

THE İMRALI POST

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

Issue № 28 / 22 November 2022 ★ Contact: imralipost@freecalan.org

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Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Lawyer Naimi: Isolation system targets not only Öcalan, but all Kurdish and oppressed people

NUJIYAN ADAR | QAMISHLO | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Lawyer Mihemed Emin Naim said that the isolation imposed on Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan has no legal explanation and is contrary to Turkey's laws and international conventions. "Turkey does not implement the European Court of Human Rights decisions, which it has an obligation to comply with. Its crimes are ignored" he said.

Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held in İmralı F Type High Security Prison for almost 24 years under severe isolation conditions, has not been heard from for 19 months. Speaking to ANF, lawyer Mihemed Emin Naimi said that the isolation system is directed not only against Öcalan, but also against the Kurdish people and all oppressed peoples.

Not a choice, a must

Noting that it is a legal and legitimate right for Öcalan to meet with his lawyers and family, lawyer Naimi said: "Persons detained under UN law cannot be exempted from their rights. Acting in accordance with UN laws is not an option, it is a must for Turkey. Öcalan has been subjected to torture and isolation in İmralı since 15 February 1999. His abduction was the result of a conspiracy, and his trial was unfair."

Stating that international forces and institutions do not comply with the law when it comes to the Kurdish people and their leader, lawyer Naimi continued: "The basis of the judgments made by the ECHR is the European Convention on Human Rights. It is the Council of Europe that supervises the implementation of these decisions and has the power to sanction those who don't comply with them. The Council of Europe is silent against Turkey's refusal to recognize these resolutions. It violates Article 51 of the UN, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1907 Hague Agreement."

Right to hope applies to everyone

Underlining that the countries, institutions, and organizations that turned a blind eye to the violations committed against Abdullah Öcalan are also partners in the isolation, lawyer Naimi said: "According to international law, the 'right to hope' is legitimate and legal. Aggravated isolation in Syria is for 20 years, in Europe is reviewed every 4 years. In Turkey, this should be reviewed every 25 years. When you say that Turkey does not act within its own laws, it is not a refrain. If the 'right to hope' needs to be reviewed every 25 years and this is not done, then the country is breaking its own laws. "The UN has the right to intervene when a country violates the law, but it uses this power for its own interests and remains silent."

Reminding that the CPT visited İmralı once again recently, lawyer Mihemed Emin Naimi added: “Instead of making a statement and sharing its observations, the CPT normalizes the situation and waits for Turkey’s approval to publish the report. The CPT does not take a just and principled stance. It does not fulfil its duties and responsibilities.”



Prisons in Turkey

Prisoners in Antalya say that their rights to treatment is violated

ANF | ANTALYA | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Ekrem Altay, one of the prisoners in Antalya S Type Closed Prison, spoke about the rights violations he is suffering in prison in a phone call with his family. Altay, who has been imprisoned since 2017, was exiled from Muğla E Type Closed Prison to Antalya S Type Closed Prison 6 months ago.

Stating that their requests for hospital referral were not fulfilled, Altay added that the prison administration did not respond to their petitions. Stating that the ill prisoners had their right to treatment violated, Altay said that 9 people stay in the ward, and they go out for air conditioning for an hour and a half a day.



Letters of solidarity sent to imprisoned women in Dersim

ANF | DERSİM | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA) members sent letters and cards to women in prison in Dersim. Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Group Deputy Chair Meral Daniş Beştaş attended the commemoration of Seyîr Rıza, the leader of the Dersîm resistance, on 15 November 1937-38. After the ceremony, TJA women marched to the PTT Branch to send cards and letters of solidarity to the imprisoned women.

Making a statement in front of the PTT, Beştaş emphasized that they are in solidarity with the imprisoned women. Stating that they are ‘in a revolt’ against war, violence and poverty, Beştaş said: “Today we are raising this rebellion from Dersim.”

TJA women then sent the cards and letters they had prepared for the women in prison.



Journalist in prison writes about violation of rights in Adana jail

ANF | 17 NOVEMBER 2022

41-year-old Fatih Özgür Aydın, the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Public Workers' Front is suffering from chronic crohn's disease. He is in prison in Adana F Type. He listed the violations of rights in prison in a letter he wrote to the Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG).

In the letter he said: "Many of our press workers and colleagues were tortured, detained and imprisoned. The AKP government uses every means to prevent the news about hunger, poverty and injustice from being reported. The 'Censorship Act' is another proof of their desperation. Before that, they tried many ways, but they could not achieve what they wanted. Neither the Censorship Laws, nor the detentions, nor the disinformation they carry out through the Directorate of Communications will work. The public has the right to access the right news, and real journalists will always find their way."

Stating that the DFG's report titled 'Journalism Between Four Walls' was not given to him by the prison administration, Fatih Özgür Aydın described the violations of rights in the prison. He wrote about the "gendarmerie's imposition of 'mouth search' during hospital/court referrals" and said that "since we do not accept this unlawfulness and arbitrariness, we are not referred to the hospital/court."

Aydın added that "the purchase of stationery items sent by our families in parcels is prevented. The materials that have arrived before and are in the warehouse are also not given. Our books are not given to us by the prison administration. The parcels sent by our families were opened under our supervision and with our approval. Now they are opened without our approval and not in our presence. The amount of hot-cold water per day was limited, and we are basically asked to both take a shower and wash our clothes with a bucket of hot water."

Aydın ended his letter as follows: "Dear friends, we are experiencing many problems apart from these, of course. Our legal and de factor-legitimate struggle continues."



Three prisoners in Konya go on an indefinite and non-alternating hunger strike

ANF | KONYA | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

In Ereğli High Security Prison/Konya, the indefinite alternating hunger strike started by political detainees on 4 October for 10 days against rights violations and isolation conditions continues. One of the detainees, Yakup Brukan from Rojhilat, set his body on fire on October 28 to protest the severe isolation conditions. It was learned that prisoners Faik Budak, Fatih Baran and Remzi Akyürek have turned the hunger strike into an indefinite fast as of 16 November.

Lawyers from the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), Human Rights Association (İHD) and Çukurova Association for Assistance with the Families of Detainees and Convicts (Çukurova TUAY-DER) visited the prison administration and detainees on 11 November and prepared a report.

The report shared some information about the meeting of the lawyer committee with the prison administration. “The prison director stated that the jail has a capacity of 480 people. Currently, there are 200 prisoners. There are 45 triple cells, while all the remaining cells are single cells.”



Gülüm: seriously ill prisoner Mehmet Emin Özkan is in danger of losing his life any time

ANF | ISTANBUL | 19 NOVEMBER 2022

This week, HDP MPs Züleyha Gülüm and Musa Piroğlu made a statement at the prisoners' mothers vigil held every Friday at Çağlayan Courthouse to expose the violation of rights in prisons and the release of ill prisoners. HDP deputy Züleyha Gülüm underlined that they were in front of Çağlayan Courthouse once again so that prisons do not turn into death houses, and added: “Mothers began to experience health problems as a result of their violent detention every week. That’s why they are not here today, but what they told us is that they will continue this vigil every week.”

“Özkan’s situation is critical”

Drawing attention to the situation of seriously ill prisoner Mehmet Emin Özkan, Gülüm underlined that Özkan has been in prison for a very long time and has reached a critical stage in terms of health. Noting that he does not even remember where he is at this point, Gülüm noted: “Mehmet Emin Özkan’s health condition is not suitable for staying in prison. He’s almost close to death. But he is still in prison. The family was trying to make their voice heard on this issue. We have already lost many people in prison, we do not want to lose Mehmet Emin Özkan. We demand his immediate release. After the last visit, the fam-

ily said that he can die any moment. But despite this, neither the Ministry of Justice nor the General Directorate of Prisons has heard a voice or an answer.”

Gülüm emphasized that the fact that recent deaths show that prisons have turned into death houses. Pointing out that not only seriously ill prisoners but prisoners in general are ill are not treated in jail, Gülüm stated that those who want to go to the infirmary are not taken to it, neither are they referred to the hospital, and when they are, they are exposed to the imposition of a handcuffed examination. As if all this was not enough, Gülüm stated that now the imposition of oral search has begun, and said that when the ill prisoners objected to this practice, which is against human dignity, they were not taken to the hospital. In addition to this, Gülüm pointed out that the hygiene conditions are not provided in the prisons and that cleaning materials are not provided. Punishment after punishment is applied to keep prisoners in jail even after they have served their sentence.

Noting that the Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Prisons and Prison Directorates are responsible for violations of rights, torture and deaths in prisons, Gülüm said: “Let them not think that they will not be prosecuted. Of course, these days will pass, and they will have to respond before the judiciary.”



Fincancı: Even in prison, it is important for me to take part in the struggle for my homeland

ANF | 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Şebnem Korur Fincancı, President of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), was arrested in Ankara on 27 October for publicly calling for an investigation into allegations regarding the use of chemical weapons in Kurdistan. The arrest of the internationally known forensic scientist and human rights activist has sparked protests worldwide. Gülcan Dereli conducted an interview with Prof. Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı for the daily newspaper Yeni Özgür Politika. She is still in Sincan Women’s Prison in Ankara, for “propaganda” for the PKK.

Regarding the smear campaign against her and the Medical Association, Fincancı stated: “Attacks on me or the TTB are nothing new. But in this case, it is obvious that they believe they have a way to devalue and criminalize us in the eyes of society. The fact that the footage of the raid was served to the biased media with a twist of the truth shows that they want to take full advantage of this opportunity.”

Regarding the fact that the smear campaign is mainly fuelled by the MHP, ‘the junior partner’ of the Erdogan government, Fincancı said: “Even if the junior partner thinks that my citizenship should be revoked, this is my home and the home of those who do not think like the junior partner. Let me give the same answer that I gave to these proposals years ago, and this time I have said the same to those who insisted that I stay: “I prefer to be in prison in my own country than to be deprived of my freedom in another country. Even if I am in prison, it is important for me to take part in the struggle for my homeland.

It is not new that they are going after me, but the fact that I am on the TTB board is new, and at every opportunity they try to attack the TTB by instrumentalising my identity, which comes from the struggle for human rights. It is well known that the position of professional associations in this country, especially their stance on preventing and controlling the abuse of state power, the trust they create in society, their ability to correctly inform the public and their credibility are worrying about any political authority, and in times of hardening they resort to methods to remove this effect on society.”

According to Fincancı, the attitude of the Turkish government since the AKP came to power twenty years ago reflects “the efforts of the political authority to get rid of its opponents, critical approaches and instruments of control”.

Regarding prison conditions, Fincancı stated: “We can say that the policy of keeping prisoners away from the public has become stronger. I can list many violations, from access to health to daily life. (...) The isolation and segregation, especially of those held in prisons for political reasons, has become much worse in the past six years.”

Fincancı said that she was housed alone in a cell at her own request. However, she was not allowed to make contact with others detained for political reasons: “In this respect, the state of isolation and seclusion characteristic of the F-type continues.”



Military aggression and occupation

HPG balance sheet: 2,544 soldiers killed, eleven helicopters shot down in 7 months

ANF | BEHDINAN | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

The press centre of the People’s Defence Forces (HPG) published a seven-month balance sheet of the Bazên Zagrosê and Cenga Xabûrê Şehîd Savaş Maraş offensives of the guerrilla armies HPG (People’s Defence Forces) and YJA Star (Free Women’s Troops). The balance covers the period between 14 April and 14 November.

“Freedom struggle faces the most intense attacks in its history”

The HPG statement released on Tuesday includes the following:

“The PKK, founded on 27 November 1978, which organized our people, who had been brought to the brink of genocide, on the line of resistance and victory, is today the freedom hope of the oppressed peoples, women, and youth. Our freedom struggle, which is carried by the philosophy of Rêber Apo [Abdul-

lah Öcalan], is a great danger for the genocidal colonialist forces and their local actors. Today, this freedom struggle is facing the most comprehensive and intense attacks in its history. The imperial powers, who want to extinguish the peoples' hope for freedom by destroying the Kurdish people and the freedom struggle, are supporting the fascist AKP/MHP regime with all kinds of political and military support. The fascist Turkish state, which is using the dirtiest methods of warfare against the freedom guerrilla of our people without any hesitation and relying on the most modern technology of NATO, has not been able to achieve any results against the determination of the Apoist freedom guerrilla of Kurdistan despite all the means at its disposal. The invasion operation launched by the Turkish state in the Zap, Avaşın and Metîna regions has now completed its seventh month. The courage, resistance and self-sacrificing struggle of the guerrillas in the face of the Turkish state's uninterrupted attack on Southern Kurdistan have once again shown the strength of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. Our forces have adapted the strategy of the revolutionary people's war to the changed conditions of the new phase and have masterfully implemented warfare based on fighting tunnels and mobile units. They are thus proving that they are moving on the path of victory.

“Invading forces have used banned weapons thousands of times”

The Turkish army is helpless in the face of the unbroken will of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. It could not achieve its goal despite bombing the resistance areas where our forces are thousands of times by fighter jets, attack helicopters, tanks, howitzers, and mortars. The Turkish army could not advance against the guerrillas who are sacrificially defending every square inch of Kurdistan. So, once again, it showed its vile face and attacked the war tunnels thousands of times with banned bombs and chemical weapons. Despite all the attacks of the colonialist Turkish army, which committed more and more war crimes in front of the eyes of the world, our forces continued their historic resistance uninterruptedly despite the difficult conditions.

“Heavy blows against the Turkish army”

Our freedom guerrilla fighters, who march resolutely in the line of sacrifice of our comrades Sara Tolhildan Goyî and Rûken Zelal, continue their uninterrupted resistance in all areas of struggle from Northern to Southern Kurdistan and inflict heavy blows on the Turkish occupation army. Our forces, who are carrying out effective actions against the Turkish occupation army through ambushes, infiltration, raids, sabotage, assassinations, the use of heavy weapons, coordinated guerrilla actions and revolutionary operations with the utmost sacrifice and courage, have impressively proved the level of professional warfare they have reached. This is particularly evident in the way they have interwoven new-era guerrilla tactics. The war criminal AKP-MHP/regime could not prevail against the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. Heavy blows were inflicted on the invading forces and the actions were documented and shared with the public. The state is trying to cover up its war crimes and hide its losses through false reports in the special war media controlled by it. The way the army under the command of Hulusi Akar left the bodies of its own soldiers on the battlefield, threw them off cliffs, bombed them by fighter jets and attack helicopters, burnt them and tried to destroy them so that they would not be picked up by the guerrillas, showed how far this army is from the most basic moral and human values. The identity details and documents of the corpses of the soldiers who were under the control of our forces have been given to the public again and again, and it has been proved that the Special War Minister, Hulusi Akar, who sent these soldiers to the hot war in Kurdistan, neither protects the dead nor the living soldiers, but unscrupulously ordered the destruction of the corpses of the soldiers. This shows the dimension of the dirty war. Even if the AKP/MHP regime, caught

in the act, hastily tries to silence the people of Turkey who oppose these war crimes through fascist repression, it will eventually be condemned on the international stage and in the face of history.

During the seven-month war, the Turkish occupation army committed war crimes. It has used banned bombs and chemical weapons 2,837 times against war tunnels and positions in the resistance areas.

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla carried out a total of 2,553 actions and dealt heavy blows to the Turkish occupation army. As a result of extensive guerrilla actions using a variety of tactics, 2,544 members of the invading forces were killed and 366 wounded. The Freedom Guerrilla of Kurdistan, fighting sacrificially and with great dedication against the genocidal attacks, continues to fulfill its duty to defend our people and the sacred soil of Kurdistan by pursuing victory in the path of the martyrs. During the seven-month war, 174 of our comrades fell on the resistance front. They fought sacrificially until their last breath and inflicted heavy blows on the invading forces. We once again remember with respect and gratitude all our martyrs who died under the leadership of Bager, Êrîş, Bilind, Rêvan, Ciwana, Sîpan, Baz, Nurî, Mizgîn, Rohat, Şaristan, Mahîr, Avzem, Doğan, Nalîn, Güven, Zamanî, Ronahî, Helbest, Fedai, Siyabend, Berfîn, Mêrdîn and our 17 friends who died in chemical warfare have created a true epic of courage. We promise that we will continue to strengthen the resistance on the basis of the line of the fallen and crown the memory of them with victory.

Seven months balance

The balance sheet for the period between 14 April and 14 November is as follows:

Actions by our forces:

— 2,553 actions were carried out based on a variety of tactics such as ambush, infiltration, raid, sabotage, assassination, the use of heavy weapons, skirmishes and attacks, coordinated guerrilla actions, air defense force actions and revolutionary operations.

