

MARXIST LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY
TURKEY/KURDISTAN



MLKP



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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

April 2018 / Issue 185

New Phase in the Afrin Resistance

The historical Afrin resistance still continues. Its strength triggered many incidents which can alter many accounts in the regions since its beginning on January 20th. It was obvious from the integrity of peoples with the vanguard of the resistance that an example like Turkish army's taking Cerablus in one day or Hashdi Shabi's entering Kirkuk in one day would not have happened in Afrin. And after a two-months intense resistance, freedom forces led by YPG withdrew from the city center of Afrin. Hundreds of thousands civilian migrated in two days to Tel Rifat and Shahba region where they passed to the new phase of the resistance. With this maneuver, the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilian among which are the refugees from other war-torn parts of Syria are protected for now from Turkish army's heavy shelling and air strikes. Before this colonialist attack, Afrin was a safe place which sheltered more than 300 thousand Syrian refugees. It was a land of Rojava revolution where the institutions of peoples' self-administration were being built. Now, it is a land where jihadist from East Guta and Idlib are residing as settlers under the colonialist siege of fascist Turkish army.

The looting of jihadists in Afrin has been in the media all over the world. Besides, FSA and Turkish army are torturing the very few civilians stayed in the city, imposing Islam forcefully and trying annihilate their identities by executions and rapes. This is what would happen if Afrin didn't emptied: ethnic

cleansing. With the price of its hundreds of martyr fighters and thousands of wounded, the Afrin resistance didn't give respite to fascist invaders in spite of their firepower and soldier superiority. But getting close to its limits, in order both to sustain the resistance and to prevent a heavy destruction of the city, a tactical change was necessary. Although it seems like an immediate decision, it corresponds to the course of two-months of events. In a process which Russia opened the air space and let the air strikes as an decisive factor, it will break this effect. International pressure's inability of stopping Turkish state's massacres during this two month is the reason why this decision was not taken in the beginning. It is shown that the lands of revolution are not an easy catch by shouldering a bold price.

It was always clear that Turkey has annexationist tendencies, yet it started the operation with the propaganda of protecting its borders. Colonialist fascist Turkish state wants to get permanent in Afrin and to use Idlib-Afrin-Cerablus line as a preparation field for its new invasions. It also aims to build a living space for the gangs it feeds. It has laready deployed the deputeet governor of Hatay to Afrin as its new governor and convened an alleged assembly of Afrin with some traitors from Barzani-sided ENKS. It

does not hide that the next target will be Manbij and rushes from pillar to post between Russia and USA. It fiercely attacks the meeting of France with the Kurdish delegation because of a possible new player in the field.



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It wants to liquidate the Kurdish national status completely by expanding its fascist aggression in North Kurdistan to Rojava and Başur. All in all, all these desires of Erdoğan's dictatorship are just vanity.

Afrinians continue to participate the resistance with its transformed type. Only in the last two weeks, as a result of actions of YPG in the city center and in the districts of Afrin, tens of Turkish army and FSA members got killed. Transition from positional war to guerrilla warfare created a situation in which the resistance prolonged and the Kurdish liberation movement gives less loss based on their 40 years of experience in this type of warfare. It is predictable that the continual of this invasion which took only Afrin in two months will not be such easy. As the civilian massacres force Erdoğan to compromise in the international field, it blazed the support of peoples internationally. Widespread actions all around the world once more showed the significance of the Kurdish resistance and Rojava revolution.

While the people of Afrin stepped up as the vanguard force of the whole Kurdish people, it inspired determination and pertinacity to the antifascist forces of Turkey. People in Turkey did not hesitate to say not to the war despite of all the brutal violence. Democratic forces of Turkey and North Kurdistan shook off from the silence in this period. This was observed once more: the road to gain the political

freedoms in Turkey passes through the political position saying no to the colonialist invasions in Kurdistan. The only way to barricade the Kurdish people's gainings against the monstrous swallowing attacks of Erdoğan is spreading the flame of resistance to Turkey and North Kurdistan. It will not be only a move to save Afrin, but also a threshold which will break the fascist AKP-MHP bloc. As much as the resistance of Afrin meets with Amed and Istanbul, the struggle for freedom in Turkey will be accelerated. The antifascist struggle and political class warfare is integrated with the struggle against the colonialist invasion. In North Kurdistan, Kurdish people carry the consciousness that the national question cannot be solved through reforms anymore and believe in revolution. They wait for vanguard onsets to incite the serhildan. Communists fighting with this understanding both in Kurdistan front and Turkey front are advancing to organize the laboring left movement of Turkey for this struggle and to meet them with the serhildan. And all the progressive, antifascist forces, internationalists have to play the role they must undertake. The crises of Middle East is global as much as it is regional. This war which all the imperialists take part will bring out revolutionary consequences for everyone. The condition of a worldwide anti-imperialist struggle also passes from the correct attitude of today's exam.

