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STOP AKP- ISIS COLLABORATION!

STOP THE WAR AGAINST KURDS!

*The Turkish State's attacks and their impact on the status of
the Kurdish Issue*

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The Turkish State's attacks and their impact on the status of the Kurdish Issue

Since early 2013, when the latest peace process between the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Turkish government began, a ceasefire had been in place in Turkey. As part of those slow but ongoing talks, representatives of the Kurdish cause and Turkish Government came together at the Dolmabahce Palace, the Prime Minister's office on 28th February 2015 and held a joint press conference. In what was seen as a significantly progressive step forward for the peace process, a consensus was reached upon ten (10) articles proposed by Mr. Ocalan. Accordingly, a transition would be made to formal negotiations by the presence of an impartial third party observer. If an expanded agreement was reached upon here, the PKK was to gather in Congress and declare that their armed struggle against Turkey was over. It was intended that all of these factors would be concluded by the end of spring 2015.

Although Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of Turkey, was informed of all these developments, only 20 days later he made this public statement: 'I do not accept this agreement, there will be no negotiations table, there will be no impartial observer delegation, there is no Kurdish Issue.' This is because Erdogan was never truthfully intending to solve the Kurdish Issue via democratic or peaceful means in the first place. Instead, his primary aspiration was to confine the PKK to an indefinite cease-fire process in order to fortify and strengthen his power. He was fearful of the prospect of any solution which could diminish his power. Instead of solving the problem, Erdogan always aimed to create false expectations and hopes to discredit the PKK and encourage internal conflict. As soon as Erdogan realised that the PKK and Mr Ocalan were righteously gaining more legitimacy, validity and justification in public opinion across the world, he decided to put on the brakes. After Erdogan's intervention, the door to Imrali prison where Ocalan is being held was closed, the negotiations were interrupted. Absolutely no-one including family, lawyers or political representatives have been able to visit Mr Ocalan for the past 4 months.

Soon after, Turkey began to prepare for elections. Erdogan understood that if the People's Democratic Party (HDP) overcame the 10% election threshold, the AKP would not achieve a majority and his plans to further entrench his own power would be jeopardised. Therefore he based his election campaign on attempting to discredit the HDP. The HDP was attacked and harassed hundreds of times, hundreds of its members were arrested and its election demos and offices were bombed. Nevertheless, the HDP managed to overcome the anti-democratic 10% election threshold. Its success in the elections prevented Erdogan's bid to create a Superior Presidency political system. A discouraged, disappointed and frustrated Erdogan recommenced with provocations.

Subsequently, Erdogan and his forces began to provoke the Kurdish Guerrilla Forces with more extensive methods to accomplish their intentions, consequently resulting in a war. Since the 24th July 2015, the Turkish State has been systematically attacking Kurds both politically and militarily.

The Turkish armed forces recognize absolutely no international convention or law whilst carrying out military operations. Forests and mountains are being set on fire; Kurdistan is being burnt along with its humanity, wildlife and ecology. Residential areas are being targeted in South Kurdistan. Most recently, the Zergele Village was shelled by Turkish jets on 1st August 2015, massacring 8 people and wounding 15, most of whom were women and children. Within our file you will find a toll for the number of civilians murdered in Turkish Military Operations since 1983.

Despite all attempts to manipulate the public opinion and deceive the world, it is apparent to everyone that AKP and Erdogan are responsible for this war. The AKP were defeated in the elections, and they are holding the HDP and the Kurdish people responsible. Using the pretext of war as a justification, they are

willing to manipulate the law to criminalise the HDP, imprison HDP members, entirely close/prohibit the HDP and go ahead with re-elections to re-establish their powers.

The irony here is in the fact that whilst they have begun another war on the Kurds, the Turkish State is attempting to project the image that they are fighting ISIS. They have opened up Incirlik Military base for the US to attack ISIS, but they are deceiving and manipulating public opinion when they claim they are in the anti-ISIS coalition. The reality of the situation is that Turkey has been assisting Salafist terrorist groups such as ISIS, Al Qaeda and Al Nusra for many years. The Turkish-Syrian border has become a 'playground' for these groups. Turkey's operations against ISIS are nothing but false fabrications and manipulations. It is a known fact that the Kurdish forces have been the region's most unyielding and resilient fighters.

