

# THE İMRALI POST

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

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# Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

## Women of Rojava take over Freedom for Öcalan Vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Initiative launched the vigil on 25 June 25 in Strasbourg to demand freedom for Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and to break the isolation imposed on him.

The vigil on its 544th is carried out by Kongra-Star women. The group includes Fadila Mohamed, Yanis Basîma and Hêvî Hamî.

Group spokesperson Fadila Mohamed said: "We, women from Rojava Kurdistan, are here on behalf of Kongra Star to take over the vigil for the liberation of Rêber Apo [Abdullah Öcalan]. We will be here for a week, to protest the isolation imposed on our leader in Imrali for 24 years. Our leader is our will. This ac-

tion will continue until the freedom of Rêber Apo is achieved. Because the European states and the whole European system are violating the laws on human rights. The Kurdish people are waging a unique struggle for freedom and existence today. This struggle is for all peoples of the world. Because the democratic nation system and the democratic Middle East system are being implemented in Rojava today. But the Turkish state never accepts this. It attacks our people on a daily basis. Turkey is attacking Kurdistan. Women, children, military forces, make no difference to Turkey.”

Mohamed continued: “Our people in Rojava waged a very tough war against ISIS. We put up great resistance for the whole world. However, the world is turning a blind eye to what the Turkish state is doing. Here in front of the European Parliament, we condemn what has been done to our people and what has been done to our Leader. We will never accept it. On this basis, we call on our people and on the international community: enough is enough!”



## Prisons in Turkey

### Women prisoners in Bakırköy Women's Closed jail denied visits for 3 months

ANF | ISTANBUL | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

The AKP-MHP government continues to systematically torture prisoners. Political female prisoners in Bakırköy Women's Closed jail are subjected to systematic torture, such as harassing body searches, a ban on open and closed visits with their families, ban on phone calls, raids on wards, confiscation of letters, physical intervention, psychological pressure, bans on books, magazines and newspapers. staying. Families of female prisoners in Bakırköy Women's Closed jail were banned from visiting for 3 months on the grounds that they protested the violations of rights in the prison on 26 October 2022.

Giving information to the families and lawyers of female prisoners about the violations of rights in prison is also a matter of punishment. Prisoners were subjected to months without visits because of the information they gave to their families.

The families said that the pressure is increasing in the prison. A prisoner's relative, who asked not to be named to avoid further pressure in the prison, said: "The families chanted slogans to protest the pressure on the prisoners on 26 October. All prisoners and people who held a visit that day and that week, were prevented from having further meetings for 3 months. Violations of rights in prison have increased a lot. Strip searches, harassment, constant raids on the wards, violation of the right to health, the same and bad food, shortage of hot and clean water, bans on calls and telephones, prohibitions such as not giving newspapers, magazines and books are applied.”

The prisoner's relative added: "It is also a crime to talk about the violations of rights in prison and to give information about those to human rights organisations. Many friends who expressed their rights violations in this prison before were punished. As families of the prisoners, we call on everyone to be sensitive to put an end to this oppression and violation of rights against the prisoners."



## 11 detained as police attack Justice Vigil for prisoners in Istanbul

ANF | ISTANBUL | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

Istanbul police once again attacked and broke up a rally for sick political prisoners. At least eleven participants were taken into custody, some of them violently, including mothers fighting for the lives of their imprisoned children. The "justice vigil" was called by a relatives' initiative, which has been taking to the streets every week for about nine months to demand the release of seriously ill prisoners and those still imprisoned for lack of remorse despite having completed their sentences. Most of the participants are prisoners who draw attention to the life-threatening conditions in Turkish prisons and demand an end to the violations of their rights. Their actions are regularly broken up by the police.

Today's vigil was to take place in front of the Çağlayan Palace of Justice. Once again, support for the prisoners' cause came from the provincial and district executive committees of the HDP and civil society, including prisoner solidarity activists. The police cordoned off a wide area in front of the court building and surrounded the rally. A "ban on demonstrations" issued by the local authorities was used as justification. HDP MP Musa Piroğlu protested against the action and complained that in fact any protest related to the "injustice behind Turkish bars" was being suppressed by arbitrary bans. "However, inhumane conditions prevail in the prisons of this country. Someone has to address this problem and raise it. That is what we are here for."

An activist of the initiative appealed from the encircled rally: "Is it a crime if we seek justice? We came here to seek justice. And if this is a crime, we will always commit this crime." The police then intervened in the crowd of prisoners' members and fished out Zeynep Calıhan, Kumru Akgül, Emine Arslan, Şahin Kızılkaya, Feryat Sakallı, Sebahattin Halli, Şafı Erol, Evin Genç, Adalet Ünlü, Emrullah Şenyüz and Zemine Gökçe. They are now facing charges of violating an official order.

Musa Piroğlu protested against police violence and detentions. He said that all over the country, people were being beaten and arrested by police in the streets just for speaking out against injustice. "The mothers and relatives of prisoners are constantly detained and prevented from speaking out about the problems in the prisons. Silencing the voices of sick prisoners and beating their mothers is an attack on the conscience of this country. As long as we remain silent and accept the situation, it will get worse."

"If sick prisoners are killed behind bars, if there is this oppression, if people are murdered in front of everyone, we are responsible for it now. The people who remain silent are responsible for it. This call is for

the people. As long as we leave these mothers here alone, it will continue. As long as we remain silent about the deaths in the prisons, we will also die in the streets. We call on everyone to raise their voices against this oppression and tyranny and to stand by the sick prisoners."



## Images of torture suffered by Garibe Gezer released

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

Jinnews had access to the footage to which Garibe Gezer was submitted. The woman was murdered on 9 December 2021 after being raped and tortured in Kandıra No. 1 F Type Closed Prison, where she was detained, after being arrested in Nusaybin (province of Mardin) in 2016. After Gezer was murdered, the prosecutor's office imposed a confidentiality order on the file, and lawyers were prevented from their work.

All the applications made by the lawyers to date have been answered with a "decision of non | prosecution". In March 2022, the lawyers applied to the Constitutional Court (AYM) denouncing the violation of Articles 17, 40, 36 and 141 of the Constitution and Articles 3, 6 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). However, there has been no response to the application so far.

The torture that Gezer was subjected to in prison was shown in the images accessed by Jinnews. In the footage, it is seen that Gezer was dragged on the ground and pulled from her arms by guards and prison officers. The footage showed Gezer screaming while she was dragged on the ground.

Gezer's lawyers, Eren Keskin, Jiyan Kaya, Jiyan Tosun and Elif Taşdöğen, said that the case opened by the Human Rights Association (IHD) Istanbul Branch building regarding Gezer's murder was concluded after exactly 11 months. Although there is evidence of Gezer's torture, the Kandıra Chief Public Prosecutor's Office decided that there is "no room for prosecution" because "there is not enough evidence".

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qx8VKyEnhUI>



## Up to seven and a half years in prison sought for Fincancı

ANF | ANKARA | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

The president of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), Şebnem Korur Fincancı, faces up to seven and a half years in prison for statements concerning the use of chemical weapons against Kurdish guerrillas. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office accuses the 63-year-old of "propaganda for a terrorist organisation", state media reported.

Şebnem Korur Fincancı has been in custody for about a month. The charges are based on statements she made in a television interview with the Kurdish broadcaster Medya Haber. In the interview, the internationally renowned forensic doctor was asked about chemical weapons attacks against PKK guerrillas in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) by Turkish troops. She demanded that the allegations be independently investigated according to international standards. President Erdoğan then accused her of denigrating the armed forces and insulting her country.

Videos published by ANF show Turkish soldiers using chemical agents against guerrilla positions during occupation operations in southern Kurdistan. There is also footage of injured guerrilla fighters who were exposed to the chemicals. In addition to Fincancı, the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and Kurdish civil society have also called for independent investigations. The Turkish government denies the allegations.

The medical peace organisation IPPNW undertook a delegation trip to the KRI in September - after reports of Turkish chemical weapons attacks in southern Kurdistan became widespread - to investigate the allegations, view visual material and take and assess samples. The delegation was denied access to the regions affected by Turkish chemical weapons use by the KRI government. The IPPNW report published in October on the trip nevertheless confirms the Kurdish accusations and considers an immediate independent international investigation to be necessary.

Fincancı is to be sentenced in line with the Turkish Anti-Terror Law, according to which, "whoever makes propaganda for a terrorist organisation shall be punished with imprisonment between one and five years." The penalty is increased by half if the "crime" is committed through the press or radio.



## Military aggression and occupation

### SDF denies Turkish allegation that 184 fighters have been killed in air raids

ANF | 22 NOVEMBER 2022

In a Twitter post on Tuesday, the Media and Information Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) denied the allegations of the Turkish state, which relies on misinformation and complete distortion of truths in its ongoing genocidal war against North and East Syria.

“The Ministry of Defense of the Turkish occupation state claimed to have killed 184 of our fighters in air raids. This information is not true. The latest attacks claimed the lives of 2 security members and 11 citizens,” said the SDF post.



## Third day balance of Turkish aggression on North East Syria: phosphorus bomb used

ANF | QAMISHLO | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

For the third day in a row, the Turkish occupation is launching a large-scale aggression against the regions of the north and eastern Syria, using aircraft, UAVs, heavy artillery, tanks, and missiles, targeting civilian infrastructures and service facilities, such as hospitals, oil wells, homes, and civilians' properties. Today's outcome of the Turkish aggressions in the regions of North and East Syria is as follows:

Aircraft airstrikes: 6 airstrikes

UAV airstrikes: 6 airstrikes

Heavy artillery, tanks, and missiles: 82 attacks

The number of shells landed: 590 artillery shells

The number of sites targeted: 45 sites, including hospitals, gas stations, and oil fields.

The number of chemical attacks: one attack with chemical weapons against the village of Tat Marash, Afrin's southern countryside.

The outcome in detail:

### **Al-Shehba's areas:**

43 attacks targeting more than 36 sites and villages using more than 570 shells.

The areas targeted: Sheikh Isa Ziwan Harbal, Ahras Road, Sammouka, Tal Madik, Mannig, Beilonia, al-Shahba'a Dam, Tal Chichan, Tal Annab, al-Wahshia, Mannig airfield. and Kafar Naya.

Casualties:

Two soldiers from Damascus government forces were killed and two others injured.

### **Kobanê and its countryside:**

One airstrike targeted Kobanê downtown.

The number of attacks: 9 attacks

The area targeted: "Silam, Koltib, Saftik, Qaramoug and its health center, Zor Magar, Zayara, Charaqli, Koran school."

**Afrin southern countryside:**

The number of attacks: 16 attacks

Shells landed: 20 shells

Casualties: One of the Damascus Government soldiers was killed.

The number of chemical attacks: One attack with phosphorus bombs on the village of Tat Marash, Sheran/Shera district.

Villages targeted: “Bina/Ibyan, Mayasa, the region located between the villages of Mayasa and Burj al-Qas, Zayara, the outskirt of the Iranian base in Bina, between Irshadia, Alkamia and its gas station, al-Malkiya, Shwarga, and Maranz”.

**Manbij and its countryside:**

The number of aggressions: 2 attacks

Villages targeted: al-Muhsinly and al-Housharia. The eastern and northwestern parts of Manbij witnessed UAV flights.

**Hesekê and its countryside:**

The number of the UAV airstrikes: 4 airstrikes, including one raid on a combined base of the SDF anti-terrorism units (YAT) and the International Coalition, and two raids on the village of al-Oja.

Heavy artillery, tanks, and missiles: 2 attack

Areas targeted: A combined base of the anti-terrorism units and the international coalition, Tal Tamir countryside, Zarkan countryside, and Um al-Khir.

Casualties: Two fighters from the anti-terrorism unit (YAT) were martyred and three others injured

**Qamishlo and its countryside:**

Two UAV airstrikes, the first one targeted the Aouda oil field and the other one targeted an oil field near Laylan village, 7 km to the southwest of Terpe Spi town.

The number of attacks: 10 attacks

Casualties: One soldier of the Damascus Government forces was shot and injured by a Turkish sniper near the Nusaybin-Qamishlo border crossing



Villages targeted: Tal Ziwan, Kardahoul, Toki, Tal Kif, Dodan, Ali Faro Crossroad, Dakri, Rotan, and Karki Shamo

### **Deir Ezzor countryside:**

The Turkish occupation aircraft launched five raids on the village of Al-Makmen in Deir Ezzor, 70 km from the Syrian-Turkish border.



## German Interior Minister visits Ankara amid new Turkish attacks on Rojava and Bashur

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

As in recent years, German state officials have once again come into contact with the AKP-MHP regime shortly after a new wave of attacks against the Kurds and other parts of Kurdistan. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser paid a visit to Ankara on Monday, right after the Turkish state launched a new invasion attack on Rojava and Bashur (South) Kurdistan on November 19.

Faeser's two-day official visit to Turkey was announced on November 18, the day before the invasion attacks began. Faeser addressed the cooperation between the two countries, the "fight against terrorism", "security" and the illegal refugee influx in a meeting with Turkish Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu.

### **New bargains for Turkish elections?**

It is reported that Faeser, who spoke to Turkish Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu on the phone last January, might talk about the voting process in Germany for the upcoming Turkish elections and the election campaign of the ruling AKP. It is further reported that the AKP may conduct negotiations with the Berlin administration in order to run its election campaigns in Germany, an election stronghold of Erdoğan, before the general elections in Turkey next year.

Recently it was revealed that the AKP-MHP government had started the election campaign in the mosques run by Turkey-affiliated DITIB in Germany. Moreover, letters signed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan were sent to Turkish citizens living in Germany. Prior to the 2017 referendum, the German government banned the AKP and other Turkish political parties from running election campaigns inside Germany, which caused a crisis between the two countries.

### **'Soft' warning from Berlin**

Meanwhile, as Interior Minister Nancy Faeser was on her way to Ankara, a "soft" warning came from the Berlin administration concerning the invasion attacks by the Turkish state. "We call on Turkey to act proportionately and respect international laws. We call on Turkey, along with all other actors, not to further

escalate the current tensions in northern Syria and Iraq,” German Foreign Ministry spokesman Christopher Burger said.

