

# BOTAN TIMES

WEEKLY E MAGAZINE



*I started music when I was 8 years old. My uncle and aunt sang. I was 8 years old and my father registered me in a tambour course. When I was 9 years old, I was on the stage for the first time and I sang and it continues to this day.*

*Rojbin Kizil*

# WEEKLY E MAGAZINE

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**Raghandin, hîş û derhîş**  
**Salvegera artêşa jinan**  
**Berteka Kurdistan**

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**Sersarî û bîcûdîyeta li dijî Kurdî**  
**Kurdî zîwanê fermî wazenê**  
 Çewtêka bîrê serortê 2.1 de bi komandî û kurmanjî perwerdeyê fermî çewtêka. Zarî kurdî zîwanê fermî wazenê û seba nê heqê xo bîkîşîne girdî nê bîmabûnî dewam kenî

**Aqlê stratejîk bêahîrmatîf nehêlê**  
**Xeyalêkî xweş Dû rasî**

**Azmûneke siyasî: Komara Kurdistanê**  
**Bi xêra xwe tîf bike devê wê**



## CONTENT

How did narcotic drugs affect adversely Baris's life? ..... 4

Rojbin Kizil: When I was 9 years old, I was on stage ..... 5

Turkish teachers see Kurdish children's ignorance of Turkish as a mental illness ..... 6

The police, killed a young Kurdish man, Kemal Korkut, is free ..... 8

During the election process, 2,071 newspapers are published in Turkey, and only 1 is Kurdish ..... 10

# How did narcotic drugs affect adversely Baris's life?

Beril Caymaz

Yonca Sarsilmaz

January 20, 2023



"When I was 9 years old in primary school, I fell into depression due to family problems. I was looking for something standing me up, and at the recommendation of my friends, I started using drugs."

The story of Baris and narcotic drugs began this way.

According to the 2015 study conducted by the Municipality of Diyarbakır, 75,000 people in the city are drug addicts. 15 thousand people used methamphetamine.

*One out of every three drug addicts says that they were forced to be displaced (burning down villages, village guards, etc.) and that caused them for began to do it.*

*Report of the Municipality of Diyarbakır*

## I had lost myself

One of that drug addicts is Baris, who is now 20 years old and works in a store in Sur. Baris's family moved from their village to Diyarbakır 11 years ago.

Baris told Botan Times about his addiction moments:

*I was going home after taking drugs, my family was looking at me and I was decrepit. I had lost myself. I had a hard time with my family. I was not all there. Anymore, I was hurting my body, I lost my life, my school, and my family because of those drugs.*

*When I realized this I promised myself that I would never use it again.*

*Baris*

*The drug cessation process has never been easy. But I got away from everyone. I also stopped seeing my friends. At that time, I was late to study, but I got a job and focused on my work. Dersim Dag, a parliament member of Diyarbakır, helped me in this process. We were drinking drugs in the park and she showed us a way that we can get rid of drugs. I listened to her. Then the healing process began.*

*Baris*

# Rojbin Kizil: When I was 9 years old, I was on stage

 Murat Bayram  Yonca Sarsilmaz  January 19, 2023

The young singer Rojbin Kizil informed her listeners and fans through Botan Times that she is preparing a new album.

<https://youtu.be/vWX9xhcDr94>

This clip of Rojbin Kizil with Fehime has been viewed 51 million times on YouTube and their second clip has been viewed 33 million times. Her music video "Lawo Dino" has been viewed 12 million times and "Cavbeleka Min Tu yi" has been viewed 7.4 million times.

## Lyrics and melody are mine

*I study at the university and also do my music. Now I have recorded a new song. Its lyrics and melody are mine. I am making a clip of it.*

*Rojbin Kizil, singer*

## My uncle and aunt sang

*I started music when I was 8 years old. My uncle and aunt sang. I was 8 years old and my father registered me in a tambour course. When I was 9 years old, I was on the stage for the first time and I sang and it continues to this day.*

*Rojbin Kizil*

## I am happy for the encouragement

*I am happy when people listen to me or watch my video. My goal was to draw the audience's attention to Kurdish music and the Kurdish language. I am very happy for the encouragement of our people and I am proud of them. I wish success to all the people of Mere.*

*Rojbin Kizil*



# Turkish teachers see Kurdish children's ignorance of Turkish as a mental illness

Gulistan Korban Yonca Sarsilmaz January 18, 2023



*One day a family and their son came next to me. His family had just moved to Istanbul from Nisebin. The child's teacher said, "Your child has a problem, he cannot understand comfort and does not make friends with anyone, he needs special education."*

*Psychologist Sinda Baris*

Psychologist Sinda Baris explains this case of Kurdish students living in metropolises with these words.

