

Attacks on North and East Syria

*Attacks on North and East Syria that took place
over a two-week period from the 6th to the 23rd
of August 2021*



KONGRA STAR
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Introduction:

In the last days, Turkey intensified its attacks on North and East Syria. The attacks targeted villages, a school, civilians, women, children and members of legitimate self-defense forces. For years, the Turkish state has launched several occupation offensives in the area of North and East Syria, as well as a series of attacks against Shingal, the home of the Yezidi people. The Turkish state wants to destroy the project of self-administration and the achievements of the women's revolution. These attacks are as well aimed to expand Turkish territory and to continue the genocidal politics towards the local population. Turkish violations and crimes have continued throughout its occupation of Jarablus, Al-Bab, Azaz and Afrin, to Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) and Girê Spî (Tal Abyad). Near the anniversary of the October attacks on Serêkaniyê and Girê Spî, the Turkish state once again increased its attacks on North and East Syria.

Despite the commitment of the Syrian Democratic Forces in North and East Syria to honor the ceasefire in the region, the Turkish state has failed to uphold this treat. On the contrary, it has increased its attacks on the region in general and the areas to the east of the Euphrates in particular. In this short dossier, we give an overview over the attacks on North and East Syria that took place over a two-week period.

Attacks on North and East Syria:

Til Temir, a small city close to the Turkish occupied zone of Serê Kaniyê and Girê Spî, and north of it, Zirgan and its surrounding villages were continuously taken under heavy fire by Turkish Military and its aligned Mercenarie forces. In these attacks, more than 15 people got wounded and most of the local population was forced to flee. It was reported that on the 15th of August, the school of Til El-Werd was hit more than 10 times.¹ The bombing of villages around Til Temir continued without a break. Reports said that alone, in a single day, 50 bombs fell on to the village of Dardara.² The Assyrian village Til Şenan and the villages Rebîhat, Bab El-Xêr and Şor were bombed. In these villages, civilians are still living and aimed at by the Turkish Mercenaries. As a result Fehîme Elo (50), Dawûd Derwîş (60), his daughter Narîman Derwîş (30), and two children, 1,5-year-old Gulîstan Mehmûd Elo and Ebdullah Yusif (8 month) were wounded and brought to the hospital of Heskê. A woman and a child died on the 17th of August as a result of the artillery fire hitting Zirgan's villages and 10 more got wounded.³

The information center of the Military Council of Til Temir got bombed on the 19th by a Turkish airstrike. Four fighters of the Military Council got martyred in this attack. According to the ceasefire agreement, it is officially stationed in the area. The member of YPJ and of the council of QSD Sosin Bîrhat, a commander of the Military Council of Til Temir Egîd Girkê Legê, the fighters of the military council of Til Temir Rûbar Heskê and Seyfullah Ehmed got martyred in this attack. Sosin Bîrhat, who was born in Afrin, was a strong and active member of the women's revolution in Rojava and already took part in the offensive to free North and East Syria from ISIS. She took an active role in the exceptionally strong resistance of Sheikh Maqsoûd district of Aleppo, in which the local society under most difficult circumstances bravely resisted ISIS.⁴

1 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/hzn-dagirker-careke-din-li-gundn-zirgan-didin-h49984.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/encamn-topbarana-li-ser-gundewarn-zirgan-h50036.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/dagirker-gund-derdara-y-til-temir-topbaran-dikin-h49973.html>

2 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/dmen-topbarana-li-gund-derdara-y-til-temir-h50030.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/dagirker-careke-din-gund-derdara-rya-til-temir-qamislo-topbaran-dikin-h50054.html>

3 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/hzn-dagirker-li-til-temir-jinek-birndar-kir-h50064.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/dr-enter-sno-du-sivln-bi-giran-birndar-bne-ji-zirgan-gihastin-hesek-h50238.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/birndarn-risa-li-ser-zirgan-gihastin-nexwesxaneyn-hesek-h50194.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/cenazeyn-pitik-jinek-deh-birndaran-ji-zirgan-gihastin-dirbsy-h50190.html>

4 https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/08/turkish-airstrike-kills-members-us-backed-kurdish-force-syria?amp&__twitter_impression=true

