

THE İMRALI POST

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

Issue № 55/ 16 June 2023 ★ Contact: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan..... | 3 |
| Havîn Guneşer: Policy pursued in Imrali is one of smelting and destroying..... | 3 |
| Delegation from Creil takes over the ‘Freedom for Öcalan’ vigil in Strasbourg..... | 5 |
| Prisons in Turkey..... | 6 |
| Sixth day of hunger strike for 6 detainees Kırıkkale High Security Prison..... | 6 |
| New method of torture in Turkish prisons: Denial of release..... | 7 |
| Van TUHAY-DER: Policies of repression in prisons worsening..... | 9 |
| Prisoners set fire to a ward to protest isolation and violations of rights..... | 10 |
| Military aggression and occupation..... | 11 |
| Hundreds of people forced to act as informers..... | 11 |
| YRK: Iranian military operation continues..... | 12 |
| Cuba and Iran strengthen relations..... | 13 |
| Lawyers: Turkish attacks on Shengal and South Kurdistan are against international law..... | 14 |
| Four civilians injured in attack targeting hospital in Til Rifet..... | 15 |
| Preparations underway for ISIS trials in North-East Syria..... | 15 |
| YRK reports ongoing Iranian attacks in Kosalan..... | 17 |
| Shera, Sherawa and Shehba under Turkish attack..... | 17 |
| HPG: 18 Turkish soldiers were killed in Xakurke..... | 18 |
| KCK: Let’s wage an all-out resistance for Rojava..... | 19 |
| Turkey attacks Zirgan..... | 22 |
| PJAK: Iranian regime’s insistence on war deepens the existing crises..... | 22 |
| Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps shell protected areas of Mount Kusalan in Rojhilat..... | 23 |
| PUK Politburo member Ferman: Turkey wants to invade Rojava and South Kurdistan..... | 24 |
| YRK calls on Iran to respect the ceasefire and stop military movements..... | 25 |
| Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas carry out actions in Metina and Xakurkê..... | 27 |
| Guerrillas confiscate wreckage of Turkish combat drone that crashed in Qandil..... | 28 |
| Masrour Barzani visits Ankara..... | 28 |
| Turkish drone attack in Tirbespiyê kills three, including co-chair of Qamishlo Canton..... | 29 |
| 20th round of Syria talks begins in Astana..... | 29 |
| Last moments of two fallen guerrillas: “Resistance is life”..... | 30 |
| 33 political parties and organizations in North-East Syria protest Turkish attacks, call for action..... | 32 |
| TEV-DEM calls for enhanced resistance against Turkish attacks..... | 33 |
| KNK will organize Kurdish National Conference in Lausanne in July..... | 34 |
| YRK reports constant Iranian attacks against guerrilla areas..... | 35 |
| Femicide..... | 36 |
| HPG announces the death of four YJA Star press workers..... | 36 |
| Four women dead in three days..... | 36 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Two women killed in Antalya..... | 37 |
| 'Jin, Jiyad, Azadi' lands at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2023..... | 38 |
| Author Sayîme Xakpur: Kurdish literature is one of the richest in the world..... | 40 |
| New investigation against Emine Şenyazar..... | 40 |
| Yusra Darwish, a life dedicated to building the democratic nation..... | 41 |
| Kongra Star condemns killings of Darwish, Shweish and Tûma..... | 42 |
| Uçar: We started the rebuilding, we will fight fascism with determination..... | 43 |
| IHD Chair Keskin: The Minister of Interior does not respond to our request..... | 44 |
| South Kurdish women gather in Sulaymaniyah to protest Turkish state's attacks..... | 46 |
| Human Rights Violations..... | 46 |
| Six people taken into custody in Beytüşşebap sent to prison..... | 46 |
| Former HDP Dersim Provincial co-chair taken into custody..... | 47 |
| Kadıköy District Governor's Office in Istanbul bans LGBTI+ "Tea&Talk" events..... | 47 |
| HDP: Security service vehicles kill Kurdish children..... | 48 |
| Five members of the Green Left Party jailed in Tekirdağ..... | 49 |
| MKM event banned by Fatih District Governorship..... | 50 |
| District Governorship of Datça issues ban of all events scheduled for annual Pride Week..... | 50 |
| Ten students protesting compulsory use of the veil at university in Tehran arrested..... | 51 |
| AKP mayor terrorizing Tatvan with armed gangs..... | 51 |
| 4 detained in police operation against TÖP and Purple Solidarity..... | 52 |
| Police take 5 people into custody in Yüksekova..... | 52 |
| Field pharmacies in earthquake-hit areas are closing down..... | 53 |
| Criminal complaint against Green Left MP who called the police "occupiers"..... | 54 |
| Van turned into a grave for many refugees..... | 54 |
| Three people in Beytüşşebap sent to prison..... | 55 |
| Journalist Kutlu: Free Press remains loyal to the tradition of resistance..... | 56 |
| Kurdish protester sentenced to 15 years in prison in Tehran..... | 57 |
| Memorial on 20th anniversary of death of Italian activist Dino Frisullo..... | 58 |
| NGOs in Rojava call for action against genocidal policies..... | 58 |
| Interview..... | 59 |
| Muslim: We rely on the resistance of our people and our forces..... | 59 |
| Opinion..... | 61 |
| Actor Ateş: We will continue to promote Kurdish theater and language..... | 61 |
| The Rojava cycle in Ankara's 'Decomposition Plan' against Kurds - I..... | 63 |

Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan

Havîn Guneşer: Policy pursued in Imrali is one of smelting and destroying

ANHA - 21 JUNE 2023

Havîn Guneşer: described the “disciplinary penalties” imposed on leader Abdullah Ocalan and the ban on meeting his family and lawyers as “burial alive”, and explained that the policy pursued in Imrali is a policy of eradicating.

Havîn Guneşer: pointed to the lack of success of the various policies pursued against the Kurdistan Liberation Movement and the leader Abdullah Ocalan, and explained that they are seeking to physically surround the leader Ocalan to create Kurdish women who carry out their war and subject the Kurdish people to physical violence.

The spokeswoman for the “International Initiative for Freedom of Leader Abdullah Ocalan and Peace for Kurdistan,” writer Havîn Guneşer, spoke to ANHA’s agency, about the absolute isolation imposed on the leader Abdullah Ocalan, the policies pursued against the Kurdistan Liberation Movement and the Kurds

“The practices in Imrali are like being buried alive”

At the beginning of her speech, Havîn Guneşer referred to the “disciplinary penalties” imposed on leader Abdullah Ocalan and the ban on him meeting with his family and lawyer, describing them as “burial alive.”

Havîn Guneşer explained that they used flimsy pretexts to prevent Imrali from visiting and meeting the leader Abdullah Ocalan, as they used to invoke the ship's malfunctions and bad weather since 2005, to cut off his communication with the outside world from 2018 until now under the pretext of disciplinary sanctions, and she said: “It is possible that they do not allow his comrades the others in Imrali also to meet with him

Proposal of the European Court of Human Rights: Let him hope that he will be released, but this will not happen.

Havîn Guneşer indicated that the Turkish state is not the only actor in the issue of the imposed isolation in Imrali, but there are other actors besides it, and pointed to Europe’s approval and encouragement of the laws issued in 2005, specifically for the leader Abdullah Ocalan

And she continued her speech, saying: “They say that the death penalty has been abolished, but we see very well that it has not been abolished, and basically the European Court of Human Rights opposes the aggravated life sentence, due to the lack of a periodic evaluation mechanism, and this is what they call the

right of hope; that is, a person can wish exit is expected, but there is no need for that to happen. This is what the decision of the European Court of Human Rights recommends, but Turkey does not establish such a mechanism in spite of that

And she noted, "Currently, there is a great silence from Europe on this issue, while isolation is very natural for the United States of America and is widespread there, as the aggravated life penalty law prevails in the United States of America

"Body encircling the leader Abdullah Ocalan and physical violence against the Kurds"

.The recent policies pursued in Imralı are the policies of smelting and destruction"

She pointed out that the freedom of the leader Abdullah Ocalan is the freedom of the Kurdish people, "The freedom of Mr. Ocalan is linked to our freedom of the Kurdish people, and any other opinion makes us passive and dependent. They seek to keep Mr. Ocalan there and destroy him healthily, and this applies to Kurdish society as well, and we see that it is more correct to say that it applies to the whole of Turkey, we have to see very well who benefits from this

Havîn Guneşer indicated that the imperial powers seek to create Kurds who will carry out their wars in the new Middle East, but the model of leader Abdullah Ocalan prevents this

She said, "The United States of America seeks to reorganize (restructure) the Middle East, and wants to realize the Turanian and Turkish neo-Ottoman dreams in this restructuring process. It is clear that neither the Turkish state nor America nor any other forces are able to ignore the Kurds. They want to exploit the demand the Kurds are free and independent for their interests, and the biggest obstacle to this is Mr. Ocalan and his ideas, and therefore the Kurdistan Liberation Movement as well

"They delay under the pretext of the right to hope."

Havîn Guneşer stated that all crimes committed against the Kurds go unpunished, given the neglect of the Kurds in the global system, and gave Saddam Hussein and ISIS as an example, and said: "They let the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Turkish state go unpunished, and the status of Afrin is known, and the legal situation It is clear to Mr. Ocalan that Mr. Ocalan, the Kurds and the Kurdistan Liberation Movement are one side, but they were left at the mercy of those who ignore them and occupy their land, and instead of a double trial they deal with genocide. In addition to that they postpone under the pretext of the right to hope, what can be resolved with the right of hope, what It will be resolved unless the Kurdish issue is evaluated differently? We will not forget the continuation of the military occupation, political and economic invasion and cultural genocide in Kurdistan

"A room to subjugate the free Kurds"

Havîn Guneşer stated that Turkish and Kurdish racism is being incited as well, but they did not win despite the fierce battle they fought, so they are now seeking to change this approach

Havîn Guneşer noted that a new room was formed to subjugate the free Kurds, saying: "All the powers of the world say that there is no future for the model of leader Ocalan, so who has a future? Is the Barzani family and organizations such as the Free Dawa Party (Huda-Par)? It can be said that these they are also very racist, but they make nationalism based on the approach of the occupiers seem normal through great media misinformation. This is a room for subjugating the Kurds, especially the free Kurds. This is like the

Palestinian movement that they brought to this level, whose stages deserve study. Will they win or not? This is what the struggle will determine. But we have to know that if the struggle is waged and the ".paradigma is implemented, there will be a great possibility of change

“Great interest in the paradigm that paves the way to freedom”

The spokeswoman for the “International Initiative for Freedom of Leader Abdullah Ocalan and Peace for Kurdistan,” writer Havîn Guneşer, explained that leader Abdullah Ocalan is a great defender of the people .and that the model he developed will lead to freedom in the Middle East

She said, “Other models deepen conflicts financially and morally, cause misery to people, enslave everyone again and impose colonization on them again. Such a process is being developed towards nature, women, peoples and all societies. Therefore, this model and these pleadings are not only for the sake of a new left, it applies at the same time to the occupied parties by the various powers. It is also a comprehensive protection for women, so Mr. Ocalan’s model and ideas are of great interest to people and women in particular, and these arguments reinforce their very current resistance

— ★ —

Delegation from Creil takes over the ‘Freedom for Öcalan’ vigil in Strasbourg

ANF | STRASBOURG | 22 JUNE 2023

The Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Vigil, which was launched in Strasbourg, France, on June 25, 2012, to demand the physical freedom of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan and an end to his isolation, has entered its 574th week. The action has been taking place in close proximity to the building of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe. Activists from all over Europe take turns at the vigil every week.

In its new week, the vigil was taken over by a delegation of activists from the French town of Creil. The group includes Mahmut Çelebi, Şafi Çelebi and Gani Işık.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Çelebi stated: “For a long time we have not heard anything from the leader. The Turkish state’s actions are contrary to humanity. We condemn this as well as the attitude of the international organisations, first of all the CPT, which trample on their own principles and laws. It is regrettable that the states represented in them do not allay the concerns of the Kurdish people regarding the situation of Öcalan. They should also stop the inhumane attacks of the Turkish state on Rojava. The only way out for us is struggle and unity. I call on the Kurdish people to fight.”

— ★ —

Prisons in Turkey

Sixth day of hunger strike for 6 detainees Kırıkkale High Security Prison

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 17 JUNE 2023

Six detainees in Kırıkkale F Type High Security Closed Prison started an indefinite and non-alternating hunger strike on 12 June against rights violations. Prisoners Rıdvan Kaya, Fikret Erden, Serhat Erdemci, İhsan Oral, Baran Gül and Orhan Doruk said they would continue the strike until the violation of their rights ends.

Hunger strike on day 6

Sıdıka Erden, mother of Fikret Erden, one of the ill prisoners on hunger strike, relayed the phone conversation she had with her son. She said: “They are ill, but they continue to be tortured. They cut off their water, they don’t give them food. They leave our sons hungry and thirsty. This hunger strike is the only thing they can do against these pressures.”

She said that her son Erden has been under pressure since the day he was transferred to Kırıkkale Prison against his will, and she call for the humanitarian demands of the detainees to be met.

‘They kill them slowly’

Erden called on the human rights institutions to act responsibly. Erden said, “Our call to all human rights institutions and organizations is to not remain silent. Our sons are ill but they are not being treated. My son’s arm was broken but he had no surgery yet. We don’t know how he is now. We can only hear his voice. Their demands must be met as soon as possible. They kill them slowly.”

— ★ —

New method of torture in Turkish prisons: Denial of release

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

Prisons in Turkey have become a centre of torture, especially for revolutionary and Kurdish prisoners. In addition to the isolation conditions prevailing in all prisons and the arbitrary restriction of rights by the administration, the ill-treatment of prisoners by guards and soldiers is increasing day by day.

Furthermore, in recent years, the practice of not releasing political prisoners after they have completed their regular sentence has become widespread. The legislation defines this procedure, which is mainly used as a means of pressure in the case of sick prisoners, as follows: “If the convict commits an intentional offence that entails a custodial sentence between the time of conditional release and the supervision period, the convict’s release shall be suspended. It is sufficient that the second offence is committed within the supervision period.” However, since the term “offence” is not defined here and it is the responsibility of the prison administration to impose sentences, prisoners are arbitrarily punished. When suspending release, prison administrations use every step prisoners take as a pretext to punish them.

Administrative committees decide on the length of execution

For this practice, administrative observing committees were introduced by the government at the end of 2020 with the propaganda that they “increase the chances of early release”. However, the committees have become an institution used to delay the release of political prisoners. After the committees began their work, both conditional release and the transition to open detention became more difficult.

The committees are defined in the legislation as follows: “The Administrative and Observing Committee is chaired by the institution director and consists of the second director, who is responsible for observation and classification, the administrative officer, the prison doctor, the psychiatrist, the psychologist, the social worker, the teacher, the head of the correctional service and the protection officer, and an official selected by the prison director from the technical staff.”

The same law defines the decision-making mechanism of the committees as follows: “The administrative and observation board decides on the convict on the basis of the observation and development assessment reports, the risk assessment report and all the information and documents in the correctional files. As part of this assessment, the board may interview the convict upon request or ex officio”.

Reasons: Too many books read, too much water consumed, too much laughter

In 2021, the release of over sixty political prisoners was prevented by these committees. The reasons given by the committee for this are bizarre:

No remorse, Refused to talk to an imam; No good conduct; Failure to comply with prison rules; Failure to use water sparingly; Non-participation in prison activities; Reading many books; Failure to support the staff during searches; Laughing during visits; Singing anthems; Singing Kurdish folk songs; No dissociation from the organisation; Having a family member under arrest

A political prisoner who has never been married was denied release on the grounds that she had killed her husband and could harm her family. For another prisoner, who has daughters aged six and nine, the reason given was: “The children are involved in activities of the organisation.”

The suspension of release by the monitoring committees is now so widespread that it is difficult to obtain any data at all. According to available figures, at least 217 political prisoners have been affected so far. Some of these prisoners were later released, while others have not been released to date.

Some of the prisoners whose release has been suspended are as follows:

Cevahir Vurucu - Laughing during a conversation with a visitor

Ferit Orak - Excessive consumption of water

Şevket Bilici - Lack of remorse

Eight political prisoners in Diyarbakır T Type No. 1 - Lack of remorse

Songül Bagadır, Kandıra L Type - Lack of remorse

Ercan İşcan, Giresun Espiye L Type - Failure to support the staff during searches

Murat Aktaş, Kandıra F Type No. 1 - Disciplinary sanctions

Fahriye Ceylan, Alanya L Type - Lack of remorse

Twelve women in Bayburt M Type - Refusal of military roll call

Almost all political prisoners in Sincan women's prison

Metin Güven, Yozgat T Type - Lack of remorse

Aliye Süer, Diyarbakır women's prison – singing an anthem

Twelve prisoners in Bolu - Excessive water consumption and lack of remorse

Resul Baltacı, Düzce Çilimli T Type - Lack of remorse

Hatice Çakmak, L Type women's prison in Alanya – Solitary confinement

Kadir Karabak, Tekirdağ F Type No. 2 - political activity of underage daughters

Rojda Erez, Sincan women's prison - “You killed your husband and you will harm your family.”

