

**LIFE AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN BAGLAR: "WE ARE DESPERATE!"**

Gulistan Korban

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Botan Times

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Beril Caymaz



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## CONTENTS

5th Shifa Gardi Award goes to British journalist Isobel Yeung .....	4
Life after the earthquake in Baglar: "We are desperate!" .....	5
What do the "340 bans" on Kurdish digital media mean for Kurdish media? .....	7
"This is similar to the destruction of our memories" .....	9
"14 dogs and cats are in this building, don't destroy!" .....	10
The 17th day of the earthquake: Still going on.....	11
They are not only victims of the earthquake and also refugee .....	12
16th day of the earthquake .....	14
15th day of the earthquake .....	15
From the ruins to another neighborhood, a village, or a city.....	17

# 5th Shifa Gardi Award goes to British journalist Isobel Yeung

Botan Times February 25, 2023



SS, Rudaw TV

The Shifa Gardi Award Committee on Saturday announced this year's award goes to British journalist Isobel Yeung for her outstanding coverage from war zones.

The prize, which honours the memory of Rudaw Media Network's anchor Shifa Gardi who was killed in Mosul while covering a mass killing by Islamic State (ISIS) militants, is given annually to a female journalist for their brave conflict reporting.

The Shifa Gardi Award Committee said in a [statement](#) on Saturday that Yeung from Vice News is the winner of the fifth edition of the award.

In a video message, Yeung said it is "an incredible honour to be receiving the Shifa

Gardi journalist of the year award. Just to be walking in the footsteps of someone as talented as Shifa feels like an incredible privilege."

There will be no ceremony this year as the winner is working in the field, the committee said.

"You know, our job as journalists is to create empathy, to create understanding, and most of all, to uncover the truth, and I wholeheartedly believe in that mission and I can promise that for as long as I am in this industry and as long as I have got this career, I will continue to do that, so thank you," said Yeung.

[Rudaw](#)

# LIFE AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN BAGLAR: “WE ARE DESPERATE!”

Gulistan Korban 📍 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 February 24, 2023



Residents of the neighborhood are moving their houses from the Baglar district

Nowadays, a rush has started on the streets of Diyarbakir.

After the earthquake, hundreds of buildings were damaged in this city. People in this district are now trying to move.

There is an internal migration in the city.

To see those buildings, we go to the Baglar district.

While we are walking in the neighborhood of Muradiye, we come across a family that is taking their goods from their home.

After the greeting, 2 women approach us and start talking at the same time.



A woman looks at her neighbor's house in Muradiya neighborhood.

**“People who are staying here, also as we are”**

*Please told our bother to everybody. We have been scattered for 18 days. Our building has been damaged. We go to sleep in the mosque every night and come back here looking for houses to rent. We cannot enter the building because of fear. We are currently looking for a house to rent. There are some houses but their rent is now double. There isn't anybody here. People who have to stay here, also as we are.*

Aycan Mentes

Aycan Mentes is the only one of those families who does not know what to do due to desperate.

She can neither leave from there nor enter the house.

Baglar is a district of Diyarbakir and it has had many migrations in the 90s.

It has become a place for both poor people and people who have migrated.

We meet one of those families in the streets of Baglar.

*We moved here from Lice in the 90s. We have been living for 30 years. We got a house with great difficulty and now it isn't too. I rented a house, they want 6 thousand TL. We don't know what we do.*

Sukru is the only one of them whose have to move his/her house.

According to official numbers, 1,100 buildings will demolish in the city.

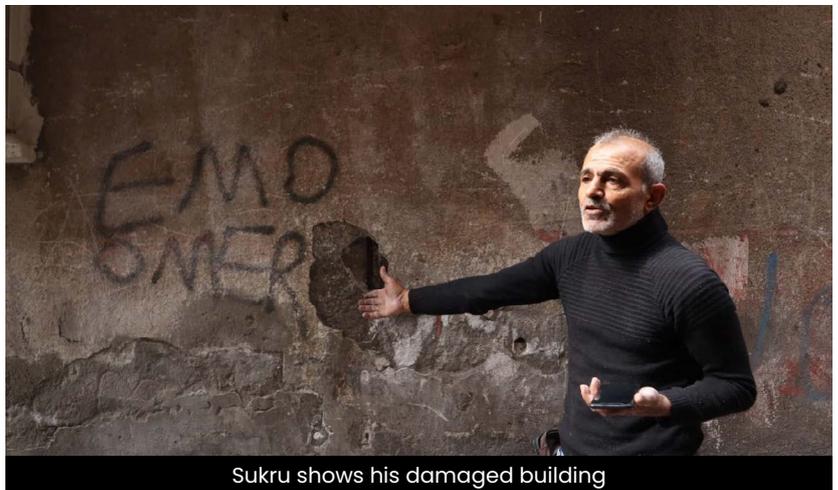
The most damaged place is in the Baglar district.



