



**MARXIST LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY
TURKEY/KURDISTAN**



MLKP



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**The June 24th
Gone
The Struggle
Goes On**

In Turkey, it was the sixth times in 3 years on June 24th that people went to the voting ballots. The unmanageability crisis of the regime is not only felt in the separate system-state parties, it was felt at all corners of the whole system. The elections gave rise to various results for the working class and the oppressed. On the one hand, the HDP succeeded in taking place in the parliament by getting 11.7 percent of the votes and 67 seats, 25 of which are women, despite direct physical attacks, terrorizing through custody, arrest and not letting be present in the street, which continued both before and during the elections. On the other, Erdoğan got elected in the first round as the first president of the new system granted in the referendum last year. Yet,

AKP didn't get enough seats in the parliament to be able to change the constitution on its own (360 seats needed, but AKP got 295 seats out of 600), so they are forced to continue their alliance with the MHP (Nationalist Movement Party). AKP's vote demonstrated a 7 percent decrease compared to the November 1st, 2015 elections. There is no mass rupture from AKP, but they couldn't manage to keep their rates despite all the election cheats, keeping all the opposition's voice both in the media and by the authority which OHAL provided and growing nationalist winds after Afrin occupation. Other wing of the bourgeois opposition led by the CHP, after all, took a heavy defeat in the elections and now had internal crisis about the leadership of the party.



Although it was known that the election period would occur like this, should it still be necessary to participate in the elections regarding the revolutionary tactics? Although HDP crossed over the 10 percent election threshold, should it be taken as a risk to legitimize the elections under OHAL by participating? Answers to these questions would be yes; because elections, at this point, played a recovering role for the mass movement whose most combatant and most



progressive sections have been left breathless for a while now. Tens of thousands took to the streets for the HDP meetings, shouted out their anger to the dictator. And even though they knew that the dictator will not go away through elections, they proved themselves that there is still a withstand in the society, thus there is no surrendering, and the hope was refreshed. Of course, some sections of the laboring left experienced a disappointment after Erdoğan's getting elected in the first round, but the masses smelled the streets once again. The stronger side of the result is that the elections played its role partially to be a lever for the social struggle. We witnessed that in the crowded protests on the election night and recently in the actions carried out against the sexual assault incidents to the children. The widespread and massive reaction was aiming actually at the sexist and patriarchal policies of the AKP. The dictator is now trying to get out from this pressure by bringing up the death penalty agenda. But in vain, if he takes such a step, mass reaction will rise even higher. Because, it is clear that this death penalty will be used firstly against the revolutionaries and opposition, not against the rapists. And the women's movement also emphasizes that this is just a distraction against the government's own guilts.

The lowest income earning sections in Turkey still vote for AKP and HDP. They are the base for these parties. While the dictatorship seeks for ways to increase its pressure due to the economy rolling into a heavy crisis step by step, the growing rupture of the poor from the AKP, which was seen in this election, seems to continue. However, against the AKP which still manages to

hold on these poor people through their religious, national and sectarian identities, the primary task for the democratic struggle and the laboring left agglomerated around the HDP is to show them there is an alternative in the streets, to disclose that AKP is a party of the 1 percent at the top. While people crave under hunger, unemployment and lack of freedom, how a handful of bourgeoisie around the AKP got richer and richer must be shown this cracking base through seeking ways to infiltrate and finding them. On the other side of the picture, HDP's crossing the election threshold shows that starting from the Kurdish people, the oppressed and the antifascist sections maintain their wills and struggle desires. HDP's carrying this hope to the parliament, will again be an important tool to enlarge the antifascist front and to reach the progressive democratic masses in the struggle against Erdoğan's fascism.

Let us say once again: there is no legitimacy of Erdoğan's being elected in the first round in this new system which give him a legal basis for his dictatorship. And he also knows it, there is no way left to govern the country under normal conditions. For this reason, he will immediately take steps to further spread the colonialist war on Kurdistan, already, the army sent ammunition and staff to the region for preparation of a possible invasion of Manbij. The state still lives under the fear of removal its basis from Kurdistan. It is declared that the state of emergency will be removed on the July 18th, but the new system already gives all the authority of OHAL to the president and OHAL will go on de-facto. The threats of the minister of internal affairs against



the HDP co-chairperson, the arrest of Eren Erdem, who is a deputy of CHP were the first signs that all opposition will be targeted to dissolve. Often discussed about the Kurdish question as a method to follow by the state, the Sri Lanka model, which means a total liquidation of Kurdish freedom movement through destruction and extermination is the plan in the dictator's head. Moreover, the growing economical crisis will aggravate the unmanageability crisis. Thus, assaults on the working class are also on the agenda. Deepening economical crisis will only be lightened through an austerity program, so other than legitimate de-

facto struggle of the class, KESK and DISK as the big trade union confederations will be targeted by the dictatorship.

