

Women's Revolution

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



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KONGRA STAR
مؤتمر ستار



November 25 in Rojava/North & East Syria



The women of North and East Syria have once again demonstrated their willingness to continue and expand the achievements of the women's revolution with great will and courage. Within their struggle for freedom and the abolition of patriarchy, November 25th holds a special place, as it marks the International Day to Combat Violence against Women. This day took place in North and East Syria in the shadow of the fascist Turkish state's intense drone attacks on female pioneers of society and thus against the revolution. This has not weakened the women or the general population in their commitment to the revolution. In this edition of the newsletter, we will focus on the various forms of action on November 25.

Joint campaign ,Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyān Azadi'

The joint action platform of women in North and East Syria launched a campaign on November 12 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with the slogan „Against all violence and occupation: Jin Jiyān Azadi“, which ran until November 25. The action platform includes women’s movements such as Kongra Star, Arab Women’s Gathering Zenobiya, Armenian Women’s Union, Assyrian Women’s Council, women’s councils from various political parties, women’s committees of the autonomous administration and many other women’s organizations. Hundreds of events were organized throughout North and East Syria as part of the campaign. Even though the fight against patriarchal violence is waged every day, November 25th is an occasion for the women of North and East Syria to organize not only demonstrations but various events to eradicate the roots of the patriarchal mentality in society. Below we will describe some of the different events organized across the region.



Exhibition with paintings by female artists



The women's cultural movement Hilala Zêrin has opened a painting exhibition in the city of Derik in the canton of Qamişlo and in Aleppo. The exhibition was opened at the Dicle Cultural and Art Center in Derik and in the Sekhmeksoud district of Aleppo under the motto „The Women's Revolution Adorns with Art“. On display were paintings on the theme of resistance and struggle by women in all areas, as well as portraits of female martyrs. The aim of the exhibition was not only to morally support women artists, but also to use art to show support for women's wider struggle for freedom and against patriarchal violence.

Women's cycling competition in Tebqa

The Women's Office of the Sports Council in Tabqê organized a special cycling competition with young women to promote their role in society. The competition was attended by dozens of female representatives from the Democratic Civil Administration of Tabqâ, its offices and committees, the Future Syria Party, and women's and youth movements. Riding a bicycle as many others are seen in society is something that usually only men do, so the aim was to break this role model and encourage women to ride bicycles and break a previous taboo.



Leaflets were distributed in Kobanê



Sara's Organization for Combating Violence against Women distributed leaflets to the people of Kobanê on 25 November. The leaflets called for the fight against violence against women, the importance of women's participation in the political and social sphere and the degree of strength, will and understanding of women. As a result, the members of the Sara organization were able to talk to many people in Kobane. The importance of the struggle against violence and the need for women's organization was discussed with women and discussions were held with men to promote an opinion against violence in society.

In addition, the banner „Be aware of your strength, speak out against violence, don't be silent“ was hung on three sides of the city.

Theater performances in Deir Ezor about the suffering of women & their fight against it

The Women's Assembly of the Future Party of Syria of Deir Ezor presented a play on November 23 about the suffering of women and its impact on women and society. Under the slogan „Against all kinds of violence and occupation, women, life, freedom“, the Women's Assembly of the Future Party of Syria, in cooperation with the Culture and Culture Committee of the Deir Ezor Citizens' Assembly, presented a play about the suffering of women in society and the violence against them. This play took place as part of a series of awareness-raising and educational activities on the issue of violence against women and promoting community participation and working towards positive change.





Workshops, conferences & panels

Various events such as workshops, discussion forums, panel discussions, meetings and others were organized throughout North and East Syria as part of the 25th of November. Here are some of the many events:

A workshop on violence against women was held in Heseke under the motto „Against all forms of violence and occupation, Jin, Jiyān, Azādī“. The workshop was jointly organized by women’s organizations from Heseke. The topics of discussion were as follows: Definition of violence against women and its forms, abuses against women such as murder, rape, child marriage etc., solutions to prevent violence, ways to eliminate the phenomenon of suicide and the way to combat it, methods of self-defense, and ending violence.

The Kongra Star women’s movement organized a meeting in the Zorava district of Damascus, which was attended by dozens of residents. At the meeting, the women’s struggle for their rights and their oppression by society and the state were discussed.

As part of the campaign against violence against women, a panel was held in Minbic, attended by members of the Syrian Women’s Office, members of the Center for Jineolojî, intellectuals and members of the city’s women’s organizations. In the panel, the co-chair of the civil society organizations, Fatima Beko, spoke on the topic of different forms of male violence against women and how they affect women. The second panelist, Lemya Xelo, a civil society activist, spoke about the patriarchal violence of ISIS in the region and its lingering impact. The panel then discussed different ways to combat patriarchal violence

Seminars and trainings

Over a hundred seminars and one- to three-day training courses were organized as part of the campaign. Some were aimed only at women, others were mixed-gender and others only at men. The seminars dealt with the history and meaning of November 25, patriarchal violence against women, its impact on society and the fight against patriarchy. The training specifically for women focused on how to recognize patriarchal violence, where it comes from and how to fight and organize against it. The training for men only, given by women, focused on how to overcome the dominant male or patriarchal mentality in oneself in relation to patriarchal violence.

