

information file

5 minutes to election: What happened during 20 days of PKK-inaction in Turkey?



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Kurdistan Communities of Women (KJK)

Umbrella organization of the Kurdish Women's Liberation Movement

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To the press and public,

On Sunday, November 1, new elections will take place in Turkey. On June 7, for the first time in Turkish history a pro-Kurdish leftist party – the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) – managed to break through the 10% mark by getting 13.1% of the votes. This result destroyed the dreams of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), which aimed to form the government on its own. After unsuccessful pro-forma coalition talks with the Republican People’s Party (CHP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), the President of Turkey and former Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan declared on August 21 that “With the will of Allah, new elections will be held on 1 November”.

3 days ago, on Monday (26 October 2015), the AKP deputy chair Mehmet Ali Şahin said “I’m afraid that if the outcome of the vote turns out like it did on June 7, there is going to be talk of another election”. This statement of a high official shows that AKP is considering to let people vote until it gets the desired result. But while waiting for the desired result – absolute power – AKP is plunging the country into chaos and trying to eliminate all opposition – especially the Kurdish Political Movement.

In this regard the AKP ruled interim government started an unprecedented campaign against Kurds in Turkey: extensive military operations, curfews in Kurdish cities, killing of civilians, cross-border airstrikes, mass arrests, systematic destruction of cemeteries, removal and imprisonment of Kurdish mayors, desecration of corps etc.

Although AKP is legitimating this campaign with the killing of two Turkish policemen in Ceylanpinar on July 22, it is obvious that Erdogan and his party want to take revenge for the lost elections.

After the intensification of the clashes between PKK guerrilla fighters and Turkish army and security forces, different international forces, like United Nations, European Union, United States of America, called both – the Kurdish liberation movement and the Turkish state – to stop fighting and return to the dialogue table.

As an answer to these calls and also for providing security to the electoral process, the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Executive Council Co-Presidency declared inaction on condition that no attacks are carried out against the Kurdish movement, people and guerrilla forces on October 10. The same day, a bomb killed 102 people – most of them Kurds and leftists – attending a rally for peace in Ankara.

In its statement KCK underlined that all the international forces, states and forces in Turkey that have called for a ceasefire in order for the realization of elections in a healthy environment, must follow this process closely and play their roles, manifest the necessary sensibility and make an intervention when necessary.

However none of the states or international forces that have called both, PKK and the Turkish state to stop fighting and start peace talks, asked the AKP why they are continuing military operations against Kurdish fighters despite their inaction. Moreover the Turkish army started to attack Kurdish forces, which resist IS in Northern Syria, too.

The ongoing conflict between Kurds and the Turkish state has regional and international dimensions, too. It has a lot to do with the developments in Syria and the Middle East in general.

Those forces that aim a democratic future for the people in the Middle East must act now. Especially those who called for negotiations between the Kurdish political movement, represented by the imprisoned and isolated PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, and the Turkish state, must shoulder their responsibility and call the Turkish government to immediately stop its military attacks and end its disastrous policies, which have a disastrous impact on the whole region.

The silence towards the increasing crimes against humanity and war crimes by the Turkish government does not serve the democratic and peaceful coexistence of the people in Turkey and the Middle East. In contrary. In this regard we strongly criticize the European Commission for holding back its report in Turkey until after next Sunday's election.

In this information file you will find a summary of the happenings in Turkey since the declaration of the unilateral ceasefire by the PKK on October 10. One look at the last 20 days should give a clear indication about the seriousness of the political process in Turkey.

The longer the number of serious crimes committed by official and paramilitary forces of the Turkish state increases, the difficult a real reconciliation process will be in future. Let's do not allow any more crimes against humanity. It's time to act.

Kurdistan Communities of Women (KJK)

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KCK: All forces should take a stance against AKP's ongoing attacks

KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) Co-Presidency has released a statement on October 21 about the increasingly ongoing attacks by the AKP government despite the declaration of unilateral inaction by the Kurdish movement on October 10.

KCK said the AKP government took advantage of the inaction by their side and tried to strengthen its own position since guerrillas switched into the position of inaction.

Recalling that the Kurdish movement declared a suspension of actions on October 10 in consideration of the calls for a ceasefire that came from both inside and outside the country, KCK said AKP officials announced that they would keep the battle going on till the end yet when it became clear that guerrillas would suspend their actions.

KCK also pointed out that the suicide attacks at the Peace Rally in Ankara coincided with the declaration of inaction by their side, which -it said- proved that the AKP insisted and reckoned on war. "Prime Minister Davutoğlu's remarks that "surveys show an increase in the rate of our votes" soon after the Ankara bombing curdled everyone's blood and made it clear why they strictly rejected our declaration of inaction and vowed to keep the battle going to the very end soon after the Ankara massacre."

