

# Women's Revolution

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



February 2024



KONGRA STAR  
مؤتمر ستار



## Newsletter February 2024



The revolution that began in Rojava through the organization and strength of women and has borne fruit with the liberation of more areas from the clutches of IS continues to develop despite the difficult circumstances and ongoing attacks. In this issue of our newsletter, we will focus on important issues affecting women in North and East Syria. Alongside the resistance of women against the occupation attacks of the fascist Turkish state that want to make daily life here impossible, we as Kongra Star and all the committees of Kongra Star still held our annual meeting. However, in the past month, we have once again witnessed how this resistance of women, who play a leading role in building a free society of free women, is being targeted again and again. The ongoing threat of political feminicide was displayed recently in the assassination of our comrade Zelal Heseke during a visit to local women's organizations in Kerkurk. In this context, women throughout North and East Syria are responding urgently to these numerous threats and attacks with actions, events, and self-organisation.



## Annual meeting of Kongra Star

Last month, all committees of Kongra Star and its local groups in districts, cities, cantons and regions held their annual meetings. On January 27, the Kongra Star Council held its annual meeting at the whole Rojava level in a small setting for security reasons. This meeting was held in the awareness that it had been made possible by the resistance and organization of women throughout society. It was emphasized that the strength of the women's movement today is due to the sacrifice of so many women who live on in our struggle, which is also theirs. At the meeting, the current political situation, the situation of women in society, and the work of the past year was evaluated. Moreover, a program for the coming year was jointly developed based on these evaluations. The results of the meeting were announced in a statement.

The following decisions were taken and a plan was drawn up at the meeting:

- Holding a conference for the physical freedom of Abdullah Öcalan in February, which will be organized by Kongra Star and the Arab women's gathering Zenubia.
- A collection of letters from Kurdish, Arab and Yezidi women to Abdullah Öcalan will be published in a book entitled „From the Sea of Our Hearts“.
- Based on the paradigm of the democratic nation, there will be an expansion of cooperation and networking with women's organizations and movements in the countries of the Middle East.
- Establishment of a diplomatic committee in Aleppo.
- Preparing a dossier on the leading women who were murdered by the fascist Turkish

state and passing it on to the relevant authorities.

- Starting a study on the sociology of society according to the different regions in Rojava and the situation of women before and after the revolution, collecting these studies and finalizing them through a committee and providing appropriate solutions.
- Strengthening the system of co-leadership and women in leadership positions in all municipalities, institutions and administrative boards.
- Three training courses lasting several months will be offered in all Kongra Star academies and additional training courses will be organized for men on the topic of „killing the dominant man“.
- Promoting the expansion and strengthening of the Council of Yazidi Women in Syria.
- Opening of women’s shelters according to demand.
- Carrying out a series of women-led actions in Serekaniyê, Efrîn and Girê Spî against the occupation by the Turkish state.
- New childcare places are to be created for the children of working women.
- Training sessions on the introduction and principles of Kongra Star are to be held in all municipalities, districts and cities.



# Şehîd Zelal

On January 18, 2024, our friend and long-time member Feryal, known as Zelal Heseke, was shot dead in an assassination in the city of Kerkûk. She had travelled from Heseke at the invitation of women's organizations for an exchange on women's issues. Her death has caused a deep shock among the population in North and East Syria, and women everywhere have protested against the assassination and for a complete investigation. The martyr Zelal has left a legacy, as she was known everywhere for her self-sacrifice, hard work and modesty. She has left behind strong women everywhere she has worked who will continue her struggle with great will. Here is our statement in English:

Yesterday evening, our friend and long-time member Feryal, known as Zelal Heseke, was shot dead in an assassination in the city of Kerkûk. She had traveled from Heseke at the invitation of women's organizations for an exchange on women's issues. We as Kongra Star condemn this attack, which is a political femicide. Like the murder of Nagihan Akarsal more than a year ago in Silemaniye, yesterday's attack is also directed against politically active women who are pioneers in their society.

