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“You remember Srebrenica? Vukovar? and Rwanda?”

Twenty years ago when Ratko Mladic’s army of murderers rounded up the men and boys in Srebrenica and systematically slaughtered them, the world did nothing. Nobody did anything about the thugs on the hills overlooking Sarajevo bombarding the city and firing sniper rifles at innocent civilians.

Today Turkish President Erdogan and Prime Minister Davutoglu are doing the same in the Kurdistan districts **SUR, IDIL, SILOPI and CIZRE.**

and Again the world is silent and doing nothing.

***Do not allow a new Rwanda, Vukovar
and Srebrenica in Kurdistan***

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The Turkish State Continues its Attacks in Kurdistan

Do not let another humanitarian disaster happen like in Cizre where 265 civilians trapped in basements lost their lives.

For the past 6 months, in front of the world's eyes, the Turkish state has been conducting a systematic massacre in Cizre, Silopi, Sur and now in Idil. Turkish state forces continue to maintain violent martial law in the towns, firing artillery overnight at inhabited areas. **In the last 6 months, state security forces have killed 768 civilians in the country, most of them in Kurdistan. 98 of these were children and 87 were women.**

The indefinite, round-the-clock curfews that the AKP government has declared in Turkey's Kurdish provinces since August 16, 2015 continue to deepen the emergency situation that undermines basic human rights and freedoms in the region, including the right to live and personal safety. As of today, curfews have been effective in seven provinces and twenty counties for a total of 395 days. This curfew policy directly and clearly violates imperative provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey as well as basic principles of international humanitarian law, first and foremost the provisions of Geneva Convention for the protection of civilians in war and conflict zones. The last and most destructive example of systematic violence and massacre threats under the curfew rule occurred in the town of Cizre, Şırnak province, before the eyes of an indifferent Turkish and international public: at least 265 civilians who had taken refuge in the basements of residential buildings amidst military operations were bombarded to death by Turkish security forces.

The historic Sur district of Diyarbakır remains under a curfew since 11 December, 2015.

The artillery shelling has greatly destroyed the infrastructure in Sur.



The curfew and blockade in the Sur district of Diyarbakır, declared by Diyarbakır Governorship with absolutely no legal and constitutional basis on 2 December 2015, enters its **95th day today**, has claimed the lives of over a hundred civilian people, the shelling of whole neighbourhoods, the destruction of heritage sites and the forced displacement of tens thousands of Sur residents.

As concerted attacks by Turkish armed forces using heavy artillery fire continue unabated, we have received reports that over 200 people are trapped in the basements of residential buildings where they had moved to take shelter. A all-out war has been waged against the people of Sur, which has led to a humanitarian crisis, intense political and emotional polarization and anger on the part of the persecuted Kurdish people.

We are deeply concerned about the continuing silence of the international public regarding the violence and massacres in Kurdish cities, in particular the military attacks against the trapped civilians

in Cizre. Now, in the wake of a similar possible tragedy about to take place in the Sur district, we are appealing to the international community once again. We are calling on all international institutions, humanitarian organizations and activists to take urgent action and demand that the Turkish government immediately terminate the curfews and put a halt the state violence in Kurdish cities, to protect the lives of the civilians who are trapped in the basements in Sur.

MEPs write a letter to PM Davutoğlu on the situation in Sur

18 members of the European Parliament have sent a letter to Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu calling for an end to the state of siege ongoing in Amed's central Sur district for 87 days. MEPS called for urgent action to avoid another Cizre case in Sur.



The 18 parliamentarians had been on a visit to Amed city last week for an observation at scene and talks with officials regarding the situation in the district of Sur. Upon their return from Turkey, members of the European Parliament have written a letter to Davutoğlu, which says the followings;

“Urgent Call for a Peaceful Solution to the Humanitarian State of Affairs in Sur District of Diyarbakır.

The historic Sur district of Diyarbakır remains under a curfew since 11 December, 2015.

