

# THE İMRALI POST

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

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## Contents

<b>Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan.....</b>	<b>3</b>
DEM Party: Abdullah Öcalan's physical freedom must be ensured.....	3
Lawyers apply to visit Öcalan in İmralı.....	5
'Freedom for Öcalan' vigil in Strasbourg in its 645th week.....	6
<b>Prisons.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Ill prisoner Gemicioğlu taken in intensive care.....	6
Warisha Moradi calls off her hunger strike action in Evin Prison.....	7
Political prisoner left to die.....	8
Political prisoner not released because he refused to admit repentance.....	9
<b>Military aggression and occupation.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Internal Security Forces: Attacks carried out 685 times.....	9
Toll of Turkish attacks on Manbij.....	10
Mazloun Abdi: Turkish attacks aim at destroying the AANES and undermining security and stability.....	10
Two bomb-laden drones shot down in Shêrawa.....	12
Four Turkish soldiers severely injured in SDF action in Til Temir.....	12
Turkish army has been attacking North-East Syria for 3 days, committing war crimes.....	12
Manbij Military Council: Attacks will not go unanswered.....	14
Turkish state bombs people's homes in North-East Syria.....	14
DAANES: The will of the peoples will triumph.....	15
Union of Civil Society Organisations in North-East Syria calls for action to stop Turkey's attacks...	16
Retaliation in Manbij: 7 Turkish soldiers killed.....	17
Internal Security Forces: 11 people were injured in attacks by the Turkish state on Saturday.....	18
HRE: 5 gang members killed, 11 Turkish soldiers injured.....	18
Eight Turkish soldiers wounded, three military vehicles damaged in SDF actions.....	19
Autonomous Administration: Turkish state's attacks threaten 5 million people.....	20
Dozens of civilian infrastructure in North-East Syria out of service after Turkish attacks.....	22
5 Turkish soldiers killed in actions by the guerrillas.....	23
Turkey continues its attacks in South Kurdistan.....	24
Turkish army launches new operation in Mardin.....	24
Three arrested in YPJ operations against ISIS cells.....	25
10 bar associations call on the government and all actors to seek peaceful and political solutions...	25
YPJ fighter wounded in Turkish attack in Manbij dies.....	26
HPG: Five soldiers were killed and three others wounded in guerrilla actions.....	27
SDF captures two ISIS operatives after security operation in Hol Camp.....	27
HPG pays tribute to guerrilla commander Memed Cûdî.....	28
604 drinking water wells stopped operating due to Turkish attacks on North-East Syria.....	28

HPG: Five Turkish soldiers were killed in actions by the guerrillas.....	29
Village in South Kurdistan devastated by the KDP and the Turkish army.....	30
World Kobanê Day: The victory of the Kurds, the defeat that fascism could not digest.....	31
YPG: We remain dedicated to the values that made Kobanê a universal symbol of human dignity. .	33
Five seriously injured in mine explosion in Shehba.....	34
More than 3,300 bombs fired on Afrin-Shehba in October.....	34
<b>Femicide.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Özgül Saki: The government refuses to face the truth.....	35
Women prepare to take to the streets on 25 November.....	36
YPJ Commander Rohilat Afrin: The collapse of ISIS began in Kobanê and ended in Baghouz.....	37
<b>Ecocide.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Ecology Board: Turkish attacks have caused great damage to the ecology in North-East Syria.....	38
State forces do not intervene in the fire on Mount Gabar.....	39
<b>Human Rights Violations.....</b>	<b>39</b>
Soldiers take three people into custody in Idil.....	39
YouTube and Facebook close Kurdish artist Rotinda's accounts.....	40
15 people sent to prison in Istanbul.....	40
Dozens of nomads and shepherds detained in Siirt countryside.....	41
Kurdish musician taken into custody in Istanbul.....	41
Mayor of Istanbul's Esenyurt district taken into custody.....	42
Trustee appointed to the Municipality of Esenyurt.....	43
Doğan: We must raise our voices and resist together against the usurpation of Esenyurt Municipality	44
Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee detained in Dersim.....	46
37 bar associations call appointment of trustee to the Municipality of Esenyurt a blow to democracy	46
People taken into custody in Herekol tortured.....	47
IHD: Peace cannot be left to the arbitrariness of the government.....	48
<b>Interview.....</b>	<b>49</b>
Zilar Stêrk: The reality is that an absolute isolation system is implemented in İmralı.....	49
Murat Karayılan: We are developing a strategy in North Kurdistan.....	55
Kalkan: No substantial progress can be achieved without the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan	58
Kalkan: Only Öcalan can bring about a democratic political solution to the Kurdish question.....	60
Kalkan: Abdullah Öcalan proposed the democratic nation as a solution for the Middle East.....	68

# Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

## DEM Party: Abdullah Öcalan's physical freedom must be ensured

ANF | ANKARA | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The final declaration of the Party Assembly meeting held in Ankara stated that while the economic, social and political developments in the region and the world were evaluated, political and organizational goals were determined in light of the findings made, and decisions were made regarding the program of struggle.

The final declaration of the DEM Party meeting particularly emphasized the need for an "honorable peace," noting that, if achieved, it would benefit not only Turkey but the entire Middle East.

### **The AKP-MHP government was left out of the equation**

The declaration, which pointed out the seriousness of the conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon and the Iran-Israel tension, stated that "Turkey and Kurdistan are right in the middle of this region as well as of multiple equations. The AKP-MHP government, which has been trying to crash the achievements of the peoples of Rojava, Northern and Eastern Syria for years, by sending and preparing mercenaries in the occupied territory, is on the agenda. The occupation and annexation policies towards South Kurdistan have reached a serious impasse. The AKP-MHP government, which has been left out of the equation in the developments in the Middle East with its expansionist and colonialist policies, has left the people of Turkey face to face with a dangerous political reality. The policies of war, profiteering and plunder that have been pursued have created a danger of social decay and collapse."

### **Solution discussions are positive but...**

The declaration, which also evaluated the "normalization" discourses that have come back to the agenda, stated: "Our party, which has been struggling to grow the anti-war front and to socialize the demand for peace by paying a great price for years, will not allow normalization discourses to be used to conceal the current problems targeting our people. It is positive that solution discussions have come back to the agenda. However, it is clear that rehashing the 'taking over' discourses of the past will not contribute either to the solution to the Kurdish question, which is a political, historical and social problem, or the problems of Turkey.

Our party values all interlocutors and parties for the solution to social problems, and believes that the real solution will be possible not by waiting for the government but by building an organized process in which all workers and oppressed segments and peoples of Turkey participate, and has been fighting for this for years.

The DEM Party is in favor of a fair, democratic solution based on the equality of peoples; we defend peace, a democratic constitution, freedom and a democratic republic. On this basis, if there is to be a solution in Turkey, it is essential for society to organize around the demand for peace and democracy, to take action with all its dynamics, to be involved in the process and to take the initiative. Peace cannot only be between political parties and parties involved in the conflict; social support is also necessary. Therefore, a permanent solution must be built with the common will and struggle of the people."

### **The first step is lifting isolation**

The DEM Party added: "In order for peace and solution to become a genuine option, one of the first and most important steps is to lift isolation, which is a special war law practice against Mr. Abdullah Öcalan.

Mr. Öcalan's critical and decisive role in the execution and management of past solution processes is indisputable. Although the last meeting with Mr. Öcalan [on 23 October], which broke the absolute lack of communication after 43 months, is important and positive; isolation continues. As Mr. Öcalan himself stated, 'If the conditions are right, I have the theoretical and practical power to move this process from the ground of conflict and violence to the legal and political ground'. Therefore, ensuring health, security and free working conditions, as well as physical freedom, is of vital importance for this decisive mission to be fulfilled and for the path to social peace to be opened. The ground for negotiation and dialogue can only be genuine, permanent and inclusive if it is established under free and equal conditions."

### **Peace is the most urgent need**

The DEM Party continued: "We believe that peace is the most urgent need not only for the Kurdish people but for all the people of Turkey and the Middle East. An honorable peace to be achieved in Turkey will also be peace for the entire Middle East, where people have been pitted against each other for centuries and which has essentially become a center of war. The difficulties of building a permanent, just and honorable peace and the intermittent and volatile nature of this path, which sometimes includes conflicting processes, are known from world experience.

Our party, which has been fighting for the people to live together on equal grounds and in peace for decades, will resolutely fulfill its responsibility today, as it did yesterday, to create the conditions for living together and to increase the hope for peace. Informing the people about the benefits of peace, explaining the necessity of peace and showing that the struggle for a democratic republic is essential are among our primary goals.

We continue to fight with determination for a future where all people can live an equal, free and honorable life, and we call on all political and social segments to support and reclaim the possibilities for peace for a just and democratic solution to the Kurdish question and for freedom."

## Lawyers apply to visit Öcalan in İmralı

ANF | ISTANBUL | 28 OCTOBER 2024

Lawyers İbrahim Bilmez, Cengiz Yürekli, Suzan Akıpa ve Emran Emekçi of the Istanbul-based Asrın Law Office, which represents Abdullah Öcalan and his fellow prisoners in İmralı Island Prison, have applied to the Bursa Republic Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and İmralı Penal Institution Directorate to meet with their client Abdullah Öcalan.

Abdullah Öcalan, Ömer Hayri Konar, Hamili Yıldırım and Veysi Aktaş are kept under severe isolation conditions in İmralı F Type High Security Prison. Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan has been in solitary confinement since 1999, when he was abducted as a result on an international conspiracy.

The right of Abdullah Öcalan and fellow prisoners in İmralı to meet with their families is being denied by the authorities, citing "disciplinary penalties". The reasons and file numbers of these disciplinary penalties are not shared with their lawyers despite all applications and objections.

From 27 July 2011 to date, only 5 lawyer visits were allowed between May and August 2019. The last meeting of lawyers with the Kurdish leader took place on 7 August 2019. During the last lawyer meeting 5 years ago, Öcalan stated that he could end the war completely within a week in the face of the possibility of conflict in Serekaniye and Gire Spî, saying that, otherwise, deep social wounds would be opened and the economy would not be able to bear this situation. However, his call for a solution and dialogue was left unanswered. After the meeting with Abdullah Öcalan 5 years ago, the ban on lawyer visits started to be implemented.

The last 6-month ban on lawyer visits to Öcalan and fellow prisoners in İmralı was issued by Bursa Execution Judgeship on 3 May 2024. With this ban, the Kurdish leader has been banned from seeing his lawyer for 6 months at least 13 times in the last 8 years.

Öcalan's last face-to-face meeting with his family took place on 3 March 2020 and his last telephone conversation on 25 March 2021.

After four years, the Kurdish leader met face to face with his nephew Ömer Öcalan on 23 October 2024. During the meeting, he stated that: "Isolation continues. If conditions are right, I have the theoretical and practical power to move this process from a ground of conflict and violence to a legal and political ground."

## ‘Freedom for Öcalan’ vigil in Strasbourg in its 645th week

ANF | STRASBOURG | 30 OCTOBER 2024

Under the leadership of the Initiative for the Freedom of Abdullah Öcalan, a ‘Freedom Vigil’ has been held in Strasbourg, France since 25 June 2012 in order to ensure the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and to end the isolation regime imposed on him in the İmralı Island Prison in Turkey where he has been held since his handover to Turkey as a result of an international conspiracy in 1999.

In its 645th week, five patriots from the Zurich region took over the vigil action, which is undertaken by a group from different countries of Europe every week.

The group consists of Tanju Eren, Ali Kara, Mehmet Şener, Zeki Güner and Cüneyt Alıcı.

On behalf of the group, Ali Kara said, “As the Kurdish people, we will continue our struggle uninterruptedly until the physical freedom of our leader is achieved.”

Kara appealed to the international organisations and said, “We expect them to take the necessary steps to ensure the physical freedom of our leader as soon as possible.”

Tanju Eren emphasised that ‘this vigil will continue until Leader Öcalan is freed.’

Emphasising that the İmralı isolation continues although a meeting with Öcalan has been held recently, Tanju Eren stated that there can be no talk of a possible process of negotiations until the isolation is lifted.

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## Prisons

### Ill prisoner Gemicioğlu taken in intensive care

ANF | VAN | 27 OCTOBER 2024

67-year-old seriously ill prisoner Abdurrahman Gemicioğlu, who has been held in Van High Security Prison since 3 October, became ill on the evening of 25 October. Gemicioğlu was transferred from prison to Van Yüzüncü Yıl University Medical Faculty Education and Research Hospital after he became ill.

Gemicioğlu, who was receiving treatment in the General Surgery Department, was being treated in the hospital's intensive care unit due to advanced colon cancer.

It was stated that soldiers prevented Gemicioğlu, whose condition was serious, from being visited by his family in the hospital. According to information conveyed by family members, despite the permission to accompany him given to them by the Prosecutor's Office, the soldiers waiting in front of the intensive care unit only allowed the family to see Gemicioğlu for 5 minutes.



## Warisha Moradi calls off her hunger strike action in Evin Prison

ANF | 29 OCTOBER 2024

Warisha Moradi, a member of the East Kurdistan Free Women's Community (KJAR), has been imprisoned in Evin prison in Tehran for 14 months. Arbitrarily accused of 'inciting rebellion' by the Iranian judiciary, she started an indefinite hunger strike on 10 October, World Day Against the Death Penalty, not only for better prison conditions, but also against the death penalty in Iran.

KJAR issued a statement on 25 October calling for participation in the general hunger strike and asking Warisha Moradi to end her hunger strike action as her condition worsened due to a serious drop in blood pressure and there is a high possibility that she may fall into a coma.

On 27 October, more than 120 civil society activists from East Kurdistan issued a joint statement in support of Warisha Moradi's resistance and also asked her to end her hunger strike, saying, "We have no intention of overlooking the importance and meaning of her protest; quite the contrary, we see her action as a significant step in the path of civil resistance. But, as Warisha Moradi herself has always emphasized the role of society and the active participation of advocates, we now need her presence and strength on this journey more than ever. Civil resistance requires energy, resilience, and continuity, as this struggle is both long and challenging."

KJAR published a statement on its official website on Tuesday and said that Warisha Moradi ended her protest upon its call.

### Arrested on 1 August 2023

Moradi, also known as Ciwana Sine, was arrested on 1 August 2023 during a police check near her hometown of Sine (Sanandaj) and taken to an unknown location. Iran's regime judiciary accuses her of "enmity towards God" and "armed rebellion against the state". The allegations are related to Moradi's membership in the KJAR, the umbrella organization of the Kurdish women's movement in Iran, and her commitment to women's and feminist issues. Tehran sees the KJAR as a "separatist terrorist organization" because it is said to be part of the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK).

### Brutally tortured, mistreated and interrogated

After Moradi's abduction, her whereabouts were unclear for months. It was only thanks to the KHRN that it became known that the activist had been brutally tortured, mistreated and interrogated by the Iranian Secret Service in Sine for weeks after her arrest, until she was transferred to Tehran at the end of Au-

gust. There she was held for months in the notorious high-security wing 209 of Evin prison - also subjected to torture and mistreatment, with the aim of breaking her or forcing her to confess. Moradi has been in the women's section of the prison since the beginning of January. She is denied access to legal counsel most of the time. If she is convicted, she faces the death penalty.

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## Political prisoner left to die

ANF | VAN | 31 OCTOBER 2024

Since 25 October, political prisoner Abdurrahman Gemicioğlu, detained in Van's F-Type Prison, has been in the intensive care unit at the city's University Hospital. He is suffering from colon cancer and had to be intubated at the hospital. Despite his extremely poor health, soldiers are standing guard inside and outside the ward.

His daughter Elif Gemicioğlu reported that the soldiers did not allow her to see her father in the hospital.

Her father's health is deteriorating day by day, said Elif Gemicioğlu. Pointing out that her father's handcuffs are not removed even during treatment, she said: "My father's condition is very serious, his right to life is being taken away. A report from the Forensic Medicine Institute (ATK) is being delayed. My father is being deliberately sent to death. The forensic medicine should submit the report as soon as possible before anything happens to my father. We are watching my father being left to die. We demand that all institutions and authorities, especially the Ministry of Justice, act before anything happens to my father. No one can remain silent about this situation."

**"They are not releasing my father, they are sending him to his death"**

Elif Gemicioğlu added: "My father was arrested in 2012 as part of the KCK operation and then released on conditional release. The Court of Cassation confirmed the verdict and a new arrest warrant was issued. He had a prostate disease and then developed colon cancer and had to undergo several operations. Many other illnesses appeared while he was in custody. He was intubated in hospital and can no longer breathe on his own.

He suffers from kidney and heart failure. He can no longer see either. My father was hospitalized 26 times in 23 days and is now in intensive care. His legs no longer support him, he can no longer walk. He is in no way able to take care of himself. The public and the authorities must pay close attention to this situation. We want him to be treated in a better hospital, but this is not allowed. They are not releasing my father, they are sending him to his death."

— ★ —



## Political prisoner not released because he refused to admit repentance

ANF | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

Originally from Amed, Kalır, a father of seven, was forced to move to Adana in the early 1990s for political reasons. On 10 October 1994, he was taken into custody and, following severe torture, was arrested and subsequently sentenced to life in prison after what was reportedly a sham trial.

Since his initial imprisonment in Adana's Kürkçüler Prison, Kalır has been transferred multiple times to jails across Turkey, including Konya E-Type, Siirt E-Type, Diyarbakır D-Type, and eventually to prisons far from his family in Trabzon, Kastamonu, and Tekirdağ No. 2 F-Type.

Most recently, he was transferred to Tekirdağ No. 1 Prison. He was expected to be released on 10 October 2024. However, just five days before his scheduled release, the prison's administrative and observation committee held a conditional release interview with him. During this meeting, the committee asked Kalır, who has endured 30 years of imprisonment and various health issues, a single question: "Do you feel repentance?"

Kalır straightforwardly answered: "I don't feel repentance," and this led to the arbitrary denial of his conditional release. As a result, according to the decision made by Tekirdağ No. 1 Prison's observation committee, his release has been postponed by three months.

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## Military aggression and occupation

### Internal Security Forces: Attacks carried out 685 times

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The Northern and Eastern Syrian Internal Security Forces Press Contact Center announced the toll of the Turkish state's attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria.

The statement said: "The occupying Turkish state carried out a total of 685 attacks on the region, 99 with reconnaissance aircraft, 13 with fighter jets, and 573 with artillery fire. In these attacks, 17 people, 14 civilians and 3 security forces fell martyrs, while 48 people - 39 civilians and 9 security forces - were injured.

Our forces continue to fulfill their duties to serve the people, maintain and spread peace, and provide citizens with the necessary and possible protection."

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## Toll of Turkish attacks on Manbij

ANF | MANBIJ | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The Manbij Military Council Forces Press Centre made a statement regarding the toll of the 24-hour attacks on Manbij Canton.

