



Komalên Jinên Kurdistan

Women's resistance sets all of us free!

To all women of the world, to our sisters and comrades,

From the mountains of Kurdistan which lies within the lands where socialization led by women emerged and first seeds of the culture of communal culture were sowed thousands of years ago, we salute you with our unshakable determination of struggle and passion for a free life. We send our most sincere greetings to all women who resist, struggle and raise their voice against the male dominant society, exploitation, occupation, destruction and enslavement. Memories of all the women, who objected exclusion, ignorance, exploitation and enslavement and fought for freedom and equality during the history of five thousand year old male-dominant society, has been one of the main sources of strength for us in the eve of a new 8th of March. Despite the male dominant system's efforts to leave us with no memory and no history, we women have the longest history of resistance of humanity. Once again, on the occasion of 8th of March we commemorate all the wise and wilful women, who sacrificed their lives in the resistance against the patriarchy, power oriented, sexist, misogynist system, with gratitude. We commemorate all the pioneers of Kurdistan Women's Freedom Movement, Sakine Cansız, Zekiye Alkan, Gülnaz Karataş, Zeynep Kınacı, Sema Yüce, Viyan Soran, Şirin Elemhuli, Şilan Kobane, Arin Mirkan and all others with love and longing. Also, from Rosa Luxemburg to Clara Zetkin, from Haydee Santamaria to Kittur Rani, Shadiye Ebu Ghazaleh, Nwanyeruwa, from Mary Jones to Doria Shefik, Mary Beyleryan to Louise Michel, we commemorate all the women who led the universal freedom struggle of women. We especially commemorate the women workers, who played role on the declaration of 8 March for their fight for equality and labour rights, their effort and sacrifices. Their memory is a torch being a light for our way, tearing down the darkness, enlightening our minds and becoming fire to our hearts.

Dear women,

We live in an era where duality between light and darkness, beauty and ugliness, justice and injustice, freedom and enslavement emerge by the exploitation that is imposed on women and their freedom struggle. However, no other century had more favourable conditions than the 21st century when it comes to achieving freedom of women. In this regard we are amid an era in which the potentials and dynamics of women's revolution are at their peaks. Although the hegemonic system is using every trick and every method of attack to hide the reality, we, as women need to be conscious about the truth, show awareness of our era and cling on the struggle. Because beside all the opportunities and conditions to grow our achievements, the hegemonic patriarchal system is intensifying its attacks everywhere to prevent women's freedom from happening.

The five-thousand-year-old patriarchal power-oriented system, which is the enemy of the society, is establishing its persistence by expanding and maximizing exploitation. Because it's based on a single

principle: profit. Wars all around the world are a result of this reality. Especially the purpose of the Third World War, which started with interventions against Afghanistan and Iraq and intensified today in Syria, Iraq and Kurdistan, is in fact redrawing of the Middle East in accordance with the interests of the global ruling powers. Similarly, the wars and conflicts in Africa emerged in relation with capitalist modernity's and imperialism's greed for profit. This does not only cause wars, in the meantime it destroys nature. The destruction of forests -which are thousands of years old- in Latin America and East Asia, polluting of the rivers during a time when risk of drought increased, and commoditizing and exploiting the air by setting up wind tribunes constitutes only an aspect of ecocide that is carried out for the sake of profit. We are being left without breath. Our thousands of years old traditions, cultural identities and social systems are being destroyed. We face destructive attacks at the level of a slaughter in every sphere of life. They want to strip us of our memory. Because they know that those who do not have a memory will not have a future. They want to make us surrender this way. They kill those who does not surrender. Today male violence costs more lives of women than all wars and diseases.

But despite all of that, today, more and more women are joining ranks of resistance. Women fight for their freedom, will and equality more than ever before. Women say "no!" to patriarchal exploitative systems stronger than any other era in the history. Women raise their voices against all types of exploitation, pillage, slaughter and occupation and say "enough is enough". Women resist. Women show solidarity and come together. Women struggle and organize. Women resist. Millions stand up. Millions are taking to the streets, squares, mountains and plains. Millions are determined, they are not scared or taking a step back. "We will get out freedom back. We will end this system of exploitation. We will break all the chains. We will not obey" they say. As Kurdistan Women's Freedom Struggle, we greet all women's resistance against the patriarchal system and its system of exploitation, from the bottom of our hearts with revolutionary enthusiasm.

You should know that, the voice of freedom of women raised in any part of the world echoes in Kurdistan's mountains and plains as our struggle against most direct forms of patriarchal system and fascism developed in Kurdistan, empowers and inspires your resistance. As our voices raised against the patriarchal powers echo, the male dominated system is being shaken. It's five-thousand-year-old foundations are being cracked more. Their fear grows as these cracks grow. Let their fear grow, let it fear more. Because we are determined to turn this era to the freedom era of women. Because our struggle is growing, gaining more power and becoming more effective day by day. Let the patriarchal system fear because we are building our free future now. In everywhere! We will achieve free live in every part of land where the sun and the moon shine.