She works in a private institution in the Kucukcekmece district of Istanbul and is mostly connected with children.

According to Sinda, the biggest problem is that Kurdish students feel alone and strange in the metropolises. The cause of

their foreignness is the language.

These days, the importance of education in the mother tongue is on the agenda and a campaign is being carried out for the selection of Kurdish lessons.

Sinda Baris, a member of the Mesopotamia Psychologists Initiative, talked with Botan Times about the importance of mother tongue education.

**"Teachers do not understand this case well..."**

Sinda says, "There wasn't any problem with that student. Contrary to what his teacher said, he was very active when he was in Nisebin and he had many friends. But in Istanbul, he feels excluded from the community."

## **“They can’t speak Turkish well like other students”**

Psychologist Sinda explains that when Kurdish children come to the metropolitan, they fall into this situation and said,

*Since their mother tongue is not Turkish, they cannot speak Turkish well like other students and this creates shame in them. Teachers who do not understand this situation well send them to special education.*

*Psychologist Sinda Baris*

Psychologist Sinda is originally from Nisebin. More Kurdish families have moved to the place where she works.

According to her, the number of children in this situation is too much. She know that there is no problem with that child and what is the reason.

But if she doesn’t meet those children and another psychologist sees that child, then the situation changes...

According to the psychologist, the solution to this problem is directly related to education in the mother tongue.

According to Article 42 of Turkish law, no language other than Turkish can be used as the language of education in educational institutions in Turkey.

According to the Kurdish Institute of Sweden, 32 million and 812 thousand Kurds live in Turkey. In addition to this number, they are deprived of their right to education.

Note: In the example of psychologist, the name and location of the student have been changed.



# The police, killed a young Kurdish man, Kemal Korkut, is free

Beril Caymaz Gülistan Korban Yonca Sarsilmaz January 17, 2023



Kemal Kurkut, a university student was killed in Newroz 2017 in Diyarbakir. In the murder case of Kurkut, the policeman who was accused of “deliberate murder” was acquitted.

The lawyer of the Kurkut family, Serdar Celebi, evaluated the court’s decision to Botan Times.

**“There were pictures of the incident, but the court said 5 months ago, there is no evidence”**

Celebi says, “There were reports of inspectors, there were videos, photos of the incident, and despite this, 5 months ago, the court said: There is no evidence. After that, we appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal also said, “Yes, there is evidence, nevertheless, police who killed the Bilal Korkut went unpunished.”

According to Celebi, after the verdict, the court will open the way for similar incidents.

**“The court says that the use of weapons by the police is justified”**

*In its decision, the court says yes, the police used a weapon, but it is a proper position for use.*

*Lawyer Serdar Celebi*

*I have been a lawyer for 25 years and I have yet to see a policeman get a penalty in such cases. Every case is dismissed or the case is closed.”*

*Lawyer Serdar Celebi*

Journalist Abdurrahman Gok, who captured the moment of Kemal Kurkut’s murder, was sentenced to 1 year and 6 months in prison for allegedly “propagandizing the organization”.

The Court of Appeal upheld the sentence imposed on Gok.

Read: <https://botantimes.com/taking-a-photo-changed-my-life-badly/>

## What happened?

23-year-old Kemal Korkut was killed by the police on the 21st of March 2017 at the Newroz celebration in Diyarbakır.

He was a student of the Music Department of the Faculty of Arts of Inonu University.

Diyarbakır's governor stated that Kurkut had a knife in his hand and "there was a suspicion of suicide" and that they had started an investigation into the incident.