The Turkish state is camouflaging the support it gives to ISIS by declaring war on the Kurds. They are providing morale and support for ISIS by attempting to weaken the PKK. The Turkish state aims to also destroy the Rojava Revolution. This is a coup on the anti-ISIS international coalition's battle and consequently a danger to the security and safety of the world. Their actions are also weakening the strength of all forces clashing with ISIS as part of the International Coalition in Syria and Iraq and wrecking their plans.

In addition the Turkish State has made it apparent to the whole world that they do not want a solution based on dialogue and negotiations with the Kurds. This is despite the Kurdish side being genuine during the Peace Process and doing everything within their means for this process to evolve into permanent peace. The Kurds offered many alternative projects and resisted provocations; however, the opposite party sabotaged all of these and lastly provoked re-entry into another phase of conflict. The Kurdish side stands by the Agreement and is ready to resume the Peace Process from where it terminated.

To say 'No' to Turkey's aggressive attitude, Erdogan's monist, hegemonic and dangerous power calculations and the strengthening of ISIS, for the regions wellbeing, the international community must act immediately.

KURDISTAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (KNK) STATEMENTS

Turkish Jets are bombing Kurdish Guerrillas and civilians in South-Kurdistan (Iraq)

July 25, 2015



Yesterday on the 24th of July, at 10:55pm Turkish jets bombed Kurdish areas (Xakurke, Qandil, Behdinan, Zap, Gare, Basye, Amedia, and Avasin) in south Kurdistan, where mostly PKK guerrillas and civilians are situated. These attacks are still continuing. The AKP government authorized Turkish military and air force to bomb these civilian areas, including in Xakurke and the Enze village in Qandil. Reports from local sources indicate that a number of civilians were injured during these attacks, with villages, farms and homes destroyed.

Collaboration between AKP and ISIS

The collaboration between AKP and ISIS in Syria is increasing daily. The AKP government has supported ISIS militants in Syria to prevent the Kurdish efforts towards democracy and revolution in

Rojava. This support by Turkey has included access to weapons, access to the Rojava-Turkey border crossings and extensive medical support for ISIS militants. International public opinion has consistently demonstrated concern over the open collaboration between ISIS and the AKP government, resulting in extensive international criticism. It is essential that this international criticism remains loud and persistent in its condemnation of the Turkish attack on the Kurds in Turkey and in Iraqi Kurdistan. We urgently call on international institutions including the UN to consider the attacks by the Turkish state in Suruc, in Kobane and now in Qandil as a violation of international law and legal norms and to act immediately against ending this policy by the Turkish regime.

Turkey's military attacks against the Kurds continue July 30, 2015

New Evidence for Turkey-ISIS collaboration

Since the 24th of July, daily a bombing campaign has been launched by the Turkish military over Kurdish guerrilla forces and civilians in Iraqi Kurdistan. Close to 60 (F-16 and F-4) jets carry out bombing campaigns daily, targeting several locations. This military strategy has led to extensive environmental damage to the surrounding areas, injury of civilians and hundreds of villages evacuated. Moreover, large areas of farming land as well livestock have been bombed as a result of the indiscriminate bombings. There is no effort by the Turkish military to reduce the collective human and environmental damage that the indiscriminate bombing is causing.

How long will the International coalition allow Turkey's deception to continue?

Turkey is manipulating the international public opinion and the coalition against ISIS to wage a clear and deliberate war against the Kurds. Since the Turkish *state* "*decided*" to stand with the international coalition against ISIS, it has waged only one bombing campaign against ISIS, and only weapons warehouses were targeted. Instead the bombing campaign against the Kurds have continued non-stop since the 24th, and not only targeted the guerrilla forces, but also civilian areas.

How long will the UN, EU, and the USA continue not to act against Turkey and its war against the Kurds, which is only serving to strengthen ISIS and its terrorist objectives in the region?

