



Kongreya Civakên Demokratîk ên Kurdistanîyên li Ewropa

Le Congrès des communautés démocratiques du Kurdistan en Europe

Democratic Communities Congress of Kurdistan in Europe

Avrupa Kürdistanlı Demokratik Toplumlar Kongresi

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Chemical attacks in Kurdistan!

UN, EU and OPCW are watching, not taking action!

Turkey's occupation in Syria and Iraq continues. Turkey currently has 48 military headquarters, outposts and helipads, along with around ten thousand soldiers, on the territory of Southern Kurdistan (Iraq).

Between 10-14th February, Turkey carried out a major operation in the Garê region of Southern Kurdistan (Iraq). The Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was also confident of the "victory" that would be achieved after this attack. At that time he said "I will give you good news in a few days," in a statement to television channels before the attack. However, when the military operation was defeated by the Kurdish guerrillas, the Turkish army used chemical gas in Garê. Here 13 Turkish soldiers who earlier were captured by the guerrilla and a group of Guerrillas lost their lives. Although the issue was on the agenda, international institutions did neither take any action and did nor make any investigation.

Then, on April 23th 2021, the Turkish army launched a massive military attack on the Metina, Zap and Avasin regions within Iraqi territory. Turkish officials announced in their statements that this operation will be completed in a very short time. However, although the war in these areas continues for 6 months, the Turkish army could not advance and did not achieve the expected success. The Turkish army could not advance because of the Kurdish guerrillas' resistance based on the underground system, involving caves and tunnels. Thereupon, they (means Turkey) started to use the methods of neutralizing the guerrillas by poisoning the air by throwing poisonous and suffocating chemical bombs in the areas where these caves and tunnels are located. For this purpose, they repeatedly used chemical bombs in Metina, Avaşin and Zap, causing the death of dozens of guerrillas.

The Turkish state also launched a policy of evacuating villages in Southern Kurdistan by bombing with chemical gases not only the guerrilla areas but also the villages in the regions where the guerrilla could possibly be found. Turkish planes bombed the village of Hirore in Duhok, in Southern Kurdistan (Iraq), with chemical bombs on September 4, 2021, at 18:45 o'clock. In this attack, a villager Abdullah Hesên and his family were poisoned and taken to the hospital in Zaho. Doctor Rasul Mohammed, who examined the family, said the symptoms were unusual. Hospital officials did not explain the cause of the poisoning to Hesên and his family.

Again in October 2021, 548 villagers were poisoned by chemical gases in and around Kani Masi. They were taken to Zaho and Duhok hospitals. According to the Kurdish Federal Government the mass poisoning allegedly imputed to Covid-19. Along with these patients, hospital doctors were prevented from contacting journalists and the press. Thus, Turkey's chemical bomb attack was hidden from the public.

However, prohibitive production, sales, stockpile and use of poisonous and suffocating gases and chemicals, that means the use of these as weapons is a clear war crime according to the Convention on the Prevention of Chemical Weapons signed in 1997 by 193 signatory states.

A special and "autonomous" institution was established to control and supervise the production of chemical weapons and to intervene by examining complaints on this issue. Headquartered in The Hague, this institution is the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Complaints have been brought to the agenda in the national parliaments in Europe, the Council of



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Europe and the Parliament. The Kurdish people are organizing protest-actions in Europe and Kurdistan by stating that the Turkish state is using chemical bombs.

The failure of the UN, EU, EC and OPCW to act despite all these informations, documents and complaints means approval with these crimes against humanity. It is the primary duty of OPCW to examine the criminal complaints about the use of toxic and suffocating gases on the spot and to take measures against them. The OPCW organization should immediately prevent the Turkish state from using chemical gas against the Kurds, and should not allow any war crimes against humanity. The European public, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, political parties, parliaments, intellectuals, artists and journalists must take action to prevent this crime against humanity and to stop the attacks against Kurds.