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Women Defend Rojava and Kongra Star have been researching the damages and violence people from North and East Syria have been going through due to the attacks of the Turkish state and its jihadist proxies. In this file we will reveal information about a family who were living in Girê Spî and were force migrate due to the violence of the occupation forces.



Interviewee name: Zerka Sedo Kino

Mother's name: Besûn

Date of birth: 17.09.1971

Zerka Sedo Kino was married, and had lived in the Celge village about 10 km from Ayn Îsa. She explained her situation like this:

In the beginning of the Turkish threats on North and East Syria, and at the start of the war with the occupation of Girê Spî, we were not connected to the Autonomous Administration or any of the groups in Girê Spî. We didn't see ourselves on any side, so we decided stay in our place.

When the Turkish state and its jihadist proxies attacked and occupied Girê Spî region, usually the villages connected the Autonomous Administration were emptied, but as I said we don't consider ourselves to be on any side, so we decided to stay. The occupation forces also arrived to our village. They destroyed and plundered all the houses and established their base in the village. After two days they came to the house of my husband's brother and with the excuse that he works with the SDF they arrested him. They call anybody connected to the SDF a terrorist. They said that he will pay for it, even though he hasn't ever worked with the SDF. That's why our neighbors warned us, and advised my husband to hide well, because the next time they would come for him. That's why my husband went to the house of an Arabic friend to hide there, but they caught him on the way. I didn't know about it, because our phone communication was cut off.

Later on I got a call from my husband's brother's phone. They told me not to leave the village as a demand of the kidnappers. They threatened to kill him if I left.

My husband and his brother went through brutal torture whilst they were kidnapped. They tied their hands behind their backs and hung them in the air, letting them swing by their hands. They called this torture “belingo”. They also beat them with cables. Due to this torture my husband and his brother were forced to say false things in order to save themselves. They said that they work as Asayiş and that they took up arms.

After some days the occupation forces arrived to the village with a car full of weapons and dozens of other armed groups. They loaded their weapons and ordered all youth to surrender, and all the people to give up everything they had. Telephones, money, gold... We were very scared so I gave them everything that we had in our house. I also took 70 sheep that we had and brought them to them.

They sent us a little amount of money to be able to arrange a meeting, and then requested our jeep and a Kalashnikov as ransom for my husband and his brother. I knew they were just using them to get what they wanted. Anyhow we agreed, but we requested they free both of them immediately. They hung up the phone as soon as we said that. After some days they came armed and took our Toyota jeep. Later I saw a video with our car burning in front of a military base in Serê Kanîyê.

After they checked all our phones, they saw a picture of my daughter wearing military clothes. She wore them just once to take a picture and have it as memory. Because of this they came to our place and said that the military forces want to interrogate my daughter. I brought my daughter to the door of their centre in Girê Spî. They interrogated her, threatened her with torture, imprisonment, and killing her father, if she wouldn't say the truth. But my daughter actually didn't know anything. She explained that she hasn't ever participated in any military group and she just, as any 19 year old does, wanted to try on the clothes. They put her in jail for two days with her father and uncle, and brought them all in front of a Turkish judge, as the Turkish municipality had been opened. At the appointment only Turks worked there, but translators were present. After that the judge let them all free.

More than 7 of our family members were arrested and released in the following time. So we decided to leave the village. We left secretly in the night and stayed in the middle of desert. We informed some people about our situation, to inform the SDF in Ayn Îsa and to make clear that we are civilians and avoid any confusion. The SDF picked us up and we could stay till the next day in their place. They helped us a lot and gave us anything we needed. The next morning we left and arrived to our friends' place in Kobanê.

Right now we are in Kobanê with nothing, everything was stolen from us. We have no house, no money and we don't know what is going to become of us. We don't know if we will be able to return to our land, after everything we have been through, all the torture and violence.

We are hoping that the war will end and an international tribunal prosecute all these mercenaries, and their leaders, and the president of the Turkish state Erdogan. They have no rights on our people as their only goal is genocide, murder and ethnic cleansing. Not only of Kurdish people but all the population of North and East Syria. They want to destroy all the security and stability which has been achieved under the Autonomous Administration.

I demand all international and human rights organizations help the people in the region to implement the international laws which these institutions claim to uphold. Do not stay deaf and mute to the reality here.

**Women Defend Rojava Information Committee of Kobanê
Kongra Star Diplomacy**

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