If there was doubt over Turkey's support for ISIS, the current disproportionate attacks against the Kurds is ample evidence. By weakening the Kurds, Turkey empowers ISIS, logistically, economically and militarily.

The Turkish Military Carries out a New Kurdish Massacre August 1, 2015

The Turkish Government's Crimes against Humanity Continue

Turkish military jets have continued to bomb in Qandil (Iraqi Kurdistan) and surrounding villages in the past 24 hours. In the early hours of 1st of August, between 4-5 am local time, Turkish jets bombed Qandil and Kurdish civilians again. In the last few hours the village of Zergelê was the target of repeated bombings. Eye witnesses stated that the Turkish jets were targeting Zergelê house by house, resulting in high levels of casualties and injured. The attack resulted in 9 civilian casualties and dozens injured. The known names of the civilians are Nedim, Piro, Necip, Salih, Karox, Hemine, Êyşê and Abdulkadir. 15 of the injured civilians are currently in a critical condition.

Has the time not come to stop ISIS-Turkish collaboration?

Since the 24th of July Turkish jets are bombing the Kurdish guerrilla and civilian's non-stop. Turkey's allies UN, EU, USA have expressed support for Turkey's right to defend itself against 'terrorism'. However, Turkey's deliberate and persistent policy of targeting civilians is not self-defence. Rather, it is an act of state-terrorism, which the Kurds are being subjected to.

We call all the international democratic forces, public opinion and humanity to stand against the Turkish government's indiscriminate bombing and to end its campaign of state-terror.

We call the UN, EU and US to act immediately against this human rights violation and not to remain silent in the face of the overwhelming levels of Turkish violation of Kurdish human rights. The ongoing international silence, combined with the continued Turkish military attacks against the Kurds is further serving to empower ISIS terrorism and increase their morale.

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (İHD) STATEMENT

Operations should STOP! Isolations must END!

According to İHD data, 1034 people, 34 of whom are children, have been taken under custody and 49 people have been arrested during the police operations since July 21, 2015.

İHD President, Öztürk Türkdoğan, noted that Turkey has not been carrying out an effective investigation against ISIS. The recent operations is similar to the KCK operations of 2009-2013. Türkdoğan recalled the results of previous war processes and said that the Evacuated Villages Investigation Commission report numbered 10/25 from the TBMM's 20th term had reported that 3 thousand 428 in 20 cities, 905 of which were villages and 2 thousand 523 were hamlets, were evacuated by force. Türkdoğan also quoted the Ministry of Interior Affairs data, confirming that 378 thousand 335 people were forced to migrate and added that NGO reports approximated this number to be between 1 and 3 million. Türkdoğan emphasized that in doing these, the state implemented terror methods and described the unilateral application of the term 'terrorism' neither lawful not truthful.

DEMANDS

- ✓ The state must end military and political operations at once, end its violence, and start punishing public servants who have been violating human rights.
- ✓ PKK must preserve the ceasefire, stop its retaliations, and end armed attacks.
- ✓ Isolation of Abdullah Öcalan must end immediately, and Öcalan should be allowed to meet with the HDP delegation as well as his lawyers.
- ✓ State institutions must approach political parties equally and end its hostile and marginalizing policies such as not informing HDP, a legitimate party in parliament, about important issues such as national security. Hostility towards HDP should be considered as hostility towards Turkey's unity.
- ✓ Turkey should end its Syria policy, act so that friendly relations are established with Syria/Rojava cantons, and carry out an effective struggle against jihadist organizations.
- ✓ The Peace and Solution Process should continue with a commitment to the February 28, 2015 Declaration.
- ✓ All efforts should be made to form a coalition government to increase the capacity for peace and democracy. A coalition for the purpose of continuing the war efforts should be avoided.
- ✓ Laws such as the internal security package and legal reform that enable authoritarian practices should be changed, censorship of the press should be abandoned through securing the freedom of expression.

