

AVASİN

newsletter

March and April 2025





CC OF THE MLKP: "LET US INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE FOR THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE!"

On February 27, the people's representative Abdullah Öcalan issued a statement in which he spoke of peace and a end to the revolutionary struggle of the Kurdish people's movement. This speech was persistently debated and attempts were made to interpret it in every possible way. Now, the MLKP, as a party representing the communist component of the Kurdish struggle and the Rojava Revolution, has released a statement, which we publish in this issue as an important contribution to the discourse.

For 26 years, Kurdish peoples leader Abdullah Öcalan has been held in special isolation on Imralı Island. He issued a "Call for Peace and a Democratic Society," declaring his historical responsibility to end the armed struggle and dissolve the armed forces, in order to create conditions that recognize the fundamental democratic rights and freedoms of both the Kurdish and Turkish peoples. He called on the PKK to convene an extraordinary congress to decide on this matter. According to this call, he stated that new practical steps could only be made through political and legal arrangements by the state and that Turkey could not solve its ongoing crisis without democratic changes and transformations.

As the MLKP, we maintain our unwavering position that the Kurdish people's right to national freedom, equality, and national unity is indispensable, and we declare our support for the national democratic demands raised by the "Call for Peace and a Democratic Society." We call on the oppressed millions of the Kurdish and Turkish peoples, along with the national communities of Arabs, Circassians, Armenians, Greeks, Bosnians, Pomaks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Albanians, Roma, Lazs, Georgians, and Azerbaijanis, as well as Muslims, Christians, Jews, Alevites, and Yazidis, to engage in the united struggle for the following demands: the immediate declaration of a ceasefire by the fascist colonialist government of Tayyip Erdoğan, the release of Abdullah Öcalan and all political prisoners, the end of colonial attacks, the end of the occupation of Rojava and Başûr, the constitutional and legal recognition of the Kurdish people's right to national existence and the right to education in their mother tongue, and the repeal of the fascist colonial Anti-Terror Law.

We invite all revolutionary and consistent antifascist forces of our peoples to take a stand against the chauvinist TKP and other social chauvinists who greeted the demand for ending the armed struggle within the framework of the "Call for Peace and a Democratic Society" with jubilation. They label the fact that all achievements of the Kurdish people in North Kurdistan were attained through boundless sacrifices in the armed struggle, under the leadership of the guerrillas, embodied by tens of thousands of immortals, "terror," and label the national democratic demands of the Kurdish people as "separatism."

We strongly emphasize that the view in the "Call for Peace and a Democratic Society," which states, "There is no path outside of democracy for system searches and implementations. There cannot be. Democratic consensus is the fundamental method," is incompatible with the reality of polarization between oppressors and the oppressed, the rich and the poor, the rulers and the oppressed peoples in Turkey, Kurdistan, and worldwide. In a world where the ruling class, through their state apparatuses, hold the monopoly on violence, have access to the means of violence, are armed to the teeth, fascistize state apparatuses, and divide the world with blood and fire, it is impossible for the working class, women, oppressed peoples, and workers to achieve their basic demands, gain freedom, and create a just, humane world without armed struggle and revolutionary mass violence.

The MLKP will continue the fight for freedom against the fascist regime, denialist colonialism, the patriarchal system, capitalist exploitation, and imperialism, for the Union of the People's Republics of Turkey and Kurdistan, for the Democratic and Socialist Federation in the Middle East, and for the war for socialism, using all means and forms of struggle.

March 2, 2025

MLKP

Central Committee





THE RESISTANCE AT THE TISHREEN DAM CONTINUES

For over two months now, the Turkish state, with the help of its mercenaries from the "Syrian National Army" (SNA), has been attempting to cross the Tishreen Dam and seize the areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration west of the Euphrates—thus far without success. In this article, we aim to take a closer look at the fighting at the Tishreen Dam front and the underlying dynamics.

