom through it and with the most brutal attack methods.

At the same time, there is undoubtedly a great resistance against this. The global freedom campaign, which was launched on October 10, 2023, aiming for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, is about to enter its 11th month and is heading towards completing its first year. Also, a new anniversary of the October 9 conspiracy is upcoming.

In this context, mass protests by young people, women, generally our people, and our international friends continue in the four parts of Kurdistan, abroad, and all over the world. New forms of action are also being tried to be found. There is a great effort and a great struggle, through which the campaign has reached an important level after the last 11 months. The campaign has exposed both the İmrālî system of torture, isolation, and genocide and the unlawful practices in İmrālî, and, at the same time, spread the word of Rêber Apo. Rêber Apo's prison writings and the paradigm of democratic civilization were made better known worldwide as part of the campaign. Women, youth, workers, laborers, oppressed peoples, all oppressed groups are looking for solutions within Rêber Apo's paradigm to get rid of the current system of capitalist modernity and its nation-state oppression and exploitation. They are more interested in and support this paradigm. They want to find ways and methods of liberation. Thus, the freedom and democracy movement is gradually developing on a basis that transcends the system of capitalist modernity and is an alternative to it all over the world, as well as in our region and in the Middle East.

What is important in this context is that more and more people who represent the soul, heart, and brain of their respective societies are increasingly concerned with the paradigm. They not only oppose the un-

lawfulness of the Imrali system, but they also show great interest in the new paths opened by Rêber Apo in the line of freedom and democracy. Through them, they renew their own thought systems and restructure their own struggle for freedom. They see here a new hope for liberation, for freedom and democracy. That is why so many of them participate in the campaign. As much as this struggle is developing in the Kurdish community in Kurdistan, it is also developing in the peoples, oppressed, women, youth, socialist, revolutionary, and democratic forces all over the world. They hold countless meetings and conferences on this basis. Just to give an example, lately dozens of people who have received the Nobel Prize made a call together in solidarity with the global campaign. Or also now, there was a conference in Berlin called the 'Peace and Democracy Conference'.

Important issues were discussed there according to the press. They also called for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Most of all, they emphasized the decisive role of Rêber Apo in the solution to the Kurdish question, and therefore, in the peace of Turkey, the Middle East, and even the world. They demanded a dialog with Rêber Apo for peace and for his immediate physical freedom. These are important, of course. We have repeatedly stated that if there is to be a peaceful, political, and democratic solution to the Kurdish question, the only person who can realize it is Rêber Apo. Kurdish society, particularly women and young people, are constantly expressing this reality by taking to the streets. This reveals a pressing reality.

This must be pointed out again and again, because there are people who try to counteract this, who speculate and try to take advantage of the crisis for themselves. There are those who are dragging Turkey into dangerous abysses. The torture, isolation, and genocidal system in Imrali, the pressure and psychological torture exerted on Rêber Apo, and the fact that this has spread to Kurdistan, to the whole of Turkey, and has even affected the region and the world, all point to disaster. In this respect, it is important that all relevant circles once again make themselves aware that the representative of the negotiated solution is Rêber Apo. The only one who can realize a peaceful, democratic, and political solution is Rêber Apo. No one else can realize it.

Like I pointed out, there is a global mobilization for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo, and the center of this resistance is, of course, Imrali. The biggest and most meaningful resistance to freedom and democracy in history is currently taking place in Imrali, under the leadership of Rêber Apo. It has been like this for 25 years, 6 months, and 16 days.

I would like to take this opportunity to underline once more that our global freedom campaign is heading towards its first anniversary. It is needed to develop it even further. It needs to be further spread and enriched with a new variety of methods. On the first anniversary, the campaign should reach a new peak. This is something that can only be achieved through struggle, and the one that believes in his/her struggle will be successful. I am strongly convinced by this fact.