The results of the actions of our forces:

— 2,544 members of the occupation forces, including 18 senior military officers and 12 counter-guerrillas were killed

— 366 members of the occupation forces were injured

Registered attacks on Medya Defense Zones:

— 3,694 attacks by combat aircraft

— 4,886 attacks by combat helicopters

— The war tunnels and positions of our forces were bombed 2,837 times with internationally outlawed bombs (phosphorus bombs, thermobaric bombs, tactical nuclear weapons) and chemical weapons.

Military materials seized by our forces:

10 MPT-55 infantry rifles; 4 AK-47 infantry rifles; 3 G-3 infantry rifles; 3 grenade launchers; 2 M-16 infantry rifles; 2 HK-416 infantry rifles; 1 BKC machine gun; 1 B-7 rocket launcher; 1 MPT-66 infantry rifle; 4 pistols; 4 grenade launcher shells; 848 rounds of M-16 and BKC ammunition; 18 hand grenades and numerous smoke grenades; 4 assault waistcoats (steel); 4 steel shields; 3 cartridge belts; 12 magazines; 7 day/night binoculars; 3 thermal imaging binoculars; 3 laser sights; 2 infrared scopes; 1 Laser rifle scope; 4 surveillance camera systems; 3 helmet cameras; 1 portable radar system; 24 kg of explosives; 4 mines; 1 mine blasting device; 1 mine detector; 7 mobile phones; 3 radios; 1 solar energy panel; 1 compass; 4 knives (bayonet); 6 military rucksacks; 2 berets; 2 helmets; 9 torches; 2 UPS power converters; 1 power source; 2 explosive charges with cortex, TNT, C3; Parts of a surveillance camera system

Military equipment destroyed by our forces:

8 Sikorsky transport helicopters; 3 combat helicopters; 2 tanks; 17 armored military vehicles; 4 excavators; 65 surveillance camera systems; 52 drones; 8 radar systems; 5 thermal imaging cameras; 2 telescopes; 3 signal jammers; 3 motion detectors; 2 audio listening devices; 1 photo trap; 1 container; 99 emplacements; 34 military tents; 1 camouflage shelter; 1 Chemical gas transfer system; 1 Weapons room; 5 A4 weapons; 2 BKC machine guns; 300 kg of explosives; 10 explosive charges; 1 A4 position; 2 chemical weapons devices; 2 suction devices; 1 mortar; 1 AT-4 rocket launcher; 1 shield

Military equipment damaged by our forces:

47 Sikorsky transport helicopters; 32 attack helicopters; 19 positions; 12 drones; 9 excavators; 4 armoured military vehicles; 3 military tents.



Occupation forces' attacks on Zirgan continue

ANF | TIL TEMIR | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

The northern Syrian town of Zirgan (Abu Rasen) is a constant focus of Turkey and its jihadist proxy army. The town on the edge of the Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) occupation zone is attacked almost daily.

The continued attacks on Tuesday were directed against the centre of the village. Several houses in Zirgan were hit by artillery and tank shells, with huge bullet holes in some of the walls.

Zirgan town is located about thirty kilometers east of the already fully occupied town of Serêkaniyê and lies on the edge of a connecting road between the strategic transport routes 712 and M4. It is just under 25 kilometres from the town of Til Temir. Sporadic attacks by the occupiers on Tuesday targeted the village of Umm Harmala, north of Til Temir.

The constant incursions by Turkey and its mercenaries into the region are violations of the ceasefire and de-escalation agreements agreed between the guarantor powers Russia and the USA with Turkey in October 2019. Nevertheless, both Moscow and Washington have so far refrained from intervention.



Istanbul bombing: Arrest of suspect produces more questions than answers

MEDYANEWS – 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Many questions are being asked by the Turkish public concerning the bomb attack in Taksim that caused the deaths of six people, the statements made by the official authorities about the attack and Ahlam Albashir, the woman, said to be Syrian, arrested as the suspected bomber.

At least six people died and dozens were injured in the explosion that took place on a central avenue of Turkey's largest city Istanbul, on 13 November, at around 4:20 pm local time.

Various bits of CCTV footage posted on social media shortly after the explosion showed a woman leaving a bag at the scene. After leaving the bag, the woman, who wore a black headscarf and military-style trousers and was carrying red roses in her hand, left the area.

Albashir was arrested from a flat in the Küçükçekmece district of Istanbul in an operation carried out 12 hours after the explosion; her clothes, visible on security footage as she dropped off the bag, were found in the flat at the time of the raid.

Turkish security forces announced that during the police interrogation she confessed that she had left a bomb at the scene, that she was an intelligence agent trained by the People's Defense Center of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and the People's Defense Units (YPG) and that she had received her instructions from North and East Syria.

The People's Defense Center of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) strongly rejected all the Turkish government's accusations of PKK involvement.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Mazloum Abdi also rejected all allegations of involvement in the bomb attack, saying that the SDF has no connections whatsoever with the perpetrator.

Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) and the People's Defense Units (YPG) also confirmed that Kurdish forces had nothing to do with the bomb attack.

After Turkey claimed on Monday that the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and its military wing were connected with the bomber, the AANES's Department of Foreign Affairs denied all involvement and invited international forces to be involved in the investigation.

No other group has yet claimed responsibility.

* The Interior Minister, Süleyman Soylu, who said in a statement after the attack, "If we had not caught the terrorists, they would have been smuggled to Greece", yet he stated at a different point that the organization responsible for the attack had planned to kill the perpetrator to cover their tracks.

* The General Security Directorate announced on 14 November that the explosive used in the attack was TNT, according to evidence obtained from the crime scene.

In an article published on the T24 news site, the jailed former co-chair of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Selahattin Demirtaş recalled the seizure of 52 kilograms of explosives from a police car in Turkey's Kurdish-majority district of Yüksekova (Gever) in Hakkari (Colemberg) in March, and questioned the Interior Minister's statements concerning the bombing .

* The police released images of the raid on the suspect's flat and a photograph taken at the police station after the interrogation. The suspect appears battered and had a terrified in the images.

The security forces announced that the attacker entered Turkey four months ago from Afrin in northern Syria, according to the state-run news agency AA.

The Kurdish city of Afrin has been under the control of Turkish forces and various groups supported by Turkey since Turkey's 'Olive Branch' military operation in March 2018.

A neighbor of Albashir's was interviewed and said that she had been living in the neighborhood for a year.

* The suspect is seen in security camera footage running away from the scene a few minutes before the bomb exploded. Turkish social media users question this attitude as not fitting for a cold-blooded organizational intelligence agent.

* The nationality of the perpetrator is another matter under question. Some people tweeted that in the images of the raid published by the Turkish police, an Eritrean tattoo could be seen on the woman's arm, which raised whether the suspect might not be Syrian, but rather Eritrean or Ethiopian.

On the other hand, a woman who owns a flat the suspect stayed in one night says Albashir is an Arab, according to a report by Fehim Taştekin in Duvar Newspaper.

* On 15 November, it was revealed that the chairman of the Güçlükonak branch of Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Mehmet Emin İlhan, had also been interrogated by police. The police had detected phone calls between Albashir and a telephone number registered to İlhan, and asked İlhan to make a statement, T24 reported.

When asked, İlhan answered, "The terrorist organization tried to set a trap for me."

The Office of the Governor of Şırnak (Şırnex) stated on Tuesday that the number registered to İlhan had been illegally obtained by a dealer in the Cizre district, that the number in question was not actually used by İlhan and that he had been released after having made a statement.

Just why Şırnak Governor's Office felt the need to make a statement in support of İlhan is another question widely discussed on social media.



Istanbul bomber admits she entered Turkey from Idlib, not Afrin

MEDYANEWS – 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Ahlan Albashir, the perpetrator of the Istanbul explosion on 13 November, admitted that she entered Turkey from the Syrian city of Idlib, not from Afrin, reported Mezopotamya News Agency.

All suspects of the Istanbul explosion were tried on 17 November by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor.

Ahlan Albashir admitted that she entered Turkey from Idlib, contradictory to allegations made by Turkish officials that claimed the attacker came to Turkey from Afrin.

“We have an assessment that the order for the action came from Kobani. We have an assessment that the perpetrator passed through Afrin,” said the Turkish Interior Minister, on 14 November, and pointed to links with Kurdish forces in north and east Syria.

Regarding the attack, Soylu added that, “whoever is feeding the PYD [Democratic Union Party in north Syria] and whoever is trying to provide internal intelligence to the PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party], is the perpetrator.”

Nevertheless, the day after the blast, on 14 November, the headquarters of the People's Defense Center (HSM) of PKK and Mazloum Abdi, Commander-in-Chief of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and other accused Kurdish organizations rejected allegations made by the Turkish state that blamed Kurdish forces for the fatal blast.



Iraqi minister to be summoned to parliament over Turkey's attacks

ANF | BAGHDAD | 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Durxam Maliki from the State of Law Coalition stated that Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein would be summoned to the parliament to discuss Turkey's attacks on Iraqi territory, Rojnews reported on Thursday.

Accordingly, Maliki said that the parliament checked the official institutions properly and would continue to summon ministries.

On Wednesday, the Iraqi Parliament established a special commission to investigate Turkey's use of chemical weapons. The commission is scheduled to head to the operation zone and conduct investigations there.

'Iraq should press charges against Turkey'

In the meantime, Iraqi parliamentarian Tayir Mexeyf spoke about the attacks of the Turkish state, which he said, have been going on for years, endangering civilian populations and causing serious casualties in the region.

The parliamentarian noted that Turkey's attacks were a clear violation of the sovereignty of the Iraqi territory. "The attacks are against international law," he underlined.

Mexeyf insisted that the Iraqi parliament and government should take the necessary measures. "To maintain the peace, security, and sovereignty of Iraq, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs should formally file a complaint before the United Nations."



Hashd Al-Shaabi official: We are ready to remove Turkish troops from Iraqi territory

ANF | 17 NOVEMBER 2022

The invading Turkish state continues its attacks against the territories of southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). An official from Hashd Al-Shaabi, who wanted to remain anonymous, spoke to Rojnews about the increasingly ongoing Turkish attacks on the region.

"Hashd Al-Shaabi forces have completed their preparations to remove Turkish troops from Iraqi land. However, the Iraqi government's approval is required. The Turkish state enters Iraqi territory and carries

out air strikes in Shengal and many other regions. This is a clear violation of the sovereign rights of Iraq,” the spokesperson said.

“We requested the Iraqi government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to step into action against the Turkish violation and take the necessary measures. If our demands are not met, the Hashd Al-Shaabi will be ready to mobilize its forces against the Turkish state,” the official added.



HPG reports ongoing guerrilla actions in Southern Kurdistan

ANF | BEHDINAN | 17 NOVEMBER 2022

In its daily published balance sheet on the war in Kurdistan, the press centre of the People’s Defense Forces (HPG) reported that mobile guerrilla units intervened against the construction of military roads by the Turkish army at Girê FM in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Turkey launched a large-scale invasion in the guerrilla area on Iraqi territory in mid-April and is establishing new military bases and roads for military purposes in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) with the approval and support of the ruling party, KDP.

On 14 November, guerrillas with heavy weapons targeted an excavator used for road construction at Girê FM, forcing the Turkish army construction team to retreat. On 15 November, YJA Star guerrillas struck the construction site again with heavy weapons, after which the deployed excavator was withdrawn. On 16 November, the invading forces at Girê Cûdî were hit by the guerrillas with light weapons.

Regarding the attacks of the Turkish army on Wednesday, the HPG said that a prohibited bomb was used in the Şehîd Serxwebûn position in the resistance area of Çemço. The areas of Sîda, Çemço, Girê Amêdî and Girê FM were attacked dozens of times with howitzers, mortars, tanks and heavy weapons.



Tightening anti-terror laws, Sweden passes constitutional amendment

ANF | STOCKHOLM | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

The Swedish parliament has passed a constitutional amendment that allows for a tightening of anti-terror laws. 278 of the 349 members of the Swedish Parliament voted in favor of the amendment on Wednesday, with only the Left Party and the Greens voting against. Turkey had made its consent to Sweden’s NATO

accession conditional on this step. The constitutional amendment will come into force at the turn of the year.

In the future, it will allow the Swedish government to introduce new laws restricting freedom of assembly when it comes to associations involved in or supporting terrorism. Until now, Sweden had made its anti-terror laws comparatively liberal in order to protect freedom of association. For example, charges for mere membership of a group suspected of having a terrorist background are not permitted.

In addition, foreign espionage is criminalized and included in the Penal Code. The amendments also mean restrictions on the right to provide information that could harm Sweden's relationship with other states or organizations, such as the UN or NATO. According to the government, the purpose is to strengthen Sweden's security and close legal loopholes.

Media organizations, on the other hand, see the protection of journalistic sources as a cornerstone of press freedom endangered and thus democracy and freedom of expression threatened. The Swedish section of the International Commission of Jurists (IJC) stressed that the proposal would have an intimidating effect on whistle-blowers and other important sources for investigative journalists. Several media professionals had protested in front of the Riksdag before the vote.

Criticism arose from the ranks of the Swedish Left Party that the amendments to the law were a “genuflection to the Turkish president”. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will only agree to Sweden joining NATO if the country takes tougher action against the Kurdish liberation movement, which is supported by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and the People's Defence Units (YPG) active in Rojava, which form the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Sweden had applied for NATO membership in the wake of the Russian attack on Ukraine in May. Except for Hungary and Turkey, all member countries have ratified this application. Erdoğan is demanding that the Swedes extradite alleged ‘terror’ suspects, among other things. But the Swedish judiciary does not make extradition easy—so far, anyway.



Seventeen arrested over Istanbul blast, investigation riddled with contradiction

MEDYANEWS – 18 NOVEMBER 2022

A court in Istanbul on Friday ordered to send 17 people to prison out of the 51 who were taken into custody immediately after Sunday's deadly blast on the city's busiest avenue.

Two people were released from police custody ahead of the court procedures, and one suspect remains in custody for further questioning. A total of 49 people were referred to court, which ruled to deport 29 of them, Mezopotamya Agency reported.

In her court testimony, primary suspect Ahlam Albashir said she thought she was carrying drugs in the bag, and was not aware of the bomb. She rejected accusations by Turkish authorities, including by Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu, that she was an intelligence officer trained by the Syrian-Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

The bomb in the bag Albashir had carried and left at a bench near the İstiklal Avenue killed six people and injured dozens immediately after she left the area. She was arrested from the apartment she was staying in a few hours after the blast.

Albashir was waiting for a pickup when she received a phone call instructing her to leave the bag and leave the premises. "I touched it, it was soft, there were chips or something on top. Underneath there was something soft," she said in court. "I took a taxi, and understood what had happened when the driver showed me on his phone."

The woman also said her family members had been threatened to make her take the bag to the location.

While authorities said Albashir had crossed into Turkey from YPG-controlled areas, she told the court she had come from Jarabulus, which has never been held by the Kurdish group. The town was occupied by the Islamic State (ISIS) in 2013, and the Turkish military took control and handed the town over to Syrian militias it controlled in 2016. The situation remains the same to date.

Turkey maintains that the attack was organized from Kobane in Syria, but Kurdish forces in the town reject all involvement. The Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) pointed to 'dark plans' by the Turkish government, while Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) Commander Mazlum Abdi said: "Albashir had connections to the Syrian National Army (SNA), a group backed by Turkey itself."

However, Minister Soylu changed his accusation on Friday, switching to Manbij as the source of the planning for the attack. During 2023 budget hearings in parliament, Soylu targeted Kurdish MPs from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and said the attack "came from Manbij, where your overlords are".

Soylu was in Syria at the time of the attack, at a ceremony in Idlib where Turkey's conservative and pro-government business association MÜSİAD was inaugurating a housing project. The minister blamed Washington in his original statements as well, while US President Joe Biden spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the G20 summit on Tuesday.

"It is that simple, your overlords are there. The United States, the Democratic Unity Party (PYD), and the Kurdistan Workers' Party is there," Soylu said, citing respectively the Syrian Kurdish party that controls part of Kurdish-majority areas in northern Syria, and the organization Turkey designates terrorist and accuses other Kurdish groups of terrorism by association over.

Biden "expressed his deep condolences to President Erdoğan and the people of Türkiye on the acts of violence in Istanbul", according to a White House readout, while Erdoğan's office announced the talk as Biden "offering condolences for those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Istanbul", in wording that Biden had refrained from using. Erdoğan's office also said Biden had promised continued support to Turkey in the country's efforts to procure next-generation F-16s, while the White House readout made no mention of the fighter jets.

Meanwhile, Syrian national Ammar Jarkas was determined to be one of several people acting as Albashir's handlers, and had arranged falsified papers for Albashir to make her look like she was working in a textile workshop he owned. Jarkas also attempted to help the bomber leave Turkey after the attack. The Aleppo-born businessman has been attending MÜSİAD meetings in Istanbul since at least 2020, as seen in photos he posted on social media.