Situation

The Tishreen Dam is of immense strategic importance. It ensures the electricity and water supply for hundreds of thousands of people. However, due to constant bombardments by the Turkish air force, operations at the dam had to be halted as early as December 20, 2024. Since then, entire cities have had to rely on water deliveries by truck and depend on generators for electricity.

Moreover, the dam serves as a connecting link between the occupation zone controlled by SNA militias and the Autonomous Administration. Should the SNA succeed in crossing the dam, it could penetrate deep into the territory of the Autonomous Administration. In particular, the symbolically significant city of Kobanê is in risk of being encircled in such a scenario.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are currently defending far more than just a dam—they are defending nothing less than the concrete future of the revolution and all its achievements. The resistance at the Tishreen Dam can hardly be overestimated in its importance; if Tishreen falls, the entire revolution faces an existential threat.

Peace Vigil

Given the immense significance of the resistance at the Tishrîn Dam, a peace vigil has been taking place there since January 8, 2025. Civilians from across the region are traveling to the dam to demonstrate for an end to the attacks and to prevent further airstrikes on the structure. This vigil, composed exclusively of civilians, was immediately targeted by Turkish combat drones, even during their journey to the site. A total of 24 people have died due to these horrific, ongoing attacks, with 221 others injured, some severely (as of February 10). Often, despite serious injuries, people had to remain at the dam for several days because rescue teams rushing to assist were also attacked by the Turkish air force.

Despite all these dangers, the peace vigil continues. Almost daily, new convoys arrive. The peace vigil at the Tishrîn Dam has become a symbol of the resistance of all the peoples of North and East Syria. Day after day, the people chant: “We stand behind our armed forces, and no matter what war machinery you deploy against us, our resistance cannot be broken.” Neither the resistance of the Syrian Democratic Forces nor that of the civilian population can be crushed.

Jakob Rihn, a German physiotherapist who was himself injured during the peace vigil, describes the atmosphere at the dam as follows:

“The atmosphere of the peace vigil is hard to describe; it’s a feeling I had never experienced before. There’s an immense determination and a fear of standing against the heaviest war weapons with nothing but your own body and voice. The people stand confidently on this dam while bombs explode all around them, but they refuse to be intimidated.”

The people and their armed forces have become one.

Even beyond the Peace Vigil, it is evident: In North and East Syria, the people and their armed forces are intertwined. They resist together and depend on one another.

Engels wrote in his book *Anti-Dühring*: "The proletarian army will not be an army in the old sense. It will be the weapon of the people, not the weapon of the state against the people." The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are such an army. This is particularly clear at the Tishrin Dam right now. While the fighters at the frontline are engaged in intense combat, the residents of the surrounding villages cook food to supply the front. Civilians, who just yesterday ran a small shop, today drive trucks day and night between the frontline and the villages to maintain the supply lines. Without the support of the civilian population, the SDF could not sustain their current heroic resistance. And without the SDF, the civilian population would not be able to live with dignity but would instead be subjected to the brutal rule of the SNA (Syrian National Army). The slogan "QSD em'in, em ê şoreşa xwe biparêzin" – "We are the SDF, and we will defend our revolution" – has become the call of the hour across North and East Syria.

This is also reflected in the mass demonstrations taking place throughout the region, where hundreds of thousands chant: "QSD em'in, em ê şoreşa xwe biparêzin".

Roza Rojava, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Movement (TKŞ), commented on the significance of the mass demonstrations as follows:

"The mass demonstrations in support of the SDF and YPJ have sent a clear message to our friends and enemies alike: Our army is very strong. As a people, we stand behind our army. We are with them and will support them to the end. The enthusiasm of the masses was one of the most important signs that their connection to the revolution remains alive and dynamic."

Combat Operations

This strong bond between the people and the SDF is also leading to significant successes at the front. Despite massive support from the Turkish Air Force, the SNA (Syrian National Army) has not managed to capture even a single square meter of the Tishrin Dam in two months. According to a report by the "Syrian Observatory for Human Rights" dated December 27, 385 SNA fighters and 77 members of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have been killed in the fighting. The SNA's losses are thus five times higher. Over the past few years, the SDF has become highly professionalized militarily and has learned how to effectively combat a significantly better-equipped enemy. In particular, the widespread use of combat tunnels and FPV drones enables the SDF to strike almost anywhere in the region and quickly retreat to safe positions. The SDF-led resistance, supported by the masses, at the Tishrin Dam is a symbol of what a revolutionary society can achieve. It stands in direct continuity with the resistance in Kobanê.