Hanım Yıldırım, Sincan women's prison – “Your brother is a supporter of the Gülen movement.”

Sabri Yakut, Hakan Zertürk, Bilal Balbeş, Faruk Aydemir, Erzurum Dumlu No. 1 and 2 - Lack of remorse

Şemsettin Tekin, Sevgi İlboğa, Oltu T Type - Lack of Remorse

Mehmet Cengel, Van High Security Prison - Lack of Remorse

Dilan Oynaş, Sincan Women's Prison - Disciplinary sanctions

Xense Bulut (Peace Mother), İzmir Şakran Women's Prison - Lack of remorse

Azise Yağız, Tarsus T Type - Bad Behaviour

Damla Erdem, Sevda Turgal, Şakran Women's Prison - Lack of Remorse

İlyas Peldek, Abdulhaluk Özerk, Samsun Bafra F Type - Disobedience to the rules

Abdurrahim Çetinkaya, Şakran L Type No. 3 - Disciplinary sanctions

— ★ —

Van TUHAY-DER: Policies of repression in prisons worsening

ANF | VAN | 18 JUNE 2023

Van TUHAY-DER co-chair Cetin Uyar spoke to ANF against the policies of torture, isolation and intimidation applied to Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan and all political prisoners recently. Uyar urged the public to be sensitive about prisons.

Uyar said that Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan has been kept in severe isolation conditions for 25 years, and added: "For the last 3 years, he has not even been allowed to meet with his family, and we are worried about Mr. Abdullah Öcalan's health. We want him to meet with his family and lawyers as soon as possible. It is our call to the Ministry of Justice to end isolation. The Kurdish people started a petition in 2005 and collected 6 million signatures. They declared that they accepted Abdullah Öcalan as their political will. People want to hear about him. The isolation imposed on Abdullah Öcalan is imposed in all prisons in Turkey. In addition to political prisoners, even ill prisoners are kept under heavy isolation. Political prisoners were deprived of their right to watch television and read newspapers. They have difficulties with letters and family visits. An intimidation policy is in place. We urge the prison administration and the Ministry of Justice to stop persecuting political prisoners."

'S-Type prisons are torture chambers'

Uyar continued: "While we were fighting against F-types, the government built S-Type prisons. Policies of persecution and oppression are applied in these prisons. The Ministry of Justice is allowing crimes to be carried out in prisons. New provisions for prisons should be made immediately in new constitutional arrangements. There are prisoners without arms and legs in prisons and they are held in harsh conditions. We cannot accept this. As the families of the detainees, we reject this. Our political prisoners must be released immediately. Mr. Abdullah Öcalan needs to be allowed to have contact with his family immediately. We demand that the needs of all friends in prison be met. We invite our people to be sensitive to the crimes against humanity in prisons."

— ★ —

Prisoners set fire to a ward to protest isolation and violations of rights

ANF | İZMİR | 22 JUNE 2023

It is reported that the political prisoners in Kırıklar No. 1 F Type Closed Prison set fire to a ward in the B block on June 15 and 19 to protest the violations of their rights. Affected by the smoke, the prisoners were taken to the infirmary.

Lawyer Onur Can Aykut from the Izmir Branch of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD), who spoke to the prisoners, confirmed that the prisoners set fire to their ward twice in response to the continued isolation policies, the relocation of political prisoners to different blocks, and the arbitrary practices of the prison administration.

Lawyer Aykut stated that after the action, the prisoners were prevented from engaging in sports and similar activities and the crackdown on them was aggravated. Prisoners said that the first director of the prison took the issue personal, saying that “the situation will not change as long as I am here. I will not allow visits by lawyers or families”. Aykut noted that the prison prosecutor did not take any initiative for a solution and remained irresponsive to their complaints.

In the meantime, a delegation consisting of ÖHD İzmir Branch co-chairs Şükran Öztürk and Velat Zeren and lawyer Halil Coşkun Nehir Bilece is expected to meet with the prisoners.

— ★ —

Military aggression and occupation

Hundreds of people forced to act as informers

ANF | 16 JUNE 2023

The Turkish state is systematically trying to recruit informers through bribery, threats, violence and blackmail. In the last eight years, after the end of the negotiation process by the AKP-MHP regime, there have been many such recruitment attempts. According to the Human Association (IHD), in the years 2015-2021 alone, 952 people, mostly Kurds, were subjected to attempts by the authorities to make them work as informers. If you follow the press reports, countless other cases will be added for the years 2022 and 2023. However, both the successful recruitment attempts and the majority of the failed ones are never reported because the authorities use intimidation and death threats.

Violence and threats

The police use a wide variety of methods to recruit informers and mainly target young men and women. Those affected spoke about money offers, the exploitation of poverty and unemployment through offers of housing and jobs, and the promise of an income as the most common methods. Perfidious and cruel actions are taken against women and girls. They are first sexually harassed, pictures of the attack are taken and then they are threatened with publication of these pictures. Another method is to take advantage of family problems and threaten that something will happen to others in the family. At the same time, those affected are repeatedly threatened with criminalization and long prison sentences. Students are promised work after graduation and a regular income.

The victims

Some of the victims reported by the IHD report are as follows:

Ten young people from the Federation of Democratic Youth Associations (DEM-GENÇ) were detained after a fight that broke out when ISIS sympathizer Muslim Youth (MÜS-GENÇ) members attacked patriotic and revolutionary students on 15 December 2015 at Istanbul University. The students, who were released by the court on a “judicial control condition” after their statements were taken, told about their experiences in detention.

Istanbul University Faculty of Law student Ferhat Kavak noted that the police tried to force them into becoming informers.

Recruitment attempts also in prison

Onur Qatar was detained on 2 April 2015 on charges of “being a member of the MLKP”. He was in Tekirdağ F-Type No. 2 Prison at the time when he was taken from his cell and told he had a visit with a lawyer. He was met by plainclothes police officers and offered to become an informer.

Abducted and threatened

Sezgin Cengiz (38), who was arrested during a solidarity demonstration for Kobanê in Van and was released after two months in prison, reports that he was abducted by the MIT secret service. On 13 January 2015, the commander of the Delice military base summoned the young man, who was working as a driver, telling him about some documents that had gone missing. At a gas station in central Erciş (Erdiř), where the meeting was to take place, four people forced Cengiz into a vehicle with tinted windows and drove him ten kilometers out of town. The four people who introduced themselves as MIT agents tried to recruit him as an agent. The people, wearing dark sunglasses, threatened him using information about family members.

Arrest and constant calls

On 5 March 2015, O.S. went to IHD in Istanbul and said: “I was arrested on 12 February while distributing leaflets promoting the 13 February boycott. At the Güzeltepe police station, people posing as se-

cret service agents asked me various questions. During the arrest, I was beaten, threatened and asked to be an informer. They took my phone number and kept calling me and saying they wanted to meet me. They keep calling me even though I declined.”

Threats to family members

I.Y. (16) was arrested on 13 February 2015 in Van. The police from the juvenile division tried to coerce I.Y. into becoming an informer. I.Y. contacted the IHD on 24 March 2015 and reported that her family was being threatened and that she had agreed to work as an informer out of fear.

— ★ —

YRK: Iranian military operation continues

ANF | 16 JUNE 2023

The Defense Units of Eastern Kurdistan (YRK) Command released a statement providing information about ongoing Iranian military action against their forces.

According to the statement released on Friday, the operation launched by the Iranian regime forces at 05:30 on June 12 in the region of Kosalan is continuing.

YRK stated that Kosalan has been declared a restricted military area and civilians are not allowed to enter. Hundreds of soldiers and armoured vehicles are involved in the operation. On 13 and 14 June, fighting took place between the Iranian army and the YRK.

YRK said that the area was repeatedly shelled with mortar shells. The Iranian army is reported to have suffered casualties in the fighting, while the YRK forces have not suffered any casualties, according to the statement.

The YRK and HPJ (Women’s Defence Units of Eastern Kurdistan) are the guerrilla armies of the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) and are also repeatedly attacked by Turkey. On 4 June, a YRK fighter was killed in a Turkish drone attack in the Asos Mountains in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Air strikes by Turkey in violation of international law have been routine for years in the region, which lies about 200 kilometres from the Turkish state border.

— ★ —

Cuba and Iran strengthen relations

ANF | 16 JUNE 2023

Welcoming his Iranian counterpart at the Revolutionary Palace, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said he hoped that the alliance with Tehran would enable them to “face the aggressive policy of the USA together”.

Diaz-Canel added that “Iran and Cuba must confront sanctions, threats, blockades and interference by Yankee imperialism and its allies with tenacious resistance”.

The President of Iran said “the conditions and circumstances in which Cuba and Iran find themselves today have many things in common” and stressed that both countries “have a desire to preserve independence”.

Iran and Cuba are currently under US sanctions and are listed as states that support terrorism by the US State Department.

Raisi began his Latin American tour on Monday in Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The three countries are under Washington’s sanctions and allied with Moscow.

During a speech at the Economic Forum in Havana, Raisi underlined that his country was “ready to work with Cuba in science and technology”, particularly in the hydroelectric, thermoelectric fields and mining industries.

In Venezuela, both leaders signed 25 agreements that concern the education, health and mining sectors.

In Nicaragua, a “significant memorandum” was introduced aimed at promoting economic, commercial and scientific-technical cooperation.

— ★ —

Lawyers: Turkish attacks on Shengal and South Kurdistan are against international law

ANF | 16 JUNE 2023

Turkish attacks against Shengal and South Kurdistan in cooperation with the KDP continue violating the sovereignty of Iraqi lands. Lawyers from Koye spoke to RojNews about the increasingly ongoing attacks.

Lawyer Riyaz Heme Emin drew attention to the silence of the Iraqi government and said: “Iraq cannot protect its borders and sovereignty while the Turkish state attacks the civilian population by violating the Iraqi borders.”

Emin stated that the Turkish state freely entered and bombed Iraqi lands and the Kurdistan Region for years. He added: “There are no international laws and agreements that allow these attacks by the Turkish state, which, however, is imposing its dominance on Iraq.”

Lawyer Huner Heme Emin emphasized that attacks on Shengal (Sinjar) were against all laws and human rights and noted that Iraq could appeal to international courts against the violations of the Turkish state.

In a reference to the rights of nations in the Iraqi constitution, Huner said: “According to the Iraqi constitution, all nations have the right to protection. No one has the right to attack them.”

Lawyer Sirud Shaxistani pointed to Iraq’s silence and said: “The Iraqi state should have taken a serious stance against the attacks as the sovereignty of the Kurdistan Region depends on Iraq. The government of the Kurdistan Region should not remain silent in the face of these attacks and should always stand against the aggression and occupation of neighbouring countries.”

Stressing that the Iraqi government could not protect Shengal, Shaxistani concluded: “Iraq and the Kurdistan Region have to protect Shengal, but both sides remain indifferent to the suffering of the people there.”



Four civilians injured in attack targeting hospital in Til Rifet

ANF | SHEHBA | 17 JUNE 2023

Afrin and Shehba Canton Health Committee announced that 4 people were injured as a result of the bombing of a hospital in the Til Rifet district of Shehba by mercenaries recruited by the Turkish state.

The committee said that the Turkish state attacks on Shehba, where hundreds of thousands of people were forcibly displaced, intensified, and the region was bombarded with unmanned aerial vehicles, tanks and mortars.

The committee underlined that the Turkish state bombed the Til Rifet hospital, where dozens of patients are treated daily despite the heavy embargo. The Health Committee named the injured as follows: Muxlê Ehmed Nasan (25), Abdullah Abdulrehman Murad (40), Mihemed Hemîd (45), Mustefa Hesên (27).

The committee informed that 2 of the injured were in serious condition.

Condemning the attacks, the Health Committee called on the international community to act and urge the Turkish state to stop its brutal attacks on the region.



Preparations underway for ISIS trials in North-East Syria

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) announced on 10 June that it would try foreign ISIS members in local courts. This followed years of appeals to the states of origin to set up an international court to punish the crimes committed by the organization. Because there was no response and AANES is left alone with thousands of ISIS prisoners from about sixty different countries, a local judicial process is now to take place.

Preparations for the trials are underway, but many questions remain unanswered. Citing AANES sources, ANHA news agency reported that the trials are expected to begin within a short time. The exact date and locations of the trials are not known, but are likely to be made public in the coming days. According to the information, the trials will be held in public, in people's courts affiliated to the Social Justice Council. Presumably, relatives of ISIS victims will be admitted as joint plaintiffs, but there is no official statement on this question either. It is also unclear whether trial observers from abroad will be allowed. According to ANHA, however, the autonomous administration has an interest in presenting its justice system worldwide.

There is no death penalty in north-east Syria. AANES faces the challenge of combining its own laws with international law in the fight against terrorism. The question of whether the accused will have a lawyer's defence and what should happen to the convicts after they have completed their prison sentence is also being discussed.

Trials will be open to the public

As part of the preparations, the Social Justice Council and the People's Defence Court are holding meetings and discussions. According to sources, methods and details of trials will be discussed at these meetings.

The same sources say that ISIS members will be tried in the People's Defence Court under the umbrella of the Social Justice Council.

It is reported that the trials will be open to the public and media outlets will be allowed to monitor them. Which media outlets will attend the trials and how and in what capacity the families of martyrs or victims will attend the trials have not been announced yet, but according to the information obtained, families of martyrs and victims will be able to participate as plaintiffs. Martyrs' families will be able to follow the trials through the Council of Martyrs' Families or in person.

It is not yet clear whether observers from outside the region will be allowed to monitor the trials. However, Autonomous Administration sources say that they want to show the world their sense of justice with these trials.

The Lawyers' Union will also play an important role during the trials. According to some sources, one lawyer will be appointed for each family for free. Families of martyrs who are not on the ground will be able to intervene in the hearings through their lawyers.

Domestic and international laws will guide the trials

Autonomous Administration officials point out that ISIS members will be tried according to the anti-terror laws of the Autonomous Administration and international laws.

According to legal sources, ISIS members will be tried and sentenced for the crimes they have committed. If there is not any specific accusation (murder, extortion, torture, immorality, etc.) against an ISIS member, this person will only be judged for "membership in a criminal organization". If an ISIS member is accused of crimes other than membership (murder, accomplicity to murder, aid, torture, kidnapping, etc.), this person will be judged by a separate article. Penalties will be case-specific. There is no death penalty in Autonomous Administration laws, so prison sentences range from light to life imprisonment.

Other issues currently discussed and likely to come to the fore during the hearings are "What will happen to ISIS members whose sentences are over, where will they be sent, will their countries accept them or not?" Discussions and evaluations in this regard are continuing.

ISIS members will be informed about laws and rights

An important aspect of the trials will be the protection of ISIS members' rights. According to legal experts, no lawyer can defend ISIS members, yet the Lawyers' Union will explain the laws and their rights to ISIS members within the legal framework and according to a court decision. It is not yet known whether lawyers from outside the Autonomous Administration regions will be allowed to defend ISIS members, but according to the information available, if a lawyer wants to come, she/he will have to get permission from the Autonomous Administration and act according to the laws of the region.



YRK reports ongoing Iranian attacks in Kosalan

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

The Defense Units of Eastern Kurdistan (YRK) Command released a statement providing information about ongoing Iranian military action against their forces.

According to the statement on Saturday, the operation launched by the Iranian regime forces on June 12 in the region of Kosalan is continuing. Hundreds of troops are taking part in the operation accompanied by unmanned aerial vehicles, military vehicles and heavy construction equipment.

The areas of Dewr Çor, Dere Tifê, Kanî Sanan, Serdoş, Qarawe and Qeuleberd in the Kosalan region, located in the countryside of Mariwan, were targeted by heavy artillery attacks last night, YRK stated.

According to the YRK statement on Friday, Kosalan has been declared a restricted military area and civilians are not allowed to enter the region. On 13 and 14 June, fighting took place between the Iranian army and the YRK.

According to Iranian official news agencies, a member of Besic (an intelligence-based paid paramilitary militia affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards) was killed during the fighting between the Iranian troops and the YRK forces. The Besic member in question was reported to have been a long-time spy working for the Iranian regime together with his brother.

The YRK and HPJ (Women's Defence Units of Eastern Kurdistan) are the guerrilla armies of the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) and are also repeatedly attacked by Turkey. On 4 June, a YRK fighter was killed in a Turkish drone attack in the Asos Mountains in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Air strikes by Turkey in violation of international law have been routine for years in the region, which lies about 200 kilometres from the Turkish state border.



Shera, Sherawa and Shehba under Turkish attack

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

Turkey is escalating military violence against the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria. After several deadly attacks on several regions in recent days, the Turkish forces have launched a wave of attacks against the regions of Afrin and Shehba.

According to reports from the ground, the aggression is directed against the villages of Bêne, Soxanekê and Aqîbê in Afrin's Sherawa district, and the villages of Tinib and Tat Meraş in the Shera district.