One of the people whose house was damaged in the earthquake – Aycan Mentes



Aycan Mentes and her niece live in the Muradiye neighborhood

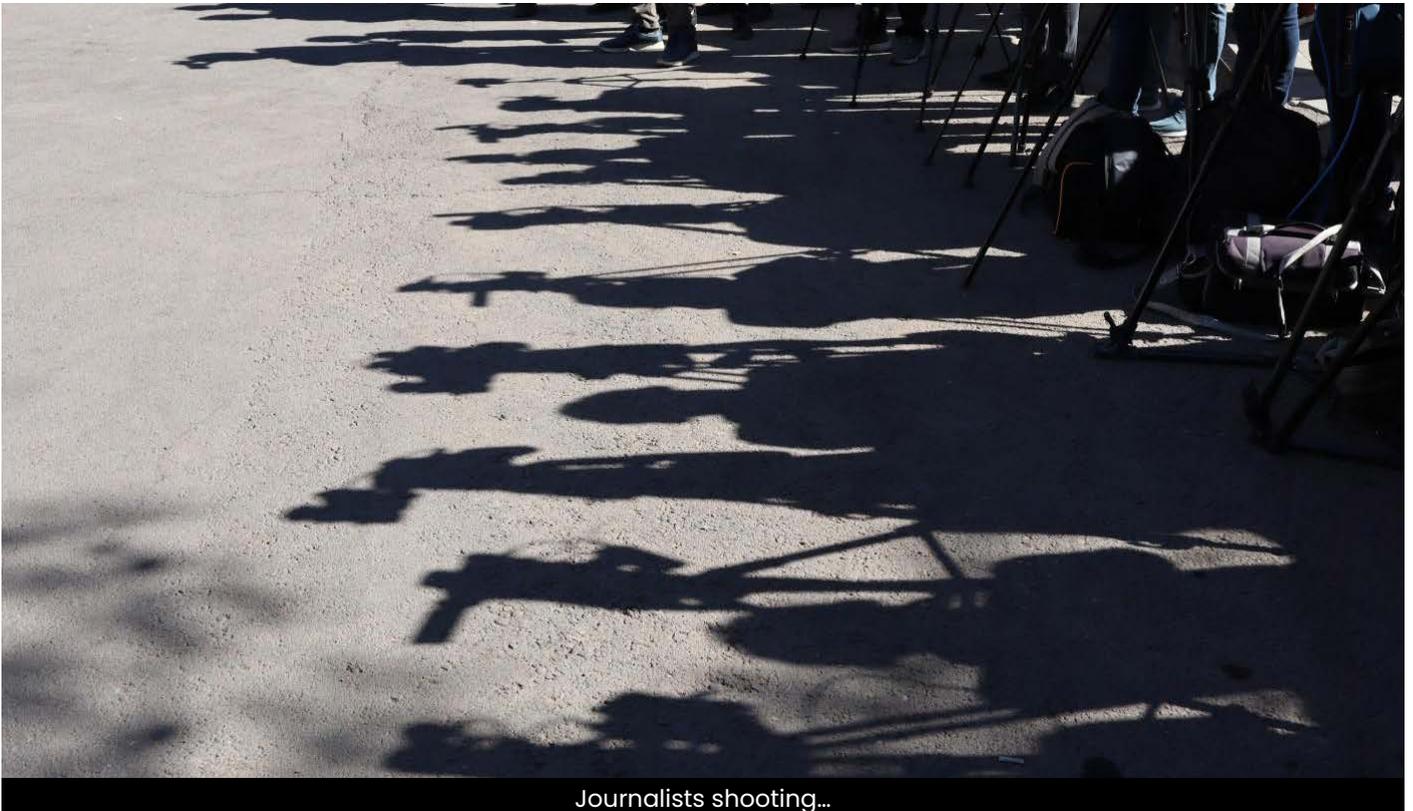


Sukru shows his damaged building



# What do the “340 bans” on Kurdish digital media mean for Kurdish media?

Murat Bayram Yonca Sarsilmaz Yonca Sarsilmaz February 01, 2023



Journalists shooting...