Let us conclude this article with the words of Hêvî Îbrahîm Hesên, an activist who has been involved in the Kurdish freedom movement in Syria since the 1990s:

“Today is not a day to sit at home. Our people do not fear death. They see the dangers, but they will under no circumstances allow the dam to be occupied. In North and East Syria, the revolutionary people’s struggle is alive. Those who defend themselves are the people. Together, we will achieve victory. We —Kurds, Armenians, Syrians, Arabs, and others—defend our dam together. The Tishrin Dam belongs to us. Tishrin is our dignity, and we will defend our dignity.”





IVANA AS A SYMBOL OF ROJAVA'S INTERNATIONALISM

More than ten years ago, the communist Ivana Hoffmann intervened in the revolution in Rojava, participated in the resistance against ISIS, and left a lasting impression on people of various backgrounds worldwide. She paved the way for countless internationalists to show solidarity with Rojava.

We dedicate this article to all those who became immortal in the resistance of Rojava—above all, to our comrade Ivana Hoffmann.

With the Arab Spring, the oppressed once again stepped onto the stage of history, forcing dictators and monarchs to their knees. The lie of the "end of history," which the capitalists proclaimed after the collapse of the Soviet Union, came to an end. In 2011, the uprisings reached Syria. The initially Western-backed "Islamic State" was intended to dethrone Assad, Russia's strategic partner in the region. The so-called Islamic State proceeded with martial brutality. Alawites, Yazidis, Christians, women, children, and the elderly—no one was spared.

After ISIS captured Mosul and Raqqa, the Ba'ath regime focused primarily on combating ISIS, withdrawing its troops from the north and concentrating on Damascus. The Kurds seized this opportunity, armed the people, and declared the de facto autonomy of Rojava.

However, as ISIS gradually developed an increasingly independent strategy and refused to conform to the West's plans, it was also declared an enemy by the West.

At the time, 18-year-old Ivana Hoffmann made the decision in 2014 to leave Germany for Rojava to join the resistance against ISIS. As a communist, an LGBTI+ individual, daughter of a Togolese father and a German mother, Ivana had countless reasons to become part of the Rojava Revolution.

Communists—especially from Turkey and North Kurdistan—called for the defense of the Rojava Revolution, which is based on a grassroots democratic system where peoples can organize themselves within their communes and councils, placing the liberation of women at its core. Ivana Hoffmann resolutely followed this call.

In Rojava, she joined the ranks of the MLKP (Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Turkey/North Kurdistan) under her nom de guerre “**Avaşın Têkoşın Güneş**” (in English: “Bluewater Struggle Sun”). From that moment on, she broke with her petty bourgeoisie life. Having previously participated in several battles, she took part in the resistance in Til Temir in 2015. During this successful resistance, Comrade Ivana Hoffmann became immortal—at just 19 years of age.

She was the first internationalist to become immortal in the fight against ISIS.

In her last letter before her journey to Rojava, she wrote:

“I can no longer distinguish the most beautiful colors, I no longer feel the city’s wind on my skin, the singing of the birds sounds more like the call of freedom. I have made a decision. I have lived days and nights with the thoughts in my head, and today is the day I will take the step with my will, as strong as the current of the Dicle-Firat River.”



During her short life, Ivana managed to influence countless lives. Worldwide, many internationalists took her as an example and ventured to Rojava to fight as part of the revolution against ISIS. The influx of more and more internationalists during the Kobanê resistance ultimately led to the establishment of the IFB (International Freedom Battalion) by various communist and anarchist parties and organizations.