In the Shehba Canton, the villages of Til Anab and Til Cîcan are under attack.

The ongoing attack has started a fire in the fields in the village of Til Anab.

In a written statement on Thursday, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said that this week witnessed an alarming escalation of the Turkish occupation's brutal aggression in the populated regions of NE Syria. The areas of Al-Shahba, which provide refuge for displaced individuals from Afrin, along with Manbij, Ain Issa, and the al-Jazira areas, bore the brunt of this assault. Shockingly, the occupation did not spare innocent civilians, including women and children, resulting in the tragic deaths of three individuals, and four others sustained injuries, including two children, due to these direct brutal attacks.

According to the SDF, "This aggression cannot be viewed in isolation from the occupation's ulterior motives to divert attention away from its colonial endeavors on Syrian soil and the consequential impact on Syria's future and unity. It also aims to secure favorable outcomes for its soldiers and mercenaries within Syria, both in existing and future agreements with international entities. These nefarious objectives serve as the underlying driving force behind all attacks on our regions."



HPG: 18 Turkish soldiers were killed in Xakurke

ANF | BEHDINAN | 17 JUNE 2023

In its daily statement about the war in Kurdistan territory, the Press Centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that at least 18 soldiers of the Turkish army were killed in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the statement, guerrillas struck the occupation forces on June 15 in the area of Kolit in Xakurke region. The action and ensuing clashes resulted in the death of 18 soldiers, including a senior officer.

In the wake of the action, guerrilla fighters Seyit, Amara and Azad lost their lives, said the HPG, adding that the details of their identities will be released at a later date.

Pointing out the continuous attacks of the Turkish colonial state against the Kurdish people and the guerrillas, HPG stated that the action on 15 June was an effective response.

According to the HPG statement, the Turkish unit was advancing towards Girê Şehîd Şahan when it was ambushed by the guerrillas at four o'clock in the morning and attacked by two flanks. The first attack group used light weapons and hand grenades at close range, while the second group struck with light and semi-automatic weapons. After a 15-minute battle, the death of 18 occupants was confirmed. When the Turkish army realised that the entire unit had been liquidated, the area where the bodies were located was bombed by howitzers, tanks and fighter jets. While guerrilla Seyit was seriously injured and passed away, two other guerrillas, Amara and Azad, were martyred in an attack during their retreat.

Simultaneously with the action, the occupation forces at Girê Şehîd Şahan and Girê Şehîd Axîn were targeted by guerrillas with heavy weapons. According to the HPG, the number of Turkish army casualties could not be determined, while the dead and injured were recovered by helicopters and armoured cars. HPG said that the actions in Xakurke were carried out in response to the aggravated isolation of Abdullah Öcalan.

HPG further said that the guerrillas struck the Turkish troops in the Girê FM resistance area in the western Zap region with heavy weapons three times on 15 June.

On the other hand, the Turkish army used prohibited weapons against guerrilla positions in the Sîda area, also in the Zap region, on 15 and 16 June.

During the same period, eleven airstrikes were carried out by Turkish fighter jets against the Girê Çarçel, Serê Metîna and Golka areas in Metîna, as well as against Deşta Kafya, Dola Şêranê and Kanî Sarkê in Gare.

On 15 June, the Turkish army carried out a total of 227 attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons on the areas of Sîda, Girê Cûdî, Girê Amêdî and Girê Bahar in Zap, Girê Hekarî in Metîna and Girê Kolît, Girê Şehîd Kamuran, Girê Şehîd Heqî and Ava Lolanê in Xakurke.

On 15 and 16 June, Turkish forces' attempts to demolish the guerrilla positions with construction machinery continued.



KCK: Let's wage an all-out resistance for Rojava

ANF | 18 JUNE 2023

The Co-Presidency of the KCK Executive Council drew attention to the recent increased attacks by the Turkish state against Rojava and called for all-out resistance.

The statement said: "The genocidal colonialist Turkish state has been carrying out attacks with heavy weapons against North and East Syria since June 7, 2023. As a result of these attacks, many North and East Syrian civilians and fighters have been killed and martyred. There are reports that the forces of the Syrian state and some military units belonging to Russia were also targeted by the attacks of the Turkish state and consequently suffered casualties. These attacks have once again demonstrated that the AKP-MHP government will continue its evil and hostile intentions and ambitions against Rojava and Syria. We would like to therefore strongly condemn the attacks of the Turkish state and call on everyone to take a clear stance against them.

The Turkish state has an anti-Kurdish and anti-democratic mentality and politics. Its main goal is to carry out a genocide against the Kurds and to annihilate everything Kurdish. The Turkish state's policy towards Rojava and Syria is also set within this scope. The invasions and attacks carried out so far have been carried out as a requirement of this policy. Undoubtedly, the people of Kurdistan know this characteristic of the Turkish state very well. International powers and states are also aware of this reality, but they remain silent due to their relations based on interests with the Turkish state."

The statement continued: "The Turkish state clearly aims to destroy the democratic system that has emerged in Rojava and North and East Syria. The only reason for this is that the Kurdish people, along with other peoples, have become the will of the democratic system established there. However, for the Turkish state, which has an anti-Kurdish and anti-democratic mentality, the fact that the Kurdish people have been developing their own will is a reason for war, a justification for occupation and genocide. The occupation of Efrîn, Girê Sipî and Serêkaniyê shows clearly that the Turkish state not only occupies these places, but also wants to implement a project that de-Kurdifies Rojava by changing the demographic structure and expelling Kurds from the places where they live. Now the Turkish state aims to implement this policy in wider areas by occupying Rojava and other parts of North and East Syria. Its ultimate goal is to occupy the whole of North and East Syria, to destroy the democratic system there and to empty Rojava of Kurds by displacing them. The talk about settling gangs [Islamist proxy forces] and refugees from Syria there is a mere justification. Nowhere in the world is the method of finding a place for refugees by chang-

ing the demography of a place accepted. Therefore, these discourses of the Turkish state are intended to cover up its genocide policy and cannot be relied on.

What the Turkish state is doing is clearly genocide. Genocide is the greatest crime against humanity. The real intention and purpose of the Turkish state is not to find a place for refugees, but to annex Rojava and Syria and carry out a Kurdish genocide. There is nothing hidden or obscure about this. Until now, the Turkish state has imposed its own system wherever it has gone and has ruled these places as if they were its own. This reveals that the Turkish state is not only occupying, but annexing Syrian territory. From this point of view, the Syrian state and all the forces that say that they are on its side must take a stance against the occupation and annexation by the Turkish state.”

The KCK said that “the fact that the Turkish state keeps some traitorous and collaborating Kurds on its side does not change this fact. This policy is a legacy of the Ottoman Empire. In order to carry out the Kurdish genocide, the Ottoman state always resorted to keeping some Kurds by its side who had betrayed their people and benefited from them. The Turkish state has also resorted to this method to carry out the Kurdish genocide. In history, the resistances that were defined as Kurdish revolts but in essence developed against denial and extermination were suppressed with this method. Now the Turkish state is trying to cover up the fact of genocide by keeping some traitorous Kurdish collaborators by its side who have sold their honor, so as not to give such an impression to the outside world. But the Turkish state can no longer hide this reality with this method. It cannot use certain traitorous collaborator Kurds as a mask. Because the people of Kurdistan have enough consciousness and will to understand this reality and see what it means.”

The statement added: “Unfortunately, while the Turkish state is implementing its Kurdish genocide plan in front of the eyes of the whole world, there is no reaction from the states against it. The anti-Kurdish fascist chief Tayyip Erdoğan announced the Kurdish genocide plan in front of the eyes of all states at a UN meeting and no one objected to it. This shows how far the states and the UN are from fairness and justice and how much they contradict these values. This attitude of the states and international institutions is unacceptable. States must abandon this hypocritical attitude that clearly abrogates fairness. The Kurds have fought against ISIS and thus stopped its atrocities. They protected not only themselves but the whole world against ISIS fascism and saved it from this danger. However, this attitude towards the Kurds, which has been developed and kept silent, is in no way compatible with fairness. The peoples and the democratic public must expose this attitude of the states and put pressure on them to stop supporting the Turkish state’s policies of Kurdish genocide. States and those who see themselves as institutions of the international community cannot take such an attitude. This must not be accepted in any way. Peoples must no longer accept these attitudes of states. Today, the struggle for democracy must act with such an understanding and reach such a level. The peoples and the democratic forces have such a responsibility and the power to do so.”

The statement said: “Since the Turkish state acts with anti-Kurdish motives, it wants to destroy the system established in North and East Syria. The fascist AKP-MHP government represents reactionary politics in the Middle East and tries to spread reactionary ideas. In reality, a democratic system has been established in Rojava and North and East Syria that will serve as a model for Syria and the entire region. This is a value created in the name of all humanity, in the name of freedom and democracy. All the peoples of the Middle East and the world, women, youth, revolutionary democratic groups, socialists, intellectuals and artists, in short, all those who are sensitive to the values of humanity must protect this. The attack on this

place must be regarded as an attack on the universal values of humanity and an attitude must be developed and a reaction must be shown. The attitude to be put forward must be result-oriented and have the power and influence to make everyone take a step back. The AKP-MHP government is creating the ground for a new occupation and massacre with these attacks. Therefore, this should not be met with silence and a strong reaction should be shown against every attack. The Kurdish people should also stand up for Rojava wherever they are in the country and abroad, and express their reaction more strongly against the attacks of the AKP-MHP government.

The fascist AKP-MHP government openly states that in the second century of the republic it will bring the Kurdish genocide to a conclusion and resurrect the weakened reactionary forces in the region. The new government has been formed to realize this goal. The AKP-MHP took part in the elections by forming an alliance with collaborators, traitorous contra forces in Kurdistan. Now, in order to deepen these policies of Kurdish genocide, a few Kurdish collaborators and traitors have been recruited into the government and they aim to mask this policy with them. Therefore, the new government is a complete special war government formed to carry out the Kurdish genocide. This government and its fascist chief Tayyip Erdoğan certainly do not represent the Kurds and have no right to govern them. The Kurds have taken a clear stance against this fascist regime and system and have thus rejected it. The only thing this regime has imposed on the Kurds is genocide, and the attacks on Rojava are part of this. The Kurdish people and their international friends should see this reality better and continue their stance against the fascist and anti-Kurdish genocidal regime by turning it into a stronger reaction against the attacks on Rojava and by supporting the Rojava Revolution even more.

Our people in Rojava, knowing that the people of Kurdistan, the peoples of the Middle East and progressive democratic humanity are on their side, need to continue the resistance attitude they have adopted so far against the attacks more strongly. No one of our people should leave their land and all of them should be part of a total resistance against the attacks.”

— ★ —

Turkey attacks Zirgan

ANF | 18 JUNE 2023

Turkey is escalating military violence against the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria. After several deadly attacks on several regions in recent days, the Turkish forces have launched attacks against villages in Heseke Canton on Sunday.

According to reports from the ground, the occupation forces have attacked villages to the north of the Zirgan district.

The aggression with heavy weaponry, which started at around 11:50 local time, was mainly directed against the villages of Bobî and Um Heremlê.

In a written statement on Thursday, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said that this week witnessed an alarming escalation of the Turkish occupation's brutal aggression in the populated regions of NE Syria. The areas of Al-Shahba, which provide refuge for displaced individuals from Afrin, along with Manbij, Ain Issa, and the al-Jazira areas, bore the brunt of this assault. Shockingly, the occupation did not spare innocent civilians, including women and children, resulting in the tragic deaths of three individuals, and four others sustained injuries, including two children, due to these direct brutal attacks.

According to the SDF, "This aggression cannot be viewed in isolation from the occupation's ulterior motives to divert attention away from its colonial endeavors on Syrian soil and the consequential impact on Syria's future and unity. It also aims to secure favorable outcomes for its soldiers and mercenaries within Syria, both in existing and future agreements with international entities. These nefarious objectives serve as the underlying driving force behind all attacks on our regions."



PJAK: Iranian regime's insistence on war deepens the existing crises

ANF | 18 JUNE 2023

The Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) released a statement about the escalating attacks by the Iranian regime in Kosalan and many other areas in East Kurdistan.

Pointing to the large-scale Iranian operations ongoing for the past eight days, PJAK stressed that the goal of the military operations and expanded attacks was to reoccupy and destroy the region.

"The Iranian regime's insistence on war and effort to come up with a solution through war lead to great impoverishment and unemployment in addition to deepening the already existing crises," said the PJAK statement on Sunday.

PJAK remarked that these operations and attacks did not offer a solution to the Kurdish question and the Middle East and criticized the Iranian state for acting with its old mentality in the face of the major problems suffered by the people, such as poverty, unemployment and inequality.

PJAK noted that the operations in question also caused the destruction of nature, citing the cases of deliberate forest fires and tree cutting.

Condemning the attacks that target society in every respect, PJAK said: "The existence of the guerrillas is legitimate; not for war, but for the protection of the people and their rights. We advocate for justice and democracy and will never renounce our struggle."

PJAK underlined that the problems experienced by the Kurds and other peoples could only be overcome through humanitarian solutions. It called on all peoples and nations, communities, women, young people,

environmentalists, workers, civil society organizations and tradespeople to take a clear stand against the attacks that destroy humans and the environment, adding: “Great changes happen with peoples’ great struggles.”

— ★ —

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps shell protected areas of Mount Kusalan in Rojhilat

ANF | 19 JUNE 2023

Iranian armed forces are destroying the protected area of Mount Kusalan, in Sarvabad, in the Kurdistan Province.

The region has been heavily bombarded for a week by the Iranian armed forces on the pretext of fighting against the Kurdish armed group PJAK.

On 12 June, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) deployed a military convoy to Sarvabad city in the western region of the Kurdistan province, launching an offensive on the Sarvabad mountains.

The previous week, IRGC forces had positioned themselves around Mount Shahu in the towns of Ravansar, Paveh and Sarvabad, located in the provinces of Kermanshah (Kirmaşan) and Kurdistan.

Villagers near Mount Kusalan spoke to the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN) and said the IRGC was building a new road in the area while shelling the border heights.

They added that in recent days the IRGC had also prevented cattle herders and beekeepers from settling in the area under the pretext of "conducting a military exercise".

An environmental activist expressed his concerns in an interview with KHRN, saying that “under the pretext of conducting military exercises, the IRGC plans to build its second base in the protected mountain of Kusalan.”

According to the activist, the IRGC also conducted military exercises a few years ago and destroyed much of Mount Kusalan's natural environment by building new roads and bases in the area.

According to KHRN findings, the IRGC considers the Shaho and Kusalan mountains to be strategic geographical areas for the movement and settlement of Kurdish opposition party forces. Thus, by setting up military bases in all the high plateaus of these mountainous areas, it intends to declare these areas military areas and gradually expel the inhabitants.

The citizens of the dozens of villages located on the slopes of these mountainous areas go to the heights of the Shaho and Kusalan mountains each spring to graze their animals and do beekeeping.

The protected areas of Shaho and Kusalan, covering 57,236 hectares, are located between the cities of Sarvabad, Ravansar, Paveh, Marivan and Kamyaran, on the border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

In 2009, these mountainous areas were designated as protected areas under the management of the Ministry of Environment by Resolution No. 303 of the Supreme Council for the Environment (Government Infrastructure Commission).

Since 2007, the IRGC has built several military bases in the protected areas of Shaho and Kusalan under the pretext of countering the presence of Kurdish opposition forces.

Despite the objections of environmentalists, much of the pastures and forests in these areas have been destroyed during the construction of military bases and the roads leading to them.

The IRGC has also deliberately burned pastures and forests around military bases in what it calls an act to “prevent Kurdish opposition parties from using the vegetation as cover for attacks”.



PUK Politburo member Ferman: Turkey wants to invade Rojava and South Kurdistan

ANF | 19 JUNE 2023

KNK member and PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) Politburo member Bîlêse Cebar Ferman, and KNK member and Freedom for Basûr Abdullah Öcalan Committee member Şoreş Xidir, who attended the workshop organized by the KNK titled “Kurds are knitting a solution with common life in the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne” in South Kurdistan talked to ANF.

‘The Turkish state wants to occupy Rojava and South Kurdistan’

PUK Politburo member Ferman said: “Turkey openly expresses its desire to expand its territory. The Turkish state established a hundred years ago, founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, has come to an end. Therefore, all its current efforts are to expand its territory. For example, 16 years after the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey annexed a Syrian city through a referendum. It did this with the collaboration of France. This shows that the articles of the Treaty of Lausanne could be changed. Turkey has wanted to annex Rojava and South Kurdistan from the very beginning. It also wants Greece and Bulgaria. Kurds should be aware of these games and moves. Turkey could use its cards to change the articles of the Treaty of Lausanne.”

‘Our purpose is to take common action against the Treaty of Lausanne’

Şoreş Xidir, a member of the KNK and also a member of the Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan Committee in South Kurdistan, said that the Treaty of Lausanne was used against the Kurds and was the cause of the chaos in the Middle East.