It is estimated that around 20–25% of citizens living in Turkey are Kurds, but their existence in the media in their language is less than 1%. With these bans, this symbolic percentage is running out.

For Kurdish journalists in Turkey, digital media is the last address of the Kurdish language.

## Why does digital blocking threaten the existence of Kurdish media in Turkey?

Journalists shooting...

According to the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), there are 2.071 newspapers in Turkey. Only one of them publishes in Kurdish: The weekly Xwebun newspaper.

According to the Radio and Television Supreme Council data, there are 477 television broadcasts in Turkey. The only national television channel in the country

with news programs in Kurdish is TRT Kurdi which is a state channel. Among the radios broadcasting nationally, only TRT Kurdi has news in Kurdish. Namely, there is no alternative other than the voice of the state.

Digital media is not an option for Kurdish-language media, which cannot exist in satellite broadcasting and print media due to intense pressure. A way that shows their existence.

## What do the blocking of podcasts and YouTube channels mean?

Because Kurdish education is prohibited in Turkey, while most Kurds can speak their language, they can't read and write in their language.

In addition, according to Article 66 of the Constitution, “Everyone who is bound to the Turkish State by citizenship is Turkish.” Therefore, all Kurds living in Turkey are

considered Turkish, there isn't any official population data based on race.

In our interviews with the Rawest Research company based in Diyarbakir. We see from the surveys conducted by the company that 16–18 percent of the country's population (13.49 –15.18 million) speak Kurdish as their mother tongue at home.

Center for Socio-Political Field Studies  
"In the study of mother tongue usage in 16 cities in the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia regions, 68.2 percent of the 18–24 age group and more than 70 percent of the 65-year-old speak Kurdish in house."

According to the survey conducted by KONDA in 2019, 16% of the population defines themselves as Kurds.

There is a serious Kurdish population and they have listening skills rather than reading. Banned podcast channels narrow this breathing space.

For example, there is a decision for closing the entire Twitter account of a channel. It is Hurbini Podcast that publishes cultural, literary, and analysis. This particular "interest" in the podcast is thought-provoking.

### **Blocking Iraqi Kurdistan Region media**

Access to Erbil-based Rûdaw TV's website, Sulaymaniya-based Kurdsat News TV's YouTube channel, and Duhok-based Waar TV's tweets were also blocked.

IKR channels have better opportunities and are bigger channels in terms of material, legal, physical assets, and trained staff.

In 2017, Kurdistan 24, Waar TV, and Rûdaw TV, the three major television stations based in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR), were removed from the Türksat satellite, and their broadcasting licenses were revoked.

The pretext for the blocking in 2017 was that these television channels were [called](#)

[the geography of Kurdistan as Kurdistan](#). But, the official officials of the state, [the Prime Minister, and the President also referred to the same geography as Kurdistan](#).

From the 1990s until the 2000s, Turkish governments were trying to block the broadcasts of European-based Kurdish-language television channels via satellite with signal-blocking devices. People who turned satellite dishes into European satellites were tagged and shown as evidence of guilt.

Accessing channels that were blocked via satellite was also blocked in the digital.

### **Arrest of 25 Kurdish media workers in six months – Kurdish media "cannot institutionalize"**

[BIA Media Monitoring Report](#) prepared by Erol Önderoğlu; shows that in October, November, and December, at least 171 journalists and media representatives were prosecuted under the Turkish Penal Code, the Anti-Terror Law, and stated that demanded material and moral indemnities from nine of them.

On June 16, 16 Kurdish media workers were arrested in an operation based on Diyarbakir, after that nine more journalists were arrested as part of the investigation conducted by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. The denial to detention was not evaluated due to "the prosecutor was on the leave". The lawyer of the journalist Resul Temur said, "The aim is not to prosecute, but to punish in a way that renders it inoperable." For the first time since the coup attempt, Turkey was included in the category of countries that "arrested the most journalists".

