

The Democratic Society Movement, TEV-DEM



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SDF challenges Assad military threats

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) has said a threat by President Bashar al-Assad to use force to recover the swath of northern and eastern Syria controlled by the group would not yield any results.

Military intervention is "not a solution that can lead to results," SDF spokesperson Kino Gabriel told Reuters News Agency on Thursday.

"Any military solution, as far as the SDF is concerned, will lead to more losses and destruction and difficulties for the Syrian people," Kino said.

Earlier on Thursday, Assad warned in an interview with the broadcaster Russia Today that he would not hesitate to use force to reclaim the one-third of the country under SDF control, if negotiations fail. He also warned that the US should learn the lesson of Iraq and remove its troops from Syria.

"The only problem left in Syria is the SDF. We're going to deal with it by two options," Assad said. "The first one: we started now opening doors for negotiations. Because the majority of them are Syrians, supposedly, they like their country, they don't like to be puppets to any foreigners," Assad said in English.

"We have one option, to live with each other as Syrians. If not, we're going to resort ... to liberating those areas by force," he added...¹

YPG: Resistance continues in Afrin

YPG: Within the framework of the second stage of the Resistance of the Age, our forces continue to carry out effective operations against the elements of the invading Turkish army and its terrorist gangs.

In this context, our forces carried out actions on the military bases of the occupying Turkish army forces in the past two days, resulting in the deaths of several soldiers and mercenaries.

A large number of soldiers and mercenaries of the Turkish army, two of whom were clearly identified, were killed in Qurtqulaq village of Afrin's Shera district in the action carried out by our forces.

Our forces carried out an effective action yesterday at 15:00 against a military base near Maryamin village 7Km east of Afrin city center. It has been determined that the Turkish army suffered many casualties as result of the action, which turned into an intense clash and lasted for 45 minutes.

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/05/syria-backed-sdf-challenges-assad-military-threats-180531153521044.html>

In the two actions, 3 of our comrades were martyred after they fought until the last bullet they had. ID information of our martyrs will be shared with the public later.²

Afrin residents protested against Turkish violations

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Afrin city witnessed, during the past 24 hours, 2 demonstrations in which dozens of residents of the city protested against the practices of the Turkish militaries and their jihadi mercenaries.

The first demonstration took place on Sunday at Azadî Square in the center of Afrin city, in which the residents demanded the release of a media activist and those who have been kidnapped by the Turkish army and its mercenaries, warning other demonstrations if the fate of the abducted would not be revealed.

The second demonstration which included dozens of residents took place in al-Mahmudiya neighborhood in the northern part of the city. The protesters demanded an end to the criminal deeds of the Turkish army and its jihadi proxies which are conducted on a daily basis.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that the second demonstration was sparked by the attack of the mercenaries of al-Hamzah Division on one of the owners of generators.

The jihadi groups have imposed taxes on the people while they continue looting their properties and agricultural crops. They set fire to the agricultural crops of those who refuse to pay taxes to them.

Afrin activists published a video on social media showing the Turkish combine harvesters heading to the planted lands at the western entrance of Afrin.

Last May, the Turkish army and its mercenaries kidnapped more than 3,295 civilians from Afrin canton. On the families who wanted to return to their homes they imposed a huge sum of money.³

People kidnapped in Afrin

According to information received from local sources, the invading Turkish army and its jihadi mercenaries continue to kidnap people in Afrin.

According to the source, a month ago a man named Kemal Resolo, from the village of Ceqele Cume, Cindires, was abducted while 11 days ago another man named Musa Nebi (32) was kidnapped in the same village.

² <https://www.ypgrojava.org/Resistance-Continues-in-Afrin>

³ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/afrin-residents-protested-against-turkish-violations-h1802.html>

The occupying Turkish army and its mercenaries have also been reported to have kidnapped 9 days ago, Deshti Iso (40) in the village of Kefer Sefre.



Four days ago, Ebdulrehman Bermece (Abu Halepce), 32, was kidnapped.

The sources noted that the mercenaries in Afrin also kidnapped Henan Eli (20) in the village of Qibare, some 45 days ago.⁴

Inhumane acts of invaders on the rise in Afrin

Invading and looting Afrin by using all means available, the Turkish state and its allied jihadist gangs continue their acts of murder, abduction, harassment, rape, torture and looting in addition to changing the demography of the region and forcing different faith groups to convert to Islam.