As a woman from Rojava (West Kurdistan), she comes from a revolutionary family and has actively participated in the Kurdish women's movement since her youth. In the more than 31 years of her continuous struggle against all forms of oppression, she was known



as Zelal Heseke. In her struggle and activism, she has fought not only in all parts of Rojava / North and East Syria, but also in all other parts of Kurdistan and even in Armenia. Our comrade Zelal has not only fought for Kurdish women, but for all women in her struggle for freedom. She has led an unprecedented struggle, especially during the women's revolution in North and East Syria. She traveled to South Kurdistan, an area where many women are murdered, and met with women's organizations to show the reality of the mentality that kills women. She wanted to emphasize that women need to organize themselves and strengthen their unity. Martyr Zelal was bound up with the women's struggle for freedom until her last day. Because of her political commitment and activism, she became the target of this political assassination.

The murder of the revolutionary women and pioneers of society shows that the fascist mentality is afraid of the power of women who have started a revolution for the freedom of all women through the philosophy and ideology of Abdullah Öcalan. We have already seen how women's power defeated ISIS and their fascist KDP and Turkish collaborators, the enemies of women and humanity, without hesitation. For over 10 years there has been a series of attacks on Kurdish women, which are part of the anti-Kurdish genocidal policy of the Turkish state.

The attack on the martyr Zelal was an attack on all women and an attack on the will of all women. The aim of the attack is to intimidate, to keep women away from the struggle and to deprive society of its vanguard.

For this reason, we call on all women to stand up and fight for freedom so that the murderer is brought to light and held accountable. Every woman seeking freedom should stand up and raise her voice against this mentality that is killing women. We also call on the Iraqi government to fully investigate the murder of our comrade.

Kongra Star  
January 19, 2024





## Anniversary of the founding of Kongra Star

January 15th marks the 19th anniversary of the founding of Kongra Star. Since 2005, Kongra Star has struggled for the cause of women's liberation by organizing and educating women in all areas according to the ideology of women's liberation.

JuJinha Agency met with the spokesperson of Kongra Star, Rihan Loqo, for an interview about Kongra Star's work so far. Remziye Mihemed, who congratulated Kongra Star for reaching their 19th anniversary and commemorated all the pioneers of the women's revolution who fought for the liberation of women and society and changed the prevailing male mentality in society, gave an interview about the work done. Under this [link](#) you can read the interview.

## Shehmaran - Health Center for Natural Medicine was opened in Shehba.



In Sheba, a region where thousands of people who fled Afrin because of the Turkish occupation of Afrin in 2018 have been living for the last 6 years, a health center for natural medicine was opened by the Kongra Star Health Committee on January 15, the anniversary of their foundation. This center is intended to serve the refugees and the entire population in Shehba.

The center Shehmaran, which is named after the king of snakes known for wisdom, health and bringing happiness from the Kurdish mythology, was founded with the help of the organization Strade, Casa degli Angeli di Daniele, the Free Women's Foundation in Syria WJAS, Kurdistan Hilfe e.V. In this center, 4 women work on a voluntary basis to care for the population in the difficult circumstances of flight and for the refugees in the various camps, as well as the entire population. A nurse, a midwife and two specialists in naturopathy and physiotherapy currently work in the health center, which was founded specifically for women and children, but treats everyone who needs assistance.

# Turkey's attacks and the resistance against it

On January 13, the fascist Turkish state launched another wave of airstrikes on the region, again targeting the infrastructure in order to destroy the women's revolution. The population, and women in particular,



have taken the lead in civil resistance and shown that they will not be forced to give up by these attempts at intimidation.

You can read our statement here:

[Show solidarity with the women's revolution in Rojava, break the silence!](#)





## Outcry against death sentence against two women in occupied Afrin

The crimes committed by the Turkish occupying state and its mercenaries in the occupied territories have enraged women in northern and eastern Syria. According to the Center for the Documentation of Human Rights Violations, the courts of the Turkish occupation state in the occupied territories of Afrin have sentenced two women to execution and several others to life imprisonment.

The Center for the Study and Protection of Women's Rights and the Cizîre Canton Human Rights Organization have issued a joint statement on this issue, condemning the crimes committed by the Turkish occupation state against women in the occupied territories.

The women call on the international community to take a stand against this. Furthermore, the organizations declared in their statement that the international community is responsible for the crimes against the people of Efrîn, especially against women, as their silence on these crimes is a sign of cooperation.

At the end of the statement, the Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights and the Human Rights Organization of Cizîre Canton called on the UN Women's Committee to put an end to these crimes against women and girls in occupied Efrîn and appealed to local rights organizations not to remain silent and to take action against them.



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