

Interview with International Fighters-1

Among the targets of the Turkish state, not only military forces but also schools, hospitals, etc. There are many places where people live, including. In this attack environment, we interviewed the international fighters defending the Rojava revolution on topics such as "We Must Intensify the Class Struggle and Fight Everywhere with a Revolutionary Perspective!".

29 December 2022

On 13 November, after the bomb attack targeting the people on Istiklal Street, following the statements of Erdoğan, who said "we smell terror", a very large area from Derik to Kobanê, from Şehba to Asos and the entire border line were subjected to intense air and land attacks by the Turkish state.

The attacks are still continuing. Among the targets of the Turkish state are not only military forces but also many places where people live, including schools, hospitals, etc.

The people, on the other hand, continue to defend their lands from attacks.

Reaction is rising both against the fascist Turkish state and against America and Russia, which approve its invasion attacks.

In this attack environment, we interviewed international fighters defending the Rojava revolution.

- Hello, could you first introduce yourself?

- Hello, my name is Sayat Istepanyan. I am a member of a communist organisation fighting in Europe. I came to Rojava from Europe to get to know the Rojava Revolution and I am staying under the roof of TIKKO.

- The Rojava revolution, the Rojava women's revolution has come to this day with a process of great resistance all over the world. Of course, this revolution has its enemies as well as its creators and defenders. One of these enemies, the Turkish state, launched an attack against Rojava and Iraqi Kurdistan on 19 November. How do you evaluate this attack?

- First of all, I think it is important that we do not fall for the myth of revenge for the Istanbul attack. The recent attacks have very little to do with the 13 November explosion. In fact, they have to do with the character of the fascist Turkish state and the AKP-MHP regime's desire to stay in power.

The timing could not be more favourable for Erdoğan and his cohorts. The economic crisis is deepening, election predictions are not clear; the LGBTI+ movement is getting stronger despite all the oppression, and continues its struggle against patriarchy and heterosexism on the streets. The responsibility for the explosion was found in record time, so to speak, and was labelled as PKK.

As for the nature of the state, there is no need to go into too much detail, it is

known. Everything is quite in line with Erdoğan's plans: To change the crisis agenda in domestic politics and to prevent political disorganisation for himself... It is not without reason that Turkish state fascism and Erdogan and his gang, who are currently at the helm of the state, mobilise all their means for a new war. The history of the Turkish state begins with genocide, massacres, oppression and oppression movements. The mask of each ruler has been different, but they have always - sometimes with more and sometimes with less effort and success - covered the ugly face of fascism.

This has been the case with the AKP-MHP regime, which organises and governs the country more like a dungeon or a prison than a bourgeois-democratic state, since the support given to ISIS. The uprisings in 2015, the attack in Suruç, etc. are known.

What is less known - at least in Europe - is that this situation will not change under the rule of the CHP-Kemalists and the other parties they are with.

If you look at all this, we can see more clearly that the situation and future of the Rojava revolution is inextricably linked with the anti-fascist struggle and class struggle in Turkey, with the revolutionary situation.

"What advances the revolutionary process is political awareness, revolutionary identity, the inspiration of comrades!"

- Today, you are taking your place in the resistance in Rojava lands against these attacks. In the countries you came from, you were embracing this resistance and participating in Rojava solidarity actions. Today, you are defending Rojava as the owner of the resistance here under attack. What would you like to say about this issue?

- It doesn't really make that much difference for me. At least the basic idea remains the same. I think it should be looked at like this: You are a communist and as a result, you have an understanding that determines the revolutionary struggle, its requirements and also your demands for yourself both theoretically and practically. You always fight against fascists or imperialist actors to the extent that you can. What has changed for me here, compared to Europe, is the intensity and level of armed struggle, the armed struggle itself.

