

# PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

### *INFORMATION FILE ON VIOLENCE IN TURKEY*



**11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

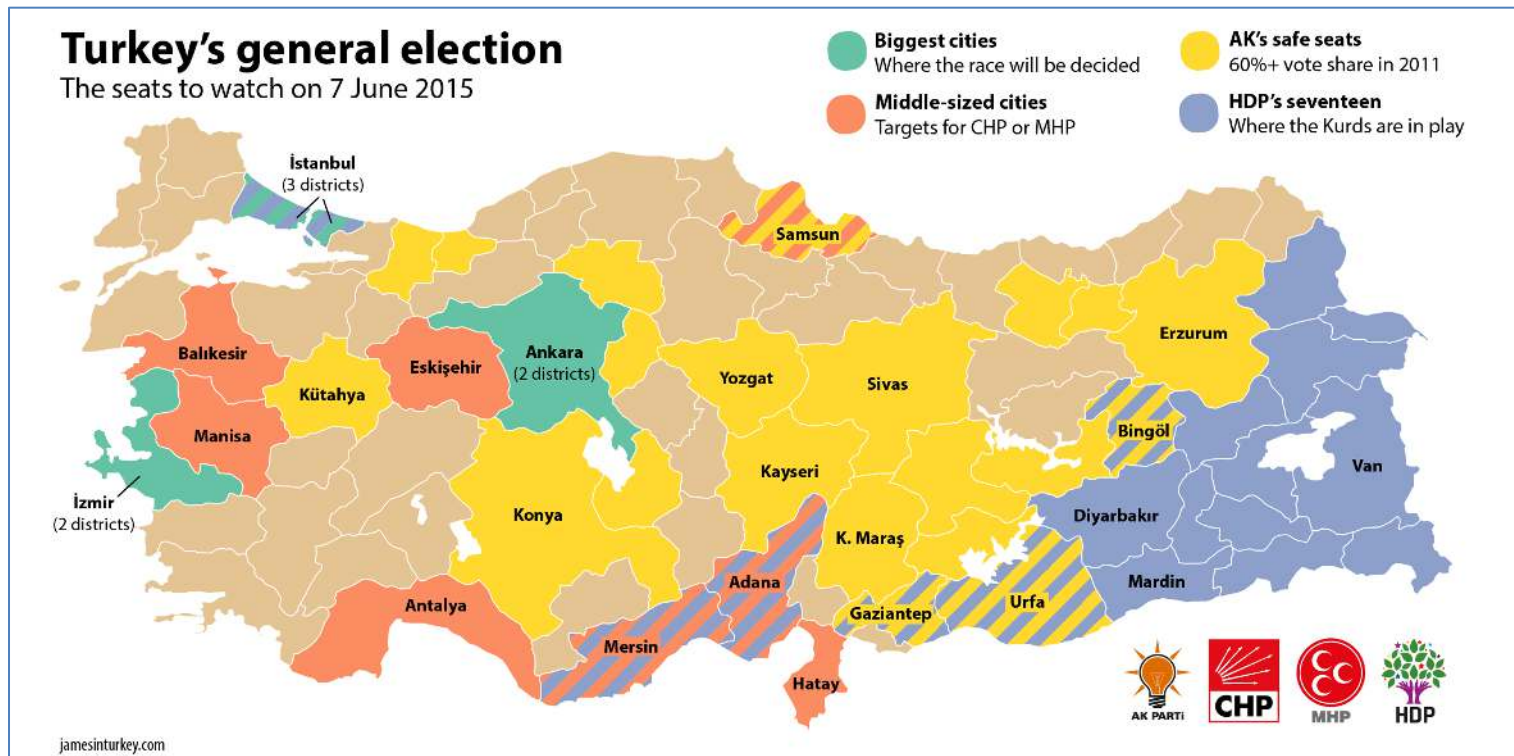
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## **CONTENTS:**

INTRODUCTION_____	2
DOLMABAHÇE DECLARATION / SURUÇ MASSACRE _____	3
PRESS FREEDOM AND CENSORSHIP _____	3
ATTACKS AGAINST THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY _____	5
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MEASURES _____	20
CIZRE UNDER SIEGE _____	21
HDP CO-CHAIR MR. DEMİRTAŞ' STATEMENT ON ATTACKS AGAINST HDP AND KURDS _____	24
URGENT CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION! _____	29

## INTRODUCTION

After the General Elections on June 7th 2015, Peoples' Democratic Party (*Halkların Demokratik Partisi* or HDP) became one of the most significant political actors in Turkey. In particular, Kurds, socialists, Alawites, Non-Muslim groups, democratic conservatives, social democrats, ecologists and other historically marginalized or oppressed identities in Turkey have supported the HDP in the search for expanded collective rights in Turkey's political and judiciary system.



The HDP's electoral success, with more than 6 million votes, provided a great opportunity for a democratic solution to the Kurdish Issue. At the same time, the AKP was denied the opportunity to establish a one-party government, prompting the question of a coalition government. Yet the President of the Republic, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, pushed his political party, the AKP, to reject any coalition in order to bring about a new election with the hope that his party might achieve an absolute majority, thus extending his presidency's authority. President Erdogan was thereby able to prevent the HDP's progress and derail the negotiation process between PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan and the Turkish State.

That President Erdogan changed the direction of Turkey from peace and stability to tension and violence has been made especially clear by the bombing attack against socialist and Kurdish youth in Suruc near Kobani, which resulted in 33 deaths—an event that can be seen as the starting point of a spiral of conflict in Turkey. The AKP and the President's monist and authoritarian strategies for extending domination is behind today's deep polarization and conflicts.

**Dolmabahçe Declaration (27 February 2015), The Suruç Massacre (20 July 2015),  
The Escalation of Violence and the deadlock on the path to the peace negotiations**



As a historic chance for a meaningful democratic solution to the Kurdish Issue through strengthening democracy in Turkey, the declaration calls for a two-sided negotiation on basic issues in line with basic democratic principles. The declaration's 10 articles are:

- 1- Democratic politics, definition and content
- 2- A democratic resolution and recognition of the national and local dimensions of resolution
- 3- The legal and democratic guarantee of free citizenship
- 4- The relationship of democratic politics to state and society and its institutionalization
- 5- The socio-economic dimensions of the resolution process
- 6- Treating the relationship between democracy and security in the process in a way that will protect public order and freedoms
- 7- Legal solutions and guarantees for problems of women, culture and ecology
- 8- Development of a pluralistic understanding of the concept of identity, its definition and recognition
- 9- The recognition of a democratic republic, a common homeland and people with a democratic criteria within a pluralist democratic system with legal and constitutional guarantees
- 10- A new constitution designed for democratic transformation

The declaration was presented to the media by the two sides involved. Both sides agreed to begin negotiations in the prison on Imrali Island with the participation of Abdullah Ocalan and a monitoring group nominated by Erdogan and Ocalan. Just before the elections President Erdogan rejected the entirety of the declaration and the dialogue process. The last meeting with Ocalan was on April 5th 2015. There has since been no contact with Ocalan. The isolation of Ocalan is one of the most important reasons behind the rising tensions in Turkey.

The Suruc Massacre on July 20th 2015 was carried out by an ISIL member from Turkey. There is no shortage of evidence of Turkey's responsibility in the explosion. Followed by Turkish Intelligence, the ISIL terrorist was allowed to move freely throughout Turkey and cross the border from Syria to Turkey.

The Suruc Massacre is seen by many as the first sign of rising tension. President Erdogan and Prime Minister Davutoglu's callous approach to the tragedy in Suruc and their aggressive stance towards Syrian Kurds in Rojava have incited a growing distrust of the state.

Turkish police raids against HDP politicians and supporters, meanwhile, have not ceased following the elections. Police raids have become routine, in an attempt to criminalize the movement.

## **PRESS FREEDOM AND CENSORSHIP**

Turkey, with its long history of silencing opposition, curtailing press freedom, and imprisoning journalists, has taken disregard for media freedom to a new level as the peace process has ground to a halt and the AKP provisional government has increasingly adopted authoritarian policies and a language of racist and violent politics. The AKP has utilized the extremely vague wording of the newly passed internal-security legislation to silence all forms of opposition. Consequently, the number of violations of freedom of information—including arbitrarily jailing foreign journalists, censoring and limiting access to social media including Twitter, Facebook and Youtube, preventing independent observation of violations of rights, and promoting direct violent attacks on news channels, newspapers and individual journalists—has soared.

Turkey ranks, in 2015, 149th among 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index, and is at the top of the list of countries with 72 percent of requests to censor tweets and access to Twitter accounts. Academics, journalists, and individuals using social media to express opposing views regularly face arbitrary charges and years in prison under the new legislation.

