

BOTAN IMES

WEEKLY E MAGAZINE

“THE FIRST THING ISIS DOES IS BURN OR KILL”

Beril Caymaz

**The Kurdish announcement
should be included**

Gulistan Korban

**Turkey’s justice system must
stop persecuting RSF’s
representative**

RSF

**“We will support equality not
discrimination”**

Qesîm Etmanekî



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CONTENTS

Head of the IYI Party of Diyarbakır: The Kurdish announcement should be included in the planes coming to Diyarbakır.....	4
Turkey's justice system must stop persecuting RSF's representative.....	6
"We will support equality not discrimination"	8
"The first thing ISIS does is burn or kill"	10

Head of the İYİ Party of Diyarbakır: The Kurdish announcement should be included in the planes coming to Diyarbakır

Gulistan Korban Yonca Sarsilmaz February 03, 2023



Vejdin Ensarioglu, the head of the İYİ Party in Amed

Turkey is now in the election process. Parties have already started their work. Kurds' votes are also valuable and strategic in this election.

What will political parties promise for Kurds? How do they give place in their programs?

For this issue, Botan Times will invite a political party in Diyarbakır.

This week, the Head of the İYİ Party in Diyarbakır, Vejdin Ensarioglu, answers Botan Times' questions.

Ensarioglu answers our question about education in the mother tongue,

Education in the mother tongue is a legitimate right. The number of elective courses can be increased. Therefore a survey should be conducted in the public. If the people want to increase

the hours of Kurdish lessons, it should be increased.

Vejdin Ensarioglu

“There is Turkish and English, why is there no Kurdish”

The head of the İYİ Party in Diyarbakır, Vejdin Ensarioglu, says that if they come into power, they will add Kurdish announcements to the planes coming to Diyarbakır and says:

I come and go by plane many times and it has attracted my attention a lot... For example, there are Turkish and English announcements on the planes coming to Diyarbakır, but why is there no one in Kurdish? Some people don't even know Turkish, so why is this being done to them? There should be announcements in Kurdish on the trips to Amed.



Before now, I said also but after me, the Head of AKP in Diyarbakir said: "Why not happen" But if we come to power we will not say "why not happen" we will do it.

Vejdin Ensarioglu

"One State, one flag, but not one nation"

Vejdin Ensarioglu remembers the words of President Erdoğan, "One flag, one state, and one nation" and says;

There can't be one nation because there isn't only one nation in this country. There are other nations too. But there is one flag and one state.

Vejdin Ensarioglu

The Turkish Parliament has 600 seats and 37 representatives of the IYI Party.

The IYI party is a nationalist party. It was established by Meral Akşener on October 25, 2017, and 4 parliaments were exported from the Nationalist Movement Party.

Meral Akşener has been the leader of the party since that year.



Turkey's justice system must stop persecuting RSF's representative

RSF Rojnamegerên Sînornenas 📅 January 31, 2023

#SUPPORT
#EROL



Erol Onderoglu, Nûnerê Tirkiyeyê yê RSFyê

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) calls on the Turkish authorities to drop all charges against its Turkey representative, who is due to appear before an Istanbul court on 1 February for the 17th time in seven years on charges carrying a possible 14-year jail sentence.

RSF representative **Erol Onderoglu** and his two co-defendants, the human rights defender **Sebnem Korur Fincanci** and the journalist and writer **Ahmet Nesin**, are being tried for participating in a May 2016 campaign of solidarity with Özgür Gündem ("Free Agenda"), a pro-Kurdish opposition newspaper that was being subjected to judicial harassment.

"What with 17 court appearances in seven years for a symbolic campaign in defence of media pluralism, this case against our Turkey representative is a tragic example of political meddling in judicial matters. We urge the Turkish justice system to end this persecution and drop all proceedings against Erol Onderoglu."

Christophe Deloire RSF secretary-general

Criminalised support for a newspaper, quashed acquittal

Onderoglu was one of around 50 well-known figures who took turns at symbolically being Özgür Gündem's "editor for a day" in May 2016 because it was the victim of judicial persecution. On the basis of articles published in the newspaper during this solidarity campaign, they were accused of "terrorist propaganda," "praising a crime or criminal" and "condoning a crime" – charges carrying a possible combined sentence of 14 and a half years in prison under Turkey's penal code and Terrorism Law No. 3713.

Onderoglu and his co-defendants were initially [acquitted in July 2019](#) at the end of a trial that had been repeatedly adjourned. But their acquittal was overturned in October 2020, one week after President Erdogan publicly accused one of Onderoglu's co-defendants, Fincanci, of being a "terrorist."

Their acquittal was quashed by an Istanbul appeal court, which rejected the

argument that their editorial roles were purely symbolic and said they should have been tried at the same time as Özgür Gündem editor **Inan Kizilkaya**. As a result, an Istanbul assizes court began retrying them on the same charges in February 2021.

Referring to their cases, among others, Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, [said in June 2021](#): “I am greatly concerned that anti-terrorism laws are being used extensively to silence Turkish human rights defenders and disrupt their legitimate work defending human rights.”

