



**Marxist Leninist Communist Party / Turkey & Kurdistan**

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## **What Is The Message Of This Year's 1st Of May?**

The current state of the fascist Turkish state's regime crisis, which has been deepening under the AKP's political-islamist fascist rule, is marked by the double burning facets: an economic crisis shaking the life of millions and a political crisis of a weakening dictatorship which gets more aggressive in its last days. Political freedoms have

been abolished, democratic institutions and mechanisms liquidated, democrats and revolutionaries in the search for organizational channels to reach the working class and the oppressed face torture and jail, the Kurdish people are under the permanent danger of a colonialist war by the state. Over 600.000 workers and laborers lost their jobs

within a year. Day by day the anger of the working class and oppressed against the fascist chief-regime is increasing.

Under these circumstances, the 1st of May, the day of unity, struggle and solidarity of the workers, has been celebrated with mass rallies and manifestations in the cities of Turkey and Kurdistan. In many cities, in some places even for the first time, people went to the squares with their demands concerning every aspect of life; even in the cities where AKP has a strong mass base, this atmosphere of unrest is quite visible. Even more masses participated in this year's rallies than last year and resisting trade unions get stronger among

the workers who especially work at the sectors hit by the economic crisis most. The attempts of socialists and revolutionaries from various organizations, despite police attacks, to march on the historical Taksim square, which is the traditional 1st of May route which is now banned for any political activity, also expresses the rising will to resist within the mass movements. All these mass mobilizations for the May Day across the country proved once again the search for a new path against fascism; as the masses have never submitted despite the fact that the fascist AKP ruled with massacres, terror and mass imprisonments to smash the rising democratic and revolutio-



nary mass movements in the last 4 years after the Suruç massacre on 20 July 2015. But in the course of years the antifascist struggle weakened due to unprecedented state terror, whereas revolutionary forces in the cities and mountains tried to adapt to the total surveillance conditions, the antifascist masses hold on to have a breath but continue to express their demands in every possible moment of action, such as the 1st of May.

One of the reasons adding to this year's more crowded May Day rallies is the local election results. AKP's loss of municipalities of major and decisive cities like Istanbul and Ankara has been a source of moral and motivation for democratic forces in the whole country. But of course, any political gaining not won by the struggle of the masses in the streets can easily be taken back by the fascist rule. And that was what happened afterwards. AKP's enforced cancellation of the local elections and the announcement of reelections now challenge the antifascist forces in the whole country.

The opponent party in the Istanbul mayor elections, the chauvinist social democrat CHP, proves with every new challenge that they are a bourgeois reactionary party which

contributes nothing to the anti-fascist war, but loss of energy and focus. It is obvious that within the basis of CHP there is an antifascist potential, which for example filled the streets right after the AKP's announcement of illegitimate re-elections. However, this potential is misused by the CHP, which declared right after this announcement not to boycott, but to prepare for the reelections and called the people to keep calm and finish the ongoing protests in the streets. It wants the popular resistance to diminish by keeping the illusion of election victories alive. The objective anti-AKP and antifascist potential has to be realized in a revolutionary manner and this needs a determined and vanguard positioning of all the organized antifascist, democratic forces, especially within the HDP.

In this sense, the resistance started by the hunger strikers in the prisons with the vanguard action of HDP deputy Leyla Güven to break the fascist isolation policy on Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan plays a crucial role to defeat fascism. This resistance, which is carried out now by thousands of prisoners and activists also beyond the borders of Turkey, carries hope and determination, the will to fight



to all the antifascist forces which suffer for years permanent attacks of the state. In this struggle, the mothers of hunger-striking prisoners play an important icebreaker role, too. Our mothers wrapped with the symbolic white scarves mobilize every day in front of the prisons and fill the streets to carry the voices of their children outside and to force the state to take a step. Whereas the hungerstrike goes on in a more determined way and 30 prisoners of PKK and PAJK turned their action into a death fast now, the resistance reached the first successes: After a short visit of his brother months ago, the state allowed attorneys of Abdullah Öcalan to visit him after years of nearly total isolation. But no following

statement was made from the state and this seems nothing but a one-time step just to manipulate the resistance.