Here are some pictures from different locations:



In solidarity with the women's struggle, men have taken to the streets

Hundreds of men marched in support of women in the Euphrates region on the occasion of November 25, the day to combat violence against women. Male members of the institutions of the autonomous administration and political parties of the Euphrates region joined the march under the slogan „Against all kinds of violence and occupation, women, life is freedom“. The demonstrators marched to Jina Azad Square (Free Women's Square). Since patriarchy and patriarchal violence



oppress women in particular, it is a struggle that women must lead rather than leaving the fight for their freedom to men or to any state. But men also have a responsibility to fight against patriarchy if they want a free society. The solidarity shown is a small step towards turning away from patriarchy in society. That is why men in North and East Syria consider it important to show their support.



The highlight of the campaign: November 25

On November 25, there were demonstrations throughout North and East Syria and in Damascus. In the following cities there were demonstrations at the cantonal level: Aleppo, Qamishlo, Heseke, Raqqa, Tabqa, Kobane, Shehba, Damaskus



Kobane



Damaskus



Heseke



Qamishlo

Kongra Star Declaration on November 25

Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyan Azadi

On the occasion of November 25th, the International Day against Violence against Women, we commemorate the struggle of the Mirabal sisters and, on behalf of the martyrs Şervin Serdar, Zeyneb Seroxan, Yusra Derweş, Liman Şiwêsh and Roshna Agit, we commemorate all revolutionary women who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom. We also honor the women around the world who are battling against patriarchy and fighting for freedom.

This year, November 25th takes place in the shadow of the wars waged by the dominant male ideology. As Kongra Star and women's organizations in North and East Syria, we welcome this year's 25th of November with the slogan "Against all forms of violence and occupation: Jin Jiyan Azadi" and promise to intensify our struggle. Violence against women, like all forms of violence, from colonialism to occupation, from slavery to massacre, has its origins in patriarchal mentality and the oppression of women. Whether in Myanmar, Palestine, Karabakh, Afghanistan or Kurdistan: wars of occupation lead to the destruction of nature, massacres, displacement and, in particular, feminicide. Our struggle against occupation and patriarchal violence must be led and strengthened side by side. The conflicts and wars that are developing in many areas today show once again that violence against women is not limited to the family and society, but is promoted and protected by the policies of nation states and carried out by nation states themselves, be it in Kurdistan, Palestine, Mexico, India or Afghanistan. We see and experience this especially in the occupation. The occupation itself is violence and is carried out with the same patriarchal mentality of rape. Due to the occupation, women are most exposed to all kinds of violence, especially sexual violence. In the occupied areas of Rojava such as Afrin, Serekaniye and Girê Spî, women are exposed to the violence of the occupation on a daily basis.

The attacks of the patriarchal system, which are waged on the level of a systematic war, show that the male-dominated states are afraid of the success of the women's revolution.

We have seen this reality in Rojava and North and East Syria, where we started the women's revolution with the slogan 'Jin Jiyan Azadi' more than 11 years ago. The slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" means that women need a free consciousness, self-organization and self-defence power in order to liberate life. The women's revolution that we have started here is particularly under attack by the fascist Turkish state. The Turkish state has started a special war to assassinate political and organized women who are the leaders of their

people and who seek to establish a democratic system. Dozens of our female comrades who fought for the military, social and political defense of their territory have been martyred by the drone war waged by Turkey.

Any form of violence against women is an attack on the women's revolution. Defending the women's revolution means strengthening and increasing the organization of women. To protect the women's revolution, we must wage a unique and radical struggle. As women, we are the pioneers of this struggle and follow in the footsteps of the martyrs who laid down their lives for freedom. We continue our struggle for a free life, which we understand in the spirit of Abdullah Öcalan's philosophy.

Patriarchal mentality is on the rise in all parts of the world and is waging a special war, with psychological and physical violence against the minds and bodies of women. Against this, our struggle should be waged worldwide against the patriarchal consciousness and the nation state, which deepens the mentality of the system and the dominant man. On this basis, we call on all women of the world to take their place in the resistance against patriarchy and to organize locally and internationally. No woman should remain unorganized, because today's struggle is necessary so that we can all live a free life.

In order to destroy the patriarchal system, we will intensify our struggle against all kinds of violence against women and the dominant mentality of men. Under the slogan "Women, Life, Freedom", we will build the World Women's Confederalism and turn our century into the era of women's freedom!

From Rojava to the Middle East and around the world, we will make the 21st century become the century of women's freedom with the leadership of women, our organization and self-defense power.

Jin Jiyan Azadi!

Kongra Star Coordination
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