We are fighting as a people, as a movement. We are resisting the fascist, colonialist, and genocidal system and its attacks. This resistance is led by Rêber Apo. And through this, in the end, it will be the Kurdish people that will be successful. If this were not the case, would Rêber Apo ever lead such a resistance? As a leader that evaluates, scrutinizes, and analyzes everything, finds ways and methods, and makes decisions on this basis, if he has decided on resistance, if he resists such attacks with such determination for freedom, for a democratic solution, we must know and understand that undoubtedly there will be victory at the end of this. There is liberation, freedom, and democracy at the end of this. There is a free and democratic solution to the Kurdish question. And this is what we mean when we speak about success and vic-



tory. As long as we carry out this struggle effectively and with the right, rich methods and increase the resistance, we will be successful.

One needs to be convinced by this and have trust based on this. In this respect, all our people, especially the youth and women, as well as our international friends that are spread all over the world, should be aware of the historical meaning of this resistance. A great and historical victory is upon us. Therefore, without the slightest hesitation, without resorting to weakness, we proceed with our resistance and develop it even further and stronger. Let us grow and spread the resistance. Like this, we will definitely be successful.

*Let's speak about the resistance of the Kurdish guerrillas. What can you tell us about current developments in this regard?*

It is the guerrilla that understands the resistance of Imralı the best, and it is also the guerrilla who is most effective by acting in the same spirit. One needs to be aware of this reality that has been going on like this for forty years. All the developments in the struggle for existence, in the name of freedom, democracy, and humanity, all the developments that have been experienced and created have been possible thanks to this guerrilla resistance. The guerrillas became the honor and dignity of the Kurdish people. It gave the Kurds consciousness and courage; it enabled them to organize and to struggle sacrificially. It educated and organized the Kurdish society and made it resist and sacrificially struggle for freedom. The guerrillas resurrected Kurdish society, re-created it, and now it is heroically struggling in one line with the Imralı resistance for its liberation.

Currently, there are guerrilla actions all over northern Kurdistan. It was on the news a while ago; there were intense clashes on Mount Bagok. The fascist Turkish army, which has declared a forbidden zone for weeks, does not allow anyone to enter.

Also, just recently, there were intense clashes in Amed (tr. Diyarbakır), Serhat, Botan, in the Zagros region, and constantly all the way to Gever (tr. Yuksekova). The guerrilla resistance continues heroically. It represents the sacrificial spirit, consciousness, and will that were created by Rêber Apo. And it stands for victory. When someone wants to deal with the situation, they must first become aware of this reality. I would also like to take this opportunity to salute our heroic guerrillas who are waging this resistance and commemorate with respect, love, and gratitude all our heroic martyrs who resisted, fought, and fell martyrs lately in northern Kurdistan by commemorating comrade Berwar Dersim.

When it comes to guerrilla resistance, the Medya Defense Areas stand out today. The areas of Zap and Metina are now the focal points of this resistance. But there are also guerrilla activities in Heftanin and, for example, Xakurke. The entire Medya Defense Zones are witnessing the most intense and meaningful guerrilla resistance in history. A new form of guerrilla is being experienced there. Our central headquarters commanders make statements on these issues from time to time. They speak about the 'Guerrilla of the Democratic Modernity'. It is being fought with a new style. Indeed, they are conducting the most meaningful and important resistance for freedom and democracy in history against the enemy, which is the second-largest army of NATO, which receives all the support it wants from NATO and other states, which uses all kinds of collaboration and betrayal at the most advanced level. No other force could maintain such a resistance. We have always pointed out this reality. No army can resist like the guerrillas in the Medya Defense Areas. No one could withstand these conditions of resistance for a day, or even an hour. The

AKP-MHP fascist dictatorship had pinned its hopes on this. Saying that no one could endure or resist under such circumstances. They have determined a certain area for eight years, but they are being dragged from deadlock to deadlock. All these areas have become a quagmire for them. They are not able to occupy or annex them, even though they use all kinds of chemical weapons and tactical nuclear weapons. They tried to include everyone they could in this dirty war. But the guerrillas are writing history.

Once again, I salute this resistance once again. I wish continued success to the command and fighting force of the HPG and YJA Star. I congratulate them on their success. Every day, news of their actions hit the press. This makes the Kurdish people and humanity proud. It is a morale boost.



## Kalkan: The PKK is waging its struggle for freedom in every field

ANF | BEHDINAN | 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the second part of this in-depth interview, Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, talked about the situation of the guerrillas on the war front and the wage of the PKK for freedom.