When Kurdish media workers are gathered under the roof of a certain institution, they increase their risk of being exposed to the "operation". In this case, small podcast channels, YouTube Channels, Twitter, and Facebook accounts become vital.

# “This is similar to the destruction of our memories”

Beril Caymaz Yonca Sarsilmaz February 23, 2023



The demolishing of the Gallery building started 17 days after the earthquake in Diyarbakir.

There were 4 blocks in that building and hundreds of people lived there.

2 blocks of this building were destroyed in the February 6 earthquake. For the rest of the blocks, a controlled demolition decision was made.

A family with three children lived there before the earthquake. They were waiting for watching the demolishing of their house. They witnessed that destruction.

The woman whose house was destroyed told to Botan Times tearful:

*After the earthquake, we opened the door to leave the house, but the elevator and a staircase were destroyed. We turned back inside.*

*I and my children hugged the colons of*

*the room. After a while, the fire brigade made a corridor and let us down. My children went out barefoot.*

*It isn't all about the house. I don't have a single photograph of my children. I can't get my memories back. As our old days fade away. It is very difficult to watch from here.*

*My children have not been able to sleep since that night. Even, many times they don't talk. My children always feel that they are in an earthquake.*

*Now we have only beds and pillows in the house where we stay. We will start from the beginning.*

A 6-7-year-old girl with a pink coat was also in front of the ruins. She was pointing to his house and saying:

*Look at it, we can see our TV from here. These are also our blue seats.*

# "14 dogs and cats are in this building, don't destroy!"

📷 Murat Bayram 🌐 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 February 22, 2023

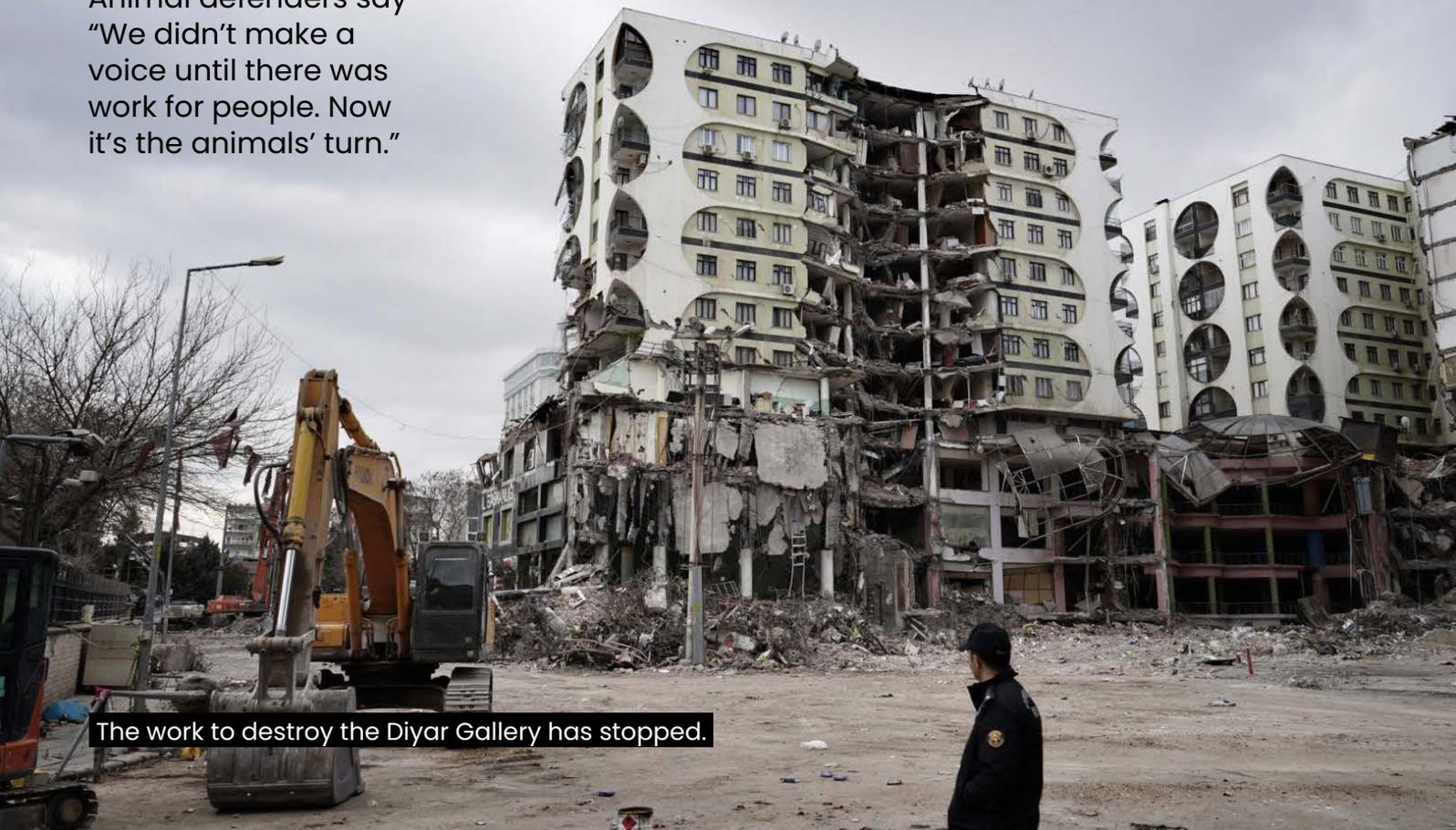
Animal rights activists stopped the work of destruction of Diyar Galeria. The Animal Rights Council stated that there are 14 cats and dogs in the building.