From the outside it can be a big step, but usually you don't come here and go from zero to 150. Military training, getting to know the combat situation develops above all. It is the political awareness, your revolutionary identity, the inspiration of the comrades here that drives the revolutionary process forward tirelessly and despite all the difficulties. We should remember Beritan Dersim's words more often: *"Everyone should do what they can. If you can't do anything, at least organise a rally, distribute leaflets, inform people or throw a stone. Do what you can"*

If we always remember this, then we must realise that with revolutionary will, effort and motivation, and above all trust in the collective with our comrades,

we can do much more than we can sometimes believe in ourselves.

"A world without exploitation and oppression, without patriarchy and fascism..."

- The contradictions between the USA and Russia-China are changing the balance in the Middle East. While imperialism's internal quarrel is gaining momentum, the bill for this is being billed to the peoples of the region. While the usurpation of rights and attacks continue, the people have been resisting for days. The resistance in Iran and Iraq is on the agenda of the whole world. What would you like to say about this?

- It is the logic of imperialism that contradictions become more and more aggravated. The ruling powers cannot help but act according to their own interests, which are always the interests of the bourgeoisie of the countries concerned. The Middle East is like a kind of chessboard. Every move is thought out and requires a long-term plan. The actual governments of the affected countries can do no more than be good mines in a bad game.

However, if the situation for the people becomes too severe, if the bill you named in the question becomes too high - history has proved this many times - "a spark can ignite the steppe". The masses rise up and rise up.

The rulers fear nothing more than the revolutionary vanguard of women and their leading role in irreconcilable struggles. Because patriarchy can exist without capitalism, but capital depends on the patriarchal status quo and cannot function without it. And what Marx once said about proletarians also applies to women in the Middle East: They have nothing to lose but their chains. But they have a world to win; a world without exploitation and oppression, without patriarchy and fascism...

- You will welcome a new year of struggle in Rojava. Do you have a message from here to the geography where you joined the struggle?

- I know very well what one can encounter in solidarity with Rojava in one's political struggle. We have ups and downs. There are times when solidarity is spontaneous, and in these days when chemical weapons are constantly used against the guerrillas, despite all our efforts, sometimes we cannot even roll a stone.

Especially in difficult times, a demoralising tendency can emerge due to the lack of reaction against the atrocities. But actually we all know: We must start from being, not from "should be". The state of being must be the basis of our growth. Because we must always be aware of one thing; no matter how many demonstrations we make, how many windows we break, cars we set on fire, etc. imperialist actors and their fascist accomplices will not be deterred. But all these are the steps of a revolutionary process. Here, in Turkey or in any other country in the world, we must intensify the class struggle, promote organisation

and fight everywhere with revolutionary perspectives.

- ***Thank you.***

- ***Thank you too and I wish you success.***

Link: <https://ozgur gelecek45.net/enternasyonal-savascilarla-soylesi-1/>

Interview with International Fighters - 2

The continuation of our interviews with the international fighters defending the Rojava revolution in the attack environment on topics such as "We Must Intensify the Class Struggle and Fight Everywhere with a Revolutionary Perspective!"

30 December 2022

On 13 November, after the bomb attack targeting the people on Istiklal Street, following the statements of Erdoğan, who said "we smell terror", a very large area from Derik to Kobanê, from Şehba to Asos and the entire border line were subjected to intense air and land attacks by the Turkish state. The attacks are still continuing. Among the targets of the Turkish state are not only military forces but also many places where people live, including schools, hospitals, etc. The people, on the other hand, continue to defend their lands from attacks. Reaction is rising both against the fascist Turkish state and against America and Russia, which approve its invasion attacks.

In this attack environment, we interviewed international fighters defending the Rojava revolution.

"The Revolution Strengthens Revolutionaries Worldwide!"

- ***Hello, could you first introduce yourself?***

- Hello, my name is Zenda Eylem. I recently came to Rojava from Western Europe. I was organised in an anarchist movement in Europe. Now I continue the struggle under the roof of TIKKO.