*Just a few months ago, there were still voices claiming that the Kurdish freedom movement would be crushed in the coming weeks, definitely this summer. Now, however, these voices have become quieter again, speaking of “difficult circumstances” and the like. It is the guerrillas, including people like Orhan Bingol and Rosida Merdin, who are letting the efforts of the Turkish state come to nothing. What do you think of these statements by the fascist press?*

I commemorate our martyrs with respect, love, and gratitude by commemorating our great commander Orhan Bingol and comrade Rosida Merdin. We really need to understand these martyrs correctly. The press published some information about and some statements by both comrades. They revealed the history of their struggle. These are very important, very meaningful. It is not such a simple thing. To devote such a large part of one's life consciously and deliberately, with great courage and sacrifice for the Kurdish existence and freedom, for humanity, to the guerrilla struggle, to sacrifice for the existence and freedom of the people, to give everything to lead it. It is easy to simply say these things, but everyone should know what this means and how this can be achieved.

I personally know both comrades closely. We worked, fought, and waged war side by side for quite a long time. War does not come without a price. With the resistance, leadership, courage, sacrifice, and heroism of these martyrs, the fascist, colonialist, genocidal mentality and system are being dealt blow after blow. Hopes for freedom are developing, the principles for free life are developing, and the consciousness of freedom, organization, and action is developing and spreading all over Kurdistan and everywhere.

On this occasion, let me express the following: The summer is basically over; today is September 1st, and we have entered the fall. Some people said that with the end of this summer, there will be the end of the PKK. Some even said that by the end of the summer, there would be “no trace of them left in northern

Iraq.” Now it is as if they have backtracked, as if they have forgotten that. Now again, they talk about November, or even winter. This story has been going on like this for years.

Let me point out the following: the PKK is standing upright, maintaining its full strength. It resists heroically in every aspect. Its guerrillas are resisting, the party leadership is resisting, and the masses are resisting. All kinds of work, literature, art, everything together, in a total, holistic, resistance. Also, our international friends are in resistance.

Some people have convinced themselves that these attacks would destroy the PKK. This is a blunder. They only exhaust their own power. They will see, but by the time they realize this, their power will already be exhausted, and they themselves will be exhausted. The PKK has tens of thousands of active militants and hundreds of thousands of potential more ready to be activated. It leads to more than twenty million Kurds. It has not hundreds of thousands but millions, but even tens of millions of friends all over the world. Why are you exhausting yourself? How and with what do you want to destroy such a movement? Those who fantasize about it will only end up ruining themselves. They will experience that destruction anyway, and that will be their end. I can express this clearly. Our guerrillas are the vanguard of victory in such a resistance. Under the leadership of this victory, our resistance and our people will surely triumph. The PKK grows, spreads, and expands more in the line of victory. It affects humanity more. By keeping Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] in Imralı, they want to reduce his influence, to rot him. But Rêber Apo became part of the whole world. He once said, “Wherever my prison writings are, I am there.” His prison writings are now in the hands of people all over the world. They are in the hands of women, youth, workers, and laborers, revolutionary socialist forces from all ethnicities, societies, and nations. Rêber Apo is everywhere. He is in everyone’s hands, minds, and hearts. Therefore, is it possible to encircle and rot Rêber Apo in Imralı? Those who hope and expect this will only rot themselves. It is not possible to destroy the PKK. Autumn came, and once again their failure was revealed. Once again, the failures of the AKP-MHP fascism have become clear. Because the PKK is standing upright, stronger than ever, and closer to victory than ever. It is waging its struggle for freedom in every field, stronger and more meaningful than ever. And it will continue to do so until victory.

*In recent months, there have been new developments regarding the Iraqi government’s collaboration with the Turkish government. Most recently, on August 15, a new agreement was signed in Ankara. How do you assess the current alliance policy in the genocidal war against the Kurds?*

The meeting between Iraq and Turkey on August 15th was important. It was reflected in the press that they made some decisions that they agreed on before. Right after that, on August 23rd, there was a dastardly attack on members of the free press in Sulaymaniyah. Just about a week had passed since the agreement. The attack was based on this alliance. Some circles and the movement of the free press defined and evaluated it in this way. These were correct and accurate assessments. It was the first implementation of the August 15 agreement. On August 23, they cowardly attacked members of the free press, civilians, and unarmed people in Seyidsadiq.