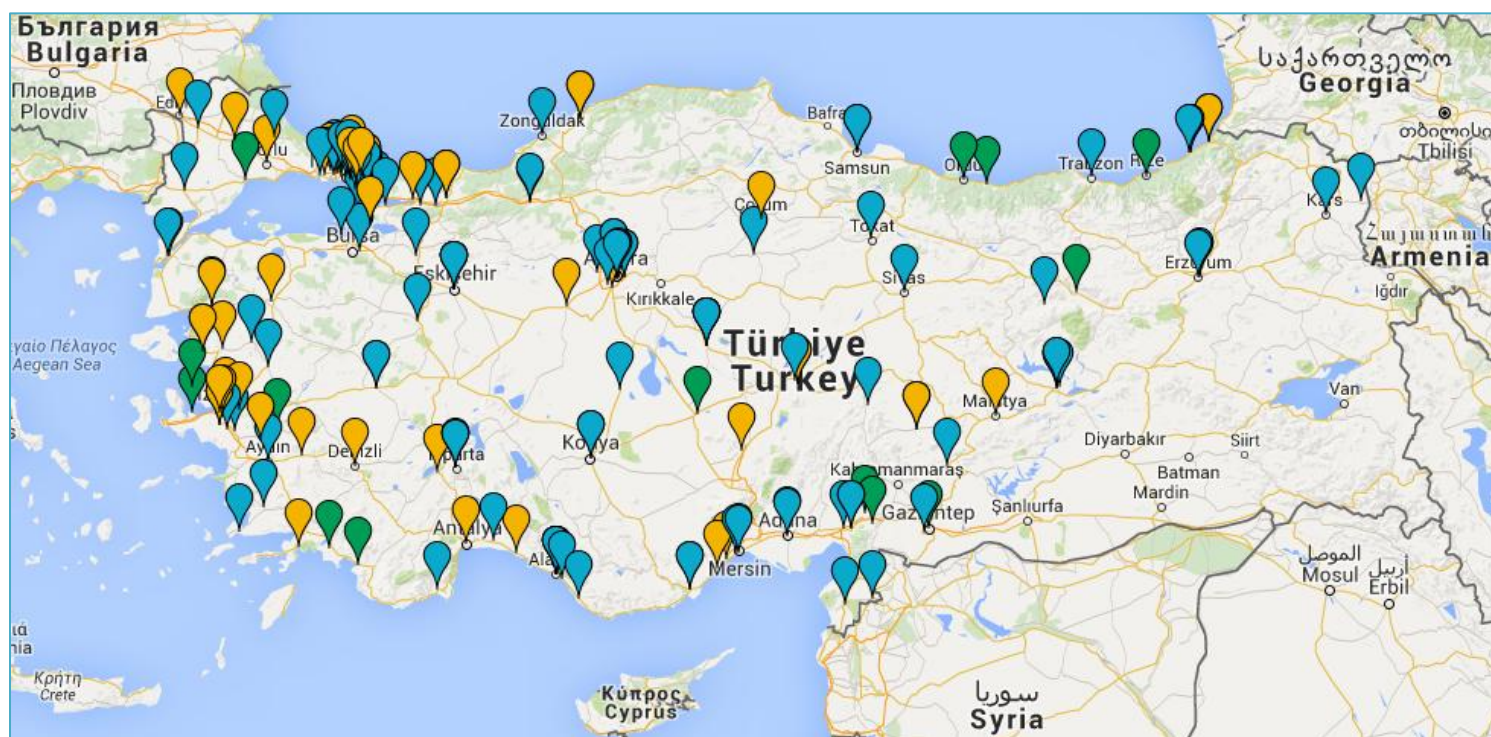
The recent wave of arrested journalists includes Jake Hanrahan and Philip Pendlebury from the UK-based Vice News and Dutch freelance journalist Frederike Geerdink, all accused of aiding illegal organizations and promoting pro-Kurdish propaganda. All were subsequently released and extradited to their countries in an attempt to intimidate and censor any international coverage of developments in the region. The AKP administration makes every possible effort to prevent documentation and news flow from the region, particularly from Kurdish towns, to reach the international community, as the toll of dead and wounded mounts and fears of increasing civilian casualties grow.



The Presidency of Telecommunications has been granted wide ranging powers to monitor and close websites without court order, within the framework of internal-security legislation that paved the way for the closure of thousands of websites critical of the AKP administration and/or considered pro-Kurdish. For instance, the website of Dicle News Agency—regularly reporting from conflict zones with reporters (considered pro-Kurdish by the AKP administration)—has been closed 14 times within one week.

The AKP administration's fear and hatred of free media peaked as the families of soldiers raised their voices against the AKP administration—including President Erdogan and Prime Minister Davutoglu—appearing at the funerals of soldiers in an effort to drive the country toward war. The Presidential Office directly intervenes and administers the type of news to be serviced by all TV channels and newspapers. Media sources critical of the administration have become direct targets of the AKP administration and violent attacks. Recently, a pro-AKP crowd, headed by an AKP-elected member of parliament, attacked the offices of the Hurriyet newspaper, smashing windows and threatening to burn their offices while journalists were inside, on the accusation that they had misquoted President Erdogan in a TV interview.

#### ATTACKS AGAINST THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY [SINCE SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2015]



1- September 6th 2015, ISTANBUL (KAGITHANE)- Sedat Akbas (21) was stabbed to death while waiting at a bus stop because, according to his attackers, “he was speaking Kurdish” on the phone.

2- September 6th 2015, MERSIN- Since the night of September 6th 2015, a group of people has been waylaying and attacking buses on the highway between Mersin and Antalya bound for the east and southeast of the country. Lawyers have been contacted and a criminal complaint is being prepared, there are a sufficient number of lawyers on the local level.

3- September 6th 2015, ARTVIN (HOPA)- On Sunday night a large crowd of people known to be directed by Trabzon Idealist Hearths, attempted to attack and destroy the local Artvin Hopa chapter building and sign of the HDP. The party sign was damaged during the events. The Hopa district party executives filed a criminal complaint regarding the events of Sunday September 6, 2015 with video recordings as evidence.

4- September 7th 2015, SAKARYA- Party executives found out that the party building door was attacked and there was an attempt to forcefully enter the building. The executives reported the attack to the police for investigation. The attack happened when there was no one in the building. The necessary complaints have been made by the local branch of the party administration.

5- September 7th 2015, BALIKESIR- Around 1pm, a group of people attacked the party building while Elif Yavuz (who was responsible for the building at that time) Ayşe Işık (MP candidate) were inside. They forcefully entered the building by breaking down the door. After physically attacking the women administrators, they tore up, destroyed, and threw official documents, computers, tvs and similar furniture out the window. While they were burning these documents and furniture downstairs, they also physically assaulted our MP candidate Bedri Arık who was informed and called to the scene by Ayşe Işık. After the assaults, the criminal complaints were made to the Balıkesir Anafartalar police station and reports assessing the damage were made. The attacks and assaults presumably took place because of the death of a soldier who was registered in Balıkesir. The assailants continued to demonstrate within the city from approximately 4-5pm until approximately 6-7pm with chants such as “Damn the Kurds! Damn the HDP!”. The assaulted administrators were admitted to hospital and later discharged.

6- September 7th 2015, SAKARYA- During the hours of the night a large group of people gathered in front of the party building and forcefully attempted to enter the building until midnight. Later that night the party sign on the balcony of the provincial branch building was removed by people entering from the neighboring balcony. The assailants hung a significantly large Turkish flag from upstairs with the collaboration of the upstairs neighbor. The provincial branch administration of the party filed a complaint regarding the two people detained by the police on the grounds of assault.

7- September 7th 2015, MARAŞ (ELBİSTAN) - In Maraş’s Elbistan district, around 8pm a group of about 200 ultra nationalists making the fascist wolf hand gesture attacked the DBP district branch building and hung a Turkish flag on top of the party sign. There is no executive provincial branch in Maraş at present but there are congressional works. The party sign was removed by the assailants, and later that night a long convoy of cars was formed which passed through Kurdish neighborhoods chanting slogans. There have been threatening and hateful messages and comments on the provincial branch’s website since then.

8- September 7th 2015, ESKİŞEHİR- Between 08.30-09.00am, a group of 15-20 people gathered in front of the Eskişehir provincial branch building and chanted with police present. This group entered the apartment building where the provincial branch is located on the 7th floor together with two police officers. The group destroyed the steel door of the party office, entered through the hole they created, and destroyed all the furniture inside. They smashed the windows and threw out the cupboards. They attempted to burn the party flags. They left the building, leaving the gas tank on. A major disaster was prevented since there was no natural gas and the windows were broken which prevented any gas accumulation inside. When the group left the building the police began a siege

because of which provincial branch executives couldn't enter. When the executives managed to enter the party office they gave a press statement and filed a criminal complaint with lawyers against the assailants as well as the involved police officers at the prosecution office.

9- September 7th 2015, ISPARTA- Group of people organized through social media and local media demonstrated at the central market and made a press statement.