- ***The Rojava revolution, the Rojava women's revolution has come to this day with a process of great resistance all over the world. Of course, this revolution has its enemies as well as its creators and defenders. One of these enemies, the Turkish state, launched an attack against Rojava and Iraqi Kurdistan on 19 November. How do you evaluate this attack?***

- First of all, I would like to state that thousands of comrades were martyred during the 10-year Rojava revolution and this revolution was possible thanks to the struggle they waged and the path they walked. Today's wars are being fought in their footsteps. The Rojava revolution offers a perspective to the oppressed and exploited peoples in the Middle East and around the world. This revolution is also positioned against the plans of the imperialist powers. The

revolution is in resistance against imperialist and fascist attacks. Although there is tactical co-operation between the USA/Russia and Rojava against ISIS, in essence the revolutionary process conflicts with the interests of the imperialist powers. For Turkish fascism, this revolution is perceived as a threat to its "borders". In recent years, Turkish fascism has been waging a sustained special war against Rojava together with proxy forces with the support of imperialist powers.

The war continues at different intensities. The Turkish state and its gangs occupied Afrin, Serêkani and Gire Spi with land and air operations in 2018 and 2019, and since then it has been continuing the war with low intensity and in many dimensions. It blocks the water flowing into Rojava, attacks the border and front lines with heavy weapons and aircrafts, carries out targeted/assassination-style reconnaissance attacks and forces the people to migrate through embargo. The aim of this is to make the economic and social development dynamics of the revolution difficult.

Since the spring of 2022, the threats of the Turkish state in terms of land attacks have increased. On the one hand, this situation has something to do with the elections to be held in Turkey in 2023, on the other hand, the deepening of inter-imperialist contradictions and in parallel with this, the resistance and influence of the Rojava revolution also have a share. Erdoğan needs a "success" in foreign policy before the 2023 elections, because the crises in the domestic political arena are increasing day by day.

The recent attacks on the mountains of Kurdistan ended in failure. The guerrillas have frustrated the attacks and carried out successful counter-attacks, such as the attack on the police lodgings by the martyrs Sara and Ruken last September...

At the beginning of November, the Turkish government wanted to use the explosion in Istanbul to get the authorisation from the imperialist powers to increase the attacks on Rojava and guerrilla areas. As far as it can be seen, this authorisation was given for an air attack and the airspace was opened to the attacks of the Turkish state. He could not get authorisation for a ground attack. There may be different reasons here.

To touch on a few points; on the one hand, it is clearly stated that the US should work more closely with the Turkish state, which is the second largest army in NATO, and that Turkey is an important partner in the representation and implementation of US interests in the Middle East, while at the same time Turkey is criticised for its lack of control over the territories under its control. Turkey may be enabled to increase its control over the territories it occupies through its gangs. After that, a more comprehensive attack could be authorised. Of course, other factors will also play a role here.

Russian approval of the invasion attack conflicts with the interests of Iran and the Syrian regime, which are allied forces. Putin needs a very "good" bargain to authorise further invasion. Erdoğan is taking several steps against this. We have

seen this in the cases of Finland and Sweden, which are trying to join NATO. On the one hand, Erdogan is using the discussions about the accession of these countries to criminalise the Kurdish movement, while on the other hand, the delay in joining NATO is also in Russia's interest.

Today it seems that a major ground invasion attack will not be possible, but this will also depend on the changes that will take place in the coming period. What is clear is that the war continues at different intensities, heavy weapon attacks are carried out almost every day and chemical weapons are constantly used in the mountains. These wars of aggression are a response to the Rojava revolution, which is a threat to Turkish state fascism and imperialist interests. YPG, YPJ, QSD forces and revolutionary forces are carrying out a strong resistance. As in Rojava, successful retaliatory actions are being carried out in the mountains.

There is an international solidarity with the struggle here and the revolution is strengthening revolutionaries around the world. In Rojava, there is a determination to defend the revolution against Turkish state fascism and to resist the expansionism of fascism with all its strength. For example, in the cities, revolutionary youth organisations are establishing self-defence units and supporting the construction of public tunnels. Civilian women's organisations are organising trainings on the use of weapons. Self-defence is being advanced at different levels and in different areas. In parallel, the struggle has to be waged in Turkey, Europe and other parts of the world. It is not to be expected that the war will intensify further in northern and eastern Syria.