Fascism means fear. It is a regime of fear. Betrayal is a regime of fear even more than fascism. They try to overcome their fear by attacking unarmed civilians like this, slaughtering them, and spilling their blood. They are trying to appease themselves.

On this basis, I commemorate Gulistan Tara and Hero Bahadin with respect and gratitude. On their behalf, I commemorate all the martyrs of Sulaymaniyah with respect and gratitude. The press gave the necessary response. They can never be silenced.

Now for the other point: some agreements were already signed on April 22nd. A week before April 22nd, Iraqi Prime Minister Sudani went to America and stayed for a few days. After he came back, he announced a strategic agreement with Turkey, and so a few days later, Tayyip Erdoğan visited Baghdad and Hewler (Erbil). Sudani announced his signature when he came from America. So this decision came from America. This is not difficult to understand. America asked the Iraqi government, and it agreed. They are using water as a bargaining chip to genocide the Kurds.

The AKP-MHP fascism is using this. They have squeezed Iraq in the same way that they are squeezing Syria on these issues. There has been this issue of the Euphrates and Tigris waters since the past, as well as energy issues. They use these as justification, but one can definitely point out that the US is behind this. The US wanted this strategic agreement, and Iraq signed it. Why did the US want this? Because the Tayyip Erdoğan administration is an administration assigned by the US to lead the international conspiracy to succeed. They say that he came to power through elections, but this is a deception, just a formality. It has nothing to do with reality. What is real is that it is an appointed administration. When the Ecevit government failed and Rêber Apo won the İmralı struggle, a new government was needed. They looked for someone who could do the job; they chose Tayyip Erdoğan and formed the AKP party around him. Tayyip Erdoğan carried out an attack with all his power in İmralı. His end was like Ecevit's end. Rêber Apo won the İmralı struggle. Tayyip Erdoğan also lost in 2005. After that, the conspiratorial forces could find no other alternative. They constantly supported Tayyip Erdoğan. They met with the US president, and foreign ministers came to Turkey. They were always behind the Tayyip Erdoğan administration in the struggle in Kurdistan. Whatever they did, they made political attacks as well as military attacks; they developed tricks; they played games under the name of a solution, but they could not succeed. The Tayyip Erdoğan administration came to the point of collapse. So, accordingly, Devlet Bahçeli and his MHP were placed at his side as a crutch. The two of them attacked together for years. Again, they were not successful. It again came to the point of collapse. Now they have given him the Barzanis, on the other hand, as a crutch. They are carrying out this 'collapse plan' with them. With this, they wanted to crush and destroy the PKK.

The alliance of AKP, MHP, and KDP; in other words, the Tayyip Erdoğan, Bahçeli, and Barzani alliance failed in its aim of bringing the international conspiracy to success, crushing and destroying the PKK. New crutches were needed. This time, the US told the Iraqi government to be the next crutch. And now they are attacking with that support as well. The US is behind all these attacks; NATO is behind them. By adding the Iraqi state to AKP-MHP fascism, KDP collaborationism, and betrayal, they now want to weaken the PKK, particularly the guerrillas, in order to reduce its influence on politics and the struggle in Kurdistan and the region. This is the aim.

This alliance is an alliance formed on this basis. And it is definitely the international conspiratorial forces that are directing it. There is the USA and also England. NATO gives the biggest support. It is absolutely necessary to be aware of the broader picture of these attacks. Some people think that Tayyip Erdoğan is doing it, or that Devlet Bahçeli is doing it, and that it would be them who take decisions. They inflate and exaggerate themselves as if they are doing it themselves. But that has nothing to do with reality. Those forces are behind it. Why are they doing this? It's an internal contradiction, and the conflicts are very deep.

Therefore, they intervened in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and also in Syria. They turned the whole Middle East into a war zone. But they cannot overcome the crisis and chaos.

