

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



In this newsletter, we are highlighting important events from the women's movement in North and East Syria which happened in March.

In the North and East of Syria, March 8 was celebrated from February 24 to March 8 by the Women's Action Platform. The celebration included cultural productions, demonstrations across cities and cantons, seminars for men and women and other activities detailed in the newsletter. Kongra Star wrote a letter to women on the occasion of March 8 and visited the women's village Jinwar.

As part of International Working Women's Day activities. The Women's Communication Union organised a panel for women journalists and reporters to discuss their role in changing society, and the barriers that they face. The women's movement and organizations of Raqqa canton announced that they are joining the campaign of the Yezidi Women's Freedom Movement against the genocide of women.

Newroz was also celebrated across the region, as both an important cultural day and the advent of the new year, and a day of resistance against colonialism and assimilation.



March 8 in North and East Syria (Rojava)

In North and East Syria, March 8 was celebrated from February 24 to March 8 by the Women's Action Platform with a campaign under the slogan "With the will of free women, we will defeat the policies of genocide, occupation and isolation".

As part of International Women's Day, a series of diverse activities were developed by women, once again highlighting the level of women's organization in the region. The slogan with which the women of the region greeted this day made it clear: In order to fight for women's freedom, it is necessary to fight against the policies of occupation and oppression, as well as against the isolation of Serokati and the isolation imposed on women on a daily basis. Kongra Star explained that Leader Apo's philosophy and paradigm is about women's freedom and an ecologically just society. With the slogan „Jin, Jiyan, Azadi“ they will strengthen their struggle and show that they will never accept enslavement in this region of the mother goddesses.

Last year, this day was greeted in the shadow of the earthquake in the region, but nevertheless it was also marked with large demonstrations against the policies of the patriarchy and the nation states, which once again revealed their true nature by neglecting to respond to the disaster and its victims. This year, March 8 was marked by fierce attacks on the women's revolution and its leading force. Last year, many leading women such as Şehîd Zelal Zagros, Sorxwîn Rojhilat, Azadi Deri, Yusra Darwiş, Rihan Amûde, Servin Serdar and their comrades were martyred in attacks by the enemies of women and people. For this reason, they were not physically present this year to greet March 8 with and together, but their revolutionary spirit and our promise to follow their path are alive. With this spirit we have not only welcomed this day, but the women of Rojava have also promised to strengthen their struggle. And on this basis, the power of women in the March 8 activities has turned into creativity and the strengthening of the struggle for women's freedom.

Activities for International Women's Day

As part of the campaign, many women's movements, institutions and organizations have developed numerous activities of various kinds and in different areas of life. To mark this day, the women's movement for culture and art Hilala Zêrin released a musical production entitled [Stranên Keziyê Sor](#). Kongra Star published [a video](#) on their YouTube which gives a snapshot of the organising that happened in North and East Syria leading up to the 8th of March, especially cultural works. In addition to this, theater pieces were performed in many places, exhibitions of women's handicrafts were organized and a women's festival was held, highlighting the importance of building a free and revolutionary women's culture and art against the culture of the patriarchal system of capitalism.

The women of Rojava, who have been leading the Women's Revolution, are aware that in addition to building a free culture, a spiritual revolution is also necessary. Therefore, many seminars have been held for women and all communities. In addition, trainings for men have been organized in many cities on the basis of „killing and transforming the dominant man“.

This day was welcomed by the women in a united way, but also highlighted the diversity of cultures and colors of the different composition of the region. For example, the Assyrian Women's Union organized a march in Hesekeh on 7 March, in which everyone took part in their national costumes. In the liberated cities such as Raqqa, Tabqa and Deir ez-Zor, Arab women appeared under the umbrella of the Zenubia group and developed their own activities. Armenian women also carried out numerous activities.

On March 8, the campaign ended with demonstrations and rallies in Qamişlo, Hesekeh, Kobanê, Şehba, Aleppo, Raqqa and Damascus. In each city, both women and people in general joined the march and expressed their strong position in the struggle for women's freedom with great enthusiasm.

Kongra Star Letter to Women in Resistance Around the World

On the occasion of the 8th of March, the messages spread in the Rojava region called for the unity of women and the strengthening of the struggle. Kongra Star wrote in a letter to all women worldwide who are in the resistance:

“We stand with the Palestinian and Jewish women fighting against genocidal and feminicidal policies, we stand with the women fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan, against the Sharia regime in Iran, against the fascist regime of Erdoğan in Turkey, against the oppression in Baluchistan, against fundamentalist forces and states in the Middle East, we stand with the women fighting against the rise of right-wing politics, fascism and oppression in the heart of capitalism. We salute all women who are resisting in the mountains, in the streets, in the factories, in every field and everywhere else, turning every place into the color of freedom. We call to unite and strengthen our common struggle and to turn the 8th of March protests into a worldwide women’s revolution.”