The statement said: "The occupying Turkish state and its mercenaries continue their attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria. The attacks target service centers, infrastructure, villages and cities. Dozens of people fell as martyrs and many others were injured in the attacks carried out by armed drones.

13 villages in the north, west and northeast of Manbij were bombed 8 times by missiles, 4 times by drones and 3 times by suicide drones. A house was completely destroyed in the bombardment targeting the village of El Buniye in the east of Manbij. A child named Ferah El Berho (11) was martyred, and children named Ebdurahman Berho (13) and Semir Berho (8) were injured.

Our forces shot down two suicide drones belonging to the occupying Turkish army. As fighters of the Manbij Military Council, we promise once again that we will thwart all attacks by the enemy."

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## Mazloun Abdi: Turkish attacks aim at destroying the AANES and undermining security and stability

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Commander-in-Chief Mazloun Abdi delivered a speech to the people, addressing the ongoing Turkish aggression against the North-East Syrian regions. He urged the people to intensify their struggle to repel these attacks and protect the Autonomous Administration of North and Eastern Syria (AANES), safeguarding the security and stability of their areas.

In his address, Commander-in-Chief Abdi stated, "For the past four days, the Turkish state has launched unjustified attacks against our regions. These attacks target not only our military forces but also critical infrastructure, service institutions of the Autonomous Administration, and civilian areas. Tragically, these attacks have resulted in the martyrdom of 17 civilians, including only two military personnel. Additionally, 48 civilians, including nine military personnel, have been injured."

The SDF Commander-in-Chief extended his deepest condolences to the families of the martyrs and wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.

Regarding the objectives of the Turkish occupation state, Abdi revealed that, “For five years, the Turkish state has been attempting to occupy more of our lands, but it has not and will not succeed in this endeavor. To undermine security and stability in our areas, they are launching these attacks and persisting in their aggression.”

The SDF Commander-in-Chief emphasized that the primary goal of the Turkish occupation state behind these attacks is to “destroy the Autonomous Administration, undermine security and stability in our areas, and forcibly displacing our people from their cities and villages.” He noted that the Autonomous Administration has not antagonized the Turkish state and has maintained balanced relations with all parties.

“The attacks on our areas target not only our forces and our people, but also the parties and forces that work with us, including the international coalition forces and Russia,” the SDF Commander-in-Chief stated. He pointed out that “the stances of these parties are insufficient, and they should exert more pressure on the Turkish state to compel it to cease its attacks.”

Regarding the pretexts and arguments invoked by the Turkish state to justify its attacks on their areas, Abdi said, “The Turkish state links its attacks on our areas to the recent attack it subjected to in Ankara, claiming that the attackers entered from Syrian territory. I categorically deny any involvement of our forces in this operation. No one from our territory has entered Turkish territory, and the Turkish state cannot provide any evidence to substantiate its claims.”

Abdi emphasized a crucial point, stating, “Our SDF General Command has made a decision not to conduct any military operations on Turkish territory or in Northern Kurdistan. Our primary and sole arena for struggle and military action remains Syria.”

Regarding their stance on the Turkish state, the SDF Commander-in-Chief reiterated their repeated calls for resolving differences through dialogue, especially with the Turkish state. However, he added, “These attacks undermine our efforts for dialogue and pose a threat to it. If the attacks persist, we will be compelled to escalate our legitimate response.”

Mazloun Abdi concluded his speech by addressing the people: “I urge our people not to be deceived by the enemy’s black propaganda that seeks to legitimize these attacks. Instead, our people must intensify their struggle, strengthen their peaceful societal movement against these attacks. Together, we will preserve the Autonomous Administration that was built with the blood of our people’s sons and daughters. I assure our people that our SDF are committed to protecting our people from these attacks.”

## Two bomb-laden drones shot down in Shêrawa

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

According to an ANHA News Agency report based on local sources, 2 bomb-laden drones belonging to the occupying Turkish state were shot down in Aqibê village in the Shêrawa district in Afrin-Shehba Canton.

It is not yet known by whom the drones in question were shot down.

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## Four Turkish soldiers severely injured in SDF action in Til Temir

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

In response to the continuing aggressions of the Turkish occupation and its crimes against the people of North-East Syria, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) targeted, on Friday, a military base belonging to the Turkish occupation in the village of Al-Aziziya, located in the countryside of Til Temir (Tal Tamir).

According to the SDF Press Center, the operation resulted in direct injuries to four Turkish occupation soldiers and the destruction of one military vehicle.

“Our forces reiterate their commitment to responding to attacks and aggression by the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries on our territories. They will continue to fulfill their duty to protect and defend these areas,” the SDF statement on Saturday said.

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## Turkish army has been attacking North-East Syria for 3 days, committing war crimes

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The occupying Turkish state has been bombing North and East Syria for 3 days non-stop and massacring civilians.

The General Command of the Internal Security Forces in North and East Syria issued a statement on the ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure on 25-26 October.

The Internal Security Forces stated that the Turkish state bombed civilian targets such as pharmacies, bakeries, factories and power plants, and 7 people were injured in the attacks.

According to the statement, Turkish warplanes intensified their attacks on the Cizre Canton last night, targeting the vicinity of the power plant in Qamishlo and a construction materials centre (twice). This morning, unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) bombed a pharmacy in the Meyslun neighbourhood of Qamishlo three times.

According to reports, warplanes struck an oxygen factory and an oil well drilling depot in Rimelan five times. While a bakery was bombed in Dêrik, 3 female workers were wounded in the attacks on a cheese-yoghurt factory.

The vicinity of the Erebi Hesên village in Manbij was shelled four times in the latest wave of attacks which also targeted Ewn al-Dadat gate, injuring 4 people, including a child.

The occupiers bombed infrastructure services in Dêrik and Enteriyê neighbourhood of Qamishlo.

The occupying Turkish state also bombarded Ewn Dadat Gate in the north of Manbij Canton. Two children were injured in the bombardment and hospitalized for treatment.

The intense bombardment of the occupying Turkish state and allied gangs against Manbij continues.

The occupiers fired 6 shells at Al-Daraj village, 6 shells at Ewn Dadat village and 12 shells at Erebi Hesên village. The villages are constantly shelled with howitzers.

The occupying Turkish state and allied gangs are shelling Til Rifet town and Til Qirah village in Shehba with howitzers. Information about the aftermath of the bombardment was not immediately available.

The occupying Turkish state and allied gangs shelled the villages of Aqibê and Bêrê in Afrin's Shêrawa district and Kafar Garis village in Shehba with howitzers. No information was immediately available about the aftermath of the bombardment.

On the other hand, due to the Turkish attacks against power stations, there is a power outage throughout the Cizre canton and in Kobanê.

## Manbij Military Council: Attacks will not go unanswered

ANF | MANBIJ | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The Manbij Military Council made a statement regarding the brutal attacks of the occupying Turkish state that have been going on for the third day in a row.

The statement released on Saturday said:

“The occupying Turkish state is intensively bombarding our regions from its bases in the ‘Euphrates Shield’ regions. While a child was martyred in the attacks, many people were injured. Many citizens’ houses have become unusable.

We condemn these brutal attacks of the Turkish state and the attitude of Russia against these attacks.

It is unthinkable that we can only make defence against these attacks in which our people are directly targeted. All bases of the enemy and its affiliated groups are our target. We promise the people of Manbij that the invaders will be duly responded to.”



## Turkish state bombs people's homes in North-East Syria

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

In its ongoing attacks against North and East Syria, ongoing for three days, the occupying Turkish state has been massacring civilians.

The Turkish army and allied mercenaries carried out another attack on the Til Rifat city of Afrin-Shehba Canton.

The Turkish army bombed an agricultural centre in the village of Exîbiş in Til Temir. It is reported that a woman named Shemsa Newaf El Qenas (30) was wounded in the bombardment. The woman who was wounded in the arm was taken under treatment at Til Temir Hospital.

On the other hand, UCAVs of the occupying Turkish state directly bombed the houses of the local people. Some houses in Xirb Sûqiye village of Tirbespiyê were targeted in the aggression.

The occupying Turkish state also bombed the vicinity of the prison in Dêrik where ISIS members are held.

The names of 8 people who were injured in a Turkish bombardment on those who tried to reach the wounded in Amûdê are as follows: Dara Elî Teter, Bariya Xelîl Tewfîq, Ekrem Bîco, Fewazî Silêman, Alan Îbrahîm, Hember, Mesûd, Xalid Selman Macid.

## Amûdê

The Internal Security Forces made a statement regarding the attack of the occupying Turkish state against their forces, saying: “An UCAV belonging to the occupying Turkish state bombed the village of Çûlî in Amûdê. A centre belonging to our forces was bombed 2 times in a row. As a result of the bombardment, 3 of our members were wounded. Those who came to the aid of the wounded were also attacked. According to the first determinations, 8 people were wounded in this attack. The wounded were taken under treatment at the hospital.”

## Shehba

In the meantime, Tinib, Ebîn, Soxanekê, Hirbil, Eqîbe, Bêne, Til Qirah, Bêlûniyê, Kafr Garis, and Til Rifet were bombed 56 times.

## Til Temir

The occupying Turkish army bombed a warehouse belonging to a citizen in Til Temir. In another attack, an agricultural centre was bombed in the village of Exîbiş.

## Dêrik

Petrol stations in the Kocherat area were bombed one after another.

## Factory, warehouses and villages shelled

The occupying Turkish state intensively bombarded a cement factory in Çelebiyê district, as well as the countryside of Girê Spî and Ain Issa.

Ain Issa warehouses, Ain Issa Camp, Seyda, and the villages of Elîmat, Dewalîb, Şêx, Xalidiyê, Hoşan, Dibis and Cideyde were also shelled.

Information about the damage caused by the bombardment was not immediately available.



## DAANES: The will of the peoples will triumph

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) made a written statement on the attacks of the Turkish state against the region. According to the statement on Saturday, civilian settlements, infrastructure and service institutions were targeted in the attacks that have been going on

for the last three days, “Today, many areas in Amûdê city, education and construction facilities, settlements such as Til Temir and Gir Ziro were bombed.”

DAANES said that many civilians were wounded and martyred in the intensified attacks of the Turkish state on the region, emphasising that these attacks created deep uneasiness among the people.

DAANES pointed out that the aim was to weaken the economy of the region and to aggravate the current embargo against the region, especially by targeting the service infrastructure. Due to the attacks, especially health services, fuel, mills and many other institutions went out of service, and basic services such as fuel and food supply came to a standstill, the statement noted.

The statement said that 17 civilians, including children, were martyred and 48 people were wounded in the latest wave of attacks in recent days. Pointing out that the attacks continued under the silence of the international coalition forces, Russia and other parties, DAANES said: “This situation shows that the process has taken a dangerous turn. It is clear that the Turkish state will try every means to undermine the fight against terrorism, incite chaos and prepare the ground for humanitarian disaster. A strong and responsible stance must be taken against these attacks.”

‘With the will of our people, we will continue our struggle against all plans that try to frustrate our freedom and determination. The will of the peoples will triumph,’ underlined AANES.

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## Union of Civil Society Organisations in North-East Syria calls for action to stop Turkey’s attacks

ANF | QAMISHLO | 26 OCTOBER 2024

The Union of Civil Society Organisations in North and East Syria denounced the ongoing attacks of the occupying Turkish state on the region, ongoing for the third day in a row.

The Union made a press statement in front of the United Nations (UN) representative office in Qamishlo, accompanied by representatives of NGOs, activists and journalists. The statement was read by Stêra Qasim, member of the Women's Assembly of North and East Syria.

The statement said the following:

“The occupying Turkish state’s attacks with artillery, mortars and drones target safe villages and many important service centres. The electricity and gas production centre in Suweydiyê, the power plant in Amûdê, the wheat silos in Qamishlo, the medical clinic in Qamishlo, the power plant in Qamishlo, the oxygen plant, the milk and cheese factory in Dêrik, the automatic bread bakery in Dêrik and Amûdê, the petrol stations in Tirbêsîpiyê, Rimêlan and Kocaret, as well as other infrastructures and many points of the Internal Security Forces were bombed.



As a result of the attacks, 17 people were martyred and 51 people, including 2 children, were injured. The attacks of the occupying Turkish state against civilians in North and East Syria are war crimes according to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Syrian organisations that are signatory to this statement strongly condemn the invading Turkish army's attacks on North and East Syria. They demand an immediate halt to the attacks on civilians, infrastructure and centres of life and respect for international humanitarian laws. The Turkish state is committing war crimes under international law.

- United Nations Security Council and the European Union: Take urgent measures in northern and eastern Syria to protect civilians and their fundamental rights, and pressure the Turkish government to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- International Coalition/USA: Take urgent action to stop the Turkish state's attacks on northern and eastern Syria and close the airspace to its aircraft.
- Independent International Commission of Inquiry, United Nations International Impartial and Independent Mechanism: Intensify the collection of documentation on gross human rights violations committed by all parties to the war against civilians and civilian areas across Syria, including in Turkey. Prepare a special report on repeated violations in northern and eastern Syria and the targeting of infrastructure in 2024 and its impact on the civilian population.
- War crimes departments in countries whose laws permit prosecution in accordance with the principle of universal justice: Expand structural investigations into international crimes in Syria to include crimes in the entire northern region of Syria. We call for an immediate end to these attacks and work for peace and stability in the region.”

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## Retaliation in Manbij: 7 Turkish soldiers killed

ANF | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The Manbij Military Council announced that they had carried out retaliation actions against the occupying Turkish army positioned in the regions it occupied in Syria in 2016, together with the Jabhat al-Aqrad forces, against 3 different bases.

According to the details shared by the center, at 08:30 on Saturday, October 26, the Manbij Military Council Forces and the Jabhat al-Aqrad Forces bombed the Turkish state's Beldeq, Shekh, Nasir, Qerate and Shiqeyef bases.

It was noted that 7 Turkish soldiers were killed, and many others injured in the actions.

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## Internal Security Forces: 11 people were injured in attacks by the Turkish state on Saturday

ANF | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The Internal Security Forces said in a statement that the Military Police Center in the neighborhood of Meyselun in Qamishlo was bombed by a drone at 08:40 on Saturday morning, and that the Internal Security Forces Center in the city center of Amûdê was also bombed 3 times, injuring 3 security forces and 4 civilians.

The statement drew attention to the fact that 3 workers were injured as a result of a drone attack by the Turkish state on the village of Gir Zîro in the Koçerat region, adding that the cheese and yogurt factory in Derik, and the cities and villages of Tirbespiyê, Til Temir, Zîrgan, Derik, Ain Issa and their rural areas were also targeted.

The statement underlined that a child from the village of Kawiklî was injured in attacks targeting villages north and west of Manbij on Saturday, and noted that the French Lavraj company in the village of Çelebiyê south of Kobanê was also targeted.

The statement added that the Til Rifat city center and surrounding villages were targeted by more than 60 mortars and howitzers in the Shehba region, and that the Turkish state carried out attacks on cities and regions in Northern and Eastern Syria 9 times throughout the day, using drones as well as more than 130 mortars and howitzers.

On Saturday night, Turkey and its affiliated paramilitary groups increased their attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria. Wheat depots in Ain Issa, Ain Issa Camp, and the villages of Seyda, Elîbat, Dewalîb, Şêx, Khalidiyê, Dibis, Hoşan and Cidêdê were bombed by heavy weapons. Attacks on rural areas of Girê Spî also continued in the night.

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## HRE: 5 gang members killed, 11 Turkish soldiers injured

ANF | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The following details were included in a statement published by the Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE):

"Our revenge and retaliation actions continue in response to the attacks and policies carried out by the occupying Turkish state and its affiliated gang groups in Northern and Eastern Syria.

In this context:

Our Martyr Avêsta Team unit carried out a sniper operation in Azaz on 19 October. As a result, one occupying gang member was killed.

In a sniper action carried out on the Mare line on 25 October, one occupying gang member was killed.

On 26 October, the occupying gangs tried to attack the Sherawa line. Our forces followed the invaders there and effectively responded to them. The bodies of the gang members who died in the clash remained in the region.

When they wanted to collect their bodies, our forces responded once again. In the clashes, a gang leader named Ehmed Raid Meldeun and two invading gangs were killed, while three gangs were injured. On the same day, the bases of the occupying Turkish state on the Bab, Mare and Sherawa line were targeted again by special operations. 11 Turkish soldiers were injured. As a result of these actions of our forces, five invading gangs were killed, 11 Turkish soldiers and three invading gangs were injured."

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## Eight Turkish soldiers wounded, three military vehicles damaged in SDF actions

ANF | 27 OCTOBER 2024

In response to the ongoing aggressions by the Turkish occupation forces and their mercenaries against the North and East Syrian region, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) conducted targeted and effective response operations against Turkish bases in the occupied areas, inflicting significant casualties and equipment damage.

In a statement detailing their actions, SDF Media Center said the following:

"On October 26th, our forces targeted Turkish occupation bases stationed in the occupied countryside of Til Temir (Tal Tamr), resulting in the injury of eight Turkish occupation soldiers and damage to three military vehicles.

In the Ain Issa countryside, our forces targeted two Turkish occupation bases located in the villages of Sayda and al-Mazra'a, wounding several occupation soldiers, whose exact number remains unknown."

SDF stated that: "Our forces possess the legitimate right to respond to the attacks and aggression of the Turkish occupation and its mercenaries on our areas, in accordance with international humanitarian law governing warfare and conflict. This response aims to safeguard the lives and property of our people and maintain their security and stability."

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## Autonomous Administration: Turkish state's attacks threaten 5 million people

ANF | RAQQA | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) made a statement in front of the administration building in Raqqa about the increasingly ongoing attacks of the Turkish state for the fourth day in a row.

The Executive Council Co-Chair Evîn Siwêd read the statement in Kurdish and Co-Chair Hisên Osman in Arabic.

The Autonomous Administration condemned the attacks of the Turkish state and stated that in four days, air strikes were carried out against the infrastructure and civilian areas in Cizîre, Kobanê, Til Temir and Ain Issa.

Noting that there is no legitimate justification for the attacks, the Autonomous Administration stated that the Turkish state aims to endanger economic conditions and lives by targeting institutions and service centres.

The statement pointed out that: "We have been experiencing difficulties especially in the last few years due to the attacks that have been going on for a long time. However, we continue to protect our people under all circumstances. This aggression poses a great threat to the humanitarian, service and social situation. It allows terrorist cells and mercenaries to take advantage of these attacks to organise and attack our regions. These attacks limit the efforts to establish peace and threaten the efforts of our people and our security forces in cooperation with the International Coalition to eradicate terrorism."