The artillery shelling has greatly destroyed the infrastructure in Sur. An unknown number of civilians estimated to be around 200 who include children aged below 10 and 15 and those with wounds are trapped in basements. Civilians cannot get out of their houses due to the ongoing shelling, while dead bodies remain lying on streets.

Turkish officials confirm there to be 131 civilians and 25 PKK members in Sur. In consideration of the urgency of the situation, we call upon the Turkish officials to create conditions to enable the rescue of civilians, children in the first place, and ensure the attainment of a resolution to the crisis.

We insistently recommend a suspension of the curfew and realization of a 24-hour truce in order for a safe evacuation of the wounded from the area.

Please do not let another humanitarian disaster like in Cizre where 158 civilians trapped in basements lost their lives.

We furthermore call upon the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and heads of the EU states to urgently treat the dramatic situation in Sur.”

The letter is signed by the following members of the European Parliament;

1. **Elena Valenciano**, Subcommittee on Human Rights, Chair of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Spain
2. **Michael Gahler**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), Germany
3. **Richard Howitt**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, United Kingdom
4. **Charles Tannock**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Conservatives and Reformists Group, United Kingdom
5. **Mark Demesmaeker**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Belgium
6. **Yana Toom**, Committee on Culture and Education, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Estonia
7. **Takis Hadjigeorgiou**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left, Cyprus
8. **Marie-Christine Vergiat**, Subcommittee on Human Rights, Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left, France
9. **Fabio Massimo Castaldo**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group, Italy
10. **Rebecca Harms**, Co-Chair Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Germany
11. **Bodil Valero**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Sweden
12. **Ernest Maragall**, EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Spain
13. **Ska Keller**, EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Germany
14. **Josep-Maria Terricabras**, Vice-Chair of Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Spain
15. **Helga Trüpel**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Germany
16. **Tatjana Zdanoka**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Latvia
17. **Michel Reimon**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Austria
18. **Terry Reintke**, Group of the Greens/European

Demirtaş and Yüksekdağ call upon international institutions to act for Sur



Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chairs Figen Yüksekdağ and Selahattin Demirtaş have written a letter to the Secretariat General of the United Nations, UN-affiliated institutions, all parliaments and Presidency of the European Parliament, European Commission, Secretariat General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, embassies and political parties abroad.

HDP co-chairs called upon all national and international democratic institutions and platforms to express a solid reaction against the current political and humanitarian crisis in Sur and act in solidarity with the people of Sur.

The letter by HDP co-chairs is as follows;

“Across 58 separate curfews imposed in several neighborhoods of the 21 districts of 7 Kurdish provinces, 290 citizens have so far lost their lives. The curfew and blockade in the Sur district of Diyarbakir, declared by Diyarbakir Governorship with absolutely no legal and constitutional basis on 2 December 2015, enters its 90th day today. Twenty-four local citizens have lost their lives during this curfew. The number of losses includes only those who could be identified.

*For centuries, Sur district has been the cultural, social, economic and historical heart of Diyarbakir. The curfew imposed in the district amounts to a military blockade, and is in clear violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms and state responsibilities stipulated in the Constitution, such as the right to life, right to health, right to education and right to travel. The economic, social and cultural life in Sur has come to a halt, with no electricity and water at homes and no basic services such as pharmacies and bakeries in the streets. Under these grave circumstances—and all under the gaze of the world—children, women and the elderly are losing their lives one by one. Even iconic and sacred public places, considered to be humanity’s common cultural and religious heritage, are brought to ruins during the curfew jointly enforced by military, police and paramilitary forces. **Tanks and heavy artillery have damaged Diyarbakir’s city walls, officially listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.** Five-hundred-year old Kurşunlu Mosque, historic Hasırlı Mosque, 1700 year-old Saint Mary Church, historic Surp Giragos Church and Protestant churches are among the historical places that were destroyed and rendered unusable by curfew enforcement.*

One hundred and seventy-eight bodies have so far been collected from the “Savage Basements” in the Cizre district of Şırnak. Yet, the family members who were asked to identify the deceased report that the bodies were burnt beyond recognition. Furthermore, bodies have been intentionally transported to various other cities in Turkey for autopsy procedures, which in turn have aggravated the suffering of the family members.