Türkdoğan in a press conference stated that as a party with 6 million voters, HDP could not be shut down. Türkdoğan noted that mobilized voters would create an alternative party immediately. He also asked the prosecutor targeting HDP what he had done regarding the civilians who were massacre in Roboski and Suruç. Regarding police violence on the streets, Türkdoğan stated that the state of emergency (OHAL) has normalized, but emphasized that Turkey was not a country that could be governed in OHAL conditions. <http://anfenglish.com/human-rights/ihd-operations-should-stop-isolation-must-end>

INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND EXPERTS



“The underlying strategy is to coerce the HDP to physically renounce what the PKK is doing,” Aaron Stein, a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, told the Huffington Post.

An unnamed US official told Foreign Policy that due to the YPG's successes against ISIS, the US views them as an important regional partner. “We don’t want to see that [relationship] complicated in any way” and “we are not going to forsake them,” the official said to Foreign Policy.

“Reconciliation should continue,” the Dutch Nato ambassador, Marjanne de Kwaasteniet, said, echoing what officials said were comments made privately by other countries in the meeting. The European Union also stressed the need for “proportionality” against the PKK.

Ege Seckin, a Turkey analyst at IHS in London, said there is a deep contradiction in what the U.S. is doing by agreeing to allow Turkey to go ahead with the airstrikes. “U.S. officials are hoping the damage done to Islamic State will outweigh the damage done to the YPG,” he said.

These 5 Stats Explain Turkey’s War on ISIS — and the Kurds

by Ian Bremmer, *TIME*- July 31, 2015



There are a number of reasons why Turkey has launched a war against the Kurds and the PKK. They include:

Turkey’s faltering economy which has steadily declined from 2010, where growth rates were at 9.2%. In 2015 the decline reached 4.1%, with a forecast of 3.1%. Unemployment is an all-time 5 year high of 11%.

Erdogan’s steady decline in popularity and the rise of the HDP party has also been an important process in the commencement of hostilities. Erdogan’s personal popularity has declined from 71% in 2011 to an all-time low of 37.5%. In the July elections AKP which had enjoyed 49.9% votes lost almost 10% of the overall votes. In contrast, HDP won 13% of the overall votes, an act considered as impossible by many, including AKP.

Turkey also hosts close to 2 million Syrian refugees. It is thought that the sooner the refugees can return home the burden on Turkey will be reduced. The ongoing history of violence and conflict with the PKK, exacerbated by the recent Suruc terrorist attack which killed 32 young pro-Kurd youth also contributed to the rise of hostilities as the government was accused of inaction against ISIS terrorism of the Kurds.

Finally, the government has detailed over 1,300 suspected terrorists. But the number of arrested PKK militants in comparison to ISIS is well over 6 to 1. In the so called duel track war on ISIS and the PKK, between 24-26 July, over 75 Turkish jets flew 155 raids on over 400 PKK positions. The number of ISIS targets hit has just been three. <http://time.com/3980085/these-5-stats-explain-turkeys-war-on-isis-and-the-kurds/>

Turkey's conflict with Kurdish guerrillas in Iraq can benefit Isis in Syria
by Patrick Cockburn, THE INDEPENDENT -Tuesday 28 July 2015

Turkish President Recep Erdogan could benefit politically from the targeting of the PKK

So far the Turkish offensive against “terrorism” has been directed primarily against the PKK Kurdish guerrillas in the mountains of northern Iraq rather than Isis in Syria.

In the first two days of the Turkish campaign it sent only a few planes to bomb Syria while there were 185 air missions against about 400 PKK targets. Turkey says it does not distinguish between Isis and the PKK, which makes it easier to gain international acceptance for resuming the war between the Turkish government and its 15 million-strong Kurdish minority.

Was approving air strikes against the PKK America's worst error in the Middle East since the Iraq War? Whatever the impact in Syria of Turkey joining the war against Isis, the new policy has reignited the Turkish-Kurd civil war in Turkey. The Nato members who supported Turkey's actions probably do not care too much about this so long as Turkey cooperates just enough to bring the end of the self-declared caliphate closer and closes the Turkish-Syrian border that has been so easy to cross for foreign volunteers. It may be that Isis calculates that the Turkish government's actions are primarily directed against the Kurds and the jihadis are only being hit to create a public relations smokescreen. This does not mean that Isis is right, but a Turkish government assault on the PKK, whose Syrian branch, the PYD, is Isis's most effective military opponent, might be in the interests of the self-declared caliphate.