The Autonomous Administration warned that if the attacks continue, they will have dangerous consequences and listed these dangers as follows:

- A humanitarian and economic catastrophe may occur
- Threats to efforts to eradicate terrorism may increase
- Due to damage to all sectors of agriculture, industry, services and factories, these institutions may go out of service.
- 5 million people's lives are at risk in the Autonomous Administration regions
- Threatens efforts to promote peace and a democratic solution in Syria
- Threatens and endangers prisons, which would allow terrorists to take advantage of the aggression, as well as measures to protect these sites.

The Autonomous Administration called on the International Coalition forces, Russia, and all legal and humanitarian institutions to see and prevent the consequences of these attacks, to form investigation committees and to hold the perpetrators to account.

The Autonomous Administration condemned the violations against the values and achievements of the people and stressed that it will protect the achievements of the people and their right to legitimate defence.

The Autonomous Administration called upon the components of the region to rally around the military and security forces, to maintain their unity and solidarity, and to frustrate all projects directed against their democratic will and projects.

**The balance sheet of the four-day attacks was announced as follows:**

- Attacks by reconnaissance aircraft: 118
- Attacks by fighter jets: 20
- Mortar attacks: 893
- Total attacks by the occupying Turkish state: 1031
- Martyrs: 17
- Injured: 65
- In the bombardments of the occupying Turkish army, power plants in the cities and regions of the Cizir and Euphrates cantons were targeted, and more than 150 thousand families were deprived of electricity.
- Water stations were rendered unusable due to power cuts.
- The bombings caused fuel shortages, with diesel not reaching service centres such as bakeries and other service centres.

## Dozens of civilian infrastructure in North-East Syria out of service after Turkish attacks

ANF | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The occupying Turkish state continues to commit grave war crimes in a new wave of attacks targeting North and East Syria since the evening of 23 October 2024.

Civilians and civilian infrastructure were directly targeted in the attacks. Warplanes, drones and artillery attacks targeted health and education centres, bakeries, flour and grain stores, wheat silos, power stations, companies and factories, telephone networks, water, gas and petrol stations.

According to the authorities, more than 30 centres have been out of service so far in Cizre and the Euphrates Canton alone, which are as follows:

**Dêrik:** Siwêdiyê Electricity and Gas Stations, Girzîro Petrol Station, Zozan Yoghurt-Cheese Factory, Bag Factory in Mêrga Mîra village, Industries and repair shops in the city

**Rimêlan:** Vehicle industry and construction centre, Oil Plant, Oxygen Filling Centre

**Tirbespiyê:** Seîda petrol station, Babasî Petrol Station in Kel Hesnak village, Girê BePirê petrol refinery, power station

**Qamishlo:** Health centres in Xelîc and Meyselûn neighbourhoods, construction centre on Hizam highway, textile factory and wheat warehouse, Agriculture Development Company and construction centre in Heremê Şêxo village

**Amûdê:** Power station and bakery

**Til Temir:** Istîqmê Cement Factory and Agricultural Centre

**Ain Issa:** Wheat storage

**Kobanê:** Power station, bakery and wheat silo in Rovî village

### 366 villages left without electricity in Kobanê

Ayşe Nasir, Co-Chair of the Euphrates Canton Energy Board, said that the Turkish state targeted the power plant in Kobanê, leaving the city centre and 366 villages without electricity. Nasir stated that strategic places in Kobanê city as well as water wells went out of service.

Referring to the damage to the power plant, Ayşe Nasir stated that the teams could not carry out damage assessment since the attacks on the region continued.

## Billions of dollars of damage

Speaking to ANHA, Ziyad Rustem, Co-Chair of the Energy Board of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria Region, stated that 120 thousand citizens were left without water and electricity due to the bombing of power stations in Amûdê, Tirbespiyê and Kobanê.

Ziyad Rustem stated that the damage incurred so far, especially in strategic service centres, has reached 5 million dollars and added that they have not yet determined all the damage due to the attacks.

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## 5 Turkish soldiers killed in actions by the guerrillas

ANF | BEHDINAN | 27 OCTOBER 2024

The Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) issued a statement about the war amidst the Turkish occupation attacks on the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement on Sunday, five Turkish soldiers were killed in the Xakurke region during actions by guerrilla fighters of the HPG and the Free Women's Troops (YJA Star). On the other hand, the Turkish air force has bombed the guerrilla areas almost fifty times in the past two days.

HPG provided the following details regarding the actions by the guerrillas and attacks by the Turkish army:

### Xakurkê

On 25 October, guerrillas with semi-automatic weapons targeted a Turkish unit advancing on a tunnel in the Lolan area. A skirmish ensued in which four soldiers were killed. Another soldier in the area was killed today by a YJA Star sniper. On Friday, YJA Star guerrillas fired heavy weapons at the invading troops in the Girê Mesken resistance area.

### Zap and Metîna

On the western front of the Zap region, a HPG sniper destroyed a radar system installed by the Turkish army in the Girê Cûdî area on Saturday. The same day, guerrillas intervened twice with light weapons against Turkish troops advancing in the direction of a tunnel system in the area. In Girê Bahar and Girê Amêdîyê, as well as in Dergelê in the Metîna region, the invading troops were struck by the guerrillas four times yesterday with semi-automatic and heavy weapons.

## Attacks by the Turkish army

In the last two days, the Turkish army has used banned explosives five times against guerrilla tunnels in the areas of Girê FM, Girê Cûdî and Girê Amêdiyê. On Friday and Saturday, fighter jets bombed areas in the Xakurke, Gare, Metîna and Zap regions 13 times and attack helicopters 35 times.



## Turkey continues its attacks in South Kurdistan

ANF | 28 OCTOBER 2024

According to the information received, a bomb-laden drone crashed on the Dêrelök-Amêdiyê road on Monday morning.

The road was closed to traffic. Local authorities have not yet made any statement.

### House bombed in Amêdiyê

In a separate attack, last night, the Turkish state bombed a house in the village of Guherze in Amêdiyê.

The Social Peace Building Teams (CPT) said that the Turkish state targeted the house in the village of Guherze in the Amêdiyê district of Duhok with artillery.

The artillery shell was fired from the base of the Turkish army in Bahar Tepesi in the occupied South Kurdistan.

The house and most of its belongings were destroyed in the attack.

It was reported that three children who were in the house, were taken to Amêdiyê Hospital in shock.



## Turkish army launches new operation in Mardin

ANF | MARDIN | 28 OCTOBER 2024

A large-scale operation was launched by the Turkish army in the Bagok Mountain countryside of Nusaybin (Nisêbîn) district of Mardin (Mêrdîn).

The military operation began on Monday morning. The Turkish forces dispatched dozens of armored vehicles to Xirbê Mishka, Sedderîye, Marîn and the surrounding villages.



It was reported that helicopters were flying over the region as part of the operation.



## Three arrested in YPJ operations against ISIS cells

ANF | 28 OCTOBER 2024

The Media Center of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) released a statement providing information about their latest actions against ISIS cells.

"In these days when our region, Rojava and northeastern Syria, is facing violent attacks by the Turkish occupation, ISIS terrorist cells are attempting to carry out new attacks and massacres against our people. Accordingly, our security units in YPJ approached with great precision and executed a series of operations against two different ISIS cells," said the YPJ statement on Monday.

According to the statement, YPJ units carried out a special operation on the Al-Hasakah-Al-Shaddadi road, resulting in the arrest of two members of ISIS cells and the defusal of an explosive device they had planted on the road. The YPJ units conducted another operation in the Deir ez-Zor area, which led to the arrest of one ISIS member and the seizure of a large quantity of ammunition in his possession.

As a result of these two operations, three members of ISIS cells were arrested, an explosive device was neutralized, and a quantity of ammunition was seized. In this way, a new plan by the ISIS terrorist cells was thwarted.

"As the Women's Protection Units (YPJ), we pledge to all women and our people facing multiple attacks that we will remain true to our vow and will be on the front lines of resistance to thwart all plans and attacks of extermination and occupation," the statement underlined.



## 10 bar associations call on the government and all actors to seek peaceful and political solutions

ANF | 28 OCTOBER 2024

10 bar associations in Northern Kurdistan made a joint written statement on the invasion attacks of the Turkish state against North and East Syria.

The statement said that Turkey's warplanes carried out strikes in many areas of North and East Syria, leading to civilian deaths and damage to civilian living spaces.

The joint statement by the bar associations of Ağrı, Batman, Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Iğdır, Muş, Siirt, Urfa and Şırnak and Van provinces includes the following:

“Throughout history, the security policies preferred instead of peaceful policies to resolve the Kurdish issue have led to nothing but pain and tears. We believe that the military methods that have been tried over and over again instead of raising the hope for peace and making use of this possibility do not contribute to the solution. The areas targeted by airstrikes are where Kurds live densely and where security and civilian life have been re-established after the civil war in Syria. It is indisputable that the Republic of Turkey's maintenance of peaceful relations with neighbouring peoples has a positive impact on Turkey's internal and social peace. As the regional bar associations, with the responsibility of defending peace, we see the operations in the region that feed insolvency as dangerous for peace and invite the government and all actors to seek peaceful and political solutions.”

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## YPJ fighter wounded in Turkish attack in Manbij dies

ANF | 29 OCTOBER 2024

The Media Center of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ) released a statement announcing the martyrdom of one of their fighters, Tolîn Belşîn Baz, who sustained severe injuries from an attack by the Turkish occupying state in Manbij on September 25.

YPJ paid tribute to Tolîn Belşîn and extended their condolences to her family, the Kurdish nation, and her comrades in the struggle, renewing their commitment and vow to their martyrs.

**The identity information of the fallen YPJ fighter is as follows:**

Name and Surname: Amine Ahmed

Alias: Tolîn Belşîn Baz

Place of Birth: Kobani

Place and Date of Martyrdom: Manbij / 27.10.2024

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## HPG: Five soldiers were killed and three others wounded in guerrilla actions

ANF | BEHDINAN | 29 OCTOBER 2024

The Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that the guerrillas are continuing their resistance against the Turkish occupation troops in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement on Tuesday, four Turkish soldiers have been killed and three wounded by guerrilla snipers in the Girê Bahar resistance area on the western front of the Zap region and in Lolan near Xakurke since Sunday. A fifth soldier was killed in Metîna when an attempt to advance on the tunnel complex in Dergelê was met with guerrilla fire.

In Lolan, guerrillas from the Free Women's Troops (YJA Star) also targeted soldiers who were planting explosive devices at underground guerrilla points and a member of the occupation troops was injured. In the resistance area of Şêlazê, which is also in the Xakurke region, a Turkish army helicopter was fired upon. According to HPG, the helicopter was hit and forced to retreat from the area.

Regarding the continued attacks on the Medya Defence Zones, HPG reported that in the last two days the Turkish army has used banned explosives at least ten times against two guerrilla tunnels in the resistance areas of Girê FM in Zap and Lolan in Xakurke. In addition, HPG reported a total of 73 air strikes by fighter jets and attack helicopters on 27 and 28 October on several locations in Qandil, Xakurke, Gare, Metîna and Zap.

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## SDF captures two ISIS operatives after security operation in Hol Camp

ANF | 30 OCTOBER 2024

On Tuesday, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Center reported that SDF Military Operation Teams (TOL) carried out a security operation against ISIS cells in al-Hol Camp.

According to the Press Center, the Military Operation Teams tracked the cell members and located their hideout before conducting a raid and capturing them.

The statement identified the detainees as Khalid Mahmoud Ali from Haditha, in Iraq's Anbar province, and Abdullah Jamal Khalaf from Ramadi, also in Anbar.

It was noted that both operatives joined ISIS in Iraq before moving to Syria, where they continued their activities in al-Hol Camp as part of a covert cell responsible for numerous acts of terrorism. The statement added that the two were involved in attempts to smuggle ISIS families out of the camp, provide financial support, and facilitate the spread of ISIS ideology by establishing external connections.

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## HPG pays tribute to guerrilla commander Memed Cûdî

ANF | BEHDINAN | 30 OCTOBER 2024

Guerrilla commander Memed Cûdî fell on 25 October in Mardin (Mêrdîn), said the Press Center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) in a statement. Details surrounding the death of the commander of the Mardin regional command remain incomplete and are under investigation.

In the statement, the HPG described Memed Cûdî as an intelligent, aware, diligent, selfless, and mature comrade who embodied the spirit of rebellion and profound love for the homeland of the people of Mardin. The HPG extended their condolences to his family, the people of Mardin, and all of Kurdistan.

### The HPG shared the following information about Memed Cûdî's biography:

Codename: Memed Cûdî

Full Name: Ramazan Aktaş

Birthplace: Mêrdîn

Parents' Names: Hamdiye – Alaattin

Date and Place of Death: 25 October 2024 / Mardin

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## 604 drinking water wells stopped operating due to Turkish attacks on North-East Syria

ANF | HESEKE | 30 OCTOBER 2024

Cizre Canton Union of Municipalities made a statement about the latest wave of attacks by the Turkish state against North-East Syria.

Bêrîvan Ömer, Vice President of the Union of Municipalities of Cizre Canton, stated that the invading Turkish state targeted many important points such as infrastructure, strategic service centres, oil refineries, gas and electricity stations, bakeries and flour warehouses in the region in a total of 168 thousand attacks.

Due to the attacks, the statement said, fuel oil did not reach many centres, especially drinking water stations, causing many water wells to stop. A total of 604 drinking water wells stopped operating.

It was noted that a member of the fire brigade was wounded while trying to extinguish the fires that broke out during the attacks.

The Union of Municipalities of Cizre Canton emphasised that they will work with all their strength to provide important services for the needs of the people. The Union saluted the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Internal Security Forces for their resistance against the attacks.



## HPG: Five Turkish soldiers were killed in actions by the guerrillas

ANF | **BEHDINAN** | 31 OCTOBER 2024

The Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) released a statement about the continuing guerrilla resistance against the Turkish occupation troops in the guerrilla-held Medya Defence Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) and the attacks of the Turkish army.

According to the HPG statement on Thursday, five soldiers of the Turkish occupation troops have been killed in the past two days as the guerrillas targeted the positions and armoured vehicles of the Turkish forces. HPG stated that helicopters of the occupying Turkish army landed on the KDP outpost and retrieved the dead and wounded soldiers from the area with the help of the KDP, the ruling party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The statement said that the Turkish state continued to use banned weapons, while banned explosives were used 15 times and guerrilla areas were bombed 41 times by warplanes and helicopters.

### Guerrilla actions in Zap and Xakurke

On the western front of the Zap region, the guerrillas struck a Turkish position in the Girê Bahar area with heavy weapons on Monday, destroying a grenade launcher. On Tuesday, a soldier was killed in the area by a guerrilla sniper. Yesterday, the occupying troops in the Girê Amêdîyê area were struck by the guerrillas with heavy weapons. On the same day, a soldier was killed by a guerrilla sniper in the Lolan area of Xakurke.

On 29 October, a Turkish unit was observed by the guerrillas in the Sergelê area in Zap and struck from the air the following day by the Şehîd Axîn Mûş guerrilla unit. Three occupiers were killed and two others

injured, and their ammunition exploded. Twenty minutes later, two armoured vehicles arrived to reinforce them. They were also targeted by the guerrillas using sabotage tactics and one of the armoured vehicles was damaged.

With the help of the KDP forces, the Turkish army took their dead and wounded soldiers to a KDP outpost in Sergelê. From there, they were transported away by a military helicopter. The Sergelê area was subsequently bombed for almost an hour and a half by Turkish attack helicopters.

### **Attacks by the Turkish army**

Regarding the attacks by the Turkish army in the last two days, HPG reported that banned explosives were used a total of fifteen times against guerrillas' tunnels in the Lolan area in Xakurke and in Girê FM area in Zap. In addition, HPG reported 14 air strikes by fighter jets and 27 attacks by attack helicopters on various areas in the Xakurke, Gare, Metîna, Qandil and Zap regions.



## **Village in South Kurdistan devastated by the KDP and the Turkish army**

**ANF | BEHDINAN | 1 NOVEMBER 2024**

Thousands of local people have fled their homes due to the Turkish attacks on southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). One of the affected villages is Dergelê. The village was devastated by South Kurdistan's ruling party, KDP, and the Turkish army, and the inhabitants were displaced.

As the Turkish army continues targeting the civilian population in southern Kurdistan, video footage from the village of Dergelê in Metîna shows how the houses, property and fields of the villagers were attacked, devastated and looted.

The Turkish army has been attacking the Metîna region since 23 April 2021, mainly targeting the north of Metîna. On 16 June, the attacks were extended to the south and the areas of Golka, Şêlazê, Dergelê and Bazê were particularly targeted by the Turkish invasion campaign. From day one, villages in these regions were attacked, and the local people were expelled from the region.

Local sources reported numerous attacks on the homes of residents of the village of Dergelê.

After the people had resisted being driven out by the Turkish army and the collaborators of the KDP and had repeatedly returned, the village was devastated by the Turkish army. Warplanes bombed the houses and soldiers looted the property of the inhabitants. The destruction caused can be clearly seen on the videos.

The residents of the village explained that the Turkish state had asked them to leave the village through the KDP. But when they returned to their village, they found massive destruction. Therefore, the people blame

the KDP for these attacks and the looting of their homes. The people's anger at the KDP is particularly great because in the past, many of them had joined the peshmerga forces.

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## World Kobanê Day: The victory of the Kurds, the defeat that fascism could not digest

**HIVDA HEBUN | KOBANE | 1 NOVEMBER 2024**

Following the call of 130 academics, writers and journalists from different countries of the world, including Nobel Peace Prize winner, human rights defender Adolfo Perez Esquivel and American philosopher and linguist Noam Chomsky, 1 November 2014 was declared as World Kobanê Day by the European Union Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) and Peace Campaign Initiative with the call for “global mobilisation for Kobanê and humanity” against ISIS.

People in Daraa, in the south of Syria, started demonstrations against the government on 15 March 2011. When these demonstrations started to spread to other cities of the country, the Damascus government started to use violence against the people in order to suppress the uprising. In particular, Ahrar al-Sham, al-Nusra Front and many other mercenaries supported by the Turkish state and some regional states started to attack the cities of Rojava (Western Kurdistan). The first attack was on the city of Serêkaniyê. Thanks to the great resistance of Kurdish youth, all attacks by the mercenaries were thwarted. On the one hand, the people of Rojava were waging a relentless struggle against the attacks of the mercenaries supported by the Turkish state. On the other hand, they were continuing their self-administration efforts.

### **Popular organisation first, then the declaration of the revolution**

In Kobanê, work began on the formation of the People's Assembly on 23 February 2012. In parallel, activities such as Mala Jin (Women's House) and a Kurdish language institution were accelerated. On 19 July 2012, the first spark of the revolution was lit in Kobanê, which would go down in history as the symbol of resistance. The people of Kobanê seized the institutions affiliated to the Damascus government and declared the 19 July Revolution. The spark lit in Kobanê continued in Afrin and Cizre.