Dear Comrades,

There are various women's struggles around the world which already led to important developments and contributed to the expansion of the consciousness of women. This gives us hope, adds to our strength and grows the patriarchal system's fear.

We salute the women's mass struggle against femicide in Latin America under the name of "Ni una menos – Not one less". Woman murders are not individual cases. It's rooted in social sexism and misogyny. Therefore, we believe that an efficient struggle against the masculine mentality to stop femicide. Although the legal measures are important, they can only play their role as a part of a complete struggle.

We send our dearest love to our sisters with green kerchiefs in Argentina. All kinds of exploitation and occupation, from land to labour, developed over the woman's body. Women are the first colony (or the first to be subjected to exploitation) in the history. Therefore, defending women's bodies, women's

self-determination over their bodies is one of the main fields in the struggle. While defending women's fundamental right of abortion, we also need to carry out the struggle as a whole and to obtain our rights we need to fight against the mentality which exploits women.

Our Zapatista comrades in Chiapas forest, who resist against the Mexican state's and global capitalism's attacks, will not be able to organize second meeting of Rebel Women this year because of the oppression. Here is our message to them: Comrades, keep in mind that the light that you reveal brightens Kurdistan. Just like the fire that we started is warming your hearts. From the Zagros mountains to Sierra Madre, from the Euphrates to Usumacinta river our struggle is one, our struggle is united, our people are brothers and sisters. We are on your side in your struggle against invading armies. We strongly believe that you will be victorious. We comradely, sisterly greet you with love.

We salute all fearless woman leaders, from Demavend to Hindukush, from Gaza to Tahrir Square, with respect. We state that we are in solidarity with women activists who didn't surrender to the most vulgar forms of masculine mentality in Iran for the past 40 years. We are together with the brave women, who raise their voices against imperialist interventions and comprador war gangs and who organize a radical resistance against the fundamentalist mentality in Afghanistan. We support our Palestinian comrades who took the leadership in the struggle of the freedom movement and who showed that any peace should be a peace with honour and justice. We send our revolutionary greetings to Arabic, Assyrian-Surroyo and Ezidi women who led the resistance against ISIS and who showed that self-defence is a dire need for women. The second woman's revolution in the Middle East is a reality and we are all a part of this glorious reality. We will defeat the darkness that is imposed on us and we will make this land the land of the mother goddess again. The sound of woman's revolution is being raised already. It's spreading from Rojava to all of the Middle East. As ISIS gangs are defeated by a struggle led by women, we want to point out to the ongoing resistance in Afrin against invader Turkish army and Islamist gangs. For us Afrin is a city of women and we will never leave it to the gangs which are enemies of women. Like we said "defend the women's revolution in Afrin" in 8 March last year, today we call out to our sisters to raise their voices against the Turkish occupation and to liberate Afrin. Also, we pledge to continue our struggle until we will free all Ezidi women from Şengal who were captured by ISIS. We will continue to fight for women of Şengal, who symbolize the conscience of our era. The only way to give a strong response to the genocide is to organize self-defence and democratic autonomy led by women. This is also the only way to avert new genocides.

We salute hundreds of thousands of women political prisoners who raised a struggle between four walls. You turned the prisons into a field of resistance and you never accepted to surrender despite all psychological and physical torture, punishment and isolation. Keep in mind that, no matter how thick and how high the prison walls are, we will never be separated. Hereby we send our special greetings to women political prisoners in Turkish state's prisons who are on hunger strike against the isolation. And we call out to all women to be the voice of our comrades in prisons and strongly embrace their actions.

The women's strike which was launched in recent years will be expanded to more countries in this year's 8th March. We salute German women who will be joining this strike this year. We should know that, we as women are so powerful that we can stop life. We can do this as long as we are organized. All women comrades expect that the international women's strike on 8th March will be an occasion to develop permanent alliances between local groups. We should not be limited to a day in the calendar. In this era, to maintain continuity of our unity and to unify our struggles is our main goal and need.

We send our greetings to the women in the USA, who said, "now its time" and started exposing rapists and abusers with the #MeToo campaign and who labelled Trump as an enemy of women and declared that they disregard Trump as their representative. Also we embrace black women who struggle

against racism, discrimination and state violence. We hope that you will transform this attitude to a strong organization and strengthen the 200-year-old legacy of struggle.