Some of the crimes perpetrated by the invading forces in Afrin during the month of May are as follows:

- * 3,295 residents of Afrin were abducted and ransom was asked for their release. In addition, the civilians who wanted to return home were asked to pay high amounts of bribe.
- * More than 30 people were abducted and subjected to torture and rape. Wearing long and large clothes -like ISIS rules- was made compulsory.
- * 1,200 families of jihadists were brought in from Damascus and Homs countryside and settled in Afrin.
- * Kurdish names of shops in the city were changed. Statues in the city were considered cult and torn down.

⁴ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/5-civilians-kidnapped-in-afrin-within-violations-series-h1776.html>

* All the agricultural products like wheat and barley were seized and over 500 olive trees were uprooted.



* The school in Hikce village of Jindires was turned into a prison by Turkish soldiers.

* Residents of Afrin were distributed Turkish ID cards in order to vote for June 24 elections in Turkey.

* Turkish army built a heliport in Haj Xelil village in Rajo district.

On the other hand, conflicts erupted between the gang groups over sharing the properties and goods they have looted in the city.⁵

Turkish army attacks villages near Serêkaniyê

The Turkish military yesterday attacked villages in northern Syria along the Turkish border near Serêkaniyê with gas grenades and live ammunition.

According to correspondents from the ANHA news agency, the Turkish military opened fire on villages near Serêkaniyê in Hesekê Canton in northern Syria/Rojava with gas grenades and firearms.

Also, the wheat silo in the village Can Temîr was sifted by bullets, according to reports.⁶

⁵ <https://anfenglish.com/rojawa/inhumane-acts-of-invaders-on-the-rise-in-afrin-27154>

⁶ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/turkish-occupation-shot-live-bullets-towards-ser-kaniy-villages-h1804.html>

SDF advancing in Deir al-Zour

In operation Jazeera Storm, which was announced to resume with the aim to clear the territory under Islamic State rule southeast al-Hasakah province and to liberate Dashisha town in the first place, fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces have managed to break into the group's stronghold and advance about four kilometers from the western axis.

Village of al-Fackah, located 15 kilometers south of al-Shaddady town, is the first significant gain of SDF with three other hamlets nearby liberated. Although IS has implemented various tactics to stop the advance of SDF in the region, it is observed that the fighters are advancing steadily. All the attacks and trap attempts by IS up to now have been foiled by fighters.

“Our main aim is to completely oust ISIS presence in the area” said Kabar, SDF fighter from al-Shaddady stating that the operation would continue until the people of the region were completely freed from the tyranny and injustice of ISIS. The SDF commander leading the operation in the region stated that ISIS has been implementing all kinds of possible ways from planting mines to using civilians as human shields.

The operation had been interrupted by the attacks of Turkish invasion army and its mercenaries on Afrin. It was observed that ISIS, which took advantage of the attack by Turkey to reorganize and regroup during that process, intensified its activities in the areas south of Hasakah. The initial aim of the relaunched campaign is to end ISIS presence in the southern part of Hasakah.⁷

YPG withdrew their military advisers from Manbij

YPG's General Command issued a written statement on Tuesday, June 6, stating that a group of their military advisers have passed their advice, assistance and training on to MMC (Manbij Military Council). The command confirmed the withdrawal of military advisers from Manbij city after they completed the tasks.

The full text of the statement reads as follow:

"In the framework of our general strategy in (YPG) to combat and pursue terrorism, we received an invitation from MMC to launch a military campaign to liberate Manbij city from the grip of the terrorist organization in the first quarter of 2016. Based on this appeal and within the framework of an understanding with international forces and the regional, including Turkey, our forces in coordination with the International Alliance to respond to the appeal of our people in Manbij began the liberation campaign on the first of June 2016, where the campaign lasted for more than two months and was crowned with victory and defeat of terrorism from the city and large parts of its countryside after our troops provided the best fighters in the war against terrorism, and these sacrifices culminated in a statement of Manbij liberation on 15/8/2016.