The conclusion of all the lessons in this period of antifascist struggle is that what matters is resistance. Revolutionary and democratic forces cannot trust in bourgeois parties like CHP, but on their own strength. The Erdoğan's chief-regime is in a deep crisis and with every desperate attempt to rescue its existence, more and more revolutionary opportunities will grow. The message of the 1st of May and the resistances around the hunger strikes is to unite the working class and the oppressed, to march forward against fascism and to hold up the flag of resistance and honor.

## Women Rebel Against Sexual Violence of the Fascist Patriarchy

Misogynist policies are one of the characteristic features of the fascist patriarchal state power. The fascist regime assaults on women every single day all around the country with an intense agenda. From the denial of gender equality to the usurpation of alimony rights of women, from the repeal of the women-protection law article 6284, to compulsory family settlement regulations, all the rights, which women gained by fighting for many years, have been tried to be stripped off. Yet, women stands up to all this pressure with women's rebellions.

Turning the 8th of March into a day of resistance once again this year under the oppressive fascist conditions, women continue to be the consistent, resistant and vanguard section of the mass movement which has beaten a retreat in the last years. While the practice of "women's strike", initiated by socialist women for the first time on 8 March, poses as an important experience for the upcoming years, it has become a sign that women raise their voice and take action for not only women's issues but also all

general political issues in terms of continuity of political activity.

Again, the action power of women's mind on May Day allowed women's demands to be heard at the highest volume. This year, at the May Day squares, women voiced the labor exploitation they suffer both at home and at work, being pushed more into flexible and insecure working conditions in the face of aggravating economical crisis, the hunger strike resistance which was initiated by Leyla Güven and spread with the participation of thousands of prisoners, their sexual freedom demands and women's justice struggle against the violence against women and children.

At the beginning of April, when thousands of people taking to the streets after the political crisis brought up by the results of the 31 March municipality elections in Istanbul and the following reelection decision proved once more that mass movements have not yielded into a total graveyard silence despite all the brutal attacks of fascism, a sequence of numerous violence and sexual assault cases in such short time period was met by a wo-



men's mass reaction on the streets again.

And the sexual abuse of a 5-year-old child on 23 April in Kanarya quarter in Küçükçekmece district in Istanbul turned into a massive outburst of rage. While the child was taken to the hospital, the toiling people of Kanarya quarter took to the streets under the leadership of women. The family and the neighborhood were attacked by police. Immediately after the state brought a broadcast ban to the media on that incident. As a result of the actions the rapist has been captured. The women's organizations in the neighborhood carried out awareness raising activities in order to prevent lynching and racist movements. Socialist women play-

ed an active role in demonstrating a political goal, concretising the demands of justice and carrying out actions in a de facto legitimate line.

After this terrible incidence in Istanbul, women's mass organizations also organized actions in many other cities of Turkey. In the actions, shields with the slogans "Raise your voice against child abuse", "You have to be the voice that a child can not raise", "Rebellion against harassment and rape", "Sentence, arrest the perpetrator", "The Ensar regime will be destroyed" and "I won't be silent, you will be ashamed" have been carried. The Women shouted out slogans like "We aren't silent, we have no fear, we don't obey", „Women, Life,

Freedom”, “Children will be silent, but you shouldn’t”, and “Not the perpetrators, protect the victims”.

So what caused this outburst of anger? Let’s look at some statistics of the social decay organized by the AKP. It showed a 700 percent increase of child abuse in the last 10 years in Turkey. One in every 4 rape cases in the country is about children. The judiciary does not conduct an effective and just investigation against the perpetrators of abuse and rape, and the perpetrators are protected from impunity. 26 percent of married women are married in Turkey under the age of 18, 10 percent get their first child before the age of 18. In the last 10 years 482 thousand 908 girls were married. Turkey fills worldwide the third rank when it comes to sexual abuse, harassment and rape against children. An average of 8,000 children are abused annually. These cases of sexual abuse affect the whole and the future of society, leaving children with various cognitive, emotional, physical and social consequences.