Dear Women,

As most of you know, as a movement and people, we are carrying out a great struggle against Turkish state fascism. Our resistance campaign which is named "Let's break the isolation, destroy fascism and live freely with our Leader APO" is led by women. Our comrade, the co-chair of Democratic Society Congress and HDP deputy Leyla Güven is on an indefinite hunger strike since 8 November 2018. Among the followers of Leyla Guven who also started indefinite hunger strikes, there are hundreds of women political prisoners. The sole demand of this action is put an end to the isolation of our Leader Abdullah Ocalan, who is imprisoned in an island-prison. Because our leader Abdullah Ocalan, who was kidnapped in an illegal NATO operation in Kenya and handed over to Turkey in 15 February 1999, is being denied of his fundamental rights to meet with his lawyers since July 2011. He is under an absolute isolation since 5 April 2015. All of his legal rights are being denied. He is kept as a hostage alone in a cell. On Imrali Island, where Ocalan is imprisoned, private law is being practised. Turkish state is not practising its own laws and implements a system in which human rights is not an issue. Led by the European Council's Committee for Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CPT), all responsible organizations and institutions show their approval of the torture system by remaining silent.

Abdullah Ocalan is no ordinary prisoner. He is the leader of a nation, whose name is forbidden. He founded the PKK along with a group of university students and youth and created a popular movement of millions. The level of social organization, self-defence and ideology of the Kurdish women, which created inspiration and admiration, is a result of our leader Abdullah Ocalan's efforts. His defence writings are being studied by anti-system movements, indigenous and women organizations, leftist-socialist parties all around the world. His philosophy of freedom and concept of democracy is taken as an example. By isolating Abdullah Ocalan, they isolate the democratic solution to the Kurdish question, hopes for peace, togetherness of peoples and freedom of women. Fascism is on the rise, the war and conflict deepens and nationalism is rising again because our leader Abdullah Ocalan is in solitary confinement. And women are most effected by fascism, nationalism, social hostilities, wars and conflicts and economic crisis.

We are the one's who are isolated when Abdullah Ocalan, who analysed men and put the women's freedom struggle on the center of social revolution more than any other revolutionary leader, is being isolated. Therefore we say Abdullah Ocalan's freedom is our freedom. That's why we are in action, that's why we are leading the resistance. Because if he becomes free we will be free. If we extend the resistance the isolation will be over, fascism will be defeated and Kurdistan will be liberated. Our expectation is seeing you by our side. Show solidarity with us, add your voice to ours and resist against Turkish fascism with us.

We need to unite to stop the fascism that is represented by Erdogan regime. Fascism is launching attacks against women and their gains and impose more traditional roles to them. We can see this in Brazil's Bolsonaro, Phillipine's Duterte, Russia's Putin and USA's Trump just as we see in Turkey. Most fundamental property of fascism is its misogynist character. That's why it fears the organized women's struggle the most. As Kurdistan Women Freedom Movement we call out to unify our struggles against populist-fascist governments who pose are fundamental threat to us. It's time to build a women's resistance front! We can do this. With this spirit of resistance, if women of Northern Kurdistan and Turkey will raise the common struggle against fascism, the fascist regime of AKP-MHP will be

destroyed. As our sisters from Turkey say: We are stronger together. We won't obey, we will not let fascism pass.

Comrades,

We are witnessing the rise of will, objection and actions of women everywhere. Women now are taking a stand against abuse and rape culture, discrimination, colonialism, occupation, inequality, massacres, violence and sexism. They protest and resist. Women raise their demands. They declare openly how they want to live. We now have a great potential to create a movement. We have the power to mobilize hundreds of thousands of women. We are growing in numbers. We are diverse, dynamic, determined and powerful.

Now the most important thing is increasing the level of our ability to organize and reveal the power to create change. It must be known that the first principle of women's freedom movement is being organized. Without organizing women can not be free. Besides there is the need to transform the protests to permanent organizations. The first quarter of the 21st century and the stance of women paves the way for not only to oppose but building free life. Now we need to take our struggle to a new level. We need to organize our opposition and carry out a more unified and common struggle against male-dominated system. It's obvious that we can not create change while our struggle remains fragmented. In fact it's now the time to realise the revolution and transform the 21st century to the era of women's freedom. The conditions are in favour of this more than ever. As Kurdistan Women's Freedom Movement we name our proposal to unify global women's struggle as World Confederation of Women. World Confederation of Women aims to bring together without dedifferentiation, unify the women's struggle while preserving autonomy. As women organizations and movements, we need to overcome the fragmentation and lack of unity and develop common attitude, specify common strategy and tactics for struggle unify in action and build common mechanisms. We need to discuss and decide on the necessities of understanding and principles of organization. The Social Contract which was declared by our movement back in 2002 can be a basic framework for this. We will share this with you in the near future.

All resisting women,

The spirit of our times dictates us to raise the freedom struggle. Transforming our century to an era of women's freedom is within reach and it's a historical obligation. Let's unite for this, stand up as the women of the world. We say, "Women's resistance sets you free". Then let's get together around the fire of resistance, dance to the song of freedom and feed the fire of the revolution. Let's live everyday like it's 8th March against colonialism, fascism, occupation and patriarchy. Life will change. Then the world will become a better place. Let's expand the revolution and build our future.

Fascism shall not pass!

Women's resistance sets you free!

Jin Jiyan Azadi!

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Kurdistan Women's Communities (KJK) Coordination