“The Kurdish people were the most harmed by this treaty. They have been torn between four invading states. In this century, Kurds have been subjected to genocidal attacks many times. On the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne, good work is being carried out under the leadership of the KNK. All parties, different religious circles, and all different organizations have united against the Treaty of Lausanne. Unfortunately, the Kurds have not been able to unite around a common project until now. The KNK undertakes this responsibility and will hold a big conference in Lausanne on the 100th anniversary of the treaty. Our aim is to put forward a common attitude and strategy against the Treaty of Lausanne.”

— ★ —

YRK calls on Iran to respect the ceasefire and stop military movements

XELIL DAX | BEHDINAN | 19 JUNE 2023

The Iranian state is deploying more and more troops towards the guerrilla areas in Eastern Kurdistan and seems to want to escalate the situation. Şiyar Şevger, one of the commanders of the Defence Units of Eastern Kurdistan (YRK), spoke to ANF about the latest developments on the ground. He pointed out that the attacks against the Kurdish people in all four parts of Kurdistan continued uninterruptedly and behind it was an agreement between Iran, Turkey and Iraq to disarm the Kurdish freedom movements.

“There is an agreement according to which the Iranian intelligence service passes on the information it receives about PJAK to the Turkish state and the Turkish army carries out attacks on the basis of this information. Our position is clear: if a movement that claims to be waging a revolutionary struggle gives up the armed struggle, this means death for it. A revolutionary struggle has no meaning at all in this century if you don't have a military defence force and cannot protect society with your own strength and will,” Şevger said.

“Movements in the airspace are increasing”

Şevger stated, among other things, that the movements in the airspace of Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan) had increased recently: “Every day, reconnaissance planes circle over our areas, the collected information is passed on to the Turkish state by the KDP and Iran, and then attacks on us take place on this basis. However, the Turkish and Iranian states have not been able to achieve any results in these attacks so far and have failed against our Apoist movement.”

Şevger described the attacks as part of an intensive and comprehensive attack concept on all parts of Kurdistan. However, he also stated that the resistance continued with determination despite all the attacks and recalled the “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” (Woman, Life, Freedom) uprising in Iran and Rojhilat last year: “Our people united with the Baloch, Azerbaijani, Persian and Arab people in the struggle against oppression and against the tyrannical regime. Great sacrifices were made in this struggle in which our people participated on the basis of the ideas and philosophy of Leader Apo (Abdullah Öcalan).”

“We abide by the ceasefire, and the Iranian state should do the same”

Şevger pointed out that Iranian military movements had increased recently, but the guerrillas continued to abide by the ceasefire: “We are abiding by the ceasefire, and we expect the same from the Iranian state. We are fighting for our country, our people and the oppressed peoples. We are a defensive army. We are for dialogue and a solution, not for war. However, if there is an attack on our people, we will not let it go unanswered.”

Warning the Iranian regime not to be taken in by Turkey, Şevger said the following about attacks by the regime in the Mariwan region in recent days: “There have been some attacks in Kosalan and the regime troops are trying to establish positions on some hills. But they should not forget: we are the guerrillas and we are everywhere in Kurdistan. The regime thinks that if it occupies a few peaks and points, then the guerrillas cannot stay in that place. This is a mistake. It is a mistake to occupy these summits. The fascist Iranian state should not try to take advantage of the ceasefire in this way. Right now, our friends have to literally force themselves not to attack.”

“Stay away from the guerrilla areas”

Şevger also warned the people against the regime’s psychological warfare, which attempts to damage relations between them and the guerrillas. He called for civil mobilisation against the deployment of regime troops and issued a warning to the regime’s paramilitary troops, Basij militias and local collaborators: “Stay away from the guerrilla areas, stop trying to harm the freedom struggle and do not pursue the guerrillas.”

“Erdal Amed is a symbol of resistance ”

Şiyar Şevger concluded his speech by commemorating the YRK commander Erdal Amed (Hesen Mihemedî), who was martyred by a Turkish drone strike near the village of Gelale on Mount Asos in the Iraq-Iran border area on 4 June. “Before joining PJAK, comrade Erdal was a Kurdish patriot who was imprisoned by the Iranian state. Although he was tortured in the most horrible way, he did not say a word. After his release, he joined PJAK. Comrade Erdal is a symbol of anti-fascist resistance, a symbol of resistance against tyranny and oppression against our people. We vow to keep his memory alive by further strengthening our struggle. The youth of Mariwan should follow in his footsteps, take up his legacy and adopt his weapon.”

Kurdistan Freedom Guerrillas carry out actions in Metina and Xakurkê

ANF | BEHDINAN | 20 JUNE 2023

The HPG Press Center said in a statement: “Our mobile guerrilla teams targeted and struck the invaders in Metina and Xakurkê. The invading Turkish army continues uninterrupted air and ground attacks against Medya Defense Areas.”

The statement detailed the actions taken and the attacks carried out by the invading army as follows:

Metina region

“The invaders in the Girê Hakkarî Resistance Area were targeted and hit with sabotage tactics during the night of 17 June. The number of dead and injured Turkish soldiers could not be clarified. After the action, helicopter mobility was experienced in the area.

Xakurke region

On 18 June, at 12.30pm, the invaders in Girê Martyr Şahan were targeted with heavy weapons and hit.

Attacks carried out by the invading Turkish army

On 16 and 17 June, the area of Serê Metîna in Metîna was bombed twice, Girê Cûdî and Girê Spring in Martyr Delîl West Zap region were bombed 3 times, Sinînê and Ava Lolanê in Xakurkê were bombed 3 times, for a total of 8 times.

On 17 June, the Girê Hakkarî Resistance Area in Metîna was bombed 11 times by combat helicopters.

On 17 and 18 June, the Sîda Resistance Area in Zap, the Girê Cûdî, Girê Amediyê and Girê Bahar Resistance Areas in Martyr Delîl West Zap region, the Golka and Girê Hakkarî Resistance Areas in Metîna were bombed 196 times by howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

The invading Turkish army attacked our positions in the Girê FM Resistance Area in the Martyr Delîl West Zap region on 16 and 17 June and is trying to demolish them with scoops and crushers.”

Guerrillas confiscate wreckage of Turkish combat drone that crashed in Qandil

ANF | QANDIL | 20 JUNE 2023

An armed drone of Bayraktar TB2 type crashed in the Qandil region in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq). According to guerrilla fighters in the region, the Turkish combat drone lost control on the evening of 14 June and hit the ground in the Girê Savaş area. The debris was collected by the guerrillas. One of the drone parts has the inscription T175 on it.

In a video obtained by ANF, a guerrilla fighter can be seen showing the parts of the destroyed drone. The fighter says that there are always drones in the airspace over the region, but now there is one less.

The Bayraktar TB2 drones are produced by Erdoğan's son-in-law Selçuk Bayraktar's company, the Baykar Group, and sold to the Turkish state for a unit price of four million euros. The state-of-the-art weapon was added to the Turkish army's arsenal in 2014. In a propaganda campaign, a drone was "hand-signed" by Erdoğan himself. The drone was the cause of nationalist propaganda, as the regime propagated that it was a weapon of "national production". However, large parts of the allegedly home-made drones come from abroad, especially from Germany.



Masrour Barzani visits Ankara

ANF | ANKARA | 20 JUNE 2023

The Prime Minister of Kurdistan Region, Masrour Barzani, is visiting Ankara to meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

It grabs attention that Barzani's delegation includes no officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Barzani will first meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his Ankara visit.

It is further reported that Barzani will have talks with the Turkish Foreign Minister and former intelligence head, Hakan Fidan, and other Turkish officials during the visit.

No statement has been made concerning the content of the talks. There was no prior announcement of the visit.

The Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani visited Turkey and met his Turkish counterpart, Erdogan, in April 2022.

Although there was no winner in the first round of the presidential election held on May 14, Nechirvan Barzani sent a congratulatory message to Erdogan.



Turkish drone attack in Tirbespiyê kills three, including co-chair of Qamishlo Canton

ANF | 20 JUNE 2023

Turkey bombed the village of Tal Shair (Til Şeîr) ten kilometres northwest of Tirbespiyê in the canton of Qamishlo and simultaneously attacked a car on the road to Beyandor with a drone earlier today. The drone attack killed the co-chair of the self-government in Qamishlo Canton, Yusra Darwish (Yusra Derwêş), her deputy Lîman Şiwêş and the driver, Firat Tûma. Qamishlo Canton Administration Co-chair Gabi Shamoun (Gabî Şemûn) survived the attack with injuries.

In a Twitter [post](#) condemning the attack, the women's association Kongra Star said: "Again, fascist Turkey attacks women who are politically active and at the forefront of democracy and women's liberation in society. This is the misogynist face of Turkey, which tries to intimidate women who are politically active in the Autonomous Administration in North and East Syria."

In the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria, there has been a new military escalation by Turkey for ten days. The Turkish army, supported by its jihadist proxy forces, is attacking residential areas on a daily basis. At least seven civilians and a total of 14 fighters from the HRE, the YPG and the Manbij Military Council have been killed by the latest wave of drone attacks, which also left many injured, including children. On Friday, a hospital in Tel Rifat was shelled and four people were injured, some seriously.



20th round of Syria talks begins in Astana

ANF | 20 JUNE 2023

The 20th round of Syria talks began today in the Kazakh capital Astana. All previous talks in the Astana format have failed to find a solution to the Syria crisis. Participants in the two-day summit are Turkey, Russia and Iran, who are considered the main actors in Syria, as well as representatives of the Syrian government and the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen. Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq are participating as observers.

The two-day talks will discuss changes in the regional situation in Syria and developments on the ground. Creating conditions for the return of Syrian refugees is also on the agenda.

One of the main topics of the summit is to be the normalisation of relations between Damascus and Ankara. Turkey has intensified attacks on the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria in the run-up to this meeting. According to observers, the Turkish state is seeking a new deal with Russia to occupy more territory in Syria. It is assumed that these attacks are being carried out with the consent of all the actors involved and that the aim is to put pressure on the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and force it to make concessions to the government in Damascus.

A consultation meeting between the deputy foreign ministers of Turkey, Russia, Iran and Syria is to discuss a “roadmap for the normalisation of Syrian-Turkish relations” on Wednesday, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov after a first meeting with the delegations: “We are now interested in the normalisation of relations between Damascus and Ankara. This is a very important process. Many problems have piled up over the last twelve years. On 10 May, the foreign ministers met in Moscow. Now we are working on a roadmap for this process.”

The Astana summit comes after Syria was admitted to the Arab League, breaking Damascus’ isolation in the Arab world since the war began. Iran has begun a process of rapprochement with its regional rival Saudi Arabia. Both countries announced the mutual opening of their embassies.

The head of the Syrian delegation in Astana reiterated that normalisation of relations between Syria and Turkey is only possible if Turkey withdraws its troops from Syria. The state news agency SANA quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Ayman Sousan, who heads the Syrian delegation, as saying that Turkey's withdrawal from Syrian territories is the only starting point for normal relations between the two countries. Sousan also stressed that “ensuring border security is a shared responsibility of neighbouring countries”.

The Turkish state occupies a large area along the border in northern Syria. A terror regime has been established in these occupied territories. Even if the Astana summit is more likely to be a technical meeting at which the various actors want to coordinate their positions in the Syria conflict, the meeting of the four states is a success, especially for Russia. For Moscow has not only succeeded in keeping the West out of the negotiations on Syria's future, but also in bringing Turkish and Syrian state representatives back to the table.



Last moments of two fallen guerrillas: “Resistance is life”

ANF | BEHDINAN | 21 JUNE 2023

HPG (People’s Defense Forces) guerrillas Xebat Kop (Yunus Kardağı) and Zana Rojda (Ramazan Güçlü) held their ground for several days in the fight against the Turkish army in Omerya in the Mardin province until they fell as martyrs on 7 September 2022. Xebat Kop grew up in a patriotic family in Muş. Zana Rojda, on the other hand, came from the Haruni tribe in the Silopi district of Şırnak. Xebat Kop and Zana Rojda gained combat experience between 2013/14 and 2022 in the cities and mountains of Kurdistan against ISIS and the Turkish army. They were repeatedly injured, but still managed to escape encirclement

by the occupying forces. Shortly before their deaths, they recorded audio messages that have now been published by Stêrk TV. The messages show the love and determination of the two freedom fighters.

One army against two HPG fighters

The battle with the Turkish army began on 4 September 2022. The two guerrillas attacked the occupation troops in close combat with hand grenades and assault rifles. In the process, they inflicted heavy losses on the Turkish troops and successfully retreated again. On 5 September, the Turkish army launched a full-scale invasion operation in the Omerya region. The two HPG fighters resisted for two days. Six fighter jets and two attack helicopters were used against the two guerrillas, repeatedly attacking the area. However, the two guerrillas were able to hold their position. The Turkish army then advanced against their position with excavators. But the guerrilla fighters struck the excavators and damaged them. Only after two days of non-stop fighting did Xebat Kop and Zana Rojda fall.

“We will fight to the last bullet”

The audio message begins as Xebat Kop turns on the device, and his voice is heard saying, “We will suffocate the enemy here.” Then Zana Rojda takes the floor and says: “I greet you and send you my love. Last night, at 9:20pm, we encountered the enemy in the village of Serê Kaniyê in the Omerya area. The enemy has been conducting search operations in this area for a long time. We are in our fighting positions and are currently engaged with the enemy. We are fighting and resisting.” Xebat Kop raises his voice from the background and shouts, ‘Berxwedan jiyan e’ (Resistance is life). Then Zana Rojda continues, “We are full of passion and our morale is high. If our voice is heard by our friends, let them know that we are in resistance. We will not retreat. We will fight to the last bullet. We love all our comrades. We trust in our party. Those who walked this path before us were also full of confidence and determination. We are happy and we have succeeded. We have taken the path of those who went before us. They have shown us the way with their determination and faith. We will fight to the last bullet. The enemy is now retreating in the face of our resistance and attacking with bombs from the air.

It is now 1.16 pm. The enemy attacked our positions at 12.50 pm. We will hold out and fight to the last bullet. We have burnt all our organisational documents and our belongings so that they will not fall into the hands of the enemy if we fall. We have planned it this way and we will fight the enemy to the end. If we have the opportunity, we will break out. But if we do not have the opportunity, we will not give the enemy the pleasure of capturing us.

The enemy now calls on us to surrender. We respond to these calls with grenades. We meet the enemy in the necessary way. The enemy advances against us with bullets and bombs. A fierce battle is raging between us and the enemy. We will fight resolutely to the end and confront the enemy with resistance. We may fall here, but we firmly believe that our party will win. It will never be defeated. We give our self-criticism to Rêber Apo, all companions and our people.” After Zana Rojda’s words, both can be heard shouting the slogan ‘Bijî Serok Apo’ (Long Live Leader Öcalan).

“This is the path of dignity and honour”

Xebat Kop speaks afterwards, saying: “We have been part of the PKK for a long time. Since the day we joined, we have participated in all the work with great joy and enthusiasm. We could not do justice to our

fallen comrades. If we had not had any shortcomings, the enemy would not have been able to occupy Kurdistan in this way and ask the Kurdish guerrillas to surrender. We are very saddened by this. We do not accept this situation. We will resist and fight until the last minute, until the last second. If we have to fall, we will fall like Zilan, like Mazlum, like Kemal. Our way is their way. We will not deviate from that way.”

Xebat Kop can be heard saying to his comrade in a calm voice: “Zana, the enemy is here, fire a few shots.” The noise of battle can be heard in the background. Xebat Kop continues, “Once again, I wish success to all companions. We now hand over to you the promise we made to the martyrs. This is the path of dignity and honour. No one should deviate from this path. We know that such losses as we are experiencing with you now hurt you deeply. But know that no matter what happens, we trust you, we believe in our organisation, and I believe that we will meet again even if we fall.

“The flag of the PKK will always fly”

Once again, I send my greetings and love to the companions in the guerrilla and all the comrades. We have discussed gender liberation in life with many friends. This is the reality of ‘Jin, Jiyan, Azadî’ (Woman, Life, Freedom). We are aware of it, and we are convinced that everyone else will be aware of it too. In this sense, we send our greetings to Rêber Apo (Leader Abdullah Öcalan), our comrades and the leadership of our party. The flag of the PKK will always fly; it will never be downed. The PKK’s resistance will always be at the highest level, and we, as militants of this organisation, will always resist, fight and try to keep this flag flying high.” Martyr Xebat’s last words were: “Long live Serok Apo, the martyrs are immortal!”



33 political parties and organizations in North-East Syria protest Turkish attacks, call for action

ANF | 21 JUNE 2023

33 political parties and organizations in North and East Syria made a statement to protest the invasion attacks by the Turkish state. A member of the Syrian Democratic and Modern Party read out the statement during the protest in front of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the Siyahi neighborhood.