German spokesperson Burger also endorsed Turkey which used the Taksim attack as a pretext for the invasion attacks: “The German government takes the suspicion that the PKK or groups close to the PKK are responsible for the Taksim attack very seriously. But Article 51 of the UN Charter does not stipulate that the right of self-defence also includes the right to retaliate.”

Contrary to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, prominent members of the Green Party, one of the partners of the German government of Prime Minister, Olaf Scholz, called for putting an end to the Turkish attacks, which they said were at odds with international laws. The opposition Left Party has also put forward a similar call.

### **Germany comes to the fore before Turkish attacks**

Previously, Germany came to the fore with its frequent diplomatic contacts with the Turkish state during the critical stages of the annihilation concept that targeted the Kurdish people. In the autumn of 2015, when the Turkish state waged war against cities and districts in North Kurdistan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel seemed to be on familiar terms with Erdoğan during an official visit. Merkel's visit, which arrived before the November 1 elections, was considered as open support for the AKP-MHP coalition.

In the first days of 2018, when the Turkish state was preparing for an invasion attack against Afrin together with its mercenaries, then Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel invited Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to his hometown and held a long meeting with him. In a warm atmosphere, Gabriel personally served tea during the meeting with Çavuşoğlu.

In mid-October 2019, when the Turkish state escalated its attacks on Girê Spî and Serêkaniyê, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas went to Ankara and shared intimate moments with the ministers of the AKP-MHP regime. Maas, who also went to Erdoğan's palace, made statements that justified the invasion attack.

On February 2, 2021, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar came to Berlin and had a long meeting with his German counterpart, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. It was noteworthy that Akar preferred Berlin after his visits to Hewler and Baghdad. About 10 days after Akar's visit to Berlin, on February 13, 2021, the Turkish army launched a large-scale attack on Garê, a stronghold of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas. The German Government did not unveil the details of the meeting with Akar and rejected to reply to the parliamentary questions of the Left Party, saying that it was a "state secret".

## Turkish attacks on Rojava continue unabated

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkish attacks on North and East Syria have taken on a new dimension since November 19. Simultaneous attacks are being carried out by fighter jets, intense artillery fire and drones. Civilians and civil infrastructure are directly targeted during the attacks. Serious war crimes are increasingly reported with every passing hour.

### **Derik bombed whole night**

The villages of Siwidikê and Aliaxa in Dêrik were bombed by Turkish fighter jets throughout the night.

### **Russian-SDF joint military spot bombed in Til Temir**

A joint military spot of the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) and Russia was targeted by reconnaissance aircraft in Til Temir. It is reported that a fighter was martyred, and others were injured in the attack. Two more SDF fighters were injured after the same location was targeted a second time as SDF units moved to retrieve the injured from the scene.

### **Reports of injuries in bombardment on Qamishlo**

The city of Qamishlo was also bombed, which left some injured.

The Himo village west of Qamishlo and the Til Zîwan village in the east were bombed at around 12:30 local time. Fighter jets are reported to have flown over the Rimêlan town simultaneously.

### **Civil services targeted in Tirpespiye**

Turkish fighter jets bombed the seed industry centre in the east of Tirbespiyê and the village of Şelhomiyê in the north of the Qamishlo Canton. At 12:20 am local time, Turkish aerial attacks on the region continued.

### **Workers targeted: 4 injured**

Turkish fighter jets targeted a service vehicle of workers in the south of Tirbespiyê. Workers named Ebdurehman El Ehmed (22), Îbrahîm El Mihemed (43), Ebdulmunim Xelife (28) and Ziyad El Hebîb (35) were injured following the attack. The injured were taken to the Heyva Sor a Kurd Centre.

The Ewda oil field in the east of Tirpespiyê district was targeted a second time. In the morning hours, the oil field was bombed at least three times.

## **Amude bombed**

The Til Hemdûn village and Ezedîn Çolî hamlet in the west of Amude were attacked around 12:00 local time.

## **Air attack on Til Kocer: Reports of injuries**

Turkish fighter jets bombed the Elî Axa village of Til Koçer four times. It is reported that some were injured in the attack.

## **Gas station bombed in Cilaxa**

Turkish drones bombed the Dicle Gas Station in the Girhok village, south of Çilaxa, three times. Ambulances were sent to the scene of the attack.

## **At least 1300 bombs on the Afrin region in 24 hours**

The Afrin Region is also under intense attack.

In the last 24 hours alone, more than 1,300 howitzers, mortars and tank artillery shells have hit the Afrin region.

14 regions in the Shehba Canton, 7 regions in Shera and 5 regions in Sherawa were targeted during the attacks.

The regions that have been targeted by bombardments are:

### **Shehba Canton**

Semûqa, Til Medîq, Til Cîcan, Medûnê, Til Enab, Şêx Îsa, Minix Airport, Shehba Dam, Bêlûniyê, Til Rifet, Werdiyê, Sealê, Kefer Naya and Eyn Deqnê.

### **Shera**

Merenaz, Malikiyê, Shewarxa, Til Ecar, Elqemiyê, Îrşadiyê and Tat Maraş villages.

### **Sherawa**

Meyasê, Bênê, Aqîbê and Bir Qas villages and Soxanekê forest.

As a result of these attacks, 3 soldiers of the Damascus government were killed and 2 more soldiers were injured. Material damage is reported as a result of the bombings.

## Attacks continue in Shehba

The attacks on the Shehba Canton continued on Wednesday morning. Around 08:40 local time, the invading Turkish state started bombing the Til Mediq and Til Cîcan villages and the Shehba Dam. About 30 howitzer shells hit the villages.

Around 12:30 local time, the villages of Xirnêta, Heseçê and Samuqa in Shehba were bombed once again.

## Til Rifet bombed

At around 10.30 am local time, the district of Til Rifet in Shehba Canton was attacked. The Sinaa neighborhood was targeted in particular.

## Intense artillery fire on Kobane

Simultaneously, the Xirab Eto village of Kobanê came under intense artillery fire.



# 14 more civilians injured in ongoing Turkish attacks on Northern Syria

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

The invading Turkish state has today directly targeted civilian settlements and service centres in Til Koçer, Çilaxa, Tirbesiyê, Zirgan and Qamişlo regions of northern Syria.

Three people were injured in the Turkish attack on Til Koçer's Aliaxa village. Two civilians with slight injuries were taken to Derik Hospital, and the other with serious injuries was taken to Qamishlo Hospital.

A gas station was bombed in the Girhok village of Çilaxa district in Qamishlo.

Engineers named Asir Setam and Ebdulkerim Ebdo were injured in the attack and hospitalized in Girkê Legê and Qamishlo.

Three people were injured after a civilian vehicle was targeted by a Turkish bombing in the Meşref village of Qamishlo. The injured were taken to Qamishlo Hospital.

A service vehicle carrying workers was targeted in the south of Tirbesiyê. Ebdurehman al-Ehmed (22), İbrahim al-Mihemed (43), Ebdulmunim Xelifê (28) and Ziyad al-Hebîb (35) were injured and were taken to Kurdish Red Crescent Heyva Sor a Kurd center in Tirbesiyê.

Turkish drone attacks injured two people in the Zêdiyê village of Dirbesiyê. Information on the condition of the injured could not be obtained.

According to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), at least 84 villages and towns were targeted, and 7 civilians and 2 YAT fighters were martyred in the Turkish attacks on November 22.



## SDF: Our forces will not allow the enemy to achieve its occupation goals

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

The General Command of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement providing detailed information on the latest wave of attacks carried out by the Turkish state against North-East Syria.

The SDF statement published on Wednesday includes the following:

“Turkish intelligence has cunningly prepared for the blast of Taksim in Istanbul to use it as a pretext to put its long-prepared plan in action, which is attacking Rojava and North-East Syria.

Based on these preparations, and since midnight of November 19, 2022, it has launched 47 air raids, 20 UAV airstrikes, and 3761 attacks with heavy artillery, mortars, tanks, and various types of heavy weapons, targeting the areas stretching from Derik, to Qamishlo, al-Hasaka, Kobane, Deir Ezzor, and even the areas of Al-Shahba’a.

At the time of writing this statement, the attacks resulted in the martyrdom of 5 Kurdish fighters in Afrin. In the areas east of the Euphrates, 6 fighters of our forces were martyred, in addition to 15 civilians, including 11 civilians who were martyred in Derik, 2 civilians in Tal Tamir, and two in the village of al-Makmen in the Deir Ezzor countryside. In addition, civilian homes, hospitals, schools, and civilian infrastructure and service facilities, such as gas stations and grain silos, were also bombed and severely damaged.

That’s the first time the areas of NE Syria have been targeted with such depth and distance. The enemy aims to inflict big blows on our defense forces, especially our commanders and command centers, to disperse our forces, breaking the will of resistance, and losing hope among the people. In this way, it prepares the ground for a ground offensive.

However, according to the outcome of the aggression, it is clear that the enemy has not achieved any victory or progress over the past three days of its continuous aggression, thanks to the defense mechanisms developed and taken by our SDF, our measures and preparations, in addition to our fighters’ vigilance. With strong will and steadfastness, we have continued our resistance on the frontlines. When the Turkish occupying State realized that its military attacks did not achieve its goals, it directed its aggression against

our people in Derek, and in the areas of Tal Tamir and al-Makman in Deir Ezzor, committing massacres against civilians that resulted in the martyrdom of 15 civilians and many others injured.

It also directed its aggressions against the civilian infrastructures and service facilities, trying to make the lives of the people in NE Syria the main target of its terrorism.

Our people have shown a patriotic attitude regarding the continuous attacks of the enemy.

The mother martyr “Hoger” is the most prominent icon of that spirit and stand, which confirms that our people would not abandon their soil, land, and cities, so our people took to the squares with great enthusiasm and anger, expressing their position against the occupation.

On the one hand, our people’s determination and attitude are considered a source of morale for our SDF fighters, and on the other hand, our people’s adherence to their soil, land, villages, and cities, in addition to their loyalty to the SDF sacrifices, express their steadfastness and their position. We are confident that the historic resistance waged by SDF fighters and the cooperation of our people will thwart all the plans of the Turkish occupation, opening the way to historic victories for the peoples of the region and the Syrians in general.

On this basis, we salute the patriotic position of our people, and through the martyrs of Taqil Baqil in Derek, we recall all our martyrs, and we renew our pledge to follow their path and achieve their goals.

On the other hand, the Turkish occupation conducted air raids using airspace controlled by Russia and the international coalition. On November 22nd, the Turkish occupation launched an attack on a combined base of the Anti-Terrorism Units (YAT) and the international coalition forces, resulting in the martyrdom of two of our comrades and three others wounded. Today, November 23rd, the Turkish occupation carried out an airstrike on a combined base of our forces and Russian forces in Tal Tamir, resulting in the martyrdom of one of our comrades and three others wounded.

Our demand from the key powers we work with is to declare to our people their clear stance, which does not seem to come within the framework of friendship and partnership. So far, our forces have fulfilled and without hesitation all their obligations in defense and protection against both the terrorist organization of ISIS and the Turkish occupation.

Over the past three days, we have confronted the attacks of the Turkish occupation in an appropriate and required manner. Henceforth, our forces will carry out, with strong determination, their historic duty to defend and protect the region, and they will not allow the enemy to achieve its occupation goals.

The number of Syrian army soldiers who lost their lives on the frontlines due to the attacks was also the highest. More than 25 soldiers lost their lives. The silence of the Syrian government and the absence of its stance regarding the attacks was a reason that these soldiers lost their lives.

At this historic stage, we appeal to the youth of the region, who have a national, humanitarian, and sacred responsibility to shoulder their responsibilities in defending the region.

The doors are open for them to join the SDF to defend their villages, cities, and fields.

On this basis, we appeal to all young men and women in the regions of NE Syria, including Kurds, Arabs, Syrians, Turkmen, Armenians, and all its components, to join the ranks of the SDF. In this way, we will ensure the protection, security, and stability of our regions.”



## AANES representation in Germany: Turkey's aggression serves to support ISIS

ANF | BERLIN | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Since the weekend, Turkey has been bombing the areas of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES). The AANES representation in Germany released a statement warning against the strengthening of ISIS and calling on the German government to take responsibility.

Regarding the current status of Turkey's cross-border military operation, the AANES representation said: "At least 25 people have already died as a result of the attacks. On Tuesday alone, 45 places were attacked, including hospitals, schools and oil fields. In addition, Turkey's attacks are increasingly targeting infrastructure that serves the fight against ISIS. On Tuesday, for example, the village of Al-Makman in the Deir ez-Zor region was attacked. There are many ISIS sleeper cells there and joint anti-terrorist operations by the SDF [Syrian Democratic Forces] with the international anti-ISIS coalition. In addition, there was a drone attack on a base of the US-led anti-ISIS coalition in Heseke, which killed two fighters of the anti-terrorist forces. Today, 23 November, the area around the Jerkin prison in Qamishlo, where many ISIS fighters are held, was also attacked."

Khaled Davrisch, the AANES representative in Germany, said: "The Turkish bombs on north-eastern Syria are a sign of hope for ISIS. Direct attacks on the international anti-ISIS coalition and ISIS prisons can only be interpreted as Turkish support for an ISIS resurgence."

According to AANES' Germany office, more than 12,000 IS members are interned in northern and eastern Syria, plus tens of thousands of family members. Among them are also several thousand who do not have Syrian citizenship. In the past, there have been individual repatriation operations by the Federal Republic of Germany and other states, but these have focused on women and children.

"Interior Minister Faeser has spoken of a joint fight against terrorism. Unfortunately, she is referring to Turkey. We invite the Federal Republic to join the joint fight against ISIS again. Bring back the German ISIS fighters and stop Turkey's ISIS support!", said Khaled Davrisch in the context of the state visit of Federal Interior Minister Nancy Faeser to Turkey this week.





## Turkey bombs 10 areas in Northern and Eastern Syria in one hour

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Warplanes belonging to the invading Turkish army bombed the Hol Camp, where 60 thousand people, mostly ISIS mercenaries and their families, are staying. A group of mercenary families who took advantage of the bombardment escaped from the camp. Internal Security Forces are trying to capture the escaped people.

