



WOMEN DEFEND ROJAVA

November 1 World Kobane Day

In autumn 2014, the IS attacked the city of Kobane in Northern Syria/Western Kurdistan, which is democratically self-governing. At that time, millions of people took to the streets worldwide to demonstrate their solidarity with the women's revolution in Rojava and the democratic system established there. The whole world followed the heroic resistance of the YPJ, YPG and the civilian population in Kobane, who liberated the city from the IS on January 26 despite the seemingly hopeless situation.

Just as the revolution in Rojava built a system of self-government based on a democratic, ecological and women-liberated society with the women's vanguard, the resistance in Kobane was led by women.

Thus, on October 5, 2014, the brave and fearless YPJ commander Arin Mirkan sacrificed herself in defense of Kobane so that the IS advance on Mishtenur Hill could be stopped. Her heroic and selfless action was a turning point in the battle for Kobane and became a symbol of resistance. The city of Kobane became known worldwide for the resistance it offered and became the beginning of the end of IS.

The Turkish state has supported the IS since its foundation and has always propagated during the struggle for Kobane that Kobane had fallen. But Kobane fought, won and rebuilt the city. Kobane is still under threat, because what the IS failed to accomplish then is now being sought by Turkey itself through its jihadist mercenary groups.

In early 2018, the Turkish attacked and occupied the city of Afrin by force. On October 9, 2019, he continued his invasion attacks on Gire Spi and Sere kaniye. Since then, the occupied territories have become the scene of armed terrorist groups and their training centers that terrorize the population. War crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed, as well as measures of Turkisation, ethnic and cultural genocide, forced demographic change and forced displacement. Crimes such as murder, rape, femicide, land theft, theft, destruction of land, uprooting of trees and burning of agricultural land have become every-

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day occurrences in the occupied territories.

Turkey is threatening further attacks on northern and eastern Syria, and Kobane is also being targeted. On June 23 this year, three activists of the women's movement Kongra Star were murdered by Turkish drones in a village in Kobane. This attack on women's rights activists is an attack on society, the women's movement and the democratic system in Rojava. With this attack Turkey wants to take revenge for the defeat of the IS in Kobane. We see also this aim of taking revenge in the campaign against the HDP politicians that Turkey is doing nowadays in Bakur – Northern Kurdistan. On 25th september 2020, more than 20 members of HDP were arrested accused of terrorism and propaganda for calling to demonstrate in solidarity with Kobane, the 2014, while the city was sieged by the IS.

But this won't stop us. With the spirit of our murdered comrades we will strengthen our fighting spirit and offer resistance as we did in Kobane. Because resistance means life. We say "No to occupation and genocide! We will defend women and life!"

We must stand up for Kobane today as we did then. Just as the women of Kobane defeated the IS and defended humanity before him, so the women and peoples of the world must defend Kobane and the Women's Revolution in Rojava must defend the people against occupation.

On the occasion of November 1, World Kobane Day, we, as Women Defend Rojava, welcome and join the call of Riseup 4 Rojava for a week of action and solidarity, from the 1st to the 8th November.

Defending Kobane means defending the women's revolution!

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