The statement noted that the Turkish attacks against North and East Syria have not stopped since the occupation of Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî in October 2019. It said that all kinds of weapons were used in the attacks, while targeted strikes by armed drones were mainly directed against children, citizens and administrators. Institutions of service and economy were also bombed.

The statement paid tribute to the co-chair of the self-government in Qamishlo Canton, Yusra Darwish (Yusra Derwêş), her deputy Lîman Şiwêş and driver Firat Tûma, who were killed by a drone attack near the village of Tal Shair on June 20.

Offering condolences to the families of the martyrs, the statement said: “We condemn this racist attack which was directed against the children of this country doing their work. The Turkish state cannot destroy our political will with these crimes. We will continue the democratic change in Syria in line with the national political stance that will ensure stability, justice and democracy.”

The statement added that the aim of the inhumane crimes was to shatter the unity of Syrian territory, to destroy its sovereignty and to eliminate national initiatives that promote a political solution.

The parties underlined that the drone attack on Tuesday came as the 20th round of Syria talks began in Astana: “We warned that a reconciliation between Damascus and Ankara, which is far from offering a political-national solution, would help Turkey to continue committing crimes against the Syrian people, especially against North and East Syria.”

The parties urged all political forces to fulfil their responsibilities towards the Syrian people. It called for unity against the violations and crimes of the invading Turkish state. Furthermore, the US-led International Coalition and Russia were requested to fulfil their responsibilities.

The parties and organizations that endorsed the statement are as follows:

“Partiya Yekitiya Demokratîk, Partiya Kesk a Demokratîk, Partiya Aştiyê ya Demokratîk a Kurdistanê, Yekitiya Lîberal a Kurdistanê, Partiya Komunîst a Kurdistanê, Partiya Demokrat a Kurdistanê-Sûriyê, Partiya Demokratîk a Kurdî li Sûriyê, Partiya Çep a Kurd li Sûriyê, Partiya Çep a Demokratîk a Kurd li Sûriyê, Partiya Kombûna Niştimanî ya Kurdistanî, Tevgera Guhertinê ya Demokratîk a Kurdistanê, Tevgera Nûjen a Kurdistanê, Yekitiya Karkeran a Kurdistanê, Desteya Niştimanî ya Erebî, Partiya Nûjen û Demokratîk bo Sûriyê, Partiya Komarparêz a Kurdistanê, Partiya Rêkeftin a Demokrat a Kurdî ya Sûrî, Tevgera Çaksazî ya Kurdî-Sûriye, Partiya Asûrî ya Demokratîk, Partiya Biratî ya Kurdistanê, Partiya Roj a Demokrat a Kurd li Sûriyê, Yekitiya Niştimanî ya Azad-Rojava, Tevgera Civaka Demokratîk, Kongra Star, Partiya Muhafazkaran a Demokratîk, Partiya Têkoşîna Demokart, Partiya Demokrat a Kurdistanê-Rojavayê Kurdistanê, Desteya Koordîneyê ya Niştimanî (Tevgera Guhertinê ya Demokartîk), Partiya Yekitiya Suryan, Partiya Sûriya Pêşerojê, Paritya Demokratî ya kurdî li Sûriyê (Partî), Partiya Yekitiya Demokrata Kurd li Sûriyê (P.Y.D.K.S).”



TEV-DEM calls for enhanced resistance against Turkish attacks

ANF | 21 JUNE 2023

The Democratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM) made a written statement in protest at the Turkish drone attack that killed the co-chair of the self-government in Qamishlo Canton, Yusra Darwish (Yusra Derwêş), her deputy Leman Şiwêş and driver Firat Tûma near the village of Tal Shair on June 20. Qamishlo Canton Administration Co-chair Gabi Shamoun (Gabi Şemûn) survived the attack with injuries.

The statement pointed out the silence in the face of attacks and Russia's claims concerning the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), which, it said, paved the way for further massacres by the Turkish state.

The statement emphasized that the Turkish state and some parties that support the occupation were planning to increase their attacks against the Democratic Autonomous Administration with the ultimate goal of a full-scale war across the region. It underlined that the Turkish state resorted to constant provocations and attacks to destabilize the region and to realize its policy of genocide against the peoples in the region.

‘Russia’s claims set the ground for attacks’

The TEV-DEM statement continued: “Armed drones, warplanes and uninterrupted bombings against local people, the uncertainty of the states’ stance on the situation and ceasefire in Syria demonstrate the fact that their resources, decisions and positions are common. The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister's remarks (which labeled AANES as a separatist project) during the 20th Astana meeting against the Autonomous Administration point to a dangerous policy which sets the ground for the invading Turkish state to carry out further massacres against our people and their will.

The actual purpose of Tuesday’s massacre in Tal Shair is to weaken the effective role of the Democratic Autonomous Administration, to break the will of the united society, as well as to defame the values and foundations of the democratic system.

Call for the protection of values and achievements

We offer our condolences to the families of martyrs Yusra Derwêş, Leman Şiwêş and Firat Tûma and all the peoples of the region, and wish our friend Gabî who was injured in the attack a quick recovery. We will be the followers of their philosophy by preserving the values of our fallen friends.

Defining the current situation as very delicate, TEV-DEM called for the protection of the values and achievements generated by years of resistance.



KNK will organize Kurdish National Conference in Lausanne in July

ANF | 22 JUNE 2023

On 24 July, at least 600 members from 175 political parties, non-governmental organizations, intellectuals and writers will participate in the “Great Conference of Kurdistan” organized by the National Congress of Kurdistan (Kongreya Neteweyî ya Kurdistanê - KNK) on the occasion of the centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne.

Regarding the major Kurdish conference in July 2023, KNK co-chair Ahmed Karamus said the Kurds have no choice but to unite.

On 24 July 1923, in Lausanne, Turkey, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Greece, Romania and Yugoslavia signed the Treaty of Lausanne.

A century later, the “Great Conference of Kurdistan” will be held under the leadership of the KNK.

The final declaration of the conference, which will determine a roadmap for the fight against the concept of annihilation and denial of the Kurds, will be shared with the public.

The KNK co-chair Ahmed Karamus assessed the Treaty of Lausanne, the importance of the conference, and the Kurdish struggle against the concept of annihilation and denial in the new century.

Karamus said that meetings have taken place with all segments of Kurdish society and that these meetings have been positive. “All parties and organizations in the federated region of Kurdistan, except the KDP, have shown a positive attitude. They said they would attend the conference. We have not met with ENKS [Kurdish National Council of Syria] in Rojava, but we will send them an invitation to attend the conference. If there are any interview requests, we will try to meet them. We also had meetings with the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDK-I). We had meetings with political parties in Iran and they said they would attend the conference.”

Karamus said that the Treaty of Lausanne was signed against the will of the Kurds. He added that “all the Kurdish organizations took a stand against it and promised to attend the conference. We consider this attitude as significant and important. We will share our position with the international community, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the United Arab States and all the countries of the world that we can reach. The Kurdish people have not accepted and will not accept this treaty. The Kurdish people showed their position against the treaty by resisting to it. The Kurdish people want their existence, their identity, their cultural, artistic and national rights. A new agreement or a new solution can only be found if the Kurdish national democratic will, language and rights of the Kurdish people are accepted. We will form a competent delegation in this field as part of the final declaration that we will present at the end of the conference, and this delegation will continue its work in the field of diplomacy. This delegation will represent the people of Kurdistan.”



YRK reports constant Iranian attacks against guerrilla areas

ANF | 22 JUNE 2023

The Defense Units of Eastern Kurdistan (YRK) Press Office released a statement providing information about ongoing Iranian military action against their forces.

According to the statement on Thursday, the operation launched by the Iranian regime forces on June 12 in the region of Kosalan is continuing. Hundreds of troops are taking part in the operation accompanied by unmanned aerial vehicles, military vehicles and heavy construction equipment.

YRK stated that the Iranian forces are constantly bombing their areas, as a result of which a fire broke out, and access to the operation zone is still prohibited, causing concerns among the population and negatively affecting their lives.

At the same time, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (Sipayê Pasdaran) shelled the villages of Chor and Nene on June 13, and the areas of Serdosh and Nêy Berderesh on June 21. The bombardment started a fire on the ground, which local people tried to extinguish by their own means but were prevented by Iranian forces. The fire left a large forestland burned to the ground, YRK said.

In an [interview](#) with ANF on June 19, Şiyar Şevger, one of the commanders of the YRK, stated that attacks against the Kurdish people in all four parts of Kurdistan continued uninterruptedly and behind it was an agreement between Iran, Turkey and Iraq to disarm the Kurdish freedom movements.

“There is an agreement according to which the Iranian intelligence service passes on the information it receives about PJAK to the Turkish state and the Turkish army carries out attacks on the basis of this information. Every day, reconnaissance planes circle over our areas, the collected information is passed on to the Turkish state by the KDP and Iran, and then attacks on us take place on this basis. However, the Turkish and Iranian states have not been able to achieve any results in these attacks so far and have failed against our Apoist movement,” Şevger said.

— ★ —

Femincide

HPG announces the death of four YJA Star press workers

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

The Press Office of the HPG (People’s Defense Forces) announced the martyrdom of Leyla Turgut (Koçerîn Rojîn), Dilsoz Habîb (Axîn Amûdê), Songül Tarıncı (Roza Rênas Amed) and Berîvan Mustafa (Avrîn Mahsum) in Turkish attacks on the Medya Defence Zones in September last year. The four female guerrilla fighters were employees of the YJA Star (Free Women’s Troops) and HPG Press Centre.

In a detailed obituary, HPG Press Office defined the fallen guerrillas as the “Voice of the Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla” and expressed their condolences to their families and the Kurdish people.

— ★ —

Four women dead in three days

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

Receiving no news from Dudu Yılmaz and her husband, R.Y., who had settled in a hostel house in İzmir Urla district 3 days ago, police teams went to check on the them and found Dudu Yılmaz dead. Her husband, R.Y., was not at the hostel.

Yılmaz's body was taken to the morgue of İzmir Forensic Medicine Institute after the investigation by the prosecutor. An investigation into the incident has been launched.

Man killed wife in Antep

In a separate incident in Antep (Dilok), a woman was murdered by her husband, whom she wanted to divorce.

Bilge Köse, 25, and her father, Ertuğrul Kaya, 47, were murdered by Mertcan Köse (25), who was in the process of divorcing Bilge, in Antep. Father and daughter were killed inside their car. The killer fled after the attack.

Suspicious death in Hakkari

In Hakkari (Colemêrg), 23-year-old A.K.Y. died under suspicious circumstances in her house on 15 June.

The neighbours, who had not heard from the woman for a while, informed the police, who went to the house with medical teams and found the woman unconscious.

After the first intervention, A.K.Y. was transferred to the Van Regional Training and Research Hospital, but died on the way.

Hakkari Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation over the death. It was reported that the husband of the woman was a sergeant. It was not known whether the sergeant was taken into custody.

Suspicious death in Urfa

Ayşegül Irmak (20), who lives in Birecik (Bêrecûk), in the province of Urfa (Riha), lost her life suspiciously in her home. It was claimed that Irmak was driven to suicide. An investigation was launched into the incident. The woman's body was sent to the Urfa Forensic Medicine Institute.

Femicides on the increase

In its latest report, the Center for Socio-Political Field Studies said that violence against women has escalated, and that between 1 March and 31 May, at least 94 women were murdered and 84 women died under suspicious circumstances.



Two women killed in Antalya

ANF | ANTALYA | 18 JUNE 2023

Sinem Albeni was murdered by her husband, Ufuk Albeni, in Antalya. The woman died on her way to the hospital.

Albeni's body was taken to the morgue of Antalya Forensic Medicine Institute for autopsy. Ufuk Albeni was taken into custody.

Body of Maya K. found

Citizens who realized that there was a body in empty land in the Gebizli neighborhood of Muratpaşa in Antalya called the 112 Emergency Call Center. Police and paramedics were sent to the area. The teams established that the body belonged to a woman named Maya K.

The body was taken to the morgue of Antalya Forensic Medicine Institute to determine the cause of death after a preliminary investigation was carried out at the scene.



'Jin, Jiyad, Azadi' lands at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2023

ANF | VENICE | 19 JUNE 2023

At the Biennale Sessions, a special project for the Venice Biennale in Italy dedicated to universities, academies and institutes of higher education, was held in Parco Aperto with "Ecologia (A)sociale", an exhibition curated by Escuela Moderna Ateneo Libertario, Fuoriposto Mestre and Marche Arte Viva.

It featured an intense programme of installations, videos and performances organised in five interconnected thematic islands by numerous artists including Mauro Cuppone, Zhenru Liang, Sue Kim, Gabriela Du Bois and Zhouyun Yang, Alain Urrutia and Massimo Mazzone, Arianna Ferreri, Nicoletta Braga, Antonella Conte, David Liver and Aliah Rosenthal, Vincenzo Astuto, Gino d'Ugo, Elisa Franzoi, Francesco Proto and Stefania Ballone.

An archipelago of people, therefore, who collectively reflected on the ideas of performativity and construction of public space, understood it as a place for the development of a plural political discourse based on practices of libertarian pedagogy.

The artistic presences also include BrauRaum Brera, Emmanuele Lo Giudice, G. Olmo Stuppia and Arianna Marcolin, Eleonora Gugliotta, Nicole Colombo, George Byron Davos, Elisa Franzoi, Norma Santi, Matteo G. Lo Moro, Alessandra Sorrentino, Rotolux and GGG, Marina Marques, Enrico Boccioletti, Luca Vitone, Sunna Svavarsdottir, and the collective performance by Nuvola Ravera in collaboration with architect Giuseppe Ricupero.

The individual islands generated an expanded workshop practice of social sculpture and social ecology, through a collective choreography of time and site-specific interventions, such as performances, installations, educational initiatives, olfactory exhibitions, video and music reviews.

Curated by Matteo Binci's video review with the works of Domenico Mennillo, Pedro G. Romero, Santiago Sierra, Laura Pinta Cazzaniga, Guihan Ren followed by the presentation by Fabio Santin and Rino De Michele of the magazine *ApARTe° materiali irregolari di cultura libertaria*, a publishing reality engaged in literature, figurative arts, music and performance that gives voice to the relations between art and anarchy.

The artist Eleonora Gugliotta in her performance installation *Donna Vita Libertà* paid homage to Jina Mahsa Amini, a Kurdish woman who died in September 2022 as a result of torture by the moral police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a religious police created to observe 'dress codes'. The expansion of their patrols, which targeted women, caused society in Rojhilat (eastern Kurdistan), the main settlement areas of Kurds in Iran, located in western Iran according to today's nation-state borders and the epicentre of significant nationwide protests.

Jina had been stopped while travelling with her brother to Tehran because her hair was visible under her hijab. Taken to the police station, she had been beaten with massive blows to the head confirmed by CT scans from the clinic where she had been left when she was already in a coma.

Jina was buried in Seqiz, the starting point of popular uprisings in Iran that spread to other cities in eastern Kurdistan such as Ûrmiye (Urmia), Serdeşt (Sardasht) and Sine (Sanandaj). Young women dominated these uprisings from the beginning and, led by women, Kurds, Persians, Arabs, Azeris and Baluchis fought side by side against the repressive regime in Tehran.

The two slogans resounded in the streets of almost every Iranian city were 'Jin, Jîyan, Azadî' (Woman, Life, Freedom) and 'Bimre dîktator' (Death to the dictator).

In recent years, there have been repeated protests in Iran. But the size and spread of the latest uprisings seem much larger, and for the first time, the Newroz 2023 fire in Rojhilat (eastern Kurdistan) was lit from Jina's grave.

The performance *Donna Vita Libertà* by Elena Gugliotta, Jin, Jîyan, Azadî in Kurdish, was replicated at the Venice Biennale together with the contribution of the public and the hair collected during the awareness-raising initiatives on the issue promoted by the artist in April/May 2023 at the Liceo Artistico Enrico De Nicola in Sesto San Giovanni and at the Liceo Artistico Caravaggio in Milan.

In May 2023, Eleonora Gugliotta presented her project 'Spoils, Iran' at the Sozzani Foundation in Milan, which was initiated after the start of the protest. It is the result of a performance at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, as part of the 'Quaderni di Scultura' project curated by Donata Lazzarini, Cristina Camino, Ce-

cialia Guida, Roberto Galeotti and Massimo Mazzone. Together with former students and pupils of Brera, who donated a lock of their own hair to make the map of Iran, using the same technique with which other places in this land of ours were made in my series entitled “Spoglie”, linked to the performance cycle “Rito funebre alla Terra” (Funeral Rite to the Earth).

The intense and participative programme of the two days of Social Ecology (A) at the Biennial concluded with sound interventions by Marco Rovelli and Paola Brolati’s German Kabarett, realised by Carlotta Ballarin, linked to theatrical practices, artistic experimentation and architecture of the 20th century avant-garde.