### Attack on oil regions

The Turkish state bombed a military academy belonging to the Assyrian Sutoro forces in the village of Rûtan in Tirbespiyê and the oil fields around the city. After the bombardment, there was a fire in the area. As a result of the bombing of the electricity station in the village of Mizgeft in Tirbespiyê, a fire broke out in the station and material damage also occurred.

The village of Esediyê in Zirgan was bombed, 2 artillery shells fell in the Meyleson district of Qamişlo, the Newroz Construction Company on the Hizam road on the Qamishlo border was targeted by howitzers.

Turkey also opened fire on the village of Til Tişrîn in Dirbesiyê from its border police stations.

The Turkish state attacked the villages of Ziyaret and Dêrcemal in Shehba.



## Turkish attacks on al | Hol security allow ISIS affiliates to flee

MEDYANEWS | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

ISIS mercenaries have fled from the al-Hol camp in north and east Syria as a result of Turkish attacks on the region, Hawar News reported.

The Turkish Air Force bombed the vicinity of al-Hol where around 53,000 people are interned in the camp with links to the so-called Islamic State (ISIS).

Farhad Shami, the press spokesperson for the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced on his Twitter account that Turkish warplanes targeted internal security forces that are responsible for protecting al-Hol camp.

Farhad Shami also said that the internal security forces had arrested 6 members of ISIS families, including 3 women, who escaped from the al-Hol camp following a Turkish attack on the camp security forces.

On 22 November, Turkey also bombed an international anti-IS coalition base in the town of Heseke, allowing prisoners to escape.

According to the SDF, as of the 23 November, Turkey had carried out a total of 47 attacks with fighter jets, 20 attacks with drones, and 3,761 attacks with howitzers, artillery, and other weapons throughout the area of northern and eastern Syria.

Earlier in September, the Kurdish Internal Security Forces (Asayish) in North and East Syria, launched a three-week operation against Islamic State (ISIS) cells in al-Hol camp near Hasakah city and the forces had arrested 226 people including 36 women over terrorism related charges.

The US Central Command had announced the arrest of “dozens of ISIS operatives” in a special operation against ISIS sleeper cells in al-Hol displaced persons camp, and the dissolution of a major facilitation network for the jihadist group in a statement.



## Turkey to build security strip on Syria, Iraq border

MEDYANEWS | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkish President and leader of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that Turkey will close its southern border with Syria and Iraq by building a security strip, right from Hatay to Hakkari, the cities on the south of Turkey’s border.

“We have already formed part of this strip with cross-border operations,” said Erdoğan. “We will build the rest step by step, starting from places like Tel Rıfat, Manbij (Minbîç) and Aynularab (Kobanê).”

Erdoğan added that Turkey will launch a ground operation into northern Syria “at the most convenient time” to achieve these aims.

“Our operations with planes, artillery and drones are just the beginning,” Erdoğan said yesterday in a group meeting with party members.

The intense air strikes by the Turkish state, on 19 November, came a week after the 13 November bombing in Istanbul, which killed six people and injured dozens.

Turkey stated that the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and the People’s Protection Units (YPG) organised the Istanbul bombing, however, the accused Kurdish groups condemned the attack targeting civilians and declared that they had no connection with the bombing.

“It is not true that we have crossed the border or carried out attacks on their soil, like Turkey claims. None of their attacks will go unreciprocated, but all our retaliation will be on Syrian soil,” said Mazlum Abdi, the General Commander of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

Following the attacks, US and Russia called on Turkey to show restraint in Syria, while the President of the European Parliament called on Erdoğan to halt attacks on Syria and Iraq.



## Al Hemud: We won't allow a Turkish invasion

ANF | HİVDA HEBUN | RAQQA | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Ibrahim Ehmed al Hemud told ANF that the Turkish state targeted wheat warehouses, bakeries, electricity, gas and oil facilities, hospitals and schools and added that in this way, it tried to keep the people hungry and helpless. Al Hemud said: "We are ready to counter all attacks by the Turkish state. We are ready to fall martyrs, as are our children."

Al Hemud said that they do not accept the Turkish state's aggression and international silence, and added: "We have given thousands of martyrs. We have sacrificed our most precious sons to protect the peoples of the world. We spilled our blood on these lands to defeat a barbaric and inhuman terrorist organisation like ISIS. We are committed to our land and our achievements, and we will never leave our country. We do not Turkey here. It targets wheat warehouses, bakeries, hospitals and schools. In this way, he tries to keep the people hungry and helpless. We are ready to fall martyrs, as are our children. We are ready to counter all attacks by the Turkish state. Children, the elderly, women and men, all the people of North-East Syria will stand as human shields."

### We stand by the SDF

Stating that they will never leave the SDF alone in this war, al Hemud said: "The Turkish state wants to realize the Ottoman dream once again in this region. The Ottomans occupied these lands for 400 years and now Erdogan is occupying them. Together, all tribes and peoples in North-East Syria will continue to stand by the SDF, because the SDF is made up of our children. Every SDF fighter is the son of these people. We will never leave our own children alone."

### The Arab League is watching

Al Hemud criticized the silence of the Arab League: "Where is the Arab League? Are they just watching while the Turkish state is killing these people with planes? This is our land. The Turkish state has no moral values. It even targets graves. The states of the Arab League are just watching."



## SDF: Turkey continues committing war crimes and backing ISIS

ANF | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

The Press Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement providing the latest information about the increasingly ongoing attacks of the invading Turkish state.

The SDF statement published on Thursday includes the following:

“The Turkish occupation continues to commit war crimes against our people and our regions in an attempt to destroy the people’s livelihood and to deal a blow to their will to resist and their struggle for co-existence and peaceful life. The Turkish occupation is using all immoral means and standards to achieve its malicious goal in the region. However, those immoral means cannot break the will of our fighters and people. Nevertheless, our struggle is growing and increasing, and it will guarantee our success.

The Turkish occupation is committing an international war crime by attacking the civilian infrastructure in the region and backing ISIS with UAVs in an attempt to set free its terrorist detainees from the prisons and camps, and this was manifested through the attacks on the al-Hol camp and Jarkin prison.

Yesterday, the Turkish occupation attacked more than 116 villages and towns in NE Syria, using warplanes, UAVs, and heavy weapons, on a frantic quest to commit mass massacres. However, the crimes of the occupation will not remain unanswered, and on this basis, we will increase the strength of our forces to protect our people.

The following is the outcome of the treacherous Turkish aggressions on November 23.

### **Afrin region**

The villages of Shera/Sheran and Shirawa districts were subjected to 208 artillery shells, in addition to 150 mortar shells.

The villages targeted: Mayassa, Burj al-Qas, Soghunake, Aqiba, Binah/ Ibyan, Maranaz, Malikiyah, Tannb, Tat Mar’ash, Kashra’ar, and Alqmiya.

Casualties: Two soldiers of the Damascus Government forces were injured in Tallat Mayassa.

### **Al-Shahba areas**

The al-Shahba’a areas were subjected to intense and brutal shelling with heavy artillery and mortar shells.

The total number of artillery shells landed: /267/ artillery shells, in addition to /65/ mortar shells.

The villages targeted: “Tal Rifa’at town, Tal al-Madiq, Hasajak, Samuqah, Tal Chichan, Tal Ainab, Beiluniyeh, Ain Daqna, Harbal, Sheikh Issa, and Meng.”

## **Al Jazeera Region**

### **Tal Tamr**

The village of “Abqaran” was targeted by UAVs, resulting in the martyrdom of two of our fighters and three others injured.

The village of “Al-Kuzliya” was also subjected to /9/ artillery shells.

### **Amuda**

The Turkish occupation targeted the countryside of Amuda with /33/ mortar shells.

The villages targeted: Tal Kayf, Shur, Hasidiya, Touqa, Kharza, Bobi, Dada Abdal, and Tal al-Ward.

The “al-Zaidiya” village was also targeted with UAVs, as well as the “Mahmala” village was subjected to two UAVs air strikes. In Zarkan, the village of “Ibrahimia” was targeted, in addition, a checkpoint of the Internal Security Forces was targeted with a suicide UAV, resulting in the martyrdom of one of the Internal Security members.

### **Qamishlo**

A civilian vehicle was targeted by UAVs, and the warplanes targeted a gathering of civilians, injuring three civilians.

The gas company’s office was also shelled with 6 heavy artillery shells, while the villages of Tal Jihan and Mullah Abbas were attacked by warplanes.

The neighborhoods of the city of Qamishlo and the surrounding villages were also targeted by heavy artillery shelling, where they were hit by /21/ shells.

The regions targeted: the neighborhoods of Qamishlo and its surrounding villages: Tal Khatun, Himo, Anbara, Jerkin Prison, Navkri, the Suez Canal Silo, Tal Fares, Halko neighborhood, Tal Sha’er, and Ali Frou Village Road.

The Oil fields between the villages of “Deirna Qalanka” and “Kar/Tel Hasanak”, as well as the oil fields in “Mashouka” village were also targeted by mortar shelling.

The villages of “Tal Siwar, Ali Frou” were targeted by heavy artillery shelling, in addition to a civilian car.

The UAVs targeted many sites in Terpe Spi: The power station in the village of “Mezkfta”, the “Fuel Distribution Station” in “Odeh” village, the Academy of Internal Security Forces of the Syriac “Sotoro” in

“Rutan” village, and a civilian car on the “Qarmouti” roundabout at the entrance to the city, wounding one civilian.

### **Derik**

The warplanes launched several raids:

/4/ raids on the gas station between the villages of “Karhok” and “Ali Agha” in “Tal Kochar” district, resulting in the injury of three civilians.

The villages of Gucharat were also subjected to warplanes raids.

The “Al-Suwaidia” gas station was targeted with /6/ missiles, causing material damage to the station. The fuel distribution station in the village of Al-Tifteh was also targeted, causing significant damage.

The village of “Durzie Khan” was also targeted with 3 missiles.

The UAVs targeted the villages of “Shirika” and “Masraf” while the “Karqahfk” village was subjected to a warplane raid.

### **Al-Hol area**

The Turkish UAVs targeted the Internal Security Forces responsible for securing the al-Hol camp.

### **Euphrates region**

#### **Kobane**

The villages of “Khormakhar, Kuran, Qultep, Qarmugh, Khan, Kharb Baysan, Jisan, Al-Shuyoukh and Tallet Ahmed Mounir” were subjected to artillery shelling.

The shells landed: /4/ artillery shells in Khormakhar and Qultep.

3 mortar shells in Al-Shuyoukh and Tallet Ahmed Mounir.

5 artillery shells in Kuran and Kharb Baysan.

4 artillery shells in Ashma, Jarqli, Zor Ava.

One tank shell targeted a point of the Damascus government forces.

#### **Gri Spi / Tal Abyad**

The villages of Saida, Dibs, Tal Khan, and Zenobia were all shelled by heavy artillery and tanks.

#### **Raqqa**

The Turkish occupation targeted the village of “Al-Fatsa” in the countryside of Ain Issa with /11/ artillery shells, in addition to targeting the “Al-Nakheel restaurant” with /4/ shells.

### Manbij

The Turkish occupation targeted with heavy artillery the villages of “Saidia, Dandaniya, Tokhar, Aoun al-Dadat, al-Kawgli, al-Hawshariya, Qurt and Yaran and al-Jat”.

### Sarin

The village of Qararashk was targeted by UAVs.

### Al-Terwaziya

The villages of um al-Baramil, al-Kantari, and al-Tarwaziyah were heavily shelled with heavy artillery, tanks, and mortars.”



## Iraq to deploy troops to borders with Turkey and Iran

ANF | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Following a security meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, the Iraqi authorities decided “to deploy border guards along the borders with Turkey and Iran”.

The borders of the Kurdistan region are currently protected by peshmerga forces under the Iraqi Ministry of Defence.

In a written statement, the Iraqi authorities said that the plan would be implemented “in coordination with the government of the Kurdistan region and the Ministry of Peshmerga”.

On Tuesday, a peshmerga delegation conducted a meeting with representatives of the Iraqi Ministries of Interior and Defence.

According to a statement following the meeting, the parties agreed on a strategy to reinforce border security.

The decision came after Iranian and Turkish states escalated their attacks on the Kurdistan region of Iraq.



## SDF: ISIS threat increased after Turkish airstrikes on Hol Camp and Jerkin Prison

ANF | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) warned against the growing threat of ISIS amidst the increasingly ongoing attacks of the Turkish state against North-East Syria.

In a statement on Thursday, SDF said, “On November 23, the Turkish occupation State launched an attack with warplanes and UAVs, targeting the security forces of the al-Hol camp and “Jerkin” prison in Qamishlo, which holds the ISIS terrorist detainees and families, resulting in the martyrdom of eight of our fighters while on duty.”

SDF noted that, “The attack was cunningly planned by the Turkish occupation, which aims at enabling the ISIS terrorist detainees and their families to escape the camp and giving way for the terrorist organization to resurge.”

This scheme poses a serious threat to our regions and the world at large, said the SDF, warning that the silence of the international community could exacerbate that threat.



## Erdoğan bargains with Assad on refugees and Kurds

MEDYANEWS | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

A Lebanese politician who regularly meets Syrian officials said that the Iranians recently carried a message from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, reported Associated Press (AP).

Erdogan said he was ready to send Turkish officials to Damascus, but Assad refused, saying they could meet in a third country.

In the message, Erdoğan called for the return of the Syrian army to areas now controlled by the Kurds, to prevent Kurdish fighters from using Syrian gas and oil, and also called for Syrian refugees in Turkey to be returned to Syria.

Arguing that Tehran was “antagonistic” toward Turkey in Syria, a senior Turkish government official denied any Iranian mediation and said it was Russia that pushed Turkey toward reconciliation but that there was “no progress at all”, reported AP.



Last month, Mazloum Abdi, the Commander in Chief of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) spoke to Asharq Al-Awsat and warned against “comprehensive normalization” between Ankara and Damascus and said that any deal “will target the will of our people.”