The claim by US officials that the use of Turkish air bases will be a “game changer” in the war against Isis is wishful thinking. The problem for the US is that it is entirely dependent on the success of its air campaign. It dare not commit ground troops.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/turkeys-conflict-with-kurdish-guerrillas-in-iraq-can-benefit-isis-in-syria-10422690.html?origin=internalSearch>

Turkey conflict with Kurds: Was approving air strikes against the PKK America's worst error in the Middle East since the Iraq War?
THE INDEPENDENT

America was hoping for, initial signs are that the Turkish government may be more interested in moving against the Kurds in Turkey, Syria and Iraq than it is in attacking Isis. Ankara has previously said that it considers both the PKK and Isis to be “terrorists”. Meanwhile, Turkish police have stepped up suppression of all types of dissent – using water cannon against everybody from activists to members of the heterodox Shia Alevi sect, who number several million and claim they are discriminated against. Over the weekend, 1,000 people who demonstrated in Ankara for peace were detained, their wrists held together by what were said to be especially tight and painful plastic handcuffs.

The result is that the US may find it has helped to destabilise Turkey by involving it in the war in both Iraq and Syria, yet without coming much closer to defeating Isis in either country. If so, America will have committed its biggest mistake in the Middle East since it invaded Iraq in 2003, believing it could overthrow Saddam Hussein and replace him with a pro-American government. Turkey has become increasingly unstable and violent over the past two years as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has tried to consolidate his grip on power, even as his AKP party lost its parliamentary majority in last month's general election. America's problem is that its most effective ally against Isis in Syria so far has been the PYD, the ruling political party of the 2.2 million Syrian Kurds, who are concentrated in three enclaves just south of the Turkish border. The PYD and its paramilitary forces, known as the People's Protection Units or YPG, are the Syrian branch of the PKK. Helped since last year by US air support, they have repelled Isis from its siege of the city of Kobani and have won a series of further victories against the jihadist group, including the capture of an important border crossing at Tal Abyad.

While allying itself with the Kurds in Syria, the US denounces their mother organisation, the PKK, as “terrorists”. The White House spokesman, Ben Rhodes, said: “The US, of course, recognises the PKK specifically as a terrorist organisation. And, so, again Turkey has a right to take action related to terrorist targets.”

He did not add that the US had been supplying Turkish intelligence with information about PKK bases in Iraq since 2007. It is likely that America will tolerate Turkish action against the PKK in Qandik and Turkey but block any Turkish army moves to push into the Kurdish enclave in north-east Syria. But the PKK may, meanwhile, seek support from Iran and from the Syrian government in Damascus, with which it formerly had close relations.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/turkey-conflict-with-kurds-was-approving-air-strikes-against-the-pkk-americas-worst-error-in-the-middle-east-since-the-iraq-war-10417381.html?origin=internalSearch>

BILANCE OF THE TURKISH WAR ON KURDS AND HOW CIVILIANS ARE THE TARGET OF THE TURKISH STATE WAR AGAINST KURDS

Since 1983, the Turkish military has carried out tens of operations in Southern Kurdistan with hundreds of civilians killed or injured.

1991-1999



In airstrikes by the Turkish military against “PKK camps” in 1991, the villages near Zaxo, including Sivi, Miraz, Sipinler, Basi, Bindar, Bizo and Biyaz were left in ruins. In these airstrikes 5 villagers were killed.

On 11th of October of the same year, 5 villages cross the border were bombed and 9 civilians were killed, with 5 more injured.

Two weeks later starting on October 25, the countryside of Zaxo was bombed for three days resulting in 12 civilian deaths.