They cannot find a way out. There is no solution coming from them. The important focal point of the war is Turkey. They will intervene in Turkey. They will create change in line with their own interests. But they cannot do this as long as the PKK exists. They are afraid that when they intervene, the PKK could win its struggle. There is a historical example for what they are currently planning with Turkey. For more than ten years, they kept Saddam Hussein in power in Baghdad. Back then they said, "Rêber Apo and the PKK exist. If we go against Saddam, the PKK will spread to southern Kurdistan and Iraq." So they realized the international conspiracy through. They put Rêber Apo under the Imrali system. Then they were able to attack Baghdad. Now, in order to intervene in Turkey in line with their own interests, they want to remove the PKK as an obstacle, as an obstacle to realizing their wishes.

They are afraid that the PKK will develop an alternative, democratic modernity, an alternative system, a democratic Turkey on the basis of Kurdish freedom, spreading democracy in the Middle East and the world. That is why they are attacking the PKK in unison. This is a clear fact. This is not difficult to understand. Otherwise, what power do Tayyip Erdoğan and Devlet Bahçeli have? These are actually unknown people. Some idiots in Turkey have been brainwashed; they are following them; they are clapping their hands. A fascist mob has been formed. Otherwise, there is nothing beyond that. This state is occupying Kurdistan, settling in Bashiqa, taking Kirkuk, taking Rojava, and becoming the master of all these energy resources.

But will they feed it to them? If they were to feed this to Turkey, why did the First World War happen? Why was this century-long Middle East war created? Is there anything that can be explained with reason? Some people think that they will feed it to Turkey. This is not the case! It is all a game; it is all planned. Games are being played against Turkey. But Turkey needs to be smart to understand this. Rêber Apo has pointed this out for years when there were talks. He warned that there are games, there are conspiracies, and that it will be the people of Turkey that will face disaster. They didn't listen, nobody understood, and they didn't take care of it. Now we are not on the brink of disaster, not on the brink, but almost on it.

The AKP-MHP, with their current anti-Kurdish policies, pushed Turkey into such a disaster. They are still supporting it; there is still no one actively opposing it. In such a situation, what is the solution? What is the remedy? The only solution is the democratization of Turkey based on Kurdish freedom. This is the solution for Turkey, the solution for the Middle East, the solution for the world. The solution of democratic confederalism based on democratic autonomy developed by Rêber Apo is the only possible solution of democratic modernity. The salvation of Turkey is in the hands of Rêber Apo.

It is necessary to be able to see and understand this. On this basis, we have repeatedly put forward solution projects and made statements as a movement. We will continue our efforts. We are not hopeless, but there is no response in Turkey. Even the circles in Turkey that call themselves left, socialist, and democratic do not understand this reality. They do not see this game. The CHP is heading towards becoming a part of it.

You won't be able to go beyond being an extension of them. In fact, if they understood the situation, if there was a stance and a struggle against this disastrous course of events in Turkey, of course there wouldn't be so much bloodshed. Solutions would have developed earlier. The peoples would have reached a more fraternal and democratic life without so much oppression, persecution, and exploitation.



# Opinion

## Fatma Yavuz: It seems that every institution in Turkey works contrary to its mission

ISHAK DURSUN | 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

Author Fatma Yavuz said that the reason why religious communities in Turkey develop trade through religion is because the democratic legal system has not been established.

The increase in the economic activities of religious communities during the AKP government, their gaining an important place in the business world and politics, their use of religious values intertwined with commercial purposes, and data indicating that donations collected through foundations and associations are used for purposes other than intended are reflected as situations that question the reliability of religious structures.

Speaking to ANF, author Fatma Yavuz said that the function of religious communities and similar structures is to provide spiritual guidance to society, to help, and to spread moral values. Yavuz said: "Many religious communities in Turkey have deviated from these duties by getting involved in politics and self-interest. They have begun to degenerate by penetrating different areas of the state and society. These structures, because they are far from control and transparency, have become full of contradictions and open to abuse. Thus, they have seriously failed in the areas in which they are most ambitious, namely moral and spiritual values."