In the struggle for social freedom, all the antifascist sections and communists have the duty to open a new path ahead. HDP played its role to turn the elections into a lever in the antifascist struggle. The hope of the oppressed in the widest antifascist front against the dictatorship is now materialized

in the vote rates of the HDP, that should be base for a start. We are not starting from ground. Trying to push forward the grassroots and street organizations, which raise a strong class movement out of the economical crisis, which turns the withdraw of the government into big break from it, through undertaking heavy costs with a determined will, and making sure of this break-outburst will not occur spontaneously... appear as a few path-opening ideas in front of us during these days when the dust and clouds settle down after the elections.

Turkey's Economical Bottleneck

The elections had passed over. Even though the fascist chef Erdoğan achieved the presidency which will allow him to have the official coverage for his defacto dictatorship, at the end, the



whole process of elections together with its premises and consequences made the existing governing crisis of Turkey much more deepened. Along with various dynamics of this governing crisis, which are all reflected from the non-legitimacy of Erdoğan's regime, the coming economical crisis seems to be one of the major

determinant factor for the near future of Turkey and North Kurdistan.

As it is remembered, the increasing economical bottleneck which became more visible especially after the 2016, was

one of main motivation for Erdoğan to impose the snap elections a year before the decided date. Against the indications of a deep economic crisis, there have been various attempts of the bourgeoisie within these two years in order to postpone the problem after the 2019 elections,



such as tax reliefs or new financial incentives that undertake the debts of the private companies by the state guaranteed funds and put them on the shoulders of the working class and the laboring oppressed. However all of these attempts became useless with the shock currency rates, increasing day by day specifically since the beginning of 2018. Yes, with his tricky move, Erdoğan managed to pass the elections without having the real effect of the upcoming economic destruction to be reflected on the votes. However, right after the elections, the emergency of the economic situation has quickly turned back to the agenda in terms of high currencies, high inflation, high interests and correspondingly, the increasing rates of unemployment and poverty.

As a typical fascist dictator, Erdoğan has been describing this situation as the conspiracy of 'global powers' that envy Turkish nation's 'incredible growth' that has started by AKP. Moreover, he has been decorating this nationalist bullshit also with Islamic references through pointing out the role of the "interest lobbies" challenging himself, since he, as a Muslim, is against the concept of interest! Keeping in mind these bullshits of him, now we can analyze the reason behind the existing economical bottleneck running to a deep crisis and how Erdoğan's AKP played the major role in this story.

What Turkish economy is facing now, is a production and debt crisis, which is an inevitable consequence of being a financial-economical colony. AKP came to power right after the economic crisis of 2001, as the conductor of the new neo-liberal bourgeois program of the imperialist capitalism. Since from then, the share of the production industry kept on decreasing year by year whereas the construction sector and consumption were increasing. This growth model is the model that satisfies the needs of both international monopolies and bourgeoisie of a financial-economical colony. The international monopolies look for a market in a country which allows them to buy products being produced by low technology with cheap labor and to sell their high tech commodities

with high prices. In regard to the bourgeoisie of a financial-economical colony on the other hand, the development of a production industry is expensive both in political and economical sense; it requires not only a high accumulation of the capital, but also planning, science, culture... However the investments on construction and trade together with the increase in private consumption allows a rapid growth and easy share of the rent. All you need is the cash flow inside the country and this can be supplied by reducing taxes and raising the interests for the foreign capital.

So, by adopting this model, instead of developing productive industry, AKP government kept on feeding its own bourgeoisie mainly through the sector of construction which has been getting the majority of the state tenders by the state power. Thus, year by year, the economy became much more dependent on the external financial resources in order to keep the existing rates of growing. This sick model was somehow going on, with the help of low currency rates but by the end of 2016, as the capital activities slowed down globally and the increased fascism within Turkey became a reactionary threat for the property order, the foreign capital started to leave the Turkish market. The tendency of this situation made things rapidly worse; currency rates started to raise, so as the debts and ofcourse, the inflation. Various companies arrived to the edge of bankruptcy; unemployment and poverty increasingly spread among the whole society.