10- September 7th 2015, ISPARTA- The same group gathered again around 9pm and marched towards the party building and attacked the building with police present. With the crane that belongs to Isparta municipality, they removed the party sign. Some entered through the roof and by breaking down the steel door, and threw almost all of the furniture from the 4th floor window and burned them downstairs. Following that, fire broke out on the roof and it was extinguished hours later. The group's car convoy continued to create tension on the streets of Isparta all night long.

11- September 7th 2015, ISPARTA- The situation is dire. Around 11:00pm last night a group of around 2000 people accompanied by the police were mobilized and attacked our Provincial offices. Members of the group took down the party's sign, broke into the building, and set the building on fire. The damages are substantial. In addition to a lack of protection, police forces did nothing to intervene. No criminal complaints have been filed, but an attorney from Antalya, who will pursue the matter, has been contacted. Moreover, it has been observed that tensions are still high and that a new attack is planned.

12- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (USKUDAR)- On the evening of September 7th, 2015, around 9:50pm, a group of aggressors entered the street where our District organization is located in an attempt to make its way into the building. The group broke our security camera and tore our sign and party flag down in order to replace them with a Turkish flag. A lawyer associate responsible for this district has been contacted in order to file a criminal complaint. There was prior information about the planned protest (obtained around 9:00pm) and the security forces had been contacted to take necessary precautions. (Moreover, a petition had been filed earlier that day with the District Governor and Directorate of Security in order to request additional protection).

13- September 7th 2015, MERSIN (ERDEMLI)- Our party building situated in the Kargipinari neighborhood of Mersin's Erdemli district has been attacked on September 7th, 2015 and has been completely burned. There have also been a number of attacks in the same neighborhood directed towards the homes, businesses and vehicles of citizens of Kurdish origin. While one vehicle has been completely burned, there have been damages to other vehicles, homes and businesses.

14- September 7th 2015, ORDU (FATSA)- The Greens and the Left Party of the Future's Fatsa district building has been stoned on September 7th, 2015. There is no need for a lawyer to file a criminal complaint, as there have so far been no other problems in the Province or District. They have been advised to contact security forces for protection.

15- September 7th 2015, MANISA- The Provincial headquarter has been put under protection with the use of armored vehicles. Meanwhile, security forces have under various pretenses barred a civilian committee from leaving Manisa and travelling to Cizre. In general, tensions are high in the city.



16- September 7th 2015, BOLU- During the night hours. a group made its way to the Provincial branch in order to hang a flag. Ozgur Gunaydin, the Provincial Co-Chair, has announced that they will file a criminal complaint.

17- September 7th 2015, AKSARAY- The Provincial Co-Chair, Muhittin Yilmaz, has informed us that fascist mobs have made calls on social media to attack the Provincial building and have been circling the area shouting violent slogans. Muhittin Yilmaz has noted that the Directorate of Security had been contacted in order to ask for protection, the latter stating “We are aware of everything, we are acting accordingly.”

18- September 7th 2015, KOCAELI- The Provincial Co-Chair was contacted and provided with the following information: a fascist mob marching in the streets of the district of Izmit attempted to attack the district branch, but was pushed back, furthermore, a mob attempted to attack the Gebze district branch, national police forces have taken necessary security measures.

19- September 7th 2015, AGRI- Provincial Co-Chair Sabri Tayfur was contacted. He noted that the atmosphere in the Province was very reminiscent of martial law, that armoured vehicles were constantly patrolling the streets and instilling fear.

20- September 7th 2015, ANTALYA (MANAVGAT)- The Directorate of Security has adopted no visible security measures so far. Because the party’s branch is located on the second floor, a group has entered the offices using a crane-like vehicle. The building has incurred material damage. The information that there would be an attack on the building had already begun to spread ten days ago. The district Co-Chair has testified. There is no confirmation so far that a criminal complaint has been filed. There are no security cameras.

21- September 7th 2015, ANTALYA- Five Party members were stranded in the party building due to an ultra-nationalist attack on the building. Beginning with chants against HDP, assailants approached the building along with police forces in close cooperation. Police used tear gas to attack the HDP members who tried to defend the building, rather than the assailants. The assailants were unable to enter the building, but they stabbed two pro-HDP civilians, who were seriously wounded, along with Osman Bestas. Another 3 pro-HDP civilians were injured due to stoning by the assailants. Assailants also surrounded the Alanya hospital, preventing the admission of the wounded.

22- September 7th 2015, ANTALYA (KONYAALTI)- The owner of the building housing the HDP Antalya district branch asked the HDP to vacate the party building due to threats and attacks from ultra nationalists.

23- September 7th 2015, CORUM- Around 11:30 pm, a group of around 30 ultra-nationalists attempted to enter the local party building in Corum city. Security forces prevented such an attack. The group continued to threaten party officials, who they demanded take down the HDP party sign, but they were unsuccessful. Party officials and volunteers are trying to ensure security of the local party building 24/7.

24- September 7th 2015, BALIKESİR- (From the interview with co-chair Yurdanur Guven)

A group of assailants began stoning the party building in Balikesir around 1:30-2:00 pm, managed to enter the building, then broke the doors and equipment, plundered the furniture inside, throwing

them out the window, and attempted to burn all the materials thrown out of building. Racist assailants injured one HDP security officer and two other MP candidates, one of them being Ayşe Işık. All received doctor's reports about the injuries they received due to the attacks. The same night, local chapters of HDP in Balıkesir and Edremit were stoned from around midnight to 3am. Various attempts were made by HDP officials to reach local government officials to protect local chapter buildings and provincial headquarters. Further escalation of tension is expected due to planned marches by the ultra-nationalist MHP.

25- September 7th 2015, NIGDE- After a public call from local Nigde local party officials of the CHP(Republican People's Party) and the MHP(Nationalist Movement Party) with a theme of "bring a flag", and "respect march for the martyrs", many nationalists gathered in the Nigde Cumhuriyet square chanting "Revenge" and targeting Kurdish citizens and HDP party buildings. The crowd, without any resistance from police forces, blocked the main streets of Nigde city and began marching towards the building containing HDP Nigde provincial office. The crowd began intensive stoning of the party office in the front and back of the building. Law enforcement gave a late and inadequate response. Law enforcement's late and inadequate response encouraged the crowd and many entered the building's second floor and began destroying all the furniture inside including TVs, computers, cameras and many others. Items were thrown out of the building. After two hours of this racist siege on the party building, HDP party officials insisted that local security officials come to the scene and provide a damage assessment report.

There was numerous material damage to the building. All doors and windows of the party building were broken, all electronic material including TV/Computer monitors, safe, scanner, fax, copiers were destroyed or thrown out of the window, file cabinets, chairs and tables were all damaged, HDP Party flags shredded, all party signs on exterior walls of the commercial buildings were removed, 3 mounted security cameras outside the building have been damaged or crushed with stones. Videos recorded by the security cameras were handed over to the security officials in Sungurber police station.

26- September 7th 2015, BURDUR- A group of 9-10 racist assailants gathered outside the party building. Protection was requested from local security officials to avoid any attacks. Security officials responded and dispersed the group without any further attack attempts.

27- September 7th 2015, KILIS- A group of ultra nationalists attacked the Kilis provincial branch of the HDP and attempted to bring down the party sign and put a Turkish national flag in its place. Police forces prevented such attacks and no damage was done to the party building or party members. A convoy of 100-150 vehicles continued to escalate the tension. Kilis HDP provincial co-chair filed a request for official protection from local government officials.

28- September 7th 2015, IZMİR (BUCA)- There was an attack on the district branch of the HDP in the late hours of the night, all the windows were smashed. HDP filed a criminal complaint.

29- September 7th 2015, IZMİR (BERGAMA)- Due to an attack on HDP Bergama local chapter, the party building is no longer usable. A criminal complaint has been filed. It is also believed that the attacks were organized through a social media account of an official of the local chapter of the Republican People's Party(CHP). A criminal complaint is to be filed against this CHP official.

30- September 7th 2015, IZMIR (DIKILI)- There was an attack on the district branch of the HDP in the late hours of the night, in which all the windows were smashed. The HDP has filed a criminal complaint.

31- September 7th 2015, IZMIR (KEMALPASA)- There was an attack on the district branch of the HDP in the late hours of the night, in which all the windows were smashed. The HDP has filed a criminal complaint.

32- September 7th 2015, AFYON- It was reported that a fascist mob was marching through the city, however as there was no provincial HDP branch, no attack occurred.

33- September 7th 2015, BILECIK- It was reported that one of the soldiers who died in Daglica was from Bilecik and that there was attack on the provincial branch of HDP, but there was no significant damage.

34- September 7th 2015, BILECIK (BOZOYUK)- It was reported that a small group attacked the district branch; however due to the significant Kurdish population of the neighborhood, the assailants were unable to enter the neighborhood. Both provincial and the district branches requested police protection which was not granted.