HEAVIEST ATTACKS BEING CONDUCTED AT THE MOMENT

Stressing that the Kurdish Freedom Movement has suspended its activities and conducted no single planned actions since October 10, KCK said the Turkish state, however, took advantage of the inaction position of guerrilla forces and increased its attacks by providing its security forces with a freer environment of movement.

Remarking that these attacks have forced the Kurdish movement to discontinue the position of inaction, KCK said the current attacks were the heaviest ones carried out by Turkish forces during the last three months.

"While we have declared inaction, the AKP government brings out a conflict that will lead up to further deaths, pursuing a policy similar to the one before the June 7 election when they incited attacks and provocations that resulted in deaths of police and soldiers on the basis of an intention to win the elections through such methods."

OPERATIONS OF POLITICAL GENOCIDE HAVE INCREASED

KCK underlined that in addition to increasing military offensives, the AKP government has also enhanced the operations of political genocide that focus on arrests and mainly target mayors of Kurdish municipalities and members of municipal councils.

"It is an unacceptable attitude that those who called for a ceasefire in the face of the renewed conflict, do now remain silent and adopt no stance against these policies and increasing attacks by the AKP. It is not understandable that many local and international powers, including Germany, the U.S. and many other states, all of which voiced calls for a ceasefire and re-beginning of talks, are now remaining silent in the face of ongoing attacks by the AKP. It is meaningful that some of these, which had pledged to put pressure on AKP government in the event that the Kurdish movement silenced arms, take no actions now. The lack of pressure on AKP government to stop its attacks after our declaration of inaction, has encouraged it to increase its attacks", KCK underlined.

FORCES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TURKEY SHOULD TAKE A STANCE AGAINST AKP'S POLICIES

Emphasising that the Kurdish movement has maintained the position of inaction with great responsibility and patience for 12 days now, KCK said this self-sacrifice by their side has also been proved by their ongoing inaction despite the murder of dozens of guerrillas in the most recent attacks of Turkish forces in Lice and Zagros.

“Remaining silence on these multidimensional attacks of the Turkish state produces no results other than encouraging further attacks of this kind. Those who want a resolution to the Kurdish question through democratic political ways and do not want Turkey to be dragged into the chaos in the Middle East must urgently take a stance against the AKP government. It is a moral and political responsibility for those- who called for a ceasefire from us- to make sure that the Turkish state stops its attacks for the security of elections at least.”

KCK remarked that the continuation of the attacks by AKP since the declaration of inaction by their side has openly manifested who has heightened the tension and started the war after June 7 elections.

According to KCK, the massacres in Suruç and Ankara, and the government's attitude towards these have laid bare the fact that the AKP wanted to maintain its ruling by taking advantage of tension and war.

“In the face of the current situation, those inside and outside Turkey, who side with the resolution of the Kurdish question, democratization of Turkey, and achievement of peace and stability, must come together and stand against this policy pursued by the AKP government”, KCK added.

Short summary of important events in Kurdistan after declaration of unilateral ceasefire by KCK on October 10

10 October

Curfew in two districts (Sur and Yenişehir) of the Kurdish city Diyarbakır. Policemen and Special Forces attack the quarters Fatihpaşa and Hasırlı. Before attack, cut of electricity, internet and phone in the quarters. A young man named Halil Tüzülerk shot dead by policemen while feeding his doves. Policemen hang Turkish flag on minaret of Kurşunlu Mosque. A young woman injured. Ekrem Susul (50) shot in the chest. Ambulance not able to enter quarter. Some houses including the building of the quarter council set on fire.

Curfew in Dargeçit/Mardin. Policemen write “Turks arrived, where is the PKK” on walls.

Turkish airstrike on PKK fighter’s cemetery in Lice/Diyarbakır. 8 guerrilla fighters killed.

Police attack people protesting Ankara bombing in Adana, Istanbul and Izmir.

Mortar attack on PKK fighter’s cemetery in Silopi/Şırnak.

Transport of dozens of military vehicles from Mardin to Şırnak as part of operation preparation.

11 October

Police and Special Forces attack people protesting Ankara bombing in Yuksekova/Hakkari with real weapons.

Police in Sur/Diyarbakır where curfew continues injure Ekrem Susul and arrest his 3 children and 4 neighbors that wanted to take him to hospital. 26 people arrested during police raid.

Airstrike by war planes against PKK fighter’s cemetery in Pervari/Siirt.

Abdulaziz Taruk (63) dies after gas attack on people protesting Ankara bombing in Diyarbakır.

Military operation in Erzurum.

12 October

5 years old Tevriz Dora shot dead by police in Adana.