### Giant empty packages

Noting that if democracy and the rule of law were established, congregations would not have the opportunity to behave like this, Fatma Yavuz said: "They would have taken their place in society as transparent and auditable structures that stayed in their own fields, doing what needed to be done. However, with the AKP government emptying almost all values, these structures have turned into giant, empty packages. They have become institutions that contradict their own values and failed in the areas they are most ambitious about. We think that we can easily solve this because we cannot analyze this correctly and so that people do not do such things."

### When there is no democratic legal order

Fatma Yavuz said: "If the collected donations were spent in the right places, if they were sufficiently audited and if the necessary mechanisms were in place, we could not say the same thing. If we were in a democratic legal order, congregations would only operate in their own fields and become transparent and

auditable structures. Thus, they existed in society only as structures that provided spiritual and social services. In an environment where the legal system did not function and there was no transparency and accountability, these structures turned into empty and gigantic packages, institutions that contradicted their own values."

### **Misperception and bad examples**

Fatma Yavuz said that judgments about communities stem from the bad examples of the current ones, and added: "It is also a mistake to think that all communities and similar structures in Turkey are bad. The problem is not that all communities are harmful, but the fact that this perception has emerged because the current examples are bad. If communities had spent the donations they collected transparently and in the right places, and if these processes could be well supervised, a positive approach towards these structures would have developed in society. The vision created by the bad examples of communities in Turkey gave rise to the misconception that all these structures are actually problematic."

### **Even places of worship produce sin**

Yavuz stated that almost every institution and everything in Turkey works in reverse. She said: "Hospitals produce diseases instead of health, courthouses produce oppression instead of justice, and places of worship produce sin and polytheism instead of spiritual peace. This situation is actually a result of Turkey's general departure from a democratic legal order. These problems can be solved in a Turkey that has established the axis of democratic law. It is essential for a democratic legal order to be established so that communities are transparent and accountable, do not engage in illegal activities, and prevent them from gaining profit by establishing illegitimate relations with politics. In order for communities and other social structures in Turkey to be able to operate for the benefit of society and stay away from corruption, it is essential to build a democratic, transparent, and accountable system."



## **No buffer zone, but occupation and annexation**

YENİ ÖZGÜR POLİTİKA | SELAHATTİN ERDEM | 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

The invasion and annexation attacks of the Turkish state under the AKP-MHP rule against the Medya Defence Zones continue on the basis of alliance with the KDP and ISIS and with the support of the Iraqi Administration and the USA. Every day, new military deployment images are published by the press. In order to take tanks and armoured vehicles to the high points of the mountains, the occupying forces are working desperately. People who are members of ISIS and similar mercenary organisations are also included in the images reflected in the press.

As a result of daily bombardments by aircraft, helicopters and artillery, the areas of Metina, Zap and even Garê are being burnt to the ground. There are no vineyards and gardens, villages and forests left in the area. The areas in question are not only being depopulated, but also rendered inhabitable. It is stated that hundreds of villages have been burnt down so far and villagers have been forcibly displaced from their

homes. Some TV programmes have shown the sad and tearful scenes of the villagers who could only save their lives from the fire.

Undoubtedly, the perpetrators of this genocide are clearly known. One day they will surely pay for what they have done. May God damn them! Of course, the PKK guerrillas are heroically resisting this brutal genocide. Only the guerrillas are resisting against the current occupation and annexation attacks. May God bless them! Their resistance will surely triumph one day. Of course, there are also those who watch all these events every day, and their numbers are not small at all. Shame on those who watch!

There are also discussions on how to define the attacks against the Medya Defence Zones. There are those who say that the attacks carried out by the Turkey-KDP-ISIS alliance with the support of the USA, NATO and Iraq are aimed at creating a 'Buffer Zone'. On this basis, they state that 'a Buffer Zone has been created on the Iraqi border'. But does it really involve creating a Buffer Zone? Or is the region being occupied and annexed by AKP-MHP fascism? This situation also needs to be accurately expressed and clarified.

Undoubtedly, so-called 'buffer zones' are used in border areas where there is conflict or war. In order to stop the attacks of two warring forces, a third military force is placed between them at a certain depth. In this way, the warring forces are prevented from carrying out military attacks by removing them from the border. These third forces are usually either UN forces or the forces organised by other states by agreement and called 'Peace Forces'. Of course, the existence of this buffer zone force is recognised by both warring parties and is associated with this force.