Ruling party judge’s dismissal rejected

In April 2022, Onderoglu’s lawyers [requested the dismissal](#) of Murat Bircan, the judge presiding the 13th chamber of the Istanbul assizes court, on the grounds of his [very close ties](#) with Turkey’s ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). But the court rejected the request.

It was the 13th chamber that, on 25 April 2022, sentenced the philanthropist Osman Kavala to life imprisonment and seven environmentalists to 18 years in prison on charges of “seeking to destabilise the government” in connection with their role in a campaign to protect Istanbul’s Gezi Park, near Taksim Square, from urban development projects.

The court has been awaiting a deposition from one of Onderoglu’s co-defendants, Nesin, who now resides in France, and for witness testimony from Kizilkaya, Özgür Gündem’s editor. The prosecutor could nonetheless finally begin presenting his case at tomorrow’s hearing.

Both a journalist and staunch press freedom advocate, Onderoglu has been RSF’s representative in Turkey since 1996. As a result of his diligence and integrity, he is well known both in Turkey and all over the world and has received several international awards.



**REPORTERS
WITHOUT
BORDERS**

“We will support equality not discrimination”

Qesim Etmanekî Yonca Sarsilmaz Qesim Etmaneki January 31, 2023



The Women’s Time Association was established in Istanbul in July 2020. They aim to eliminate all kinds of discrimination against women and contribute to women’s empowerment.

Women’s Time (Dema Jinan) has stated its goals in a [podcast](#);

Our goals are to contribute to and support the Istanbul Convention, fight against all types of violence, work for gender equality in social and economic terms, empower women in all areas of life, and increase the visibility of women’s work.

In this regard, we spoke with a member of the Women’s Time Association, Berivan Saruhan, about their association’s works, activities in the civil area, and violence against women.

Women’s Time addresses Kurdish investigations

Berivan Saruhan says that they have been conducting their investigation in both Kurdish and Turkish.

Of course, this is our difference; There are many women’s institutions in Istanbul that have counseling and support centers, but our specialty/ difference is more about the problems of Kurdish women and those who cannot express themselves well in other institutions, express their problems in their language. We work in this context and this is our field of work.

Women who are subjected to violence reach our website through people from the association, women’s/civil institutions, and social media, but apart from these, they contact us more often through people or institutions that we know.

Berivan Saruhan



Members of the Association Berivan Saruhan and Newroz Unverdi

“We present them to the solution mechanisms”

Women who are abused by men turn to the center of the association to find ways to find solutions.

Berivan Saruhan informs that they provide mental, legal and social support and show them the ways to deal with the problem of separation, financial, physical and mental violence, etc.

We help women who come here for their problems in this way, if they need psychological support, we contact psychologists, if they need a lawyer, we recommend them to lawyers through the association network of the law commission.

“Our works are more in the field”

We carry out our work more in the field. We want to inform women who want to access their sexual health, and their fundamental rights.

Also, Saruhan says that their work in the field is increasing more and more and

they are going wherever Kurdish women are, and they are giving awareness activities and workshops to women.

Let our voice spread on all sides of the world

Member of Woman’s Time Association Berivan Saruhan ends her speech with a memory;

“Forthcoming of March 8, I want to say this; Ezniva Rashid has been a presenter on Yerevan Radio for 27 years and I don’t remember the exact date, I read it on a website before March 8. One day on March 8, she publishes a text and congratulates Kurdish women, the words that remain are: “Sing loudly and loudly my girlfriends about our happy lives to the Kurds... Let your voice spread on all sides of the world ”

I was very excited about this statement that she said on March 8 on Yerevan Radio, and the same feelings are still going on. I hope that our voice and color can be heard more and that our voice will be spread all over the world.”

“The first thing ISIS does is burn or kill”

Beril Caymaz 🌐 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 January 28, 2023



As always one day we went to our garden. We saw the sound of a cannon. Smoke was rising from the side of our house. Some of them were calling and saying, 'The first thing ISIS does is burn or kill.'

A woman from Kobani talked about her last moments in her city with these words.

Hundreds of families escaped the battle in Kobani in 2014 and took refuge in Siruc.

An anonymous woman told Botan Times how she 'ran away from the war.'

That woman lives with her 5 children in the old neighborhood of Siruç, in a house with a small yard and two rooms.

There were about 10 km between us and the war. We were sitting and

listening to the sounds of cannons and guns. We were still fighting. In the evening, we used to light the house, but we were afraid.



I just ran away without a shoes

We planted sesame. We spent 40 days of cultivation because there is too much. My children and I were in dirty clothes from morning till evening.

"We were in the corner field. When ISIS came, I immediately took my children and got into the car. We didn't have any clothes or shoes, only the dirty clothes went away."

They said that the border of Turkey is open, and everyone can cross. I also saw my father's house here. The soldiers stepped on the fence and we passed the border.

We pulled away in tears

A man took us in his car. We went to a village in Siruc, which was also near Kobani. We stayed there for a few days. Then we went to a camp between Riha and Siruc.

My children and I were there for 6 years when the camp was removed, we parted in tears.

I had no one to employ. I started working. My children are now going to school, and I am going to work as a gardener. We harvest cotton, garlic, and onions. I live in a circle in this hole.



■ The people of Kobani who fled because of ISIS have come; Siruj