

Women's Revolution

Monthly Newsletter on the development
and agenda of the women's revolution in
North and East Syria



KONGRA STAR
مؤتمر ستار



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Women's Revolution

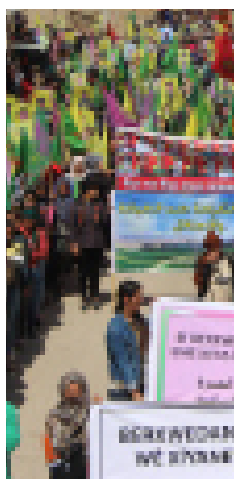
In Rojava (West Kurdistan) and North and East Syria, we have been in a women's revolution for more than 11 years. Since then, many achievements have been and are being made with the organised strength of women in all areas of society. First, a democratic social system is being built in which women are free, and second, these achievements are being defended against the attacks of the fascist Turkish state.

The last month has been marked by both positive and negative developments. Women's organisation of different ethnic groups has progressed to a very good level, work has been done to introduce laws guaranteeing women's rights and a strong stance has developed among women from different ethnic groups for women's unity. An international campaign for the freedom of Abdullah Ocalan has been launched and the women's movements in North and East Syria have also been strongly involved.

Unfortunately, the region has also been massively attacked by Turkey with the aim of destroying the revolution here and making daily life impossible, with the Turkish state committing war crimes and violating international law with these attacks. Civilian infrastructure targets and facilities in the region have been attacked. However, the people of North and East Syria will not be intimidated and are committed to the democratic system that has been established here.



The women from North and East Syria stressed the importance of unity among all women against attempts to provoke conflict in society



The women from Raqqa pointed out that the unity of the different ethnic groups in the region based on the concept of a democratic nation has defeated the efforts to fuel the conflict between Kurds and Arabs.

Feyrouz Xalil, Coordinator of the Women's Council of North and East Syria, explained that historical positive relations between Kurds and Arabs have existed for a thousand years and were confirmed in the united struggle against ISIS. Feyruz explained that history already proves the depth of Kurdish-Arab relations and shared that there is evidence of the unity of Kurds and Arabs in family and tribal aspects to protect their land together. Recently there has been conflict in Deir Ezor because of incidents of abuse, corruption and murders of women by one faction, but the media has tried to portray it as a conflict between Kurds and Arabs.

„Some states and foreign parties are trying to stir up strife between Kurds and Arabs and destroy their strong relations. But they are not succeeding.“

-Feyrouz Xelil



Since the beginning of the 19 July 2012 revolution, known as the „women’s revolution“, Kurds and Arabs have been working together to achieve the goals of the revolution according to the project of a democratic nation. Much of this responsibility has rested with the women of North and East Syria, who have been able to cross political borders and provide moral support to all Syrian women in areas such as Deraa, Siweda and Idlib. The poet Cela Hemzawi from Raqqa also described

the historical relations between Kurds and Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Turkmen and Circassians with a mosaic of Syria: „This deep relationship and its historical significance have long been proven culturally, materially and spiritually. As we have seen, there is a heritage in North and East Syria that includes Kurds and Arabs and all Syrians.

Cela Hemzawi pointed out that women played an important role in building strong cohesion and continued:

„Despotic nationalist states tried to divide communities and provoke rumours and ethnic and racial conflicts between them. But thanks to the solidarity and strong historical ties of the communities, these plans were thwarted.“

The activist Remziye Altuğ was buried in a ceremony attended by hundreds of people

On October 22, 2023, a Kurdish activist was killed in an attack in the city of Qamishlo. Remziye Altuğ, the 36-year-old activist, was originally from Gever in the northern Kurdish province of Colemêrg (Hakkari). She emigrated to the autonomous region of North and East Syria years ago to escape „politically motivated persecution, repression and arbitrary arrests“ by the Turkish state. In North and East Syria, she continued to be politically active and took a role in the women’s revolution.