But is this what is being done today in the Haftanin, Metina, Zap, Avaşin and Xakurkê regions? Undoubtedly not. A third military force does not come between the two forces fighting in these areas, the PKK guerrillas and the Turkish army. These areas are occupied by the Turkish army with the support of the KDP and the Iraqi administration. In other words, the Turkish army is trying to seize the areas where the PKK guerrillas are based and to become the ruler of these areas. In short, these areas are under the control of the Turkish Republic. The Turkish border is no longer the border of the towns of Uludere, Çukurca, Yüksekova and Şemdinli, but is now the border of the towns and cities of Batufa, Bamerni, Kadişê, Amediye, Derelük, Şeladizê and Diyana. The Turkish border has shifted to the south at a depth of 25–40 kilometres, encompassing the piece of land officially defined as 'Iraqi territory'.

It should be noted that there is no third military force intervening here. On the contrary, there is an effort of the Turkish army, one of the fighting forces, to seize and dominate new pieces of land. Therefore, there is no area to be considered as a 'Buffer Zone' and there is no military force to be referred to as such. There is an outright invasion and annexation of new territories by the Turkish army. Therefore, it is wrong to describe what is happening as a 'Buffer Zone'. There is an open occupation and annexation. And no one should try to cover up this situation.

In this case, while the Turkish state is in the position of an occupying and annexing power, the Iraqi and KDP administrations are in the position of selling 'their own lands' to someone else. Of course, all parties know very well what kind of betrayal and crime this is. For this reason, the Turkish state says that 'everything happened with the approval of Iraq and the KDP'. The Iraqi and KDP administrations, on the other hand, in order to hide the fact of their betrayal, try to say that they 'did not support' and that this situation was 'created by the Turkish Republic'. Of course, since they know very well that no one will believe



the lie in question, they are mainly trying to deflect the agenda and put other agendas in front of the society. They often talk about the importance of the 'Development Road Project'. At every opportunity they put forward the lie that 'everything is because of the PKK'. They also put their other works, such as 'city reconstruction works', in front of the press and ask for them to be discussed.

Of course, we cannot state anything concrete about how effective such initiatives have been. However, judging by the lack of social reactions, we can state that there is a certain effect. But how much of this lack of reaction is due to this reason and how much is due to despotic oppression and terror? Indeed, there is no other power in this world that is as despotic and tyrannical as the Barzani administration. People are unable to speak against the Barzani administration, make statements and organise demonstrations due to the fear of death at any moment.

Let's talk about the lie that this situation is presented as a solution by the Iraqi and KDP administrations! Because these forces widely use this lie and claim that Iraq and Southern Kurdistan will be 'stabilised'. In other words, they state that the Turkey-PKK war will end as a result. However, they cannot say anything concrete about how this will be realised. Because what they call a solution is not a solution in reality, it is a fabricated lie. They know this as well as everyone else.

This is because the Turkey-PKK war will not end when the Turkish border shifts 25–40 kilometres to the south. In other words, the war in question will not end when the lands of Uludere, Çukurca, Yüksekova and Şemdinli cease to be the border and the lands of Batufa, Kadişe, Amadiye, Derelük, Şeladizê and Diyana become the border. If we assume that the war is on the border, in the current situation, the two forces in question will fight easily because it is still the border. If we see the war not on the border but in the interior, then the border shift in question will have no effect.

It should be noted that the occupation and annexation of these areas by the Turkish state will not end the war and stabilise these areas. The role previously played by Uludere, Çukurca, Yüksekova and Şemdinli border is now played by the new Turkish border, which has shifted to Batufa, Kadişe, Amadiye, Derelük, Şeladizê and Diyana. The war is continuing on this line. Because the mutual deployment of the PKK guerrillas and the Turkish army and mercenaries continues.

Then let us understand the events in the Medya Defence Zones correctly. Let us not believe the lies of the AKP-MHP, Iraqi and KDP administrations. Let us see the reality of occupation and annexation well and take an active stand against it on the basis of the freedom of Kurdistan. Let us do this so that the occupation and annexation will not be realised and Barzani's betrayal and Iraqi surrender will not succeed.

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