### **The arrival of ISIS, the road map of resistance**

In June 2014, ISIS captured Mosul, the largest city of Iraq, in only 6 days. In August of the same year, ISIS attacked Shengal and started to spread fear all over the world. Descending like a dark black cloud wherever it entered, ISIS created a hurricane of fear all over the world. ISIS designated the Syrian city of Raqqa as its capital, and started selling hundreds of women they kidnapped from Shengal (Sinjar) in public squares. On 15 September 2014, ISIS launched an attack on the village of Serzûrî, 37 kilometres away from Kobanê. They were planning to divide Kobanê into two and thus make the occupation easier by taking Serzûrî, a strategic position in the region. Yet, there was something that ISIS did not consider. Kobanê was not like Mosul, Raqqa or Shengal. There were 12 free-spirited, selfless fighters who had created them-

selves with the Apoist philosophy. The resistance of 12 selfless Kurdish youngsters in Serzûrî determined the road map of the resistance to be put up from then on.

### **Resistance exceeding the borders**

The people and fighters of Kobanê, with the limited means at their disposal, put up a historic 134-day resistance against ISIS. This resistance then began to spread to all parts of Kurdistan in waves. Especially in Northern Kurdistan, thousands of young people started to flock to Kobanê. People tried to cross the border into Kobanê. The Turkish state, the biggest supporter of ISIS, attacked the masses gathered at the border, but they could not succeed in making Kurdish youth, women, old people and children take a single step back. With each passing day, the number of people supporting the Kobanê resistance was increasing. The growing resistance in Kobanê was now exceeding the borders of Kurdistan and spreading all over the world in waves. Kurds and their friends were standing up all over the world.

### **The defeat started in Kobanê, ended in Baghouz**

As the anger against ISIS grew all over the world amid the Kobanê resistance, the hatred and anger of the Turkish state, which patronised ISIS, against the Kurdish people and the Rojava revolution was also growing. So much so that Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan openly confessed his support for ISIS. On 7 October 2014 in Antep, Erdoğan said 'Kobanê is about to fall'. After these remarks, the anger of the Kurdish people erupted like a volcano. 50 civilians lost their lives as a result of the attacks of the Turkish state's counter forces in these uprisings that went down in history as the '6-8 October Protests'. On 26 January 2015, Kobanê declared the first defeat that would bring about the end of ISIS.

After Kobanê, YPG, YPJ and SDF fighters started operations to erase ISIS mercenaries from the territory of Northern and Eastern Syria. The resistance that started in Kobanê continued in Manbij, Tabqa, Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor, and lastly in Baghouz (Baxoz), the last stronghold of ISIS.

### **Indigestible defeat, attack on the supporters of resistance**

Unable to digest the defeat of ISIS, the Turkish fascist government started to roll up its sleeves for 'revenge'. In the first place, it started an arrest storm against those who supported the resistance under the name of 'Kobanê Conspiracy Case'. Hundreds of people were detained, imprisoned and tortured. They were not satisfied with this, and put new genocide plans into action against Kobanê, the stronghold of the resistance against ISIS cruelty. They bombed Kobanê every day under various pretexts and massacred newborn children and women.

### **People have shown that they will not submit**

On 5 October 2023, the Turkish state carried out an intensive attack on Northern and Eastern Syria. During these attacks, all infrastructure, service areas and civilian places were targeted and dozens of civilians lost their lives. The people of Rojava, who buried those martyred in the invasion of the Turkish state, continued their resistance against attacks. In fact, in this past year, they have shown with their determined and resistant stance that they will increase their struggle against the occupying Turkish state and ISIS and not submit.



The Turkish state once again launched attacks on 23 October 2024 against the areas of Northern and Eastern Syria. In these 4-day attacks, civilian areas, the entire infrastructure of the region, living spaces and economic areas of the people were targeted. Once again, the people of Rojava continue to resist the attacks of the Turkish state.

### **A people who have tasted freedom once will not be easily defeated**

The people of Kobanê and all the people of Northern and Eastern Syria, who continue their resistance against the invasion attacks of ISIS and the Turkish state, will celebrate the day when their resistance in Kobanê opened to the world on 1 November in the shadow of the attacks. Kobanê is ready to send a message to the Turkish state that a people who have tasted freedom once will not be easily defeated.



## **YPG: We remain dedicated to the values that made Kobanê a universal symbol of human dignity**

**ANF | 1 NOVEMBER 2024**

The General Command of the People's Defense Units (YPG) released a statement on the occasion of 1 November, World Kobanê Day.

The YPG statement on Friday includes the following:

“Today, we commemorate World Kobanê Day, a day that embodies resilience, sacrifice, and the unyielding pursuit of freedom. A decade after the historic resistance that sparked hope worldwide, we remain dedicated to the values that made Kobanê a universal symbol of courage and human dignity.

Kobanê's resistance was more than a battle against ISIS; it was a profound stand for humanity, a choice of hope over despair, and a defense of the core principles of freedom, equality, and coexistence. Our heroic fighters, young women and men who stood shoulder to shoulder, demonstrated that resistance serves not only military victory but also the protection of human dignity.

Today, threats to our revolution persist in the geopolitical landscape. Occupying forces and their allies attempt to dismantle the democratic self-governance we have built. Yet we remain resolute in our commitment to peaceful resistance, the building of inclusive institutions, and honoring those who sacrificed for these achievements. To the international community, we emphasize: Kobanê was not an isolated event nor the end of our struggle. The resistance born there endures. The dangers confronting our society and revolution remain as critical as they were a decade ago. While ISIS may be physically defeated on the battlefield, its ideology persists as a formidable threat. Regional actors, notably the occupying Turkish state, continue to support ISIS and other extremist groups covertly, aiming to undermine our revolution and democratic self-governance model. The international community's silence only emboldens those who seek to rekindle this dark ideology.

We will remember our martyrs not just with words, but through actions. By strengthening our social foundations, educating our youth, defending our lands, and resisting the violence and oppression of the Turkish state, ISIS, and their affiliates, we uphold the revolutionary vision of an alternative future. On this day, we reaffirm our commitment to the path of resistance, the protection of our revolution, and the principles of democratic autonomy that inspire us. We extend our congratulations on World Kobanê Day to all our people, the region's communities, and freedom-loving people worldwide.”

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## Five seriously injured in mine explosion in Shehba

ANF | SHEHBA | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

Five people were seriously injured in a mine explosion in the canton of Afrin-Shehba on Friday. According to security forces, the victims, who belong to the same family, are four adults between the ages of 20 and 50 and a two-year-old child. They suffered injuries of varying severity and are being treated at the Avrîn Hospital. According to the clinic, their condition is critical.

The detonation of the mine, which was allegedly left behind by ISIS, occurred on Friday in the town of Til Qerah, which is located in the district of Ehras, south of the city of Tel Rifat. The area is home to a number of refugee camps set up by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria for displaced persons from Afrin.

Explosions with a high mortality rate are a frequent occurrence in the Shehba region. The desert-like land has been heavily mined and booby-trapped by jihadists. It is not uncommon for the victims to be children and young people. A large part of the region east of Afrin, cut off from the outside world because the surrounding area is controlled by Syria, Turkey and pro-Turkish militias, was under ISIS occupation between 2013 and 2015. The situation became particularly dramatic in 2018, when hundreds of thousands of people fled from Afrin to Shehba after the Turkish invasion.

Since the liberation of Shehba by the YPG/YPJ, the Autonomous Administration's Agriculture Committee has been able to clear large areas, especially residential and agricultural land, of ISIS remnants. However, further mine clearance projects are being hampered by continued attacks by Turkish occupation forces.

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## More than 3,300 bombs fired on Afrin-Shehba in October

ANF | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

According to the Afrin-Shehba Canton Defence Forces' balance sheet for the month of October, the Afrin-Shehba Canton in northern Syria was targeted by 1,667 artillery shells, 714 mortars, 826 grenade shells, one SPG shell, 3 missiles, 49 tank shells, 21 UCAVs and 25 bomb-laden drones last month.

During the attacks that targeted cities, towns and villages, 5 people were martyred and 9 people, including 2 Syrian soldiers, were wounded.

On 8 October, 2 civilians were wounded and a construction machine was damaged in Kilûtê village as a result of attacks by UCAVs. On 22 October, two Syrian soldiers were wounded in another attack.

On 23 October, 5 civilians were martyred and 7 others were wounded in an attack on Til Rifet city.

As a result of the attacks, many areas and infrastructure suffered heavy material damage.



## Feminicide

### Özgül Saki: The government refuses to face the truth

ANF | ANKARA | 29 OCTOBER 2024

DEM Party Istanbul MP Özgül Saki told ANF that the primary focus of the "Commission for the Investigation of Violence Against Women" should be to address, in a comprehensive manner, the rising violence against women and its links to the patriarchal system, male dominance, wartime conditions, and poverty.

Speaking about the establishment of the commission, Saki recalled that on 9 October, they called for a general debate to review the government's 22-year track record, assess the impact and damage caused by violence, and identify necessary reforms.

Saki said: "Our proposal was rejected by the AKP-MHP. Male violence, which continues to rise, now results in the murder of at least four women every day. On Friday, 4 October, in Istanbul, two 19-year-old women, İkbâl Uzuner and Ayşenur Halil, were brutally killed by a man named Semih Çelik. Women in many cities said 'Enough is enough,' and protested these femicides. After persistent pressure from the DEM Party Group and support from other opposition parties, all groups in the General Assembly took a unified stance the following day to establish a 'Commission for the Investigation of Violence Against Women.'"

### 22 years of anti-women policies

Highlighting that the government has evaded accountability for the severe harm caused by its 22 years of anti-women policies, instead framing the surge in male violence as isolated incidents, Saki explained: "Our first priority in this commission should be to examine the rise in violence against women comprehensively, addressing its deep-rooted connections to the patriarchal system, male dominance, conditions of war, and poverty."

We are committed to exposing the ways in which policies that erase women's identities from almost every public sphere—restricting them solely to family roles—discussions over alimony rights, the ineffective enforcement of Law No. 6284, withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, and a culture of impunity have collectively emboldened male violence.

If we can find common ground on these issues, our primary aim will be to adopt and honor the principles and demands that have been forged through the feminist and women's movements' long history of struggle. This means revisiting every political and legal regulation and making the necessary changes to secure real protection for women."

### **We will keep women informed**

As women from the socialist, feminist, and Kurdish women's movements, we are committed to fighting male dominance and state-backed violence against women in every sphere of society, said Saki, adding: "Our aim is to connect commission members with all organizations and to foster a truly collective effort. Women across Turkey, including those in Kurdistan, have amassed significant experience through our shared struggle, allowing us to address this issue from a standpoint that links the streets with Parliament, avoiding the constraints of bureaucratic mechanisms.

Together, we have the strength and perspective to create a program grounded in equality and freedom, one that directly opposes male-dominated policies. Recognizing our collective power, we intend to run the commission's work effectively and transparently, keeping all women informed at every step. We will stand together in this struggle and achieve victory together."



## **Women prepare to take to the streets on 25 November**

**ANF | ISTANBUL | 31 OCTOBER 2024**

With the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women approaching on 25 November, women's organizations are preparing events and actions at full gear. The focus of these activities is to establish a street movement against violence towards women and femicides while also engaging in discussions about the causes and roots of male violence. The preparations are centered around practical steps to combat individual violence, patriarchal attitudes, state violence, attacks on women's rights, and police barriers. Feride Eralp and feminist lawyer Diren Cevahir Şen assessed the severity of violence and femicides against women.

### **'Men view violence as a right'**

Eralp pointed out that men perceive violence against women as a right. "Men define their lives within the boundaries of women's lives. – Eralp said - They believe they have a form of ownership over women. This occurs both in Turkey and in various other regions. When men feel angry, become substance abusers, are unhappy for some reason, or face financial ruin, they do not go and kill their bosses; they kill women. This

behavior is rooted in patriarchy. Feminists have been trying to articulate this for many years, and the fundamental point we want to convey is that the manifestation of this as male violence is a power relationship. It arises from a system that allows men to exist by oppressing and exploiting women."

### **'Inequality normalizes violence'**

Eralp emphasized that the male-dominated system gives men the notion of being privileged while placing responsibilities on women. "Despite feminist calls for attention to the laws, there remains an unshaken reality: a man sees himself as having the right to inflict violence on a woman when his word is not heeded. Therefore, this is a matter of dominance. As long as this inequality is not eradicated, violence will continue to be normalized and is already being normalized as we are not accepted as independent beings, but merely as secondary entities within the family framework," she stated.

### **'All forms of violence must be made visible'**

Eralp said that they see the first step of the struggle as naming male violence. She highlighted that society tends to evaluate its response to violence as something distant from their own lives. "There's a widespread belief that the people we know, those who walk down our streets, the local grocery store we shop at, are not the men we live with, who commit violence as if they are individuals with social disorders out there, far from us. However, violence does not start with brutal murders. It begins when a man insists that his wife's salary be deposited into his account, controls what she wears when she goes out, or feels entitled to ask for her phone and social media passwords under the guise of love. This is where we might mislabel it as love instead of violence. The relationship of ownership that men establish with us, where they see themselves as having the right to possess us, lies at the root of violence. We must make these very ordinary forms of violence visible; I believe it is an important duty for us as feminists."

Eralp said that they will be in the streets on 25 November against the normalization of male violence by the state, its impunity, and the state violence established through male violence. She called upon all women to take to the streets.

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## **YPJ Commander Rohilat Afrin: The collapse of ISIS began in Kobanê and ended in Baghouz**

ANF | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

Today is World Kobanê Day. Member of the YPJ General Command, Rohilat Afrin, speaks about the resistance in Kobanê, as well as its importance and role today.

In September 2014, ISIS besieged the city of Kobanê, leading to a mass exodus of its population. YPJ, YPG and SDF forces fought a fierce war.

By the end of September 2014, ISIS had nearly taken all the city.

World Kobanê Day was called out for 1 November, by people in support of the resistance in Kobanê. It was only through the determination, sacrifice and courage of the YPJ and YPG forces that ISIS was finally defeated in early 2015.

You can watch from this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rD85KG0QsQ>



## Ecocide

### Ecology Board: Turkish attacks have caused great damage to the ecology in North-East Syria

ANF | HESEKE | 28 OCTOBER 2024

The occupying Turkish state continues its attacks on North and East Syria, directly targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure. Warplanes, drones and artillery attacks targeted health and education centres, bakeries, flour and grain stores, wheat silos, power stations, companies and factories, telephone networks, water, gas and petrol stations.

The attacks that started in the evening of 23 October resulted in dozens of civilians being killed and wounded. According to Ziyad Rustem, Co-Chair of the Energy Board of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria Region, 120 thousand citizens were left without water and electricity due to the bombing of power stations in Amûdê, Tirbespiyê and Kobanê. Rustem stated that the damage incurred so far, especially in strategic service centres, has reached 5 million dollars.

The attacks also targeted oil fields and oil separation facilities, causing great damage to the ecology of the region.

Cizîr Canton Ecology Board made a statement in front of its headquarters in Heseke city. The statement was read by the Co-Chair of the Board, Mihemed Ehmê, accompanied by the board members.

Speaking about the attacks of the occupying Turkish state and allied mercenaries on ecology, Ehmê cited the practices in Afrin and drew attention to the burning and cutting of trees in Afrin and the uncontrolled digging of wells in Sêrêkaniyê and Girê Spî.

Emphasising that the occupying Turkish state has caused great damage to the ecology of the region with its recent attacks, Ehmê said that the remains of weapons and explosives will have a negative impact on soil, water and air.

Ehmê said that these attacks endanger the lives and existence of people and called on international and regional powers, human rights organisations, and especially ecological organisations, movements and institutions to follow and document the actions of the occupying Turkish state and call these crimes war crimes, crimes against humanity and ecology.

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## State forces do not intervene in the fire on Mount Gabar

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 29 OCTOBER 2024

A fire broke out in a forested area on Mount Gabar in Şırnak province, where the Turkish state continues to plunder nature. A fire broke out in the forested area at Ziyaret Hill on the mountain, which was declared a 'special security zone' by the governorate. It is learned that although there is a road at the scene of the fire, no intervention has been made yet.

Although the Turkish military and village guards in the area for oil exploration were informed, they did not intervene in the fire on the grounds that it is 'mined land'.

It is reported that the area, located at the summit of the old Dara village and Gabar mountain, has been 'forbidden' to civilian access since the 90s.

It is noteworthy that there are only company employees, village guards and soldiers in the area where the fire broke out.

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## Human Rights Violations

### Soldiers take three people into custody in Idil

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 26 OCTOBER 2024

Soldiers raided many houses in the Karalar (Ereban town of the Idil (Hezex), in the province of Şırnak this morning. İhsan Öz, Hikmet Öz and Şavkiye Soyal were taken into custody.

The reason for the detention could not be learned, and the three people were taken to the district gendarmerie station.

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## YouTube and Facebook close Kurdish artist Rotinda's accounts

ANF | 28 OCTOBER 2024

Censorship against Kurdish music and artists continues. Artist Rotinda's social media accounts were closed after they were targeted. Rotinda said that he had been threatened by the same groups of people close to the Turkish government for a long time. The artist said that access to his YouTube and Facebook accounts was blocked as a result of threats and blackmail, and added that his music cannot be blocked.

### 'There is intolerance for Kurdish music'

Rotinda said: "I have been singing for 35 years and these videos have been on the air since 1996. 'Why are they a problem now?' I wrote to YouTube, but they did not respond and closed my account. YouTube and Facebook administrators are discriminating. There is intolerance towards Kurdish culture and music. When I asked who made the decision to block them, they could not answer. My Facebook account was closed 6 months ago with the same excuse. We will expose this everywhere. We call on our people to protect Kurdish music."

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## 15 people sent to prison in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 29 OCTOBER 2024

The people taken into custody in police operations carried out throughout Turkey, following the action of two members of the Immortals Battalion against TUSAŞ facilities in Ankara on 23 October, were brought to the prosecutor's office on Monday after giving their statements at the police station.

Fifteen out of 35 people detained in Istanbul were arrested on charges of being members of an organization.

Among those arrested is lawyer Bedirhan Sarsılmaz, a member of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), who was detained in court.

### Detention based on assumptions

It turned out that the police statements regarding the 35 people detained in Istanbul were completely based on assumptions.

ÖHD member lawyers who took the statements of those detained said that the police did not make any concrete accusations against them, and that all the accusations were explained as assumptions and 'intelligence information'.

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## Dozens of nomads and shepherds detained in Siirt countryside

ANF | SIIRT | 29 OCTOBER 2024

The Turkish army launched an operation in Çemêkarê Plateau in the Herekol region in the countryside of Pervari district of Siirt. The Turkish troops are reported to have detained at least 29 nomads and shepherds in the operation area.

It is reported that detainees were referred to the gendarmerie stations in Kurtalan, Baykan, Pervari, Tillo districts and Siirt city center.