At the request of the MMC, a group of military trainers from our forces in Manbij remained as military advisers to assist the Military Council in the field of training, coordination and consultation with the International Coalition. Their work continued from then until now, and

⁷ <https://www.ypgrojava.org/SDF-advancing-in-Deir-al-Zour>

now more than two years later from their ongoing work, and the access of the MMC to self-sufficiency in the areas of training, the YPG's General Command decided to withdraw their military advisers from Manbij city.

We in YPG assure to the public and our people in Manbij that our sacrifices there were part of our duty to liberate them from the clutches of terrorism that was a threat to all humanity. And to spread peace and tranquility in the liberated areas. Similarly, we affirm that our forces will respond to the appeal to provide support and assistance to our people in Manbij if necessary."⁸

Invaders blow up the Êzidî centre in Afrin

Historical structures and sites are among the targets of invading Turkish state and allied jihadists in Afrin. They blew up the Êzidîs' Union Centre in Afrin on Tuesday.



The structure, which had already been damaged by Turkish bombardments before, was the place where books on Êzidî faith from Şengal, Syria and the Middle East had been gathered. In addition, the historical Serdeşt statue located in this centre was the only one present in the Middle East.

The Turkish militaries and the jihadi gangs acting under their command are systematically committing war crimes in the Afrin region since they attacked the canton on January 20 and entered the city centre on March 18.

Since the beginning of the savage aggression, hundreds of civilians have been killed and hundreds of others kidnapped. Houses of the local people were looted, bombed and their properties were seized. A number of historical places were also targeted by the barbaric attacks of invading forces.⁹

⁸ <http://hawarnews.com/en/haber/ypg-withdrew-their-military-advisers-from-manbij-h1830.html>

⁹ <https://anfenglish.com/rojawa/invaders-blow-up-the-ezidi-centre-in-afrin-27234>

Coalition: Kurdish-led forces creating most stable areas of Syria

Col. Thomas Veale, Director of Public Affairs for the US-led Coalition, formally known as Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR), told reporters on Tuesday that the “successes” of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Coalition’s main partner in fighting the Islamic State (IS) in Syria, were “creating the most stable areas” in that country.

Backed by coalition airpower, on May 1, the SDF began Operation Roundup, which aims to defeat IS “remnants” in the Middle Euphrates River Valley and along the Syrian-Iraqi border, Veale explained.

The second phase of the operation, focused on clearing IS from Dashisha, some 50 kilometers from Syria’s border with Iraq, began on Sunday.

The morale of IS fighters “is low,” Veale said, and its “leaders are scurrying for their lives.” “Quite a bit of [IS] traffic” is “flowing west toward Syrian regime-held territory,” he revealed...¹⁰

SDF: 3 Villages And 7 Farms Are Liberated in Dashisha Vicinity

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Our forces liberated 3 villages and 7 farms in the first three days of their campaign to liberate the strategic town of Dushisha from ISIS terrorists.

In the campaign that our forces are engaged in from spontaneous two axes in the east and west, our forces advanced 7 km in Al-Shadadi axis. They managed to liberate the villages of Al-Marjan, Kalib Tahtani, Khuwayra and 7 farms attached to these villages.

The heavy clashes which broke out between our fighters and ISIS terrorists in Kulaib village using various types of weapon, led to the death of many ISIS mercenaries and destroying motorbikes used by ISIS in their movements.

Our forces also discovered a wide network of mines in Morjane village, where the engineering teams dismantled them. Moreover, our forces discovered a network of tunnels which were cleared of terrorists who fled out of the village.

During these engagements with the enemy, 46 terrorists were killed including 4 emirs, while 2 of our fighters were injured. The 2 of our injured fighters were moved to the military medical point in the battlefield to receive treatment, and their condition is stable now...

Ongoing battles in these first three days, the International Coalition took part in air and ground operations, carrying out 21 air strikes against terrorist movements, and their fortifications with heavy artillery 47 times and 3 Land surface missile...¹¹

¹⁰ <http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/36ed31ff-4b7d-45b3-b62b-7b30d7c71f8c>

¹¹ <http://sdf-press.com/en/2018/06/3-villages-and-7-farms-are-liberated-in-dashisha-vicinity/>

New gang group formed under MİT supervision in Girê Spî

Turkish intelligence MİT has formed a new gang group commanded by former ISIS members and is using this group in assassinations and sabotages against SDF members and autonomous administration officials in Girê Spî.



