

The Democratic Society Movement, TEV-DEM



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Afrin Liberation Conference announced to liberate Afrin

The Democratic Autonomous Administration institutes held Afrin Liberation Campaign in the al-Shahba Canton to discuss the latest development and set a road map to liberate Afrin. The Conference concluded by announcing the general alarm to liberate Afrin.

The Syrian Revolution began in 2011 with the slogans of freedom and democracy, to deviate early from its course and move the country to division and partition and spread hostilities within the national fabric on one ethnic and sectarian basis, turning into a crisis in which many regional and international parties played a negative role, they have expanded areas of conflict and have extended their lives...

Afrin presented the Syrians and the whole world with a pioneering example of Democratic Autonomous Administration through the participation of all sectors and components of the country, thus providing a comprehensive solution to the Syrian crisis on the basis of peoples' fraternity and coexistence.

But the eyes of the Turkish enemy have been set this experience, fighting it through its hired mercenaries and extremists at times, and tampering with its security through its forces on the border at other times, culminating in this barbaric war on Afrin, which began on 20/1/2018 in cooperation with its tools in an international conspiracy. Russia was a partner in weaving its threads through a despicable deal, and in a shameful international silence that went beyond all international norms and laws...

At the conclusion of the Conference, it appealed to world power and all democratic and Kurdish factions to do their historic duty to put pressure on the Turkish government (the government of justice and development) to end its occupation of the Afrin canton. They stressed the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes under the protection of international organizations and human rights bodies.

The Conference also called on components of Syrian society to stand side by side with the resistance of Afrin to expel the Turkish occupation and preserve the territorial integrity of Syria. It called upon all the components of Turkish society not to vote for the Justice and Development list in the upcoming elections because the survival of the Erdogan gang is a continuation of the dictatorship, tyranny and terrorism in the Middle East and the whole world and its continued occupation of Afrin and other cities in the Syrian north.¹

Another Kurdish family expelled from home in Afrin

The invading Turkish state forces continue to expel Kurds in Afrin from their homes and villages as part of their efforts to change the demography of the region.

¹ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/afrin-liberation-conference-announced-general-alarm-to-liberate-afrin-h2099.html>



Local sources report that Turkish-backed mercenaries have raided the home of a Kurdish family in Ayn Hadr village of Afrin's Mabata district and pressured them to evacuate their home.

Muhammed Ehmed and his family, whose home was raided, opposed leaving their house, upon which they were tortured by the jihadi gangs, including children.

The gangs severely tortured a child named Ömer.

Ehmed family was forced to leave their home as a result of the atrocity they were subjected to.²

Massive demo in Qamişlo condemned Turkish occupation

Under the slogan "No for the Turkish State's Occupation," the people of Qamişlo organized a demonstration to denounce the Turkish state's attacks on Qandil and Afrin.

Thousands of people from Qamişlo gathered at the Martyr Othman Square and raised flags of the People's Protection Units, the Women's Protection Units, the Syrian Democratic Forces and the pictures of the leader of the Kurdish people, Abdullah Ocalan, and they headed towards the Martyrs of March 12 Square.



² <https://anfenglishmobile.com/rojava/another-kurdish-family-expelled-from-home-in-afrin-27633>

"The Turkish state must not forget 1992 year"

After the arrival of the demonstrators to the square, many speeches were delivered, including a speech on behalf of Kongra Star and the Democratic Society Movement which was delivered by the administrator in Star Union Shaha Khalil, referring to the resistance of the Kurdish people that has been going on for years, and said the following:

"These people who learned resistance and struggle will resist all the policies and the attempts of the occupation, the Turkish state must not forget the attacks on Qandil in 1992 and how it could not win in spite of using thousands of tanks and aircrafts."

The demonstration ended with chanting the slogans which saluted Qandil and Afrin resistances.

Raqqa security forces announces two-day curfew fearing IS attacks

Local Syrian security forces in Raqqa imposed a two-day curfew, starting Sunday, after receiving information about possible attacks by the Islamic State (IS) militants on the group's former capital.