Another accomplice, Hüsam A., was arrested in Azaz, Syria, controlled by Turkey-backed Syrian groups.

The investigation revealed a mobile phone number that was used to contact Albashir, which belonged to a local administrator at the Şırnak (Şirnex) branch of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), the far-right smaller partner in Turkey's ruling coalition. MHP Güçlükonak chairman Mehmet Emin İlhan told police units that the line had been registered by an unknown person using a copy of his identity card, and that he had nothing to do with organizing the attack.

Another nationalist politician, Adem Taşkaya from the far-right anti-refugee Victory Party (ZP) admitted to subscribing to a Telegram group used by police officers. Taşkaya had targeted Kurdish human rights lawyer Jiyan Tosun immediately after the blast, accusing her of being the bomber. The ZP vice chairman said he received the tip that Tosun was responsible for the attack in said Telegram group. The information leaked to social media included private information on Tosun's teenage nephew and other family members, and her home address.



Man detained over Istanbul bombing says his brother died fighting in Free Syrian Army

MEDYANEWS – 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Ahmad Haj Hasan, one of those arrested in connection with the bomb attack on the central İstiklal Avenue in Turkey's largest city, Istanbul on 13 November, said in his police statement that his brother died while fighting in the ranks of the Free Syrian Army (FSA).

According to Sözcü newspaper, Ahlam Albashir, who left the bomb at the scene, stayed at Hasan's house for a short time.

In his statement, Hasan said, "I never supported the PKK (the Kurdistan Workers' Party). My brother was martyred in the FSA. I have nothing to do with this case. I do not accept the accusations," he said.

Yasir El Korali, who took Albashir to Taksim three times, including on the day of the attack which killed six people, said that he was running an illegal taxi service and added: "I have been living in Turkey for 7 years. My children were born in Turkey. If I had known that this woman would have done such a thing, I would not have taken this woman in my car." Bomb residues were detected in the vehicle Korali was driving.

Saleh Muslim, northern Syria's Democratic Union Party (PYD) co-chair, told Kurdish news agency ANF on Wednesday that the perpetrator of the Istanbul bomb attack had connections with the FSA.

Turkish security forces announced that during the police interrogation, Albashir confessed that she had left a bomb at the scene, that she was an intelligence agent trained by the People's Defense Center of PKK, PYD and the People's Defense Units (YPG) and that she had received her instructions from North and East Syria.

However, the accused Kurdish groups condemned the attack targeting civilians and declared that they had no connection with the bombing.

The Department of Foreign Relations of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) also denied all involvement and invited international forces to be involved in the investigation.

No other group has yet claimed responsibility.



US issues security alert for northern Syria and northern Iraq

ANF | 19 NOVEMBER 2022

On Friday, the US Consulate General in Hewlêr (Erbil) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) issued a security alert advising its citizens not to travel to areas in northern Syria and Iraq in light of a possible Turkish military operation in the coming days.

“U.S. Consulate General Erbil is monitoring credible open-source reports of potential Turkish military action in northern Syria and northern Iraq in the coming days. The U.S. government continues to strongly advise U.S. citizens to avoid these areas,” the statement said. The measures recommended are: “Avoid the border areas. Exercise caution if unexpectedly in the vicinity of large gatherings or protests. Keep a low profile. Monitor local media for updates.”

The US State Department's travel advisory for Iraq remains at Level 4, with travel discouraged due to “terrorism, kidnapping, armed conflict, civil unrest and Mission Iraq's limited capacity to provide support to U.S. citizens.”

Earlier on Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu told al-Arabiya channel that his country's troops continue to conduct operations in Syria and Iraq. This comes a few days after the explosion in Istanbul on 13 November that killed six people and injured dozens.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced another major cross-border military operation in northern Syria at the end of May, naming the two towns of Manbij and Tel Rifat as targets. In northern Iraq, the Turkish army has been conducting a military operation against the guerrillas in the Medya Defense Zones since mid-April.



Four more civilians kidnapped in Turkish-occupied Afrin

ANF | 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Occupation forces have kidnapped four people from the village of Dar Balout in Jindires district of Afrin.

The kidnapped civilians who were taken to an unknown place were identified as Hesên Ezet Hisên (44), Mihemed Ehmed Silêman (29), İbrahim İzedîn Heyder (38) and Elî Mistefa İsa Urwede (30).

The Turkish state has established a regime of terror in the territories it has invaded together with jihadist groups under its control. Crimes such as kidnapping, execution, torture, plundering and forced migration have become a daily routine and war crimes are systematically committed, especially in the canton of Afrin, which has been occupied since March 2018.

Kidnappings of civilians are part of the daily routine. In most cases, a ransom is demanded for their release. In recent years, thousands of people have been kidnapped and tortured. Some have been executed, the fate of others is unknown.

In the first six months of this year, the invaders kidnapped 346 citizens, 30 of whom were women, and killed 18 citizens.

On the other hand, 8,500 trees were cut down, and more than 100 trees were burned, while tens of hectares of forests and fields were burned.

Following the NATO meeting in Madrid, Spain on June 30, the Turkish state has increased its crimes against the people in North and East Syria, specifically in the regions it has occupied together with jihadist allies.

According to the Afrin-Syrian Human Rights Organization, Turkey has increased its crimes of killing, kidnapping and harassing citizens in the occupied regions in order to displace the local population and to undermine the security of the region. Moreover, the Turkish state, which threatens to invade Til Rifat and Manbij, is currently targeting the civilian people with tanks and fighter jets.



Breaking: Turkey conducts intense air strikes on northeast Syria and northern Iraq

MEDYANEWS – 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkish army warplanes launched airstrikes on many settlements in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

The head of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) media centre Farhad Shami announced Turkey's air strikes on Twitter, saying "Kobane, the city that defeated ISIS, is subjected to bombardment by the aircraft of the Turkish occupation."

Abdî said: "We are making every effort to avoid a major catastrophe. If war erupts, all will be affected," and called the people of AANES to stay in their homes and abide by the directives of the Security Forces.

The airstrikes targeted Kobani, Shehba, Gire Spi, Derik, Shengal (Sinjar), and Karaçox. Qandil and Asos regions in Northern Iraq are targets of the bombings as well.

It was also announced that the villages of Sheikh Isa and al-Beilonia in Shehba region, Kale Swarge in Afrin's Shera district, as well as Dahir al-Arab village in the Zergan district of Hasakah were bombed and there were several deaths and injuries.

The Turkish Ministry of National Defense confirmed the air strikes in a tweet and said that "the treacherous attacks are being held to account".

The Democratic Kurdistan Community Congress in Europe (KCDK-E) Co-Chairs called on people in Europe to come out to the streets to protest Turkey's attacks on North East Syria.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu had said on Friday that the Turkish Armed Forces will continue its operations in Syria and Iraq.

After Çavuşoğlu's statement, the U.S. Consulate General in Erbil (Hewler) in KRI issued a security alert warning its citizens not to travel to regions in northern Syria and Iraq on Friday.

The intense air strikes 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.

After Turkey claimed that the AANES and its military wing SDF were connected with the bomber, the Department of Foreign Relations of the AANES also announced that it had no connection with the bomb attack and invited international forces to be involved in the investigation.

Saleh Muslim, the co-chair of the PYD said that Turkey's bombing Kobani was an act of revenge for defeating ISIS.

The contradictions in the statements made by the Turkish authorities regarding the attack continue to be discussed by the Turkish public. Analysts and some opposition politicians argue that this attack was a conspiracy to legitimize Turkey's military operations in Syria and to create pre-election fear in the public.

Turkey's air strikes against the region continue.

KCK: Our people must rise up everywhere

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council condemned in a statement 'the genocidal, fascist attacks which are directed against the peace of the region and the brotherhood of the peoples.'

The statement reads as follows:

"The genocidal, colonialist Turkish state carried out intensive airstrikes against South Kurdistan, Rojava, East Kurdistan and the Medya Defense Zones on November 19, 2022. As a result of these attacks against the Kurdish people and all of Kurdistan, dozens of places were targeted, and many people were martyred or wounded. We condemn these genocidal, fascist attacks which are directed against the peace of the region and the brotherhood of the peoples. We also wish the wounded a speedy recovery. AKP-MHP fascism will never achieve its genocidal goals with these attacks. It will never be able to break the stance of the peoples of Kurdistan and the region for a free and democratic life. Instead, AKP-MHP fascism will be defeated as a result of the resistance and struggle of our peoples.

The fascist AKP-MHP alliance is an anti-Kurdish alliance whose only aim is to carry out a genocide against the Kurdish people. With the attacks launched on November 19, the AKP-MHP's anti-Kurdish hostility and genocidal reality have been clearly revealed. All of Kurdistan and the Kurdish people were targeted in these attacks. These attacks have made clear that the existence of the Kurdish people and the will of the peoples to live together are under attack. Those who have not stood by the Kurdish people despite all the attacks so far and who have legitimized the genocidal attacks of the AKP-MHP, will not be accepted by our people any longer if they keep this attitude.

The fascist genocidal AKP-MHP government attacks not only one part of Kurdistan or one group of Kurds, but all four parts of Kurdistan and all sections of Kurdish society. In order to carry out the Kurdish genocide, it attacks incessantly and uses all kinds of inhuman methods, from the use of chemical weapons to air strikes. The patriotic people of Kurdistan must therefore resist uninterruptedly against the unremitting and intense attacks of AKP-MHP fascism. They must take to the streets everywhere and express their

protest. No Kurd should remain unresponsive to these attacks and stay at home. All Kurds must strongly protest against all hegemonic powers that remain silent and support these attacks.

As we have stated publicly before, the conditions for comprehensive attacks against the Kurds and for the occupation of Rojava are currently being prepared. Therefore, it is clear that the fascist government, the MIT [Turkish intelligence service] and Süleyman Soylu carried out the recent Istanbul attack. The explosion in Istanbul was carried out for this purpose. Shortly afterwards, the fascist leaders of the AKP-MHP targeted Rojava and stated that they will attack it. This attack has clearly revealed the intention and purpose of the fascist government. The fascist AKP-MHP government pursues malicious plans and resorts to all kinds of dirty methods to stay in power. Everyone needs to see and understand this reality and the plans of the AKP-MHP. By attacking the Kurds and by striking and invading Rojava, the AKP-MHP also aims to stay in power and trigger an even darker and more reactionary process in Turkey. Therefore, the Kurdish people as well as the peoples of Turkey, the democratic forces and all progressive groups must oppose these genocidal, dirty and malicious plans and attacks of the AKP-MHP.

Everyone needs to know that the attacks against the Kurds are definitely not in the interest of Turkey and its peoples and that they do not serve freedom and democracy. On the contrary, every attack against the Kurds constitutes an attack on all the peoples of Turkey, on democracy and freedom. Therefore, everyone must protest strongly against these attacks on the Kurds and stand in solidarity with the Kurdish people.

The genocidal colonialist Turkish state carries out these attacks with the approval and support of the hegemonic powers. The hegemonic powers, especially the USA and Russia, show clearly that they are complicit in the Kurdish genocide by approving and supporting the genocidal attacks against the Kurds. Everybody needs to be aware of this. Our people know this and take an attitude accordingly. Everyone who is in favor of freedom and democracy needs to take a stance against the forces that support the genocidal, colonialist Turkish state's anti-Kurdish policies and who are partners in the Kurdish genocide.

The attacks of the fascist AKP-MHP alliance are also directed against the peace of the region and the will of the peoples to live together. The fascist AKP-MHP alliance aims to reach the borders of the Misakı Milli [National Pact] and thus establish its hegemony in the region by carrying out the Kurdish genocide. It intervenes in the countries of the region and binds their will by involving them in the Kurdish genocide. The countries of the region need to know that as long as they remain silent or become complicit in the attacks against the Kurds, they will lose their own will and turn into puppets that serve the Turkish state. Therefore, not only the Kurds but also the regional countries themselves must oppose the attacks of the Turkish state and not become complicit in them.

We once again condemn the genocidal attacks and call on everyone to express their protest and increase the struggle. Our people need to rise up and protest by taking to the streets wherever they are in all four parts of Kurdistan and abroad. The attacks of the fascist AKP-MHP alliance, which aims to annihilate the people of Kurdistan, can only be stopped with strong protests and a total struggle.”

Turkey says air strikes against northern Syria and northern Iraq in accordance with UN Charter

MEDYANEWS – 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The Turkish Ministry of National Defense said on Sunday night that Turkey is exercising its right of self-defense arising from Article 51* of the United Nations Charter in a statement regarding its airstrikes against North and East Syria and northern Iraq.

Turkey bases its right of self-defense mentioned in the UN Charter on the 13 November bomb attack in Istanbul that killed six people.

Some analysts consider the Istanbul attack a conspiracy to legitimize Turkey's further military operations against North and East Syria at the international level.

Turkish security forces said that the suspect, who was arrested after the bomb attack, was an intelligence agent trained by the People's Defense Center of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and the People's Defense Units (YPG), and that she received instructions from the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES).

However, the accused Kurdish groups all condemned the attack on civilians and declared that they had no connection with the bombing.

The AANES also denied the allegations Turkey made against them, and called on international forces to be involved in the investigation.

Certain contradictions in the statements of Turkish officials following the Istanbul bombing are under public discussion, and no organization or group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The United Nations has yet to make a statement on the matter.

** Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.*

MEPs: Turkey has violated international law

MEDYANEWS – 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Following the air strikes launched by the Turkish Armed Forces on North and East Syria and northern Iraq on Sunday night, MEPs have called on NATO and the European Commission to stop Turkey's attacks.

The parliamentarians noted on their Twitter accounts that Turkey has violated international law.

Nikolaj Villumsen, an MEP representing the Red-Green Alliance from Denmark, said that Turkey's air strikes destabilise safe areas hosting millions of people and weaken the fight against ISIS.

The co-chair of the Kurdish Friendship Group in the European Parliament, Andreas Schieder, stated „that Turkey attacked not only Kobanê but also other North and East Syrian cities and called for a stop to be brought to the attacks immediately.

Galician Nationalist Bloc MEP Ana Miranda called on the European Union and other international actors to force their partner to comply with its legal obligations in North and East Syria.

Miranda also said that Turkey had accused the People's Protection Units (YPG), Women's Protection Units (YPJ) and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) for the Istanbul bomb attack which killed six people on 13 November, without having investigated.

“If the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS is against this illegal war, then its members must immediately take strong steps through economic, political, diplomatic, and legal measures to force Turkey to comply with international law,” Miranda added.

Max Lucks, a German Greens member, said: “There is no justification for breaking international law. Therefore, there is no justification for the new Turkey bombings in Syria and Iraq. The destabilization of an entire region by a NATO partner is completely unacceptable.”

Left Party Co-Chair of the European Parliament Martin Schirdewan called on the German Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser to cancel her visit to Turkey scheduled for Monday.

French Green Party MEP François Alfonsi said: “Turkey bombs Kobanê in Syrian Kurdistan in “retaliation” for the Istanbul attack without any credible information to establish the responsibility of the Kurds.”

Kurds in Europe take to the streets against Turkish aggression of Rojava, call for more actions

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkey launched an illegal air operation against northern and eastern Syria and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on Saturday night. According to the Turkish Defense Ministry, the operation was a response to “attacks by the KCK/PKK/YPG and other terrorist organizations” on the country’s population and armed forces. There were increasing signs that the Turkish government could use the bombing in Istanbul, last week, with six fatalities and more than 80 injured to build a *casus belli* (despite being clear it was a fabricated attack) for attacking the autonomous regions in north-eastern Syria (AANES) and northern Iraq again. Even before the investigations had really started, Ankara had already presented an alleged sequence of events and pointed the finger at Kurdish organizations such as the PKK and YPG. Both vehemently denied the accusation and condemned the attack on civilians.

The airstrikes by the Turkish army, which began late Saturday evening, hit Kobanê first and within a few minutes spread to the entire border strip in north-eastern Syria and then to Asos in the Iraqi-Iranian border area. The cities of Kobanê, Tel Rifat, Dêrik, Zîrgan, Dirbesiyê and Girê Spî are the main areas affected by the state terror in Syria. In addition to the Asos Mountains near Silêmanî, the Qandîl region was also bombed in the KRI. There are now reports of fatalities.

As with previous invasions and wars of aggression, Turkey invokes the right to self-defense under Article 51 of the United Nations (UN) Charter. Article 51 of the UN founding charter grants all members the “natural right to individual or collective self-defense”. However, a member state may only exercise this right if an “armed attack” occurs or has occurred and the state invoking this right to self-defense has proven that it is correct in referring to Article 51. In addition, the self-defense measures taken must be proportionate in terms of scope, duration, and intensity.