“If this happens, it will be a great national crime because this will open the way for the occupation of parts of Syria,” Abdi told AP. “This is not acceptable.”

For Russia, a deal between Damascus and Ankara would help strengthen its ally Assad and would further promote Moscow’s influence with Turkey.

Hence, Russia’s special presidential envoy for Syria, Alexander Lavrentyev, said that hopefully Turkey and Syria could work toward a gradual rapprochement.

However, Bouthina Shaban, media advisor to Bashar al-Assad, said that the Turkish attacks used baseless pretexts for the survival of terrorists operating under its umbrella in north and west Syria, reported Syrian Arab News Agency.



## 12 Turkish soldiers and 8 mercenaries killed in SDF retaliatory actions

ANF | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

The Press Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the details of their actions against the invading Turkish army and allied mercenaries in northern Syria.

12 Turkish occupying soldiers and 8 Turkish-backed mercenaries were killed as a result of the legitimate response operations conducted by our forces in retaliation to the Turkish aggressions on regions stretching from Zarkan to Manbij,” said the SDF statement on Friday.

The statement added, “Over the past five days, our forces thwarted four infiltration attempts by the occupying army and its mercenaries after clashes with them.”



## SDF announces the outcome of Turkish aggressions on November 24

ANF | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the balance sheet of Turkish attacks against North-East Syria on November 24, Thursday.

“The Turkish occupation attacks and aggressions continued against NE Syria, targeting primarily the populated areas and civilian infrastructure that provide the people’s livelihood. These war crimes against our people and humanity have been documented in videos and must be on the investigation table by the international community,” said the SDF statement and announced the outcome of the Turkish aggressions as follows:

*An additional outcome for November 23;*

### **Al Jazeera Region**

#### **Qamishlo**

The villages of Mahshouk, Dirna Qalinga, Gir Hanak, Sawir, Rutan, Tal Ziwan, Ali Fero, Harem Shekho, Kudu, and Dodan were bombarded with more than 20 artillery and tank shells.

In the Qamishlo city center, a car was targeted by a UAV strike.

The Nowruz Company and Association of Shahid Jamal for the war wounded were shelled with mortar and artillery shells.

The fuel distribution stations were shelled in the town of Terpe Spia and the village of Deirna Qalenga.

### **Euphrates Region**

#### **Tal Abyad**

The villages of Hoshan, Shurbinisk, Sayda, Samia, Qazali, and the Cement Company were shelled with mortar, artillery, and tank shells.

#### **Manbij**

The villages of Tal al-Hamam, Tal al-Sayada, and al-Tukhar were targeted with 10 mortar shells.

*The outcome for November 24;*

## **Afrin and al-Shahba'a Regions**

The villages of Suganka, Bena, Melilia, Mayasa, Shawarqa, Maranaz, Tat Mrash, Kafir Naya, Irshadia, Alqamiyah, Harbal, Minnig, Belounia, Tal al-Madiq, Ziwan, Kafir Nasih, Ain Daqna, Sheikh Issa, Shahba'a Dam and the town of Tal Rifa'at were subjected to more than 200 mortar and artillery shells.

## **Al Jazeera Region**

### **Tal Tamir**

The villages of Qubour al-Qarajina, Gozalia, Dardara, and Khalaf al-Rakba were bombarded with more than 20 shells.

### **Amuda**

The villages of Al-Asadiya, Bubi, Muhaimla, Rubay'at, Chatal, Tal Kayf, Shurik, Khashafiya, Kharza, Khanikeh, Bahira, Jarnak, al-Jazia, Khirbet Sha'er, Tal Ward, Tal Amir and the town of Zargan were targeted with more than 80 artillery shells and in addition to DShk weapons, resulting in one of our fighters was martyred and two others wounded.

### **Qamishlo**

The villages of Naeif, Tal Jihan, Dugri, Mehrikan, Milli Abbas, Mahshouk, Mazgaft, Hatmiah, Harem Rash, Zorava were shelled with more than 30 shells.

## **Euphrates region**

### **Kobane**

The villages of Zormagar, Tal Ahmad Munir, Tal Ahmad, Zorava, al-Ziyara, Khir Banat, Tal Jishan, Tal Ebry, and the town of Shyoukh Fawqani were targeted with more than 50 mortar and tank shells.

### **Tal Abyad / Gri Spi**

The villages of Muallak, al-Debis, Sayda, and Ibrahim Kurdo were shelled with mortar artillery shells.

### **Manbij**

The villages of al-Bogas, Korehuke, and al-Tukhar were shelled with 12 shells.

## SDF: Six Turkish-backed mercenaries killed in clashes with our forces

ANF | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

On November 24, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) foiled an infiltration attempt by the Turkish-backed mercenaries in the village of Bobi, Zarkan town.

“Our forces confronted the mercenaries, clashed with them, and killed two mercenaries. Following their failed attack, the mercenaries retreated to the village of Um Aushba, where our forces conducted an operation using heavy artillery against them, killing 4 other attackers of the mercenaries,” said the statement published by SDF Press Center on Friday.

No injuries were recorded among our forces, SDF added.

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## Protesters block entrance of Boeing factory in Bristol: "Stop arming Turkey"

ANF | BRISTOL | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

On Thursday morning, November 24th, protestors blocked the entrance of a Boeing factory in Bristol.

Pictures have shown that some of the bombs Turkey has used to destroy civilian structures in Rojava (North- East Syria) were manufactured by Boeing. The protestors demanded an immediate stop to weapon sales to Turkey and highlighted the complacency of western states in the current war crimes inflicted on Kurdish people.

— ★ —

## SDF publishes identity of 8 fighters who fell as martyrs in Turkish attack against Hol Camp

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

In a statement, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Press Contact Center shared the identity of the 9 fighters who fell as martyrs.

The SDF statement said:

“The invading Turkish state wants to reorganize the Islamic State. Turkish warplanes attacked Hol Camp, where thousands of members of ISIS and their families are staying, proving the relationship between the Turkish state and the terrorist organization.

As the result of the attack on the camp, 8 of our friends fell as martyrs: Hisên Emed Dawûd (Lewrans Meslûsa), Xelîl Elî al Hemîd El Cilêb (Egîd Til Birak), Seyfedîn Mihemed al Silêman (Yaqûb Hesekekê), Ebdulcelîl Beha al Mihemed (Ciwan Hol), Etiyê Iweyîd al Dewagîd al Dewasîd (Murad) al Hedmûl (Siwar Xesan), Mahir Hewas al Muhsin (Enes Qamişlo) and Newaf Fewaz al Xelîl (Elîşêr). Our fighter Mihemed Elî Hisên (Demhat Zirgan) was killed in Zirgan.

We express our condolences to the families of martyrs and promise to enlarge the struggle against the invaders and to avenge all our martyrs.”

The identity of the martyrs is as follows: Hisên Dawud (Codename: Lewrans Meslusa), Xelîl al Hemîd al Cilêb (Codename: Egîd Til Birak), Seyfedîn al Silêman (Codename: Yaqûb Hesekekê), Ebdulcelîl al Mihemed ( Codename: Ciwan Hol), Etiye al Dewas (Codename: Murad al Egidi), Fehed al Hedmûl (Codename: Siwan Xesan), Mahir al Muhsin (Codename: Enes Qamishlo), Newaf al Xelîl ( Elişer ), Mihemed Hisên (Demhat Zirgan).



## KCK: Let's increase the struggle by resisting with the spirit of the PKK!

ANF | BEHDINAN | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

The Co-Presidency of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council released a statement marking the 44th founding anniversary of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The KCK statement released on Saturday includes the following:

“We are approaching the 44th anniversary of our party, the PKK, whose struggle has re-established the existence of the people of Kurdistan, led to significant developments in the struggle for the liberation of humanity and created great epics of resistance. For 44 years, the people of Kurdistan and the freedom fighters have been struggling under the leadership of the PKK for existence and freedom against the genocidal colonialist order. With its emergence on the stage of history and its 44 years of uninterrupted struggle, the PKK has led to the rebirth of the people of Kurdistan and created new values for humanity. We congratulate the patriotic people of Kurdistan, especially Leader Apo [Abdullah Öcalan] and the martyrs, all comrades who are fighting against the enemy on the battle fronts, the resistance fighters in the prisons, all PKK militants and sympathizers, the oppressed peoples of the world, women, youth and all progressive, democratic and socialist humanity on the 44th anniversary of our party.

We salute with respect our Leader Apo, who has given us the consciousness of freedom and opened the path of struggle by creating the PKK, which constitutes the sum of all our achievements and values. By founding the PKK, Leader Apo has rendered the greatest service to the Kurdish people. However, Leader Apo did not only create the PKK, he has been the person who has struggled and served the Kurdistan revolution the most by leading since the very beginning. In short, Leader Apo has devoted his entire existence to the freedom of the people of Kurdistan. He has maintained this stance even in İmralı, the most severe isolation and torture system in the history of humanity, and has thus exhibited the most meaningful and great resistance in history. We, the people of Kurdistan and the Kurdish Freedom Movement, owe a great debt of gratitude to Leader Apo for these great efforts and services.

The PKK was founded as a party of martyrs. All the great values of freedom and humanity that the PKK has created are thanks to the martyrs. By stating that he founded the PKK out of loyalty to the memory of Haki Karer, Leader Apo revealed that the PKK is the result of the efforts of the martyrs and the values they created. Whatever has been created in the 44 years of struggle led by the PKK is thanks to the martyrs. Therefore, as a people and a party, we owe all our values to our martyrs. On the 44th anniversary of the PKK, we commemorate with gratitude all the martyrs of revolution and democracy, from our first martyr Haki Karer to the comrades who have been martyred recently in Zap, Avaşin, Metîna, Xakurkê and everywhere else. We bow respectfully in front of their great memories and reiterate our promise that we will adhere to their memories and carry their struggle to victory. Until today, the PKK has created great values by struggling according to the line of the martyrs. From now on, it will create even greater values by expanding the struggle along the lines of the martyrs, and will realize our people's longing for a free life, a free country and a free Leader [Abdullah Öcalan].

At a time when the Kurdish people were isolated from all their values in the system of denial and annihilation of the genocidal colonialist forces, and their name, language and identity were banned and forgotten, bringing them to the brink of extinction, the PKK appeared on the stage of history and changed its course. With its intervention in Kurdistan, the PKK changed the course of history to the path of freedom and gave Kurdish people and society a new identity and personality. This represents a great revolution for the Kurdish people. This new personality has provided all the values and developments created under the leadership of the PKK. If the genocidal colonialist personality had not been replaced by a new personality with the consciousness and will of freedom, no development would have been possible. Because the genocidal colonialist order not only divided Kurdistan and suppressed the Kurds through massacres, but also reduced the Kurdish people to nothingness and to a level that serves the enemy. The PKK has destroyed this personality in Kurdistan, and in its place, it has ensured the resurrection of a society that has adopted freedom as a principle, and has gained the consciousness of the Democratic Nation and the values of country and patriotism. The PKK has thus destroyed the foundations of genocidal colonialism in Kurdistan.

With the emergence of the PKK, Kurdish women have experienced a very important development in the line of freedom and have reached their own identity. It can be said that the Kurdish woman has experienced the greatest development with the PKK. The Kurdish woman represents the new and free personality created by the PKK the most. Because the PKK developed and fought according to the idea of women's autonomy. So much so that Leader Apo defined the PKK as a women's party. By developing the PKK along the line of women's liberation and deepening the line of free women, Leader Apo has made great contributions to the will, organization and liberation of women. In fact, by basing the new paradigm of the PKK on women's liberation, Leader Apo has elevated women to the status of the vanguard of free life

and the struggle for freedom. Therefore, women's struggle, labor and leadership have been the main factors in the emergence of the PKK reality and the shaping of its line. The Kurdish woman, who has developed greatly in the PKK and possesses a free consciousness and will, has not only liberated herself. Thanks to the paradigm developed by Leader Apo on the basis of women's freedom, she has reached a position that today leads the awakening and liberation of women in the Middle East and the world.

With its struggle and the developments it has created, the PKK has become an important movement not only for the people of Kurdistan but also for the peoples of the Middle East and the oppressed peoples and women of the world. By developing the theory of Democratic Civilization and Democratic Modernity, Leader Apo has given a new form and content to the struggle and quest for freedom of the peoples, women and the oppressed, and has thus opened a new horizon for humanity. With these values, the PKK has reached universality. And with its paradigm of a society based on democracy, ecology and women's freedom, it has become the pioneer of the philosophy of liberation and the revolutionary democratic struggle of our age by developing a solution to the blockage due to capitalist modernity.

Another important development of the PKK, which has revolutionized the mentality in Kurdistan by creating the free Kurdish personality, is that it has exposed and defeated the collaborationist treasonous Kurdish line, which is part of the genocidal colonialist order. The collaborative treacherous Kurdish line, which developed on the basis of primitive nationalism, emerged as an extension of colonialism and created a politics that exploits the values of Kurdistan and sells them to the enemy. The collaborative treacherous line has been the line of the colonial personality that submits to the enemy, ceases to be itself, serves the enemy and betrays the values of the society it belongs to. Because of this character, the collaborative treacherous line has been the legitimizer of Kurdistan's colonial status. With the emergence of the PKK, this collaborationist, treasonous Kurdish line was defeated and the line and values of freedom prevailed in Kurdistan. As the Kurdistan freedom struggle, which developed under the leadership of the PKK, gains success against the enemy and the people of Kurdistan get closer to freedom, the collaborative treacherous line gets increasingly weaker. And as it weakens, it tries to survive by taking sides with the enemy more and more and increasing its support for the Kurdish genocide. In fact, the genocidal colonialist powers are only able to continue the Kurdish genocide based on the collaborator betrayer line. If the collaborationist treacherous line had not existed historically, it would not have been possible for Kurdistan to be divided and fragmented, colonized and the Kurdish people to be removed from their essence under the genocidal colonialist attacks of the enemy. Today, the genocidal colonialist Turkish state is still trying to occupy Kurdistan based on the support of the collaborative treacherous line and to realize the Kurdish genocide by eliminating the gains of the Kurdish people that have been achieved at great cost and struggle.