A 24-hour ban on lawyer visits was imposed and a confidentiality order was imposed on the files of the detainees. It is stated that the number of detentions may increase.

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## Kurdish musician taken into custody in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 30 OCTOBER 2024

On 25 October, Kurdish musician Gencay Morkoç was taken into custody in Istanbul alongside dozens of others in a police raid. On Monday, a court issued arrest warrants for around twenty of those detained, alleging links to a terrorist organization. The charges against Morkoç cite his participation in a picnic organized by the Istanbul-based DEM Party as evidence. Authorities claimed the picnic - an event hosted by a legal political party - served as a cover for activities associated with the PKK.

Gencay Morkoç is the lead singer of the Kurdish band Koma Hevra, known for its resistance-oriented music. In late September, Morkoç and fellow band members Zeynep Doğan and Yusuf Keleş were detained following a concert in Amed, allegedly because of their opposition to anti-Kurdish assimilation policies in Turkey.

### **Koma Hevra: "We Will Resist"**

Koma Hevra condemned the arrest of their vocalist as a politically motivated decision lacking any legal basis. In a statement posted on X, the band criticized the rationale for Morkoç's detention as "groundless and fabricated," and said: "This oppressive, anti-democratic system should understand that such tyrannical practices will never discourage us. On the contrary, they will strengthen our resolve. We are committed to resisting until fascism is overturned and this country becomes a garden of democracy."

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## Mayor of Istanbul's Esenyurt district taken into custody

ANF | ISTANBUL | 30 OCTOBER 2024

In Istanbul, several apartments were stormed by police in the early morning, and at least 14 people were taken into custody. Among those detained are musician Zeynep Doğan of the Kurdish music group Koma Hewra and politician Ahmet Özer, who was elected mayor of the Esenyurt district of Istanbul on 31 March. Esenyurt town hall was surrounded by police and Özer's apartment was searched. The detainees are accused of 'membership in a terrorist organisation'. Around twenty people were detained on the same charge on Monday, with flimsy justifications.

### Doğan: Ahmet Özer must be released

Politicians from the CHP and DEM Party called for the immediate release of Ahmet Özer. DEM spokesperson Ayşegül Doğan pointed out in a statement on X that the candidate put forward by the CHP in Esenyurt was elected by consensus. "Obviously, those who do not like the inclusive municipal approach of the Mayor of Esenyurt and his commitment to Kurdish identity and culture are at work again. This attack on the Esenyurt municipality must be stopped and Ahmet Özer must be released," said the DEM Party Spokeswoman.

### Zeybek: An intervention against the latest developments

Those detained were taken to the Istanbul Police Headquarters in Fatih district. Numerous people protested against the detentions in front of the building. CHP MP Gökhan Zeybek announced that a ban on communication had been imposed on Özer and that he would be denied legal counsel for 24 hours. "Apparently, some people are bothered by the fact that our mayor, who was born in Van, is running a city hall in Istanbul," Zeybek said. "We see his detention as an intervention against the developments that have been on Turkey's agenda since 1 October."

### Kaboğlu: No legal basis for the detention

Speaking outside the police headquarters, the chairman of the Istanbul Bar Association, Ibrahim Kaboğlu, said that there was no legal basis for the detention of a serving mayor who is available to answer questions at any time: "Professor Ahmet Özer is in Istanbul and is carrying out his duties. He can be summoned and is able to express himself to any authority. He must be released. If there is any accusation against him, action must be taken in accordance with the constitution and the law."

### Özel: A great conspiracy

CHP leader Özgür Özel and Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu protested the detention on social media. Özel stated: "Our Mayor of Esenyurt, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Özer, was detained in an operation this morning. (...) He has held senior positions in the public sector and academia for years. He had been given clean papers by the relevant authorities only six months ago, when he was still a candidate. The treatment of a scientist, opinion leader and politician, who enjoyed the great favour of the voters of Esenyurt in the elections, is unjust and the accusations are unfounded. These events are not unrelated to what has happened

in recent weeks. We see an ugly game, a great conspiracy. We will neither be part of it nor surrender to you.”

### **İmamoğlu: A valuable scientist and local politician**

The Mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu of the CHP, also made a similar statement and said: “Mr Özer is a valuable scientist and local politician who has worked in the state and held senior positions at universities, from dean to vice rector. Turkey must stop being a country where politicians and scientists are subjected to dawn raids.”

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## Trustee appointed to the Municipality of Esenyurt

ANF | ISTANBUL | 31 OCTOBER 2024

The Turkish Ministry of Interior appointed a trustee to the Municipality of Esenyurt, after its mayor, Ahmet Özer, was [remanded in custody](#) on Wednesday night.

Istanbul Deputy Governor Can Aksoy was appointed as trustee in Özer's place.

Özer, who was arrested on charges of "being a member of an illegal organization," stated that he had previously worked in numerous public institutions as a public servant and had never faced any investigation against him before.

Özer added: "I have been successfully serving as mayor for seven months, and this is a politically motivated action where the will of the people is being seized."

Özer emphasized that the allegations lack evidence, noting that framing his past works and accomplishments as criminal acts is a politically motivated move.

He remarked that the trustee appointment process was introduced to the public through the media, and added: "All of this has been fabricated, forced, and orchestrated with political maneuvers to remove me from office. A foundation for appointing a trustee has been laid. Even while I was still at the prosecutor's office, reports on some media were stating that a trustee had already been appointed."

Özer also clarified some of the alleged meetings and relationships cited in the accusations. He explained that his meeting with former Van MP Remzi Kartal was based on their shared background. Both are from the same region and the meeting took place within a framework of a personal and human connection.

Özer noted that even a concert organized in collaboration with the Esenyurt District Governor's Office was cited as evidence against him. He explained that all aspects of the concert's arrangements were handled by officials and emphasized that it was impossible for him to monitor what was said on stage.

Finally, Özer pointed out that a previous wiretap investigation had also found no incriminating evidence against him. Highlighting his stable residence and the absence of any flight risk, he appealed for his release.

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## Doğan: We must raise our voices and resist together against the usurpation of Esenyurt Municipality

ANF | ANKARA | 31 OCTOBER 2024

The Spokesperson of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), Ayşegül Doğan, held a press conference at the party's headquarters on current developments.

Doğan condemned the imprisonment of Ahmet Özer, CHP Mayor of Istanbul's Esenyurt district municipality, and the usurpation of his office by a state-appointed trustee to replace the democratically elected mayor.

In the meantime, the Central Executive Committee (MYK) of the DEM Party will convene in Istanbul today against the usurpation of Esenyurt Municipality. The arrest of Özer and the usurpation of the municipality will be on the agenda of the Central Executive Committee to be convened under the leadership of the co-chairs. Following the meeting at the DEM Party Esenyurt district building, a statement is expected to be made by the party. After the MYK meeting, DEM Party Co-Chair Tülay Hatimoğulları, members of the MYK, Parliamentary Group, provincial and district organisations will participate in the demonstration in front of Esenyurt Municipality at 16.00. The DEM Party called on all its organisations in Istanbul to take part in the protest action. On the other hand, the DEM Party called on its provincial and district organisations across Turkey and Kurdistan to protest the usurpation of Esenyurt Municipality.

"As we said before, if we do not say no to the trustees all together, if we do not raise a strong voice, this lawlessness, inequality and injustice will grow like a snowball and steal from all our lives. I wish we did not have to remind this, but unfortunately, from Hakkari to Esenyurt, we are facing the same game again from 2016 to today. Again, an operation was carried out by breaking down doors at dawn. It could have been done in a very different way if an investigation had been carried out against Esenyurt Mayor Ahmet Özer in accordance with the law and democracy. Now we all know that this is not the case," Doğan said.

Noting that Esenyurt is the biggest district of Turkey with one and a half million population, Ayşegül Doğan said, "The targeted person is a mayor elected through Urban Consensus. Therefore, it needs to be evaluated from many perspectives. They want to send a message to the Urban Consensus, they want to send a message to Istanbul, and they want to send a message to the democratic opposition that is likely to grow stronger."

Ayşegül Doğan pointed out that the presumption of innocence was out of circulation and continued: "We have always said it and we say it again, the usurpation of will is destruction and plunder. To ignore the will of the people is to completely destroy the already damaged trust in democracy. We must raise our voices,

object and resist all together. We must fight against this. We must use all our democratic rights and force them to act in accordance with democracy and the law.

And, why now? It is being evaluated with the latest developments. Why Esenyurt, why Ahmet Özer, and why the mayor of Esenyurt? Why are these questions being asked? There is a great need for social reconciliation and peace. After 31 March (elections), this has been the most talked about topic and one of the hottest topics on the agenda so far is the need for social peace and reconciliation. Because it is precisely at such a time that the strengthening of the democratic opposition is feared, and with this fear and panic, it is thought that the democratic opposition could be weakened through such political operations and Turkey can win. But this is not how Turkey wins, this is not how Turkey can win."

Pointing to the remarks made by Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan, Ayşegül Doğan said: "For an unprejudiced evaluation, it is necessary to have learned a lesson from the past. For an unprejudiced evaluation, it is necessary to give up the methods of the past. On the one hand, you will make calls for embrace, on the other hand, you will try to make it look like we have a clenched fist. Look, we do not have a hidden fist here, it is clear. You appoint a trustee to the biggest district of Turkey's biggest province. You accuse the mayor of his Kurdish identity and arrest him. This is unacceptable. This does not concern only the DEM Party, nor only the CHP. Everyone who needs a real embrace, social reconciliation and peace in this country demands that this practice be reversed.

To target a mayor who was elected with the votes of all layers of society is to target the spirit of urban consensus. What is targeted is the model of living and governing together. Please go back and look at the accounts of Esenyurt Municipality and Ahmet Özer, what he has shared, what he has promised, what kind of model he wants to implement. The target is pluralism, inclusiveness, social municipalism, democratic and participatory municipalism. This is precisely what they are disturbed by; local democracy. They don't want us to talk about these topics.

We, as the DEM Party, see this game. We are the political party that knows these conspiracies best. They have been trying to intimidate us with the same evil for years. We call out to those who are trying to compromise and discourage us. Such games, conspiracies, tricks and schemes, unfortunately make Turkey lose. They do not make anyone win. Those who hope for political benefit from this should remember the municipalities that we took back one by one from the trustees despite all the traps, pressures and difficulties we faced.

The President said yesterday that there is no justice where there is lawlessness. What other lawlessness could one ever face? We learn about the appointment of a trustee and the details of the operation from the media. This republic is not the republic of a certain person, a certain group, a certain mass, a certain sect, a certain ethnicity. It is said that this republic is the republic of the Kurds as well as the Turks. But as the hours pass, we are being made to feel that this republic is the republic of a certain group, mass, sect, denomination and ethnic origin.

Denial, ignoring and assimilation continue with the same security policies. It has always been impossible to open a new path in Turkey. Social peace, embrace, reconciliation and dialogue cannot be achieved in this way. Sincerity is their own discourse. Is this how you show sincerity, is this sincerity, is this authenticity, is this realism? Will you ensure social embrace by appointing trustees and ruling the country with a regime of trustees?"

Answering journalists' questions about the calls made by Erdoğan and his partner Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), Doğan once again pointed to Abdullah Öcalan as the main interlocutor for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question through dialogue.

“Apart from Erdoğan and Bahçeli's rhetoric, there is nothing we can call a process. Concerns and worries are increasing. We should not be limited to mere calls. I repeat; the key is in the conditions,” she added.

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## Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee detained in Dersim

ANF | DERSİM | 31 OCTOBER 2024

Azime Bozkurt, a female employee of the pro-Kurdish ‘Yeni Yaşam’ newspaper, was taken into custody in Dersim on Thursday and taken to the provincial police headquarters. Reasons for the detention by the anti-terrorism police were not given.

The newspaper is a legal publication published by the Arinna publishing house in Istanbul. Since it is published in the tradition of the free Kurdish press and is a successor to Özgür Gündem newspaper, which was banned by a state emergency decree in 2016, it is permanently in the sights of the Turkish repressive authorities. The newspaper is one of the few in Turkey to report in detail on the consequences of the AKP government's war in the Kurdish settlement areas. The staff of the newspaper is also affected by arbitrary persecution.

Azime Bozkurt has been frequently detained in recent years for her work for pro-Kurdish newspapers. In 2016, Turkish police harassed the young woman, who was working for the Kurdish-language newspaper ‘Azadiya Welat’ at the time, in a dead end and threatened her with death. Last summer, Bozkurt was detained in the middle of the street in Dersim. The reason for her detention was pictures of the PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan on the front page of the newspaper issues that she carried with her.

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## 37 bar associations call appointment of trustee to the Municipality of Esenyurt a blow to democracy

ANF | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

Following the arrest of the Mayor of Esenyurt, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Özer, and the subsequent appointment of a trustee to the municipality, 37 bar associations issued a statement titled ‘Trustees are a blow to democracy.’

In a written statement, the 37 bar associations said: "Although Mayor Özer could have gone to testify upon invitation due to his official position, he was taken into custody, and a detention order was issued despite no evidence showing the risk of fleeing. These measures are disproportionate and legally inappropriate. The investigative procedures violate the Constitution and Turkey's international commitments in various ways. The search, detention, and arrest processes infringe upon Articles 2, 19, 20, 127, and 138 of the Constitution."

The statement continued: "Appointing a trustee, undermining the will of the people, which emerges from the exercise of the right to vote - a core element of democracy - constitutes a significant violation of democratic values. The trustee practice is fundamentally contrary to the principles of a democratic rule of law and local democracy. Even though trustee appointments are technically legal, this legality does not erase their unconstitutionality or lack of legal and social legitimacy."

We believe the detention measure applied to Esenyurt Mayor Ahmet Özer is disproportionate. We call for the decision to appoint a trustee to be rescinded and for the legal process to be conducted with respect for fair trial rights and the right to reputation."

The bar associations that signed the statement are as follows:

"Afyonkarahisar Bar Association, Antalya Bar Association, Ardahan Bar Association, Çanakkale Bar Association, Dîlok Bar Association, Colemêrg Bar Association, Hatay Bar Association, Îdir Bar Association, Muğla Bar Association, Mûş Bar Association, Sêrt Bar Association, Riha Bar Association, Şîrnex Bar Association, Istanbul Bar Association, Adana Bar Association, Semsûr Bar Association, Amed Bar Association, Mêrdîn Bar Association, Mersin Bar Association, Agirî Bar Association, Balıkesir Bar Association, Êlih Bar Association, İzmir Bar Association, Qers Bar Association, Burdur Bar Association, Kırklareli Bar Association, Bursa Bar Association, Kocaeli Bar Association, Denizli Bar Association, Manisa Bar Association, Çewlêg Bar Association, Bedlis Bar Association, Mereş Bar Association, Tekirdağ Bar Association, Uşak Bar Association, Wan Bar Association, Zonguldak Bar Association."



## People taken into custody in Herekol tortured

ANF | SIIRT | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

The statement procedures of 24 people taken into custody after the military operation launched by the Turkish state on 28 October in Çemêkarê Yaylası in Herekol region of Siirt concluded on Thursday at the Siirt Provincial Gendarmerie Command.

The detainees are expected to be referred to the courthouse today.

It was learned that the detainees were beaten. The family of Recep Kipçak, one of those taken into custody, is accused of being a member of HPG. He went to Siirt (Sêrt) from Van (Wan), and the family of İl-

han Tekinalp came from Hakkari (Colemêrg). It was learned that Kipçak and Tekinalp were tortured during detention.

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## IHD: Peace cannot be left to the arbitrariness of the government

ANF | ANKARA | 1 NOVEMBER 2024

The Human Rights Association (IHD) continues its Peace Vigil in the first week of every month. The vigil this month was held at IHD Ankara Branch on the occasion of 1 November World Kobanê Day and banners were hung in the vigil area reading ‘We celebrate 1 November Kobanê Day. We defend the right to peace against war and conflicts’.

IHD Central Executive Board (MYK) Member Nuray Çevirmen called for an investigation into human rights violations in Kobanê and for those responsible to be tried at the International Criminal Court.

IHD Co-Chair Hüseyin Küçükbalaban referred to the coexistence of peoples in North and East Syria and said: “Peace is not an issue that can be left to the decisions of the government alone. Civil society organisations, women, youth and all segments of society should be involved in the process.”

Küçükbalaban remarked that the isolation of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan should be lifted and the conditions for talks should be provided in order for him to contribute to social peace. He added that they would continue their efforts for this purpose.

Küçükbalaban said, “Instead of leaving it to the arbitrariness of the government, we will make an effort to pave the way for Abdullah Öcalan to meet with both his own organisation and social segments and to create conditions for this process to take place.”

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# Interview

## Zilar Stêrk: The reality is that an absolute isolation system is implemented in Imralı

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

Zilar Stêrk, member of the General Presidential Council of the KCK, about the current discussions surrounding the physical freedom of the Kurdish people's leader, Abdullah Öcalan, and the related Kurdish question. Stêrk also talked about the 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question' international campaign.

*As part of this resistance, there is a global campaign that was launched last year under the name 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question'. What can you tell us about it? How do you rate the progress of the campaign?*

The global freedom campaign was launched in Europe on October 10th of last year under the leadership of our international friends. The campaign since then has grown exponentially. Generally speaking, in the past twenty-six years, since the beginning of the conspiracy, the international friends of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] and of the Kurdish people have multiplied. Gradually, these friends began to appear on all continents of the world. What is the reason for this? The main reason for this is that the thoughts of Rêber Apo are gradually reflecting on the world of humanity. Why wasn't this happening before? Because nobody knew much about Kurds. No one knew much about Rêber Apo. All that was known about Rêber Apo and the Kurds was from the enemy's perspective. In other words, they knew Rêber Apo through the "Baby-Killer-Propaganda," the terror propaganda. There was great anti-propaganda carried out. During all these years of this conspiracy, Rêber Apo put the vast world his mentality was into books. Rêber Apo turned his thoughts into written material. The prison writings he presented to the European Court of Human Rights and the analyses Rêber Apo had made while he was still outside were translated into different languages, languages spoken by different peoples, and spread.

The peoples began to get acquainted with these ideas, these revolutionary thoughts of Rêber Apo. They began to get acquainted with this comprehensive world of his and began to take an enormous interest in it. Why? Because Rêber Apo actually developed a brand new world out of these conditions of captivity. He developed a whole new world of thought. He developed a world of meaning. He developed a new world of democratic libertarian thought. As people became acquainted with this world, they began to realize that the old propaganda about Rêber Apo was not true at all. Therefore, they started to approach more sincerely. They started to see the truth. Based on this reality, they started to embrace Rêber Apo and his ideas. They started to cluster around him. If you meet a new world of thought, you position yourself within that new world of thought. You adopt an attitude. Today these international friends also want and demand the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Why? Because the freedom of the Rêber Apo is also the freedom of these democratic libertarian thoughts. It is the liberation, release, and emancipation of the new world of

thought from isolation. They put Rêber Apo under isolation and locked him up. They don't allow a single word to come out of Imrali.