Kurdish associations have condemned Turkey’s air offensive in north-eastern Syria and northern Iraq and called on their diaspora community to stage urgent protests. The Confederation of Kurdistan Communities in Germany (KON-MED) evaluates the air strikes as an “expression of the genocidal and barbaric nature of a fascist state”. In an initial statement, KON-MED warned that the civilian population in the attacked areas would again be affected by expulsion, death and terror, and that flight would once again be the only way for many people to escape the warlike activities of the Turkish state. The fact that the first airstrikes took place on Kobanê, the city where the henchmen of the Islamic State suffered their first but decisive defeat, shows the true intention of Turkey in its actions: “The smashing of all achievements of the Kurdish people.”

KON-MED directed sharp words towards the west. The air operation cannot take place without the support of the EU, US, and NATO for Ankara. “Those who remain silent are complicit,” the umbrella organization warned, accusing the international community of supporting “war crimes and human rights violations.” No combat aircraft can fly there without the consent of the United States in particular, which has air sovereignty over Iraq and northern Syria.

The Kurdish European umbrella organization KCDK-E made a similar statement. In a statement, the organization warns of “massacres of the civilian population” in Rojava, both through Turkey’s airstrikes and through its jihadist militias, which have been committing incomprehensible war crimes in the occupied territories for years under Ankara’s protective umbrella. “We warned early on that the Istanbul attack would only serve as a pretext to stir up Kurdistan. These warnings have come true. We appeal to the democratic public to show solidarity with the peoples under attack and to defend Kurdistan on the streets.”

Spontaneous actions have been held throughout the night in various European cities.



SDF General Commander: Turkey’s air strikes planned for a long time

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Speaking to Ronahi TV, SDF General Commander Mazlum Abdi stated that the Turkish state has bombed many areas of Rojava from Shehba to Derik with warplanes on Saturday night.

They have planned to attack for a year

Abdi said: “In these attacks, no distinction was made between our civilians and our military points. No distinction was made between the Syrian state forces and our forces. We have some martyrs and wounded. According to the information we have received, the attacks will continue for a while. It is clear that we have nothing to do with the terrorist attack that took place in Istanbul. The whole world knows this. “No Kurdish side has anything to do with the terrorist attack targeting civilians.”

Taksim bomb bears all the marks of Turkish intelligence

As for the Taksim attack, Abdi said “This attack bears all the marks of Turkish intelligence.” He said it was an attack carried out by mercenaries affiliated with the Turkish state, and added: “They want to blame our forces for it. Everyone should know that the preparations for the attacks taking place now have been going on for a year. But the Turkish state justified the Istanbul attack.”

Everyone will suffer from this war

Abdi said that the Turkish state wants to take its “revenge” on the people of Rojava and their gains and to evacuate the region, and added that “this is Erdogan’s game about the elections. Such attacks can never break our will. Our strength was ready for these attacks. Therefore, we do not think that they will cause great harm to our forces. But if the Turkish state continues its attacks, everyone will suffer from it. We don’t want a big war to break out. But if the Turkish state insists on war against us, we are ready for a great resistance. The war is not only limited to here, it spreads everywhere and everyone is affected by this war.

We should make everyone involved stand up for their duties and stop the brutal attacks of the Turkish state.”

Abdi said: “According to the information we received, the bombardment will continue for a little longer. In the current situation, there is no Turkish mobility on land anywhere. We also took our precautions as military, but we must act according to safety directives so that our people are not harmed.”



Turkey attacks Kobanê again

ANF | KOBANE | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The Turkish air force bombed the autonomous regions of northern and eastern Syria as well as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) last night. Affected by the attacks in northern Syria are towns in the border strip, including Kobanê, Shehba, Dêrik and Zirgan.

Turkish fighter jets struck the Mishtenur Hill in Kobanê at around 09:30 local time on Sunday morning. The area was bombed at least three times and resulted in injuries.

According to reports from the ground, an attack killed three Damascus soldiers in the village of Til Her-mel north of Zirgan in Hesekê Canton.



At least 12 civilians killed in Turkish attacks on Rojava

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The invading Turkish state launched a wave of intense aerial attacks on Rojava at 22:00 local time Saturday night. The attacks directed at Kobanê, Şehba, Girê Spî, Zirgan and Dêrik continued on Sunday morning.

The invading army directly targeted civilian settlements and infrastructure, committing more war crimes in the region.

9 killed in Derik

A civilian car was targeted during the aggression on the village of Teqil Betil in Dêrik, leaving two civilians dead. The very same area was bombed once again as locals rushed to the scene to help the injured. The second attack claimed the lives of 7 civilians and injured 3 others. Those killed in the attack include Isam Ebdullah, a reporter for the Rojava-based Hawar News Agency (ANHA).

3 killed in Zirgan

Strikes by the Turkish air force also targeted the village of Til Hermel north of Zirgan in Heseke Canton and the wheat silos in the village of Dehril Ereb. These attacks killed 3 people and injured 3 others.

The bombardment also left 3 soldiers of the Damascus regime dead, and 5 others injured.

Syrian soldiers struck in Gire Spi

A shelling on a military location in the village of Qizelî in Girê Spî (Tal Abyad) killed two soldiers and injured two others.

Hospital destroyed in Kobane

Concurrent attacks by the Turkish army targeted the Jarablus-Kobanê road, Kaniya Kurdan neighborhood, the village of Helinc north of the city and the Mishtenur Hill.

Fighter jets shelled the Mishtenur Hill once again at 09:30 local time on Sunday morning. The Covid Hospital located on the hill was completely destroyed.

A reporter for Stêrk TV was injured while reporting on the attacks.

10 Syrian soldiers killed in Shera

An aerial strike on the Syrian forces' position in the Şêwarxa village in Şera late at night killed 10 soldiers and injured 5 others.



SDF on Turkish attacks: We will respond effectively and efficiently at the right time and place

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The General Command of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement about the latest wave of Turkish attacks on North-East Syria that came as no surprise after Turkey's repeated threats to capture the area amidst an international silence on the crimes committed by the invading state in the region.

The SDF statement released on Sunday includes the following:

“The Turkish occupation State has been preparing for a long time to launch a large-scale attack on the regions of the north and eastern Syria, especially after it fabricated the bombing scheme itself in Istanbul to use it as a pretext to threaten our areas.

Based on these preparations and at 12:00 p.m. on November 19th, it launched a brutal air attack on our areas using aircraft, targeting the areas of Derik / al-Malikiyah, al-Darbasiya, Zarkan / Abu Racin, Kobane, Tal Rifa’at, and the areas of al-Shahba’a. The air attacks continued sporadically until this morning.

The Turkish attacks on the city of Derik and its countryside caused a large massacre in the village of Taqil Baqil. In the first attack on the Taqil Baqil village, a worker in the power station was martyred, and when civilians tried to reach and retrieve him, the Turkish occupation aircraft launched another raid, committing a large massacre by targeting civilian medics, leaving 11 civilians martyred, and 6 others injured, in addition to causing severe material damages to the power station.

In the Darbasiya area, two guards of the grain silos and agricultural centers were martyred, and in the Zarkan/Abu Rasin area, one of our SDF fighters was also martyred.

As documented and verified, three civilians were injured as a result of the extensive aerial bombardment on Kobane, in addition to severe damage caused to civilian homes and property.

As confirmed, 15 members of the Syrian regime forces lost their lives in these attacks.

Once again, the Turkish occupying State has shown its true fascist, genocidal and anti-people face. It cannot bear to see stability and coexistence among the people in the regions of north and eastern Syria. These attacks do not only target the Kurdish people, but also all components of north and eastern Syria.

We in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), just as we defended our people and our regions against the attacks of the terrorist organization of ISIS and the Turkish occupying State, from now on, we will do our historical duty, and we will continue our struggle with great determination. These attacks will not remain unanswered, and we will respond effectively and efficiently at the right time and place.

We are fully confident that our people will strengthen their cohesion with great determination, enhancing their national unity, increasing their adherence to the soil of their homeland and the stability of their region ever more than before, showing a stronger stance against the brutal attacks of the Turkish occupying State and its collaborators.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to our people and all the families of the martyrs in this massacre, and we reiterate our commitment to adhere to their struggles and sacrifices. We wish a speedy recovery for the wounded.”

HRE: Five of our fighters were martyred in Turkish attacks

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) released a statement providing information on the aftermath of Saturday night's air raids by the invading Turkish army.

“Simultaneous attacks by the Turkish state targeted the districts of Til Rifet and Shera, as well as the areas housing IDPs in the villages of Bêlûniyê, Şêx Îsa ve Minix, Şewarxa. The attacks resulted in the martyrdom of 5 of our fighters and 2 civilians,” said the HRE statement.

According to the HRE, the attacks also targeted a number of Syrian army bases and left at least 20 soldiers dead and over 20 others injured.

“We in the HRE will continue defending our people and our region with great commitment as we have defended it against attacks so far. The Turkish state's attacks will not go unanswered.”

HRE offered their condolences to the relatives of the martyrs and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.



HPG: Our forces suffered no losses in Turkish air strikes

ANF | BEHDINAN | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The press center of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) reported on Sunday that the Turkish airstrikes on the Medya Defense Zones last night did not result in any guerrilla casualties.

“The fascist AKP/MHP regime mobilises the Turkish army for occupation campaigns in order to maintain its power and thereby wants to secure its own future. This plan has hit the wall of the legendary resistance of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla. Hulusi Akar and Tayyip Erdogan are resorting to inhumane methods and committing cruel war crimes because they cannot achieve results by attacking Kurdistan. They have even given the order to burn the bodies of their own soldiers. Because the calculation of this power-obsessed and fascist regime in the Zap, Avaşîn and Metîna regions has not worked out, it provides a dirty staging as a pretext for attacks on the innocent Kurdish civilian population. We did not suffer any casualties in the Turkish army's attacks on the Medya Defense Zones on the night of 19-20 November,” said the HPG statement.



PYD Co-Chair: The only choice is legitimate defense

DILXWAZ ÇEKDAR | HESEKE | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Salih Muslim, Co-Chair of the Democratic Union Party (PYD), spoke to ANF about the latest wave of Turkish air raids that targeted several locations across North-East Syria last night.

Remarking that the Turkish fascism fighting for its life is spreading terror like ISIS, Muslim said, “These latest attacks have targeted a large territory extending from Shehba to Qandil. Fighter jets are striking everywhere. One cannot know what the Turkish fascism that is fighting for its life could possibly do. It might attack and cause damage. Just out of desperateness. Their Istanbul plot did not work out, and they did not achieve their goal. The whole world knows how [Turkish Interior Minister] Süleyman Soylu organized this plot.”

Muslim pointed out that the Turkish state, after its failure with the Istanbul plot, launched these attacks to intimidate the Kurds. “Since their plan did not work out, they are spreading terror like ISIS. The Turkish state seeks to intimidate the Kurdish people with fighter jets just like ISIS caused fear among the people. The Turkish fascism would not stop portraying the Kurds as an enemy. It wants to depopulate Kurdistan through terrorist attacks.”

The PYD Co-Chair continued, “The Kurds are aware of these policies. They are not going to abandon their towns and villages. They remain home. What is required of the Kurds is that they defend themselves in four parts of Kurdistan. They should do their best on the basis of legitimate defense. We do not know if a ground operation will be launched, but if such an action takes place, the Kurds will have no choice but legitimate defense.”

Appealing to the forces in Kurdistan and the international community, Muslim said, “The whole world should raise a voice against the Turkish state brutally attacking the Kurdish people. The Turkish fascism would constitute a danger to everyone if left so. The forces in Kurdistan should defend themselves wherever they are. They should stand and act in unity and solidarity.”

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Kurds and their friends take to the streets all over the world to protest Turkish attacks

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Once again Kurds and their friends from everywhere, including Turks, took to the streets to protest the Turkish attacks on Rojava and Medya Defense Areas.

The protests carried out in many European cities and as well as Australia, Canada, and USA.

During the protests, in general, activists made statements against the attacks both in Rojava and Medya Defence Areas and carried YPG/YPJ and PKK flags and chanted “Defend Kurdistan against the attacks by the Turkish state”, “Terrorist Turkey”, “Killer Erdogan”, “Bijî Berxwedana Gerîla”(Long Live Resistance of Guerrillas) and “Bijî Berxwedana Rojava” (Long live Resistance of Rojava).



Hamburg police attack demonstration in solidarity with Rojava

ANF | HAMBURG | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

In Hamburg, hundreds of people, including many from the anti-fascist solidarity spectrum, gathered for a demonstration against the Turkish air offensive on Rojava on Sunday. The protest could not start because the police wanted to enforce a ban on the flags of the People’s and Women’s Defense Units (YPG and YPJ). This led to complete incomprehension among the participants. “It was the YPG and YPJ who defended us all against the Islamic State and fought together with the USA and the Federal Republic in a coalition. Why shouldn't we show our flags?” said a spokesperson for the demonstration.

Even the hint of a lawyer present that there was a court decision in Hamburg according to which the display of the symbols of the YPG and YPJ is not forbidden, did not stop the police from using irritant gas and truncheons even against children and older women. This led to great anger among the demonstrators. With tears in her eyes, one woman said: “We will not give up our flags!”

Police ignore court ruling

Again and again, the police provoked and insisted on criminalizing the YPG/YPJ flags. After an hour, the march through the city center could finally start, but without the flags. In the course of the march, however, they were taken out, which led to the demonstration being stopped again and again.

“Turkey is spreading lies”

In speeches, the people of Hamburg were told that the Turkish government was spreading “lies” in order to justify the attacks that had been launched on Saturday evening with air strikes on Kobanê in violation of international law. Despite the police harassment, the demonstration was militant and determined.



Turkish warplanes bomb villages in Shehba and Shera

ANF | SHEHBA | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

The Turkish state is bombing the villages of Malikiye, Kefer Atun and Bêlûniyê in Shehba district of Afrin Canton.

Intensifying its attacks in the last hours, the Turkish state bombed the villages of Gozeliyê and Til El Leben in Til Temir, Şiyûx Jêrîn town, the villages of Mixar Zor and Ehmed Mûnîr west of Kobanê, and the villages of Cerada and Mehsenlî west of Manbij.

As a result of the bombardment of the village of Bêlûniyê in Til Rifet district, 2 soldiers of the Damascus government were wounded.



Shengal people protest Turkish attacks on Rojava

ANF | SHENGAL | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

The people of Shengal responded to the intense Turkish bombing of Rojava on November 19-20 and condemned the silence of international forces.

The Democratic Autonomous Council of Shengal (MXDŞ), Yazidi Youth Union (YCÊ), Yazidi Women's Freedom Movement (TAJÊ), Yazidi Asayish, Yazidi Freedom and Democracy Party (PADÊ) made a press statement on Monday.

The joint statement read out by Xêro Kasım, Co-Chair of the Shengal Democratic Autonomous Assembly, criticized the international silence on the deadly attacks of the Turkish state.

“How much longer will these attacks continue? The Turkish state does not respect human rights. As the people of Shengal, we stand by Rojava. We will claim their martyrs just as they claimed ours,” the statement said.

“Iraq should no longer remain silent towards the attacks, against which it takes no action. We call on everyone not to remain silent towards these invasion attacks,” the statement concluded.



7 Turkish soldiers and policemen killed in retaliatory actions by HRE

ANF | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

The Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE) carried out two separate actions on Sunday in retaliation for the deadly Turkish air strikes in Rojava that resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries on Saturday night.

In a statement providing information on their actions, HRE announced the killing of 7 soldiers and policemen of the Turkish state on Sunday.

“The invading Turkish state continues its attacks against our lands unabated. The already ongoing attacks have been escalated by airstrikes in recent days. The aerial attacks ongoing for two days have mainly targeted civilian settlements, leaving many of our citizens martyred or wounded,” said the statement.

Providing details of the two retaliatory actions carried out by their forces on November 20, HRE said that the first action targeted the Öncüpınar Special Operations Police (PÖH) Station in Öncüpınar village of Kilis bordering Syria. One police chief and 3 policemen were killed, and 8 others injured as a result.

The second HRE action targeted the Dabiq base in the Marê region, leaving 3 Turkish soldiers dead and 4 others injured.



Turkey will get harmed if they impose war on us, says SDF Commander

MEDYANEWS – 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Mazloum Abdi, the Commander-in-Chief of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) spoke to Ronahi TV and said that everybody will get harmed if Turkey continues its attacks on North and east Syria,

Following the airstrikes launched by Turkey over north and east Syria, Mazloum Abdi said to Ronahi TV that Turkey used the explosion in Istanbul, on 13 November, as an excuse for attacks on the region, but the Kurdish forces do not have anything to do with the explosion.

“All the world knows that our forces and any of the Kurdish movement have nothing to do with this terrorist attack. They targeted civilians. This is an incident of the Turkish intelligence service,” said Abdi.