12 years old Helin Şen shot dead in front of her home in Sur/Diyarbakır, where curfew is continuing.

After having destroyed PKK fighter’s cemetery in Silopi/Şırnak, war planes bomb Mount Cudi.

Police attack against people protesting curfew in the centre of Diyarbakır.

Diba Keskin, female mayor of Erciş/Van, arrested.

Military operation in Muş.

13 October

6 politicians including mayors of Iğdır, Tuzluca and Hoşhaber arrested because of participation in human shields action against military operations. Accused with “support of terrorist organization”.

Curfew in Dargeçit/Mardin ends.

Mayor of Hınıs, Hasan Basri Fırat arrested after police raid.

Military transport to Şemdinli/Hakkari. Attempts to start military operation against PKK fighters in Rubarok (Derecik).

Clash between Turkish soldiers and PKK fighters in Yuksekova/Hakkari and in Hizan/Bitlis.

14 October

People find dead body of Idris Cebe (18) in Dargeçit/Mardin, where curfew ended one day before.

Curfew in Sur/Diyarbakır ends at its 4th day.

11 human shield activists that climbed Mount Herekol in Pervari/Siirt for preventing military operation, detained.

Soldiers shooting at human shield activists on Mount Cudi. One activist named Ayşe Yaman injured. Activists detained on their way back to Şırnak.

Police attack on people protesting arrestment of mayor Diba Keskin in Erciş.

Independent observers and journalists enter the district Sur/Diyarbakır after 4 days curfew. Special forces have written slogans like “You’ll see the power of Turks”.

Removal from office of co-mayors of Batman and 17 city council members.

15 October

Removal from office of co-mayors of Yuksekova/Hakkari.

Clashes between Turkish soldiers and PKK guerillas in Yuksekova/Hakkari. Announcement of 9 PKK fighters that lost their lives after Turkish military attacks.

Curfew in districts Lice and Hani/Diyarbakır. Military operation in Lice/Diyarbakır.

Two young men named Diyar Ertaş and Diyar Akın shot dead by policemen in Yuksekova/Hakkari.

Ipekyolu mayor Aygul Bidav removed from office.

16 October

Military operation in Dersim. 3 female PKK guerrilla fighters killed.

17 October

PKK fighter's cemetery in Pulumur/Dersim destroyed after air attack. Military operation in Pulumur Valley.

Clashes in Şemdinli/Yuksekoa after Turkish army attempted to enter PKK position. As result 3 PKK fighters and 20 Turkish soldiers lose their lives.

18 October

Curfew in Lice/Diyarbakır ends.

Curfew in Silvan/Diyarbakır. Police operation in the quarters Tekel, Konak and Mescit.

Airstrike of Turkish army against PKK positions in Yuksekova/Hakkari.

19 October

Attack by policemen and special forces in Silvan, where curfew continues.

Military operation in Yuksekova/Hakkari. Turkish army using cluster bombs against PKK fighters.

Police shots 2 young men during protests in Kızıltepe/Mardin.

Tahir Elçi, president of Diyarbakır Bar Council, detained after his remarks on a television program stating that "the PKK is not a terrorist group".

20 October

Military operation and airstrikes in Karlıova/Bingol. Airstrikes against PKK positions in Yuksekova/Hakkari.

Clashes between Turkish army and PKK guerrilla fighters in Şemdinli/Hakkari.

Tank attacks on homes in Silvan/Diyarbakır.

21 October

Turkish warplanes bomb PKK positions in Yuksekova/Hakkari.

Curfew in Silvan ends.

Military operation on Mount Mawa with the participation of 5 thousand soldiers. Operations in Bingol and Bitlis.

Airstrikes in Ovacık/Dersim.

22 October

20 human shield activists trying to prevent military operation on Mount Mawa detained. Turkish soldiers destroy fighter's cemetery.

Military operation in Yuksekova/Hakkari continues.

24 October

More than 50 Kurds detained during raids in 6 cities.

Military transport to Yuksekova/Hakkari.

Military operation in Muş.

Turkish army shells YPG positions in Tal Abyad/Rojava.

25 October

16 years old Mustafa Aşlığ shot dead by police in Silopi/Şırnak.

26 October

20 activists detained during raids in Izmir and Aydın.

27 October

17 Kurds detained in Elazığ.

Turkish army shells YPG positions in Tal Abyad/Rojava.

28 October

Cannon fire in Cizre / Şırnak.

Education Ministry closes down Kurdish school in Nusaybin/Mardin.

22 years old Hasan Yılmaz injured by police in Silopi/Şırnak.

64 years old Sait Ekinci shot dead in front of his house in Idil/Şırnak.