"International solidarity must not remain in slogans!"

- Today you are taking your place in the resistance in Rojava against these attacks. In the countries you came from, you were embracing this resistance and participating in Rojava solidarity actions. Today, you are defending Rojava as the owner of the resistance here under attack. What would you like to say about this issue?

- International solidarity should not remain in words and slogans. We have to understand the relations between different attacks and the imperialist and fascist fronts, as well as different resistance and freedom struggles, and we have to organise ourselves and wage a struggle wherever we are. As we can see from the history of revolutionary struggles, international solidarity has an important meaning for our struggle.

The experience of the Rojava revolutionary process has an impact on the world revolutionary movement. Western Europe has a supportive role in the occupation attacks against Rojava. Arms trade, financial aid, political support, criminalisation of political refugees, etc. are just a few of Western Europe's support for Turkish state fascism in this war. The revolution has to be defended both on the fronts in Rojava and in the backyards of the war.

"With a revolutionary perspective and organisation, more areas/regions can be liberated!"

- The contradictions between the USA and Russia-China are changing the balances in the Middle East geography. While imperialism's internal quarrel is gaining momentum, the bill for this is being billed to the peoples of the region. While the usurpation of rights and attacks continue, the people have been resisting for days. The resistance in Iran and Iraq is on the agenda of the whole world. What would you like to say about this?

- The deepening and increasing contradictions between imperialist powers are being escalated in different dimensions. Technological innovation breakthroughs, access to raw materials, military superiority, competition for the defence of shared territories in the world, etc. The conflict between the US-EU and Russian-Chinese blocs is observed and felt at various levels. This tension is currently being waged through proxy wars, cyber attacks and economic instruments.

The Middle East region is an area over which the imperialist powers have been fighting for decades. Of course, military means correspond to the essence here. The bill for this is paid by the peoples who are exploited, oppressed and provoked against each other by the sovereigns who are the main source of wars and conflicts. The groups most affected by these wars and conflicts worldwide are labouring women and LGBTQ+ people. The fact that women have been leading the revolt in Iran for more than 3 months, as well as the participation of workers and students in the struggle, is an important and powerful message. The fact that the protests started in the areas of Iran where the discriminated Kurdish people live and spread from there to the whole of Iran and that different ethnic groups took to the streets and risked their lives against the police and military has a great meaning.

We observe that these protests also have a great resonance in other areas. In Afghanistan, for example, women took to the streets in solidarity with the protests in Iran. They shouted the slogan "Jin Jiyan Azadi" in front of the Iranian embassy and in the resistance against the Taliban in Afghanistan. The revolts of the oppressed and exploited class have the potential to disrupt the calculations of the imperialist powers in the Middle East. Through revolutionary perspectives and organisations, more areas/regions can be liberated and defended besides Rojava and the mountains of Kurdistan.

The bourgeois powers in Western Europe and the USA want to use the uprisings in Iran for their own interests and talk of "solidarity". Immediately afterwards, however, they are preparing a capitalist offensive. They hope that the protests and riots will weaken the position of Iran, an ally of Russia, in the Middle East and they will want to use it for their own interests. However, the protests on the streets of Iran cannot be squeezed between imperialist interests. Many people in Iran are threatened with long prison sentences or death penalties.

Now revolutionaries, women's organisations and all movements, especially in the capitalist centres of the USA and Europe, are responsible for repelling these attacks and expressing solidarity in practice and on the streets, not just in words. Regarding the special role of women's and LGBTQ+ movements in the revolutionary struggle; a perspective on revolutionary processes cannot be formed without the participation of women and LGBTQ+ people. Revolutionary movements must initiate and sustain the struggle against the patriarchy-dominated logic of the states, and of course also within themselves. The binary understanding of gender and patriarchal oppression is the ground on which the system is based today. It is the ground on which the system is based today. This ground is evident in the organisation of the distribution of work and roles in capitalist systems, in the oppression of women and in their being squeezed into invisible corners that have an essential place in the process of reproduction, in the reflection of the sovereignty of the state on the family, in the use of femicide (female genocide) as an instrument of war against society, and in many other examples. Because of this patriarchal violence, resistance, collective self-defence, is a necessary means of survival. Feminist and revolutionary movements in Western Europe can learn a lot from the determination and courage shown by women struggling in various parts of the Middle East in uprisings and resistance movements, and from the role they play in armed resistance.