The genocidal colonialist Turkish state and the fascist AKP-MHP government are attacking the four parts of Kurdistan and every place where Kurds are located in order to eliminate the developments created by the PKK and to exterminate the Kurds by realizing the Kurdish genocide. The fascist AKP-MHP government attacks Maxmur, Şengal, South Kurdistan, Rojava, East Kurdistan and the Medya Defense Zones, resorting to all kinds of inhuman methods and crimes, including chemical weapons. Wherever there is a Kurd who resists, they target and try to massacre him/her. These attacks by the fascist AKP-MHP government aim at saving the genocidal colonialist order, which is on the verge of defeat in the face of the Kurdistan freedom struggle led by the PKK. The new wave of attacks launched against Rojava and North and East Syria also serves this purpose. The genocidal colonialist Turkish state not only aims to occupy Rojava by using all kinds of attacks, but also aims to create a Rojava without Kurds by displacing the Kurdish people from there. It wants to subjugate the other peoples of North and East Syria. The genocide and eth-

nic cleansing that was previously carried out in Afrin is now wanted to be carried out in all of Rojava and North and East Syria. From this point of view, it is very meaningful and valuable for the peoples of North and East Syria to remain in their lands and take an attitude of resistance, being aware of this aim of the genocidal colonialist Turkish state and the fascist AKP-MHP government. The attitude of the peoples of North and East Syria, which is the greatest measure of patriotism and freedom, not to leave their land under any circumstances and to defend themselves against attacks, must be supported by everyone, especially the people of Kurdistan.

We once again celebrate the 44th anniversary of our party, the PKK, which has given a new spirit to the Kurdish people, and we salute all those who resist and live according to the PKK resistance spirit. For 44 years, our party, the PKK, has brought great values to the people of Kurdistan, the peoples of the Middle East, the oppressed peoples of the world and all humanity. And it will undoubtedly continue to create great values in its 45th year. With these feelings, the people of Kurdistan, while celebrating the 44th anniversary of the PKK with enthusiasm, must resist the genocidal attacks of the fascist AKP-MHP government with the spirit and style of the PKK and raise the struggle even higher. The people of Kurdistan, who have gained their existence and identity by resisting and struggling under the leadership of the PKK until today, will resist the genocidal colonialism to the final defeat and ensure their freedom.”



## SDF announces the outcome of Turkish aggression on November 25

ANF | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the balance sheet of Turkish attacks against North-East Syria on November 25, Friday.

“The obvious frustration of the Turkish occupying State resulting from its aggression on NE Syria has become quite clear, so it continues to bombard the populated areas and civilian infrastructure in a brutal and barbaric manner. However, our people continue to withstand and resist this aggression, and we are proud of the courageous and honorable stance, and we confirm our right to defend them by all legitimate military means,” the SDF stated.

On the sixth day of the aggression, the occupation shelled more than 77 villages, towns, and civilian infrastructures in north and eastern Syria, according to the SDF. In addition, a group of mercenaries covered by Turkish UAVs tried to infiltrate the Zarkan area, but our forces confronted them, killing six mercenaries during the legitimate response operations.

The additional outcome of the aggression during November 24-25 is as follows:

*An additional outcome of November 24:*



## 1 – Aljazera Region:

### A- Amuda:

The Zarkan front was targeted with more than /8/ artillery and mortar shells.

Six Turkish-Backed Mercenaries Killed in Zarkan countryside. In Bobi village, our forces killed two mercenaries who tried infiltration into the village, and in Um Aushba village, our forces conducted an operation using heavy artillery against mercenaries, killing 4 mercenaries.

### B- Qamishlo:

The villages of “Zourava, Khoitila, and Mullah Abbas” were subjected to 7 artillery shells.

### C – Tal Tamir:

The villages of “al-Tawila and Al-Kozalia” were subjected to 14 artillery shells.

## 2 – Euphrates region:

### A- Kobane:

The villages of “Jishan, Khrab Baysan, Zorava, and Tallet Ahmed Mounir” were targeted with 11 mortar shells and two artillery shells.

### B- Gri Spi / Tal Abyad:

The villages of Talat Khan, al-Khalidiya, and Ghazi Trad were targeted with heavy artillery and tanks shells.

### C – Manbij:

The villages of “Al-Yanli, Kurhuke, Aoun Al-Dadat, Al-Hawsharia, Al-Bogaz, and Al-Sayada” were targeted with more than /18/ mortar shells and /5/ artillery shells.

### D – Al-Terwaziya:

The town of “um al-Baramil” was shelled with 3 artillery shells.

### *The outcome of November 25, 2022;*

#### 1 – Afrin and Al-Shahba area:

The villages and towns targeted:

Samuqiah, Tal Ziwan, Tal al-Madiq, Tal chichan, Um Housh, Ain Daqna, Nirabiyah, Bayloniya, Deir Jamal, Sheikh Issa, Tal Mayassa, Maranaz, Shawargha, al-Malikiyah, Sogankah, Quneitra, Tal Binh/Ibin, Tat Marrash, Tannab, Alqamiya, Irshadiya, and the town of Tal Rifaat.

Weapons Used: More than 406 shells, 39 mortar shells, and 350 heavy weapon shells.

## **2 – Al Jazeera Region:**

### **A- Tal Tamir:**

The villages of al-Dardara and Tal al-Tawil were shelled by heavy artillery.

### **B – Al-Hol:**

Some ISIS families managed to escape the camp, but they were soon captured by the Internal Security Forces.

## **3 – Euphrates region:**

### **A- Kobane:**

The villages and towns targeted:

Zor Maghar, Jishan, Kuran, Kharab Baysan, Ziyara, Qaramog, Tal Sha'ir, Saftak, Kur Ali, Charqli, Kharab Atto, Tallat Mashtanur, and the town of Al-Shuyoukh Fawqani.

The weapons used: Heavy artillery and mortars.

### **B- Gri Spi / Tal Abyad:**

The villages targeted:

Hoshan, Sayda, Abdouka, Abu Kardo, Al-Debs, Koberlik, Ibrahim Kurdi, and the international road (M4).

The weapons used: Heavy artillery and mortars.

### **C – Raqqa:**

The silos of “Al-Sharkrak” and the village of “Al-Suaydiya” were shelled with 5 artillery shells.

### **D – Manbij:**

The villages targeted:

Tal al-Hamam, al-Hushariya, al-Jat, Kurhuke, al-Sayda, Aoun al-Dadat, and al-Yanli

Weapons used: 15 mortar shells and 12 artillery shells.



## People of Qamishlo protest against Turkish attacks and criticise international silence

ANF | QAMISHLO | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

While Northern and Eastern Syria are under massive attack by Turkey, protests against the attacks are taking place in many places in the region. In the town of Til Koçer near the Iraqi border, hundreds of people gathered on Saturday under the slogan "No to the Turkish invasion of northern and eastern Syria". People marched through the town shouting "No to the occupation", "Resistance means life" and "Long live the resistance of the SDF". Posters with slogans like "Don't be accomplices in our occupation and murder - your silence is killing us" also criticised the attitude of Europe, the USA and Russia in particular.

Another protest demonstration took place in the town of Çilaxa. People marched through the town carrying pictures of those killed in the Turkish attacks. Banners read "Stop the war".

The funerals of those martyred in latest Turkish attacks have become mass protests, with tens of thousands taking part. On Thursday, countless people attended the funeral of five fighters of the Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) at the cemetery of martyrs in Ehras in the canton of Shehba.



## PYD co-chair demands Socialist International to take firm stance against Turkish aggression of Rojava

ANF | MADRID | 27 NOVEMBER 2022

The PYD co-chair, Asya Abdullah, demanded at the XXVI SI Congress in Madrid, that the organization take a firm stance against Turkish aggression of Rojava.

The congress is hosted by the Spanish Socialists Workers' Party, PSOE and will end today.

The PYD is a consultative member of the Socialist Internationalist. In her speech, Abdullah said: "This organization of ours was created to defend the oppressed and to achieve justice and equality among peoples. The hopes of oppressed peoples around the world are pinned on her. Therefore, failure to fulfill their duties with respect to the objectives of this organization jeopardizes its credibility, and the parties that are members of it find themselves in an embarrassing situation before their people and their supporters. The

best example of this is the vague positions of the organization regarding what is happening in the Middle East and the Kurdish question."

Abdullah added: "We all hope that our organization will be able to adopt a clear and firm position in the face of the Third World War that is taking place in the Middle East, with the Kurdish question at its center. We are ready to fight for peace and a political solution. We did not attack any side. But we will defend ourselves and we have the right to defend ourselves. We call on all institutions and organizations here and the president of the Socialist International to help and end the war against our people."



## SDF announces the outcome of Turkish aggression on November 26

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2022

The Media Center of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the balance sheet of Turkish attacks against North-East Syria on November 26, Saturday.

"For the eighth day in a row, the Turkish occupation continues its aggressions against the regions of NE Syria, using warplanes, artillery, and tanks, causing significant material damage to civilian facilities and people's farms and properties. These aggressions are a clear and obvious crime against humanity committed deliberately and repeatedly by the occupation," the SDF stated.

The following is the additional outcome of the November 25th aggressions and the November 26th outcome:

*An additional outcome of November 25, 2022:*

### **Al Jazeera Region**

#### **Tal Tamir**

The villages targeted: Um al-Kaif, al-Kuzaliya, al-Dardara, al-Tawila, and al-Tawila.

Weapons used: more than 15 heavy artillery shells.

#### **Zarkan**

The villages targeted: Tal al-Ward, al-Asadiya, and Bubi.

Weapons used: 6 heavy artillery shells, in addition to DShK weapons.

## Euphrates Region

### Kobane

The villages and towns targeted: Al-Ziyara, Zour Maghar, Tal Ahmed Mounir, Kuran, Kharb Baysan, and the town of Al-Shuyoukh Fawqani.

Weapons used: 12 mortar shells.

### Gri Spi / Tal Abyad

The villages targeted: Al-Hoshan, Avduka, Sufyan, and Tal Khan.

Weapons used: heavy artillery, mortars, and tanks.

### Raqqa

The villages targeted: Al-Fatsa in the Ain Issa countryside.

Weapons used: 10 artillery shells.

### Manbij

The village of Qurt Wiran was targeted by two artillery shells.

## Deir Ezzor Region

### Al-Shadadi

The town of al-Shaddadi was subjected to 3 Katyusha rockets.

### *The outcome of November 26*

## Afrin and Al-Shahba'a Region

The villages and towns targeted: Shawargha, Tannab, Tat Marrash, Al-Malikiyah, Maranaz, Al-Alqamiya, Mayassa, Soganke, Binh/Ibin, Aqiba, Quneitra, Tal Enab, Samuqah, Tal Al-Madiq, Sheikh Issa, Beiloniya, Menng, Tal Hajjar, Ziwan, Sha'ala, Al-Shahba Dam, and the town of Tal Rif'at.

Weapons used: more than 311 artillery shells, 117 mortar shells, and 5 tank shells.

In the village of Tal al-Madiq, the Turkish-backed mercenaries attempted to launch an attack.

The villages of Shawargha and Menng were targeted by warplanes.

## **Al Jazeera Region**

### **Tal Tamir**

The villages targeted: Aboush, Sheikh Ali, Dardara, Al-Kuzliya, and Tal Al-Laban.

Weapons used: 11 artillery shells.

### **B- Zarkan**

The villages targeted: Tal al-Ward, Khirbet al-Sha'ir, Rubei'at, al-Zuhairiya, Bubi, al-Asadiya, and Wadi Kur.

Weapons used: 15 artillery shells, 3 mortar shells, and DShK weapons.

In the early morning hours, the Turkish-backed mercenaries mobilized in the village of Abdul Hai in an attempt to launch an attack on our areas. However, our forces launched an attack on them at about 4.30 a.m., killing two mercenaries and wounding six others.

### **Derek**

The villages targeted: Ain Diwar, Kharaz Rashek, and the Simalka crossing.

Weapons used: heavy artillery shelling.

## **Euphrates Region**

### **Kobane**

The villages and towns targeted: Gharib, Bayada, Chariqli, Ziyara, Qaramog, Zorava, Zor Maghar, Kuldeb, Jishan, Saftak, Al-Iza'a, Mazra'at Dawood, and the town of Al-Shuyukh Fawqani.

Weapons used: heavy artillery and mortar shells.

Casualties: One soldier of the Damascus Government forces was injured in the Charqli village.

### **Gri Spi / Tal Abyad**

The villages targeted: Avdoka, al-Debs, Al-Hoshan, Khan, Qartal, and Ain Issa camp.

Weapons used: mortars and DShk weapons.

### **Ain Isa**

The village of Al-Fatsa was subjected to 5 artillery shells.

**Manbij**

The villages targeted: Qurt Wiran, al-Tukhar, and Tal al-Hamam.

Weapons used: 7 mortar shells and 4 heavy artillery shells.

**Al-Terwaziya**

The towns of Um al-Baramil and al-Kantari were shelled with 6 tank shells.



## HPG: 31 occupiers killed in guerrilla operations

ANF | **BEHDINAN** | 27 NOVEMBER 2022

In its daily statement about the ongoing war in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq), the press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported spectacular guerrilla actions in the past days.

"The Freedom Guerrilla of Kurdistan have carried out revolutionary operations and actions in order to welcome the 44th anniversary of the foundation of the PKK and to avenge our companions killed by chemical weapons and our innocent people murdered by the fascist AKP/MHP regime". According to the HPG, 31 soldiers of the Turkish army were killed in the guerrilla actions in Southern Kurdistan. Eleven enemy positions, two camera surveillance systems installed by the invading forces and a projector were destroyed.

The HPG further said: "Our comrades Eylem, Adar, Heqî and Medya, with the sacrificial spirit and the Apoist way of action of our PKK party, have taken on the enemy with great courage and dealt massive blows to them. They fought till their last breath and sacrificially joined the caravan of martyrs."