35- September 7th 2015, NEVSEHIR (AVONOS)- Although there was no district branch of our party in Avanos, it was reported that a known member was targeted by a group of 30-35 people in front of his house. Reportedly, an HDP flag was burned and epithets were hurled. No criminal complaint was filed in this case either. Additionally, we were informed that a fascist group stopped vehicles at the entrance to the city and carried out ID checks. We were also told that there are plans for a large march on Sunday in Goreme after which an attack may take place.

36- September 7th 2015, BURSA- Two of our representative branches were attacked; but there were no serious injuries. There is no police protection at the moment; however a petition has been filed to that effect. At present, security is being provided by our party members.

37- September 7th 2015, ANKARA- A racist group gathered in front the HDP Headquarters and attacked it with stones while shouting threats from 8pm to 2am. A criminal report was filed.

38- September 7th 2015, ANKARA- A convoy of cars passed by the HDP Headquarters shouting racist slogans until the late hours of the night. An attack on the headquarters was prevented by the security.

39- September 7th 2015, YALOVA- There is a provincial branch in the city center. Yesterday, there was a march and an unsuccessful attack attempt. We met with the authorities and a security detail was arranged starting from today.

40- September 7th 2015, MUGLA- An attack was carried out against Vedat Oruc who is a member of our youth branch in Fethiye. He is a student at Fethiye Vocational School. After the assault, Vedat Oruc was taken to hospital, his condition is not life-threatening. A complaint was filed. Police was informed about the possibility of an attack on the provincial branch.

41- September 7th 2015, ANKARA (BEYPAZARI)- We don't have a district branch. There was an attack on Zafer Mahallesi which has a significant Kurdish population. A protection request was filed. It was reported that there are 8-10 people injured.

42- September 7th 2015, ANKARA (KECIOREN)- When there was an attack on the HPD district branch, it was empty. The financial damage is estimated between 2 to 3 thousand Turkish Liras. A protection request was filed.

43- September 7th 2015, ANKARA (SINCAN)- There have been attempts at attacks. Because the main entrance of the building was closed, no damage was done.

44- September 7th 2015, ANKARA (ETIMESGUT)- There was an attack on the party's district branch, but because the attack was late at night, there were no casualties. There is, however, heavy damage to the party's district building.

45- September 7th 2015, ANKARA (ETIMESGUT PATNOSLULAR ASSOCIATION)- There was an attack on the building of the association, resulting in material damage. A criminal complaint was filed.

46- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (UMRANIYE)- There were attempts at attacks on our district branch. They were not able to physically enter the building of our district branch. However, they managed to hang a Turkish flag over the building of our district branch by passing through the building next to the district branch. Criminal complaints are being filed.

47- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (BEYKOZ)- There were attempts at attacks on our district branch. They were not able to physically enter the building of our district branch. Criminal complaints are being filed.

48- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (SARIYER)- There were attempts at attacks on our district branch. They were not able to physically enter the building of our district branch. Criminal complaints are being filed.

49- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (BAGCILAR)- There were attempts at attacks on our district branch. They were not able to physically enter the building of our district branch. Criminal complaints are being filed.

50- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (B. CEKMECE)- There were attempts at attacks on our district branch. They were not able to physically enter the building of our district branch. Criminal complaints are being filed.

51- September 7th 2015, ISTANBUL (BASAKSEHIR)- There were attempts at attacks on our district branch. They were not able to physically enter the building of our district branch. Criminal complaints are being filed.

52- September 7th 2015, ANKARA (MAMAK)- There were attacks against the Kurds in Tuzlucaıyr. It was reported that the police actively participated in the attacks. A protection request was filed.

53- September 8th 2015, MUĞLA (ORTACA)- Around noon, there was an attack attempt in the district. Law enforcement intervened and pushed the attacking crowd away from the district branch. The crowd placed a large flag on the building. Provincial co-chair Yusuf Uludağ and the district co-

chair had a meeting with the district governor. They were asked to take the party sign down. They told the district governor that there was no need for such an action as the sign had already been covered by the flag. (Although the crowd has been dismissed, there are some small groups around the district branch. Police teams are around the building as well, as of 16:50.)

54- September 8th 2015, SAMSUN- Small and large groups organized by the Idealist Hearths, including minors, have been marching in the city center with threatening slogans.

55- September 8th 2015, ESKISEHIR- Bayram Bey from Provincial Police Directorate called the provincial co-chair Ahmet Ulucay on the phone and told him to hang a flag at the party branch. The co-chair told him that he doesn't have any problems with the Turkish flag, but as a political principal, he is against the use of the flag. The commissar told him that he will go and hang it. The co-chair responded that he wouldn't let him do that. The commissar told him that a soldier's funeral was brought to one of the apartment buildings next to the provincial branch; they were having a difficult time stopping the people and that he was to hang it.

56- September 8th 2015, ESKISEHIR- There is an ongoing racist attack on the party branch.

57- September 8th 2015, SAKARYA (KARASU)- There are attacks on the Karasu district branch as well. They have entered the empty district building.

58- September 8th 2015, ELAZIG- It was reported that there were no attacks on any of the provincial or district branches, however the atmosphere was very tense. There were preparations for a demonstration. District branches requested police protection but so far no response has been received.

59- September 8th 2015, KIRSEHIR- The atmosphere was very tense in Kirsehir. Businesses owned by HDP supporters and Kurds were set on fire and completely burnt down by racist groups.





60- September 8th 2015, ANKARA (HDP HEADQUARTERS)- Racist groups in cars passed in front of HDP headquarters, attempting to attack the building. Security forces didn't intervene or prevent any attacks until now.



61- September 8th 2015, ANTALYA- There were hour-long attacks on HDP's Antalya provincial office building. No damage was done. An attorney has been assigned to follow up the case.

62- September 8th 2015, ALANYA- Late at night, HDP's district building was burned down completely into ashes. Moreover, shops and businesses owned by Kurds in the town were set on fire.

63- September 8th 2015, ANTALYA (KUMLUCA)- HDP's district building was set on fire and burned down.

64- September 8th 2015, ANTALYA (MANAVGAT)- There is a dire situation continuing in the town, attacks by the racists are continuing. However, the security forces are arresting HDP members; 5 people are currently under arrest. Additionally, someone among the racist group was killed as a result of the violence but the security forces are trying to put the blame on the HDP supporters.



65- September 8th 2015, CANAKKALE- Buildings belonging to People's Houses were attacked. There was an attack on the HDP's provincial branch that lasted from around 8 pm to 1 am at night. Crowds

first attacked the building with stones and then hung a Turkish flag on the building. During the second attack that followed this, the aggressors entered the building, removed many party documents, and burned them all. In addition, the building's windows were broken, the party's signs were ripped into pieces, chairs, computers and other things were set on fire. There were no security cameras in the party's office, however the security cameras of the nearby businesses can be used for footage. There was no one in the building during the events, therefore no one was hurt in the attack.

66- September 9th 2015, BARTIN- Stones were thrown at the party's building. There was no material damage. A criminal complaint will be filed.

67- September 9th 2015, AYDIN- Police did not allow anyone on the streets. The police station conveyed a message to the party administration warning them about a march that will take place today. The building will not be open today.

68- September 9th 2015, AYDIN (NAZILLI)- During morning hours an attack took place where a group took down the HDP flag and burned it. There was no other additional damage.

68- September 9th 2015, KIRIKKALE- There is heavy psychological pressure. Allegedly, someone is trying to gather information against the party's provincial co-president. Co-president Bunyamin will be in Ankara during this period.

70- September 9th 2015, KILIS (ELBEYLI)- In the morning hours there were attacks on the HDP district building by a large crowd of people.

71- September 8th 2015, ISTANBUL (MALTEPE)- On the evening of September 8th, HDP's building in Maltepe district of Istanbul was attacked and completely destroyed. There are pictures of the damage taking place. Even though nearby businesses have video coverage of the attacks, they are not willing to share them. These videos need to be taken from the police for evidence. The destroyed and damaged items are documented and will be handed over to the district administration of the party as soon as possible.

72- September 8th 2015, BURSA- The Osmangazi district branch of HDP was attacked and a Turkish flag was hung on the building. Intense attacks by racist groups took place where they entered the party's building and destroyed and burnt everything in the offices. The party members who attempted to enter the building were attacked by security forces with teargas and armoured vehicles. Attackers also entered Orhangazi's district building and burned and destroyed the contents of the building. Additionally, the party sign was removed. Gemlik district building of the party was also stoned and the party sign was removed as well.

73- September 8th 2015, BALIKESIR- (interview of the co-president Yurdanur Guven) On the evening of September 8th, around 8pm, in the Altinoluk neighbourhood of the Edremit district, the steel door to the main entrance and the one on the third floor were broken, and the building was set on fire. In addition on September 8th at 8:00 PM , the windows of two stores owned by Kurds were smashed and taken down. On the same night, the aggressor groups gathered in the HDP's Burhaniye riding, they broke the doors of the passages and and they removed everything from the district and burnt it in the streets. Once again, in the Burhaniye district, they broke the windows of a teahouse and house owned by a Kurdish man, Abdullah Firat. This evening, on September 9th, the opposition party, The Republican People's Party (CHP) has organized a march with the slogan: "respect the [Turkish] flag,

down with terror". It is expected that tensions will rise as a result of this. No criminal complaint has been filed against these events!

