

Women's Revolution

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



April 2024



KONGRA STAR
مؤتمر ستار



Newsletter April 2024



The newsletter on events, happenings and issues affecting women in North and East Syria, the site of the women's revolution in April, includes the following topics: Women elect co-chairs for elections in North and East Syria, launch of a project to strengthen the women's economy in Raqqa, celebrations in Rojava for the ninth anniversary of KJK, ecology conference in Qamişlo, statement by the Women's Media Union YRJ on Kurdish Journalism Day, and attacks on women activists and the resistance against them.



A panel was held on the occasion of Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22 to support environmental protection

The Women's Assembly of Zenobiya, in cooperation with the Environmental Committee of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of Raqqa Canton, organized a panel discussion entitled „Earth is our value, we must protect it“ to mark World Earth Day.

The event took place in the meeting room of the Women's Assembly of Zenobiya office in Raqqa. Members of women's organizations, the Golden Crescent Movement for Women's Culture, the Green Assembly of Idlib and the Environment Committee attended the event.

Hibe El Khalil, a member of the El Hamrat Popular Community, chaired the panel and pointed out the role of women in environmental protection, saying: „Women should wake up society and make it understand the importance of environmental protection, and spread its culture, because they are half of society and they need to educate the other half.“

At the end of the panel discussion, numerous recommendations were made, such as the removal of skulls in the neighborhood and raising awareness about environmental protection through activities such as seminars and the distribution of brochures.

The Women's Media Union YRJ issued a statement on Kurdish Journalism Day

YRJ ensured that it continues its moral and humanitarian duty and publicizes the voice of Kurdish women and Kurdistan and its leading role in building a democratic and free society.

The Women's Media Union (YRJ) released a written statement on the occasion of the 126th anniversary of Kurdish Journalism Day. In it, the union stated that this day is a special day for the Kurdish people and Kurdistan as the first establishment of the Kurdish press took place on this day. The union celebrated this day with journalists in Kurdistan and the world and commemorated Gurbetelli Ersoz, the founder of YRJ, Şevîn Bîgol, journalist Dilişan İbish, Nujiyan Erhan and all the martyrs of the press, freedom and democracy.

Furthermore, the Union pointed out that the publication of the first Kurdish newspaper „Kurdistan“ by Mikhdad Bedirkhan on April 22, 1898 was the beginning of Kurdish journalism and the seed of the free press for women that started with the emergence of the liberation movement of Kurdistan. In the statement, the Union promised to proclaim the voice of Kurdish women and Kurdistan and draw attention to the dossiers of women, their leading role in building a democratic and free society based on the democratic nation and the philosophy of leader Abdullah Öcalan. The union also called on journalists to follow in the footsteps of the martyrs of the free society, to build a free life and to thwart the attempts of physical, intellectual and mental feminicide against women.





Women's rights activist attacked by Turkish drone

On the evening of April 18, 2024, another Turkish drone attack took place in Rojava. It hit Halime Mihemed Osman, spokesperson for the organization Sara for Combating Violence against Women, and her husband Elî Mistefa Osman. Both were seriously injured in the drone attack, Halime lost a leg. This attack was carried out by fascist Turkey against organized women. This attack not only affected Halime, the spokesperson of the organization Sara, but all women who oppose patriarchal violence and demand women's rights. With this attack, the fascist Turkish state is trying to harm the lives of people and especially women in the region.

And here is a article about the attack:

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/rojava-syria/couple-injured-in-turkish-drone-attack-in-kobane-72845>



Women promised to intensify the struggle against attacks

In Eyn Isa district, the attack of the Turkish occupation state on the leader of the Sara Organization was condemned and a promise was made to continue the struggle. In the statements, the attacks of the fascist Turkish state on the civilian population were condemned and it was stated that the Turkish state is afraid of the women's gains they have achieved thanks to the ideas and philosophy of leader Abdullah Öcalan at political, social, organizational and military levels. They said that they will intensify the struggle against the attacks.

The statements called on women to rise up against the brutality of the Turkish occupying state and expose it. They also condemned the international community's silence on the attacks on women and called on the relevant authorities to prosecute the perpetrators in international courts. At the end of the statements, a call was made to close the airspace over northern and eastern Syria to attacks.