Author Sayîme Xakpur: Kurdish literature is one of the richest in the world

ANF | 19 JUNE 2023

Born in the city of Urmia in Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan), Sayime Xakpûr writes, translates and studies the Kurdish language and literature. Xakpûr has translated and published many Kurdish books into Persian, which focus on the voice of Kurdish society, its history and the situation in the Middle East from the last century to the present, as well as the resistance of Kobanê. The Kurdish author also writes short stories and has recently published a detailed study on the life of an East Kurdish female singer named “Iran Hanım”.

In an interview with ANF, Xakpur said that the Kurdish literature was one of the richest literatures in the world. She remarked that most of the authors in the world consider themselves responsible for keeping the language, literature and culture of their people alive, adding that authors carry the burden of their societies.

Rojhilat is an inseparable part of Kurdistan

Xakpûr pointed out that Rojhilat was an inseparable part of Kurdistan as the cradle of Kurdish culture, art and literature. She continued: “Linguistic, cultural, artistic and literary studies are conducted in interaction with each other from Hewramî, Kelhurî, Lekî, to Makû, Selmas, Kalaxwe Îlam, Kirmanshah, Urmia and Khorasan. As a person from Kurdistan, I see a very bright future for the Kurdish culture, language and literature. In the contemporary world, interest in literature, culture and art has also increased as human communication has expanded, especially through social networks and the media. There has been great awareness within society.”

Resistance against assimilation

Xakpûr concluded: “The Kurdish literature has been under isolation for years and most of the Kurds are unaware of such a literary treasure. There are studies against assimilation policies and there is a strong resistance against assimilation.”



New investigation against Emine Şenyaşar

ANF | URFA | 20 JUNE 2023

Emine Şenyaşar, Human Rights Association (IHD) Urfa (Riha) branch co-chair Mustafa Vefa, Lawyers' Association for Freedom (IHD) Urfa branch co-chairs Meral Halat, Ibrahim Halil Öyke and Emine Çetiner were summoned to testify on the grounds that they “opposed the law numbered 2911”.

The accusation refers to the press statement they made in front of Urfa courthouse on the 800th day (31 May 2023) of the Justice Vigil carried out by Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit.

For similar reasons, 32 investigations have been opened against Emine Şenyaşar since 9 March 2021, when the Justice Vigil started, and 10 of them turned into lawsuits.

Emine Şenyaşar will appear before the judge at the Urfa 3rd Criminal Court of First Instance today, Tuesday, on the grounds that she insulted AKP's İbrahim Halil Yıldız.

Background

On 14 June 2018, the bodyguards and relatives of AKP Urfa MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız attacked the Şenyaşar family's shop in Suruç during the election campaign. In the attack, brothers Celal, Adil, Mehmet, Fadıl and Ferit Şenyaşar were severely injured and hospitalized. Relatives and supporters of AKP MP Yıldız killed Celal and Adil Şenyaşar in hospital, and their father Hacı Esvet Şenyaşar, when he went to the hospital to see his sons. He was brutally murdered, being lynched in front of his wife, Emine Şenyaşar.

Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit have been holding a Justice Vigil in front of the Courthouse of Urfa since 9 March 2021, demanding those responsible to be brought to account.



Yusra Darwish, a life dedicated to building the democratic nation

ANF | 21 JUNE 2023

The Democratic Autonomous Administration of Al-Jazira Region released a statement on the killing of Qamishlo Canton Council co-chair Yusra Darwis, her deputy Leman Shweish and their driver Fırat Tuma in an attack carried out by the Turkish state on the Qamishlo-Tirbespiyê road on Tuesday.

The attack took place at the same time as the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) announced that it would start prosecuting ISIS gangs.

Yusra Darwish

Yusra Mihemed Darwish was born in 1972 in Amudê in the Qamishlo canton. She graduated from a French language university in 2001.

After the 19 July 2012 Rojava Revolution, she stopped studying in the Baath system and joined the revolution. She first worked as a teacher of Kurdish. Later, she became the school principal at Betûl High School in Amudê. She was also one of the founders of the School Management Institutions in Amudê and was later elected as the co-chair of the Amudê Education Committee.

After working for a long time in the field of education, she was elected co-chair of the Qamishlo Canton Council on 1 November 2022.

Darwish led the actions to condemn the isolation against Leader Abdullah Öcalan and played an active role in the women's liberation struggle across Kurdistan.

Darwish worked for general social change and the organization of social and political activities in the canton, the organization of communities since the beginning of the revolution.

She played an important role in collecting aid for the 6 February earthquake victims in North Kurdistan, Turkey and Syria. She held meetings with many sections of society and local tribes to help earthquake victims.



Kongra Star condemns killings of Darwish, Shweish and Tûma

ANF | 21 JUNE 2023

Qamishlo canton co-chair Yusra Darwish, her deputy Leman Şhweishş and their driver Fırat Tûma were killed on Tuesday in the attack carried out by a Turkish state drone that hit the vehicle in which they were traveling on the Tırbespiyê-Qamishlo road. Canton co-chair Gabi Şemun was also injured in the same attack.

North and East Syria Kongra Star Coordination issued a statement condemning the attack.

The statement said: "The invading Turkish state's attacks against Northern and Eastern Syria continue. The Turkish state's hostility towards the people of the region does not cease. It targets civilians in its attacks."

The statement continued: “We all know that the Turkish state is committing crimes against humanity and is anti-democratic and misogynistic. This fascist state has no tolerance for a democratic order led by women. The invading Turkish state prefers dark forces like ISIS instead of the democratic system.”

The statement underlined that Tuesday’s attack “coincided with the meeting in Astana. This attack was the result of cooperation between the Turkish state and Russia. Increasing attacks after the elections is Erdoğan’s policy. Unfortunately, even though these attacks are being carried out in front of the whole world, the UN, the European Union, the International Coalition, the human rights institutions remain silent. The people of the region, who have defended themselves against the oppression and persecution of ISIS for years, will also defend themselves against the attacks of the Turkish invasion.”

Kongra Star expressed its “condolences to the family and relatives of the three martyrs, and wish our injured friend a speedy recovery.

We emphasize once again that the attacks carried out by the fascist and invading Turkish state are mostly directed at women.

Our comrades Leman and Yusra Derweş have served their country and society at the leadership and management levels for many years. They were always trying to help women reach their free identities and stand on their own feet. These friends have made great efforts in social, educational and academic fields and have left their mark with their work.

We strongly condemn this brutal attack and we call on all women and society to stand up for the martyrs and the values of the revolution.”

— ★ —

Uçar: We started the rebuilding, we will fight fascism with determination

ANF | ANKARA | 21 JUNE 2023

The Green Left Party held its first parliamentary group meeting in Ankara. YSP co-speaker Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar gave a speech assessing current issues and commenting on the May presidential and parliamentary elections. She said: “One of the most important indicators of the election results is that the crises and problems we are experiencing are not over, but, on the contrary, continue to increase. There is a complex political crisis. More than half of the citizens living in this country do not agree with the despotic system that has been imposed on us by the ‘Presidential System of Government’. The election debates are not over yet. Nobody should think that we have given up the fight for peace, jobs, ecology and women. The election results made it clear to us that our struggle is justified and must continue to grow. Regardless of the election results, no government can survive without making the connection between the unresolved Kurdish question and all the social and structural problems we are experiencing. So we appeal to common sense: you must see this future and position yourself accordingly.”

Nevertheless, the election results are “a serious reason for criticism and self-criticism,” Uçar said, adding: “It is clear that we need a new political structure and a new organizational language. In this sense, criticism is our greatest strength and self-criticism is the mechanism that will rebuild us and help us move forward. We are aware of this responsibility.”

“The main problem is fascism”

Uçar said that after discussions within the party committees and with allies, a discussion with the local base is now to take place, the results of which will be incorporated into the upcoming party congress. “The main problem is fascism itself. For us, the main issue is the means and methods with which we will fight this fascism. Our heritage has a very valuable place in this struggle. We will continue our work without getting stuck in representative and bourgeois politics, without falling into a populism that depoliticizes politics, and above all with an understanding and a line that will expand our social alliances. We will show everyone how democratic politics is done in Turkey. We pledge to create stronger and more authentic connections to all the struggles and dynamics of this society, from women to young people, from working people to the oppressed, from the disabled to the poor and to the ecology movement. The struggle is not only in Parliament, but also in the streets. The coming time will be hard for all of us. We have promised to rally the social opposition, rebuild it and assume all objections in the furthest corners of the country as our own objections. In line with these promises, together we will fight the strongest democratic struggle in Turkey. Because we are the strongest and only address against fascism. Because we are the only party defending coexistence against racism and hatred. That is our hallmark and, of course, the main reason for the attacks we are witnessing today.”

“We are the antidote to male domination”

The decisive factor in this context is the struggle of women, Uçar said, adding: “For us, the struggle of women is not only carried out in parliament. Women’s struggle is also in the streets. The more the street struggle is reflected here, the more real Parliament will come to life. There is an antidote to male dominance in Turkish politics: the system of equal representation and co-chairmanship. Many of our friends who defended and breathed life into this system are in prison today. Despite being in prison, they continue and develop their struggle from there.”

Uçar pointed out that the centre of the AKP’s election campaign was anti-Kurdish and misogynist discourse and added: “Women’s struggle was one of the areas in which the government intervened the most during the electoral campaign. Both the anti-Kurdish alliance and the alliance with the enemies of women were the main themes of the electoral campaign. We have stated that women’s struggle cannot be measured by election results. The struggle of women shows very serious data and dynamics on how to build women’s equality and freedom as well as democratic politics and unity in society. We are aware that the government is trying to usurp all of our achievements. We know that this government sees women’s struggle as the greatest threat to itself. It will continue to do so, because women’s struggle will further minimize their existence and take society’s values to the highest level.”

IHD Chair Keskin: The Minister of Interior does not respond to our request

ZEYNEP KURAY | ISTANBUL | 21 JUNE 2023

In 1995, women in Istanbul took to the streets for the first time to draw attention to relatives who had been arrested and then disappeared. Since a large-scale attack on the Saturday Mothers ordered by the Ministry of Interior in the summer five years ago, Galatasaray Square has been a no-go zone for the Saturday Mothers. But this is contrary to the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration, ruled the Turkish Constitutional Court on 22 February 2023, rejecting the ministry's objection that the Saturday Mothers threatened the "protection of public order". "Everyone has the right to take part in unarmed and peaceful assemblies and demonstrations without prior permission," says Article 34 of the Turkish Constitution, which the security authorities violated by banning the Saturday Mothers' forcefully dispersed action in August 2018 and all subsequent ones. The blockade of the square is therefore invalid, said the court ruling. The Turkish Interior Ministry and the Istanbul police ignore the ruling and continue to violently crack down on Saturday Mothers.

For the past 10 weeks, the Saturday Mothers have been prevented by the police citing the decision of the Beyoğlu District Governor's Office as the reason for the ban and mass detention of human rights defenders during the action every Saturday.

Human Rights Association (IHD) Chair Eren Keskin, who is among those subjected to brutal police violence every Saturday, spoke to ANF about the systematic maltreatment of the Saturday Mothers.

'There is no rule of law in Turkey'

Keskin noted that the Saturday Mothers had been fighting since 1995 to reveal the fate of their disappeared relatives and to ensure the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators and have been denied the legitimate right to demonstrate since 2018.

Commenting on the Constitutional Court ruling, Keskin said: "In a country where there is a rule of law, there can be no ruling beyond the supreme court. Turkey, however, is not a state of law and the government's bans are always considered above the law and court rulings. We go to Galatasaray Square every week and remind of the decision of the Constitutional Court. Still, they ban our action citing the Beyoğlu District Governor's decision."

'No appointment is given'

Keskin underlined that the ban was in fact issued by the Ministry of Interior, adding: "We requested an appointment from the newly appointed Minister of Interior to talk about the bans and the maltreatment of Saturday Mothers. However, even though 10 days have passed, the same obstacles continue and no appointment has been given."

‘We can’t meet our basic needs under detention’

Pointing to the mass detention of activists during every week of action by Saturday Mothers,

Keskin continued: “We go to Galatasary Square by our own will. There can be no question of violence in actions organized by the IHD anyway. We defend our activities and act with this awareness even when we are detained. Despite this fact, we have been handcuffed behind the back and taken into custody several times. We are kept in a police bus for hours without even being able to meet our basic needs. All these acts are violations of rights and practices of ill-treatment. Even torture. For example, the last time I was detained, I was subjected to violence in a police bus. These are all forms of maltreatment.”

‘We will never give up on Galatasaray Square’

Keskin underlined that the maltreatment they faced every week was intimidation. She concluded: “How can a protest that has been going on since 1995 without any problem be considered a ‘threat’ now? It is not possible to understand or accept this. We will not accept this, and we will never give up on Galatasaray Square.”

— ★ —

South Kurdish women gather in Sulaymaniyah to protest Turkish state’s attacks

ANF | SULAYMANIYAH | 22 JUNE 2023

Women from South Kurdistan came together in Azadi Park in Sulaymaniyah to protest the murder of Qamishlo Canton co-chair Yusra Darwish, her deputy Leman Shiwêsh and driver Firat Tuma by a Turkish state’s drone attacks on Northern and Eastern Syria on Tuesday.

The women unfurled a banner with the photos of the women martyrs.

Following a minute’s silence, the women said in a statement: “Rojava’s civil administrators and workers are being targeted while working for their people. We express our condolences to all freedom and peace-loving women, families of martyrs and all people of Kurdistan. Every attack against women harms the Kurdish people’s liberation efforts.”

The women spoke of Leman Shiwesh, who had previously worked in South Kurdistan, with great affection. “Our friend Leman had a role in the fight against ISIS. She played a decisive role in starting the Rojava Revolution and establishing the Autonomous Administration.”

The statement added: “The enemies of freedom should know that Kurdish women no longer accept losses. We are ready to sacrifice our lives for victory. We promise to increase the struggle to make the dreams of our martyrs for the freedom of our people come true and to continue the struggle for women’s freedom.”



Human Rights Violations

Six people taken into custody in Beytüşşebap sent to prison

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 16 JUNE 2023

Ten people were taken into custody following house raids carried out on 12 June in Beytüşşebap (Elkê), in the province of Şirnak. They were brought to the courthouse on Thursday after giving their statements at the police station. Emre Yacan, Nasrettin Aşan, Yusuf Bor and Mehmet Cin, whose statements were taken at the prosecutor's office, were released on condition of judicial control.

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Beytüşşebap Province co-chair Zarife Borak, Lokman Abi, Davut Abi, Sait Acar, Devrim Abi and Cemal Bor were referred to the Criminal Judgeship of Peace with a request for arrest and were sent to prison.



Former HDP Dersim Provincial co-chair taken into custody

ANF | DERSİM | 16 JUNE 2023

Police raided the house of Hıdır Çiçek, former Provincial co-chair of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in Dersim this morning.

Çiçek was taken into custody after a search of his house. He was taken to the Provincial Security Directorate.



Kadıköy District Governor's Office in Istanbul bans LGBTI+ "Tea&Talk" events

ANF | İSTANBUL | 16 JUNE 2023

The Kadıköy District Governor's Office in Istanbul has banned the "Tea&Talk" events organized by Lambdaistanbul LGBTI+ Solidarity Association.

The “Tea&Talk” events have been held by the association for English-speaking people in various cafes in Istanbul for years. The ban was officially communicated to the café where the event was planned to take place.

The association said on its Instagram account: “The Kadıköy District Governor’s Office has forbidden us from having tea! This time, our long-running tea&talk event has been banned. However, those who believe they can hinder us with these absurd prohibitions are mistaken. At Lambdaistanbul, we are adapting to the circumstances and coming together virtually to have tea and chat. You can send us a direct message to participate in this so-called dangerous event.”

Since the start of Pride Month, the authorities have banned several events across the country.



HDP: Security service vehicles kill Kurdish children

ANF | 16 JUNE 2023

Feleknas Uca and Hişyar Özsoy, HDP’s Co-spokespersons for Foreign Affairs, released a statement highlighting the critical situation caused by incidents of death or injury resulting from actions of the security forces.

Remarking that deaths of Kurdish children are a result of a systematic policy of impunity for Turkish security forces, HDP warned that there will be many more similar “accidents” in the future if the perpetrators are not brought to justice.

The statement released by Feleknas Uca and Hişyar Özsoy on Friday includes the following:

“Civilians, including children, continue to die due to state security policies regarding the Kurdish “question” in Turkey. Children living under militarized conditions in Kurdish cities are killed by bullets and bombs, and also by security vehicles. The most recent Kurdish child to die as a result of being hit by a vehicle was 5-year-old Erdem Aşkan.

On 7 June, a police sergeant hit and killed Erdem Aşkan with his car in Yüksekova district of Hakkari province. The Yüksekova Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation into the incident, leading to the detention of the sergeant, who was soon released on the condition of judicial control.

According to a report released by the Human Rights Association’s (IHD) Diyarbakır Branch, as of 7 June, 82 crashes involving armoured military or police vehicles or vehicles under the control of law enforcement officers have taken place in Kurdish cities in the last 15 years, resulting in 44 citizens, including 21 children, losing their lives, and a further 94 citizens, including 23 children, suffering injuries. The report made the following demands:

- Removal of armoured vehicles that have been scientifically determined to be unsuitable for use in civilian areas.