The women’s movement has recently raised the struggle to fight against a bill, which is called the “marriage amnesty” and shall serve to legitimize child abuse, because

it offers immunity from prosecution for child abusers, who marry the child they abused. This legalization and the language used by the ruling media legitimize and normalize child abuse. Contrary to the decisions of the decaying political system, consent cannot be discussed in case of sexual abuse of children. Justice can only be achieved by considering the abuse by an adult, not the consent of the child. The justice system has not the right to protect the abusers, but the responsibility to act in the interest of the children, it’s right to life and develop, it’s right to participate and grow in a safe environment. And women have to fight for this in every situation. While women are leading a political mass struggle against the patriarchal state and its male justice, which prefer to reduce sentences for rapists in case of “good behaviour and respectable attitude” instead of protecting women’s and children’s rights, they develop all their means and forms of struggle, including self-defense and write their own history. If there is hope for the future in the heavy political atmosphere of fascism, it lays in the resistance. What will undermine fascism is the growth of this hope, and women play this role today.



## **The 1st Conference Of The MLKP Rojava Was Successfully Held In Line With The Perspectives Of Our 6th Congress**

The Rojava Revolution, where thousands of female and male fighters were immortalized and tens of thousands of them were injured, has reached a new stage

after the political-islamist fascist ISIS gangs supported by the colonial state of Turkey got defeated. While Afrin, Jarablus, al-Bab and Azez are still under the occupati-



on of the colonial Turkish Republic and its collaborators, occupation threats of the TR and the Assad regime, which is pursuing the dream of the colonial hegemony of the past, continue.

The US and Russian imperialists use the aggressiveness of both colonial regimes as a blackmail to subjugate the leadership and peoples of the revolution. It is the joint goal of the colonialist states and the imperialists to undermine and empty the revolutionary democratic content of the Rojava Revolution according to their own interests. Defending our revolution with a revolutionary people's war and liberating our occupied lands continue to be our primary duty.

Under these exact conditions, to embrace the political, economic, social and cultural construction of our revolution in all respects is the only guarantee of keeping the revolution alive. Developing democratic popular power and advancing on the path of socialism is our second primary task. In this direction, operating the system of communes and popular assemblies from the bottom up, developing collective peop-

le's property against the capitalist property relations in the fields of agriculture, trade and industry, attributing the revolution more to the dispossessed and the poor, spreading the women's revolution into the houses, reviving cultural life, organizing the destructive energy of the youth as the founding revolutionary energy are among the main tasks of the communists.

The Marxist-Leninist Communists took their places in the Rojava war positions and the construction of the revolution, with the onset of the revolution. They gave dozens of martyrs and wounded for this cause. Colonialists and imperialists want to break the will of our party, which is the communist consciousness and direction of our revolution, and to demolish the bridge it built with the revolution and between other parts of Kurdistan, Turkey and the world through the revolution. Massacring vilely comrade Baran Serhat, our party's representative in Rojava, shows the level of fear from our party's presence in the Rojava Revolution.

Under these circumstances, with the participation of our party's

Rojava forces;

A conference was held with the agenda of political situation; political, economic, social and military situation of Middle East, Rojava, North and East Syria Revolution; women's freedom front; questions of youth in its relationship with the revolution; the program and aim of development of Rojava – North and East Syria revolution and its progress towards socialism as well as the cadre and organizational questions of this program and aim. The goal of a United Kurdistan and the Democratic Federation of the Middle East was once again remarked.

Rich debates were made on all these aforementioned issues, decisions were taken and the political and organizational aspects of the coming period were drawn. Decisions have been taken that we should establish ourselves at the new level as appropriate cadres to the duties that our revolution imposes on socialist patriots. It is underscored that in spite of all valuable efforts, the steps taken in the direction of Kurdistanization are still insufficient and that we have to reach a higher speed,

as well as that Rojava is not a foreign land but homeland. Patriots, communists and all other revolutionaries, who were on indefinite hunger strike and death fast resistance against the isolation imposed on the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and all revolutionary prisoners were saluted. It was strongly emphasized that Afrin will be absolutely liberated.

Our conference, at the same time, was a direct frontal response to those who tried to break our will and to break down the bridges we built by assassinating our comrade Baran Serhat. Our conference which was attributed to comrade Baran Serhat has shown once again that their effort to break our will will never be enough and that our party is a seedbed of Baran Serhats also in Rojava as everywhere.

Whatever the price may be, we will defend the Rojava revolution, we will develop our democratic revolution and progress on the path towards socialism, we will spread the revolution throughout Syria and the Middle East, unite it with the revolution of Kurdistan and Turkey.