<https://kongra-star.org/eng/2024/03/05/from-rojava-we-send-this-message-to-all-women-in-resistance-worldwide/>





Kongra Star delegation visits Jinwar

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Kongra Star congratulated the women of Jinwar, the women's village, by meeting them on this day. The delegation planted trees with the women of the village. Shukriye Hisen, a member of the Kongra Star co-ordination of Heseke, stated that the construction of a special village for women in the North and East region of Syria drew the attention of the whole world to the role of women in society.

International Works for 8th of March

Internationalist women working in the region organised a campaign to highlight the international essence of the 8th of March, for example with banners saying "Ni Una Menos" (from a movement against femicide in Abya Yala), "Women, Life, Freedom" in several languages, "Femmes ensemble pour la paix" (French: Women together for peace) and "Women unite against fascism". Their message was to intensify the world-wide struggle which International Women's Day was founded upon, by socialist revolutionary women like Clara Zetkin, and unite women's struggles across borders. Young Women Internationalists released [a speech](#) to share voices from the ground of the Women's Revolution on this day, and called to "build stronger internationalist connections and unity in our struggle".





Raqqa Women's Organisations Support Yezidi Women's Freedom Movement

The women's movement and organizations of Raqqa canton announced that they are joining the campaign of the Yezidi Women's Freedom Movement; with the motto „Be the voice of protection against the genocide of women.“ which started on the 8th of March. They gathered in front of Al-Naim Roundabout and released a statement read out by Meryem Ibrahim, co-chair of the Social Affairs Committee of DAANES. The women's organizations condemned the genocidal policies against Yezidi women in the Middle East in general and in Syria. In the Syrian crisis, the nation-states gave the opportunity and support to terrorist groups and organizations (ISIS) which imposed and carried out brutal crimes, persecution and slavery on local women and Yezidi women, who were sold in markets. It concluded that the women's revolution defeated the darkness in Raqqa and became a source of hope, courage and strength for all the women of the world.

The Women's Communication Union Panel for Women Journalists

The Women's Communication Union organized a panel in Qamishlo on the role of women journalists and reporters in changing society. Dozens of women journalists from North and East Syria and members of the Women's Media Union participated in the panel. In the beginning, the director of the panel, journalist Ronahi Şeykhi, welcomed the participants, showed a movie about the Women's Communication Union, about its goals and the struggle of women in communication during the Rojava revolution. Nalin Dicle spoke about the legacy of the martyr Gurbetli Ali Arsuz. Nalin Dicle said that: „Through our public struggle, we are trying to fight against patriarchal consciousness and change the society. This also allows us to be different from other media that journalists make according to their interests.“ The topics discussed included patriarchal approaches to media production, the role of women journalists in breaking patriarchal mentality and implementing the revolution as well as the importance of organising their work. The panel concluded with the resolutions for the union to lead trainings for women journalists, holding panels on the difficulties they face and continue the work to organise women's struggle.

Newroz the symbol of resistance was celebrated in North and East Syria

From the legend of Kawa, the blacksmith who rebelled against the despotic rule of Dehak, to the fire with which Mazlum Dogan united in resistance against the policy of extermination in Amed prison: Newroz, the Kurdish New Year, has been a history and a symbol of resistance for centuries. And so we also remember all those who gave their lives in this resistance.

The fire of Newroz is a symbol of resistance against oppression and exploitation and of the struggle for a free, just and democratic society for the Kurdish people. For us, the fire of Newroz is an expression of the struggle for national and cultural rights as well as the struggle for our own freedom as women.

On the occasion of the Newroz festival, large celebrations were held in eight major centers in North and East Syria. At these celebrations, the families of the martyrs lit the Newroz bonfire and celebrated Newroz under the motto „Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan and solution to the Kurdish problem“.

The celebrations took place in Memşur village in Dêrik, Newroz in Girkê Legê and Çilaxa in Helîq village, in Dirêcîk village in Tirbespiyê, in Hîmo village in Qamishlo, in Caxir Bazar village in Amûd, in Heseke at Kharbi Dam, in Çolbistan village in Dirbêsiyê, in Raqqa in Stada, in Kobanê, in Aleppo and in Shehba.





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