

The Democratic Society Movement (TEV-DEM)



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Al-Raqqa Civil Council ready to receive city from SDF

AL- RAQQA- Spokesman of the Syrian Democratic Forces Gen. Talal Silo said that they had promised the residents of al- Raqqa that they would hand the city over to al-Raqqa Civil Council after their forces completely cleared the mines. In turn, the co- Chair of the al- Raqqa Civil Council, Laila Mustafa, said that the Council is ready to receive the city from the forces.

After 134 days of fighting, the Syrian Democratic Forces were able to completely liberate the of the city of al- Raqqa from IS mercenaries in the afternoon of October 17, 2017.

The campaign was launched on 5 November 2016, in the form of several phases, the first of which was the complete liberation of al-Raqqa countryside, which included four stages, the second was fully liberating the city of al- Raqqa, which was launched on June 6- 2017 and the campaign to liberate the rest of the city on October 15, Martyr Adnan Abu Amjad Campaign.

During the launching of the campaign, Syrian Democratic Forces had pledged to hand over the city to its people after liberation from IS mercenaries, as it did in the rest of the areas, such as the Shadadi, Holl and Tal- Hamis in the Cizîre region.

Spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces, Talal Silo, indicated that their forces will hand over the whole of al- Raqqa city and its countryside to the Civil Council and the Internal Security Forces, after removing all the mines.

The co–Chair of the al-Raqqa Civil Council, Laila Mustafa, said that the Syrian Democratic Forces have fulfilled their promise and handed over the villages that were liberated during the campaign stages to the Civil Council. The forces have confirmed that they will hand over the city to the Civil Council after removing the mines

Laila Mustafa has explained on behalf of al-Raqqa Civil Council that they will carry out the tasks entrusted to them in a spirit of responsibility.

Laila Mustafa pointed out that the magnitude of the destruction in the city of al- Raqqa is very large, and has appealed to the international community and all civil organizations to extend a helping hand to them, for the reconstruction of al-Raqqa. So that the people of the city can return to it as soon as possible

Laila Mustafa said that all their committees are ready to undertake the administration of the city and provide all the needs of the people of the city after receiving them from the Syrian Democratic Forces.

<http://en.hawarnews.com/al-raqqa-civil-council-ready-to-receive-city-from-sdf/>

Kurdish fight for women's rights faces challenges in Syria

KOBANE, Syria – The battle to take Raqqa, the Syrian capital of the Islamic state (IS) group, is almost over. But one of the main challenges that the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) face after IS is not only the huge destruction but also how to expand their model of women's rights to conservative tribal areas in northern Syria and ban people from marrying more than one wife.

Since the war broke out in 2011, there has been an increase in the rates of child marriage and polygamy, both in the country and among the refugee population. The amount of marriages registered as polygamous in Damascus has risen from five percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2015.

The opposite has been true in areas controlled by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northern Syria, and a drive for equal rights for women has seen the practices largely abandoned.

Since the creation of semi-autonomous administrations in three Kurdish enclaves in northern Syria from 2012, the powerful Kurdish Democratic Party (PYD) and its armed wing, the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), have banned child-marriage and polygamy and have also provided equal rights in divorce and inheritance.

Banning polygamy

Under Syrian government rule, women's rights were limited, and people were allowed to marry more than one wife.

Yet where Kurds have begun ruling their own areas, things have started to change.

"Ten years ago, it would be strange if women did not wear a veil, but now this is normal," 29-year-old Ahmed Ahmed from Kobane, who works in hospitality, said.

"There was polygamy in Kobane before, but only around 10 percent, and now it is forbidden. Now there are women's councils, and they arrest people if they violate women's rights," he said.

"As for the Arab regions, it is normal, and they marry more than once."

Kurdish female fighters played a crucial role in defeating IS in the city of Kobane, after it was besieged by the militant group in September 2014.

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To read the whole article click the following:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/kurdish-fight-women-rights-faces-challenges-syria-1018812004>

Turkish reconnaissance plane fires hand grenade into Afrin

AFRIN – A reconnaissance plane belonging to the Turkish army has fired a hand grenade into the Satiya village of Afrin. The houses of locals were damaged as a result of the explosion caused by the bomb.

According to local sources on the ground, a Turkish reconnaissance (UAV) plane carrying out an exploratory flight over the Satiya village of the Jandarîs district in the Afrin Canton has fired a hand grenade into the village. The explosion caused has led to material damage on civilian homes.