We have no other choice but to prevent the occurrence of yet another similar atrocity in Sur. The curfew in Sur has to be immediately lifted. This is the only way to prevent the recurrence of the Cizre Massacre, which, with its all cruelty, happened right in front of the world's indifferent eyes. The military blockade must be lifted so that people whose lives are in danger can be safely evacuated.

All that is happening in Sur at the moment, and all that will happen in the coming days, is a matter of humanity and human dignity.

International public and political actors are necessarily implicated in the sustainability of the stability of Turkey and the region. In the face of recently unfolding events in Turkey, it has become an urgent need to have a clear stance along the axes of freedom, peace and democracy.

We call upon all national and international democratic institutions and platforms to express a solid reaction against the current political and humanitarian crisis in Sur and act in solidarity with the people of Sur.”

MEP – Signature campaign for the removal of the PKK from the EU list of terrorist organizations.

More than a hundred members of the European Parliament have launched a signature campaign for the removal of PKK (Kurdistan Worker's Party) from the EU list of terrorist organizations. Two parliamentarians who have started the campaign will attend a press conference at Schuman Square today.



The MEPs stressed that the perspective of achieving a peaceful and democratic solution to the Kurdish issue in Turkey is under serious threat as violence is escalating and poses severe risks to the stability of Turkey and the Middle East. “In Turkey we are more and more facing an outbreak of violence which pushes back the idea of a peace process and weakens the fight against Daesh”.

The appeal underlined that; “The European Union represented by the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, but also the European Council, the UN and the USA have already called for peace in Turkey. In this context, it is a fact that the proscription of the PKK is standing in the way of the establishment of peace, dialogue and negotiations. The PKK's proscription also facilitates the infringements of human rights, allows the curtailing of freedom of thought and freedom of the press.”

Kurds are an important part of the political struggles in the Middle East as proven by the Kobani resistance and a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey is not possible without negotiations with the PKK, which, we underline, former Prime Minister and current President Erdogan did already accept. Similar to the situation in Northern Ireland a peaceful solution will be reached just with involving all concerned parties.”

The undersigned parliamentarians called upon the Council of the European Union to revise the list and to remove the PKK from the proscribed list of terrorist organisations.

Signatories joining the campaign are:

1. VERGIAT Marie-Christine
2. GOMES Ana
3. VALERO Bodil
4. WEIDENHOLZER Josef
5. DEMESMEAKER Michael
6. KELAM Tunne
7. BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun
8. CASTALDO Fabio Massimo
9. CARTHY Matt
10. ALBIOL GUZMAN Marina
11. AUKEN Margrete
12. BJORK Malin
13. ANDERSON Martina
14. BOYLAN Lynn
15. CHOUNTIS Nikolaos
16. BENIFEI Brando
17. CHRISTOFOROU Lefteris
18. BOVÉ José
19. CHRYSOGONOS Kostas
20. CORRAO Ignazio
21. COUSO PERMUY Javier
22. DE MASI Fabio
23. FERREIRA João
24. DURAND Pascal
25. FARIA Jose Inacio
26. ECK Stefan
27. KAILI Eva
28. LOPEZ BERMEJO Paloma
29. COFFERATI Sergio Gaetano
30. ERNST Cornelia
31. EVI Eleonora
32. MARAGALL Ernest
33. GRASWANDER-HAINZ Karoline
34. LÖSING Sabine
35. FORENZA Eleonora
36. BUCHNER Klaus
37. HÄNDEL Thomas
38. FREUND Eugen
39. GERICKE Arne
40. MAVRIDES Costas
41. GRAPINI Maria
42. DELLI Karima
43. THEOCHAROUS Eleni
44. JAAKONSAARI Liisa
45. HADJIGEORGIOU Takis
46. SEBASTIA Jordi
47. HAUTALA Heidi
48. JADOT Yannick
49. DE JONG Dennis
50. STAES Bart
51. MARINHO E PINTO António
52. JOLY Gro Eva
53. KARI Rina Ronja
54. KELLER Jan
55. MICHELS Martina
56. KONEČNÁ Kateřina
57. KYLLÖNEN Merja
58. LAMBERT Jean
59. LE HYARIC Patrick
60. LOCHBIHLER Barbara
61. LUNACEK Ulrike
62. MALTESE Curzio
63. JUARISTI ABAUNZ Iosu
64. MASTALKA Jiri
65. GONZALEZ PENAS Tania
66. KUNOVA Kostadinka
67. MATIAS Marisa
68. MÉLÉNCHON Jean-Luc
69. MINEUR Anne-Marie
70. REIMON Michel
71. PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios
72. NI RIADA Liadh
73. PANZERI Pier Antonio
74. SANT Alfred
75. PEDICINI Piernicola
76. PIRINSKI Georgi
77. VALLINA DE LA NOVAL Angela Rosa
78. REGNER Evelyn
79. PAPADAKIS Demetris
80. SPINELLI Barbara
81. RIVASI Michèle
82. VIEGAS Miguel
83. SAKORAFI Sofia
84. SÁNCHEZ CALDENTEY María Dolores Lola
85. SCOTT CATO Molly
86. URTASUN Ernest
87. SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo
88. SMITH Alyn
89. ZUBER Inês
90. SKRLEC Davor
91. VAJGL Ivo
92. ZIMMER Gabriele
93. TAYLOR Keith
94. SENRA RODRÍGUEZ Lidia
95. REVAULT d'ALLONNES BONNEFOY
Christine
96. TERRICABRAS Josep-Maria
97. TORRES MARTINEZ Estefania
98. URBAN CRESPO Miguel
99. SYLIKIOTIS Neoklis
100. VANA Monika
101. SCHOLZ Helmut
102. ZDANOKA Tatjana

Academics in Turkey: "We will not be a party to this crime!" We will not be a party to this crime!

As academics and researchers of this country, we will not be a party to this crime!



The Turkish state has effectively condemned its citizens in *Sur, Silvan, Nusaybin, Cizre, Silopi*, and many other towns and neighborhoods in the Kurdish provinces to hunger through its use of curfews that have been ongoing for weeks. It has attacked these settlements with heavy weapons and equipment that would only be mobilized in wartime. As a result, the right to life, liberty, and security, and in particular the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment protected by the constitution and international conventions have been violated.

This deliberate and planned massacre is in serious violation of Turkey's own laws and international treaties to which Turkey is a party. These actions are in serious violation of international law.

We demand the state to abandon its deliberate massacre and deportation of Kurdish and other peoples in the region.

We also demand the state to lift the curfew, punish those who are responsible for human rights violations, and compensate those citizens who have experienced material and psychological damage. For this purpose we demand that independent national and international observers to be given access to the region and that they be allowed to monitor and report on the incidents.

We demand the government to prepare the conditions for negotiations and create a road map that would lead to a lasting peace which includes the demands of the Kurdish political movement.

We demand inclusion of independent observers from broad sections of society in these negotiations.

We also declare our willingness to volunteer as observers. We oppose suppression of any kind of the opposition.

We, as academics and researchers working on and/or in Turkey, declare that we will not be a party to this massacre by remaining silent and demand an immediate end to the violence perpetrated by the state.

We will continue advocacy with political parties, the parliament, and international public opinion until our demands are met.