Regarding the details of the guerrilla actions and the attacks of the Turkish army in Southern Kurdistan, the HPG gave the following information:

### **Six occupiers killed in Zap**

In the Zap region, mobile guerrilla teams set up an ambush in the Saca resistance area on 25 November and one soldier was killed. Several guerrilla actions with heavy weapons targeted the Turkish troops in the Çemço area on Friday, leaving four soldiers dead. On Saturday, a soldier was shot dead in Sîda.

### **Guerrilla action at Gire Amedi**

Four soldiers were killed, and a thermal camera and a projector were destroyed in the Girê Amêdî resistance area in the vicinity of the Şehîd Gelhat position. The guerrillas used different tactics in the action and attacked from two flanks on 17 November.

### **Revolutionary operation at Gire Cudi**

In the Girê Cûdî resistance area, the guerrillas carried out a revolutionary operation on 25 November. The occupation forces were struck from seven flanks with different tactics. Two guerrilla teams destroyed four enemy positions with B7 weapons. The third team advanced with hand grenades and light weapons and destroyed two positions. The fourth team used hand grenades to destroy a position where a surveillance camera was located. Three more teams attacked with hand grenades and light weapons and destroyed three positions. Eleven soldiers were killed in the course of this operation. When army units tried to intervene in the action area, another six soldiers were shot dead by snipers.

The guerrilla fighters Adar, Heqî and Medya were martyred in the operation. Exact details of their identities will be released at a later date.

### **Infiltration at Gire FM**

Also on Friday, mobile guerrilla units infiltrated the position of Turkish occupation forces in the Girê FM resistance area. The guerrillas advanced to within ten metres and a skirmish ensued in which two soldiers were killed. Guerrilla fighter Eylem was martyred, whose identity details will be released later.

### **Revolutionary operation at Gire Hekkari**

On 26 November, the guerrillas carried out a revolutionary operation at Girê Hekarî to drive the occupation forces out of the resistance area. Several soldiers were killed in the operation and their weapons and equipment were confiscated by the guerrillas. The operation was carried out in retaliation for Nurî Yekta, a member of the Metîna area command, and all the guerrillas who were killed with chemical weapons. Details of the operation will be made public later.

### **Guerrilla actions in Xakurke**

In the Xakurke region, Turkish military units were struck three times with heavy weapons on Friday and Saturday. An enemy position was destroyed at Girê Şehîd Axîn, two soldiers were killed in the action.

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

The Turkish army used a prohibited bomb in the Şehîd Serxwebûn position in Çemço on 24 November. On 25 November, the area of action at Girê Cûdî was bombed four times by fighter jets. In addition, dozens of attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons targeted the areas of the Girê Amêdî, Çemço, Saca and Sîda on Friday and Saturday.





# Chemical weapons

## Hulusi Akar once again admits to Turkey's use of prohibited chemicals

MEDYANEWS | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar confirmed the use of banned chemicals by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) during Tuesday's 2023 budgetary session. "This matter of chemicals has been used and discussed enough times," Akar [said](#). "In certain places, (tear gas) can be used en masse without intent." While the use of tear gas is prohibited as a method of warfare, it is permitted for use "in hostage rescue operations, to protect human life", the minister said.

The TAF's inventory is inspected in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), he said, and accused MPs voicing concerns over allegations that the TAF had been using such substances against Kurdish fighters in Iraq and Syria of "black propaganda in support of a villainous organisation".

The minister had previously admitted to the use of tear gas against the People's Defence Forces (HPG), the military wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), in the aftermath of a military operation in Iraq's Mount Gara in February 2021.

The TAF gives "maximum care that no army gives" to protect civilians, infrastructure and historic sites, Akar asserted.

However, the use of tear gas in a military operation does fall under prohibited uses, according to Jan Van Aken of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), which recently published a report on the allegations against Turkey.

Many activists were taken into police custody for holding demonstrations to demand independent investigations into the accusations, while Turkish Medical Association President Dr Şebnem Korur Fincancı was arrested in late October over her comments that the video evidence produced by HPG could be indicative of chemical weapon use, and that there should be an independent investigation into the matter.



## Lawyer Johan Heymans: Next step is to take Turkey to the International Criminal Court

ANF | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Lawyer Johan Heymans from the Law Firm applied to the UN Secretariat General on behalf of the Coalition Against the Use of Chemical Weapons in Kurdistan spoke to journalist Erem Kansoy on Medya Haber TV.

Van Steenbrugge Advocaten Law Firm in Belgium brought Turkey's use of chemical weapons to the UN. The lawyers demanded the establishment of an investigation commission.

In their application, lawyers Johan Vande Lanotte and Johan Heymans, stated that the Coalition Against the Use of Chemical Weapons in Kurdistan violated the provisions of Turkey's Chemical Weapons Convention and demanded an investigation to find out whether the Turkish state used chemical weapons in Northern Iraq.



## Iran

### Popular resistance continues in Iran and East Kurdistan

ANF | 22 NOVEMBER 2022

There has been a popular uprising that has spread to dozens of cities in Iran since the murder of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini on September 16 by the morality police in Tehran.

Despite government bans on means of communication, images of the protests are widely circulated through social media. Activists can make their voices heard over social media, albeit partially.

Images show that people took to the streets and set up barricades in the East Kurdistan cities of Pîranşar, Serdeşt, Bokan, Mahabad, Sine, Seqîz, Merîwan, Dêwlan, Kamyaran, Dîwandere, Pawe, Ciwanro, Kirmanşan, Îlam and Urmiye on Sunday.

There have been heavy attacks by the state forces especially in Mahabad in recent days. The regime forces deployed reinforcements to the city where tanks were also used against the protestors.

It is reported that the state forces killed at least 8 people on Sunday in Sine, Ciwanro, Pîranşar, Merîwan and Dêwlan.

Gunfire is frequently heard in videos about Ciwanro, as protestors helped many injured people lie down on the ground. It is reported that heavy weapons were used against the activists in the city. It is further reported that at least two people were killed and many injured in Ciwanro.

In the same city, protestors are heard saying “Kurd, Baloch, Azeri, freedom and equality” at a funeral ceremony attended by thousands of people.

On Monday (Nov. 21), the attacks by the state continued in many cities. Images showed that the state forces attacked the people in Piranşar. Also, thousands of people attended the funeral of 16-year-old Karwan Qader Shukri who was murdered by the state forces on Sunday night.

Hundreds of people took to the streets to commemorate an activist named Sina Naderi 40 days after she was killed in Kirmaşan.

In the village of Baweriz in Sine, people took to the streets on Sunday night, chanting the slogan "Mahabad is not alone".

In the city of Dehgulan, the protestors chanted the slogan "Martyrs do not die" at the funeral of an activist named Muhsen Niazi. The protests continued until the morning hours.

According to local sources, Iranian state forces killed at least 30 people in East Kurdistan last week.

The protests continued in dozens of Iranian cities, especially Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz.

Meanwhile, the number of people who have been sentenced to death for participating in the protests has increased to 6.

According to Iran's Human Rights Organization, at least 378 people, including 43 children, have been murdered since September 16. The actual death toll is estimated to be much higher. Tens of thousands of people have also been arrested.



## Rojhilat: 98 Kurdish protesters dead at hands of Iran's security forces

MEDYANEWS | 22 NOVEMBER 2022

Between 19 and 21 November, military-security forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran killed at least 15 civilians while suppressing protests in western Kurdish-populated regions, Kurdistan Human Rights Network reports.

Iranian security forces are accelerating violence used to suppress protests that began with the death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian Jina (Mahsa) Amini, and have continued for over two months. Since the beginning of the nationwide uprisings 98 Kurdish civilians, including 10 children, have been killed by Iranian security forces.

The vast majority of the 10 million Kurds living in Iran live in cities in the western part of the country, known as Rojhilat in Kurdish. Iran has been using extreme violence since last week to quell the uprising in Kurdish cities.

Security forces had opened fire on protesters in Kurdish provinces last week, and killed several people, including two children. The killing of nine-year-old Kian Pîrfalak by security forces led to further intensification of the protests, and Kian, like Jina Amini, became an icon of the protests.

Then, in clashes in Mahabad, where the Islamic Republic deployed military vehicles, at least 11 people were killed in a matter of days.

After the massacre in Mahabad, solidarity demonstrations were held in many cities in Iran and people took to the streets, especially in Kurdish cities.

US Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) announced on Tuesday “harrowing new reports” coming from the Kurdish city Mahabad.

“Taking a page from Putin’s playbook, Iran is deploying the same ruthless & barbaric tactics against innocent civilians today as it did in Syria,” said SFRC.

The clashes in Mahabad intensified on 27 October when security forces opened fire at people who had gathered for the funeral ceremonies of protesters killed earlier in the week.

Meanwhile, Iranian protests are globally becoming more and more widespread.

The Iranian national football team showed support for the anti-government protests on Monday by refusing to sing the national anthem in FIFA World Cup 2022.

On Sunday, Iranian female basketball players took off their hijab and shared their unveiled photo on Instagram to protest against the Islamic Republic, Masih Alinejad reported on Twitter.

The Iranian basketball team shared the “Woman, Life, Freedom,” slogan.

The slogan of “Woman, Life, Freedom,” – “Jîn, Jîyan, Azadi,” in Kurdish, and “Zen, Zendegi, Azadi,” in Persian – that has become a rallying cry for women all around the world, was developed within the Kurdish feminist movement.

In addition to the violence of the Iranian security forces in the Kurdish cities of the country, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also launched missile and drone attacks against Iranian Kurdish opposition groups in Iraqi Kurdistan on Sunday night.



## At least 416 people have been killed by security forces in ongoing protests in Iran and Rojhilat

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

According to Human Rights in Iran, at least 416 people, including 51 children and 27 women, have been killed by security forces in the ongoing nationwide protests in Iran and Rojhilat.

According to information obtained by Iran Human Rights, at least 416 people including 51 children have been killed by security forces in the nationwide protests so far. Of the 51 children, nine were girls. The 51 children were all under 18 years of age, but have not all been verified through document evidence. Iran Human Rights is working to obtain confirmation of their ages.

### Death Toll by Province

Protesters have been killed in 25 provinces, with the most reported in Sistan and Baluchistan, Kurdistan, Western Azerbaijan, Tehran, Mazandaran and Gilan respectively.

Deaths have been recorded in 25 provinces: Sistan and Baluchistan: 126 people; Kurdistan: 48 people; West Azerbaijan: 45 people; Tehran: 40 people; Mazandaran: 35 people; Gilan: 24 people; Kermanshah: 23 people; Alborz: 15 people; Isfahan: 11 people; Khuzestan: 10 people; Khorasan-Razavi: 5 people; Zanjan: 4 people; East Azerbaijan: 4 people; Lorestan: 3 people; Markazi: 3 people; Qazvin: 3 people; Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad: 2 people; Ardabil: 2 people; Ilam: 2 people; Hamedan: 2 people; Bushehr: 2 people; Fars: 2 people; Hormozgan: 2 person; Semnan: 1 person; Kerman: 1 person.

The highest number of deaths were recorded on 21, 22 and 30 September (Baluchistan's "Bloody Friday"). November 4 was the bloodiest day this month with 21 recorded deaths.

### Numbers are a "minimum"

The numbers of deaths published are an absolute minimum. Reports of protester killings in the last few days are still being investigated. Iran Human Rights has received a high volume of reports of deaths which it continues to investigate with security considerations and internet disruptions. The actual number of people killed, therefore, is certainly higher.



## PJAK calls for a general strike in Iran on November 24

ANF | 23 NOVEMBER 2022

The popular resistance that began in East Kurdistan and Iran on September 16 marks its third month. Despite the continuous crackdown of the Iranian state, popular resistance is spreading across the country.

The Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) has released a statement regarding Iran's attacks.

“50 protestors were martyred in the past week alone. The support of the Kurdish people, peoples, organizations, trade unions and parties throughout Iran is needed in order to frustrate this cruel plan of the Iranian state,” the statement said.

“We urge all citizens, unions, solidarity blocs, parties and all institutions and organizations across Iran to hold a general strike on November 24 to support the Kurdish people and protect the achievements of the 'Jin, Jiyan, Azadi' (Woman, Life, Freedom) revolution,” the statement added.



## General strike launched in East Kurdistan

ANF | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Answering the call of the PJAK (Kurdistan Free Life Party) and other East Kurdistan parties, a general strike has been launched across Iran to support the people who are subjected to the violent attacks of the Iranian state and to show solidarity with protestors.

Shops have been closed in many cities on Thursday. Images circulated on social media networks show that there is broad participation in the strike.

High level of participation is observed especially in East Kurdistan cities such as Sine, Kirmaşan, Urmiye, Bane, Meriwan, Mahabad, Seqiz, Diwandere, Rewanser, Bukan, Nexede, Ciwanro, Kamiran, Qurwe, Piranşar, Serpêlî Zehwa and Shino.

In the city of Mashhad as well, people closed their shops in support of protestors.

An unprecedented popular movement has been taking place across Iran since the murder of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini by the notorious morality police in Tehran on September 16.

Last week, more than 50 people were killed by state forces in East Kurdistan.

According to Iran Human Rights Organization, at least 416 people, including 51 children, have been killed across the country since the beginning of the protests.

Other oppositional sources claim that the death toll has reached 640. They published an online list of 516 people who have been killed so far.



## Iran deploys troops to border with Iraq's Kurdistan Region

ANF | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

In a statement on Friday, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Land Forces Commander Mohammad Pakpur announced that a large number of troops and armoured forces have been deployed to the border, according to Rojnews.

Pakpur added that the purpose of a huge military build-up at the border with the Kurdistan Region is to counter anti-Iranian forces in northern Iraq.

In the meantime, the Iranian regime forces continue to attack the mass anti-government protests in East Kurdistan and Iran. Nearly 500 people have been killed so far due to direct shootings of protestors.



## Over 18,000 people detained in ongoing protests in Iran and Rojhilat

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2022

The Iranian Center for Human Rights announced that since the beginning of the ongoing protests in Iran and Rojhilat, protests have been held in 156 regions as well as 143 universities.

It was also reported that at least 448 demonstrators, including 62 children, were killed in the direct attacks by the Iranian regime on the protesters.