- Deterrent measures against violations by law enforcement officers working in the region as a result of careless driving that endangers citizens' right to life,
- Effective judicial and administrative investigations against law enforcement officers who are perpetrators of acts that lead to death and injury due to the policy of impunity.

According to another report published by Diyarbakir Bar Association in 2022, 49 children were run over by armoured vehicles between 2011 and 2021, of whom 22 died while the rest were injured. All these “accidents” took place in Kurdish provinces except for one, which occurred in the western Marmara region. The Bar Association report recommended that “Armoured vehicles should be banned from entering city centres, or their use should be minimised, and it should be ensured that they abide by the speed limits if a complete ban is not possible”.

In January 2022, the Memory Centre published an e-book entitled *They Would Have Been Our Friends Had They Not Been Killed: Violations of the Right to Life for Children in the Kurdish Provinces*. This e-book contains data on violations of the right to life of children between 2000-2020, compiled from the annual and monthly reports of the Human Rights Association, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), Mazlum-Der and Gündem Children's Association. According to this database, between 2000 and 2020, 385 children were killed and 850 were injured by law enforcement officers due to armed conflict in the Kurdish provinces.

Alongside the recent killing of five-year-old Erdem Aşkan, we would like to draw attention to some other recent security vehicle “accidents” that have generated widespread public reaction:

- Efe Tektekin, 6, died when he was hit by an armoured vehicle while trying to cross the street on 11 September 2019, in the Bağlar district of Diyarbakır.
- In 2017, in the Silopi district of Şırnak, two brothers - seven-year-old Muhammet and six-year-old Furkan Yıldırım - died while sleeping in their bedroom when a panzer crashed into the wall of their house. The police officer driving, who was tried at the Cizre 2nd High Criminal Court, was acquitted, although it was revealed during the trial that he was not certified to drive the armoured vehicle.
- Another armoured vehicle accident occurred in the Cizre district of Şırnak in 2018. Onur Özalp, 5 years old, was seriously injured and died 9 months later.

It should be underlined that in incidents of death or injury resulting from actions of the security forces, there are often no investigations launched, or perpetrators may receive “penalties” that seem more like rewards. If there are no effective investigations or deterrent penalties against such incidents, perpetrators who kill civilians, including children, are effectively protected by an “impunity shield.” These deaths of Kurdish children are a result of a systematic policy of impunity for Turkish security forces, and if the perpetrators are not brought to justice, there will be many more similar “accidents” in the future.”

Five members of the Green Left Party jailed in Tekirdağ

ANF | TEKIRDAG | 16 JUNE 2023

In the parliamentary elections on May 14, the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which is under threat of being banned, contested under the umbrella of the Green Left Party, which has been constantly targeted by the Turkish regime since.

Turkish police carried out raids in the province of Tekirdağ in western Turkey on June 14. During the operation in the early morning hours, five members of the Green Left Party were taken into custody. A confidentiality order was placed on the file to restrict access to the file.

After their referral to the courthouse, the detainees were remanded in custody for alleged "membership in a terrorist organization", meaning the PKK.

The detainees, who have been sent to Muratlı Prison in Tekirdağ, include Green Left Party MP candidate for Tekirdağ, Seyithan Kırmızı, and Green Left Party members Botan Kasırğa, Nurettin Ağın, Nazlı Oran, Serkan Sadıç.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's regime has consistently criminalised the HDP since unilaterally ending the dialogue process with the Kurdish movement in 2015. Thousands of members have been arrested as alleged terror supporters and enemies of the state, including former co-chairs Figen Yüksekdağ and Selahattin Demirtaş, as well as dozens of mayors of Kurdish municipalities. Ankara wants to render pro-Kurdish politics incapable of action and is now also demonising the Green Left Party as "terrorist".

— ★ —

MKM event banned by Fatih District Governorship

ANF | ISTANBUL | 17 JUNE 2023

The "Çîrokên Xorasanê (Khorasan's Tales)" event, organized by the Mesopotamia Cultural Center (MKM) to be held at the Ali Emiri Efendi Cultural Center in Fatih district today, Saturday, was banned by the Fatih District Governor's Office without any justification.

In a statement, the MKM said: "This ban, which was imposed just hours before our event, is actually a ban imposed on the Kurdish language and culture. Like the similar prohibitions we have encountered, this attempt to ban our culture won't deter us. We will hold our event tonight at 8pm at the Mesopotamia Cultural Center."

— ★ —

District Governorship of Datça issues ban of all events scheduled for annual Pride Week

ANF | 17 JUNE 2023

The District Governorship of Datça, in the south west of the country, has issued a ban on all events scheduled for the annual Pride Week celebrations.

The Governorship located in the Muğla province announced: “As of 12 June 2023, and for a period of 10 days, various activities such as cinema screenings, visual presentations, theater performances, panel discussions, talks, exhibitions, marches, and press statements, organized by various civil society organizations under the name of LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex) and involving social sensitivities and awareness, have been prohibited within the boundaries of our district.”

— ★ —

Ten students protesting compulsory use of the veil at university in Tehran arrested

ANF | TEHRAN | 18 JUNE 2023

Ten of the students who protested against the compulsory use of the veil in a sit-in held since 14 June at the Faculty of Art of the University of Tehran were arrested on Saturday by individuals in uniform at the university campus. The whereabouts of the students are unknown.

On 16 June, the students were violently attacked by Iranian security forces. According to the information received by JinNews, 10 students were arrested on Saturday by people in uniform in the garden of the university campus and taken on board a minibus without a license plate. In addition, Iranian special forces were deployed in front of the university.

According to the report by the Council of the Union of Iranian Students, the students were threatened by university security guards in the early hours of the sit-in on 14 June. However, the students continued their protests.

The Student Union Council reported that the water was cut off at the university and other students were not allowed to bring either water or food to the protesting colleagues. The students were not even allowed to use the toilets.

Since the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish girl killed by the Iranian morality police on 16 September 2022, a national uprising known by the slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” continues throughout the country. Nine months on, although diminished in intensity, protests continue amid arrests, torture and executions of protesters.



AKP mayor terrorizing Tatvan with armed gangs

ANF | VAN | 18 JUNE 2023

Kurdish journalist Sinan Aygül was brutally attacked by armed bodyguards of the AKP mayor of Tatvan (Tetwan) and had to be hospitalized.

The attack was recorded by a camera.

The journalist has recently reported on corruption in the city administration, in particular the sale of public land.

According to the governor of Bitlis (Bedlîs), the attackers were an employee of the city administration and a police officer. The governor's office stated that an investigation was launched and police officer Engin Kaplan was suspended in the wake of the attack. Mayor Geylani also felt compelled to comment and tweeted that he had nothing to do with the attack and that his bodyguard Yücel Baysali had been dismissed.

The AKP politician Geylani rules the district of Tatvan in the province of Bitlis like a mafia boss and employs party supporters in the administration. The head of the local AKP youth organisation, Murat Eren, is paid a monthly salary although he doesn't work in the town hall and never enters it. Sinan Aygül constantly denounces the prevailing corruption and was temporarily arrested at the end of last year.



4 detained in police operation against TÖP and Purple Solidarity

ANF | 19 JUNE 2023

4 people, including TÖP Central Coordination Member Hatice Göz, have been detained during police raids in İzmir and Ankara provinces on Monday.

The reason for the detentions has not been revealed. It is reported that the police raids took place as part of an investigation launched by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and a confidentiality order has been imposed on the file.

Perihan Koca, TÖB spokeswoman and Mersin MP from the Green Left Party, spoke about the detentions in a statement: "We think that they are preparing a conspiracy case. Wedding presents are considered crime elements in the file. After the elections, the state seeks to direct its violence against all opposition groups."



Police take 5 people into custody in Yüksekova

ANF | HAKKARI | 19 JUNE 2023

On Sunday, Turkish police stormed several houses in the town of Yüksekova (Gever) and the surrounding villages of Bilindbasan and Birdik in the province of Hakkari (Colemêrg).

Five people were arrested and taken to the Yüksekova Police Headquarters for interrogation and then to the Prosecutor's Office. They are accused of "helping and housing members of a terrorist organization".

In the run-up to the elections on 14 May, arrest operations against the democratic opposition in North Kurdistan and Turkey began, only to increase after Erdoğan's victory in the run-off election, on 28 May.

Since then, police units have been storming the houses of the opposition on almost a daily basis, carrying out dozens of arrests.



Field pharmacies in earthquake-hit areas are closing down

ANF | 19 JUNE 2023

Field pharmacies, where nearly 4,500 volunteer pharmacists have been serving since the first day of the February earthquakes, are shutting down because they cannot shoulder the financial burden of their activities.

Until recently, field pharmacies have received medical support from pharmacists who supplied medications from their own stocks and donations from the private sector and individuals.

In the following period, the Minister of Health, Fahrettin Koca, presented the volunteer work by pharmacists as a service provided by his ministry. In March, pharmacists who worked voluntarily in the field revealed to the press and the public that they had paid the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) for the tents they used as field pharmacies, adding that they did not receive any support from the ministry.

The Ministry removed the examination fee and the patient share so that the people living in the earthquake zones could benefit from health services without paying any fee, but it did not provide direct medical support to the field pharmacies. Pharmacists maintained field pharmacies with the help of pharmacists who supplied medicine from their own stocks and donations from the private sector and individuals.

While some of the pharmacists working in the affected areas decided to withdraw from the field following the reopening of the pharmacies damaged by the earthquakes, others decided to withdraw because they cannot shoulder the financial burden of their activities without constant support from the ministry.

44 pharmacists lost their lives, and more than 1,200 pharmacies became inoperative after the two major earthquakes that hit 11 provinces on February 6.

In the first days of the earthquake, pharmacists constituted the most organized group of rescuers who arrived in the region in the fastest way. Only four days after the earthquakes, the Istanbul Chamber of Pharmacists provided 10 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to the earthquake zone, and 26 field pharmacies were established in 10 provinces on February 27, only three weeks after the devastating earthquakes.

The volunteer pharmacists and medicine donations significantly helped survivors' access to medicine in the earthquake zone.



Criminal complaint against Green Left MP who called the police “occupiers”

ANF | ANKARA | 19 JUNE 2023

Green Left Party deputy Özgül Saki is facing an investigation on the grounds that she described police officers as “occupiers” after a police intervention into a demonstration.

Before the criminal complaint filed by the General Directorate of Security, Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya had claimed that Saki “insulted police officers who prevented an unauthorized demonstration by calling them invaders.”



Van turned into a grave for many refugees

ANF | VAN | 20 JUNE 2023

20 June is World Refugee Day. Refugees, who had to leave their country, sometimes die in harsh winter conditions, sometimes in a traffic accident, and sometimes shot by the bullets of soldiers on the border line. Thousands of people fleeing Asian countries, especially Afghanistan and Pakistan, cross into Van before going to Europe. Many of these refugees, who crossed the border through Turkish soldiers and smugglers, move to other cities on Van, while some stay in the city.

Refugees are entering Van, especially from the borders of Ebex (Çaldıran), Qerqelî (Özalp), Sêrê (Saray) and Elbak (Baskale).

Refugees then cross to Tatvan via road or Lake Van. Some of the refugees coming to Van go to other cities via the Panos (Patnos) district of Agirî by road.

According to official figures, between 2019 and 2022, 49 immigrants froze to death in Van, 68 drowned in Van Lake, and 42 died in traffic accidents. Three refugees were killed by the soldiers.

61 refugees lost their lives as a result of the sinking of the boat carrying them in Altınsaç District of Western (Gevaş) on 27 June.

The bodies of more than 20 refugees who died three years ago could not be reached. 11 people out of 12 arrested in connection with the disaster were released. Only the boat captain, Medeni Akbaş, was imprisoned as the person responsible for the disaster.

Here are some of the incidents where refugees' right to life was violated and they were subjected to heavy treatment in Van and its surroundings:

- A child lost his life and 12 people were injured as a result of the fire opened by the soldiers on the minibus carrying refugees near the village of Karahisar in the Sêrê district of Van.
- Two contracted soldiers in the Sêrê district of Van raped an Afghan woman.
- In January 2022, 2 refugees froze to death in Amanyurt, in Sêrê district.
- In 2020, the bodies of 3 refugees trying to cross the Rojhilat border to Elbak were found.
- After the snow melted on the border of Elbak and Rojhilat, the bodies of 21 refugees were found.
- In 2020, 40 people from a group of 300 refugees trying to cross to Van in Iran froze to death.
- In 2020, 13 refugees froze to death in the neighbourhood of Sarıçimen in Ebex.
- In 2019, 7 people lost their lives when a boat carrying refugees capsized in the Elcewaz (Adilcevaz) district of Bitlis (Bedlîs).
- After the snow melted in Elbak, the bodies of 25 refugees were discovered between 1 April 2019 and 6 May 2019. It turned out that 24 of the refugees froze to death and 1 person was shot dead.
- On 12 April 2019, the frozen bodies of 6 refugees were found on the Iran-Van border.
- On 11 July 2022, 13 refugees lost their lives and 26 were injured as a result of the accident in a minibus carrying refugees in the Karahan region on the Van- Erciş highway.
- In 2019, at least 17 refugees lost their lives and 17 others were injured when a minibus carrying them crashed near the Erçek District of Ipekyolu on the Van-Qerqelî highway.
- Turkish soldiers, who opened fire on refugees in Van on 7 January 2023, killed 2 of them.

The identities of most of the refugees who lost their lives in Van cannot be determined.

The bodies of refugees who died due to cold, accidents, drowning in Lake Van, or killed by soldiers at the border, are buried in the Cemetery for the Orphans in the Seyrantepe District of Van.

— ★ —

Three people in Beytüşşebap sent to prison

ANF | ŞIRNAK | 20 JUNE 2023

Fazıl Aslan, Şehmus Aslan Mazlum Aslan, Cudi Aslan, Hecer Aslan, Kerem Abi and Şaban Abo were taken into custody following house raids in the villages of Wargundik, Melîxa and Feraşîn in Beytüşşebap (Elkê), in the province of Şırnak (Şirnex) on 17 June.

The 7 people were referred to the courthouse after their statements were taken at the police station.

While 4 people were released on condition of judicial control, Şehmus Aslan, Mazlum Aslan and Hecer Aslan were referred to the court with a request of arrest that was granted by the court.

Those arrested were sent to Şırnak T Type Closed Prison.

— ★ —

Journalist Kutlu: Free Press remains loyal to the tradition of resistance

ANF | 20 JUNE 2023

The Turkish government has legalized censorship to make sure that violations of rights are not revealed to the public. Moreover, it continues to detain and arrest journalists with various excuses and threatens them with heavy penalties. There are around 80 journalists behind bars in Turkey, one of the countries with the highest number of journalists in prison.

There is a tradition of resistance

In an interview with ANF, journalist Berivan Kutlu said that the main reason for the censorship laws introduced by the AKP government was to prevent the exposure of violations of rights. Kutlu stated that it was not only censorship laws, but also self-censorship that affected journalists. She pointed out that the reason for this was lawsuits, penalties and constant police raids against journalists. “Despite that, there is a tradition of resistance, a tradition of the Free Press. There is also an opposition circle in the Turkish media. Loyalty to this tradition continues. Journalists continue their efforts to make themselves and the public heard.”

The free press takes no step back

Kutlu continued: “Despite all these intense pressures, there is still resistance. The Free Press does not give up, it still makes news. It is not possible for us to accept or welcome government censorship and bans against the press. We insist that we are against these practices, journalism is not a crime, and we are journalists. We know that the reason for the policies pursued by the government is that it does not want violations to be revealed to the public in Turkey, Kurdistan and the international arena. The Free Press is struggling in Kurdistan and Turkey, and also in Europe, facing intense pressure. Although some journalists are hesitant to write about certain things here, friends in Europe write about them and make news. Journalists in the tradition of the Free Press do not back down. In other words, even though our colleagues are jailed, they write somehow. Currently, 79 of our friends are in prison, but they still make news. There is a tradition of the Free Press that continues to speak. Journalists are usually jailed because of the news they make. The accusation against our colleagues who have been imprisoned since October following an Ankara-based operation concerns the reports published by Mezopotamya News Agency. They are accused of conducting ‘propaganda for an organization’, but the only thing we do is journalism.”

It’s difficult to be a female journalist

Kutlu emphasized that the government wanted a silent and unquestioning society. She added: “They want a society that agrees to all their nationalist and chauvinist policies. They want to maintain their power in this way. The difficulties faced by female journalists are no different from other journalists working in the field of the Free Press, but being a female journalist in the field is much more difficult. Male policemen may think that they can beat and repress a woman more easily. There is also a male-dominated system in Turkey. There is a gender oppression against women. Moreover, many female colleagues are harassed while working in the field. There are such difficulties.”