Stating that Turkey has in fact been planning the launch of this operation over the last year, Abdi said the Turkish state is posing its latest assault as a revenge attack, using the explosion in Istanbul as an excuse.

Mazloun Abdi also said that both the explosion in Istanbul and the airstrike killed many civilians.

“We do not want war. We will do everything for it not to happen,” said Abdi and added: “However, if they impose a war on us, we are ready for a big struggle with our people. If any war breaks out, it will affect only this region, but will also spread to other regions and will affect everybody.”

Abdi called every related party to act and prevent Turkey’s attacks on north and east Syria.

Turkey had accused the People’s Protection Units (YPG), Women’s Protection Units (YPJ) and the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) of the Istanbul bomb attack which killed six people on 13 November, without any investigation.

After Turkey claimed that the AANES and its military wing SDF were connected with the bomber, the Department of Foreign Relations of the AANES also announced that it had no connection with the bomb attack and invited international forces to be involved in the investigation.

Following the statements of Abdi and SDF, one Turkish soldier and two police were wounded as a result of a rocket fired at Turkey’s Syrian border province of Kilis on Sunday, Turkish state-owned Anadolu Agency reported.



Thousands of people take to the streets in Northern and Eastern Syria

ANF | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Despite the danger of further attacks, countless people took to the streets in the autonomous regions of North and East Syria (AANES) to protest against the “terror state Turkey”. The demonstrations took place in dozens of towns and communities, and in the self-governing areas of Aleppo, too, anger at the far-reaching airstrikes by the Turkish NATO army drove people onto the streets.

“This country is ours, and we will defend it against the invaders,” the protesters said in many places. The two largest demonstrations with thousands of participants were in Heseke and Qamişlo. In the latter metropolis, a huge crowd gathered in front of the local cultural center. A demonstrator burned a Turkish flag, “Down with the criminal occupying state” was loudly chanted. In a speech, the co-chairman of the local branch of the Council of Members of the Rojava Revolution, Maşûm Hesen, described the “terror from the air” as an “expression and continuation of the Ottoman mentality”.

Other demonstrations took place in Til Temir, Dirbêsiyê, Şedadê, Hol, Tîrbespiyê, Çilaxa, Girkê Legê, Til Berak, Til Koçer, Til Hemis, Raqqa and Tabqa, among others. In Raqqa, there was initially a larger elevator, in which hundreds of residents of the city as well as tribal representatives and representatives of the civil council took part. Youth movement activists who were also there later split from the march and

headed to Tell Samin. There, young people marched to a Russian military base and condemned the opening of airspace over northern Syria for Turkish fighter bombers.

Demonstrations against the Turkish attacks on northern and eastern Syria were also held in Deir ez-Zor, and Şervan Derwiş, spokesman for the local military council, took part in a protest march in the city of Manbij. “Our message to the aggressor is clear: this country is ours. We will not allow the Turkish occupiers to commit genocide against our people. And we will avenge our fallen,” said Derwiş.

In the canton of Shehba, thousands of displaced people marched from Ehdas to Fafîn in a demonstration. “Afrîn must not repeat itself,” said Bekir Elo, co-chair of the exile council of the shattered canton. In Aleppo, protests took place in the Kurdish districts of Şêxmeqsûd and Eşrefiyê.



Leyla Ehmed: “The real fear of the Turkish state is the Autonomous Administration model”

HIVDA HEBUN | KOBANE | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Kobanê Canton Assembly Co-chair Leyla Ehmed said that with these attacks, the Turkish state actually wanted to create fear among the people and evacuate the region.

Speaking to ANF, Leyla Ehmed said that the Turkish state is not content with its occupation in Girê Spî, Afrin and Serêkaniyê, but wants to expand the occupation areas. Ehmed drew attention to the *de-Kurdification* policy in the occupied regions and continued as follows: “Turkey wants to expand these policies. To do this, it creates conspiracies on its own. The incident in Taksim was also a conspiracy to attack the region. We know very well that he has been preparing to attack for a year.”

Fears of our model

Leyla Ehmed underlined that the reason for the Turkish state becoming so aggressive is the fear of the Autonomous Administration model created by the philosophy of the democratic nation, and added: “Turkey knows that this model will also have an impact on Turkish society. It creates new scenarios every day and makes up new excuses to attack every day just to eliminate the Autonomous Administration model.”

International powers also responsible

Stating that international powers are also responsible for these attacks, Leyla Ehmed added: “Peoples here have paid a great price to fight against ISIS. We will never allow the Turkish state to invade these lands liberated by our children with their own blood. Our expectation from the international community is that they at least fulfil their ethical duties.”



Turkish air strikes on Rojava continue

ANF | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

The Turkish air force has been attacking northern and eastern Syria since 19 November. Dozens have been killed so far, including at least 13 civilians. During the night, Turkish jets attacked Kafr Antun and Malikiya in the Shera district of Afrin. In addition, the villages of Belûniyê, Minix, Sheik Isa, Hirbil and Se-moqa in Shehba Canton were attacked. At the same time, 476 artillery shells hit the region. According to information so far, four regime soldiers were injured in the attacks near the village of Belûniyê.

In the morning, the villages of Medûnê and Radar in the canton of Shehba were attacked. The region further east around Manbij was also the target of shelling. The villages of Al-Gat (also Jat) and Hoşeriyê came under fire. Two hours earlier, shells hit the villages of Mohsenli and Cerada. At the same time, the villages of Derdara and Qibur Qerajne near Til Temir were shelled by howitzers and mortars.

According to reports so far, 13 civilians and six fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Afrin Liberation Forces (HRE), founded after Turkey's occupation of Afrin Canton in 2018, have been killed in Syria. Among the fatalities is a journalist, ANHA correspondent Isam Abdullah, who was covering the attacks in Dêrik. Another journalist, Mihemed Ceradê from the Kurdish channel Stêrk TV, was injured while reporting in Kobanê. Turkey targeted civilian infrastructure, including a substation, a Corona clinic and a wheat depot. Among the targets were also bases of the Syrian army, and more than twenty soldiers were reportedly killed.

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Chemical weapons

How to react when an EU-applicant is suspected of using chemical weapons: MEPs

MEDYANEWS – 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Malin Björk and Nikolaj Villumsen, MEPs from Sweden and Denmark respectively, called on the European Union to take action regarding allegations against Turkey that the EU candidate country has been using prohibited chemical weapons in military operations against Kurdish forces in an article published on EU Observer newspaper on Thursday.

“When an EU-applicant country is suspected of repeated use of chemical agents in warfare, the EU has a duty to investigate,” Villumsen said in a tweet.

The only reason to avoid pushing for an international investigation into the matter “would be purely political”, the MEPs said.

The full article follows:

A recent report from the well-respected organization International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) raises serious questions about the extent to which Turkey — which still holds and benefits from EU-applicant status — is guilty of the illegal use of chemical agents in warfare.

The report is based on a mission conducted in later September 2022, which saw experts from Germany and Switzerland examine claims that have long been known, but which the EU has shied away from: The Turkish use of chemical agents in combat operations — something which is strictly and explicitly prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

IPPNW’s report is entitled, “Is Turkey violating the Chemical Weapons Convention? An independent investigation into possible violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Northern Iraq is urgently needed,” and it makes for disturbing reading on a number of points:

1. Kurdish fighters report that they suspect what can be described as a systematic use of chemical weapons by Turkish forces in Northern Iraq. As the report outlines, it is hard to establish the extent to which this is true without further exploration. Further investigations are clearly needed.
2. The mission also reports on the possibility that Turkish soldiers have deliberately prepared chlorine gas and pumped it into caves in which Kurdish fighters were hiding. This claim should be either verified or debunked, as it, if confirmed, would be a clear war crime.
3. The report also cites an example of the Turkish Defense Minister admitting to using chemical agents in combat operations — in clear violation of international law.

Each of these points should, logically, be investigated by the EU and by the international community, and action taken where appropriate. The need for action is further underscored by the fact that the European Commission already on 4 July received a letter from a number of academics, journalists, politicians and intellectuals, raising the alert over atrocities committed during the attacks on Kurds in Northern Iraq.

Europe cannot remain silent

In other instances, even the suspicion of the possible use of chemical weapons have led to stringent words of warning about dire consequences, and the use of it can be classified as a war crime.

This means that the IPPNW report raises several new aspects to the discussion around EU-applicant countries: What can, and will the EU do, when an applicant is under suspicion of such acts — and how will it act when a country admits to such illegal use, and shows no remorse or willingness to stop the use?

It should be clear that the EU cannot remain silent. It must send a clear signal that the Turkish actions are unacceptable and will have consequences for EU-Turkey relations. Especially in combination with an in-

creasingly authoritarian Turkish regime that persecutes any form of political opponents, most notably the Kurds.

The regime in Ankara has now even arrested Sebnem Korur Fincanci, the head of Turkey's medical association, for calling for an investigation into the claims that the army used chemical weapons against Kurdish militants.

What can be done?

The situation is such that the European Union should immediately take one or more of the following actions:

1. Launch its own investigative mission to verify or debunk the claims — in line with what the IPPNW experts have suggested;
2. Request that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) send a mission to investigate the claims of chemical weapons use by Turkey, including those outlined in the report;
3. Request the UN to contribute to an investigation and to take measures to prevent further Turkish use of chemical agents in combat operations.

To be clear, requesting a mission from the OPCW is perfectly in line with the treaty on which the organization is based, the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. The only reasons not to do so would be purely political.

In addition to the above, it almost goes without saying that the Turkish representative to the EU should be summoned and an explanation requested.

A formal request has already been sent to the Council, to clarify if there are any circumstances under which the EU finds the illegal use of chemical warfare agents acceptable, and if so, which? We hope they will reply in the negative, and that their words will be followed by actions.



Iraqi parliament establishes special commission to investigate Turkish use of chemical weapons

ANF | 17 NOVEMBER 2022

A special commission was established in the Iraqi parliament to investigate the use of chemicals by the Turkish state against freedom guerrillas. The established commission will go to the operation regions and conduct investigations there.

Fatah Coalition Parliamentarian Refiq Salihi spoke to the Iraqi media and said: “The issue of the Turkish state’s use of chemical weapons on the territory of the region was put on the agenda in the Iraqi parliament and a commission was established to investigate it. The commission will go to the operation regions and carry out an investigation to shed light on the issue.”

Refiq Salihi stated that the Commission will include representatives from the Ministry of Defense, the Iraqi Parliament’s Public Security and Defense Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and added: “The purpose of the commission is to collect all relevant documents in order to file a complaint with the United Nations Security Council.”



Turkey used chemical weapons against Kurdish fighters, says Iraqi MP

MEDYANEWS – 20 NOVEMBER 2022

Iraqi Parliamentarian Jawad Al-Bolani has stated that Turkey used chemical weapons during its attacks against Kurdish fighters in the regions of Zap, Avashîn and Metina in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), reported Mezopotamya News Agency.

“According to the special reports of the security units, the Turkish state used chemical weapons in the attacks,” said Al-Bolani.

Stating that the use of chemical weapons during warfare is a violation of international law, Iraqi MP Jawad Al-Bolani said that the Iraqi parliament will hold a meeting with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on November 22, and the attacks of the Turkish state will be discussed at the meeting, Yeni Yaşam Newspaper reports.

Iraqi Fatah Alliance MP Rafiq al-Salihi earlier said, “The committee consists of a specialist from the Ministry of Defence, the Iraqi parliament’s committee of Security, and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and when the investigation is complete, the committee will submit a report to the Security Council.”

The allegations on the use of chemical weapons by the Turkish state stem from the People’s Defence Forces (HPG), the military wing of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), who released a video in mid-October showing two Kurdish fighters having seizures and delirious, reportedly under the influence of banned chemicals.

A delegation, consisting of former biological weapons inspector Jan van Aken, member of the scientific advisory board of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) came with the blessing of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to investigate the historic use of chemical weapons against Kurds by Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Although IPPNW shared a report proving that Turkey used chemical weapons, Van Aken had said the Iraqi Federal Government “never gave permission to Turkey to have military operations in Northern Iraq. That is why the whole operation violates international law.”

Turkey denies all accusations.



Iran

Three-day general strike kicks off in Rojhilat

ANF | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Civil society organizations, artists, and writers called for a general strike in the cities of Iran and Rojhilat on the occasion of the anniversary of the protest demonstrations on 15 November 2019.

As a result of the 3-day strike, shopkeepers in Sine, Mahabad, Bane, Merîwan, Seqiz, Kamyaran, Serdeşt, Dîwander, Ciwanro and many other cities closed their shutters.

In addition, protest actions started in many cities.



KCR: Iranian crackdown failed to stop the women’s revolution

ANF | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

The Eastern Kurdistan Youth Organizations (KCR) issued a statement concerning the Iranian regime’s violent attacks against the ongoing popular uprising in Iran and East Kurdistan.

‘Young people want freedom’

In its statement, the KCR stated that the revolt led by women and youth in Iran and Eastern Kurdistan under the motto “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” (Woman, Life, Freedom) has seriously given a fright to the Iranian regime that has been in power for 43 years. “Young people and women are leading the uprising of the peoples of Iran and East Kurdistan. The regime attempts to suppress the demands of youths, women and the public by using violence. Despite all these attacks, young people have expanded the ongoing protests, driving the regime into a corner. Particularly, the involvement of university and secondary school students in

the protests and the outbreak of the strikes have bolstered revolutionary hopes. Young people demand a free and democratic life.”

“The Iranian regime has attempted to suppress the reaction of young people, women, and the people’s revolution in several stages. However, young people continued to voice their demands more loudly and further kindled the fire of revolution. The youth are leading the revolution with their stance,” the KCR said.

‘The regime contributes to its own demise’

Noting that the Iranian regime defined young people and women as unresponsive, idle and provocateurs, the KCR said, “The regime links the protests to foreign powers. Hundreds of women and young people have been martyred fighting to achieve their goals. This time, the attacks could not put an end to the women’s revolution. The regime wants to suppress the revolution by giving death penalties to the young people and women who participated in the protests. The Iranian regime is contributing to its own demise with these practices.”



Uprising in Iran leaves two months behind

ANF | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Clashes broke out in many cities of Iran on Wednesday, which marked the third anniversary of the popular protests against fuel price increases in November 2019. Activists chanted the slogan “We will fight! We will die!” around bonfires overnight in Tehran.

In widely shared videos on the social media, state forces are seen to open fire on passengers at a metro station, causing them to scream in panic.

In East Kurdistan, state forces opened fire on protesters in many cities. It is reported that two people were killed in Sine and one person in Kamyaran.

According to official state news agency Irna, two revolutionary guards and a member of the state-backed paramilitary Basij group were killed in the cities of Bokoan and Kamyaran in East Kurdistan and Shiraz in the south of Iran.

According to the Iranian Human Rights Organization (IHR), at least 326 activists, 43 of them children, have been murdered since September 16, when Mahsa Amini was murdered by the notorious morality police in Tehran. At least 123 of them died in Sistan-Baluchistan province.

According to the IHR, more than 15,000 people have been arrested. State officials argue that this number does not reflect the reality. While the United Nations says that 14 thousand people, including children, are under arrest, some opposition sources claim that more than 30 thousand are under arrest.

According to human rights organizations, detainees are prevented from meeting with their lawyers and are subjected to physical and psychological torture to make pro-government statements.

In the meantime, the Iranian judiciary has sentenced three more demonstrators to death. On Sunday, a court in Tehran sentenced an activist to death on several charges, including “setting fire to a public building, disturbing public order, conspiring to commit crimes against national security and being an enemy of God”.



Iranian courts sentence five protesters to death

MEDYANEWS – 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Iranian courts have begun issuing death sentences to those who take part in the nationwide protests. As the uprising in the country continues for its 62nd day, a total of five people have been sentenced to death for participating in the protests in the last three days.

Iran delivered its first death sentence linked to the protests on Sunday, Aljazeera reported.

Sunday’s sentence was ruled for the crime of “setting fire to a government building, disturbing public order, assembly, and conspiracy to commit a crime against national security, and an enemy of God and corruption on earth.”

According to the news reported by the official Iranian news agency Mehr, the detainees will be able to appeal the decision.

Additionally, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmed Vahidi announced that French intelligence agents and members of ISIS had been arrested in connection with the Jına Amini protests.

Minister Vahidi, when asked about the nationalities of those arrested during the protests in the country, answered: “Foreign nationals were arrested in the riots, and some of them played a major role in these riots. Recently, agents of French intelligence and ISIS-linked elements have been arrested. These people were handed over to the judiciary for legal action.”

Seven French citizens have been arrested so far, according to Iran International.

While the nationwide protests sparked over the death of 22-year-old Jına Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iranian morality police continue, Iranians went on a three-day strike on Tuesday to mark the anniversary of the 2019 protests, during which security forces killed 1,500 people.