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/qsd-nasnameyn-4-sehnd-til-temir-eskere-kirin-h50326.html>



West of Girê Spî was attacked: On 19th the villages of Sewan, Zenubiya, Erîda and Xerbet Beqer were bombed. The attacks continued the day after, 20th of August, with the bombing of the village Kor Hesen in the west of Girê Spî.⁵

A civilian in his car, Abdullah Çîmen Hemê was bombed by a drone in the south of Kobanê on the 21st.⁶ Two airstrikes by drones happened close to Qamislo city: on the 19th, a car was attacked by a drone strike on the way connecting the M4 highway and Qamislo city. Rênas Roj, a commander of YPG, got killed. He was from East Kurdistan and actively took part in the resistance of Kobanê against ISIS and took part in the offensives to liberate Manbij, Raqqa and Deir Ezzor from ISIS.⁷ Following this on the 22nd a car was bombed just in front of the House of Wounded in Hîmo Qamislo. With this airstrike three people got wounded, two of them being administration members of the House of Wounded and one a commander of SDF Theeb Al-Aswad that in the Deira Zor was continuing the struggle against ISIS remained cells.⁸

In Afrin the occupied area, as well as the not occupied area Şeba, are continuously attacked with artillery and airstrikes by Turkey and Turkish Mercenaries. On the 10th of August the villages Mişêrfê, Semûqa and Bendava in the Şehba region of Afrin were bombed.⁹ On the 12th of August, Turkey and an allied group of mercenaries bombed Alqemiye and Meranaz in the Şera district of Afrin. As a result of the attack, a 15-year-old boy died and another one got wounded.¹⁰ In the following days, heavy bombing of Afrin villages continued. Also, Til Rifet was bombed heavily.¹¹

Attacks on civilian population in Afrin:

Numerous people are being abducted, robbed of all personal properties, tortured and killed inside the occupied area of Afrin. These are systematic attempts of ethnic cleansing. Already in July a cemetery of martyres got destroyed.¹² In some cases Turkish Mercenaries under the influence of the Turkish Intelligence Services abducted civilians, in other cases it was even clear that the Turkish Intelligence Service itself is abducting civilians and then using torture on them. On the 16th of August again in Afrin two women with the names Hêvîn Oso (39) and Mizgîn Oso (45) got abducted.¹³ Following this, on the 24th of August, two civilians got abducted by the Turkish Intelligence Service.¹⁴ In the last two weeks, at least 39 civilians got kidnapped.¹⁵ Because of the horrifying conditions in the occupied area, people are fleeing from Afrin. This week, a family with 30 members had to flee to the non-occupied areas of Afrin and reported about the impossibility to live under the oppressive system of Turkish occupation.¹⁶

5 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/artsa-dagirker-gundewar-gir-sp-topbaran-dike-h50269.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/hzn-dagirker-rojavay-gir-sp-topbaran-kir-h50353.html>

6 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/ez-sivl-im-dewleta-tirk-erebeya-min-hedef-girt-h50403.html>

7 <https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/nz-15-km-dr-qamislo-li-dij-erebeyk-ris-pk-hat-h50278.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/ypg-di-risa-haway-ya-artsa-dagirker-de-fermandar-rnas-roj-sehd-b-h50331.html>

8 <https://www.hawarnews.com/en/haber/asayis-a-leader-two-administrators-of-house-of-war-wounded-injured-in-turkish-uav-bombing-h26353.html>

9 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/artsa-tirk-gundn-sehbay-topbaran-dike-h49869.html>

10 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/li-sraway-ji-ber-teqna-maynek-ciwanek-jiyana-xwe-ji-dest-da-yek-din-birndar-b-h49937.html>

11 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/dagirkeriya-tirk-til-rifet-gelek-gundn-sehbay-topbaran-dike-h50249.html>

12 <https://www.afrinpost.net/en/2021/07/turkish-authorities-bulldozers-savagely-destroy-martyrs-cemetery-in-afrin>

13 <https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/dewleta-tirk-ceteyn-w-li-efrn-di-mehek-de-37-sivl-revandin-h49797.html>