It is also stated that more than 18,000 people, 565 of whom are university students and 110 of them children, have been detained in the demonstrations so far.



# Femicide

## Turkish police block women's demonstrations, arrest 200 women

MEDYANEWS | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

Women who gathered in several cities of Turkey on 25 November, the Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, faced police blockades and resistance. During the protests in Istanbul, 200 women were beaten and detained. One woman suffered a broken leg due to police brutality.

The *Jin, Jîyan, Azadî* slogan was at the centre of the demonstrations. Women in Turkey saluted the women's revolt that has been going on for more than two months in Iran and condemned Turkey's military attacks against North and East Syria.

The 25 November Women's Platform made a call to Taksim, Istanbul, for the Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, as it does every year. However, the Beyoğlu District Governorate had decided to ban the protest due to be held in Taksim.

With the call of the Women's Platform, which emphasised that the ban by the district governor's office was unlawful, women who wanted to go to the demonstration area were blocked by the police. About 200 women were detained as they were handcuffed behind their backs, which Turkish law stipulates should not be done without reason or for prolonged periods. Police broke the leg of Dilbent Türker, director of the All Automotive Metal Workers Union (TOMİS).

The detained groups were released in the early hours of Saturday morning.

In the press release that took place in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, women condemned the "war policies of male and state violence". The police tried to prevent the shouting of Kurdish slogans.

A banner reading "From Afghanistan to Iran, from Iran to Kurdistan, from Kurdistan to Turkey, the feminist fire will not go out" was not allowed to be taken to the demonstration area in Ankara by the police.

A total of seven women, who were detained in connection with the banner are still being held in Ankara Police Department at the time of writing.

Women were also on the streets in Turkey's Kurdish cities, despite the police also attempting to block the demonstrations.



In Diyarbakır, women read the solidarity letter sent from prison by Şebnem Korur Fincancı, who was arrested for saying that Turkey's alleged use of chemical weapons against Kurdish fighters in its cross-border operations should be investigated.



# Human Rights Violations

## Müftüoğlu: Government crackdown will not subdue free press

ANF | 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu pointed out that the women journalists who were arrested and others who replaced them were currently more determined to speak their words and reveal facts despite all the violence they were subjected to.

DFG Co-Chair Dicle Müftüoğlu spoke to ANF about the crackdown on women journalists to mark the 25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Müftüoğlu maintained that war and isolation are the causes of violence against women and society. “It is unthinkable that women are not affected by the ongoing war. Violence is a phenomenon that sparks other issues. Violence caused by war sometimes appears at home. The reason for this violence is the state. One of the most recent examples of this is the police violence against people who take to the streets to protest the use of chemical weapons. We have seen that women, along with the journalists who report on the protests, are seen as the “weakest link” by the state and thus exposed to violence. We know that oppression and violence are increasing in every public sphere where women want to have a say. The state, the government, the police and the military do not tolerate women’s perspectives. Suppression of women has prevailed since the establishment of Turkey. We see that the crackdown on journalists has significantly increased, especially in the last 6-7 years.”

### Female journalists specifically targeted

Müftüoğlu called attention to the growing women's struggle against violence against women. “However, we see that the government targets journalists to prevent this struggle. There is huge violence against journalists. When people want to take to the streets and speak, they are faced with violence. Journalists who want to report on protests are also subjected to violence. Most of the victims of violence are women journalists. We've seen it many times.”

### Message to all journalists

Müftüoğlu recalled the Ankara-based political genocide operation against journalists on October 25. “Turkey was cornered because of the use of chemical weapons by the army and many people demanded an in-

vestigation into it. The government decided to deal with this issue by increasing violence. Turkish Medical Association (TTB) head Prof. Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı was subjected to violence. She watched footage that showed the use of chemical weapons and requested an investigation. Journalists who made news about the use of chemical weapons were detained by special operations police under very different torture conditions on October 25. With the torture of journalists, the authorities wanted to deliver a message to the public and all journalists. Violence against journalists continued after their detention. Journalist Diren Yurtsever was forced to take a picture in front of the Turkish flag. Journalist Öznur Değer was dragged across the ground by her hair. Even Zemo Ağgöz's baby was subjected to strip-search.”

### **Violence stems from war and isolation policies**

Müftüoğlu emphasized that state-male violence stems from war and isolation. She added: “Since we, journalists, expose this violence, they want to silence us. The women journalists who were arrested and others who replaced them are currently more determined to speak their words and reveal facts despite all the violence they are subjected to. No government has ever been able to subdue the free press and cannot do so in the future.”



## **Over a hundred detained in political extermination campaign in Turkey**

**ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2022**

Hundreds of people have been detained for political reasons in Turkey in recent days. Early on Sunday morning, numerous homes in the province of Mardin were searched. The raids took place in the city center and in the districts of Nusaybin and Kızıltepe on the orders of the Mardin chief public prosecutor's office. Six people were taken into custody, including DBP politician Emine Akyüz, the former co-mayor of Kızıltepe, İsmail Asi, and HDP politician Fettah Tekin. While the detainees were taken to Mardin police station, what they are accused of is unknown.

### **16 detained in Hakkari**

At the same time, raids took place in Hakkari province, and the districts of Yüksekova and Şemdinli. Turkish security forces stormed numerous houses and detained 16 people, including three women. Those detained are accused of membership in a terrorist organisation as well as support and propaganda for the PKK.

### **Mass detentions in Amed**

On Saturday, numerous flats in Amed (Diyarbakir) were stormed and searched by the police. Thirty people were taken into custody on the basis of an investigation conducted by the Diyarbakir Chief Public

Prosecutor's Office and taken to the police anti-terrorism department. The arrests are said to have been made following a denunciation, while the background is unknown.

### **25 detained in Mersin still in custody**

On Friday, 25 people were detained during house searches in the province of Mersin. Those involved are accused of "preparing for action". Ten people are still being held in the gendarmerie command, the other 15 people are in the Mersin police headquarters.

### **47 people released after several days in custody**

Meanwhile, 47 people have been released after several days of detention in Amed, including the local HDP leader Zeyyat Ceylan and representatives of civil society organisations. The arrests were made on Monday during a protest against the Turkish army's attacks on northern Syria and northern Iraq. At the same time, 52 people were taken into custody during protests in Istanbul. On 25 November, the day for the elimination of violence against women, hundreds of women were violently detained during protests in Turkey.

### **Three detained in Kars**

Turkish police detained three men in the province of Kars on Sunday. While the reason for the detentions is not known, the detainees are held in the police department.



## Peace in Kurdistan

### Thousands in Berlin: "Pave the way for peace, lift the PKK ban!"

ANF | BERLIN | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

Thousands of people attended a march organized in Berlin, Germany on Saturday by the initiative "Lift the PKK ban!" against the ban on the PKK and criminalization of the Kurds.

The demonstration under the slogan "Pave the way for peace, lift the PKK ban!" was supported by over fifty organisations and initiatives including The umbrella organization of the Kurdish Diaspora in Germany, KON-MED, Kurdistan Students Union (YXK), Kurdish Women's Movement in Germany (YJK-E), Antifa, Interventionistische Linke [Interventionist Left], Linksjugend [Left Youth], Zora Young Women's Union, Berlin Migrant Strikers, Women Life Freedom Collective, Rote Hilfe, Azadi e. V. And the Left Party.

Demonstrators marched from Hermannplatz to Oranienplatz and gave the message that “Banning the PKK is banning a people”.

### **“Turkey takes strength from the German ban”**

The opening speech of the demonstration was made by Fed-Kurd co-chair Niştiman Tarhan, who said, “We are here today and everyone knows why. The PKK is the people and the people are here.”

The other co-chair of Fed-Kurd, Kerem Gök, spoke about the harm caused by the PKK ban on the Kurdish people, noting that hundreds of Kurdish patriots have been subject to various unlawful sentences taking the ban as a basis. “Banning the PKK means banning 50 million Kurds. We urge the German state to respect the Kurdish people. The Turkish state takes strength from the ban in Germany for its currently on-going chemical weapons attacks.”

### **Banning the PKK and arming the the Turkish state**

KON-MED co-chair Zübeyde Zümrüt saluted the Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan and all those resisting in North-East Syria and the guerrilla areas in South Kurdistan, saying, “The ban remains in effect in its 30th year. Germany bans the PKK but sells arms and chemical weapons to the Turkish state that attacks the Kurds.”

### **“Nobody can ban this identity”**

The other co-chair of KON-MED, Engin Sever, said, “The PKK has been the identity of the Kurdish people for 45 years. The Kurdish people say that ‘The PKK is the people and the people are here’. The people are here in Berlin, in the capital city of Germany. Nobody and no administration can ban this identity!”

### **“German government must remove the ban”**

Lukas Theune, one of the lawyers who filed an application on behalf of the PKK to the Federal Ministry of the Interior for the lifting of the ban last May, also took part in the demonstration and addressed the crowd. “We are here today for the lifting of the PKK ban. We see how important the PKK is. It is mostly important for democracy, more equality, women’s freedom, ecology and human rights. For this reason, the German government cannot maintain the PKK ban any further. It must remove the ban. The German government speaks of a violation of international law but does not mention who commits it. It does not highlight the fact that this crime is committed by the Turkish state and the Erdoğan regime, nor does it impose any sanctions. Civilians are massacred by drones and chemical weapons not only within the boundaries of the Turkish state, but also in Syria and Iraq. These acts constitute a clear violation of international law. The German government must change its attitude. The German Minister of Foreign Affairs shouts the slogan ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadi’ [Woman, Life, Freedom]. She should know where this slogan comes from and why it is important. Stop the criminalization policy against the Kurds.”

A speech on behalf of Iranian revolutionaries said, “It doesn’t matter where we come from; Rojhilat, Rojava or anywhere else in the world. We know where ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadi’ comes from. We know where and how the Iranian revolution began. Jin, Jiyan, Azadi!”

A statement in the name of the PYD (Democratic Union Party) pointed out that a libertarian mentality has been established in the Middle East in the light of the PKK.



## The PKK was formed 44 years ago today

ANF | 27 NOVEMBER 2022

Formally formed on 27 and 28 November 1978, the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party, Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan) core group was made up largely of political science students led by Abdullah Öcalan in Ankara. The group soon moved its focus to the large Kurdish population in south-east Turkey. On November 27, 1978, the group adopted the name "Kurdistan Workers' Party".

The 1980 Turkish coup d'état pushed the organization to another stage with the members doing jail time, being subject to capital punishment, or fleeing to Syria.

The first congress of the organization was held in 1982 and outlined the various phases necessary for the liberation of Kurdistan.

In 1984, on 15 August, the PKK carried out its first armed action.

The PKK in its own words:

"Our party, since its inception, has been struggling for the existence, freedom and honour of the Kurdish people against the genocide begun by the racist-chauvinist Unionists at the beginning of the 20th century, which aimed to end the freedom of the Kurdish people and wipe them out from history. In this sense, the decision taken on 27th November 1978 to become a party was also a decision for national existence and resistance. This is why this day is being celebrated as national resistance by our people.

Over the years, the PKK has fought to safeguard and realize the freedom of the Kurdish people against the physical and cultural genocide and assimilation policies of the Turkish nation-state. Our party has staged a great resistance against one of the biggest army's in the world, supported by NATO, and also Gladio (deep state) organization to bring the Kurdish people to the point of declaring democratic autonomy."



# Interview

## Application to lift the PKK ban pending for six months

ANF | BERLIN | 26 NOVEMBER 2022

On 26 November 1993, the then Federal Minister of the Interior, Manfred Kanther, ordered a ban on the activities of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan, PKK) in Germany. Last May, the PKK applied for the lifting of this ban, arguing that since 1993 the actual circumstances had changed to such an extent that the maintenance of the ban could no longer be justified. The PKK stated that it did not commit any criminal offences in Germany and thus did not pose a threat to internal security. The ideas and aims of the organisation have also changed since then, it said, while Turkey, on the other hand, has developed into a regime that tramples democratic principles underfoot.

Six months have passed since the application was filed by lawyers Lukas Theune and Peer Stolle. Dr Theune, a lawyer from Berlin, commented on the status of the proceedings to the daily newspaper Yeni Özgür Politika.

*Six months have passed since your application to the Federal Ministry of the Interior to lift the PKK ban. Have you received any feedback on this so far? What is the basic procedure in this regard and what is your expectation?*

The Federal Ministry of the Interior, to whom we submitted the application, sadly refuses to communicate with us, they have not even confirmed the receipt of the application yet. It is extremely questionable in terms of the rule of law that we are not even told who is responsible for processing the application and when a decision can be expected.

In an administrative procedure based on the rule of law, an authority has three months to respond to an application or at least to state that it needs longer and why. Our patience is running out. If we do not hear something from the BMI soon, we can file an action for failure to act.

*At the time of your application, the spokesperson of the Ministry of the Interior had stated that "the application has been rejected". Has there been any statement from the government on this issue since then? How do you assess the government's action? And what dimension does this have for Turkey?*

So far, as far as we know, there has been no official statement from the Ministry of the Interior or the federal government as a whole. A journalist asked on the day we submitted the application and received this answer. At that time, however, no one was able to read our application and the justification. The Federal Government's absolute refusal to deal with this issue is unworthy of a constitutional state. It is to be hoped that it will not be guided in this by the Turkish government.

*When do you think there will be a response to this? How will you proceed in case of a negative answer?*

We hope and assume that a reply will come this year. If the ministry rejects our application, we will, of course, take legal action.

*Does the PKK ban have any basis in today's conditions? On what main arguments did you base your motion?*

The PKK ban is outdated. The PKK does not endanger internal security and does not commit crimes in Germany. Nor does it violate the idea of international understanding. Rather, it is Turkey that is trampling on international law by using chemical weapons and targeted killings by drones. The ban no longer has any basis.

*What picture has the ban painted so far? If it is lifted, to what change and development will it contribute?*

The PKK ban is a self-confirming machine. The ban marginalises Kurds and deprives them of their rights. Especially in Germany, with our own history of National Socialism, it is particularly important not to appear to discriminate against minorities because of their political opinions.