Popular uprising in East Kurdistan and Iran continues

ANF | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

The popular revolt, sparked by the murder of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini under police custody, continues in Eastern Kurdistan and Iran.

Mass protests continued on Thursday in the cities of Urmia, Mahabad, Bokoan, Seqiz, Dîwander, Sine, Kamyaran, Kirmaşan, Abdanan and Îlam in East Kurdistan.

Citizens named Aram Hebîb and Şaho Behmani were killed by Iranian regime forces in Sine, Xefur Mewludî, Azad Hisên Pur and Rehman in Bokoan, Mahabad and Seqiz. Dozens were injured in those cities.

A well-attended funeral ceremony was held for a citizen named Muhammed Hasan who was murdered in Bokoan the previous day. The funeral turned into a protest against Iran's dictatorial regime.

Commemorations were held for 4 citizens in Sine 40 days after they were killed. "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" (Woman, Life, Freedom), the iconic Kurdish slogan, and anti-Iranian slogans were chanted at the commemoration ceremonies.

People continue protesting in the streets across Iran. On Thursday, protests were staged in Tehran, Mashhad, Babol, Tewrêz, Bender Abbas, Masal, Shiraz, Isfahan and many other cities. Protests also took place on Thursday in the city of Khomeyn, the birthplace of former supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The European-based Iran Human Rights Organization on Thursday released a balance sheet of the demonstrations that have taken place so far.

According to the balance sheet, 342 people, including 46 children and 26 women, have been killed in the mass protests that have continued for more than 2 months.



Iranian forces intensify lethal crackdown against Kurdish protesters

MEDYANEWS – 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its militia's violent crackdown against protesters has been intense in many cities. It has recently escalated in the country's Kurdish areas, known as Rojhilat in Kurdish.

Iranian security forces have killed at least 18 Kurdish protesters and wounded dozens more during Wednesday and Thursday's protests in the Kurdish cities, Roj News reported.

More than 30 cities across Iran witnessed mass demonstrations on Wednesday night. According to France-based Kurdistan Human Rights, during Wednesday's protests in Kurdish-majority regions, at least six young Kurdish men named Zanyar Muradi, Essa Bilgery, Fuad Muhamedi, Burhan Karami, Salar Mujawir and child Danial Pabandi were killed due to direct fire by the Iranian security forces.

Dramatic footage released on the Kurdistan Human Rights Twitter account showed the moment a bullet hit Borhan Karamai and killed him instantly during the protest in the town of Kamyaran.

The widespread protest continued on 17 November across Iran, including the cities of Sanandaj (Sine), Zarghan, Bukan (Bokan), Saqqez (Seqiz), Zahedan, Shiraz, Divandere, Kermanshah (Kirmashan), Dehgolan, Ilam, Mahabad (Mehabad) and Ravanasar.

The Iranian forces intensified their violent crackdown against protesters in the Kurdish-majority cities, killing 12 on Thursday night, according to Roj News.

A nine-year-old boy named Kian Pirfalak was one of the civilians killed on Thursday by Iranian forces, activists and journalist Pouria Zeraati published on his Twitter account.

At least 342 people, including 43 children, have been killed by security forces since the protests erupted on 16 September in response to the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Jina Mahsa Amini, according to Iran Human Rights. Five protesters were sentenced to death this week for participating in the protests.



378 people killed so far in demonstrations in Iran and Rojhilat

ANF | 20 NOVEMBER 2022

After the murder of Jina Amini in Teheran, protests led by women and Kurds continue. There are also attacks by regime forces against protests in which the demand for freedom and regime change comes to the fore.

The Human Rights Organization of Iran, in the balance sheet it shared, announced that 378 people have been killed so far, 47 of them children and 27 women. In the statement, it was also reported that 40 people were killed by Iranian regime forces in Eastern Kurdistan last weekend alone.

According to the same source, 16,813 people have been detained in Iran so far, but only 2,756 of them have been identified. It was stated that at least 524 of those detained were students.



Iranian army strikes KDP-I and Komala in northern Iraq

ANF | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

The Iranian state bombed the bases of the KDP-I and Komala from Rojhilat parties on Sunday night. Both organizations confirmed the attacks.

According to KDP-I sources, a person named Behzad lost his life in the attack in Koye.

Other attacks took place in Sulaymaniyah. The headquarters of the Komeleye Zehmetkêşana Kurdistan party in Zirguwêz and the Cêjnîkan Camp, where refugees from Eastern Kurdistan live, were the targets of the bombardment.

On 14 November and 28 September, the Iranian army bombed the Rojhilat parties in South Kurdistan.

— ★ —

Femicide

Police raid Kaktüs Young Women's Association in Kadıköy and take many women into custody

ANF | ISTANBUL | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

The Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) wrote in a post shared on their social media account that the Kaktüs Young Women's Association in Istanbul Kadıköy was raided by the police. "Many socialist women, including our co-chair Özlem Gümüştaş and SKM General Spokesperson Çiçek Otlı, were detained under torture," the statement said, adding that "revolutionary socialist women shouted Jin Jiyan Azadi."

Detentions

The names of those detained are as follows: Çiçek Otlı, Özlem Gümüştaş, Tanya Kara, Berfin Polat, Sinem Çelebi, Hacer Elçin, Leyla Can, Fatma Kanbolat, Meliha Kayacı, Songül Akbay and Elif Bayburt.

— ★ —

TJK-E welcomes 25 November under the motto “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî: Defend Life ”

ANF | 19 NOVEMBER 2022

The Kurdish Women’s Movement in Europe (TJK-E) announced numerous activities to mark the international day for the elimination of violence against women on 25 November under the slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî: Jiyane Biparêze!” (Woman, Life, Freedom: Defend Life!). Street actions and events are planned in several European countries.

In its call for participation in the activities, the TJK-E stated: “We celebrate 25 November 2022 with the slogan “Jin,Jiyan,Azadî”, which can be heard all over the world. While the attacks of the ruling system against women continue systematically and uninterruptedly, the struggle of women demanding freedom is growing all over the world. Through the great struggles of these women who say that another world is possible, the patriarchal-statist system is being shaken to its foundations today. 2022 was a year in which violence, rape, sexism and Feminicide escalated in Kurdistan, the Middle East and almost everywhere in the world. Even though the rulers wanted to usurp the rights won by women at great cost, women will not be bowed down and will not give up their struggle.

Remembering the women prisoners with love and respect

On the occasion of 25 November, we remember with love and respect all the women who resisted, worked and paid a price along the way, from the Mirabel sisters, who were an expression of the insistence on a free life against the fascist Trujillo regime, to Sara (Sakine Cansiz), from Berta Caceres to Hevrîn Xelef, from Nagihan Akarsel to Jina Amini, from Ruken to Helbest. Their faith and love for a free life have been instrumental in advancing women’s struggle for freedom and have led to women’s rebellion around the world.

“Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” has become the compass of women

Today, the patriarchal system ruthlessly attacks women’s resistance with all kinds of means and methods. However, women are in a great awakening against all kinds of violence, oppression, rape and massacres. The words “Jin,Jiyan,Azadî”, which spread all over the world after the murder of Jina Amini from Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan), have become the compass of women.

This shows once again that the greatest power against this dirty, anti-nature, anti-society and anti-women system is the organised force of women today. The women’s liberation struggle has emerged as the most radical revolt against the five-thousand-year-old male-dominated system and its last stage, the system of capitalist modernity, and has today become a song of freedom and preference for a free life with the slogan “Jin,Jiyan,Azadî” in the language of every woman. The paradigm of capitalist modernity, which enslaves society and uses its power ruthlessly with deceit, lies and violence to this end, is collapsing. Instead, an alternative libertarian-democratic-ecological women’s paradigm is emerging, put forward by Rêber Apo (Abdullah Öcalan) under the most difficult conditions. The system that has come to life under the leadership of women in Rojava is the best proof of this.

The anger, struggle, voice, poetry, and song of all women

As the Kurdish women's movement in Europe, we celebrate 25 November this year with the slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî: Jiyanê Biparêze". With this, we formulate our demand to strengthen the struggle and build a free life. As women, we have more experience, know-how, means of struggle and a basis for cooperation than ever before. All over the world, women are fighting against inequality, injustice, unfairness, sexism, nationalism, racism and all kinds of violence. And we will intensify this struggle until we get results. We will be the rage, the struggle, the voice, the poetry, and the song of every woman.

Women struggle in all areas

Women are struggling in all areas. They demand that their invisible work in the household be made visible. They want social equality, they reject domestic prison in favor of economic freedom, and at the same time they struggle to survive. Because these demands, which are among the most important human rights, are considered crimes for women, and they are murdered by men on the streets, in their homes and in front of their children. Therefore, the capitalist system, which, with its laws, gender culture and traditions, positions women as the second sex in society, and every state that implements this system, is responsible for every woman murdered and every child affected by sexual violence. But women have not been silent to all these attacks of the capitalist system. On the contrary, they have intensified the struggle.

Women's liberation revolution

The women's liberation revolution is Rêber Apo's biggest project. It has broken with all patterns of thinking, given a new perspective to social problems and social reconstruction and shown new methods of struggle. In contrast, the fascist AKP/MHP regime has intensified the isolation of Rêber Apo and attacked Kurdish women and democratic forces with a policy of genocide. To these attacks of the AKP/MHP regime, which wants to achieve results with methods of annihilation and war, the women and our people, especially the freedom guerrillas, have responded by intensifying the struggle. We women will continue to fight on the front line by increasing our anger against the Turkish occupying state and the collaborating KDP who have been committing all kinds of war crimes and attacking the guerrillas with chemical weapons for months. The guarantee that the end of the fascist AKP/MHP regime and its collaborator KDP will be a great defeat comes from this will and strength of women. As with every dictatorship, it will be the women who will bring about the end of this dictatorship. In this sense, we salute the guerrilla women of the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) who are leading the greatest struggle for dignity of the 21st century and showing all women how to fight. They are the hope, the will and the breath of free life. We women will take our place in this honorable struggle and take to the streets again on 25 November against occupation, isolation, genocide and fascism from all over the world.

Women's movement more universal than ever

The fact that the 21st century will be the century of women is becoming clearer every day. All over the world, women's struggle against the patriarchal system, against femicide, against inequality, injustice, racism and all forms of violence, wherever they come from, is growing. The women's movement has become more universal and a social force than ever before. As TJK-E, we will take action everywhere on the occasion of 25 November, the Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Kurdish women's

movement's call "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" against all forms of male-state violence' will be the basic slogan of this year of struggle for women. As Rêber Apo said, these three magic words are the key to a free life. And the answer of us Kurdish women living in Europe will be "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi; Jiyane Bipareze". We will defend life against male-state violence. We defend life for a free life.

To mark this occasion, we call on all women to participate in a strong way in the actions and events on 25 November."



Ecocide

Ancient site in Van looted under the pretext of restoration

ANF | VAN | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Built during the Parthian and Urartian Empires, Hill Zernaki is an ancient site which covers an area of 270 hectares in the north of Erciş district, Van province. The ancient site is known as the most important and modern city of the period. Built on a grid plan, it hosted the Parthian and Urartian civilizations for centuries.

Hill Zernaki is known as the place where the Kurds gathered together and established their unity. In order to put an end to the bloody attacks of the Assyrians who had the most powerful state of the era, Urartian King Menua brought all the Kurdish tribes together at Hill Zernaki and established Kurdish unity. Assyrian tyranny was thus brought to an end. The Urartians established a city on Hill Zernaki, far ahead of its time. They maintained peace and stability in Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and the Middle East for about 500 years.

An excavation work in this ancient city, which has a very important place for the Kurdish people and its history, was blocked by the state authorities for years. The site was damaged by treasure hunters and the state. Although it is an archaeological site under protection, excavation work has been carried out for about a year at Hill Zernaki, which was largely damaged at the mercy of looters over the years.

Sociologist and writer İkrâm İşler recalled that Hill Zernaki was the world's first grid-planned city, which inspired the ancient Greeks and others as an example. İşler revealed that the excavation work, which has been going on for a year, has been carried out in partnership with the university and the municipality. "When you think about what was done before, one would only wish it was not restored at all. The restoration work at the Fortress of Van never conformed to the original, and the restored areas began to collapse in a very short time. The historical fortress was destroyed under the pretext of restoration. We do not know how much rent will be gained through this restoration."



Kurdistan Region Minister of Agriculture: Foreign attacks destroy our forests

ANF | HEWLER | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

Bêger Talibani, Minister of Agriculture of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, spoke to Rojnews regarding the attacks of the invading Turkish state and Iran on the territories of southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq).

“The attacks by neighboring countries have a negative effect on the nature of the Kurdistan Region. As a result of these attacks, a large part of our forests are destroyed and burned. We contacted the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture last year and made official requests. We are in contact with the relevant authorities in Iraq to prevent the ongoing attacks,” the minister said.

The minister urged the people to protect the environment, saying, “Climate change and drought affect the nature of the Kurdistan Region. We need to expand green areas in the region. People should not cut down trees, they should protect the environment.”



Human Rights Violations

New indictment against Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk

ANF | AMED | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, who was recently released from prison after the Forensic Medicine Institute (ATK) reported that she could not stay in prison because she is suffering from dementia, was targeted by a new indictment on charges of “membership in a terrorist organization” after the statement of a “witness”, by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office.

In his statement to the Adana Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office, about 8 years after the incident, the alleged member of the organization, Turgut Taşkiran, who was injured during the ISIS attack on Kobanê in 2014, claimed that Tuğluk helped him.

Taşkıran gave his statement to Adana Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office on 17 January 2021, the indictment states. He claimed that he was injured while changing the house he was in during the ISIS attacks in 2014. Stating that he was injured in his leg, Taşkiran said that YGP members brought him to the Turkish soldier at the border, and he was being treated at Suruç State Hospital. He claimed that Tuğluk and Faysal Sarıyıldız, who were MPs of the HDP at that time, came to visit him during the treatment.

Taşkıran argued that they asked him where he wanted to go after the treatment.

Taşkıran, who said that he wanted to go to Diyarbakır, claimed that Tuğluk and Sarıyıldız offered him to be admitted to another hospital after his mother stated that he would be arrested if he came to their house in Diyarbakır. Taşkıran claimed that he was later taken to Cizre by Tuğluk and Sarıyıldız. Taşkıran identified Tuğluk, who is well known to the public, in a photograph.

The indictment demanding that Tuğluk be sentenced to 7 years, 6 months and 15 years in prison on the charge of “member of a terrorist organization” was requested to be combined with the file opened against Tuğluk on the same charge at the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court. The request of the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office to join the two cases was accepted by the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court.



Former HDP MP sentenced to five months in prison

ANF | AMED | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Former HDP MP Çağlar Demirel was sentenced to five months in prison in Amed (tr. Diyarbakır) for a speech she had made in 2016. The sentence for “disparaging the Turkish nation, its state, parliament and government, and its judiciary” was handed down by the 14th Criminal Court. Demirel was represented by her lawyer, Serdar Çelebi.

The prosecution demanded a prison sentence for Demirel, arguing that the politician had committed the offence she was charged with by making a speech on 5 November 2016.

Lawyer Serdar Çelebi recalled the decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in favour of former HDP leader Figen Yüksekdağ and another 13 HDP MPs, including Demirel, in a similar manner and called for this decision to be included in the case file. The ECtHR ordered Turkey to pay a fine of €184,600 in compensation in the case. While Çelebi demanded acquittal for his client, the judge rejected the defense’s request and sentenced Demirel. A motion to suspend the execution of the prison sentence was also rejected.



Investigation against Yeni Yaşam Newspaper editors

ANF | ISTANBUL | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

An investigation has been launched against Yeni Yaşam Newspaper, which reported on the allegations made by state-linked gang leader Sedat Peker about Serhat Albayrak, the owner of Turkuvaz Media and brother of former Energy Minister Berat Albayrak.

Upon Albayrak's criminal complaint, an investigation was launched against the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief Mehmet Ferhat Çelik and Responsible Editor-in-Chief Osman Akın.

Akın gave a statement to the prosecutor's office at the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan. He was asked about the news published in the newspaper titled "Disclosures from Sedat Peker", "Peker published bribery documents".

The news in question was evaluated as "insult" and "slander".

Akın said that the allegations were shared by Peker and that the newspaper reported them. Expressing that journalism is not a crime, Akın rejected the accusation.

His lawyer, Sercan Korkmaz, stated that the reporting was within the limits of freedom of press and expression.



Jailed co-chair of Mebya-Der sentenced to eight years in prison

ANF | AMED | 16 NOVEMBER 2022

The Turkish judiciary continues to intensify the pressure on Kurdish civil society. The co-chair of the Solidarity Association of Families of Martyrs (Mebya-Der), Yüksel Almas, was sentenced to eight years in prison in Amed (tr. Diyarbakir) on Wednesday. The prosecution accuses the Kurd, who has been in pre-trial detention since last March, of being a member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

In December 2021, Almas was sentenced to 10 years in prison for alleged "membership in a terrorist organisation". While the Court of Appeals overturned the decision, her trial re-began at the 9th Heavy Penal Court of Diyarbakır.