This global campaign, which has developed under the leadership of our international friends, is gradually getting more concrete in the form of daily actions and activities. These actions and activities are becoming more diverse and colorful; conferences are being held; there are theoretical intellectual discussions; Rêber Apo's prison writings are being read collectively; reading days are organized; and discussions are being developed. Rêber Apo's thoughts are both read and discussed. Inspiration is taken from this. As the spirit, inspiration, and morale are taken from him, people carry out different mass actions and activities. They organize marches, various demonstrations in front of different international organizations, vigils, and so much more. For example, there is the vigil that has been developing for more than ten years. The vigil for the freedom of Rêber Apo in Strasbourg. In this sense, there is a tremendous determination and level of assumption of responsibility.

The global campaign has left one year behind. During this one-year period, it has created great pressure on the conspiratorial forces, but also on the genocidal colonialist Turkish state and the fascist AKP MHP regime. It has put them in great anxiety. Because gradually Rêber Apo's thoughts are becoming internationalized and socialized. It is gradually beginning to find a broad international social ground. This is a new wave of revolution. This is a very historical development. This new wave of revolution, which is developing under the leadership of Rêber Apo's ideas, carries within itself a revolutionary energy equal to the French Revolution in history. It carries revolutionary energy equal to the revolutionary energy of the October Revolution. And this is spreading and growing.

Still, the Kurds are under great difficulties. What does overcoming these difficulties depend on? It depends on the increasing comprehensiveness of the struggle. This is also within the scope of the campaign led by our friends. It is the 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question' campaign. Our international friends also see that the solution to the Kurdish question and the freedom of Rêber Apo are intertwined.

In this one-year period, the struggle has led to a tremendous development in the mentioned aspects. The circles that support this campaign are very diverse. From women to men, from thinkers to intellectuals, from academics to politicians, from lawyers to ecologists, from anarchists to socialists, from feminists to women's liberationists, from Nobel Prize winners to activists, from artists to writers – in other words, people from many different sections and layers of society are supporting this campaign. The groups and individuals that participate in the campaign are the guiding groups and individuals of society. They are the ones who lead the consciousness of society. Their support and participation are really valuable. In this sense, I salute both this global campaign initiated by our international friends and everyone who participates in and supports this movement and works for the freedom of the leader. I wish them success in their struggle. And I also believe that in the second year of the movement, they will continue it by deepening and expanding it with new ways and methods.

*The recent demonstration in Amed, which could only take place under the most difficult conditions, also took place within this framework. What can you tell us about the message that the people sent through this rally?*

In this context, of course, on October 13th there was the mentioned action of our people in northern Kurdistan, in Amed. I would like to salute that demonstration too. It was magnificent. They tried to ban the rally, but after the democratic political party gave a statement on this, it was clear that the rally could not be prevented. In the name of discussing their so-called solution to the Kurdish problem, they put forward some discussions under the name of a new solution process. They put forward some speculative news. On top of that, the Amed rally was on the agenda. Everyone said something was going on. It was as if there were some talks going on behind closed doors. But there is nothing like that. They probably thought that nobody would take part in the rally and that the streets would remain empty. So they kept quiet at first. But then they realized that the calls made by DBP started to be responded to every day through the press. They really worked, traveled, and visited house after house, street after street. A great social and mass support started to develop. People from Istanbul, Izmir, and the metropolises of Turkey will come to Amed in droves. All of Amed will stand up; all of Kurdistan will flow to Amed. They saw and understood this. What did the colonial governor do? He got up and said, "I am banning the rally." He panicked. Because everyone had turned towards Amed.

Despite the ban they imposed, our people from all over northern Kurdistan turned towards Amed in droves. Maybe the rally they wanted to hold was not in Station Square, but they broke the enemy barrier, the police barrier. The people flowed like a river, united, and reached its goal. They managed to make their voices heard.

What creates this level of determination and assertiveness in the people? It is precisely the stance against the international conspiracy. It is demanding the freedom of Rêber Apo. Our people no longer tolerate the captivity of Rêber Apo. Our people can no longer tolerate living with this captivity. The gates of Imrali must be opened now, and Rêber Apo must be among our people. Our people gave this message from the Amed rally square. It has demonstrated its will and determination. Everyone, friend and foe, needs to hear and see this. Most fundamentally, the genocidal, colonialist, fascist AKP MHP regime of the Turkish state needs to read this message from Amed.

*In this context, how should the latest statements by Devlet Bahçeli, one of the crucial representatives of the conspiracy, who is now trying to pretend that he is trying to resolve the situation, be understood?*

The fascist Devlet Bahçeli called on Imrali in his speech from the rostrum of the parliament. They have closed the door to Imrali. They do not allow a single word to come out of Imrali. How can he make a call to Imrali without there being any meeting with Imrali? He called on Imrali to take action. He told Rêber Apo to liquidate his organization. Bahçeli, don't your people ask you what's going on with the Kurds you declared dead? What's going on with the movement you said was dead? The Kurds gave their message very clearly in Amed. "The Youth are the Fedayis of Rêber Apo" and "No Life Without Rêber Apo" were the slogans that were heard in Amed. You need to take the real message from here. If you are going to make a sincere call to Imrali, then first you need to open the door to Imrali. You need to set up a meeting and a dialog in Imrali.

There is some speculative news being spread in this context. They are having a lot of discussions. We don't mind them discussing. There is nothing wrong with this. The solution to the Kurdish question is in the process of insolvency because it is not being discussed. It should be discussed. But these discussions should not overshadow the truth. They should not obscure the reality. What is the reality? The reality is that an absolute isolation system, a system of genocide, is currently being carried out in Imrali. What is the reality? At the moment, a fierce war and resistance are being waged in the Medya Defense Areas. Blood is flowing on both sides. This blood must first be stopped. If you are going to make a call, first stop the bloodshed. Do not ban the rallies that the people want to hold.

The Kurdish people and their friends should listen to what our movement has to say. It would be best for them to follow the process, to look where the truths that are wanted to be hidden and concealed in discussions that are wanted to be veiled are reflected. And I believe that our people and friends are in this consciousness and awareness.

*Finally, I would like to ask you about the role and responsibility of women's freedom struggle in this context.*

Rêber Apo's approach to women has always been on an emancipatory basis. From the first day he started the struggle, he opened the ground for women to express themselves within the grounds of struggle and to carry out their own struggle for equality and freedom. He opened a tremendous space of freedom for Kurdish women. In this sense, we can say that this is the most fundamental aspect that distinguishes Rêber Apo from all other leaders, from other socialist leaders. In fact, this is the main aspect that distinguishes Rêber Apo's theory of democratic socialism from real socialist theory and from Marx's socialism. Because he deciphered and decoded the codes of the five thousand years of male-dominated capitalist civilization. He revealed that it was a system built on the slavery of women. Therefore, he tried to develop the Kurdish freedom struggle he started on this basis.

Another ideological determination that corresponds to the determination that Kurdistan is a colony is the determination that society cannot be liberated without the liberation of women. If society cannot be liberated without the liberation of women, then if you are a leader of a struggle, then you start from here. Therefore, Rêber Apo placed women's liberation at the center of the Kurdish freedom movement. He tried to enlighten, develop, educate, analyze, and perspective our society and people on this basis. He made every effort to educate, analyze, develop, and make us women truly strong-willed. He organized education circuits for years and started an enormous enlightenment process in Kurdistan that centered around women's freedom. In this sense, as the Kurdish women's freedom movement continues its development process, I would like to state that we owe this development and our honorable and strong-willed stance today to Rêber Apo.

The freedom of Rêber Apo is the freedom of us women. Just as the freedom of Rêber Apo is the freedom of Kurds, the freedom of Rêber Apo is the freedom of women. And the bond between women and Rêber Apo is both an emotional bond, a bond full of feelings, a bond of love. But it is also a bond woven with consciousness and enlightened by consciousness. It is ideological, philosophical, historical, psychological, and sociological. Therefore, it is a very deep bond. In the person of the Kurdish woman, he has actually opened a brand-new area of freedom for the women of the region and the world and opened the door to freedom. In the last two centuries, there is a tremendous history of women's struggle in the world, both in

the west and the east. The women's struggle for freedom initiated by Rêber Apo has also given momentum to this. It has given it spirit. In fact, he made many ideological determinations that would contribute to it.

The ideology of women's liberation Rêber Apo developed is a cornerstone of our women's liberation struggle. The 'theory of rupture' he developed is a very serious turning point. The 'theory of rupture' is a great liberating breakthrough for the female personality to achieve freedom, to create, organize, and will its own world of freedom. At the same time, Rêber Apo put the project of transforming men in front of us women. It put forward the theory of 'killing men' in Kurdistan in order to question, analyze, and overcome the dominant stance of men, and the level of development that emerged from this led to a revolutionary development that one could call a tremendous mental revolution. This led to a serious revolution within Kurdish society. This revolutionary process is still developing.

Of course, we have carried out these developments concretely under the leadership of our martyrs, our pioneers and leaders who were martyred. For example, within the month of October, one has to mention comrade Beritan. Our women's army, which developed under the leadership of comrade Beritan, has developed and left behind thirty years. For more than thirty years, women's freedom guerrillas in the mountains of Kurdistan have practiced an organized struggle and an organized will with the perspective of army formation.

Why armed resistance? Would we have reached today if we hadn't taken upon arms? This would not have been possible. If we have reached today, if we have a women's freedom party in Kurdistan, if we have entered the stage of knitting the social confederal system of women such as the KJK, all of this is thanks to the women's armed struggle that developed under the leadership of comrade Beritan thirty years ago. And today, this women's mobilization has evolved to a higher stage. Kurdish women today are not only living an armed struggle in the mountains. In the cities, for example, Kurdish women are also struggling to develop their own self-defense forces.

They are going through such a process. For example, in Rojava, a tremendous level of development and organization has emerged under the leadership of Kurdish women as the YPJ. We say that the Rojava revolution is a women's revolution. It developed under the leadership of YPJ. The YPJ also took its inspiration from Rêber Apo as well as the women's army that developed under the leadership of comrade Beritan and developed in the Medya Defense Zones. The YPJ sees that as its legacy. Again, there is the YJŞ organization developed by Êzîdî women in Shengal. They all take their inspiration from the pioneers like comrade Beritan, comrade Meryem, comrade Zeynep, comrade Delal, and Arin Mirkan. Again in eastern Kurdistan, Kurdish women are trying to develop their organization as HPJ.

This is an ongoing process. Because the women's revolution will take many years. It is a revolutionary development that may take fifty years, maybe a hundred years. Rêber Apo made the determination that the twenty-first century will be the century of women. He made this determination based on his own labor and efforts because he knew that the twenty-first century would evolve into the century of women, knowing the developments and achievements he had created around women's freedom before entering the twenty-first century.

Today, this women's liberation struggle, which is being carried out under the leadership of YJA Star guerrillas in the four parts of Kurdistan and in the Medya Defense Areas, is growing day by day, growing deeper and exponentially. The women's revolution may go beyond the twenty-first century. It would not

be very accurate to set a limit to this. Because there is no time when it will end. It is endless. Women's liberation is such a process. Because it is an ideological process. It is an ideological revolution. It is a philosophical revolution. This enlightenment started in Kurdistan under the leadership of pioneers like comrade Beritan, under the leadership of the women's liberation armies started by comrade Beritan. It is an inspiration to the whole world. And this will spread over many years.

And of course, part of this is armed struggle. Part of it is an ideological struggle. Part of it is a theoretical and philosophical struggle. And part of it is a social struggle. The women's revolution is also a social revolution. Women's freedom is also linked to freedom of society. Women will be liberated so that society will be liberated. In this sense, of course, this developing women's liberation struggle also frightens its enemies. It frightens the enemy of the Kurds. It frightens the enemies of women. And it also causes misogynist politics to make itself more visible.

Our women's liberation struggle has also put the genocidal colonialist Turkish regime, especially in northern Kurdistan and Turkey, into a process of great narrowness and difficulty due to the fear it created against it. A new politics of femicide is being produced by the special war centers developed by them. Currently, femicidal policies are being put forward. A very serious special war policy is in effect for this. Particularly in Kurdistan, but it is not limited to Kurdistan. In the metropolises of Turkey as well, the policies of femicide have been put into effect to the fullest. In Kurdistan, women and young girls are massacred on a daily basis. Incidents of harassment and rape in the streets are observed every day.

There is a great deprivation of morality, a great deprivation of values. Society in Turkey and Kurdistan is being dragged into a great degeneration and moral collapse. These should not be called examples that arise unconsciously and spontaneously in the natural flow of life in society. It should not be evaluated in this way. If this is evaluated in this way, it would be a mistake. This is a systematic strategy carried out by certain centers established by the AKP MHP special war regime. And these are the policies and actions developed against our struggle in order to sabotage it, which is marching with the claim of realizing the growing women's liberation revolution in Kurdistan and Turkey and in the region.

There is a great attack on women. The people, the society, both the people of Kurdistan and the society of Turkey need to unite against this, to rise up, to burn these places down. Because neither social morality nor women's liberationist morality, nor feminist movements, nor women's liberation struggle, nor general social liberation struggles accept this. This is not a situation to stand by and watch. A two-year-old baby is being raped. In order to nullify this concept of attack against women, directed by the special war centers, all women in Kurdistan and Turkey must join hands, put their heads together, and develop joint organized struggles against this.

Women who support the government and vote for the fascist AKP MHP are also victims of this. They are also women. I say that women from AKP, women from CHP, women from other large and small parties should join hands and organize a level of struggle full of common synergy together to frustrate this immoral concept of attack on women and to organize a common synergetic struggle against it.

## Murat Karayılan: We are developing a strategy in North Kurdistan

ANF | 26 OCTOBER 2024

People's Defense Center (HSM) Headquarters Commander Murat Karayılan pointed out that the Turkish state has been claiming that it has finished off the guerrillas for the last three or four years, and that there are no more or very few of them left. Karayılan then asked why the Turkish army continues to carry out operations even now, if the guerrillas have been defeated.

Murat Karayılan underlined that the situation in North Kurdistan is not the one depicted by the Turkish state and added: "We are developing a strategy; more specialization, deepening in methods that will defeat all intelligence measures developed in terms of both technique and physicality. Not amateur, ordinary, classical methods, but being able to approach more patiently, more strategically and achieve results with more professional methods. The right place and right time are important. This is what we are primarily focusing on. In this period, it seems more appropriate for us to be content with giving some messages from time to time. Such an approach is more suitable in terms of balancing the process both politically and militarily."

Here are excerpts of the interview by HSM Commander Murat Karayılan with Yeni Özgür Politika.

*It was reported that the Turkish army made landings far from the tunnels and occupied an area to counter your tunnel and mobile team warfare style. Behind this was, so it was said, the idea that holding the Zergelê line, meant also breaking the connection between the areas. Can you elaborate on this a little?*

The Turkish General Staff or the Ministry of War is struggling with the tactics to be implemented. It is possible to draw this conclusion from the practices. The Turkish army has not been able to bring down the tunnels in the Zap area despite using almost every method and technique imaginable for three years. The resistance in those tunnels still continues. The Turkish army is constantly losing due to the counterattacks by the guerrillas here. There are guerrillas there that are not on the defense but on the attack. The Turkish army that stands against this is struggling; it is constantly losing. The guerrillas, on the other hand, are showing the success of waging this war with the least possible losses in the history of war. Undoubtedly, this is a frightening situation that drives the army generals crazy.

Based on the results it has drawn from this, the current warfare organization is implementing a different tactic against tunnels in the areas it has newly occupied this year. In one place, there is an application that foresees a tactic of defeating guerrillas in the long term by besieging them, saying, 'Let me not wear out my power in vain; they do not fall easily anyway. Then I will ensure the occupation of areas from afar, cut off the logistics and reinforcement channels of the guerrillas in the tunnels. In this way, I will achieve results with a long-term siege without suffering losses.' This is just like the sieges developed against forces resisting inside castles in history. It is a tactic of holding guerrillas under siege for a long time, waiting for the logistics to end, and forcing the forces left without logistics there to abandon those points of resistance on their own. It is implementing this tactic in new places.

[...]

*Some units affiliated with the Kurdish Freedom Movement used to organize actions in Turkish metropolises against military and police vehicles and places. Was the stopping of these actions a result of 'precautions and successful operations' as claimed by the Turkish side or was it a requirement of a central decision?*

Both have an effect. It is a situation that we can say that both of the phenomena you mentioned somehow balance and complement each other. We know very well that deploying our forces to the city and almost everywhere with old methods without having developed a depth and richness that will overcome and surpass the new techniques like cameras and a net of informers, developed in recent years, will bring losses. We are an experienced movement. We do not immediately deploy our forces to risky places in this environment where attacks are developing based on technique and with an advanced agent network, as well as an intelligence system reinforced with advanced technology. We have experienced these many times in the past. Situations in which we sent forces to unsuitable grounds and maintained them there have been experienced many times, even in the '90s, and we have suffered heavy losses at certain times. In that respect, our cautious approach against attacks that have not been taken with sufficient precautions, our preservation of our power, for example, our creation of mitigation in the policy of over-reinforcing the Northern provinces, is being interpreted differently by Turkish state officials, consciously or unconsciously, and used as grounds and material for manipulation. They will see what the truth is when the time comes.

### Strategic, patient and professional methods

We are developing a strategy. With this strategy, we ultimately aim to defeat this regime and we will achieve this. In that respect, we aim to pave the way for success by doing what is necessary in places or times when we need to approach cautiously. Successful results can only be achieved by further specialization and deepening in methods that will defeat all intelligence measures developed in both technical and physical terms. Without this, it is certain that approaching this period of struggle with amateur, ordinary, classical methods would bring failure. In that respect, it is important to achieve results with more patience, more strategic and more professional methods, as to ultimately win this war.

We do not need daily propaganda and mass-manipulating statements like the AKP. What we need is revolutionary success, and we are focusing on it. Now, by focusing on it and deepening into effective methods, we can achieve successful results on the basis of putting our strength into action at the right time and in the right place. The issue of the right place and the right time is important in this respect. We are mainly focusing on this. In this period, it seems more appropriate to us to be content with issuing some messages from time to time. Such an approach is more appropriate in terms of balancing the process from both political and military perspectives.

*When you look at the military capacity and public support in the four parts of Kurdistan, taking into account the role of regional and global powers, what are the main obstacles to the formation of an anti-colonialist/anti-occupation army?*

There may be various practical difficulties in developing freedom fighters in Kurdistan today and organizing an army on this basis, but it is not very difficult to overcome them. There are also a number of ways and methods that can overcome every practical difficulty. There is essentially the problem of developing a



guerrilla army that will yield results. There were difficulties at that point. First, it is important to read the current era correctly. This is essentially the most important issue.