74- September 9th 2015, NEVSEHIR- It has been reported that, Mukremin Tokmak's, a party member of the HDP, pension (inn) came under attack and a (party) flag was burnt in front of it. Due to this attack, Mukremin Tokman has decided to close the pension until the end of the month and move to Hacibektas district to stay with friends there. Yesterday evening it has also been reported that since the fascist groups have increased in size, all the party members in the area gathered and stayed overnight at the Ilhan Hotel (owned by a previous parliamentary candidate of the HDP) for their protection.

75- September 9th 2015, ELAZIG- There are reports that roughly a crowd of 1000 people formed by the fascist groups: Ottoman Hearths, Idealist Hearths and Free Cause Party, marched in Elazig and attempted to attack HDP offices. However, since the HDP's Elazig office was heavily populated and well protected at the time, they managed to prevent the attackers from entering the street where the party building is located. There were also police securing the building and no other reports of incidents in the area

76- September 9th 2015, BILECIK- The situation is very critical here. Our provincial president Ekrem Bedevi claims that one of the soldiers killed by PKK in Daglica, Hakkari was from Bilecik, causing the crowd that was organizing against the HDP in the city to be much more aggressive. Additionally, because the building in which the party's branch of Bozuyuk district is located belongs to the president, the president said the fascists were threatening him and his family every night. Upon that, he decided to send his wife and children away and stay at home by himself. He requested protection from police department but his request was rejected. He added that RPP members were also among the marchers and that the march itself appeared to be supported by the police.

77- September 8th 2015, DENIZLI- (The person interviewed is Nebi Elci) After 8pm, a group of attackers climb to the balcony of HDP office building and raise a Turkish flag. They also makes an "x" sign on the door. In the Merkezefendi County, by throwing stones from a car, they break the windows of HDP office at 11:30pm. In Saraykoy district, they fired two molotovs at 3am. The county office of HDP was put on fire. (Criminal complaints will be filed for all three events).

78- September 8th 2015, USAK- (The person interviewed is the co-president Mehmet Yasar) The place which belongs to the Democratic Student Club is used as the provincial branch of the party. The building was targeted by gunfire at 2 am, the windows got broken. Later, the co-president writes down a report of the situation but no criminal complaint has been submitted.

79- September 9th 2015, MUS- This morning at 5 am, some of the houses were raided by police and DBP's provincial president Cihan Akpolat, a DBP administrator Selametdin Yilmaz, the president of the Meya-Der association Irfan Kandemir, HDP party member Nimet Yilmaz, and DBP's ex-president of Varto district Guven were arrested.

80- September 9th 2015, TRABZON- (The person interviewed is co-president Ahmet Hazar Dilaver) There has not been any attacks today but tonight there will be a march organized by the Idealist Hearths. It is expected that this march will create a tension.

81- September 9th 2015, SAKARYA- (The person interviewed is co-president Yasar Karatas) Kurdish shopkeepers are being threatened. There have been calls on the social media to organize sabotages in the districts where HDP had high percentages of votes. A similar call is being made to close the HDP provincial building as well. The provincial community of HDP is preparing a criminal complaint.

82- September 8th 2015, ORDU- Police prevented an attack against the Labor Party, and there has been no further attacks since yesterday. However, there are some threats targeting the parliamentary candidates individually.

83- September 8th 2015, DUZCE- On September 8th, 20015, after a march made in the evening, there have been attempts to attack the districts where the Kurds live but these were prevented. Two Arab seasonal workers were beaten in the central bus station but the president has not been able to reach the workers. HDP does not have a building in the province. It is reported that the mayor of the city has been very effective in preventing attacks and he has been putting pressure on security directorate of the province in preventing such events.

84- September 8th 2015, AMASYA- On August 8th, 2015 Tuesday night at 8pm, 3000 people enters the provincial branch of the HDP and destroy everything inside the building, and throw some stuff on the street where they put them on fire. At around 11 pm the co-president of the party in the province is taken to security directorate of the city and was beaten there. He experiences a heart attack there and was taken to hospital. No criminal complaint was filed, and at the moment there is a curfew in the town. There is a need for an attorney to submit a criminal complaint.

85- September 8th 2015, OSMANIYE- On September 8th, 2015, at around 9 pm on Tuesday evening, the HDP's provincial building was attacked by a group, and even though there was a Turkish flag in the building, they hanged one more. All the windows were broken down. On Wednesday September 9, 20015 at around 12pm some attacks the party members in the building with verbal abuse and the police do not act to prevent this, yet there has been no injuries or material damage. The party offices are closed and party members are not going outside. The HDP building is side by side with the police station and all these event have taken place under the auspices of the police.

86- September 9th 2015, BAYBURT- The students whose names were circulated on social media have been sent to their hometowns , there are no problems as of now. Party members do not go outside.

87- September 9th 2015, MERSIN- In the evening of September 9th, 2015 a group who comes to the HDP's provincial building under the auspices of police, by standing on the armoured vehicle of the police, they remove the HDP sign, they throw stones to the building breaking the windows, but they were not able to enter inside the building. There is police protection during the last three days. In Silifke, 14 party member were arrested. Some people attacks the municipality building of Akdeniz district and break its viendows. HDP's building in Mezitli district was burned down completely. Attorneys were consulted about all these events and criminal complaint will be filed.

88- September 8th 2015, AKSARAY- Despite the fact that there have been harassments, and that police was informed about possible attacks, necessary precautions were not taken and in the evening of September 8th, thousands of people attacked the HDP's building in Aksaray province, they removed the party sign under the auspices of the police and walked through the street with a feeling of victory.



89- September 9th 2015, MANISA- A group attacked HDP's building in Salihli district, and in Akhisar district they made harassments. The HDP district offices filed criminal complaints and they requested additional measures of security to be taken by the police.

90- September 9th 2015, KOCAELI- A fascist group attacked our party buildings in the districts of Cayirova and Derince and broke the windows of the building. A similar incident took place in Darica district and some people have protected the party buildings themselves. Similar harassing attacks also took place against the party building in the city central and the situation was reported to the security police and they were asked to take necessary precautions.

91- September 9th 2015, BOLU- A crowded group attacked DOG-DER building and the group violently kicked the doors of the party building and uttered menacing slogans and left the scene after a while.

92- September 9th 2015, SINOP- The provincial office has not been attacked yet, but there is a widespread tension in the province.

93- September 8th 2015, YALOVA- In the evening of September 8, 2015, the chief police called the Co-chair of Yalova Murat Amil and asked to evacuate the building because they received some rumors that there are plans of burning the party building and he said that security forces cannot take any precautions. After about half an hour, a group of 4-5 civil policemen came to our party building and repeated the demand that we leave the party building (At this moment, there were 4 party members in the building). Our co-chair responded negatively to their requests and claimed that if they are informed about this issue, they have probably collaborated with the group themselves to carry out such an attack. After this incident, a group of about 1000-15000 gathered and started attacking our building, throwing stones and breaking our windows (Our office is in the third floor of the building). Our co-chair called the governor and the chief police and accused them of being responsible for this fascist attack. This situation lasted about 2 hours. The police interferes every now and then to move the group away and then 4 of our party members left the building accompanied by the police. Today, the police called our party again and warned us that another attack can take place. As of now nothing happened, we are waiting.

94- September 8th 2015, ARDAHAN- In the evening of Tuesday September 8, the group that gathered in front of the monument of Atatürk released a press statement (around 6 pm). After this, the group came to our party's provincial branch and shouted slogans. There is no physical attack or any damage. As stated by MHP (Nationalist Movement Party), their followers are being prompted to carry out these attacks by AKP (Justice and Development Party) supporters. MHP members stated that they prevent their supporters to involve in attacks. Today, the situation is relatively better and it is not expected that any attack will take place.

95- September 8th&9th 2015, KARS- In the evening of September 8, we heard about the burning of our provincial branch's building. They burned the trash in front of building. There is not any physical damage in the building because the fire is extinguished shortly after. It is believed that the fire was to frighten us. Today (September 9) at 5 pm the group, which calls itself Idealist Hearths, has called to carry out a commemoration/walk. Our Kars province deputy Şafak Özanlı has been in contact with the chief police officer since last night and requested them to take necessary precautions for any possible unpleasant attacks.



96- September 8th&9th 2015, MUĞLA- In the evening of September 8 the attack ended around midnight, the door is broken and there is financial loss. There was another attack on the provincial branch building last night, the party sign was brought down and the police interferes to prevent further attacks. In Fethiye, 4-5 houses and offices have been thrown stones at. Since there is going to be a walk on September 9 in Marmaris, we are expecting another attack.