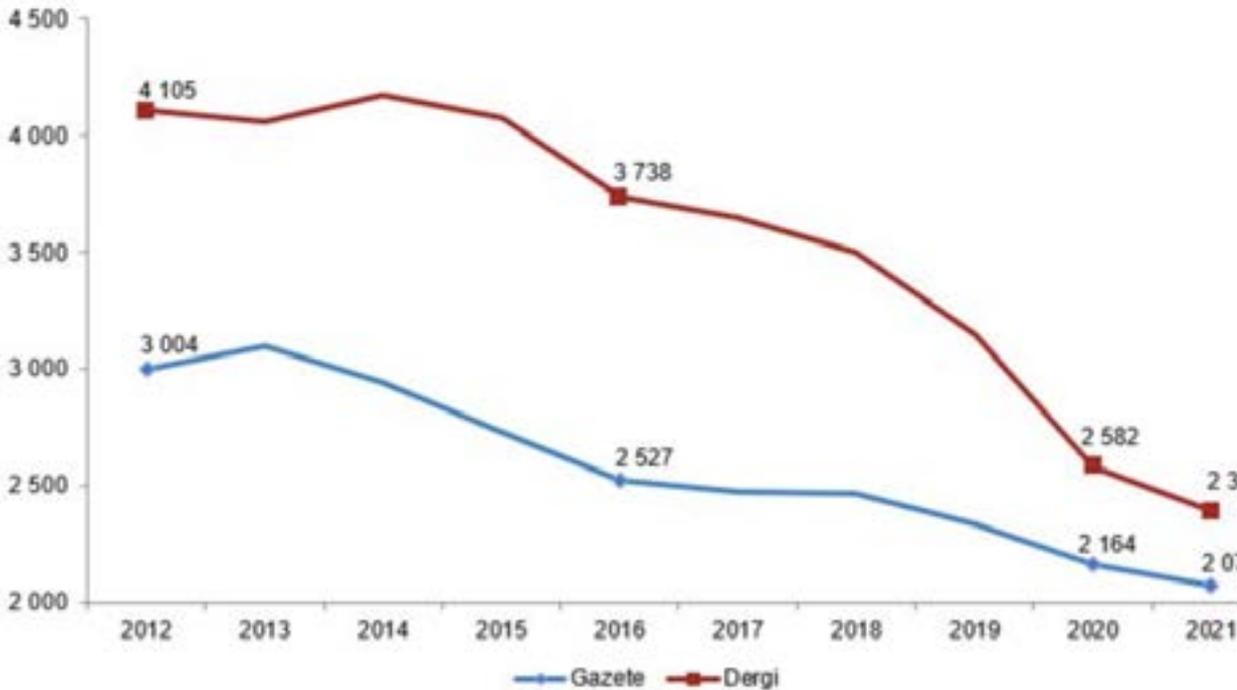
But Gok's pictures are the opposite of these words.

The Newroz Festival is one of the most important festivals for Kurdish. They celebrate the coming of spring every year on the 21st of March.



# During the election process, 2,071 newspapers are published in Turkey, and only 1 is Kurdish

Murat Bayram    Yonca Sarsilmaz    January 16, 2023



TUIK, number of magazines and newspapers by year

The opposition and pro-government media have increased the number of their publications on the Turkish presidential election.

There are still very limited resources for Kurdish media followers. The number of Kurdish citizens is estimated to be 20-25 percent of the population of Turkey. But the percentage of representation in the media is much lower.

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), there are 2.071 newspapers from this number.

There is only one Kurdish weekly: Xwebun. They also face many obstacles during distribution. The news director of the newspaper, M. Ali Ertaş, is in prison.

There are 2,389 magazines and there is no Kurdish news magazine.

Journal of Xwebun, SS

## Can the Kurds see the news on television?

According to the data of the Supreme Council of Radio and Televisions (RTUK) of the state:

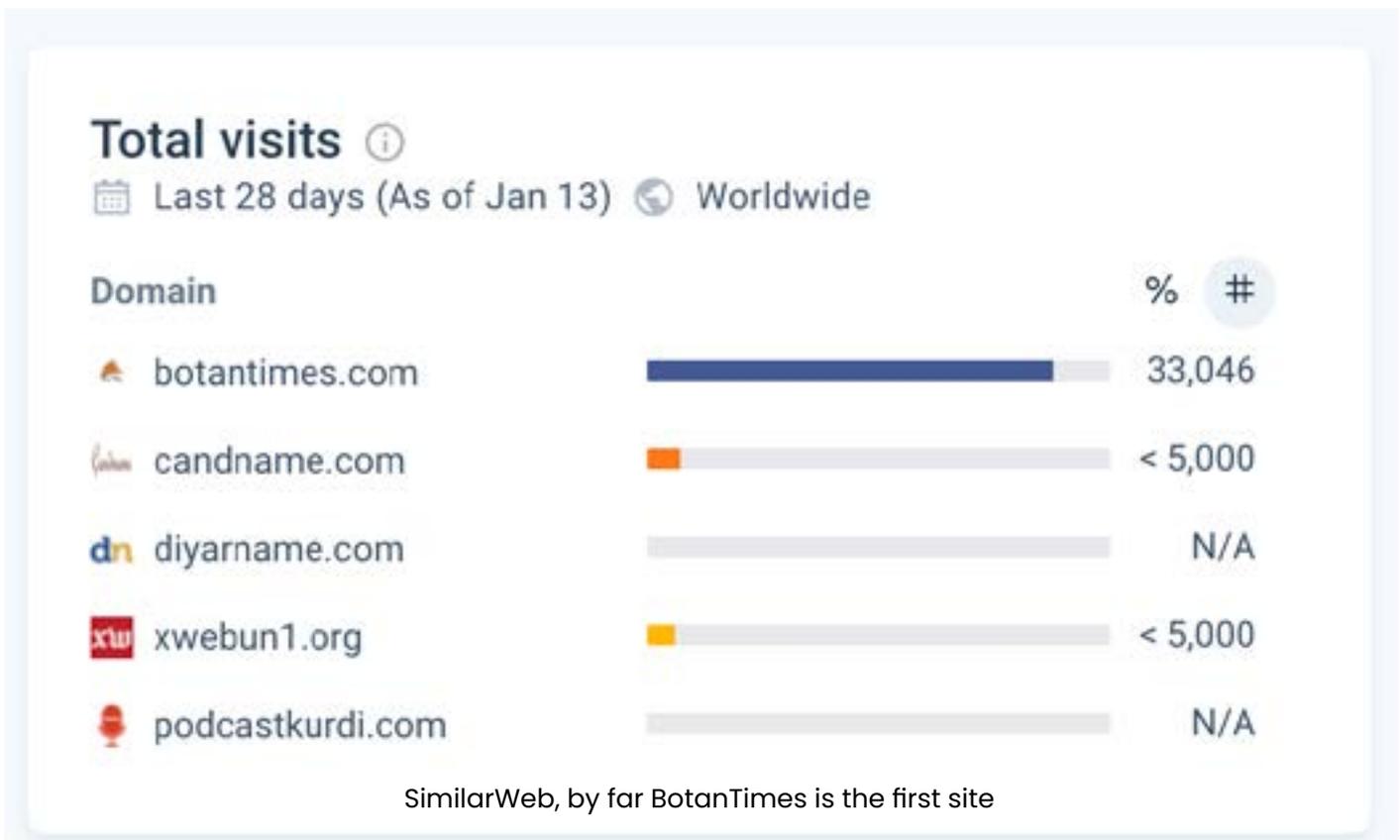
- Number of local television stations: 251
- Number of satellite televisions: 148
- The number of televisions broadcasting with cable: 78
- Number of televisions: 477

Of these 477 televisions, the number of televisions that have a Kurdish news bulletin is only one. It is the state's TRT Kurdi. The local television Amed Radyo TV also produces some programs on the agenda.

Are the Kurdish websites ready for the elections?

The main language of Kurdish agencies (MA, JinNews) is Turkish. Major Kurdish websites are also in Turkish. Due to the lack of education, Turkish policies, and many other reasons, Kurdish publishers and readers choose Turkish instead of Kurdish.

According to the data of SimilarWeb and Alexa, among Kurdish news sites, the most read site is BotanTimes.



In addition, the readership of this site is lower than that of many local newspapers. The number of permanent employees of the site is 2, 2 people also work on this site in addition to their other jobs.

In the Turkish media, there is a backward movement due to the economic situation, but we can't even compare it to the Kurdish one.