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in October 2017 liberated Raqqa, the de facto capital of the so-called caliphate. Since then, local police units were established to ensure the security situation remained stable.

In a statement published on Sunday, the Raqqa International Security Forces said they had received "viable information that terrorist groups working on behalf of Da'esh [IS]... have entered Raqqa city to carry out attacks."

The security forces affirmed that in response to the threats, they had announced "a state of emergency" and imposed a curfew on Raqqa city "starting at 5:00 am (0200 GMT) on Sunday, June 24, 2018, until 5:00 am, Tuesday."³

Raqqa sheikhs demand Security Council expel Turkish occupiers

The sheikhs and tribal elders in al-Raqqa called on the UN Security Council and the United Nations to expel the Turkish occupiers and their jihadi mercenaries from the Syrian territory, noting that they stand in line with Syria's Democratic Forces to preserve the gains of the Syrian north.

The sheikhs and tribal elders in al-Raqqa gathered on Sunday at al-Naeem Square and read out the following statement:

³ <http://sdf-press.com/en/2018/06/statement-to-the-public-opinion-9/>



"On behalf of the sheikhs and tribal elders in al-Raqqa and its countryside, we are the sons of al-Raqqa after the liberation of our city from the horror of terrorism and the liberation of Deir ez-Zor to the Iraqi-Syrian border, and the return of parents and migrants to their homes and their daily activities, therefore, we decided the following:

1. It is absolutely forbidden to damage and tamper with the security of the province and its countryside and all the lands of the North of Syria to any terrorist gangs with all different names.
2. The elders the tribes ruled out the exclusion of any subversive terrorist tampering with the security of the province and create strife between the people of the province and the components of the Syrian north and promote false news.
3. The sheikhs and tribal leaders recognized that the political solution is the only solution to resolve the Syrian crisis and the military solution has only brought destruction to the Syrian people.
4. The elders of the tribes and all components of the Syrian people stressed to stand in line with the forces of Syria's Democratic Forces to preserve the gains of the Syrian people in the north of Syria.
5. The elders of the tribes in al-Raqqa demand the UN Security Council and the United Nations to withdraw the Turkish aggression and its mercenaries from Syrian territory.⁴

⁴ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/al-raqqa-sheikhs-demanded-security-council-to-expel-turkish-occupier-h2157.html>

First Democratic Society Academy opened in Deir-Ezzor

The first Democratic Society Academy was opened with a ceremony in al-Kebir, Deir-Ezzor district. The ceremony was attended by scores of citizens from the region, as well as executives of the Democratic Society Academy and civil society institutions.

Following the ceremony that began with a one-minute silence to pay tribute to those who lost their life, Sena al-Salih, mother of Martyr Ziyag Bebir cut the ribbon and officially opened the Academy.



Ferzenda Munzir, the managing director of the Democratic Society Academy underlined in his speech the importance of establishing the Democratic Society Academy and said that the basis of every revolution is linked to the existence of democratic social policy institutions.

Cemila al-Hesen from Deir-Ezzor Civic Council, Wefa al-Celal, executive of the Martyrs' Committee and Fîras Ibrahim of the Syria Democratic Council (SDC) also spoke at the ceremony.

All stressed the important of the Academy which among other tasks has that of raising the level of consciousness among people. Mihemed Eyno, one of the officials of the Democratic Society Academy, said that 35 people will start an education program beginning on 1 July.

Eyno insisted that one of the main jobs of the Academy will be promoting the democratic autonomy values and principles as well as raising consciousness among the people. The ceremony ended with halay, traditional dance.⁵

⁵ <https://anfenglishmobile.com/news/first-democratic-society-academy-opened-in-deir-ezzor-27746>

People of Afrin: We will free our home from Turkish invasion

Delegates of the Conference for the Liberation of Afrin held public meetings in Ahraz, Fafin, Til Qarah and Kafr Naya towns of Shehba Canton, Northern Syria. Hundreds of Afrin people who are currently staying in Shehba have attended the meetings.



Meetings began with one minute's silence and continued with the reading of the results of the Conference for the Liberation of Afrin where executives assessed the recent situation and made self-criticism.