97- September 9th 2015, RIZE- Our co-chair Günay Karafazlı's work office was intended to be burned by Halil İbrahim Uzun. Since we called the security forces a night before, the police who was standing in front of the building at the time interferes and prevents the burning. The co-chair's family filed a criminal complaint to the office of the public prosecutor. The family of the attacker was known and therefore, they were contacted and the situation was smoothed over. The family assures that it will not be repeated again. In addition, our co-chair Genççağa Karafazlı, filed all the writings on Facebook and other social media outlets that were aimed to carry out an attack and or to threaten and informed the security office through ÖHD Free Lawyers Association about 3-5 hours ago. Similar threats continue to be delivered.

98- September 9th 2015, ERZINCAN- In the evening of September 9, a walk was carried out around 6:30 pm. Yesterday, the security office has warned us that there was a threat and our party building could be attacked. Apart from this, there is not an attack at the moment. Our party building is closed in case of such an attack.

99- September 8th 2015, BURDUR- In the evening of September 8 after midnight around 12:30, group attacked and brought down the party sign and hanged Turkish flag instead. In addition, security cameras of the building are taken away. Despite being requested to take necessary

precautions and responding positively to this request, the police has not provided us with any protection.

100- September 8th 2015, ARTVIN- In the evening of September 8 around 9:30 pm, a very crowded group attacked the building of our district branch in Hope, district of Artvin. As a result, the windows were broken and those who entered the building damaged the fixtures and hanged turkish flag. The financial loss is very high. After these attacks, the executive committee of MHP (Nationalist Movement Party ) resigned to show their resentment. AKP Hopa Municipality has bussed the attackers to our building themselves. The co-chair of our party stated that they will mail us the records of the attacks and other scenes and that they will file a criminal complaint.

101- September 9th 2015, GAZIANTEP- On September 9 around 5 pm there has not been any attack yet on our provincial or district branches. It is known that some groups have shouted slogans and tried to come towards our building but they were prevented by the police. There have been attacks attempted on Şahinbey and Şehitkamil district branches, but they just remained as attempts rather than turning into violent attacks.

102- September 8th&9th 2015, HATAY- On Tuesday September 8, around noon time a group of about 4000-5000 people have marched without permission for the martyrs and about a group of 150-200 people leaned towards our party building, but the police prevented them. On September 8 in district of Defne a group of about 10-15 people with motobikes shouted at retailers and threatened them to shut down their shops and they also shouted some slogans around our party building. By doing this they tried to create an atmosphere of panic and fear. On September 9, Wednesday, in Iskenderun, the district branch was closed because of a march, but it was expressed that the district office could be attacked anytime. The co-chair has stated they have requested police protection.

103- September 9th 2015, SAMSUN- Since there is no provincial branch in Samsun, there has been no attack as of 5PM, September 9 2015 in the city center and /or in towns. From time to time, small or large groups, organized by the Idealist Hearths and which includes minors have marched in a minacious manner.

104- September 9th 2015, IZMIR- On Wednesday, September 9th, as of 5 pm, HDP buildings in 8 districts, namely Buca, Bergama, Dikili, Bornova, Tire, Menderes, Torbali and Kemalpasa came under attack. Criminal complaints about four districts were filed. The building in Bergama district is being attacked continuously during the last two days. After the attacks, the buildings in Bergama, Tire, Dikili and Bornova are unusable. The windows of the party buildings in districts such as Buca, Torbali, Menderes and Kemalpasa were broken. They tried to break the steel door of the Bergama office by using a ax. They also marched towards the Selcuk district of Bergama where Kurds are are majority but the inhabitants of the district defended themselves and by firing into the skyline they dispersed the attackers.

Criminal complaints were submitted in Menderes and Tire districts. Today, when the HDP's provincial co-president and some of the party members tried to go to Bergama, first the police chief of the district, then the mayor of the town, and finally provincial director of police called the co-president telling them that they can not ensure their security and by saying this they tried to convince him not to go there. The co-president was returned after they promised to provide better security for the

public. The provincial president of the party stated that both the provincial and district presidents of the party are under serious threat.

105- September 8th 2015, NIGDE- There has been no event on Tuesday, September 8th. The videos and the reports about the attacks during the previous day were sent to DIHA and ANF new agencies. It is planned to make a press release on September 10th, 2015 about the attacks. The petition for the criminal complaint will be prepared today and will be submitted to respective authorities tomorrow.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MEASURES**

As the conflict and clashes intensifies in Turkey, the AKP administration resorts to every means possible, including legislative and non-legislative, in order to crack down all forms of political opposition, public protest and critical media. Implementation of anti-democratic measures and human rights violations such as detentions and arrests mostly based on allegations of insulting the state president or being critical of the AKP administration, torture and ill-treatment under custody, excessive, abusive, arbitrary and unlawful use of force against civilians, extra-judicial killings, house raids and an increasing number of hate crimes directly propagated by the AKP, curtailing of freedom of information, freedom of speech and free press have been mounting.

The government of Turkey has violated almost all of international law that it has signed committing serious crimes against humanity and war crimes. A number of major human rights organizations have expressed fears of escalation of violation of basic rights from bombing and killing of civilians to the abuse of prisoners.

Following the bomb attacks that killed 33 Kurdish and Turkish activists on July 20 in Suruc, the Turkish government launched a country-wide so-called “anti-terror” campaign in which more than 1000 people were arrested, mostly activists from the HDP and civil society organizations.

In an effort to silence dissent, the AKP administration has blocked dozens of websites and twitter accounts as part of the ongoing clampdown operation against free speech online. Arresting national and foreign journalists based on allegations of support for “illegal organizations”. Lastly, violent attacks against headquarters of Hurriyet daily newspaper by a group of people was directly propagated by an elected member of parliament from the AKP. Restrictions on protests and right to assembly and excessive use of force by police and security forces against protesters have become part of daily routine.

In Kurdish towns where clashes have been taking place serious reports of human rights violations, extra-judicial killings, prevention of access to basic necessities such as water, health services have been reported. Independent observers and journalists are prevented from entering towns such as Cizre, Silopi, Cizre and Yuksekova to document these violations. Special security forces and snipers have been targeting civilians and especially children incurring serious injuries and preventing access to hospital and health services. As reported by the Turkish Medical Association, regulations to protect civilian access to health services at times of armed-conflict are being violated on a regular basis by state security forces, causing loss of life due lack of access to treatment. According to international law, these are evident war crimes.

## CIZRE UNDER SIEGE



The curfew declared in Cizre by the Governor's office on September 4th, 2015 has been in effect for six days. During this period news media have reported various incidents. Turkish armed forces have raided neighborhoods with armored vehicles and opened fire on civilians in streets. There have been long power outages, mobile network and landline cutoffs. Seven elected deputies, who went to the city in order to make observations and prevent a massacre, were denied access, insulted and assaulted by the police and military forces.

*Video:* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1Wz4w49Kp4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1Wz4w49Kp4)

After long negotiations and onerous efforts, HDP deputies gained access to the city where they observed a complete blockade: all public institutions were shut down; electricity, running water, internet connections and landlines were cut off; even pharmacies and bakeries were closed. The district Governor's office was turned into a police base and the district Governor was not present in the office. Deputies also observed that health-care personnel in Cizre Public Hospital either left the city out of fear for their lives or could not go to the hospital because of the ongoing clashes. The hospital was emptied and there was only one MD present at the time of the deputies' visit. Over 70 dialysis patients in town were facing serious health-risks as the curfew impedes their access to the hospital. It should also be noted that two citizens who got injured in clashes lost their lives because it took two hours for the ambulance to show up. As of September 9th, ten civilians were killed, dozens were injured and two had suffered heart attacks. Because of the curfew, dead bodies of three citizens (two of whom are children) were being held in neighborhood mosques for days. The body of Cemile Cagirga, who was shot dead in front of her house was kept in a deep freezer by her family for a day in order to prevent her body from decay as they waited for the curfew to be lifted.



Although the Minister of EU Affairs Ali Haydar Konca and HDP deputies negotiated with and convinced the Governor and Turkish armed forces to transfer the bodies to the morgue, the armed forces nevertheless fired bullets and gas capsules on civilians and deputies during the transfers. As the attacks escalated, armed forces started threatening all citizens of the town through public announcements such as “We will shoot anyone who steps out into the streets.” As a result of attacks many houses were destroyed and walls of some houses were demolished by armored vehicles.

Due to the curfew, which started six days ago, all shops and businesses in town are closed and bread, milk, baby food, and dry food supplies at homes are running short. The complete blockade on the town and the restrictions on communication ignite fear of massacre among the public. In order to protest the suspension of constitutional rights and be in solidarity with people of Cizre, a delegation composed of HDP co-chair Selahattin Demirtas, deputies, and party officials left for Cizre on September 9, 2015. Accompanied by thousands of citizens from surrounding towns and cities in the region, the delegation’s vehicles were stopped at a checkpoint on the highway, 90 km away from Cizre, and they are currently continuing their walk to Cizre through mountain paths.