Almas defended herself in Kurdish and was represented by her lawyers Muhittin Muğuş and Hava Hülya Atlı in the hearing room.

The court sentenced Almas to 9 years and 9 months in prison, reducing it to 8 years, 1 month and 15 days with discretionary mitigation, and ordered her release with the judgment.

Mebya-Der is a solidarity association for people who have lost relatives in the Kurdish liberation struggle and has been the focus of state repression in Turkey for some time. "Aid and Solidarity Association for People Who Lost Their Relatives in the Cradle of Civilizations" is the full name of the association, which has branches in several Kurdish cities. The Turkish state uses fallen guerrilla fighters as a means of psychological warfare by vandalising graves and abusing or mutilating the bodies of the fallen. Mebya-Der is one of the institutions that directly opposes this policy.



Kadri Esen: We will continue publishing in Kurdish

ANF | AMED | 17 NOVEMBER 2022

The government crackdown on the Kurdish press continues. As Kurdish journalists are subjected to detentions, arrests, and bans, the distribution of Xwebûn, the successor of the first daily newspaper, Azadiya Welat, has been prevented most recently.

Azadiya Welat, the publishers of which were murdered, arrested and subjected to similar repressive policies in the 90s, was shut down multiple times in the past. The newspaper is currently published weekly under the name Xwebûn. However, distribution of Xwebûn is also prevented by the police. In Diyarbakır, the police threatened several bus companies that transported the newspaper to other cities.

The publisher of the newspaper, Kadri Esen, talked to ANF about the newspaper and the problems they faced.

Esen recalled that Xwebûn newspaper started to be published weekly in 2019. The newspaper focuses on developments in Kurdistan and Turkey and also has an online version.

Esen said that his newspaper initiated legal proceedings against the threats of the police to prevent the distribution of the newspaper. “We will confront the crackdown by focusing more on our work and initiating legal actions,” the publisher said.

Bans on newspaper issues

“I was summoned by the police several times to give a statement as a publisher. Both the printed and online versions of the newspaper have always faced a crackdown, and now they are targeting our printed editions. In September, October and November, the police tried to prevent the delivery of our newspaper from Amed (Diyarbakır) to other cities without a court decision. When we tried to obtain information through our lawyer, we learned that a decision to withdraw some of our previous issues had been issued.”

They want to intimidate Kurdish journalists

The publisher condemned the arbitrary obstructions of the newspaper, saying, “If they have a reason, they need to inform us so that we seek ways to fight accordingly. But we know very well what their purpose is. They are trying to intimidate Kurdish journalists and publishing in Kurdish. No matter what, we will continue to do journalism.”

Police threatened bus companies

Esen noted that the police had threatened bus companies warning them that they should not distribute the newspaper. “The police have recently threatened bus companies with impoundment. Companies should not take a step back in this regard because we are a legal newspaper, and we pay taxes to the state.”

Legal action against crackdown

Esen said that they initiated legal actions on the matter, adding, “We will continue publishing in our native language. We will confront the crackdown by focusing more on our work and initiating legal proceedings. A few days ago, we went to the bus terminal, made a statement there and distributed our newspaper to shopkeepers. We have initiated legal actions, but no official statement has been made to us so far. Even if they give an official explanation or justification, we will not be convinced because we know why they crackdown on us. Therefore, no matter what, we will continue publishing in Kurdish.”



Houses of Alevis marked with crosses in Mersin

ANF | MERSIN | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

In the southern Turkish province of Mersin, unknown persons marked the houses of Alevis with crosses. The incident occurred in the Batikent neighborhood in the central district of Yenişehir where a total of five houses belonging to Alevi families were daubed with a red X.

While the police conducted an investigation at the scene, the Governor’s Office stated that a person had been taken into custody in connection with the incident. While the governorate argued that the incident resulted from personal hostility, acts such as these rightly cause fears among the Alevis as they have been linked to pogroms and massacres against the pre-Islamic religious community many times in the history of the Turkish republic.



HRW: Turkey pushes Afghans back at Iran border

ANF | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkey is routinely pushing tens of thousands of Afghans back at its land border with Iran or deporting them directly to Afghanistan with little or no examination of their claims for international protection, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

The 73-page report, ‘No One Asked Me Why I Left Afghanistan’ says that Turkey has stepped up push-backs and deportations to Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover there in August 2021. Human Rights Watch also found that Afghans inside Turkey are being blocked from registering for international protection and that Afghans facing imminent deportation are often given no opportunity to make refugee claims. As of October 20, 2022, the Presidency of Migration Management in Turkey’s Interior Ministry reported 238,448 “irregular migrants whose entrance to our country has been prevented” in

2022, most of them Afghans. Turkey reported deporting 44,768 Afghans by air to Kabul in the first eight months of 2022, a 150 percent increase over the first eight months of 2021.

“Although Turkey has rightly earned international acclaim and support for hosting the largest number of refugees of any country in the world, it is simultaneously pushing many Afghans back at its borders or deporting them to Afghanistan with little or no examination of their claims for international protection,” said Bill Frelick, refugee and migrant rights director at Human Rights Watch. “Turkey should immediately halt these routine pushbacks of Afghans from its borders and give all Afghans facing removal the opportunity to make refugee claims.”

Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees of any country in the world, an estimated 3.9 million people, 3.6 million Syrians with temporary protection and 320,000 others, mostly Afghans.

Human Rights Watch interviewed 68 Afghans, 38 of whom described 114 pushback incidents between January 2021 and April 2022. All the men and boys traveling without female family members personally experienced or witnessed Turkish authorities beating or otherwise abusing them and others who were with them. Many also said that Turkish border authorities shot in their direction, sometimes at them, as they approached or attempted to cross the border.

Human Rights Watch found that many Afghans facing imminent deportation are given no opportunity to make refugee claims or otherwise challenge their deportation, and their signatures or fingerprints on voluntary return forms are often forced, obtained through deception, or forged.

Pushbacks violate multiple human rights norms, including the prohibition of collective expulsion under the European Convention on Human Rights, the right to due process in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the principle of nonrefoulement under the 1951 Refugee Convention, which prohibits the return of refugees to places where their lives or freedom would be threatened. Turkish law also prohibits refoulement.

Because Turkish authorities block access to asylum, forcibly return people who appear to be refugees, and commit other abuses against migrants and people seeking international protection, Turkey does not meet the criteria of a safe third country provided by EU law under Article 38 of the Asylum Procedures Directive, Human Rights Watch said.

“No EU member state should deny access to asylum for Afghans or other nationals under the pretense that Turkey would be a safe third country for them,” Frelick said. “EU’s migration management support to Turkey should be made conditional on demonstrated assurances that such support doesn’t contribute to denying people their right to seek asylum or to returning them to places where their lives or freedom would be threatened.”

Beritan and Campbell: Kurds cannot be criminalized

DIREN DICLE ERDEN | LONDON | 18 NOVEMBER 2022

British journalist Mark Campbell and Kurdish woman activist Beritan Silêmani are accused of conducting “terrorist propaganda” since they carried PKK flags in public. The first hearing was held in London’s Westminster Magistrates Court on Thursday.

In support of Campbell and Silêmani, human rights defender Margaret Oven, journalist Rahila Gupta, academician Lida Kayhko, writer Charlotte Grace, activist Katie Higgins, KCDK-Bashur Representative Hevan Şivan, Kurdish People’s Assembly members Ercan Akbal and Türkan Budak, writer Ali Boyraz and numerous people gathered in front of the courthouse.

Activists displayed a KCK flag and chanted the slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” (Woman, Life, Freedom), the iconic motto of the Kurdish women’s movement.

The court claimed that Silêmani and Campbell carried the symbols of a banned organization which constituted a crime.

“We carried these symbols, and it is not a crime,” Campbell and Silêmani replied to the court. The court postponed the hearing until February 22, 2023.

“The UK should put an end to the genocidal policies pursued by the Turkish state against the Kurdish people. We will say here in court that the Kurdish people cannot be criminalized, and we will fight together to put an end to the genocide policy,” Mark Campbell told ANF before the hearing.

Kurdish activist Silêmani said that they would defend this honourable flag in the spirit of resistance put up in Zap. “Betrayers should know that the guerrilla spirit is everywhere,” she said.

Ercan Akbal, who delivered a speech on behalf of the Kurdish People’s Assembly, emphasized that Mark Campbell is an important friend and comrade of the Kurdish people.

“Mark is not just a friend; he is also someone who has significantly contributed to our struggle for freedom. He has devoted his life to the Kurds and the people of Kurdistan. Beritan is also our comrade who has a noble stance against betrayal. Together with comrades, we will continue the fight against criminalization.”

KCDK-South Kurdistan Representative Heval Şivan said that the PKK represented the Kurdish people themselves. “Comrades Mark and Beritan will defend the symbols of freedom of an honourable struggle. These are the symbols of a people. Our comrade Mark also believes that these symbols belong to a people and cannot not be criminalized. We will resist and fight together with Beritan and Mark.”

Journalist Campbell, who is on trial for carrying the PKK flag in the UK, emphasized that the PKK flag is seen by millions of Kurds as a symbol of a national stance and self-defense against assimilation and discrimination.

“British law should not be politicized in favour of Turkey, one of the most oppressive regimes in the world. We will proudly state in the UK Courts that carrying this flag is not a ‘criminal’ act but an honour,” Campbell said.

Margaret Oven, a human rights defender and lawyer, also came to the courthouse to support Campbell and Silêmani.

Displaying a picture of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan inside the courthouse, Oven emphasized that Britain should take a stance against the genocidal policies that target the Kurdish people, including Erdogan, who is a war criminal.

Oven added that it is rather the UK government which is criminal since it sells weapons to the Turkish state. “If defending a people and their values is a crime, we will continue to commit this crime.”



Police raid house, beat 17-year-old, question 5-year-old in Amed

ANF | AMED | 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Police raided a house in Amed’s Peyas (Kayapınar) district and detained 17-year-old B. Çelik and questioned a 5-year-old boy.

Police raided the house of B. Çelik, who lives with his family in the Diclekent District, at midnight. It was stated that Çelik was put in a room, heavily harassed and threatened. Çelik was detained for allegedly drawing graffiti and was taken to the Juvenile Police Station.

‘They beat my son and husband’

The boy’s mother, Necla Çelik, told the Mesopotamia Agency that the police raided the house at night. “They locked my son up in the living room and us in the kitchen. We heard him shouting because they hit him. His father wanted to protect him, but they beat him too. They entered in their muddy shoes. Our house was destroyed. They collected all the books and said they were forbidden. However, I said they are not prohibited, and they wrote down the names of all the books including Hinker (grammar) in Kurdish.”

Death threats

Celik also said: “They constantly threatened my son, saying ‘you will see what happens at the police station’ and ‘you will be the victim of a bullet’. They asked my 5-year-old son, ‘Do you have a gun in your house? Do you love us?’. The policeman was showing the gun to him. Another policeman was saying, ‘You made me get up from the beer table, you ruined my evening’. Enough is enough, we do not accept this torture.”



52 Kurdish institutions announce action plan against the Treaty of Lausanne

ANF | LAUSANNE | 21 NOVEMBER 2022

The centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne, which turned Kurdistan into a colony of 4 different states, is approaching. The Kurdish Alliance Against the Treaty of Lausanne, which includes 52 political parties and institutions, announced its action plan in a press release in the Place de Riponne Square, where the treaty was signed 99 years ago.

In addition to Kurdish institutions, Swiss Federal parliamentarians will attend a press conference on the anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne negotiations on 20 November in front of the building where the negotiations took place.

Swiss Democratic Kurdish Council (CDK-S) Co-Chair İsmail Kardaş said that they would massively participate in the action against the Treaty of Lausanne, which determined the fate of the Kurds. “We have been working on this for days. Because of this treaty, the Kurds have been subjected to various atrocities for the last 100 years. We no longer accept this agreement,” he remarked.



Interview

Kamal Chomani: The role of the KDP and PUK in South Kurdistan and the uprisings in Rojhilat and Iran

ANJA FLACH | HAMBURG | 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Since April of this year and also in the previous year, massive military operations have been taking place in Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) by the Turkish army. Prohibited warfare agents were used again and again. The KRG government supports Turkey's military operations. In neighboring Iran and above all in the Kurdish areas of Iran, massive uprisings against the government have been taking place since September 16, i.e. for two months, after the Kurdish woman Jîna Mahsa Aminî was killed by the Iranian security police. ANF spoke to South Kurdish journalist Kamal Chomani to find out more about the background.

Kamal Chomani is a political analyst and non-resident fellow at the Kurdish Peace Institute.

The Kurdish Peace Institute (KPI) is an independent nonpartisan research and policy institute based in Washington D.C. Our aim is to educate policymakers and the wider public on the Kurdish people and the region of Kurdistan.

Journalist Zac Koppelin was able to prove that Masour Barzani bought a house for \$12 million in the USA. It is generally known that the Barzani's have established a system of exploitation of Kurdistan's wealth and corruption. Can you explain to us how Barzani, the KRG regime's power structure works ?

The formal institutions in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) do not function as per the Iraqi and KRI functioning laws, because the informal institutions in the KRI are way stronger than the formal institutions. Tribal, family, and party relations have always bypassed the KRI institutions. In theory, the KRI owns a sort of democratic system where, legally, the powers are separated and independent, and the Peshmerga and security apparatus are part of the KRI system. However, in practice, no powers are independent, including the judiciary. The parliament is the weakest power. It is already undermined by the two ruling parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and mainly by the KDP. For instance, the Parliament makes no decisions without returning to the party and family leaders. In 2013, the Parliament could not enjoy its legal mandate. Therefore, the KDP and PUK forced their members to extend Masoud Barzani's term illegally. Then in 2015, when the parliament wanted to again decide on the future of Masoud Barzani, Barzani closed parliament for two years.

The MPs and the Kurdistan Parliament Speakers are clients of the Talabani and Barzani families. They cannot do anything that is not in line with these two families' interests. The KDP and PUK own Peshmerga and security forces; that is against the Iraqi Constitution and the very KRI laws. Their militias are brutal, serving the interests of the regional powers, mainly Turkey. The judiciary is deeply politicized and the KDP and PUK can appoint their clients into the system. Interestingly, even the judiciary council and court of appeals judges are divided between the KDP and PUK.

In brief, the KRI political system works in line with the KDP and PUK. That's to say, the Barzani and Talabani families' interests and wishes. These two parties are family parties. Both parties have two parallel offices; Barzani Headquarters and Talabani Secretary. These two offices are way stronger than parliament, the government, and the judiciary. The KRG cannot make any policies that both families do not agree with. If one KRG policy is not in the other party's interests, it will not be implemented in the other party's territory. Last but not least, we theoretically have a united government, but practically, we have two zones; KDP and PUK zones, which is the aftermath of the war between the two parties of the 1990s.

From our comrades in the KRG, for example from Tevgera Azadî, we hear every day about unbelievable repression against the political organization of an alternative. You once said that there is no alternative to democracy, but can one still speak of democracy when opposition members are subjected to such repression?

The KRG is absolutely not a democracy anymore. We were in a democratic transition from 2003 to 2013. During those 10 years, there was a fight for freedom and democracy despite the KDP and PUK repression, oppression, and corruption. However, since 2013, the KDP and PUK have continuously and successfully consolidated power to an extent that there is no more free media and non-partisan civil society. The KDP and PUK do not allow any dissent to thrive, and critics of the KRG are being killed, exiled, silenced, and imprisoned. Currently, we have tens of journalists and activists in prison. When it comes to alternative ideas, that's to say mainly the people who have organized around Mr. Abdullah Öcalan's social, political,

economic, communalist, and gender equality thinking, the repression is way more brutal. It was mainly the KDP that was intolerant towards any pro-Öcalan movement in the KRI. However, the PUK has also joined the repression.

Currently, an extermination operation by the Turkish army is underway in Kurdistan against the guerrilla HPG and YJA Star. The Turkish army has established dozens of military bases in the Kurdish mountains. Can you explain to us why the government of South Kurdistan and also that of Iraq are not taking action on the aggressive occupation and political killings?