The Turkish state has defined its Syrian policy through various gang groups since 2011. When the Turkish state's tutelage war through gangs like the Muslim Brotherhood, Jabhat Al-Nusra and ISIS was defeated by YPG/YPJ and the SDF, Turkey entered Syria itself on January 24, 2016. But they never abandoned gangs, both to legitimize the utterly illegitimate invasion operations and as a cheap battle force.

The Turkish state shaving ISIS gangs and putting them in FSA uniforms to call them "Euphrates Shield Forces" during the invasion operation against Jarablus launched on August 24, 2016 had been reported by international press. The MİT again used ISIS gangs during the invasion of Afrin and has since increased activity in Northern Syrian provinces starting with Girê Spî and Manbij.

The MİT formed a gang group named the "Girê Spî National Army" commanded by former ISIS members and supported by the Mayor of Akçakale and is using this gang in assassinations and sabotages against the democratic autonomous administration officials and SDF members in the Girê Spî area now.

AKÇAKALE MAYOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORMING OF GANG GROUP

After the Turkish state invaded Afrin, the MİT accelerated its activity against Girê Spî, the bridge between Rojava's Cizire and Kobanê cantons. By the MİT's hand, propaganda that there will be an operation against Girê Spî was disseminated among the Arab population in Urfa and Akçakale and the people were asked to join the gang.

One of the key people the MİT tasked with forming this gang in Urfa and Akçakale is Akçakale Mayor Abdulhakim Ayhan (Ebid El Hekim Ayihan). The MİT held many visits and meetings

through Ayhan among the Arab population in Akçakale to form the gang group named "Girê Spî National Army". According to reliable sources, the MÎT meetings organized in Akçakale and Urfa through Abdülhakim Ayhan, who himself is from the Arab community, were attended by gangs in the "Euphrates Shield", their families and many former ISIS members.

COMMAND RANKS MADE UP OF ISIS MEMBERS

The meetings and visits by MÎT resulted in the agreement to form the gang group a month ago. In a meeting with a lawyer named Ekrem Dede and Salih El Hac, Ebidulla En Hendawi and Ebid El Letif Keçel, the command ranks were determined. Reliable sources say some Arab groups who participated in the MÎT meetings objected to it, but ISIS members formed the bulk of the command structure and body.

ALL ISIS MEMBERS WHO ARE USED TO CHANGING UNIFORMS

The ISIS members to form the command ranks of the new gang group have a past with the Turkish state's tricks with gangs. They are all gang members who participated in previous uniform-change tricks of the MÎT before and switched between various gang groups.

According to information obtained by the ANF, the newly formed "Girê Spî National Army" gang group's commanders and their pasts are as follows:

The ISIS member named Ebid El Letif Keçel was made the Commander General of the gang group. Keçel had formed the Enwe El Heq Battalion by the start of the Syrian crisis, but later joined ISIS. Keçel comes from the El Meshur clan and is from the El Minbeteh village in Girê Spî.

Musene El Letif El Keçel is the First Commander of the gang group. Musena is Ebid El Letif Keçel's son and was part of the Enwe El Heq Battalion and later ISIS like his father. Letif El Keçel had detonated a vehicle in front of the FSA headquarters in Girê Spî and 3 FSA gangs had been killed in that explosion.

GANGS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SERÊKANİYÊ ATTACK

The former ISIS member named Ehmed El Hilu was made the Second Commander of the gang group. Ehmed El Hiu Umeyr had formed the Shex El Islam Ibni Teymiye Battalion, and later joined ISIS. He is from the Umeyr clan and is related to the Mayor of Akçakale.

Former ISIS member named Esmail Ebidulla El Êdo is also in the command structure. El Êdo was illegally collaorating with the Syrian regime before the Syrian crisis. With the start of the civil war he joined Al Nusra and participated in the Serêkaniyê attack. Responsible for the looting of the Serêkaniyê wheat silo, he was arrested by Al Nusra for stealing ammunition. He later disbanded his battalion and joined ISIS.