These human rights violations are not unique to Cizre. Over the past month, the provinces of Lice, Silvan, Silopi and Yuksekova in the Kurdish region have all been declared as "special security zones" by the state-appointed governors for a period of time. The people residing in these security zones were prohibited from going outside and special warfare methods were implemented in these areas with blockades. As a result of these operations, dozens of civilians have lost their lives or were injured; dozens of homes, businesses and vehicles were ruined.



*Children are sheltering in bottom floors of the buildings in Cizre.*



### **Brief additional note on Cizre Siege:**

On September 9, Co-chair of HDP Mr.Selahattin Demirtas, Minister for EU Affairs and HDP MP Mr. Ali Haydar Konca, Minister of Development and HDP MP Mr. Muslum Dogan, 30 parliamentarians, co-spokespersons of HDK (Peoples' Democratic Congress), co-chairs of DTK (Democratic Society Congress) and several NGO representatives wanted to go to Cizre in order to break the siege and isolation of the province.

In Cizre the curfew has taken place for 7 days and people in Cizre are under the siege of state security forces. There is no water, electricity or basic health services. Up to this point, 20 civilians including babies and women died in Cizre because of the police forces' attacks. The very purpose of the HDP delegation is to bring an end to the curfew and to raise the voice of the people of Cizre to the national and international community.

Our delegation's attempt to enter into the Cizre was intercepted in Mardin-Midyat yesterday, and thus they began a march through the mountains. Today is the second day of the march and they are still not allowed to enter into the province. Now, they are surrounded by police forces 28 km away from the Cizre. They are determined to enter the province and are waiting at very short distance to Cizre. Our co-chair, Mr. Demirtas's diplomatic attempts to break the siege is also continuing. List of the some of the civilians killed by Turkish police or soldiers;

Muhammed Tahir (35 days old)

Baran Çağlı (7 years old)

Emin Yanaş (10 years old)

Cemile Çağırca (13 years old)

Adem İrteğün (16 years old)

Osman Çağlı (18 years old)

Emin Levent (19 years old)

Özgür Taşkın (20 years old)

Sait Çağdavul (21 years old)

Eyüp Ergen (25 years old, health service worker)

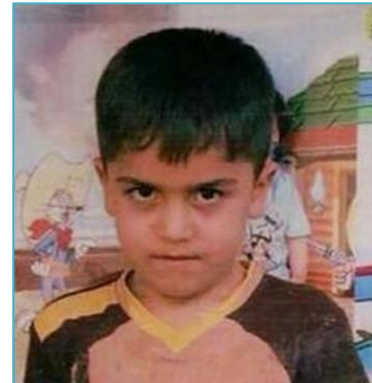
Mesut Sanrı (28 yeras old, worker in DEDAŞ)

Meryem Süne (53 years old)

Hacı Ata Borçin (60 years old)

Xetban Bülbül (71 years old)

İbrahim Çiçek (80 years old)



## Co-chair Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş' Speech on attacks against HDP and Kurds (9 September 2015)



***Demirtaş: "Today will pass, they will be drowned in their own hatred and anger"***

**HDP Co-Chairman Demirtaş** stated that the President and Prime Minister is targeting their party and "If not today, you will pay a price tomorrow".

At a press conference at the HDP Chapter in Diyarbakir, the Peoples Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chairman Selahattin Demirtaş, made statements about current developments.

Stating that the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the interim Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu are collectively targeting the HDP, Demirtaş mentioned "more than 400 attacks staged in the past two days. We are facing a lynch campaign and an assault".

Demirtaş stated that they will travel today to show solidarity with the city of Cizre, where a curfew has been enforced for the past several days and killings have taken place.

### ***Highlights of Mr. Demirtaş's statement:***

"We want to share our views with regard to the lynchings which took place across Turkey last night and the previous evening with the support of the state and the government.

"We are going through a difficult process. It is unfortunate that our country has been returned once again to conflict in such a chaotic period, a decision to make war has returned us to the bloodbath."

"The police, the guerrillas, soldiers, and children, we are losing one each day. Regardless of the uniform they wear, we share the pain of everyone who has lost their life. We are trying to bring people together to share pain and suffering. Unfortunately we haven't been able to get any results yet. Each day people are sent in coffins."

"We are not in the decision-making process that started and escalated this war. We neither supported the war nor were the decision-makers to start it. Thank goodness, HDP has no particular decision in this regard. Decisions are being taken by the president and prime minister.

No position is a permanent but the humanity. God is our witness, we do not hug our children, we do not kiss them because there are many children left fatherless, and we are ashamed of hugging and kissing our own children.

"HDP is a political party aim to strengthen internal peace and to establish a freedom in this country, not only a Kurdish Party. Everyone has the right of a party advocating equally. Our party had achieved significant success in the elections and became a hope for the people in Turkey.

"Up until the 7 June elections, our party has been subject to 176 attacks while the ceasefire was still in progress. Those who have been attacking and burning our party chapters [buildings] over the past two days, under the pretext of fighting terrorism, we know who you are and your infamy before the elections...

"We are the ones who are being killed, whose rallies are being sabotaged ... What has been taking place in these past 2 days is not a response to terrorism ...

"Erdogan and Davutoglu have seen that coffins coming out of the mountains are not gaining them any votes. What is taking place is a kneejerk operation waged in areas where Kurds live and anyone that look like a Kurd.

#### **'AKP and the Central Intelligence of Turkey**

"We respect those who are exercising their right to protest the streets, everyone has the right to protest. In this context we do not have anything to say. We listen to all criticisms and try to understand.

Violent protests are being organized by gangs directed by the AKP and the Turkish intelligence agency. These are individuals identified by name and paid by the state. Violent attacks are carried out from a single operation command center and managed by the state.

"They are clearly telling people that if you do not give us 400 deputies, we will turn your life into a living hell. They say it bluntly. They could do this with the opportunities of the state. They have taken the state over.

'Those who commits acts of violence and crimes against the people should know that they [the AKP Government] are going down and you'll be left in the middle'

"Those who burn and vandalize, who attack and beat people up, those who burned tents of seasonal workers and lynched them, videos of your crimes are in our possession. The crimes you have committed have a statute of limitations of 20 years.

"It may not happen today, not tomorrow, but you will pay a price eventually. Shame on those who commit these crimes with the support and backing of the government; do not let yourself be taken advantage of by the government, the government is not backing you, they are no longer in power.

"We are glad that no lives have been lost, and harm was done only to property. We will sacrifice all the HDP buildings. Those who commit these crimes do not even have enough money in their pocket to purchase a cup of tea, we feel sorry for them, and we feel bad for them. They will go down while

you will stay, there is no government behind you, and you will have to pay a price before the law... But if you say that you would rather sacrifice yourselves, then it is out of our hands.

"Elections are on November 1st, they are not going to retain the power; everyone must act accordingly ... Those who call themselves nationalists are already doing what they intended to do in the streets.

**"I call upon the state prosecutor to do his duty"**

"Erdogan and Davutoglu openly target our party. I still believe that there are honorable and proud prosecutors in this country, and I am calling on them to do their duty.

"They blame the bloodshed on us. Please ask the president and prime minister for evidence for these claims... The shameless media of this country claim that I issued the orders for the Daglica killings. How did this happen and who gave the order, we want all facts to be revealed. We are not afraid.

**'Prime Minister was enjoying a soccer game in Konya'**

"Currently the fallen prime minister of this country poses enthusiastically for goals in Konya as the new martyr coffins arrived from Daclica. Unfortunately he knew about the casualty in Daglica at the time he was enjoying the match, accompanied by the child of a martyr.

**'HDP is a chance for Turkey'**

"You are the one who is robbing this country, sending the children of the people to war for the sake of your palace. For whatever reason, however, our buildings are burned down and we are the ones who are being attacked... there must be something wrong in this, it is time to show whether or not there is true brotherhood in Turkey.

"What is western Turkey saying about these burnings and vandalism? It relies upon the discourse of inseparability. While the businesses and homes of their neighbors are burned what do those who live in western Turkey say? What do they do? HDP is a chance for Turkey.

Our Party archive is being looted and burned with the assistance of the police

"Turks and Kurds should work hand in hand today. Brotherhood can be seen at the funeral, not at the wedding. It is our wish to see this act of brotherhood; we are under great oppression and persecution.

Our party member's library is being looted and burned under police auspices.

"Only our archives room is being burned in a building with nearly 60 rooms. Hundreds of people gathered in front of the party headquarters, we informed authorities and warned them to take necessary measures to prevent any harm.

"I had to call the Governor of Ankara personally for a last ditch effort, however, I realized that he himself is also involved in the plan... After talking to an elected chair of a political party rudely and disrespectfully, he hung up the phone.