The Turkish state in an attempt to terrify the locals regularly carries out exploratory flights over the Afrin Canton.

<http://en.hawarnews.com/turkish-reconnaissance-plane-fires-hand-grenade-into-afrin/>

Turkish army and allied gangs attack a village in Efrîn

The Turkish army and gangs acting under their command continue their attacks on Northern Syria in an attempt to invade the region.

Stationed in Seman Fortress, the invading Turkish army and affiliated gangs are launching an attack on Iska village of Efrîn's Sherawa district.

Fighters of the People's Defense Units (YPG) and Women's Defense Units (YPJ) are retaliating the attack and clashes continue in the mentioned area.

<https://anfenglish.com/rojawa/turkish-army-and-allied-gangs-attack-a-village-in-efrin-22847>

Riyad Derar: Federal system is solution for centralized problems that al-Raqqa people suffered from

NEWS DESK- The co-chair of the Syrian Democratic Council (MSD) Riyad Derar said “The federal system is a solution for the centralized problems that our people in al-Raqqa have suffered from. People have to control and manage their own land resources, and develop their daily relationships by what they know about themselves. This is the purpose of federalism, continuous development and direct democracy.

“The diversity of the components of al-Raqqa city is a positive point according to our perspective which is the concept of the democratic nation which depends on co-existing the components by equal rights and competing through programs of reality development, not through ethnic or religious conflicts,” he said.

Derar stressed that federalism is a rich factor for diversity, and a factor of enriching the future so It must be accepted by al-Raqqa Civil Council for the interest before it would be a thought and a policy.

The co-chair of MSD Riyad Derar talked to Hawar news agency about the future of al-Raqqa city after it has been liberated, and he considered that the democratic federalism is the panacea for al-Raqqa.

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For the interview text click on the following:

<http://en.hawarnews.com/riyad-derar-federal-system-is-solution-for-centralized-problems-that-al-raqqa-people-suffered-from/>

IS-fighting British man Jac Holmes killed in Syria

A British man who has been fighting so-called Islamic State in Syria has been killed while clearing landmines in Raqqa, the BBC understands.

Jac Holmes had been fighting with Kurdish militia the YPG since 2015.

Kurdish representatives in the UK said they had been told by YPG officials the former IT worker from Bournemouth was killed while he was clearing an area to make it safe for civilians.

His mother, Angie Blannin, said the 24-year-old was a "hero in my eyes".

She told the BBC: "He loved what he was doing there, he loved being a soldier. He had the courage of his convictions.

Just a boy

"He was just a boy when he left the UK, a little bit lost. He told me he didn't know what he wanted to do with his life. But by going out there, he found something that he was good at and that he loved."

Ms Blannin, from Dover, Kent, said she had not seen Jac for over a year, but that they regularly kept in touch online and had been making plans for him coming home.

"He stuck by his convictions because he wanted to be there and he wanted to see the end of Raqqa and to see the end of the caliphate. That was a moment in history, and he wanted to be part of it."

"We thought with any luck he'd be home for Christmas. It had been so tough since he had been away but I was always 100% behind him."

"After all this, he had said he might go into politics, or perhaps into close protection security. He'd seen so much for a boy of his age."

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To read the whole story click the following:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-41730369>

Turkey's Erdogan hints invasion of Kurdish Afrin in Syria

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region (Kurdistan 24) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday hinted once again at an invasion of the self-administered Kurdish district of Afrin in northwestern Syria.

Addressing the parliamentary assembly of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), Erdogan said the Turkish deployment to Syria's Idlib Province, where al-Qaeda affiliates rule, was almost over.

"Now we have the issue of Afrin in front of us," he said branding the isolated Kurdish enclave as a threat since the region is under the control of the US-backed Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

"We want everyone to know this. We cannot compromise. We may suddenly show up one night and hit," Erdogan said, repeating lyrics of a popular Turkish love song which he has used to threaten the Kurds in Syria and Iraq over the past several months.

Afrin is surrounded from the north and west by Turkey and cut off from the other two self-declared Kurdish autonomous cantons of Kobani and Jazira by the Turkish-backed Islamist groups in a pocket of land west of the Euphrates.

The Turkish army's entry to Idlib earlier this month - per an August agreement to create de-escalation zones with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's two primary sponsors Iran and Russia - has led to an almost complete encirclement of Afrin.

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To read the whole article click the following:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/85ae94ca-e903-4346-b567-d398c9146fde>