Civilians have always been the deliberate target of attacks by the Turkish State. In 1991, on November 3-5, a new attack was launched against the provinces of Cele and Haftanin, where 12 villagers were killed and tens left injured.

Women and children were the majority of the inured in this attack. These attacks continued between 1992 and 1993.

In April 1994, the Turkish military crossed the Southern Kurdistan border for over 15 km and accompanied by a bombing campaign, which killed 4 people including 3 children. The peshmerga, who were in operation along with the Turkish military, were also targeted and 20 peshmergaes lost their lives.

In July 1996, residential areas near Haftanin, Sinat, Zap and Kumri were targeted and tens of people lost their lives.

Yet in 1998 and 1999, the military repeated its attacks in South Kurdistan and returned once again with major casualties left behind.

The massacre in Kendakolê- 15 August 2000



On August 15, 2000 the military operated near the Kendakole province in Medya Defence Areas and killed 35 Kurds. Hundreds of family were bombed. Among the murdered were 11 children and 13 women. 25 people were injured. All of the killed civilians were from one family. Similar to other operations such as in Kortek and Roboski, the Turkish state attempted to cover up the massacre in Kendakole with statements claiming that the attack was a military mistake.

The massacre in Sengal- 14 August 2007



The AKP administration came into power in 2002 and took over the traditions of hostility and butchery against the Kurds. In August the military committed a massacre in the villages of Geruzen Sibasexidir and Qathaniye, near Sengal. On the 14th of August 2007, 4 separate trucks loaded with explosives executed suicide attacks in Sengal.

Official numbers recorded 525 dead and 400 wounded. However, local witnesses pointed at more than 700 dead. Subsequent to this attack important documents were leaked from the Turkish government which noted that the Turkish engagement in this massacre.

On the second anniversary of this attack, on **13th of August 2009**, two suicide bombers entered a coffee shop in Sengal and ignited their explosives. 17 people were killed, and 26 injured in the bombing. 5 years have passed but not a single investigation has been conducted to shed light on the incident.

On May 10, 2010 a howitzer attack was launched from Cele against Southern Kurdistan. The bombings hit a house in Benistan, a village in Seladize in the Duhok province. All family members in this house, including the parents and 3 children aged between 4-9 years were injured.

The Kortek Massacre - 21 August 2011



On August 21st, 2011 Turkish jets massacred civilians again. Turkish jets bombarded a village in the Kortek area in southern Kurdistan. A family of 7 people, including 4 children, one of them being 7 months old were killed. Hüseyin Mustafa, Mêr Mam Kak, 34 old Rezan Hüseyin, 11 year old Zana Hüseyin, 10 year old Oskar Hüseyin, 4 year old Sonya Şemal, and 7 month old baby Solin.

The people of Kandil buried the remains of the bodies of Rezan Hüseyin Mustafa, mother to four and pregnant, Mer Haci Mem and Hasan Mustafa. Thousands of people from Southern Kurdistan joined the funeral. The Turkish state made statements in line of their history of massacre.

The Roboski Massacre - 28 December 2011



The following year, the AKP administration executed 34 civilians in Roboski. The government spokesman Besir Atalay, stated: “Since the operations began in August only one military error has occurred before Uludere. And that was in Iraq”.

The Turkish state’s official explanation of the massacre has been to label such incidents as “mistakes”. But the Kurdish people could never forget these massacres and the impact it has had on their lives. There have been no efforts to establish an inquiry into the incident.

The Zergele Massacre - 1 August 2015



The Turkish State committed another massacre recently in Zergele, where nine people lost their lives, and 15 injured. Turkey executed its latest cross-border operation on August the 1st, 2015.

The bombing of Medya Defence Areas was initiated on July 24 and continued on until August 1, with direct bombing of civilians. At 4 am on this day, Turkish fighter jets bombed the Zergele village of Medya Defence Areas in Qandil. The heavy bombardment aimed to exterminate the entire village and costed the lives of 9 civilians, mostly children and women.

The names of those who lost their lives in Zergele are: Necip Rojhilat, Salih Mihemed Emin, Karox Mihemed Emin, Heybet Mihemed Emin, Nedim, Piro, Êyşê Xıdır, Abdulkadir and Mihemed Emin.