The lifting of the ban will be a symbol for a new policy of togetherness, of inclusion of all groups in society, and thus also open up dialogue opportunities again overall.

*The anniversary of the PKK ban is approaching. What would you like to say on this occasion about the ban in Germany and the insistence on not removing the PKK from the "list of terrorist organisations"? Would you like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to the authority to which you submitted your application?*

First of all, there is nothing to add to the request we have made to the Ministry of the Interior. We can only appeal to the federal government not to disregard the proudly proclaimed principles of the rule of law once again just because Turkey otherwise threatens to block Sweden's and Finland's accession to NATO. The federal government should itself behave according to the rule of law.

*What responsibility does the public bear for the results of this motion?*

The political commitment to lifting the ban is invaluable. The end of the criminalisation of the Kurds in Germany is demanded by a multitude of initiatives, groups and individuals. All of them together should raise their voices now.

# Opinion

## Özsoy: Turkey's opposition block may regret if it goes after Erdoğan

ZEYNEP KURAY | ISTANBUL | 25 NOVEMBER 2022

Lawmaker and HDP Foreign Relations Commission Co-Spokesperson Hisyar Özsoy spoke to ANF about Turkey's latest incursion into Kobanê and Rojava. Özsoy remarked that, contrary to the government statements, evidence in the Taksim bombing put the finger on jihadist groups supported by the government. Özsoy emphasized that the government has long been planning to attack Kurdish cities, especially Kobanê, and the Taksim explosion was used as a pretext to do so.

### 'Taksim explosion used as a pretext'

"We do not know the accuracy of information circulated by the pro-government media, but there is one thing we are sure of: the bomb attack in Taksim was used as a pretext to attack the Kurds before the elections," the HDP lawmaker said.

Özsoy pointed out that the latest Turkish assault had two aims. The first aim is to leave the Kurds with a political status and the second is to consolidate nationalist voters before the elections and to bring the opposition parties into alignment with the government. Özsoy emphasized that Kobanê has gained a symbolic and mythological meaning at least as much as Halabja in terms of the freedom struggle of the Kurds and added that Erdoğan wants to target Kobanê in order to achieve another "victory" before the election.

### 'Attacks arrive before each election!'

Özsoy stressed that the government resorted to a series of attacks before each election: "Before the 2015 elections, cross-border operations were carried out. A military operation was launched in Jarablus before the referendum in 2017, in Afrin before the parliamentary elections in 2018, and in Serêkaniyê-Grî Spî before the 2019 local elections. Therefore, before every election, there is a wave of attacks against northern Syria."

### 'Main opposition allies with government'

The HDP lawmaker said that the main opposition has joined forces with the government when it comes to anti-Kurdish military operations. "The main opposition cannot form a peace and democracy front against the nationalist and pro-war policies of the government in general. The HDP is trying to support democracy forces, but they are immediately targeted and detained. Erdoğan can always start a war and garner support. We have seen it once again in this latest attack," he said.



### **'Turkey gets permission from Russia to use airspace'**

Özsoy also evaluated Erdoğan's announcement of a ground incursion and the positions of the USA and Russia. Özsoy said that both Russia and the US were informed beforehand during the previous attacks. "I don't know whether they negotiated with them to get permission, but it is obvious that Turkey is using the airspace controlled by Russia. In other words, it is not possible for them to use the airspace without informing the Russians. Erdogan now seems to be defying both countries, but Turkey is cooperating with Russia. Even though the US asked Turkey to deescalate tensions, it has obviously given support for the air strikes. However, Turkey has not yet obtained permission for ground operations."

### **'They resisted against ISIS violence and won'**

The HDP lawmaker insisted that his party has a clear stance against the government's war policies. He noted that the Kobanê resistance has gone down in history. Özsoy said that former party executives faced life imprisonment in ongoing trials and Turkish prosecutors wanted to close the party because of their support for Kobanê. "Even if they shut down our party or punish every one of us, HDP's stance on this issue does not change. The struggle in Kobanê was a struggle in favour of human dignity. Women and men resisted the brutality of ISIS and they won."

### **'HDP is left alone'**

Özsoy pointed out that the HDP has been left alone in its anti-war stance. For Özsoy, this war concerned not only the HDP but everyone. The HDP lawmaker pointed out that the government wanted to shape Turkey's domestic politics and future through these attacks against Kobanê and Rojava. "The main opposition will deeply regret it if it continues to act within the boundaries of Erdoğan's policies," he warned.

### **'Opposition follows the AKP-MHP government'**

Özsoy underlined that the Kurdish one is one of the most important issues in Turkey, yet no solution has been offered to fix it so far. "This is not a normal offensive. 60-70 F16 jets keep bombing everywhere. The reason for this is the unresolved Kurdish issue. However, we have not seen any reaction from the opposition about the war and the Kurdish issue. They immediately went after the AKP-MHP government. If the opposition is really serious, it should see that the Taksim explosion or the attack on Kobanê are not isolated incidents and will be used by the government in a way that will affect the election results. Therefore, they should adopt an attitude accordingly."

### **'Those who fail to confront Kurdish issue cannot make a difference'**

Özsoy maintained that those who cannot show courage to confront the Kurdish issue cannot make a big difference in the other issues of the country. "They realize the scheme Erdoğan put forward, but they remain silent because they are either nationalists themselves or are afraid of a nationalist wave. It is the nationalist populist policies that have already devastated the country. The government is already taking advantage of a nationalist, militarist and populist climate. The important thing is to be able to create a different climate against it," Özsoy concluded.



## Kurdistan faces new attacks

MEDYANEWS | 25 NOVEMBER 2022 | BY MICHAEL M. GUNTER

Not only Rojava (Western or Syrian Kurdistan), but also Bashur (Northern or Iraqi Kurdistan), recently faced an assault from their inveterate enemies Turkey and Iran, deploying airborne air missiles and drones. The United States stood by idly – while, ironically, continuing its vigorous support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, providing sophisticated weapons and billions of dollars in aid. The fact the NATO alliance still includes both the U.S. and Turkey as allies explains U.S. inaction against Turkey alongside its continued backing of Ukraine. Understandably, the U.S. still values its NATO military ties with Turkey, who possess the second-largest military in the NATO alliance. In well over its head in Ukraine, Russia too gave the green light, by default, to these twin attacks on Kurdistan. Nevertheless, both of the two attacks against Kurdistan – as well as the continuing war against Ukraine – are blatant violations of the United Nations Charter and International Law.

The Turkish attack on Rojava on 19 November, dubbed Operation Claw-Sword, was reportedly launched in retaliation for the earlier 13 November bomb attack on Istanbul's sleek shopping district Istiklal Street, which killed six people and wounded at least 80 more. Although it made no sense for the Kurds to attack Istanbul and thus invite a new round of Turkish violence, Turkey quickly blamed the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the People's Protection Units (YPG) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Rojava for the atrocity despite these organisations' quick denial. Turkish air attacks struck dozens of targets along the long Syrian border including, among others, the towns of Tal Rifaat, Manbij, and Kobane, the latter famous for its heroic stand against ISIS late in 2014. This resistance was conducted with U.S. air support – assistance that Turkey, at the time, notoriously tried to deny. Eleven Kurdish civilians were killed by the latest Turkish air strikes, and many more military personnel also met their deaths.

On November 22, Turkey escalated these air strikes by hitting a joint military base in the city of Hasakah, shared by Kurdish-led SDF and the few – but strategically important – troops the United States still maintains in that war-torn land. At least two Kurds were killed by this strike, but no U.S. casualties were reported. In 2018, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan had threatened the U.S. with an “Ottoman slap” if it continued what he considered U.S. support for Syrian Kurdish terrorists. This time the Turkish president strongly suggested that he was ready to follow up his latest air attack with a large ground assault. Given that Turkey has already struck three times across the border with ground troops since 2016 and already occupies territories such as Afrin (also known as Kurd Dagħ or the Kurdish Mountain), he should not be ignored out of hand. The danger of disastrous miscalculations that could lead to Turkish clashes with the U.S. must also be taken into account

Furthermore, Turkish ground troops have already been fighting against the PKK in Bashur since April of this year. What is more, many credible reports claim that the Turks have been using internationally-banned chemical weapons during their forays into the region. Erdogan has partially justified his illegal military actions by condemning the United States for supporting the Kurds in Syria. At the same time, he has faulted Russia, which controls the airspace over much of northern Syria, for not implementing a

promise made in 2019 to clear the area of the Syrian Kurds Turkey claims are terrorists. This is despite the fact that neither the United States nor the European Union, nor indeed Russia, accept this designation.

Although there is no credible evidence about who perpetrated the bombing in Istanbul that ignited these latest attacks, it might be speculated that some rogue Turkish element carried out a false flag operation to win support for Erdogan's upcoming reelection campaign next June. Another possibility is a reportedly rogue PKK element such as the so-called Kurdistan Falcons or Hawks, blamed in the past for similar violent atrocities. Given the dismal state of the Turkish economy, racked by inflation rates approaching 100%, Erdogan obviously finds the Kurds a convenient scapegoat when seeking to rally flagging domestic support. Of course, there might be yet another explanation, such as some jihadist group, for the Istanbul bombing.

However, Syria is not the only place Kurdistan is now under attack and Turkey is not the only perpetrator. Iran has been wracked by domestic demonstrations that have resulted in the deaths of several hundred people throughout the country since the death on 16 September of the young Kurdish woman Jina or Mahsa Amini, beaten to death in police custody for not wearing her hijab correctly. Instead of honestly examining its own failed policies, Iran has deflected blame onto the dissident Iranian Kurdish groups being sheltered in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) for somehow sponsoring this deadly unrest that even might threaten the future of the Islamic Republic.

Thus, on November 21, Iran launched deadly air attacks against numerous targets in the KRI and has even threatened a ground attack if Iraq does not prevent Iranian Kurdish dissidents and other reputed foreign enemies from conducting alleged operations against Iran. The Iranian football team's silence during the singing of their national anthem in its first World Cup game on 21 November cannot be a favorable sign for the Islamic Republic's future. These new Iranian attacks against Basur are taking place against the background of continuing Turkish attacks against the region since April 2022, as mentioned above.

Meanwhile, the midterm elections in the United States paradoxically both strengthened and weakened U.S. president Joseph Biden's hand in all this. The midterm elections reinforced Biden's hand by returning better than expected results for his Democratic Party, which even allowed it to hold on to the Senate, which constitutes half of the powerful U.S. Congress. In addition, Biden's party suffered less reversals than expected in the other half of Congress, the House of Representatives. However, the minimum losses in the lower house of Congress proved enough to retire Nancy Pelosi, the influential female Speaker of the House. Kevin McCarthy, the opposition Republican Party leader, will probably become the new Speaker of the House in January. This will likely weaken Biden's overall role in foreign affairs, particularly in financial matters which are famously a prerogative for the lower house. Since the opposition Republican Party has previously expressed its caution on continuing unabated foreign affairs expenses, the already limited willingness of the United States to check Turkish aggression in Rojava and Bashur is likely to further decline. What the United States calls "Divided Government" may also impact the U.S. president's ability to counter Iran and Turkey to the degree he might otherwise choose.

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# Who Are We?

The International Initiative “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan—Peace in Kurdistan” was founded in March 1999, a month after Öcalan’s abduction from Kenya and his imprisonment by Turkey. Since its initial foundation, the International Initiative struggled for Abdullah Öcalan’s release from prison so that he can play his rightful role in the establishment of a just peace between the Turkish state and Kurdistan’s Workers Party (PKK). The International Initiative also aimed at contributing to the repairing of the ties between the Kurdish and Turkish peoples, as well as all other peoples of the Middle Eastern regions.

In order to achieve its aims, the International Initiative followed several related paths. Influencing international and national audiences through international campaigns to interfere with Turkish state’s policies towards Abdullah Öcalan has been one of these paths. A second area of work the International Initiative committed itself is the dissemination of Öcalan’s views through art, publications and conferences. Finally, the International Initiative has also been active in raising awareness for Öcalan’s conditions and the human rights violations he faces through reports, fact-finding delegations and lobbying.

## Campaigns

The International Initiative organizes signature campaigns to influence the policies towards Öcalan. One such campaign which was launched in 2012 by one thousand preliminary signatories including Gerry Adams, Prof. Antonio Negri, Prof. Immanuel Wallerstein, Prof. Achin Vanaik, and other intellectuals, politicians, MPs, and NGOs from South America, Europe, Asia, Russia, and the Middle East. The campaign reached 10,328,623 signatures and may be the biggest signature campaign for the freedom of a political prisoner that the world has ever seen. It significantly challenged the isolation that was enforced on Öcalan and possibly paved the ways for the peace talks that the Turkish state and Öcalan led between 2013 and 2015.

The International Initiative also organizes video campaigns that educate the public on Öcalan’s life-story, his prison conditions and the demands for his freedom.

## Publications

The International Initiative translates, edits and publishes books written by Öcalan in different languages including in English, German, French, Spanish and Arabic.

It compiles brochures from his works on specific topics, such as democratic confederalism or women’s freedom.

It edits books on Öcalan that discuss his main ideas.

The International Initiative also publishes regular reports on Öcalan’s prison conditions and his isolation.

## Conferences

The International Initiative organizes biannual conferences and invites scholars, activists, students and politicians to discuss Öcalan’s ideas in order to initiate a conversation between different Movements around the world.

## Delegations

Every year on February 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of the abduction of Abdullah Öcalan, the International Initiative organizes a group of internationally acclaimed people to take a trip to Turkey for a fact finding mission and publicizes their findings.

## Lobbying

The International Initiative lobbies in the European Council, CPT and other international organizations against the human rights violations against Abdullah Öcalan and his total isolation in İmralı prison.

## Art for Öcalan

This campaign aims to express the relationship between Abdullah Öcalan, Kurdish people, freedom and women’s freedom and to educate the wider public on the past and present of the Kurdish people. The International Initiative has already collected art from Brazil, South Africa, USA, South America, Italy, Germany as well as Kurds from different parts of Kurdistan. These works have been printed in postcards, t-shirts and canvas and made available for solidarity sale.

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