At her funeral she was buried by hundreds of people shouting „The martyrs do not die“.

Women's organisations and movements discussed the new family law

The new law, called the Family Law, was passed on 04 February 2023 for the Cezire region. The previous law defending women's rights, called the Women's Law, had been in force since 2014. Since mid-2022, these laws defending women's rights have been discussed more broadly and a new law was launched. This law was renamed the Family Law, as many laws concerning women's rights affect the whole family. The population is now being prepared for the introduction of the Family Law in all regions of North and East Syria. These laws being presented and discussed in different places.

Women's organisations and movements in Raqqa, the then capital of ISIS, also organised a workshop under the motto „Towards a free collective life and a united society“ and discussed family law in North and East Syria. The first part of the Family Code consists of 39 articles describing child marriages, forced marriages, exchange marriages, pologamy and much more.



In order to prepare and convince the society, the exchange is very important.

Fatme Al Musa, member of the Social Court, said of the Family Law: „There is definitely a need to enact a law that protects relationships within the family and defines the duties and rights of individuals. This law should also be enacted in accordance with the values and foundations of women and their rights.“

The workshop in Raqqa was also organised on the initiative of women's movements and organisations and is part of the campaign to prepare for the introduction of the family law, which is expected to last three months.



Women's organisations and movements in North and East Syria are actively participating in the campaign „Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan



A new international campaign entitled „Freedom for Ocalan - A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question“ was launched. To launch the campaign, press conferences were organised in more than 74 different places on all continents of the world. The people in North and East Syria, whose democratic systems are based on the ideas of Democratic Nation of Abdullah Öcalan, have also been participating actively.

The people of North and East Syria know that a political and peaceful solution in the Middle East can only be achieved through the freedom of Abdullah Ocalan and his democratic paradigm, and that is why the people here are fighting for his and their freedom.



Women's organizations in North and East Syria sent an open letter to various United Nations bodies to stop Turkey's current attacks.

Women's movements and women's organisations in North and East Syria sent an open letter to the Secretary General and various United Nations bodies on 09.10.23 calling on them to take responsibility and stop Turkey's current attacks, which are against international law.

„Since October 4, 2023, repeated aggression by Turkey against the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and the Kurdish, Arab, Armenian, Circassian, Turkmen and Assyrian people living and governing themselves in the region, has moved us to address this Open Letter to you and to all peoples of the United Nations.

As women's movements and support networks from North and East Syria, we call upon you to take responsibility in accordance with the principles of international law and the objectives of the United Nations. We insist that you take immediate action to ensure the Turkish state ends its current acts of aggression. In the first sentence of the preamble to the UN Charter, it is written that “We the peoples of the United Nations [are] determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

We, as women living in North and East Syria, are currently experiencing this “scourge of war” again on a dramatic scale.”

[Read the whole letter](#)

[Read the report about women injured in an attack by Turkey on a cotton field](#)

[Read the information dossier on attacks by the Turkish state on infrastructure and civilian facilities](#)

OCTOBER 12
**DAY OF RESISTANCE
AND INDIGENOUS
DIGNITY**



Kongra Star statement for the Day of Indigenous Resistance

On the DAY OF INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE AND DIGNITY, the Kongra Star Women's Movement joined the call of the NATIONAL CONGRESS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE in solidarity with the resistant peoples in Abya Yala and around the world, against the death imposed on us by global patriarchal capitalism and made a statement.

'Undoubtedly, the only answer is resistance. Resistance through the creation of consciousness, the self-organization of people, and through their struggle – in particular that of women. This is why 12.10. is significant as a day – not merely as the beginning of the occupation of a continent but more than that, because it marks the beginning of resistance against all occupation. The organized resistance of the people, who will not remain silent against violence and oppression, who will not submit to colonialism and the prohibitions of exploitative regimes, but reject them, is the guarantor of justice, democracy and the freedom of all peoples.'

[Read the whole statement](#)



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