- You will welcome a new year of struggle in Rojava. Do you have a message from here to the geography where you joined the struggle?

- Let's start the new year with determination, revolutionary solidarity and anger and continue the struggles by intensifying them. Let us follow in the footsteps of martyred comrades, let us continue on our way with the experience and knowledge we have gained from the history of struggle and our curiosity about what will happen.

Let us learn from the mistakes and problems of past struggles and continue on our way.

The attacks of the fascist forces will continue to increase in the near future, so we must organise ourselves in Rojava and everywhere and resist them with determination.

Link: <https://ozgurgelecek45.net/enternasyonal-savascilarla-soylesi-2/>

Interview with International Fighters - 3

The last part of our series of interviews with the international fighters defending the Rojava revolution in the face of aggression.

1 January 2023

"We must work together with the resistances, while criticising their shortcomings, we must strive to support and expand them!"

On 13 November, after the bomb attack targeting the people on Istiklal Street, following the statements of Erdoğan, who said "we smell terror", a very large area from Derik to Kobanê, from Şehba to Asos and the entire border line were subjected to intense air and land attacks by the Turkish state. The attacks are still continuing. Among the targets of the Turkish state are not only military forces but also many places where people live, including schools, hospitals, etc. The people, on the other hand, continue to defend their lands from attacks. Reaction is rising both against the fascist Turkish state and against America and Russia, which approve its invasion attacks.

In this attack environment, we interviewed international fighters defending the Rojava revolution.

- Hello, firstly could you introduce yourself?

Hello, my name is Anna Campbell. I came to these lands from Europe to get to know the Rojava revolution. I am a queer woman.

- *The Rojava revolution, the Rojava women's revolution has come to this day with a process of great resistance all over the world. Of course, this revolution has its enemies as well as its creators and defenders. One of these enemies, the Turkish state, launched an attack against Rojava and Iraqi Kurdistan on 19 November. How do you evaluate this attack?*

- The current attacks that started on 19 November are not detached and alone from the attacks of the past. They are linked to the long-standing efforts of the Turkish state to weaken, divide and destroy the Kurdish people and their resistance that has been going on for decades and centuries. The existence of the Kurds is a threat to the homogeneity of the Turkish nation-state. The Turkish state desperately needs this homogeneity, or at least the appearance of homogeneity, to control and subjugate its people. The current attacks also serve the specific purpose of mobilising popular sympathy for Turkish nationalism. Erdoğan has his eye on the 2023 elections. The bad economic situation in Turkey at the moment means that there is a lot of unrest and discontent among the people in Turkey, so Erdoğan's chances of re-election look slim. A military victory that "secures the country's security" could turn the tide and rally support for Erdoğan.

At the same time, in Turkey, as in many parts of Europe and the USA, patriarchy is trying to expand and consolidate its control. After a period in which legal rights and protections for women and LGBTI+ people were won, we are now seeing heavy attacks in all the above-mentioned geographies to roll back this progress.

The achievements of the women's revolution in Rojava are important and therefore a threat to patriarchal power, which is closely linked to and necessary for the fascist state. To prevent these ideas and changes from spreading further, the Turkish state is trying to destroy the women's revolution in Rojava and the free zones in Iraqi Kurdistan, where women guerrillas are playing an important leading role. It is our duty to preserve the progress made so far and to continue

to advance the struggle of women and LGBTI+ people all over the world and especially in Kurdistan, given the urgency and sharpness of the situation in Kurdistan and the fact that if the successes in Kurdistan continue, this will further pave the way for women in the Middle East.