The cheap labor and high rates of interest is the existential cause of the imperialist capital in Turkey. Correspondingly, the capitalist chains in Turkey cannot survive without the flow of imperialist capital. All its banks, industry, stock,



internal and external trade are integrated to the global system. So, in order to call the capital back to the market, the Turkish central bank had increased the interest rates two weeks before the elections. This was one of the two promises of the Turkish government that they gave to the capital bosses during UK visit, in exchange for UK's promise to keep the currency rates stable till the elections. The second was preparing an austerity program which would start after the elections.

Now, the working class and the laboring peoples of Turkey and North Kurdistan are up against a new attack of Erdoğan's dictatorship. The austerity program, whether with IMF or not, means nothing other than passing the weight of private corporations' debts to the working class

and laboring peoples. Under the name of so called "financial discipline", those debts will be turned into new hikes and taxes. Moreover, public expenditures such as health, education and social insurances, which had already been rasped, will be much more decreased. These attacks of the bourgeoisie for the sake of overcoming its economical, political and ideological crisis serve nothing other than expanding the ranks of the oppressed, bringing them on the side of the proletariat's historical struggle within the labor-capital contradiction. The election process once again showed the discontent and anger of the oppressed masses against the fascist dictatorship. Now it is time to organize this anger which will be increased by the austerity attacks of the bourgeoisie.



**Three Years of Longing,
Three Years of Anger,
Everlasting Resistance**

July 20th 2018, will be the 3rd anniversary of the Suruç massacre where 33 revolutionaries and socialists were killed. This 3 years period was kind of a condensed copy of the history of Republic of Turkey: oppression, massacres, demolition, corruption, crises... A period without any social and political rest and peace. On the other side, longing for the lost ones, anger accumulated against the whole process and people's everlasting resistance which is fed by this anger and longing, and their unyielding stance against the attacks of the fascist state, these are the things remained in mind after all.

The most suffered ones of those who keep on are the families of the Suruç martyrs, but at the same time, they are the ones who are most resistant. Families carry on the struggle of their loved ones. Not only the case of their own, the Suruç families also follow the judiciary process of the October 10th Ankara massacre which happened 3 months after Suruç and of the Soma massacre where 301

miners were killed in June 13th, 2014. The doer of all these massacres and many more in the last 3 years are the same. Judiciary processes are running on in the justice buildings' corridors which were turned into the backyard of the political power. Everyone is aware of that of course one day, the real justice will be provided only when the political responsables of these massacres are punished. So, the ones who are judged in the trials are not only the suspects, but also the state.

After 1000 days of the October 10th, 2015 Ankara massacre, on July 5th, all families made a declaration which stated that not even one step taken towards justice was taken and they continue their justice struggle as they did during the last 1000 days. The 10. trial of the October 10th massacre will start to be processed on July 31st and even though there are 182 folders of documents unread and unheard suspects, the prosecutor gave his verdict about the decision.



Just like the are doing in the Suruç massacre proceedings, they are trying to cover up the whole thing. The trial process of the Suruç massacre was carrying out in a newly built building in prison campus in Hilvan district of Urfa where the massacre happened. The state is trying to lose the case out of publicity, they force families to travel thousands of kilometers in order to make them give up, to yield. In the last 5 trials so far, none of the suspects were brought to the court from the prison, they gave their statements in paper. There are persons who have contacts with the suicide bomber but have still not given any testimony. The 6. trial will be on August 28th, the judge and the prosecutor will try to stall off again.

The July 20th Suruç massacre was the beginning point of the AKP's hot war practice against not only the Kurdish national freedom movement, but also the whole social opposition after the June 7th election defeat of AKP. AKP and the state which it holds with all of its grips, saw the upcoming election defeat on June 2015 and bombed the HDP Diyarbakır election meeting just before the election and HDP Mersin building during the same days. These were the signs what he fascist dictatorship could do with the fear of losing its power. That's why the July 15th, 2016 failed coup d'etat attempt was a blessing of god for the AKP to declare the state f emergency. Its effort to put on a legal sheath to its massacres and oppression. It still continues the same practices against the peoples and the oppressed who it is still unable to surrender: one week before the June 24th elections, 3 HDP members were killed by the gangs who were going around one AKP deputy as bodyguards.