The KRG is a government that is mainly led by the KDP, and especially when it comes to regional and foreign affairs, the KDP has almost absolute power. Therefore, it is not the KRG who is not taking actions against the Turkish occupation, it is the KRG that is facilitating the occupation. The KDP is one key part in the Turkish occupation of the KRI territories, and a key collaborator in the Turkish fight against the HPG and YJA Star. As for the Iraqi government's inaction, there are several issues. First, Iraq is struggling with its crises. Secondly, Iraq does not care much about the Turkish-PKK fight. Let's not forget, the Iraqi Government has a weaker presence in the KRI than the Turkish Army. The KDP always prefers a Turkish presence rather than an Iraqi presence in the KRI territories. Let's be very frank, the KDP consider the PKK as an enemy, and the KDP believes its domestic weakness and brutal repression and corruption at some point will cause its destruction, and the only force that can help the KDP will be Turkey. Therefore, the KDP creates a false rhetoric that the PKK wants to take over the KRG. This is how the KDP brings more Turkish forces into the KRI. Meanwhile, the KDP has established strong economic and energy ties with Turkey, mainly the Erdoğan family and people in the army and intelligence.

The KRG is led by the parties and the KDP is responsible for anything happening in Duhok and Erbil and the PUK is responsible for anything happening in Sulaymaniyah because both parties are ruling their territories. Nevertheless, all political parties in the current coalition government are responsible for the policies of the KRI, although they have been unable to exert any influence since Masrour Barzani took over.

A number of comrades working for Democratic Confederalism in South Kurdistan have been murdered. Zekî Celebi or most recently Nagihan Akarsel, people who have been working in a democratic way in Kurdistan. Numerous civilians also lost their lives, and villages were evacuated. Chemical weapons are used against the YJA Star and HPG. Why is there no popular resistance against these crimes?

I believe there have been popular uprisings against the Turkish army. However, the KRG repression has been strong. Look, over 70 Behdinan activists and journalists^[1] were imprisoned. That was mainly Masrour Barzani's response to cracking down on any protests in Behdinan. Some of those imprisoned were organizing and speaking against Turkish occupation. Each time there are any small protests in the KRI, the KDP and PUK thugs attack protesters. People have been protesting, but the KDP and PUK brutality has reached another level.

What is the role of NATO in the occupation of South Kurdistan by the Turkish army?

NATO could have put pressure on Turkey to stop the attacks, but it prefers to remain silent. And not only in the occupation of Kurdistan, which Turkey claims is fighting "terrorists", but also in the face of the Turkish occupation in Syria, where NATO forces – I mean the international coalition [fighting ISIS] -

have an alliance with the Syrian Democratic Forces [SDF] there. NATO doesn't care who is fighting whom as long as it is not against its own strategic interests.

For a total of two months, an uprising has been taking place in Rojhilat [East Kurdistan] and throughout Iran. What role do Kurdish organizations and the Kurdish population play in this uprising?

The Kurdish population is at the forefront of the protests, and they are playing a main role, and that has been manifested in the protests that predominated in the Kurdish cities and towns in the country. The Kurdish people responded to the killing of Jina Mahsa Amini very quickly. As for the Kurdish organizations, if we mean by organizations and political parties, they have been supportive abroad through organizing gatherings and protests worldwide, and their media platforms have helped deliver their message of “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” [Woman, Life, Freedom]. I am rather impressed by the people inside the country, be Kurds or Azeris, Persians, Balochs, and Arabs. Their unity is unprecedented. Their messages are incredible. Coming together around “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” is very revolutionary. Several uprisings have taken place in the past two decades in the Middle East, and some were even successful to some extent that were able to overthrow the system, like the Arab Spring in Tunisia and Egypt. However, those uprisings were not able to understand the structural problems of societies. Iran’s Green Movement was asking for certain reforms. The Arab Spring was mainly an uprising against the political system without being able to give an alternative based on the realities of the countries. I am perplexed by the current protests in Iran that have even forced the traditional political parties to have a progressive stance toward the events in the country.

Already during the so-called revolution in Iran in 1979, the Kurds had established a self-government in the Kurdish areas of Iran. This was brutally attacked, their leaders murdered. What strength do Kurdish organizations have today?

The Kurdish political organizations might not be so strong today. However, the Kurdish civil society inside the country is strong. The Kurdish population is strong. The Kurdish organizations are as strong as the other Iranian parties. They are also close to the Kurdish cities. PJAK has an armed wing. The KDP-I and Komala also do. All of PJAK's armed members are in the mountains. KDP-I and Komala also have some bases in the mountains. This is a strength certain other parties lack. Mojahedin is no longer in the territory. The Shah’s son remains strong within the Persian population in North America and to some extent in Europe. However, I believe the peoples of Iran can determine their future well. They have understood one-man rule and one-nation representation do not work in the country anymore. What I fear this time is not that the Kurdish parties might be excluded or fought in the aftermath of the collapse of the regime; my fear is rather the Kurdish party polarization and enmity. Certain parties do not accept the new realities in the country. The traditional parties are not aware of the new realities of the country. The new generation is educated and progressive. The traditional parties consider themselves as main interlocutors as they were in the 1970s and 1980s. But new parties have emerged. The new generation is probably more interested in Jin, Jiyan, Azadi than pure nationalistic rhetoric that cannot bring about structural radical changes in the country.

Is it conceivable that a situation like that in Syria will occur in Rojhilat, where the movement that advocates democratic confederalism among the peoples of the Middle East has been able to establish self-government in a part of the region?

The future is unpredictable. However, anything and everything is possible. The Iranian regime has only two options; either radical reforms to avoid Syrianization of the country, or keeping its brutal iron fist to delay Syrianization of the country. Democratic confederalism is the best solution for Iran. Iran is in need of a political ideology that can bring differences together. Iran has a history of accepting diversity. Cyrus the Great, who ruled Iran between 550–530 BCE, was one of the advocates of diversity. The Persian empire accepted differences better than the current Iranian regime. Iran mainly consists of Persians, Azeris, Kurds, Arabs, Balouchs and some other religious and ethnic “minorities”. The past four decades of the Velayat-e Faqih has repressed the rights of non-Shi'a and non-Persians. This is despite the fact that the Persians have also been repressed because the system has not been democratic. This must change.

Many Iranian journalists do not name the Kurdish identity of Jîna Amini, they don't seem to be very well-informed about the multiple oppressions faced by Kurds, Baluch and other minorities in Iran. Is it possible that they make the Kurdish issue a side issue and can there be a common perspective for the peoples of Iran under these circumstances?

I think there are different people when it comes to protests. Some might believe that focusing on the entire country is better than dividing the protests by ethno-sectarian lines, and they do not mean to subjugate Kurds or any other nations. That's their pure idea, and they believe in a democratic Iran for all. However, there are some Pan-Iranists who are living the fantasies of the former regime, and they are different from the current regime only in theory, not in practice. I do not think there are big differences between a secular dictator and a theocratic dictator. I believe both are dangerous to human rights and the peace and tranquility of society. We have experienced both; the Shah Regime and the Islamic Republic Regime. Both have been horrendous to the peoples of Iran, to its economy and nature.

PJAK has proposed to build a united front of Kurds under the flag of Mahabat. What are the reactions of other Kurdish organizations?

The Kurdish traditionalist parties do not want to deal with PJAK. One wing of Komala does, though. The traditionalist parties fear that PJAK will be the PYD of Rojava. They understand that Öcalan's thinking is strong within the youth in Rojhelat, especially within the students. PJAK, KDPI, and Komala, as well as other political parties, should come together and debate the future of Iran based on the interests of all the peoples. None can rule alone, none can be the only party. There will also be new parties if the regime ever changes. A project for the future of Rojhelat and Iran is the only way that gives the right to these parties to claim that they can represent the Kurds. Other than that, they will be considered self-interest-seeking parties that we have experienced in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq that brought nothing but destruction, war, and corruption.

There can probably only be an overthrow in Iran if armed forces oppose the regime's violence. Is it conceivable that parts of the military could show solidarity with the people's uprising or are there also other self-defense forces of the people that could oppose the regime?

I don't think that the Iranian armies, whether officially or informally, will fight on the side of the people against the regime. But I think that if the protests become bigger, especially in Tehran, and I don't mean those protests where "only" a few thousand take to the streets, then there will be less violence from the armies and security forces, which could lead to the regime either capitulating and reforming radically or collapsing and being overthrown. However, if the protests continue to take place only in the cities of Kurdistan and Balochistan, the future may not be what we want it to be.

[1] Behdinan prisoners were a group of over 70 journalists and activists arrested by KDP/Masrour Barzani for their critical stance towards KDP corruption, Turkish occupation in the KRI, the KDP's repressive iron fist in the KRI against the dissent, and they were organizing protests, including the protests to call the KRI to pay monthly salaries of the KRI public servants, however, Masrour Barzani accused them of espionage



Opinion

Turkish medical association chief calls for united mourning behind bars: Prison Diaries

MEDYANEWS – 18 NOVEMBER 2022

Turkish Medical Association Chairwoman Dr Şebnem Korur Fincancı wrote about Sunday's blast in the heart of Istanbul, the function of collective mourning in times of national grief, and the need for rights defenders to remain vigilant in the face of torture, in an article she penned for Evrensel Newspaper from her prison cell.

Dr Fincancı was arrested on 27 October over her comments that allegations of chemical weapon use by Turkey should be independently investigated. She is facing charges of terrorism, and will remain behind bars at least until the first hearing of her case. A court in Ankara accepted the indictment against Fincancı last week, but the date of the hearing has not yet been determined.

A translation of her article follows, lightly edited for clarity. It was originally written on 14 November, first published on 18 November.

Here we have a problem of not being able to comply with time, reminding me of Murathan Mungan's wonderful poem, "A Lonely Opera". My time and the prison's time never overlap in a way I can't figure

out... I don't have an envelope when mailing day comes, and when I finally find one, the mailing day has already passed. But I am determined, I will succeed today.

We have no difficulty of communicating with prisons, I can use the fax machine for that. But for anything to go beyond the walls, you need an envelope. Even though eyes beyond the sender and receiver will inevitably see these letters. I have dozens of responses accumulating, and they will reach friends at some point, although I cannot. I just don't know when they will get past the other eyes.

Last night I turned on the news, and I immediately thought – are we back to the post-7 June times? The 7 June elections, when the government lost its absolute majority in parliament thanks to the surge in the Kurdish vote, were followed by several bombings, starting in Suruç where an ISIS suicide bomb killed 33 activists headed to northern Syria for relief efforts.

The bombings that followed created a climate of fear under which we lost hundreds of our people, that continued up to the do-over elections in November, when the government took back the majority. Like all of you, my heart broke for those who died and those who were injured. But behind walls, one cannot ease the mourning process like on the outside, where you can visit the injured and wish them well, or give condolences to families. I was on the ground during the Ankara peace rally bombing at the train station on 10 October, being able to make an effort for the lives we lost had such an effect on me.

Of course, we will all try to follow developments –despite the swift broadcasting ban – with what leaks through the ban. But the leaks also have a hard time crossing beyond walls. Dry messages of condolences from authorities for those we have lost to these acts of “terror”, their “security”-oriented approach without a declaration of mourning that feels the pain of the society, hurt us that much more.

We know that when we feel each other's pain, the shared pain makes us a society, and societal solidarity alleviates suffering. The political authority's efforts to prevent us from being a society make such solidarity almost impossible. But when solidarity is confined to our own circles, we cannot go beyond a collection of isolated communities.

Unfortunately, I have once again seen what the above words mean. When prison guards came for roll call, I expressed my condolences to them, with the same sentiment I write about here. “I am sorry for our loss,” I said. My desire to share my pain was met with quizzical eyes. Then they made the connection.

At the time of the coal mine explosion on 14 October, when 41 miners were killed, we were together, outside. We shared our pain among the Turkish Medical Association council, and those who were available promptly left to help. Here, I give roll call. Left to right, one. Right to left, one again. But let me distance myself from my pain, which is already less sharp for having told you about it.

Let me go back to the years of experience accumulated in the fight for human rights. It is difficult when the pain is fresh, and the transformation of pain into anger is another process of recuperation. Anger also provides us with the energy to take action, so there are positive aspects to it as well.

Yet I can't help but agree with dearest Ursula K. Le Guin: Anger risks turning into an all-consuming emotion that instrumentalises us.

The news says they got the woman who placed the bomb. I hope concrete evidence will come out to eliminate all doubt. But whatever happens, whoever it is, whatever they have done, being human requires us to avoid being an instrument to our fury, to not go beyond an effective investigation backed by concrete evidence.

Torture is prohibited, absolutely. The responsibility of documenting torture lays with my colleagues. I know it is not easy, but they must not succumb to this anger and pain. During examinations of suspects, they must not allow handcuffs, not violate privacy, not just write reports of “no signs of battery or force” without a thorough check. Even without such pain, I have observed a lack of privacy during examinations, I had problems with even a fellow physician who had come to the anti-terror unit. Another doctor refused to even look at me during my processing for entry. This reflects an insensitivity that has been quite normalized.

Torture is a crime, not a means of investigation. It is entirely too easy in this day and age with the technology we have to conduct an effective investigation. It is also important to remember that if torture is used as a method of punishment, out of pain and anger, we would all become targets of it. Let us reflect on the reasons for our silence today.



Is the Turkish government dancing on the nose of NATO and the EU?

MEDYANEWS – 21 NOVEMBER 2022 BY JÜRGEN KLUTE

The renewed attacks by the Turkish army on Rojava do not come as a surprise. The Turkish government has been preparing them for months. It was only unclear when, where and how the Turkish army would attack.

Early on 20 November, just after midnight, Turkish warplanes began bombing hospitals, schools and other civilian targets in and around Kobanê. Among the targets were the village of Belûniyê in Shahba southwest of Kobanê and the village of Teqil Beqil near Qerecox in Dêrik in the eastern part of the autonomous Kurdish region of Northern and Eastern Syria. The village of Belûniyê is inhabited by displaced Kurds from Afrin. In addition, Turkish fighter jets attacked the grain warehouse in the Dahir al-Arab region near Zirgan as well as areas in the Qendil Mountains and the Asos Mountains in northern Iraq. This is the current situation.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has consistently used the Russian war against Ukraine for his own interests. He offered himself as a mediator, and he was involved in the negotiation of the so-called grain agreement and Turkey also plays a central role in its implementation. Finally, Erdoğan uses the request of Sweden and Finland to blackmail the two accession countries into abandoning their previous supportive policies towards the Kurds.

Most recently, a bomb attack occurred in Istanbul's famous İstiklal shopping boulevard, killing 6 people and injuring 80. Shortly after the attack, Turkish media spread the word that the Kurdish PKK was responsible for this deadly attack. No evidence for this accusation has been presented to date.

The PKK has denied the accusations. This rejection of responsibility for the attack is credible. The PKK does use weapons to defend itself against Turkish attacks. However, it only takes action against armed Turkish forces.

On the one hand, this was confirmed by renowned, internationally recognised and experienced lawyers at the Civil Society International Tribunal on Turkish War Crimes and Human Rights Violations against Kurds, which took place in Paris on 15 and 16 March 2018.

On the other hand, the Brussels Court of Appeal (Cour d'appel) stated in a decision of 14 September 2017 that the Kurdish-Turkish PKK is not a terrorist organization under applicable international law, but a combat party in an internal armed conflict.

The decisive feature for this classification of the PKK by the Brussels court is that the PKK exclusively attacks armed forces of the Turkish state and not civilians. In addition, the PKK must have an internal command structure that rules out independent action by its units. This is also recognized as given.

The PKK leadership therefore knows what is at stake for it if it attacks civilian targets. From this point of view, the rejection of responsibility for the attack on the İstiklal in Istanbul is credible. This then also means that with a very high degree of probability this attack is a false flag attack on the account of the Turkish state.

After all, there is a great interest on the part of the Turkish government in portraying the PKK as a terrorist organization. This is the basis of its anti-Kurdish policy. This includes the attempts to blackmail the Swedish and Finnish governments. The Turkish government knows, of course, that politically persecuted people cannot be expelled from EU countries to other countries. That is why it portrays Kurdish politicians as terrorists. The expulsion of criminals is not forbidden in principle.

The same applies to the current attack on the Kurds in northern Syria. This is clearly an attack on the neighboring state of Syria in violation of international law. The attack in Istanbul merely serves to camouflage and legitimize this illegal attack as self-defense. This justification by the Turkish government for the attack underlines the assumption that the bombing on the İstiklal is a false flag attack.

As stated at the beginning, Turkey has been purposefully working towards the attack for months. Neither NATO nor the EU will have missed this. This raises the question of why NATO and the EU are allowing these renewed attacks on Kurds by a NATO member state in violation of international law. They have had time to influence the Turkish government to prevent this aggression and further destabilization of the Middle East by Turkey. Or is the Turkish government meanwhile dancing on the nose of NATO and the EU?

* Jürgen Klute became a member of the European Parliament (DIE LINKE/The Left) and spokesman for the Kurdish Friendship Group in the EP from 2009 to 2014. Since December 2016, he has been editing the *Europa.blog*.

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 15th, 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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