Election Cheats Legalized in Turkey

The building up of Erdoğan's dictatorship had put up a legal sheath with the regime change that passed in April 2017. With this referendum, the president Erdoğan had regained his position also as the AKP president and the presidency system had been practically put in order. The success of the historical bloc of the oppressed expressed itself in HDP at the presidency elections in 2014 and the general election in June 2015 had turned especially the national assembly into a burden to get rid of for this build-up. However, until that day, the AKP had used its majority in the national assembly to consolidate its legitimacy. Throughout this process where the assembly became completely useless and the government became just a consultant council gathered once in a while, Erdoğan is ruling the country with his statutory decrees (KHK). Yet, despite holding all the reins, the dictatorship still does not feel comfortable. With the arrangement passed at the assembly last





month, the law about the election alliances which has been applied since 1957 was changed as to be used in the first presidency elections in 2019.

This law change does not only bring the opportunity to let the parties ally in the elections, it also legalizes various election cheats which had been very controversial especially in the April 2017 referendum such as unstamped voting paper. While this law passed at the assembly in the midnight, it didn't even become a topic in the media which now is under total control of the government. (By the way, the bourgeois businessman Aydın Doğan, who owned one of the biggest media corporations in Turkey, was forced to sell his media company to another bourgeois who is a big henchman of Erdoğan last month.) According to this new law, if one of the allied parties passes the 10% of threshold vote to enter the assembly, others will be counted as over the threshold too. Through this, Erdoğan convinced the racist nationalist MHP to ally with AKP. Now they are happy together with blood on their hands. Moreover, voters living in the same building can vote at different schools according to the lists announced by the YSK (High Election Committee, all of whose officers are simply cadres of AKP), which means multiple voting can be a possible cheat. Unstamped voting papers and envelopes will be counted too. (YSK ordered papers and envelopes with a number 5 times more than the total voters). Head of voting ballot committees will be constituted of officials, who again mostly will be AKP sympathetics. Voters will be allowed to call police to the voting areas in case of an issue. Voting ballots can be moved to other districts due to security reasons, which aims to prevent the voters in Kurdistan to reach there. All these are clear proofs of organized legal cheat.

In a country where the nationalist-chauvinist winds are blowing and the suppression policies has deepened with the blood flowing from the Afrin invasion, the fascist dictatorship still sees the possibility of a defeat in the presidency elections. This so-called 'people's alliance' they made with the racist, nationalist MHP has already started its election campaigns over the Afrin invasion. This is their first election promise which they openly admit: more blood and destruction. The legitimacy concern of the dictator who controls every little thing in the country is not only resulted from the instinct of protecting his own power. The one who is facing with the legitimacy problem is the Turkish bourgeois state at the same time. That is why all the system parties are on the same line. We have already known that when it comes to Kurdish people all of them align on the side of the state. The second biggest party, CHP is also playing its historical role and substitutes right after the fascist colonialist policies to sustain the unitarist state tradition. CHP declared that they will never consider a possible election boycott despite all the signs of fixed election

results and claimed that they will win. No need to comment about it. A probable system alternative of the AKP which is trying to be built as the CHP-IYIP-SP bloc together (IYIP, The Good Party, the party founded by ex-MHP member fascist Meral Akşener; SP, The Welfare Party, Erdoğan's former traditional politic-islamist party) does not carry any meaning about the democratization of the country. Founded as a democratic front of the oppressed, the HDP, on the other hand, has not declared its position about the elections and is still in search of a democratic bloc which brings all the democratic opponent sections of the society together. The HDP, now, concentrates on finding the policies which play the vanguard role in the antifascist struggle waged against Erdoğan's dictatorship at the democratic field and increases its effort to organize this struggle street by street through going to the people.