Diyar Galerya is one of the thousands of buildings damaged in the earthquake. Two of her blogs were damaged in the first and second earthquakes. There isn't any official information about the death number, but dozens of people died in the building.

Animal defenders say "We didn't make a voice until there was work for people. Now it's the animals' turn."



While the protests continued, a cat appeared on the top floor of the building



The work to destroy the Diyar Gallery has stopped.

# The 17th day of the earthquake: Still going on

Gulistan Korban 🌐 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 February 22, 2023



The death toll reached 42 thousand 310.

AFAD announced that a total of 448,18 people were evacuated in Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Diyarbakir, Adana, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya, and Elazig.

## Layoff of workers was banned

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan notified that the layoff of workers was banned in 10 provinces.

**Interior Minister Soylu: Aiding for ware will** be provided in the earthquake zone

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu stated

*that it is forbidden to enter the houses that have suffered damage from the earthquake.*

*Soylu said, "both AFAD and the Ministry of Family and Social Services will give goods to those families."*

## The opposition gave reaction to Erdogan's words

*President Recep Tayyip Erdogan used the words "immoral, dishonorable" to criticize the lack of aid.*

*In response to Erdoğan's words, the opposition said, "Don't talk anymore, step own."*

# They are not only victims of the earthquake and also refugee

Gulistan Korban 🌐 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 February 21, 2023



The earthquake in Turkey destroyed 10 provinces.

A great number of these provinces were Syrian people.

It is estimated that 1 out of 5 people who lost their lives in the earthquake is Syrian.

Thousands of Syrians lost their lives in Antakya, Kahramanmaras, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Nurdahi, Islahiye, Kirikhan, and Samandag and are still suffering.

During the days of the earthquake, many hateful reactions were made on social media and by politicians.

Some people were left under the ruins, because they did not know Turkish, and they were afraid to speak in Arabic.

Some of them stated that “We said that if we speak in Arabic, they may not save us. We just made noise.”

## **They were accused as looters**

Tents given to Syrians became agenda on social websites.

Also, they were defined as looters in the earthquake areas and a smear campaign was started against them.

## **They can't find the grave!**

According to the information provided by Taha El Ghazi, who works on the violation of the rights of Syrians, to Karar newspaper;

Until now, 6,100 Syrian refugees have lost their lives due to the earthquake.

According to the information shared, those who died in the earthquake did not find a grave for burial.

About 4 million Syrians settled in Turkey 12 years ago when the Syrian civil war started.

**Now, most of them want to return to Syria**

Hundreds of Syrians living in Turkey went to Syria after last week's earthquake.

According to BBC news, the Turkish government allowed Syrians who want to leave Turkey for up to 6 months.

Some Syrian victims of the earthquake are going to the border gates. It is possible to meet their family members in Syria, whom they have not seen for years.