So, what was the historical significance of Suruç? How could it be a beginning point of such a severe process? What scared the state that much? Well, before the Suruç massacre, socialist youth carried out a campaign with a great mobilizing spirit all around Turkey for the reconstruction of Kobanê. The liberation of Kobanê was actually the start of AKP's defeat in Syria. And this victory was the victory of all peoples of the

region. For this reason, the motto of the campaign was "We defended together, we will built together!". Throughout the campaign process, thousands of people participated financially and many joined directly for coordination and to go there. Turkish people's consciousness which has been muddied by chauvinism, was being washed, cleared by this genuine revolution of Middle East. More than 300 people, many of who were young from every language, belief and nation, gathered in Suruç, a small city directly across Kobanê to reach Kobanê on the day of Rojava revolution, July 19th. They arrived one day later for security reasons, but such a more important event was taking place, a bridge was being built. The children of the Gezi uprising was giving their hands to th revolution. The seeds of Turkey-Kurdistan unified revolution were germinating. Thus, Suruç was the oath of this our unified revolution. Our seeds were thrown into the ground, deep-rooted, never to be ripped off. Our "33 dream followers" left us such big dreams.

From the new youth generation of our party MLKP, KGÖ (Communist Youth Organization) members Cebrail Günebakan, Aydan Ezgi Şalcı, Büşra Mete, Hatice Ezgi Sadet, Yunus Emre Şen, Polen Ünlü, Okan Piriç and Ece Dinç were among the 33. However, our party and KGÖ did not step back and stood tall by upholding its determination and struggle. Just moments after the massacre, some young comrades passed to the free zones and cut their all relationship with the Turkish state and the system by burning their identities. That was a response of the youth to the massacre. "You killed us, but we stepped forward, raised our struggle to a higher level". Our party, after the massacre and during the whole period, consolidated its presence in Rojava in both the defense of the revolution, the reconstruction and the social political work continuously. The process, today, continue with the resistance of Afrin, and tomorrow if necessary, will continue with the defense of Manbij. Our party's Kurdistan identity was stamped indelible with the blood of our martyrs. We promise them, we will live out the revolution, we promise them, theirr dream will not remain unfulfilled!



**“We sing
songs of
the revolution”**

The fighters who sang their songs in Kobanê as the "Army of Hope" have now renamed their group "Berbanga Rojava" (The Dawn of Rojava).

Revolutions and social upheavals are always reflected in music. And so, during the Battle of Kobanê, when the Islamic State Jihadist militia invaded one of the cantons of West Kurdistan, which had been effectively self-governing since 2013, we saw images of musicians fighting to sing the songs of the revolution. In fact, these singing fighters of the MLKP Rojava were members of the group *Berbanga Rojava*, which was at that time called *Umudun Ordusu* (Army of Hope).

In addition to many traditional folk songs from Turkey and Kurdistan in their repertoire, the musical fighters also compose their own songs. 33 *Kızıl Karanfil* (33 red carnations), for example, is a song for the victims of the Suruç (Pirsûs) massacre. 33 mainly young people who wanted to participate in the reconstruction of Kobanê and who traveled to Suruç for this purpose were killed on July 20, 2015 by an ISIS suicide bomber.

‘Efrîn bernadin’ is the name of the new piece of *Berbanga Rojava*, which was released just in June. Cûdî Firat, MLKP fighter and member of the *Berbanga Rojava* group gave an interview to the press about their work. Some excerpts of the interview can be meaningful to share:

No revolution can do without music

“We founded *Berbanga Rojava* towards the end of 2016. Basically, it has its beginnings in the band *Umudun Ordusu*, with which we already sang songs of revolution and hope during the resistance for Kobanê,” Cûdî begins the conversation and

continues: “We are participating in the social development of the Rojava revolution. Our interest in it is not limited to war, defense or training. Music is a form of revolutionary productivity for us. However, our musical work also seeks to express our respect for the Revolution, for which we fight and make sacrifices on the fronts, and for all those who gave their lives for the revolution. The songs we sing are part of our fight against the reactionary gangs. They sound on all fronts of the war. On every front, be it in Kobanê or Shengal, in Afrîn or Raqqa, our music is part of our existence. Whenever our comrades sustained an injury in battle or even lost their lives, we first sang our songs shoulder to shoulder, before turning back to our front-line duties.”

Revolution should be expressed in all forms of art

Cûdî Firat emphasizes the expressiveness of the revolution in music, painting, photography, literature and on canvas, and wishes it to be more strongly expressed in all forms of art. “That’s why we try to make music videos as often as we can to make a modest contribution.”

Rojava: A colorful mosaic

“In keeping with the many-colored structure of Northern Syria, *Berbanga Rojava* will continue to sing songs of resistance and hope in all the different languages the region’s colorful mosaic has to offer,” says Firat. “At the same time, our existence on the fronts of the struggle will continue. We will resist not only for the revolution in Rojava. Also for the liberation of all peoples of Turkey and Kurdistan we will continue our fight against fascism, bourgeoisie and oppression”.