"I am calling upon that civil servants: there is no political power standing behind you. Do not rely on the AKP government, do not commit wrongs, refrain from committing wrongs. It would be a pity for you, you may be jailed for years, and they would not protect you. They will take their money and leave the country.

'If you, your home, and your business are being threatened, you have every right to defend yourself'

"It seems that the violence will continue, and may escalate. You should not yield to violence and intimidation. If someone comes to burn your home and business, according to Turkish Penal Code, you have every right to defend yourself against him according to law.

"If someone is there to burn your home, your workplace, and harm you, you must defend yourself, your home, and your business to a point and make them regret it.

"Everyone must act in accordance with their own self-defense. Our party headquarters will be repaired, you will continue your work.

"HDP is not opening chapters in the western part of the country for votes alone. We hang our party sign everywhere in the country in order to show that we want to live together; they are not just a sign, but a symbol of brotherhood.

### **'We fear God and no one else'**

"These days will not last for long, they will soon be past. We are not afraid anyone, we fear God and no one else. Believe me, we're working with death threats. If we were afraid of everything, we would not have been able to continue our work, our lives are not more precious than the children of this country.

"We know that the stakes are enormous, we want to share the pain of this anguish together, but you must know that it will pass, believe me. I always believe that we will accomplish this together.

### **'On the siege of Cizre'**

"Even under martial law, the most unscrupulous governments would give 1-2 hours permission to leave one's home. The curfew has been on for the past 6 days continuously. The people of Cizre are facing these hardships because of their resistance.

"There are records available, they are making announcements. They call on megaphones, saying, 'if you voted for HDP, let's see', and 'Get out to the square so we can see, if you are that brave, if anyone gets out of the houses we will shoot them', they say. There are those who have died at home, a woman who was shot by a sniper. People are not allowed to bury their dead; there is no electricity, no water, no bread.

"People eat whatever they have left at home, the babies are dehydrated.

"If I talk about Israel and Palestine, people would cry here. They would ask what Israel has done to Palestine. So, since we are all Muslims, I appeal to the conscience of us Muslims. A government that calls itself a Muslim declares a curfew. What will happen in Cizre? They must vote for the AKP. Nothing will happen, we will become even stronger. Partners of the government are calling for atrocities; they are naming individuals as targets. They are directing their mobs to attack.

The AKP will applaud if Cizre is bombarded with warplanes. Cizre is being turned into Karbala, it's been under siege for 6 days now, journalists are saying that they have not seen anything like it. This is the year 2015.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the outrage, we will depart for Cizre today. We have only one request: the curfew should be lifted. If the governor of Cizre is amicable, we are on our way for this reason. We will do our best for the situation not to turn into a violent one. We are going there in order to protect the life of citizens, soldiers and the police.



"We are calling upon all of our people everywhere to support our march to Cizre. They should not prevent us from sharing a message of common sense from Cizre.

"I hope that by the time we arrive in Cizre the curfew will be lifted. Those in Sirnak and Nisebin, whatever capability and possibility they may have, we will be in Cizre all together.

"We will not bow to Erdogan and Davutoglu's violence, which exceeds that of Israel. In the name of the God, we have come to a good conclusion, I hope.

"I would like extend my well wishes to all our people, our party workers, and those whose homes and offices are burned.

"These days will pass and our honorable standing will lead us to victory; they will be drowned in their own hatred and anger. It is impossible to remain surrounded by so many who lack conscience at the same time.

#### **About the request for a meeting in Imrali**

"One request came from KCK the and another from the President. Weapons are not going to be silenced, he said. The KCK said that we are ready to sit down at the table for negotiations. We would go even to the end of the universe for peace.

"The President and Prime Minister are moving the country towards catastrophe, and nobody says anything. What can the HDP do? Even if the HDP went to Qandil 30 times, would it matter? Even if we saw a modicum of peace we would go there. Is anyone else talking about peace other than us? They may say peace, but do they say a word about a solution?

"We will set up the tent within a few hours and complete our paperwork for the election candidates. The documents could be renewed within 3 hours. The documents are also stored digitally.

#### **Remarks on elections**

"They have distorted my statement on elections. We said that it is impossible to have elections in this environment. Perhaps we will not be allowed to enter into Cizre. We received 85 per cent of the votes there. I gave an example, how could elections be held in Cizre? How will elections be held there? That is what I ask.

"The situation in the region is not good. Bodies are not allowed to be buried; a 12-year-old girl was killed and placed into a refrigerator, a mother had to bear this agony. She had to live with her daughter's body for 2 days like that in the house. You've embarrassed this country. We're talking about those who are sending people to death each day while they sit in the palace [Erdogan and Davutoglu]. Judgment belongs to the people of Turkey. If you have a conscience you must hold these vicious people responsible and punish them. We do not share a view that elections cannot be held.

#### **About the attacks on the Media**

"They are attacking Hurriyet Newspaper, and Dicle News Agency as well, and they are also attacking KOZA holding. Your news articles and commentaries are being blocked, fortunately; we see your news and articles on social media now, do not worry.

"The palace [Erdogan] thinks that you bury your head in the sand, however the world sees the rest of you remains above ground. We stand by all of you, we are in solidarity with all of you.

#### **About Meeting with CHP Leader Mr. Kilicdaroglu**

The situation is getting worse in the country. We would welcome meeting anytime and day. Our door is open for peace always. Time and time again we form contacts with the CHP.

"We see an effort by the CHP and we do not undermine their effort. They conduct investigations and research in the region, preparing reports, but it is not enough. We would gladly meet with Mr. Kilicdaroglu in the coming days if it is requested. "

## **URGENT CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION!**

Turkey is increasingly drifting into a civil war. Politics of violence have escalated after the general elections of June 7 under the Justice and Development (AKP) provisional government. At the moment, the peace process between the PKK and Turkish state has come to a halt and war has started again. In this past month alone, severe clashes took place in many Kurdish cities such as Silopi, Lice, Şemdinli, Silvan, Yüksekova and Cizre, where state forces have targeted the civilian population. Tens of civilians, guerrillas and members of state security forces have died during the ensuing clashes. The AKP interim government has not been attacking ISIS, as it claims to be doing. Instead, it has since July 24 targeted the Qandil mountains located in the Kurdistan Regional Government's territory, as well as Kurdish populations, civilians, women, and pro-democracy and opposition movements all across Turkey.

The Turkish state and provisional AKP government are implementing a vast range of oppressive measures including, but not limited to, barring access to and from Kurdish cities in which they launched military operations, cutting off all access to phone and internet lines, pressuring the media and obstructing the activities of members of the press and observers in order to hide the truth behind events on the ground, all in an attempt to prevent news from reaching national and international public attention. A curfew has been in place in the province of Cizre for the 9 days where 21 civilians have been killed. The province has been still under siege by armed forces for days, causing to a serious shortage of food, water and basic healthcare services. The treatment of the wounded and burial of those who have been killed by state security forces has been significantly prevented. Many elected members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations have voiced grave fears about the murder of civilian populations taking place in Cizre.

In this environment of great violence, AKP spokespeople and the pro-AKP mass media have also targeted the People's Democracy Party (HDP), who had gained the vast support of pro-democracy Kurds and populations in the last parliamentary elections. Almost every day, our party officials and our Co-Chairs in particular are being singled-out to incite hatred among the "nationalist and patriotic" segments of Turkey. AKP officials have made many public statements akin to war calls against the HDP. As a direct result of this violent discourse, many of our buildings in several cities have been attacked by mobs of people associated with known racist and fascist factions. These acts of violence have ultimately culminated in an attack on our Ankara headquarters during which our building was set on fire and our party archives and records were specifically targeted. No one was injured in the attack but our HQ is now heavily damaged and unavailable for use. As of today, over 128 party buildings across Turkey have been assaulted by similar mobs. It should particularly be

noted that neither the police, nor other security forces made any significant attempts to prevent the attacks or control the mobs.

We once again want to emphasize that the HDP has consistently condemned violence and the politics of war. As the HDP, we have never taken a decision-making role in the current conflict. On the contrary, we have been actively trying to push both the PKK and the Turkish state to put down their arms. It should, therefore, be noted that it is the AKP that is pressing for the politics of war and by extension implementing vast anti-democratic measures all over the country.

In light of current developments, we call on the entire international community, civil society organizations, and the international media for solidarity and support to bring about an immediate ceasefire and the establishment of peace talks. Our call is also one for urgent action against increasing state violence, the violation of human rights and anti-democratic practices and measures in Kurdish cities as well as the cities in the western parts of the country. We now need the support of the international public more than ever in order to achieve the realization of a lasting peace in the Middle East, Turkey and Kurdistan. In this context we invite all our friends, political parties, associations, networks, civil society organizations and all peace-loving forces to act in solidarity with us. We call on all democratic international institutions, movements and actors to take concrete steps against the Turkish state's violent, repressive and anti-democratic measures against its own people and citizens.

**HDP Foreign Affairs Commission**