— ★ —

Kurdish protester sentenced to 15 years in prison in Tehran

ANF | 21 JUNE 2023

Branch 28 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran has sentenced Kurdish protester Parham Parvari to a total of 15 years in prison, including 10 years in exile in Jask prison in Hormozgan province, in southern Iran.

According to the Kurdistan Human Rights Network (KHRN), Parvari was charged with “enmity against God” (moharebeh), among other charges, for taking part in anti-government protests.

“Enmity against God” or moharebeh is punishable by death under Islamic law.

The civilian was tried on 28 May in the presence of his lawyer Mazyar Tataei at Branch 28 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Tehran, presided over by Judge Amouzad, and was notified of the verdict on 20 June.

Security forces arrested Parvari, a 25-year-old athlete who comes from Saqqez, Kurdistan province, on 3 October 2022 and took him to the Ministry of Intelligence detention centre at Ward 209 of Evin Prison.

Security forces severely tortured him at the time of arrest, the signs of which are still visible on his body, KHRN reported.

The young man was also pressured and threatened during interrogations at Evin Prison to make forced “confessions”.

The security prosecutor at Evin Prison had accused Parvari of “enmity against God” (moharebeh) for taking part in anti-government protests.

Parvari was transferred from Evin Prison to the Greater Tehran Central Penitentiary on 4 January after initial interrogations.



Memorial on 20th anniversary of death of Italian activist Dino Frisullo

ANF | ROME | 22 JUNE 2023

More than 300 people attended the memorial held in Rome to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Italian activist Dino Frisullo.

The event, promoted by Senza Confine, the Kurdish Committee, Rete Kurdistan and other groups, was attended by Dino Frisullo’s friends, the head of the Rome municipality policy department, the former mayor of Riace Mimmo Lucano, and representatives of the Pakistan, Bangladesh and Palestine committees.

Lawyer Simonetta Crisci, President of Senza Confine, said that Dino’s life and work have a special place in everyone’s heart.

Many of those present at the event wanted to share their memories of Dino Frisullo.

Former senator and spokesperson of the Kurdish People’s Leader Abdullah Öcalan Committee, Giovanni Rosso Spena, talked about the role Frisullo played in the Kurdish struggle and during Abdullah Öcalan's stay in Italy.

The Kurdish Committee activists spoke about the work of Dino Frisullo for the Musa Anter Peace Train in 1997.

Dino Frisullo was arrested at the 1998 Amed Newroz and was tried in Turkey.

Afterwards, a video prepared in memory of Dino Frisullo was screened. A book on Frisullo's life was also launched at the memorial.

— ★ —

NGOs in Rojava call for action against genocidal policies

ANF | QAMISHLO | 22 JUNE 2023

In a joint statement on Thursday, the Civil Diplomacy Center and non-governmental organizations in North and East Syria reacted to the attacks of the invading Turkish state. The statement was made on behalf of the Social Diplomacy Platform, Democratic Society Movement, Rojava University, Mesopotamia Faiths Solidarity, Democratic Islamic Congress, Culture and Art Movement, Qamishlo Municipality, Free Press Union, Afrin People's Union and Greens Union.

Ehlan Eseed read out the statement in Kurdish, while Hena Somî, a member of the Association of Religions of Mesopotamia, read out the Arabic version.

The statement commemorated the martyrs in a reference to the drone attack on the Qamishlo Canton administrators on June 20, saying: "This attack, which was carried out in violation of all international laws and human rights, took place in accordance with the systematic and planned genocidal policies. Leading women politicians are deliberately targeted and special war policies are carried out through immoral methods. In this way, they want to break the confidence and will of society. They also want to alienate the people from their struggle and goals."

The statement continued: "As the Public Diplomacy Platform and non-governmental organizations in North and East Syria, we condemn these attacks. We promise that we will follow in the footsteps of the martyrs and embrace their achievements and the prices they paid. No invading force will be able to break the will of our people. We will respond to these invasion attacks in an organized manner and by gathering around the values of the popular revolution created by the martyrs.

We call on all human rights institutions and organizations to end their silence and to take a stand against these attacks.

We call on our people to frustrate all genocidal policies in light of the social values created by the organized forces and the martyrs. Move forward with strong steps based on your egalitarian, fair and democratic struggle. We offer our condolences to the families of the martyrs and to all our people."

— ★ —

Interview

Muslim: We rely on the resistance of our people and our forces

MUSTAFA ÇOBAN | HESEKE | 18 JUNE 2023

Democratic Union Party (PYD) co-chair, Salih Muslim, spoke to ANF about the Turkish state's increasing attacks against Northern and Eastern Syria.

Muslim said that the Turkish plan of destruction continued with the establishment of a war government after the 14 and 28 May elections. "We said that a few months before the elections. The removal of a dictator, a despot, from the pulpit by fair means has never been accomplished in history. Unfortunately, our prediction came true. We can see this now. Fascism grew and strengthened its position using all kinds of fraud. Now it continues to implement the destruction plan it has implemented since 2014. Rojava is the first target in this plan. As soon as the new Turkish war government was established, Ankara rolled up his sleeves and attempted to attack us. The attacks have not stopped since the elections. Turkey is using all kinds of methods to attack us, including those that have no place in any law and attack everyone; men, children and women. Turkey wants to destroy the Autonomous Administration and the power Kurds have. Nothing new for us. We knew it, we predicted it. Of course, we, as a people, will definitely resist these attacks."

'Turkey attacks us before new Astana meeting'

Muslim added: "If we look at the timing of the attacks, we will see that the Turkish state chooses the time specifically for all they have done. As you know, there will be a summit in Astana on 21 June. Turkish fascism probably wants to show its power to the parties in this meeting. Turkey wants to say 'I will do this. I can even shoot Syrian soldiers. I will shoot the Russian forces as well.' Its main purpose is to harm the Autonomous Administration. We do not know what will happen at the 21 June meeting. But in a way, they were a little silent. They must have told them to open up the airspace so that not just drones but warplanes can fly over the region. The Turkish government is carrying out attacks comfortably, saying that they have opened their airspace to me."

'We don't think Russia will react'

Muslim said: "Russia needs Turkey now, especially because of the embargo imposed by the west following the Ukraine war. This is now an international issue. For this, they are in a position to easily use us as a chip bargain. We don't think that the Russians will show a great reaction. Because they have a lot of agreements with Turkey. As for the Syrian regime, it will do nothing but what Russia and Iran say. It is remarkable that no one speaks out against the heavy attacks the Turkish state is carrying out against our region. Nine Syrian regime soldiers were killed. No one said anything. In fact, the Syrian regime didn't even publish a message of condolence. And the reality is, that neither Russia nor Iran are saying anything."

‘We rely on our people; we will resist’

Muslim added: “It is as if everyone has accepted that Turkey will attack in this way. Turkey does what it says. Let’s see what the results of the Astana meeting will be... We don’t rely on external forces and their attitudes. We rely on our strength and the organization of our people. We will resist. We have no other choice.”

Declaration for a solution, trial of ISIS mercenaries

“The main target is the Autonomous Administration and the Kurds,” said Muslim, adding “as you know, the Autonomous Administration recently issued a declaration for the solution to the Syrian problem. Turkey neither wants a solution for Syria nor does it want the Kurds to take part in it. The Autonomous Administration also announced that it will prosecute the detained ISIS members. Turkey doesn't want that either. Because from the beginning, Turkey has had relations with ISIS and if we bring the mercenaries to trial, Turkey’s crimes and connections will also be exposed. In this trial, which will be held transparently before the eyes of the world, all the crimes committed by Turkish fascism will be exposed. They do not want this, so they continue to attack us.”

Gradual withdrawal of Turkish soldiers from northern Syria

Muslim said: “There are many comments out there. That there is something like an agreement between Russia, Syria and Turkey. That Turkey will leave some parts of Idlib to the regime and that the Turkish soldiers will gradually withdraw from the north. That the M4 road between Aleppo and Latakia will be opened. Such a deal can happen. We don’t know. There are rumours that some of the gangs there do not accept this. It is not clear whether the Syrian regime will take the risk and fight them, or whether Turkey would succeed in its 4-year-long attempt to silence them and impose its conditions. We do not know what will happen, but such an agreement envisaged that all the forces present there will take action.”

‘We took a defense position. We will defend ourselves to the end’

Asked about the possibility of a ground operation in the region. Muslim said: “Everything can be expected from the Turkish state. There are two points I’d like to make. First, we will resist any possible ground operation. But it seems a little difficult that Turkey will actually take the risk of a ground operation. We are ready. The second point is that there are Russian and Iranian forces in Til Rifat, Shehba and Manbij. Invasion attacks are not in Iran’s interest. But it remains to be seen whether it will allow this in Astana. We do not rely on them. We rely on the resistance of our people and our forces. Nothing else. We are in a defensive position. We will defend ourselves to the end no matter what. Our people should have confidence in themselves and their own strength. Turkish state drones and all their other weapons may kill a few people, but they cannot break the will of our people. A possible ground operation would mean the end for Turkey. Our forces are ready. We have no choice but to resist. Everyone will act with this awareness.”

Opinion

Actor Ateş: We will continue to promote Kurdish theater and language

ANF | AMED | 19 JUNE 2023

Kurdish art and culture continues to develop despite the huge pressure. Cultural work, the foundation of which was laid in the early 90s, enabled the use of the Kurdish language in the public sphere and increased national consciousness today.

Özcan Ateş is one of the actors of Amed City Theater. He spoke to ANF about the importance of theater in Kurdish and the response they get when they perform plays in Kurdish.

“We may have good opportunities within the system, but when you are not valued in front of the public, your work does not matter.”

The public is open to innovations

Ateş said that if a theater group proves its competence with its works and imposes itself on society, it can drag the audience to follow it. Ateş added that, even when they perform a play in Turkish, they always present a story that appeals to society in terms of content. He said that they always touch on social agendas in the stories they play. “In principle, we do not produce plays in Turkish, but for those who do not speak Kurdish, we bring in theater companies that play in Turkish once a month. We always make plays in Kurdish here. Kurds have a very deep sense of humor. Again, the Kurdish people have been fighting for years. They are open to innovations and experimentation. They have the consciousness to know the impact of culture and art. Therefore, the emotions that trigger them to take ownership of our plays or our work in general are also powered by this.”

Making theater despite difficulties

Ateş said that he has been involved in theater for 20 years, and added: “We are making theater in Kurdish and we are trying to protect our culture. In 2016, the trustees were appointed to the municipality. They wanted to disperse us after they threw us out of the municipality. Their aim was to direct us towards Turkish plays. There were some institutions in Europe that were trying to create opportunities for us to do theater in Europe by supporting us. But we wanted to stay here and continue our culture and art in our own language, with our values and principles. We did not close our doors to those who wanted to support. By staying here, we saw ourselves as individuals who would perform art more comfortably among our people. We told those who offered to help us abroad, to consider helping us to remain in Amed.”

Artists are the vanguards of society

Ateş said he is aware of the importance of making theater in Kurdish and added: “For example, I had a teacher who wanted me and my friends, like Yavuz Akkuzu, to enter the Istanbul market, because in this way our recognition would increase. He even proposed to us to be our manager. We declined this offer. Artists are the vanguards of society. Now, if we turn our backs because of a small or big problem, we will actually lose our artistic vein. Therefore, we will try to protect and develop the Kurdish theater within the limits of our possibilities. Today, we could work in the system and have good opportunities, but when you appear in front of the public and you don't see any value, the work you do doesn't matter.”

— ★ —

The Rojava cycle in Ankara's 'Decomposition Plan' against Kurds -I

MUSTAFA ÇOBAN | HESEKE | 22 JUNE 2023

On 30 October 2014, the fascist AKP/MHP government and the war institution called the National Security Council met in Ankara to make their “Decomposition Plan” against the Kurdish people. Meaning “to bring to the knees”, the “decomposition plan”, which was produced during the dialogue process with Abdullah Öcalan, is the prelude to a new cycle of chaos and massacres against Kurds, which has now surpassed the dark 1990s many times over.

Between 2013 and 2015, there were talks between the PKK and the Turkish state aimed at working out a democratic solution to the Kurdish question. On 24 July 2015, the phase of dialogue between the Turkish state and the Kurdish liberation movement was officially declared over with the bombing of Qandil in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq) by the Turkish air force. With the unilateral termination of the peace process, a total war of extermination against the Kurdish people began, which cost the lives of countless people.

This concept of war continues to this day - albeit in different forms. When ISIS attacked Kobanê in northern Syria, the government in Ankara pursued a double policy. While on the one hand, talks were held with the officials of the Rojava Revolution, on the other hand, the Turkish government supplied ISIS with logistics and weapons, opened its borders to the jihadists and encouraged massacres of the Kurds. After the Kurds had inflicted a historic defeat on the terror in Kobanê, the Turkish state finally intervened directly.

The first storm in the chaos cycle: Revenge attack in Qereçox

Disturbed by the successful advance of the Rojava Defence Forces against ISIS, the Turkish state carried out its first revenge attack in the midst of the Syrian Democratic Forces' (SDF) liberation offensive in Tabqa. The target was Mount Qereçox near Dêrik, located in the Syria-Iraq-Turkey tri-border area, thus connecting Rojava, Bashur and Bakur, the west, south and north of Kurdistan. At the time, the massif housed the headquarters of the People's and Women's Defence Units (YPG/YPJ) and other facilities of the

two combat units. In the morning hours of 25 April 2017, more than two dozen fighter jets of the Turkish Air Force entered Syrian airspace controlled by the international coalition against ISIS and bombed Qereçox. Fourteen female fighters and six male fighters were killed, eighteen others were injured, some seriously. Among the victims were three members of the YPG and YPJ press centre.

Wars of aggression against Afrin and Serêkaniyê

In order to prevent the Kurds from gradually, step by step, approaching an international status, Ankara then relied on the “operations” phase. When the YPG and YPJ launched a major strike against ISIS in Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria, Turkey’s first threats were made against the Afrin region. It was not long before the Erdoğan-led country opened a new theatre of war on 20 January 2018 with massive air strikes and the entry of Turkish troops, bombing Afrin from the ground and from the air under the cynical name “Operation Olive Branch”. After 58 days of Turkish bombing terror, the Kurdish-majority canton was occupied.

With the crushing of ISIS’ territorial rule by capturing the last jihadist stronghold of Baghouz in spring 2019, the Turkish government escalated its military violence against the Kurds in Syria. The current foreign minister and then head of the Turkish domestic intelligence service MIT, Hakan Fidan, who had already constructed a pretext for armed intervention in Syria on several occasions, as evidenced, among other things, by a tape recording leaked in 2014, once again created a reason for war against the defence forces of Rojava, who had captured the hearts of people all over the world with their resistance. Under the pretext of “securing the border”, the government in Ankara launched another invasion in northern and eastern Syria on 9 October 2019, this time named “Operation Peace Spring”. The focus of the occupation was the towns of Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) and Girê Spî (Tal Abyad).

Demographic change and de-Kurdification

The AKP and MHP regimes seek the borders of the Misak-ı Milli [the Ottoman National Pact]. Areas within the borders of the Ottoman National Pact are to be reincorporated into the territory of the Republic of Turkey. This is the main goal of the decomposition plan drawn up in 2014. In the course of the wars of aggression against Rojava, many people were killed, injured, displaced. Instead of around one million women, men and children forcibly displaced from the occupied territories under Erdoğan's dirigisme, jihadists and their families from countries such as Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan have been settled. The Turkish state is pursuing a policy of ethnic cleansing in Rojava and is implementing a long-planned project of de-Kurdification by changing the demographic structure. The Kurdish language was pushed out of public life in the occupied zone, street and place names were exchanged for Turkish or Arabic. The lira was introduced as currency and the administration was transferred to Turkish governors. Turkish is a compulsory subject at schools.

Embargo and siege

Another flashpoint in the autonomous region of northern and eastern Syria is the policy of embargo and siege to wear down the population of around five million people. The Til Koçer (Al-Yarubiyah) border crossing with Iraq, through which humanitarian aid reached the autonomous region, was closed in 2018 by decision of the UN Security Council at Russia's insistence. In 2020, the closure was reconfirmed. As a result, UN aid deliveries from Iraq are no longer possible and the Syrian regime is blocking aid deliveries

via Damascus. The inner-Kurdish border crossing Sêmalka between Bashur and Rojava is not subject to a permanent closure. The KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party), which dominates the government of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and cooperates with the MIT, nevertheless closes the border time and again. The same picture presents itself at the gates of Damascus. The Syrian regime systematically prevents the delivery of food, medicine and necessities, which are particularly vital for the people in the canton of Shehba and in the neighbourhoods of Şêxmeqsud (Sheikh Maqsoud) and Eşrefiyê (Ashrafiyah) in Aleppo.

Syria has been at war for over twelve years, the economy has collapsed, there are international sanctions. The embargo and siege policy to stifle Rojava's revolution is part of Turkey's decomposition plan against the Kurdish movement.



Contact e-mail: imralipost@freeocalan.org

Websites: freeocalan.org | ocalanbooks.com || Videos: vimeo.com/freeocalan