A Halime employee has shared her views on the situation. The text can be read here on the website of the Women Defend Rojava campaign: <https://womendefendrojava.net/en/2024/04/19/halime-hold-on/>

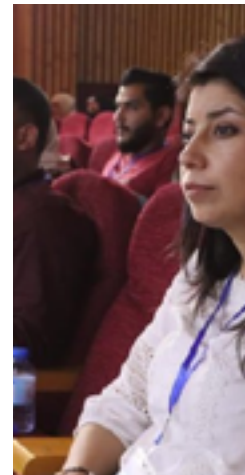


Ecology conference in Qamişlo: We must return to the nature of humanity

Alongside grassroots democracy and women's freedom, social ecology is one of the pillars of the revolution in Rojava, which is based on the paradigm of Abdullah Öcalan. On this occasion, the Ecology Council of the Democratic Autonomous Administration in the North and East Syria Region (DAANES) held its first conference at the University of Rojava in Qamişlo. The two-day meeting is attended by 120 delegates from the Autonomous Administration, civil society organizations and political parties.

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/ecology/ecology-conference-in-qamislo-we-must-return-the-nature-of-humanity-72978>

<https://anfenglishmobile.com/ecology/ecology-conference-in-qamishlo-discusses-the-ecological-destruction-in-kurdistan-72994>





Celebrations in Rojava on the ninth anniversary of KJK

In several cities in the autonomous region of North and East Syria, numerous women came together to celebrate a special day: the founding day of the Komalên Jinên Kurdistanê (Kurdistan Women's Community, KJK for short). On 18 April 2005, after years of confrontation with the patriarchy, the Kurdish women's movement decided to reorganize itself under the umbrella of the Koma Jinên Bilind (High Council of Women, KJB).

The KJK emerged from this in spring 2014. This was not just a name change, but a restructuring in the spirit of democratic confederalism as conceived by Abdullah Öcalan - a model that is based on the principles of council democracy, feminism, ecology and pluralism and fundamentally criticizes the nation state.

Kongra Star - sister organization of the KJK and umbrella organization of the women's liberation movement in North and East Syria - was invited to the anniversary celebrations. In Kobanê, the women organized an event at the Baqî Xido art and cultural center. The program included political speeches, dance and music in front of an audience made up entirely of women, many of them in colorful dresses and traditional costumes.

Further celebrations took place in Raqqa, Manbij and Tabqa, among other places, as part of rose planting ceremonies. The Arab women's organization Zenobiya and the Kurdish women's cultural movement Hîlala Zêrîn issued invitations, and in Raqqa there was also a celebration with a picture exhibition. In Heseqê, a rose garden was added to the Abdullah Öcalan Park. Around one hundred cuttings of different varieties were planted, also on the initiative of the women of Zenobiya and Hîlala Zêrîn.

[learn more about KJK: https://www.kjkonline.net/en/](https://www.kjkonline.net/en/)





A project is being launched in Raqqa to strengthen the economy of women

Azize Al Utba teaches handicrafts, especially to abused and disabled women, so that they can become self-confident and strengthen their economy.

Azize Al Utbe has been working as a designer for many years and provides for herself and her 4 children. Azize has a cause: she wants to teach women, especially women with family problems who have been abused and women with disabilities, how to design. Azize (42) comes from Raqqa and moved to Hama with her family during ISIS control. After the liberation of Raqqa by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), she returned to Raqqa in 2018 and became a full resident of the city in late 2023 after seeing the situation of women in the northern and eastern regions of Syria and their achievements in the shadow of the Autonomous Administration.

Aziza Al Utba said: „The reason why I chose women who have been abused and have special needs is because I know their pain and I want to help them restore faith in them. Through a project they can start a new life and support themselves.“ Azize continued: „Through this completed project, the most important materials for designing were provided and suitable methods for teaching painting, painting on the throne, designing clothes and painting on them were found. They were also given psychological support to help them become stronger personally and professionally and approach all tasks with great confidence.“





Women vote for co-chair candidates for elections in North and East Syria

Following the adoption of the social contract in the autonomous region of North and East Syria, new local councils and their co-chairs will be elected on May 30. Local government in North and East Syria is to be decentralized. After the elections in May, powers will be transferred to the municipalities. The women's movement Kongra Star and Women's Gathering Zenobiya have also decided to take part in the elections and put forward their candidates on a list together with other alliance partners. For this purpose, the members of Kongra Star and Zenobiya were called upon in all municipalities to vote internally for whom they would like to put up for the elections in their respective districts. In Kobane, Heseke, Qamishlo, Gir Kelegê, Shehba, Amude and all other cities in which Kongra Star works, it will put its candidates on a list together with the PYD.





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