Other than these men, former ISIS members Muhemed El Ufi known as Ebo Reid, Huseyin Mehemed El Ufi known as Ebu Eye and Yasin El Umeyr are in the command ranks of the prospective gang group.

USED IN COUNTER ACTIVITY IN GIRÊ SPÎ NOW

According to reliable sources, 50 young men mostly from the El Umeyr clan have joined the gang group for now. All who join the gang group receive military and counter training, and some collaborators from Girê Spî in Northern Syria, not only from Akçakale or Urfa, are being brought to Akçakale to join this gang.

Sources say the MÎT started this effort with propaganda that there will be an operation against Girê Spî in Rojava but has since postponed this goal due to conjuncture and changed the use of the gang group for now. The gang members receiving special training from MÎT and ISIS are being used in sabotages and assassinations against democratic autonomous administration officials and SDF members in Girê Spî now. These gang members work with the counter organization Kiyam Movement formed previously by the MÎT to carry out assassinations in Raqqa, Girê Spî, Manbij and other provinces.

TURKEY TOOK ISIS MEMBERS STUCK IN GIRÊ SPÎ TO AKÇAKALE

The Turkish state who formed a new gang group named the “Girê Spî National Army” with ISIS members at its command had rushed to aid the ISIS members who were stuck in Girê Spî and were facing annihilation during the operation to liberate Girê Spî in 2015.

The city of Girê Spî is a bridge between Cizirê and Kobanê in Rojava and lies along the border with Turkey. It has been an important center for both ISIS and the Turkish state because ISIS gangs received gang members, weapons, medicine and other such resources through Turkey from Girê Spî.

Gangs made to attack the Kobanê and Cizirê cantons from there by the Turkish state posed a significant threat to Rojava and the world. But YPG/YPJ forces ended the 2 years long ISIS occupation in Girê Spî on June 16, 2015 as part of the Martyr Rubar Qamişlo Operation. When ISIS was stuck against the YPG in this operation, the Turkish state (who imposed an embargo against Rojava for 3 years at the time) opened the Akçakale border gate for ISIS members and thousands of ISIS members crossed into Akçakale.

ATTEMPTS TO INVADE GIRÊ SPÎ VOIDED EVERY TIME BY YPG/YPJ

The Turkish state never accepted the YPG/YPJ kicking ISIS, one of their most fundamental tools in the game of Syria, out of Girê Spî, an important center. Immediately after Girê Spî was liberated, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan himself protested the liberation. Afterwards, gang groups were taken over the border many times to create chaos in Girê Spî.

The invasion attempt and the massacre in Girê Spî on February 28, 2016 was the most significant one that was able to be documented. On February 28, 2016, ISIS gangs crossed into Girê Spî from the Akçakale border under supervision of Turkish soldiers and attacked 25 locations including the city center along the Siluk, Mabruqa and Ayn Isa line, and killed 15 Arab civilians. These attacks, however, were voided by the YPG/YPJ forces in 24 hours. Immediately after that, gang members captured in a YPG/YPJ operation, Savaş Yıldız and others, confessed that this invasion attempt and massacre was carried out in line with MÎT planning and desires.

WHY AKÇAKALE AND GIRÊ SPÎ?

Although the tutelage war is over, today gang groups still constitute an important place in the Turkish state's policy for Rojava and Syria. This year in January, the German television network ARD had uncovered documents showing 3 ISIS training camps, one in Urfa, Turkey. In the process, the relationship between ISIS and the Turkish state has been documented several times by the free press as well.

German media wrote that 234.900 young refugees from Syria were armed in AFAD camps and sent to Syria and Iraq to fight. They pointed out that out of the 21 camps, Turkey utilized the Suleyman Shah Camp in Akçakale, Urfa the most and that women in this camp also received training as part of the same effort.

The Turkish state wants to invade Manbij, Girê Spî and even Qamishlo, and their goal is to incite the Arab community against the Democratic Autonomous Administrations through the Girê Spî National Army, to possibly achieve legitimacy over these gang groups in an invasion operation in the future.¹²

¹² <https://anfenglish.com/features/new-gang-group-formed-under-mlt-supervision-in-gire-spi-27221>