"If we position ourselves as the subject of the revolution, we will become revolutionaries!"

- Today, you are taking your place in the resistance in Rojava against these attacks. In the countries you came from, you were embracing this resistance and participating in Rojava solidarity actions. Today, you are defending Rojava as the owner of the resistance here under attack. What would you like to say about this issue?

- It is very important that one sees oneself not only as an observer, but as an owner of this revolution. When I spoke to people around me in Europe about the internationals coming to Rojava, the idea often came up that we cannot really give anything to this revolution, that we should humbly go just to learn from the revolution - from life here. I agree that as internationals we need to work hard to develop a cultural and historical understanding of Kurdistan and the Middle East and that our approach should be humble. At the same time, during my time in Rojava I realised that we need to do what we can for this revolution and for our comrades. If we come here just to learn, just to take, we will consume this revolution and thus we will remain outside of it. Being in this revolution, being a part of it, requires giving and receiving. If we position ourselves as tourists who have come to this revolution to visit, what we will be is of course a tourist. If we position ourselves as the subject and responsible for this revolution, we become revolutionaries.

"Solidarity between the oppressed masses needs to be strengthened!"

- The contradictions between the USA and Russia-China are changing the balance in the Middle East. While imperialism's internal quarrel is gaining momentum, the bill for this is being passed on to the peoples of the region. While the usurpation of rights and attacks continue, the people have been resisting for days. The resistance in Iran and Iraq is on the agenda of the whole world. What would you like to say about this?

- The current uprisings in Iran are led by women and women's issues are at the forefront. The killing of the Kurdish woman Jina Amini by the state was the last straw and served as a catalyst for not only women but all oppressed people to raise their voices. But this uprising is not surprising, unrest has been growing in Iran for the last five years. As a result of both imperialist interventions and authoritarian neo-liberal leadership in the last decades, the problems of the working class and oppressed peoples in Iran have been increasing. The current uprisings, while very powerful, will not lead to lasting changes unless the working class is sufficiently united and organised. The trade unions have to some extent taken on the role of uniting and organising the masses, but in order

to take advantage of this moment, this organisation needs to be expanded and class consciousness and solidarity between the various oppressed masses needs to be strengthened.

It should be a source of hope for all of us to see women, especially young women, taking such an unashamed and strong front line in this struggle in a country ruled by old conservative men. As revolutionaries everywhere, let us take a moment to consider how we can counter the advance of capitalism and patriarchy in our own cities and countries, and how we can engage with and strengthen our comrades in the Middle East at this critical time.

- *You will welcome a new year of struggle in Rojava. Do you have a message from here to the geography where you joined the struggle?*

- Some on the left tend to reject any uprising or revolution that does not use the right words, does not address the right issues and does not include everyone at all times. Whilst I understand where this thinking comes from, it should be made clear that it is counterproductive and leads to the division and fragmentation of the power that the oppressed classes can use together. The Iranian uprisings are "imperfect" and changing day by day. The women's revolution in Rojava is also far from perfect, the poorest women are still excluded from organising efforts, patriarchal elements within the family still make major decisions about women's lives, this revolution openly ignores the LGBTI+ issue and even its existence. Nevertheless, we must support these resistances, not only observe them, but also get involved. We should work with these "imperfect" but real resistances, criticising their shortcomings while at the same time putting our efforts into supporting and expanding them. We must assess the progress made in the context in which it belongs, rather than comparing it with Europe or the USA.

Related to this, as I said in the previous question, comrades in Europe also need to take seriously the siege of the na-trans hetero-patriarchal siege. If this siege is not pushed back, the rights won will be taken back. Resisting together can also be a means to bring women, LGBTI+ people, people of colour and other oppressed groups together in a stronger way, if there is an inclusive organisation that goes beyond a single issue. It would be naive to think that the rollback of abortion rights, LGBTI+ rights etc. is only in the US, it is already happening in Europe, ask our Polish comrades, they are painfully experiencing it. **(Done)**

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