### **Technological weapons destroy the old classical theories and military formulas**

It is a great advantage for us that Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] analyzed and presented the changes that the developing scientific and technical revolution has created and could create in our age at the beginning of this century. Today, the scientific and technical revolution is rapidly progressing by creating huge developments. While new inventions and new technologies are developing every day, they are radically changing the lifestyles, social and cultural relations, and economic relations of societies around the world, and they are also causing very radical changes in the military field.

The technological weapons that are being developed are destroying the old classical theories and military formulas. Those who cannot see the change that science and technology have created in the reality of war cannot win wars. This should not be considered as just the change or development of weapons. Today, ordinary soldiers can no longer play a role in war. The power of a military force can no longer be measured by the number of heads alone. Today, the situation of achieving results is developing with more professional, expert, higher-quality fighters who are more faithful and determined to fight. Without understanding this reality, the right course of action, the right training of soldiers, the right positioning and the right armament cannot be developed. Therefore, the war cannot be won.

[...]

### **The greatest enemy is our habits**

Nevertheless, in practice, we may encounter conservative, unchangeable stances. Conservatism is high in societies such as the Middle East and especially Kurdistan. There is a closeness to change. Leader Apo struggled with this a lot; he offered a lot of analysis, wrote books, and provided training. Not being open to change, and therefore not overcoming the old-classical personality and not being renewed, is a serious problem. By combating this, we can develop an Apoist army that is suitable for the conditions of the period and our line.

Our greatest enemy is our own habits. Sticking to our own habits, constantly repeating the same thing, is also the main reason for our serious losses. The battlefield demands constant renewal and constant change. Once you have gone from one place, you should not go from the same place twice. You need to approach with a different tactic and method. When you stick to your habits and repeat the same thing, that is the repetition of the old and leaves the door open to losses.

[...]

## Kalkan: No substantial progress can be achieved without the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan

ANF | 30 OCTOBER 2024

Speaking in a special broadcast on Medya Haber TV, Duran Kalkan, a member of the PKK Executive Committee, provided insights on current issues. We publish the first excerpts of this broadcast.

Highlighting the significance of the global campaign for Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan's freedom, Kalkan said: "We must broaden and intensify the global freedom campaign aimed at securing Leader Apo's [Abdullah Öcalan] physical freedom in every area. We must engage in stronger resistance."

Kalkan stressed that without Leader Apo's freedom, no tangible progress can be expected, adding: "We need to fight harder. More effective methods of resistance are essential. We must struggle daily, seizing every opportunity and resource. There is resistance across all parts of Kurdistan and around the world. This struggle must grow."

In particular, he said, "a mobilization has been launched abroad, starting in Europe on 1 November. Actions are scheduled every day. On 10 November, there will be an action in Britain, followed by a rally in Cologne on 16 November. Those organizing this mobilization have issued calls. Every Kurd, every patriot, women, men, youth, the elderly, democratic-minded individuals everywhere should join this struggle. We must work to ensure everyone participates."

Kalkan continued his comments with a tribute: "First, I extend my respects to Leader Apo. He was able to meet with his nephew on 23 October, marking the first meeting after 43 long months."

Kalkan then added: "There is indeed a partial change, albeit not a huge one, but it is a change nonetheless. We received information about Leader Apo's health and his greetings. This alone was enough to shift the atmosphere. Hearing Leader Apo's voice, receiving his greetings, and knowing about his well-being affected the entire environment positively. All democratic forces, women, youth, our people, and our allies are now filled with enthusiasm and excitement. The morale is very high."

This situation has had a strong impact on the political landscape as well, clearly showing Leader Apo's level of influence. Despite all claims to the contrary by his opponents, it demonstrates how deeply Leader Apo influences society, democratic groups, women, youth, laborers, workers, and people of various backgrounds, as well as politics. This is an important point to underscore.

On the other hand, this development is a result of an ongoing struggle. It should be viewed as an outcome of the 26-year resistance against the international conspiracy, and specifically, the fight against the torture, isolation, and annihilation system in İmralı. More specifically, it is a result of the global freedom initiative that began on 10 October 2023."

## Struggle yields results

Kalkan continued: "At the end of its first year, the year-long struggle achieved a crucial step toward breaking the isolation, a significant initial breakthrough. In our previous statement, we noted that the process is moving toward a concrete result.

Let's be hopeful about this and engage even more actively. Indeed, this is a beginning. Struggle yields results; it brings victory. We have seen this clearly with these developments.

In this regard, on behalf of our party, I congratulate everyone who has participated in and contributed to the second year of the global freedom campaign for Leader Apo's physical freedom and a resolution to the Kurdish issue. I salute their efforts.

This process has begun, and it will continue. We must see this and understand it. Our hope, belief, and determination should grow stronger based on this foundation."

Kalkan added: "Leader Apo responded to everyone with a single statement, setting forth a stance that will prompt new discussions. This is quite significant and worth noting. He responded to the appeals directed toward him, asserting, 'I have the theoretical and practical power to move the solution to the Kurdish issue onto a legal and political ground.' In doing so, he refuted those who claim he lacks influence or that his organization and people would not listen to him, clearly demonstrating his strength. Following this, our co-chairmanship and movement, as well as our people, declared their support for any struggle or stance that Leader Apo may undertake."

## Leader Öcalan cannot operate within the İmrālî system

Kalkan said: "This demonstrates that the Kurdish side is united, open and ready for any democratic and political solution, negotiation, and dialogue. This was made unmistakably clear and stopped those who try to create confusion with their fabricated hypothesis. [...]"

In this context, many have called for Leader Apo to play a role. He has stated he is ready and capable, but suitable conditions must be created for this. Of course, this cannot be done within the isolation of İmrālî; it requires active work, a 24/7 effort, connections with everyone, and the ability to gather insights from all involved. Such work cannot occur within the torture, isolation, and annihilation system in İmrālî.

If these circles truly want Leader Apo to play a role and are not just employing special warfare tactics, then they must establish suitable conditions. Otherwise, no one will trust their calls. Indeed, we have seen widespread skepticism about these calls, as many questioned their origins. It's actually a natural expectation that conditions for Leader Apo's health, safety, and freedom to work be established, which our co-chair expressed concretely.

Leader Apo must be able to meet with everyone, and everyone wants to see this happen. Alone, no one can achieve such goals. A single person can lead, build a movement, and guide a society, but only if the means and conditions allow it. Leader Apo has shown his stance and demonstrated his power. Now, what

remains is to establish the necessary conditions which he alone cannot create. Those outside must bring these conditions about.

Now the stance is clear to the public, to all of us. The responsibility of creating these conditions falls on us all, not on Leader Apo. This duty is also on those who created the Imrali system and who issued these calls. They are the ones who must make the change and alter their current stance. This must be expressed clearly."

### **Only Leader Öcalan can achieve a democratic political solution**

Kalkan said: "It has once again become apparent that Leader Apo is the only person who can achieve a democratic political solution to the Kurdish issue, secure peace with Turkey, and lead such a process. This is crystal clear. Our leadership has declared it: Leader Apo represents the Kurdish people's will for freedom and democracy. He is the chief negotiator. No one should muddle the atmosphere with empty words or create confusion by obscuring these certainties.

This is the reality on the Kurdish side, and we underscore it again with this opportunity. Recently, Leader Apo stated clearly: isolation is ongoing. Yes, it continues, as part of the 26-year Imrali system of torture and annihilation. Isolation is not a recent issue of a few months - it is the nature of the system itself.

Therefore, to break this isolation and secure Leader Apo's physical freedom, we must strengthen and intensify our struggle. This must serve as a call to action, a directive for all of us. If you desire change, or want a solution, and expect Leader Apo to play a role, then you must actively combat isolation. This necessity has been made evident once again, and we understand it clearly.

Thus, even though there has been a meeting with Leader Apo and his health appears stable, no one should become complacent. We must not assume that isolation has been broken or see this situation as normal."

[...]



## **Kalkan: Only Öcalan can bring about a democratic political solution to the Kurdish question**

ANF | BEHDINAN | 31 OCTOBER 2024

In this in-depth interview, Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the current discussions surrounding the Kurdish question and the first visit to Imrali after 43 months.

Kalkan also spoke about the democratic nation as a solution to the problems in Turkey and the Middle East. As Kalkan stated: "The physical freedom of [Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan] is no longer a discussion, a thought, or an evaluation. It has become a concrete, practical, political goal that must be real-

ized. It has become such a concrete agenda. We must continue our mobilized struggle to realize this. Our call and invitation is to this struggle."

*After 43 months without any sign of life from Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, a meeting has now taken place for the first time. What has this achieved? And above all, what will happen now? How do you evaluate the meeting and what Abdullah Öcalan said?*

I greet Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] with respect. Finally, at the end of the 43rd month, since there had been no contact with him, there was again a meeting with him. He saw his nephew on October 23.

There is a change, even if partially and not completely, there is a change. We were informed about the health condition of Rêber Apo, and we received his greetings. Even this was already enough to change the atmosphere. Receiving Rêber Apo's greetings, hearing his voice, and learning about his health affected the whole atmosphere in a different way. All the democratic forces, women, young people, our people, and our international friends are full of enthusiasm and excitement. At the same time, it has also strongly affected the political environment. This clearly indicates the level of influence of Rêber Apo. Despite all his opponents' claims to the contrary, it shows how much influence Rêber Apo has on society, on democratic circles, on women, youth, workers, and laborers, on peoples, and how much influence he has generally on politics. This needs to be underlined once and for all.

This was achieved through struggle. It is a result brought about by a 26-year struggle against this international conspiracy. It is a result of the struggle against the İmralı system of torture, isolation, and genocide. In a narrower sense, it is a result of the global freedom campaign that was launched on October 10, 2023. At the end of its first year, the campaign had taken an important step towards breaking the isolation. Regarding the campaign, we have stated previously that the process is now moving towards getting results. Let's be hopeful about this. Indeed, this is a start. Struggle yields results; through struggle, achievements are created. This is a fact that can be seen clearly in the current situation.

In this sense, on behalf of our party, I congratulate everyone who participated in the global freedom campaign 'Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan, a Political Solution to the Kurdish Question', which has recently entered its second year. I salute their struggle. An important phase in this struggle has started and will continue. Our hope, faith, and will must be strengthened therefore.

In one sentence, Rêber Apo has put forward an attitude that will give answers to everyone and open new discussions. This is very important. There were several calls on him, and he responded to them. He said that he has the theoretical and practical power to carry the solution of the Kurdish question to the legal and political arena. On this basis, he refuted those who said that he has no power, that he cannot do anything, that the organization would not listen, that the people would not listen and similar things. He showed his power. Following that, our co-presidency, on behalf of our movement and our people, declared that they would support and stand behind every step and every attitude that Rêber Apo would develop.

What did this show? That in this situation the Kurds stand together as a whole and that they are open and ready for all kinds of democratic, political solutions, negotiations, and discussions. This was clearly shown. It silenced those who tried to cause confusion. The real situation is obvious. There are those who listen and follow up on the developments and who understand, but surely there are also those who evaluate the situation and try to put forward attitudes to confuse in order to personally profit. The question is, What is hap-

pening now? How can Rêber Apo play his role? There were those who called on Rêber Apo to play a role, and he said he is ready and has the power to do so. But of course, it is necessary to create suitable conditions for this. Of course, this cannot happen in isolation from the world in Imrali. Because active work is necessary. It requires a 24-hour effort. Relations with everyone are necessary. It is necessary to get everyone's opinion. In this respect, it cannot happen in the system of torture, isolation, and genocide in Imrali. If they really want Rêber Apo to play a role and not just uphold this agenda as part of their special warfare, then they have to create the right conditions. There is no way around this. If they do not create these conditions, it will not inspire confidence.

The current situation does not inspire much confidence and everyone is looking at all the calls that are being made with great skepticism and questioning where they are coming from. The conditions for Rêber Apo's health, safety and freedom of work must be ensured. Our co-presidency has pointed this out already.

Rêber Apo needs to be able to meet with everyone, and everyone wants to see him. As leadership of this movement, we, of course, also want to see him. Otherwise, one person alone cannot do anything but can develop a movement and pioneer society. In this regard, Rêber Apo has determined his stance and revealed his power. Now it is necessary to create the appropriate conditions. Of course, Rêber Apo cannot create this. Those outside of it have to do this. The whole public has seen the clear attitude, everyone, all of us. The duty falls on all of us except Rêber Apo. The task of creating these favorable conditions is all ours. It is ours; we must struggle accordingly. This duty also belongs to those who created the Imrali system, those who made the call. So they themselves will have to make changes. They will have to change their existing attitude.

To emphasize that once again. Rêber Apo is the only one who can realize a democratic political solution to the Kurdish question, who can ensure peace in Turkey, and who can lead such a process. Rêber Apo represents the Kurdish people's will for freedom and democracy. He is the negotiator. No one should obscure the situation with empty words and create confusion. This is the reality on the Kurdish side, and we underline this once again on this occasion.

What did Rêber Apo say? He said the isolation continues. The isolation continues; that is true. The isolation is the 26-year Imrali torture and genocide system. It is the system itself. We need to develop the struggle much stronger and more effective to break the isolation and to ensure the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. This should be a call, an instruction for all of us. If there is isolation, and you want change, if you want a solution to develop, if you want Rêber Apo to play a role, then you will have to struggle against this isolation; you will have to develop the struggle further. We have seen once again that this is necessary.

No one should be complacent because there was one meeting with Rêber Apo, and he is in good health. The isolation has not been broken. The situation is not normal. Undoubtedly, one must be more sensitive, more careful, and more organized in the way of struggle. The global freedom campaign aiming at the physical freedom of Rêber Apo must spread more widely and effectively everywhere. The struggle must be strengthened. There must never be any regression in the struggle. Everything depends on the physical freedom of Rêber Apo. Without this realization, no concrete development could take place. The duty falls on us. We must develop the struggle much more effectively and strongly. We have entered the second year of the mass struggle. It started in Amed and spread all over the world. Kurds and their international friends, democratic circles, and all the peoples, particularly women and young people, struggled very intensely. But more is necessary. More effective methods need to be used. Every day and every opportunity must be uti-

lized. There is a struggle in all four parts of Kurdistan, and there are struggles all over the world. In Europe, there are currently big mobilizations ongoing. Protests are planned every day. On November 10th, there will be a demonstration in Britain. On November 16th, there will be a demonstration and rally in Cologne. Women and men, young and old, children, patriots, all Kurds, all democrats must participate in this struggle. Everyone needs to be involved. Women and young people in particular should mobilize to lead this struggle. We must once again take the strongest stance in Cologne. The previous Cologne rally was a turning point in this struggle. This rally should be a new turning point. This is the goal.

The physical freedom of Rêber Apo is no longer a discussion, a thought, or an evaluation. It has become a concrete, practical, political goal that must be realized. It has become such a concrete agenda. We must continue our mobilized struggle to realize this. Our call and invitation is to this struggle.

*To come back to the situation in Turkey in more detail at this stage. It is the MHP, of all parties, that has most recently put the issue on the agenda. How should this be understood?*

Not only the MHP, in fact, in this process, unlike in the past, almost all major parties have participated and expressed their opinions. We wanted to take them seriously and evaluate them cautiously. We would have liked that. But their approach was never reassuring. Everyone discussed what kind of new game they were playing. Everyone who was asked on the street in Amed and Wan in Kurdistan was distrustful. They said that all these calls and speeches were part of their special war tactics. Our leadership warned about this, saying that we react sensitively to all their special warfare tactics. We have taken a certain experience from the past on this issue so that no one would try to play tricks on us again. But recently, it has really gotten a bit sloppy. There is also a very volatile situation.

Some people use that action as a justification. But regarding this, the HPG has made the necessary explanations. The ones who conducted the action in fact explained it themselves. They say that their aim is to strengthen the cause of Rêber Apo. Some people say that the action was a provocation against the movement, against Rêber Apo. The ones who conducted the action have already revealed beforehand that there is nothing like that.

It's a war, it's going on, and it hasn't ended, and there are no binding agreements. Do people not understand that they are trying to use this as an excuse? Our leadership has clearly shown that the action has no connection to the current processes. That is the truth. Nobody has issued an order that this action is to be carried out at that particular time. Those who set the time and carried out the action are the ones who did the action themselves. Obviously, they could not have known that a meeting with Rêber Apo would take place at that time. That should be clear.

What I want to say is that there is no ambiguity in this respect. The action should not be taken as a pretext to block the process that has been started. It is actually a warning to see the gravity of the situation and to see how deep the current state of war and conflict is. However, it has spoiled the game of many of those who approached it within the scope of the special war. Now that their games have been shattered by the action, they are trying to free themselves from the situation they have slipped into by blaming others and transferring responsibility to others. This is not acceptable.

Indeed, we have heard new things from both Devlet Bahçeli and Özgür Özel. They are talking about the Kurds and the Kurdish question. Özgür Özel, the new chairman of the CHP, spoke in Amed about a

democratic solution, the participation of the whole society, and opening the way for democratic politics on this basis. These were important, positive, new evaluations. The old ones are known. Kurds were not accepted. They have come to the point where they accept Kurdish existence. This happened through struggle. There is no need to re-examine that. But the result is at this level. Regarding the CHP chairman, it would be good if he continued his trip in Kurdistan. He shouldn't just meet with officials or institutions or those in charge of institutions there. It would be good if he joined the people, listened to Kurdish people, women, young people, shopkeepers... What do Kurds really think? Because, as he said, nothing can happen unless the Kurds want it and accept it. So what do the Kurds want? He should look there.

Now it is necessary to explain this to Turkish public opinion. It should not be handled one way in Amed and another in Ankara and Istanbul. Everyone needs to be informed correctly. That is what we recommend.

What is not needed is an approach driven by complexes toward Rêber Apo. This is not a positive attitude. So many people are talking about him, evaluating his position. He has struggled so much and produced so much thought. He has so many supporters in the world. One needs to be respectful. Is he doing this for his own benefit? Is he staying 26 years in the İmralı torture center for his own benefit? One must be consistent in his/her words and his/her attitude. The reality of Rêber Apo and the Kurdish question should not be used for political interests. It is wrong to take it for daily political interests.

What I want to say is that there is not much to say because there is nothing concrete. We want things to develop, and we follow developments closely in order to understand. Our attitude has not changed. But what we have also seen is that there are many circles that benefit from the existence of the Kurdish question and the war that goes with it. The discussions that come from these circles are of no use. We don't know if it will in the future.

Those who profit from war and those who wage it may not be the same. The profiteers are afraid that the war will end, that the question will be resolved and that they will lose their interests. They do not love Turkey. They are just afraid of losing their interests. We have seen this once again.