<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/haber/ceteyan-li-efrn-2-jin-revandin-h50123.html>

14 <https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/stixbarata-dewleta-tirk-li-mabatay-2-sivl-revandin-h50494.html>

15 <https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/li-efrna-dagirkir-3-sivln-din-hatin-revandin-h50049.html>

<https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/li-efrna-dagirkir-3-sivln-din-hatin-revandin-h50049.html>

16 <https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/v-sib-30-kes-ji-efrna-dagirkir-gihastin-sehbay-h50362.html>



Turkish Army abducting and torturing civilians at the boarder:

The Turkish Army is attacking civilians in the area close to the boarder. For example, Ehmed Salih (16) and Mehmûd Salih Meter (17) were abducted in Dirbêsiyê by the Turkish army and tortured, until they with serious wounding returned and were broad to the Heseke hospital.¹⁷ Also, a young man named Ebid El-Hisên got killed by Turkish soldiers, after trying to pass the boarder to Turkey in Kobanê. Fourteen more, many times children 15 to 17 years old, got wounded and tortured and in most cases afterwards thrown over the boarder wall by Turkish soldiers. It was reported that an 11-year-old child and a woman got brutally raped by a group of Turkish soldiers when they got arrested, trying to pass the boarder from Qamislo.¹⁸

Statistical overview of the damage caused by occupation forces in the last two weeks only:

- 2 children and 1 woman killed by artillery fire
- at least 19 civilians got wounded by artillery fire
- 4 targeted drone strikes
- 5 members of legitimate self-defense forces got killed and 1 wounded
- 2 administrative workers of the House of Wounded got injured
- about 30 villages and city were hit by Turkey or Turkish Mercenaries, causing many people to flee
- about 39 civilians got abducted in Afrin by Turkish Mercenaries and Turkish Intelligence Service
- at least 34 people fled occupied Afrin and found refuge in Şeba canton
- 19 people got abducted and heavily tortured at the boarder, at least 7 of them children
- 1 person got killed by torture by Turkish soldiers
- 1 child and 1 woman got raped by Turkish soldiers after trying to cross the boarder

Turkish politics of occupation are violations of international law:

These attacks also constitute a flagrant violation of the two International Covenants on Civil, Political, Economic and Social Rights of 1966; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms adopted in Rome in 1950, (known as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights) and its 12 protocols.

It is a violation of the 1990 Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly regarding Persons who belong to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, and the International Convention on the Political Rights of Women. It also violates the agreement to stop the tripartite military hostilities of the Turkish state with Russia and America in northeastern Syria of the 22 October 2019 during the Turkish invasion on Serêkaniyê (Ras al-Ain) and Girê Spî (Tal Abyad).

¹⁷ <https://ronahi.tv/archives/106753>

¹⁸ <https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/artsa-tirk-li-ser-snor-koban-skence-li-4-ciwanan-kir-h50413.html>

<https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/leskern-tirk-li-ser-snor-du-ciwann-koban-birndar-kirin-h49977.html>

<https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/leskern-tirk-li-nz-snor-li-zarokek-koban-da-h49686.html>

<https://hawarnews.com/kr/haber/cendirmeyn-tirk-li-ser-snor-tecawiz-li-zarokek-jinek-kir-h49775.html>



Conclusion:

It is clear that Turkey has not taken any step back from the intention of occupying North and East Syria, Shingal and parts of South Kurdistan. With aimed drone strikes, it targets lawful representatives of the Military Council and institutions defending North and East Syria, that are also responsible for the defeat of ISIS. Also, targeting civilians and civilian institutions, like a school, using torture and rape, aiming to spread fear in the local society and break resistance to its occupation plans. Besides this, Turkey is pursuing airstrikes all over the region, hoping that besides of its violation it will not face serious consequences.

We as Kongra Star will never accept the torture, rape and fascism that is being perpetrated by the enemy of humanity and we will raise the line of resistance and struggle against these acts. For that, we call on all our people not to fall under the influence of special warfare and not to emigrate and surrender their country to the enemy. It is time for us to break the silence around these attacks and for all democratic forces to constraint Turkey to stop the attacks onto North and East Syria and resist against Turkish fascism and occupation politics.

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