# 16th day of the earthquake

Beril Caymaz , Gulistan Korban 📍 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 February 21, 2023



The death toll is more than 40,000 people.

16 days have passed since the earthquake in Kahramanmaraş and last night Hatay was hit by two more strong earthquakes.

On Monday evening, at 20.04, the epicenter of the earthquake was in the Defne district of Hatay with a magnitude of 6.4. After the first earthquake, the second one at 20.07, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 occurred in the Samandag district of Hatay.

## **So far, 20 thousand Syrian return to their country**

**15.30** Secretary of defense Hulusi Akar stated: "There are many Syrian that return to their home and country. We estimated that 20 thousand Syrian return to their country."

## **3 people died, 213 are injured**

Minister of Interior Suleyman Soylu stated that 6 people lost their lives and

*294 people were injured in the Hatay earthquake.*

## **German Ministers will come to the earthquake zone today**

*German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Minister of Interior Nancy Faeser will visit Turkey today (Tuesday) to see the earthquake zone.*

*During this visit, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the two ministers will closely monitor the situation and aid activities in the earthquake region.*

## **ESCD "It is possible to show up infectious diseases in the earthquake region"**

*The European Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC) has warned that infectious diseases may appear after the earthquakes that caused great damage in Turkey and Syria.*

# 15th day of the earthquake

Gulistan Korban 🌐 Yonca Sarsilmaz 📅 February 20, 2023



Today is the 15th day of the earthquake. The death toll is increasing day by day. In Adiyaman, Kahramanmaras, and Antakya, the situation is still difficult for people.

## **The opening date of the schools was announced**

Minister of Education Mahmut Ozer announced they will start training in Adana, Kilis, Diyarbakir, and Sanliurfa on March 1.

In Gaziantep and Osmaniye, the date was extended until March 13.

## **AFAD: 41 thousand and 20 people lost their lives**

According to AFAD, 6 thousand 212 small earthquakes occurred after the earthquakes centered in Pazarcik and

*Elbistan Kahramanmaras districts.*

*41 thousand and 20 people lost their lives in the earthquakes.*

## **Aksener goes to Diyarbakır**

The head of the IYI Party, Meral Akşener, will visit the earthquake-affected areas in Diyarbakır today. Aksener will go to the tent areas set up for the earthquake victims in her program.

## **Kilicdaroglu: Open universities**

The head of the CHP, Kemal Kilicdaroglu continues his criticism of distance education in all universities of the country.

## **Only 7,500 bodies were buried in a cemetery in Adiyaman**

In Adiyaman, where the number of people who lost their lives in the



*earthquake is still unknown, only 7,500 citizens have been buried in one cemetery.*

**HDP call out to householders: Don't increase the rent**

*Co-chairmen of HDP Pervin Buldan and Mithat Sancar called on the householders not to increase the rent so that the victims of the earthquake do not suffer even more.*



# From the ruins to another neighborhood, a village, or a city...

Beril Caymaz Yonca Sarsilmaz February 20, 2023



13 days have passed since the earthquake.

Saturday was like a spring day in Diyarbakir. Instead of the cold streets left by the earthquake, there was warm air in the city. The streets were full with people who had big earthquake nearly two ago.

I walked from one neighborhood to another to see the tents set up for the earthquake victims in Kosuyolu Park.

The people of Diyarbakir are rushing to works, shops are open and full, and young people are sitting in cafes like 13 days ago.

On the one hand, people are now returning to their routine. But on the other hand, there were also homeless people. They still feel the affect of the earthquake that is way it will be difficult to return routine.

About 100 tents have been pitched in Kosuyolu park. There was a crowd there. Because of the sunny weather, people came out of their cold tents.





There were roads on both sides of the park. The park was only surrounded by iron railing.

There was a big confusion in the park. The police are standing outside the park.

While some children were having fun with toys, others were singing and dancing in front of the tents set up for them.

In addition to the tents set up by Afad, there were also tents set up by earthquake victims with locally.



A woman came next to me with her baby and said:

*Enter my number, and help us. The tents are very cold, our houses are damaged, and we cannot go.*

Besides people who live in tents, some people were moving out of their damaged houses.

From the ruins to another neighborhood, a village, or a city...