JOINT DECLARATION BY KURDISH, CHALDEAN-SYRIAC-ASSYRIAN PARTIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

We call for an immediate end of Turkish violations against our people, country and airspace and we call on international bodies including NATO, UN, US and the EU Member States to support our peoples in the struggle against ISIS.

Today we stand together as Kurdish parties representing by election the majority of the Kurds in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey as well as many Kurds in Europe. We are emboldened that Ezidi- Kurds and Chaldean-Syriac-Assyrian Christians have joined with us in taking a united stance as fellow peoples of our country.

Today we stand united with all those victims of the new Turkish aggression against the Kurds and all those of different ethnicities. Now we are the targets of both Turkish aggression and the fundamentalist terrorism by ISIS. We deeply grieve over the pointless killing in Zargali where Turkish jets bombed Kurdish civilians killing 9 people and we express condolences for all those who lost their loved ones. We deplore the destruction of our villages and medical facilities. The world applauded our fight against ISIS as a last stand against this enemy of humanity. Now we feel utterly disappointed by those who said they would support us but did not when it really mattered.

How can the war against ISIS can succeed if we also have to contend with Turkish aggression at the same time? How can the Kurds and Syriac Christians defend themselves against ISIS if Turkey bombs them as well?

We represent the opportunity that the world is hoping for. We want a Middle East where there is democracy, real rights and personal freedom, freedom of religion, equality between men and women and equality of all peoples. In fact we want a modern and stable Middle East more than anyone else. We know many Turks want the same but the current Turkish government policies represent the old mentality that is dragging our region down as can be seen with absolute clarity now.

We therefore demand an immediate end of Turkish violations against our people, country and airspace. There is no justification for the Turkish attacks on a neighbouring peaceful country. Turkey suddenly stopped the peace process with the Kurds and started overnight a war that turned into a war against our whole people and a blatant political assault on the HDP, a democratic elected party with broad support.

We are very shocked and deeply alarmed that NATO, the UN and USA have all abandoned international law, normal standards of diplomacy and most of all abandoned our peoples who are in the frontline of this important struggle of humanity.

We call on all these international bodies and the EU Member States to return to international standards and law and to support our peoples in our struggle. We have welcomed the support received until now but this help will become pointless if current Turkish aggression is not stopped.

We call on the EU, US, UN and NATO to insist that Turkey immediately ends its attacks and urge it to resume the peace process and to preserve its democracy. The future of peace in the Middle East depends on the Kurdish struggle. Kurds as a key part of the democratic forces are the ultimate guarantee of security and stability in the region. Their model of living together with all the other ethnic and religious groups in equality and respect will establish the basis for lasting peace.

We know that many ordinary people and many politicians around the world sympathise with our aspirations and understand that our struggle is one for the whole of humanity.

We call on you to take appropriate action and raise your voice with us to end this violence.

Signatories:

KNK (Kurdistan National Congress)/ PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan -Iraq)/ Peoples' Democratic Party-HDP/ Goran Movement, Kurdistan-Iraq/PYD (Democratic Union Party -Syria) /PJAK (Party of Free Life of Kurdistan – Iran) /Kurdish Institute Brussels/European Syriac Union/Solidarity committee with Rojava/YXK, Kurdish Students Union-Europa/Ezidi Council Sinjar in Exile/FKE, Ezidi Federation in Europa/KCD-Europa (Kurdistan Democratic Community in Europa) /TJKE (Kurdistan Women's Movement –Europa) /Kurdistan Islamic Union (Yekgertu) /PRK, Kurdistan Liberation Party/PSDK (Kurdistan Socialist Democratic Party –Iraq) /Hizbî Zehmetkêşanî Kurdistan-Iraq/PIK (Islamic Party of Kurdistan) /Kurdistan European Green Organization/The Free woman in East Kurdistan/Yar-Kurd, Democratic Organization for Yarsan/ Komala Islami Kurdistan- Iraq/ MDDP Mezopotamia.

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