

# **Northern Syria: On the resistance of Afrin and the Syrian regime**

Tuesday 20 February 2018, by [YUSUF Hediye](#) (Date first published: 19 February 2018).

## **Statement of Hediye Yusuf, Co-chair of the Council of the Federation of Northern Syria, given to InfoCenter Afrin Resistance.**

“Until now, the Syrian State keeps silent against the occupation of its territory. Before this current situation Turkey already occupied Syrian territory in Jerabulus, Bab and Ezaz. Against this occupation the Syrian state had given some very coward statements. The Syrian state hasn’t played its role as a state that would defend its borders against occupation.

This is also the case for the agreement between Turkey, Russia, the [Syrian] Regime and Iran concerning Afrin. Turkey approached with the will to occupy the area of Afrin. Turkey’s plan was to occupy Afrin within 3 hours. That’s what Turkey had announced, what Erdogan had announced. First they had said 3 hours, then they said three days, then one week. Everybody was watching and kept silent. The Syrian state stayed silent against this as well.

The plan was based on the occupation of Afrin. But what happened instead was that the people of Afrin were starting an historical resistance. The people of Afrin stood up against the occupation. Today, the people of Afrin have been resisting for 31 days. They did not allow the occupation plan to reach its goal. The people as well as the fighters of YPG, YPJ and SDF have shown an historical resistance against the occupational attacks. With this the resistance foiled the calculations that were made [by Turkey] and made the plan of occupation fail. At the same time this resistance still continues.

Against this the Syrian state remained silent. Against the occupation attacks against this territory [in the region of Afrin] it remained silent. As we have already stated before, the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria is a part of a united Syria. So we had made clear that the Federation is a geographical federation and Northern Syria is a part of Syria.

Therefore our position has always been, if there is a possibility for a dialogue that helps to open the way for a democratic solution in Syria we would use this and support this. On the base of a federal system like we have announced in Northern Syria, we think that Northern Syria will play an important role in the democratic solution process for Syria: We are open for dialogues with the [Syrian] regime. The basis of any dialogue is to reach the aim of a democratic solution. Therefore, we had made these declarations already before. Now there is the current situation:

The resistance of Afrin is a historical resistance. It is the resistance of the century. It has created public attention and thwarts the plans that had been made before. At the same time all people of Syria know the existing reality of occupation. Therefore, now there is a dialogue between the military forces on the base that the Syrian Regime as a state gets involved inside the frame that it should play its role in preventing its ground from occupation. If these existing dialogues bring any results, then the Syrian army should keep with its tasks as a state in the meaning that it would

protect the airspace over Syrian ground. But these are only dialogues. If it comes to a military agreement, there will be an official statement made by the YPG. Until the YPG doesn't give an official statement, we can't say anything about if a contract has been made.

Apart from that, in the frame of this resistance and on a political ground, there is no dialogue with the Syrian regime. Therefore, for the future of Northern Syria and as we said already before, we are ready for dialogues. But to the present time there is no such discussion. There is nothing like the things that are being said such as handing over Afrin to the regime. These things are not true and have never been for discussion. What is existing right now is a dialogue for coming to a military agreement, so that the plan of occupation through the Turkish state will be thwarted. It is in that frame."

**Hediye Yusuf**, Co-chair of the Council of the Federation of Northern Syria

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\* EXCLUSIVE/IC Afrin Resistance - Afrin, 19.02.2018:

<https://icafrinresist.wordpress.com/2018/02/20/statement-of-hediye-yusuf-co-chair-of-the-council-of-the-federation-of-northern-syria-given-to-infocenter-afrin-resistance/#more-639>