There is an important group of people who are profiteering from this war. They also say that what Devlet Bahçeli is talking about, he shouldn't. The MHP has been on one side of this war for forty years. Everyone should know and see this. It goes beyond Devlet Bahçeli. We know very well who is fighting on the front. Because the essence of this struggle is a struggle of mentality, an ideological struggle. The ideology of democratic thought on the basis of Kurdish freedom, the ideology of patriotism is in conflict with nationalism, sexism and statism. It conflicts with imperialism. It is necessary to take a stance against these profiteers. It is necessary to expose them. First of all, if something is to develop, it is necessary to expose and unmask them. Then other developments can happen. Because they are very provocative. They spread all kinds of lies. They have nothing to do with the truth. They talk as if they know everything when they know nothing. They talk so much about the PKK that they have no knowledge about. They deceive people, they brainwash them. In order not to lose their interests.



*Let's move on to the war in Kurdistan. You have already mentioned the action in Ankara. How is the guerrilla resistance against the colonialist-occupying Turkish army going in general? Also, with a view to the effects of the recent attacks on North and East Syria, as well as on Shengal (Sinjar)...*

The HPG and YJA Star regularly give statements about the state of war. The central headquarters command also made extensive evaluations of this ten-year period and gave detailed information. We have nothing to add to them. There were also opinions, evaluations, calls and searches for solutions that we agreed with and have nothing to add to.

What can one say apart from that? There was the attack against TUSAŞ on October 23rd in Ankara; the fedai action. It is a continuation of the action that took place in Ankara on October 1 last year. This action, of course, brought this process to a new peak. It made everyone think about war once again. It shook the colonialist, fascist, and genocidal front. It was a new peak, a new culmination of the guerrilla struggle. A militarily complete and successful action in all aspects. In this respect, I commemorate with respect, love, and gratitude the comrades Asya Ali and Rojger Hêlîn who carried out the action. They were indeed excellent and successful in implementing the philosophy that was pioneered by comrade Zilan. They walked in the footsteps of Sara and Rûken, Rojhat and Erdal. They successfully continued their tradition.

The action was also successful in terms of its results. It aimed at a military target. The place where the machines that have been carrying out massacres in Kurdistan for years are produced. There cannot be a more military place than this. Calling it civilian would be far from reality.

The action symbolized the fedai spirit of Rêber Apo's philosophy at its peak. It shows the truth to all of us. It clearly reveals what the spirit of the new period should be like and what kind of militant spirit the Kurdistan freedom struggle can achieve.

Of course, this is not the only action of the guerrillas. There were statements and information made on behalf of our central headquarters command. Comrade Cemal and Zozan gave statements in this regard. The war continues in northern Kurdistan, where there are clashes in every region. The enemy is dealt heavy blows, and the guerrillas also give martyrs. There has been increasing activity in the Medya Defense Areas recently. Effective blows have been struck recently on the Bahar and Cûdî mountain in Zap.

On the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the martyrdom of our immortal commander, comrade Beritan, there were and still are actions in every area of Zap, and also from Metina to Xakurke. A great resistance is also continuing in the Medya Defense Zones.

Our headquarters command stated that the enemy had locked itself while they were trying to lock up the guerrillas with their colonialist and occupationist attacks. They said that they would finish their job by mid-summer, then they corrected themselves, saying that they would finish the guerrilla by November; well, now it is November. This time they will say that they will achieve their goal in March, mid-summer, or next November. This is how it goes on. It has been going on like this for forty years. It started back then. After the actions in Erüh and Şemdinli on 15 August 1984, they said that in twenty-four hours they would destroy the armed forces. Twenty-four hours ended, forty-eight hours ended, seventy-two hours ended, and then they cut the clock.

This has been going on ever since. The situation of the guerrillas, its struggle, its spirit of resistance, its state of self-renewal, the line of resistance in the Medya Defense Zones, and the line of resistance in northern Kurdistan are all evaluated by our headquarters. The daily developments are announced to the public every day and without reduction. A great resistance and war is waging. Our comrades widely evaluated it. There is no need to repeat it. But I can say this. On behalf of our party leadership, I once again greet all HPG and YJA Star guerrillas, commanders, and fighters who are fighting heroically. And I commemorate with respect, love, and gratitude the heroic martyrs of the resistance, particularly the resistance in Zap, Avashin, Metina, and Xakurke.

Regarding the enemy, the fact that they are searching for some new options and new ways is already a sign that they are deadlocked in the war, that they locked themselves in. The current process is a result of that. All the discussions and all those politicians now rising up and voicing their opinions does not just come out of the blue.

It was October 30, 2014, when the decision on the so-called ‘collapse action plan’ was taken. Ten years have passed since then. Now everyone is saying that the collapse plan itself has collapsed. And those who implemented it have collapsed. The plan failed very clearly. The AKP administration had prepared it, and later the MHP was also involved. Then they included the KDP, and today they also include Iraq. They are trying to get support from everyone. They go to Washington and Moscow. Now they are trying to involve China as well. They have set the goal of destroying the PKK and crushing the guerrillas. The result of the last ten years is obvious; they have failed. The PKK is standing firm, and the guerrillas are standing firm, fighting on all fronts. And it is giving the fascist, colonialist, and occupationist forces, the AKP-MHP hordes, a real challenge. This is a clear fact.

We did not declare war on the AKP-MHP in 2014/15. We did not break the process that started in 2013. Tayyip Erdoğan himself broke it by saying, “I don’t recognize it.” In March and April 2015, it was revealed that they themselves had made a plan and were preparing for war. They set themselves the goal of destroying the PKK. In order to do this militarily, in the last ten years they have taken the power of all the states of the world. They made the Kurdish betrayal their vanguard. They totally collaborated, did not listen to any law or morality of war, and resorted to all kinds of ostracized methods and forbidden means. They carried out the most brutal attacks. And the result is failure. The AKP-MHP attacks based on the collapse plan have been defeated. They have failed. They have to accept it themselves. If they don’t and don’t develop an attitude accordingly, they will suffer more damage. This is the truth of the matter.

We don’t know what they plan or how they plan to adjust their attitude. But it has become clear that they will not be able to insist on the current plan. That’s why many circles are trying to hit the reverse. They make calls and say, “You cannot achieve success with the current method.” But can they show that wisdom? Can they put forward such a will? Can they have such a common sense approach? We don’t know. If not, they have already put Turkey into a disaster. No one else can pull it out now. They themselves will have done the greatest evil.

He started to talk about loving the Kurds, but at the same time, he is attacking Shengal (Sinjar) and Rojava. They cut off the Kurds’ water and electricity, slaughtered them, and boasted about it. So let’s discuss and talk about these attacks. What are they really aimed at? They carried out their most intense attacks. Their game is broken. It seems that these calls and so on were meant to loosen the resistance. When their first-hand, impetuous game is broken, they attack in anger. They justify their attacks on Rojava, Shengal,

and other places with guerrilla action in Ankara. It is very strange. The guerrilla action in Ankara is a full-fledged military action. It does not harm civilians. It is an action in accordance with the law of war. But it is obvious that they do deliberately target civilians. The attacks they carried out in Shengal and Rojava are clear. They do not comply with any laws, morals, or rules of war. As a whole, they hit civilians, children, houses, and living facilities. Now what does the protest in Ankara have to do with massacring the Kurdish people in Rojava and Shengal? They were already doing it before. They always did the same in northern Kurdistan, in the Medya Defense Areas, in Afrin, in Serekaniye, and generally in Rojava and Shengal. They have supposedly found a justification for themselves. It is a war crime. They are committing crimes and massacres in front of everyone's eyes.

There is indeed an important stance and resistance of the people against this. I salute the resistance of the people and the freedom forces of North and East Syria. I especially salute the actions of the liberation forces of Afrin. They have both the right and the duty to wage all kinds of struggles. There is no other way. What has been done to Afrin is obvious; we cannot neither forget nor forgive any of this. At this point, the US on the one hand and Russia on the other, both as heads of the statist system, immediately said that they support Turkey, even before the action in Ankara was even reflected in the press. Now massacres are taking place in Rojava and in Shengal.

What is happening in Gaza and elsewhere is being discussed, and the Israeli administration said that they are criticized, while no one questions what happens in North and East Syria. It was almost as if he had said that they were just doing what they learned from them. That is what Hitler admitted in the past. There is a similar situation. If Kurds protest against colonialists and genocide perpetrators, this is a crime; they have no right to do so. But if the Turks are hitting the Kurds, it is their right; they hit them as they wish. No one opposes this. Where is justice? Is this rightful, lawful? Is this the justice and law of today's world system? Damn such a world system. Such an unjust, unfair, and cruel system is a system that will not benefit anyone. It will not benefit its owners in the end either. It is important to underline this.

The occupying Turkish state is committing massacres and genocide. It mainly wants to depopulate North and East Syria. It wants to drive out the Kurdish society there, as well as the other peoples who live together with the Kurds along the lines of a democratic nation. This is the purpose of these attacks. This must not be given any opportunity; it must be opposed. The enemy wants to drive away the people there. All people, especially the young, should embrace their land and embrace their villages. If we are going to die, we are going to die on our land.

Our graves remain here, and our bones remain here. There is nowhere else to go. We need to break these oppressors by resisting them. No one should leave behind their place, their homeland, but they should take precautions. Of course, they should take resistance orders. Of course they should and will struggle. No one can prevent them from fighting. But the peoples of North and East Syria have gained experience; they have learned. They have been at war for years; they have learned. They have also tasted the taste of life in freedom. It is valuable and meaningful to create a free life even through struggle and war. We need to make any effort for it. Therefore, no one should leave their homeland. There are many plans in this regard. These games should not be played. Resistance must be developed further.

November 1st is the 10th anniversary of World Kobane Day. Kobane was protected, survived, and came to this day with the efforts of all peoples, women, and young people all over the world. Everyone has contributed. The Rojava freedom revolution is everyone's revolution. The reality of North and East Syria is a real-

ity of hope for everyone. It shines like a light, a star for everyone. In the spirit of November 1st, I call out to those around the world who protected the revolution 10 years ago; today there is the same attack to crush the revolution. ISIS was attacking then. Today, the ones that created ISIS are attacking themselves. And they are attacking Kobane. The ruling and state forces are silent, but the peoples, women, young people, revolutionaries, democratic forces, left socialist forces all over the world must stand up once again with the spirit of Kobane on November 1st. They must claim their own revolution. Our call is on this basis.



## Kalkan: Abdullah Öcalan proposed the democratic nation as a solution for the Middle East

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In the second part of this in-depth interview, Duran Kalkan, member of the KCK Executive Council, spoke about the current war in the Middle East, and the solution proposed by the Kurdish people's leader, Abdullah Öcalan, for the region.

*The war in the Middle East, which could possibly be described as World War Three, is growing in intensity. How do you assess the current developments in this regard?*

The war in the Middle East has intensified since October last year. That started with the attack by Hamas from Gaza, which Israel has seized as an opportunity. But Israel is not on its own; the whole NATO is behind it. Israel wants to utilize the advantages it has gained militarily. It is accurate to consider this as the Third World War.

Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] analyzed and evaluated the Third World War in all its dimensions. He defined it as a conflict caused by the contradiction between the supranational monopoly capital system and the nation-state status quo. It is linked to globalizing capital, its ability to make more profit, to exploit more, to move faster and unhindered. For this, the attacking force is the monopolistic supranational capitalist power.

The defenders are the nation-state structures, the nation-state status quo forces. All the states in the Middle East were like this. Iraq, Syria, and others have always been targets. Now Iran is being targeted. Iran, of course, is also a nation-state status quo force in a way. The most rigid nation-state power clinging to the status quo is the Turkish state. Therefore, as I have already stated in the past, is the center of the war in Turkey. No matter what the current rulers, AKP, MHP, others, go to NATO, try to join the European Union, do whatever in the US, go to Russia, China, or join BRICS, they cannot save themselves.

The First World War was a redistribution over energy resources and routes. It was a redistribution of the world. It was the formation of a global hegemonic structure for the capitalist system. The Middle East and the Ottoman Empire were the targets. They took out the nation-state structure and dismembered the Empire. Turkey became the model, and a hundred years passed like this. Now the Third World War wants to

overcome these hundred years of nation-state status quo. That status quo limits the circulation of capital. It prevents maximum profit. It weakens exploitation. And capital does not want to recognize obstacles. It wants to make more profit. There is an insatiability there. This is how this attack continues. Again, there are new energy routes; there is the issue of energy resources.

There is also the aim of global monopoly capital to become more influential and dominant. What the human mind created thousands of years ago, five thousand years ago in the Middle East, is now bringing everything to humanity in the Middle East. Middle Easterners created all this war and all these tools. The first of everything happened in the Middle East. Everything developed in the Middle East. And now it is becoming a victim of its own creations. But not everyone is, of course. Some try to dominate, some become victims. There is a very brutal, unrestrained war going on.

Nationalism, religionism, sexism, and materialism are ravaging the Middle East and the whole world. This war is its product. One side says that the Ummah must unite. Another side says it wants the capital to dominate everything. Some talk about problems with security and freedom. For example, Israel is attacking right now. It says that the Jews have a security and freedom problem, and it would solve it for them. It is for Israel's security. Rêber Apo underlined this. Will the Jews be able to ensure their own security by destroying their environment? Or will they be safe by fraternizing with the environment? Will the Jews be free by enslaving others? Or will they be free by sharing with everyone? This war will not bring security; it will not bring freedom; it will not bring democracy. There is opposition to these things. Like this, there will be no security and freedom for the Jew, no security and freedom for the Muslim, no security and freedom for the Christian, no security and freedom for the Turk, no security and freedom for the Persian, no security and freedom for the Kurd, no security and freedom for the Arab, none of them.

What is necessary? Rêber Apo proposed the democratic nation as a solution for the Middle East. He proposed democratic confederalism. The solution is here; the solution is coexistence. Instead of destroying all the others and taking over everything, he envisages coexistence. There is no other solution. Otherwise, there will be an endless bloodbath, there will be a disaster, and maybe some people will become very wealthy for a while, but there is no end to it. This is why this war must be opposed. This war of interests, this war of redistribution, the Third World War, the imperialist war, and the war of exploitation must be opposed. Everyone must turn it into their own war for freedom and democracy. They must turn it into a war of brotherhood with other peoples. It is necessary to turn it into a war for democratic nation, democratic confederalism and develop its revolution. That can only be the solution.

*Is there anything else you would like to add at the end?*

October 29 marked the 101st anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic in Turkey. It would be useful to say a few words on the occasion of this anniversary. Because it is also connected to other discussions. Again, Rêber Apo has put forward these issues in a very holistic manner with all the details. One, Kurds are active founding members of this republic. This needs to be reminded once again to those who have seized this republic and use it as their private club. Two, Kurds did not betray this republic.

The Republic itself did not manage to become a true republic. Because it could not democratize. It could not become a democratic republic. The Republic itself betrayed its founding principles and did not maintain them. During its founding process, it granted the Kurds autonomy. It fought for Turkish-Kurdish unity and brotherhood and tried to establish this republic. But it was the republic itself that ignored the

Kurds and wanted to destroy them. The Republic turned to this to destroy the Kurds. And when the Kurds resisted, they were declared guilty because they were resisting. Three, this was the Republic of Turkey, not the Turkish Republic. It was the State of the Republic of Turkey, not the Turkish State.

Those who ignored the Kurdish people, betrayed the founding principles of the republic, and caused the republic to become what it has become are the ones who made the Republic of Turkey a Turkish Republic. Turkish and Turkey are not the same. When the Republic was founded, Turkey was defined as a common homeland where Turks and Kurds lived. Turkey refers to a homeland. Turk refers to a race, a nation. Turkey and the Turk cannot be equated or equated. In the beginning there were no Turks, there was Turkey. Turks were something, an element in it, like the Kurds. There were also other communities. But they ignored them all. They also wrote at the beginning of the constitution, in many justifications. The Turkish State, the Turkish Republic, is not like that. This is being distorted. They are not being faithful to the truth. Therefore, we call everyone to the truth.

I mentioned before that 100 years have passed like this. The First World War was a war to divide the Middle East into nation states. This happened in Turkey. Now the Third World War is trying to overcome the status quo. The Turkish Republic was established with the Treaty of Lausanne. Through the Turkish Republic, Arabia was shaped into twenty or so states. Now there is the Jewish-Arab alliance, the Israeli-Arab alliance, the Abraham Accords Declaration. The capitalist system wants to reshape the new Middle East according to this agreement. What will Turkey do in the current situation? It can no longer continue with the same approaches as in the last century. Everyone must come to their senses. They must see the changes. They try to take the capitalist order as a basis, but they try not to act according to the logic of capital. That won't work then. They don't know where they will end up like this.

Finally, let me point out one last aspect. This republic was founded thanks to the October revolution, with the support of the Soviet Union and the support of the Kurds. If it had not been for the October revolution, if the Soviet Union had not emerged, if the Kurds had not supported it, such a state would not have been established a century ago. There is no Soviet Union now. Those who think they can find new support by going to China or Russia and trying to join BRICS are fooling themselves. If you try to destroy the Kurds, then what will you survive on? The system is cutting its own legs, cutting its own arms.

Now there are Turks who define the Kurd as a wolf among them. They insult them in all kinds of ways and develop all kinds of assimilation, massacres, and genocide. Now Bahçeli says that Kurds are their brothers; Kurds cannot exist without Turks, and Turks cannot exist without Kurds. Kurds have been saying this for a hundred years. They have done everything they could on this issue; they have not given any support. Why were they never taken into consideration? Have you only just come to your senses? But they are still not consistent on this issue. They are trying to deceive the Kurds. They say Kurds cannot be without Turks; Turks cannot be without Kurds. But still, they want the Kurds to become Turks. This is not the way. Kurds will be given their rights. Kurds will be free. Turkey will become a democracy based on Kurdish freedom and on women's freedom. Only then can it sustain itself. Only then, as an alternative system, can it resist the attacks of this capitalist system, the monopoly capital system, and survive. Otherwise, it has no chance of survival.

Those people who claim different, understand nothing. They are only after their own rents, they are dragging Turkey towards disaster. The intellectuals, writers, artists, and politicians of Turkey should be wise against them. They should appreciate the Kurdish reality, the support of the Kurds, the support of a thou-

sand years, and make good use of it. Then they should be able to establish a democratic republic in the homeland of Kurds and Turks according to the founding, that is, based on their freedom. Otherwise, there is no chance of survival.

Finally, we are entering November, the month of the establishment of our party. I call on everyone to use the month in which this party was born correctly, to evaluate it correctly, to develop the struggle for the physical freedom of Rêber Apo more effectively by deepening the understanding of the party's approach to revolution and patriotism in the line of Rêber Apo and the martyrs.

By commemorating the comrades Kerim, Delal and Reşit with respect, love and gratitude, I commemorate all of our November martyrs. I call on everyone to increase the struggle for the freedom of Rêber Apo everywhere in the legacy of the November martyrs, and I wish everyone success.



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