The parties fighting in the ranks of this battalion are, among others, the MLKP, TKP-ML, and DKP/BÖG from Turkey and North Kurdistan, the Partido Marxista-Leninista (Reconstrucción Comunista) from Spain, and the Greek anarchist Revolutionary Union for Internationalist Solidarity.

As People's Bridge, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Ivana's immortality, we have set ourselves the goal of turning Ivana's life into a film, making her legacy accessible to newer generations. **Our short film "Your Comrade, Ivana"** is set to be completed for this year's Ivana Hoffmann Festival in Duisburg.

Şehîdên şoreşê nemirin.

Îvana û rêhevalên me yê din hîn dijîn û dê li nav têkoşîna me bijîn...



FOR A WOMEN'S DAY THROUGHOUT SYRIA

For 61 years, March 8 in Syria was a day to celebrate the Ba'ath Party's rise to power, a holiday marked by military parades, far removed from the International Women's Day. However, the Kurdish women of Rojava have been secretly celebrating this day since the 1980s in their homes and within their militant underground network, Yêkitiya Star. Since the revolution in Rojava—from the victorious Kobanê to the liberated Raqqa—people's demonstrations have been organized every year in the cities, with thousands of women participating. This year, women across Syria are set to have the opportunity, for the first time, to organize demonstrations and events on International Women's Day.

One organization now stands at the forefront of efforts targeting women across Syria: the Syrian Women's Assembly, founded in 2017 in northeastern Syria. Since then, it has been working underground in Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous, and elsewhere to unite women across the divides erected between different communities, despite all attacks on women's efforts. Even in the Al-Hol camp, they have deeply studied the ideology of the Islamic State.

Their goal is to share the women's revolution in Rojava with women in the rest of Syria, and they have been working tirelessly toward this since December 8. They have already organized panel discussions, conferences, and talks with women in Latakia, Damascus, and Suweida, convinced that personal contact is the key to building a women's union across the country. Many of the women expressed that they previously had an incomplete or biased picture of the situation and political system in northeastern Syria. Most were unaware of how well-developed the women's organizations were or that they had enacted laws to protect women.

From the various panel discussions they organized, several key demands emerged, including the immediate release of all women still held in the prisons of armed groups in Idlib, Afrin, and Serêkaniyê, and the establishment of a committee to ensure the return of internally displaced persons to their homes.

Additionally, the women demand the creation of a Truth and Justice Commission to "investigate and prosecute all war crimes and crimes against women and human rights."

This is all the more critical when considering which men are being appointed to political positions and offices in the new Syria under Ahmed Al-Sharra. For example, Abu Hatem Shakra (Ahmed Ihsan Fayyad Al-Hais), commander of the Ahrar Al-Sharqiya group and responsible for the murder of Kurdish activist Hevrîn Khalaf, gave a speech at the inauguration of the new Syrian president. Abu Amsha (Muhammad al-Jassim), leader of the Suleiman Shah Division militia and accused of numerous crimes, including sexual violence in Afrin, was appointed "Brigadier General" and commander of the 25th Division of the new Syrian army.

The women united in the Syrian Women's Assembly further demand all the rights guaranteed to them in the autonomous regions: the right to self-defense (and thus the maintenance of the YPJ, Asayish Jin, and HPC-Jin forces), their equal participation in all decision-making processes across all sectors, and their protection from gender-based violence based on international agreements like CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).

These efforts are shared by the **Communist Women's Movement (JKŞ)** in northeastern Syria. In statements read aloud in Qamishlo, Heseke, and Kobane ahead of March 8, the organization calls on the women of Syria to unite and expose the new government.

Since the call for general mobilization across North and East Syria, communist women have helped establish several civilian **self-defense battalions** in various cities and villages in the region. These battalions were named after martyrs of the Rojava revolution, such as the Congolese-German internationalist Avaşîn Tekoşîn Güneş (Ivana Hoffmann), Commander Yılmaz Behrareş, and fighter Metin Dicle. Women are an integral part of these battalions and have received comprehensive military training, enabling them to protect their neighborhoods and communities.