During the public meetings, delegates pointed out the 58 days of resistance in Afrin, stressing that the peoples of Syria and Afrin must mobilize for the liberation of Afrin and get organized on this basis.

It was also stated that the people of Afrin are resisting and organizing in Shehba, training themselves in accordance with the conditions of war, accelerating diplomatic efforts and works for the liberation of Afrin from Turkish invasion.

The people of Afrin said during the meetings that the spirit of Resistance of the Age is growing every day, and that they are ready for mobilization to liberate Afrin from Turkish invasion.⁶

Man abducted in Afrin upon return after 5 years

Afrin resident Fayik İbrahim worked various jobs in Turkey for 5 years and saved money, only to be abducted by Turkey backed jihadi gangs in Afrin where he returned after 5 years. İbrahim was tortured and all his money was confiscated.

⁶ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/afrin-people-with-general-alarm-we-are-resistant-till-afrin-liberation-h2197.html>

İbrahim lives in Jindirese in Afrin and had moved to Turkey 5 years ago to find work. He worked various jobs there and wasn't able to return home for 5 years due to the clashes along the Northern Syrian borderline.



The Turkish soldiers and their allied jihadi gangs who looted Afrin and implemented barbaric practices in the city have started to announce that Afrin is safe and secure through the media. İbrahim was tricked by the false news on Turkish media regarding the city and returned with the hope to see his family. He was abducted by the gangs upon his return.

TORTURED

İbrahim said the gangs confiscated his bags as soon as he returned to Afrin through the Bab border gate and continued: "I went to a relative's house in Afrin. Two days later, the gangs raided the house and abducted me. They held me in jail for 4 days. The people there were all Kurdish and we were subjected to severe torture."

RELEASED WITH RANSOM

İbrahim said the gangs abduct the civilians out of nowhere and demanded ransom from their families: "They asked for ransom for me too. I gave them the money I saved working in Turkey and they released me."

İbrahim lost all his money to the gangs and couldn't reach the Jindirese district he was born in and longed for. He said Afrin was turned into a torture center and added: "They collect tribute from all shopkeepers. They steal crops from farmlands."

İbrahim said he decided to leave Afrin after the torture he was subjected to: "So I paid the gangs again to leave Afrin. They left me in the Kimarê village in Sherawa. There I walked to

another village. İbrahim is staying in the Shehba canton now and calls for the people to not return until Afrin is liberated from gangs.⁷

Women Academy in al-Tabqa opened course for administrators

The Syrian Women's Academy in al-Tabqa has opened a new training course at its headquarters in the first neighborhood to raise awareness and the administrative expertise in local institutions and councils.



The number of the trainees joined the course is 20, who came from the eastern and western countryside of al-Tabqa and from al-Raqqa area.

The course is scheduled to last for one month, during which the trainees will receive lectures on the importance of education, women's history, special war, democratic nation and sexism.

In addition, the trainees will receive lessons on the history of Syria, social justice, and legitimate defense reaching the art of justice, diplomacy and the social economy.

It is worth mentioning that the Syrian Women's Academy in al-Tabqa, after six months from its establishment, held four courses during which it graduated dozens of administrators and pioneers who have been supervising large and important institutions.⁸

⁷ <https://anfenglishmobile.com/rojava/man-abducted-in-afrin-upon-return-after-5-years-27783>

⁸ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/syrian-women-academy-in-al-tabqa-opened-course-for-administrators-h2212.html>

Conference in EP calls for an end to Turkish occupation of Afrin

The EU Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) together with the Kurdish Institutes of Brussels, Köln and Stockholm and the Network of Kurdish Academics (KURD-AKAD) held on 28 June 2018, an International Conference:

The Turkish Invasion of Afrin: Kurdish Academics Discuss Their Vision for A Democratic Solution to The Crisis in The Middle East.



The International Conference was hosted and organized by the *Greens-European Free Alliance (Greens-EFA)* in cooperation with other political groups in the European Parliament, *The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)*, *European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE-NGL)*.

THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEMANDS

We consider the occupation of Afrin to be illegal and contrary to the principles and aims of the United

Nations and to international law. Thus, we condemn all the practices of the Turkish occupation forces and call for:

1. The immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Turkish forces and their affiliated groups from Afrin and all the Syrian territories they occupy.
2. Investigations into and exposure of all the violations committed by the Turkish army and the affiliated groups against civilians in Afrin, which has resulted in mass displacement and a humanitarian crisis.
3. The unconditional release of all the abducted men, women, and children, and the provision of adequate compensations for the victims.

4. An independent and impartial investigation into the fate of the disappeared; whether they are still alive or have been killed for political or other reasons.
5. The formation of an independent, impartial, and transparent judicial commission with the participation of representatives from the Syrian Federation for Human Rights, as well as humanitarian and women's organizations in Syria. It shall consider all violations committed in Afrin since the beginning of the Turkish aggression on 20 January 2018, and refer perpetrators to local, regional and international courts in order to hold them accountable.
6. Cooperation with Syrian human rights and civic organizations in their investigations and documentation of the various crimes committed by the Turkish occupying forces and their affiliate groups since the beginning of the Turkish invasion on 20 January 2018, in order to prosecute the perpetrators in International courts.
7. The safe return of the displaced people of Afrin and the reinstitution of the means to run their own affairs.
8. The relevant international bodies and institutions to provide all necessary economic and humanitarian assistance to the people in Afrin and the returning displaced people.
9. Legal and academic documentation and analysis of the racist practices of the occupying Turkish forces, including forced migration, and the deliberate alteration of the demographic throughout the region.⁹

Young Women's Union established in Raqqa for the first time

The Northern Syrian Young Women's Association held a meeting in Raqqa within the scope of the works they are carrying out to establish the Young Women's Union in the city.

The slogan of the meeting was: "We will destroy the slavery mentality with the struggle of the women".

The meeting, which started with a minute's silence, was attended by the Northern Syria Young Women's Union, the Syrian Women's Council and a large number of young women from the city.

Speaking at the meeting, Young Women's Union Member Medya Mihemed stressed that women could have a major role in the resistance against the occupation attacks.

Stating that women living in northern Syria, especially women from Raqqa, are being persecuted by power, Medya Mihemed said that women will build a new life through and with their organizations.

⁹ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/politicians-academicians-turkish-occupation-of-afrin-is-illegitimate-h2232.html>



After the speeches, the assembly elected 20 women for various roles. The meeting ended with a video about the role of women in the Northern Syria revolution.¹⁰

A 66-year-old Yazidi woman murdered in Afrin

According to local sources in Afrin, a Yazidi woman was murdered by mercenaries linked to the Turkish state two days ago in the city.

Fatma Hamke, aged 66, lost her life after mercenaries attacked her house in the village of Qatme, with a grenade. The attack took place on 27 June around midnight and was carried out by mercenaries linked to the Turkish state. Hamke was living with her family.

After the occupation of Afrin by the Turkish state and its mercenary allies, Fatma Hamke's husband, Henan Bayram, was arrested and badly tortured. A little later he was released. Local sources reported that after the release of Henan Bayram, the pressures on his family increased.

The Turkish state and the mercenaries looted the city after they entered it on 18 March. They seized properties from citizens who had been forced to leave the city. Following the pattern established all along the occupation attacks that began on 20 January, after the occupation of Afrin, crimes like rape, harassment, kidnapping, extortion, torture and massacre continued.

All citizens were hit by the violence and the Yazidi community in particular. The invaders blew up the centers of faith of the Yazidis, as well as the association center where the books of Yazidi faith, rescued from various parts of the Middle East, were held. Many books were rare and precious, as was the only Zoroastrian statue in the Middle East.

Not satisfied with destroying every sign of the Yazidi faith and culture, the invaders forced Yazidi people to go to mosque and follow the precepts of Islam and women were forced to cover themselves and dress as DAESH (ISIS) mercenaries imposed.¹¹

¹⁰ <https://anfenglishmobile.com/women/young-women-s-union-established-in-raqqa-for-the-first-time-27812>

¹¹ <https://anfenglishmobile.com/women/another-yazidi-woman-murdered-in-afrin-27816>