Some national and international reactions to the actions of the Turkish state in Cizre and Sur:

Humanity dragged along the floor: *Haci Lokman Birlik* being dragged behind an armoured vehicle after being killed while injured



Kurdish politician says “chemical weapons used against the people”: *Yuksekdag* said that they believed chemical weapons were used, stating “A crime against humanity was committed in Cizre. They are now trying to clean the traces of this crime.”



Human Rights Association: Images reminiscent of Bosnia in Cizre: Human rights organisations IHD and TIHV examined the basements. Talking after the examination, TIHV General Secretary and forensic specialist **Prof. Dr. Sebnem Korur Fincanci** said “There are bones belonging to children in the basements. This is an attempt at genocide”. Fincanci continued: “What we saw in Cizre was worse than Bosnia. There were people fighting in Bosnia and in other places of the world, but all the people massacred in these basements were civilians. In Bosnia, the bones and mass graves found were that of adults. But we are talking of children being burnt alive in Cizre”.

**İNSAN HAKLARI
DERNEĞİ**



1986



**TÜRKİYE İNSAN
HAKLARI VAKFI**

The Human Rights Association’s President, **Ozturk Turkdogan**, said “The real picture of Turkey is here. All politicians and everyone must come and see this. There is a significant anger here. It has gone past the point of emotional breakdown”.



Turkish journalist: Renowned Turkish journalist *Cengiz Candar* likened what happened in Cizre to the situation in Dresden after it was bombed in 1945 towards the end of the war:



From Dresden 1945 to the “graveyard” called Cizre 2016...

Financial Times: The Financial Times published pictures of Cizre under the heading of “In the ruins of Cizre”. Others preferred the title “The Second Kobane”.





The Times: Ran with the heading: “The Kurdish town with only corpses and ruins”.



These women, who were unable to bury their loved ones, hid the body of the dead in fridges.



BBC: Ran with “Cizre is a huge graveyard”. Turkish Police: “Don’t expect compassion from me. First raise terrorists, then ask for compassion. I have no compassion for women that raise terrorists. Raise kids that obey the state so we can show compassion to you. Understand?”



Turkish politicians: CHP Mersin MP, *Fikri Saglar*, said “The images I saw are no different to what is happening in Syria. After I saw them, I thought that Cizre is no different to the towns and cities of Syria”.



Human rights activists: *Eren Keskin* stated that violence against women, especially after the wars in Bosnia and Rwanda, are seen as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

She said that the stripping of a woman after she was killed was a warcrime. She said “Turkey has committed a war crime according to the Geneva Convention”.



World renowned philosopher and linguist Prof. Dr. Noam Chomsky:



Turkey blames ISIS while supporting al Nusra which is not dissimilar. Erdogan is blaming the people that are condemning his crimes against the Kurds who are the main force fighting against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Is there a need to say anything else? Erdogan is, without a doubt, attacking the Kurds with repressive tactics. Whatever you want to call it, I call it murder... of course he is a murderer... it is an extremely repressive regime... he is reestablishing the horrific policies of the 1990s.”

100 people, including *Tariq Ali* and *Barbara Spinelli*, made a call for:

“Stop supporting ISIS! Stop repressing and killing Kurds! ”

Intellectuals of Turkey: A peace call was made by 1100 academics of Turkey including the signatures of *Noam Chomsky, David Harvey, Etienne Balibar, Judith Butler, Immanuel Wallerstein*. The heading of the statement:

“We will not be complicit in this crime”

Our Demands:

- *We are deeply concerned about the continuing silence of the international public regarding the violence and massacres in Kurdish cities, in particular the military attacks against the trapped civilians in Cizre, Idil and Sur.*
- *Now, in the wake of a similar possible tragedy about to take place in the Sur district, we are appealing to the international community once again.*
- *We are calling on all international institutions, humanitarian organizations and activists to take urgent action and demand that the Turkish government immediately terminate the curfews and put a halt the state violence in Kurdish cities, to protect the lives of the civilians who are trapped in the basements in Sur.*
- *Do not allow a new Rwanda, Vukovar and Srebrenica in SUR*

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