Moreover, many women have participated in **civilian convoys to the Tishrin Dam**, using their bodies to shield all the peoples of the region from an ecological disaster should the dam be destroyed, and to support their fighters at the Euphrates front.

This March 8 must honor those among them who sacrificed their lives in this resistance, such as journalist Cihan Bilgin, HPC-Jin defense forces member Hezna Ebdê, and the tireless activist Menice Heyder.

During last month's actions, the communist women of Rojava also commemorated Comrade Yasemin Çiftçi. Yasemin was active in the underground movement and lost her life while preparing an action against the AKP.

As the JKŞ stated: **“Our resistance today is the resistance of existence, the resistance of human values, and the will of the women's revolution.”**





March 8 Statement of the Communist Revolutionary Women (Jinên Komûnîst ên Şoreşger)

To kick off the activities for the International Working Women's Day on March 8, the JKŞ (Communist Women's Movement) issued a statement in three cities:

“They want to steal our revolution. Let us not allow this—let us make March 8 the most glorious day of struggle against the reactionary, male-dominated system, occupation, and attacks.”

On December 8, the male-dominated, colonialist, Ba'athist regime handed over one city after another to HTS (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) without significant resistance. As a result, the cities under Assad's control fell into the hands of jihadist gangs.

Simultaneously, the colonialist Turkish occupying state, together with HTS, began the occupation of Til Rifat, Shehba, and Manbij through the gangs of the Syrian National Army (SNA). Thousands of residents of Afrin living in the refugee camps of Shehba were displaced once again. The gangs initially targeted women and children. In these attacks, women and children in Afrin were abducted, female fighters defending the revolution were captured and tortured, and massacres against Arab Alawites and other peoples were also highlighted.”

“Everyone knows that Golani and his allies, who have built this new power, are the biggest clan leaders of ISIS and have the blood of thousands of Syrians and peoples of the region on their hands. They should be condemned before the eyes of the peoples and women. These ISIS gangs, who abducted thousands of Yazidi women and children and sold them in slave markets, can never build a democracy.

In Qereqozax and Tishrin, a unique resistance is being waged. The fascist Turkish state and its jihadist gangs cannot advance even a centimeter against the resistance of our forces and our people. Despite the war crimes of the Turkish state and its gangs, our people did not give up their resistance against countless bombings, attacks, and massacres.

One of the greatest goals of these attacks by the occupiers and colonialists is to destroy the seeds of the women's revolution.

For this reason, as soon as HTS came to power and began building a new government, it announced the application of Sharia laws and distributed veils to women.

The ISIS Sharia judge, who executed women for adultery in Idlib before the eyes of the world, was appointed Justice Minister of the HTS government. Our resistance today is the resistance of existence, the resistance of human values, and the will of the women's revolution.

As Kurdish, Arab, Armenian, Assyrian, Alevi, and Turkmen women, we must stand together against all attacks and defend our future. We must strengthen our organizational and fighting power to protect the rights we have won through great effort.

We must take our places in the ranks of the people's defense and the people's battalions.

We must show solidarity with the women in Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Homs, Suwayda, and all other cities.

We must spread the women's revolution throughout Syria.

We must organize a united women's resistance across all of Syria. Our call goes out to all our Syrian sisters: Fight!

Do not accept this reactionary, patriarchal system and its practices.

Organize everywhere!

As Revolutionary Communist Women, we call on all people, youth, workers, toilers, and oppressed women everywhere to raise the flag of the revolution, the flag of resistance for dignity and humanity. An equal, free life is possible through resistance.

Spring lies ahead of us, March 8 lies ahead of us. This March 8 will be shaped by the struggle between the male-dominated system and the women's revolution. They want to steal our revolution. Let us not allow this—let us make March 8 the most glorious day of struggle against the reactionary, male-dominated system, occupation, and attacks.”

The statements concluded with the slogans: “Long live the Rojava Revolution,” “Long live the Women's Revolution,” “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” (Women, Life, Freedom), “Long live the resistance of Tishrin and Qereqozax.”



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