

## **Call for Days of Action Against the Annexation War in Southern Kurdistan from 15th to 18th August**

### **International Days of Action of Defend Kurdistan**

Since the 1990s, Turkey regularly strikes targets in northern Iraq in its war on the Kurdish people. The Turkish army repeatedly advances into Iraqi territory, attacks guerrilla troops in the mountains, and bombards areas along the border, severely restricting the lives of the civilian population. Since the dialogue between Turkey and the PKK broke off in 2015, the war in Kurdistan has further intensified. At least 100 civilians have lost their lives in air raids, and Turkey continuously expands the area it occupies. This is evidenced by the 87 Turkish military bases on Iraqi territory, which are condemned by the central Government of Iraq as a violation of their sovereignty.

Turkey justifies these operations with the UN Charter's Right to Self-Defense, yet international experts agree that these attacks violate international law, a view supported even by the scientific service of Germany's Bundestag. Despite this assessment, these breaches of international law are not addressed by Germany or any other western allies. Instead, they are tolerated, as economic interests of Turkey and its NATO partners prevail.

In March 2023, for the first time in 12 years, a Turkish delegation visited the Iraqi central government in Baghdad. During this meeting, the establishment of a safety zone of 30-40 kilometers, connected to the occupied territories in northern Syria, was announced. This aims at a joint fight against the PKK and the creation of new trade routes through Iraq. An infrastructure project called the "Iraq Development Road Project" is supposed to connect the Iraqi harbor of Basra to the Turkish border, acting as an alternative to the Suez Canal and potentially making Iraq an important transit point between Asia and Europe.

In the last week of June, Turkey massively reinforced its military presence. Within a few days, 300 tanks and 15,000 troops were moved to the Barwari Bala region. This operation threatens more than 600 villages and leads to large-scale displacement of the civilian population. Especially affected are minorities, such as the population of seven Assyrian-Christian villages. At the same time, checkpoints are being constructed as if these areas were Turkish state territory. Inhabitants report receiving "Welcome to Turkey" messages on their mobile phones, even though they are far from the border.

Western media remains silent, and no condemnation of Turkey's acts of war is to be expected from Baerbock, Scholz, and others. The Turkish occupation in southern Kurdistan has been ongoing for years, but the current situation is acute. The attacks began in April, and everything points towards further intensification. This is why we call on you for days of action from the 15th to the 18th of August. Show a reaction to the ongoing attacks, take part in die-ins in public spaces, and inform the public of the achievements of the Kurdish Freedom Movement. Together, let us give a powerful answer to these attacks.

**We say: Against all Turkish occupation! Stop the attacks on Kurdistan! Down with Turkish fascism!**

P.S.: Please send pictures and videos of your actions and a short description of who did what kind of action, when, where, and why to [info@defend-kurdistan.com](mailto:info@defend-kurdistan.com) so we can use them for our media presence.