From science to art, from women's freedom to the freedom of beliefs, a decaying society with all meanings can get its push to break down from the economical crisis. Mass dismissals of sub-contracted workers, problems of financing the huge construction projects like 3. airport of Istanbul or Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant and credits and tax settlements provided to the bourgeoisie are some recent developments filling out the anger of the masses. Crisis delaying policies is coming to an end in this period of Turkish economy giving SOS signals. Constructing a foreign source-dependent economy since the beginning compatible with the imperialist globalization stage, the AKP cannot hide the crisis despite its made-up economical growth numbers. High inflation, high currency, high interest rates and high unemployment goes along together, so the economical growth is fake. The state which lost its lawfulness is trying to run the economy also with tyranny. The closest shelter for them right now is the elections and the regenerated trust from it. Through trying to suppress the gainings of the Kurdish people in Rojava, which shook the foundations of the state, with the fascist state reflexes, the colonialist dictatorship has been looking for compensation for its losses with balance policies with the imperialists up to now, and it is planning to take the elections to an earlier date before its Pirus victory of Afrin gets cold and internal politics lost its stability especially with the economical crisis. Thus, the presidential election can happen in this year's autumn.

Looking from the viewpoint of the oppressed, elections under these circumstances will have no legitimacy. Already, the need, the requirement and the focal point of the struggle is totally different right now. Fascist violence rising in the streets, preparation of the state for a civil war with its paramilitary gangs, exponential increase of plunder of the labor and nature condition a total warfare against the dictatorship. Everyday tens of people are detained due to social

media sharing or for no reason at all. The pressure on the media has expanded to censoring the content of internet broadcasting. This black atmosphere dispersed the hope created by the Afrinian's heroic resistance. There is the indomitable and courageous tens of, hundreds of thousands of people filling the streets and the squares, first at the HDP congress, then at the March of 8th demos and lastly in the Newroz

week. There are guerrilla actions all over the North Kurdistan with the onset of spring. There are communists fighting against the fascist state in the streets, in the cells, in the factories, in the mountains from Afrin to the laboring neighborhood of Istanbul. The spring is here, the motto of the resistance growing with hope and courage is freedom.

The International Freedom Battalion Commemorates Women Martyrs

The International Freedom Battalion (IFB) held a commemoration meeting and made a written statement for martyred fighters Alina Sanchez (Lêgerîn Çiya) and Anna Campbell (Hêlîn Qerecox).

The statement also mentioned other international fighters martyred during the battle of Afrin.

“During the battle of Afrin, Anna Campbell (Hêlîn), Haukur Hilmarsson (Şahin Hüseyini) Samuel Prada Leon (Baran Galicia) and Oliver François Jean Le (Kendal Breizh) were martyred in Afrin, Sjoerd Heeger'ı (Baran Sason) in Deir Ez Zor and Alina Sanchez (Lêgerîn Çiya) in Heseke.

With our 58 day long epic resistance in Afrin entering a new phase, we have taken our struggle to a new tactical level.

Comrade Anna Campell (Hêlîn) was martyred on March 16, 2018 when the convoy she was in was targeted by Turkish jets. Comrade Hêlîn had joined the ranks of the YPJ during the fight against ISIS in Deir Ez Zor, and she headed to Afrin to defend the Rojava Revolution when the resistance started. She had come to the lands of Rojava for her ideals, and she didn't falter for a second. She was always on the foremost fronts with her comrades during battle.

Latin American YPJ fighter Comrade Alina Sanchez (Lêgerîn Çiya) lost her life in a road accident in Heseke. Alina Sanchez (Lêgerîn Çiya) was on duty in the medical services, and she had saved countless lives. She had been marching on the path of revolutionaries who took down dictators, of the Mirabel sisters, of Che Guevara. A doctor like Che, she had dedicated her life to the revolution like he did.

Like international fighter Ivana Hoffman who was martyred on March 7, 2015, she defended freedom for languages, nations and colors, and had come to the lands of Rojava to join the revolution for the victory of the women's revolution. Like Comrade Haukur Hilmarsson (Şahin Hüseyini) from Iceland who was an IFB fighter and was martyred on February 24, 2018, she had come to defend freedom for the peoples against fascism, regressive gangs and the enemies of life. The slogan, 'Words divide, action unites' that Latin American streets taught us has been proven once again with the lives of comrades Lêgerîn and Hêlîn. As the International Freedom Battalion, we offer our condolences to the families, friends and comrades of Comrades Alina Sanchez (Lêgerîn Çiya) and Anna Campbell (Hêlîn).”

