



WAR STATISTICS 2017

2017 was a year of struggle and resistance. With its revolutionary spirit, professional military tactics, courage, willpower and strong belief, the YPJ played an active role in the struggle for humanity that was carried out against the Islamic State and made major advances. The YPJ strengthened its organisation in all areas of Syria that were liberated from Islamist mercenaries, and in its place built a system based on the idea of legitimate self-defense. As a result of this struggle the YPJ could establish itself across Northern Syria. Due to an increase in the number of women joining the YPJ, it was able to improve the quality of its work.

2017 was also the year in which the YPJ was restructured. The decision was made that all areas of Northern Syria that had been liberated would open their own autonomous headquarters. Additionally, the YPJ formed their own divisions. This gave a great amount of moral to all fighters of the YPJ. In many areas autonomous battalions were founded.

- ▶ Aside from the three cantons of Kobane, Efrin and Jazeera, battalions were created in Minbij, Shehba, Sheddadi, Tebqa, Raqqa

With the creation of those battalions, more and more Arabic women joined the YPJ. In many places educational terms for Arabic women opened. After the liberation of Minbij, many of those who were preparing for the liberation of Tebqa and Raqqa were women from Minbij. The women of Minbij played a huge part in organizing ideological, military and political educational terms.

On the night of the 24th of April 2017, the Turkish state attacked Qerecox mountain in a shameful display of cowardice. In this attack, 22 fighters lost their lives, 15 of them were with the YPJ. The women of the YPJ sought revenge against the Turkish state and their allies for this attack and we can say that the attack on Qerecox mountain only served to strengthen the commitment of the YPJ to struggle for freedom.

One of the most important steps for the YPJ in 2017 was their engagement in the Wrath Of Euphrates operation. Today this operation continues in Deir az Zor under a new name: Operation Storm of Cizire. The Wrath of Euphrates operation was led by the YPJ, YPG and SDF and began on the 6th of June 2017 and lasted until October the same year. During this operation, Islamic State, who had announced Raqqa as their capital, were broken by the strength and willpower of the SDF.

On the 19th of October 2017, the YPJ announced the liberation of Raqqa in an official statement to the general public and the women of the world. During the Wrath of Euphrates operation, one of the most valuable and sacred works the YPJ under-



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took was the liberation of Yezidi women and children. The YPJ, together with the Women's Protection Forces of Shengal YJŞ liberated hundreds of women and children from the hands of ISIS, avenging the crimes the ISIS had committed against women.

- ▶ In the year of 2017, 16.257 km² of territory was liberated from the hands of the Islamic State

In 2017 the YPJ made important steps in the field of education. In many academies YPJ fighters saw military, political and ideological education and gained important experiences. It could be said that the most important work carried out by the YPJ in 2017 was the opening of educational terms across the whole of Northern Syria. Over the course of 2017, the YPJ organised many political, ideological and military academies as well as launching the 'New Fighters' program, through which hundreds of fighters and commanders underwent education to deepen their knowledge.

In 2017 the YPJ also engaged with diplomatic efforts in Northern Syria. Building on work that had been done in previous years, efforts to build diplomatic relationships were intensified. In order to make the aims and work of the YPJ known, contact was established with other forces, organisations and individuals.

Steps were also made in the field of media work. The press office of the YPJ published information and statistics about the war that fighters of the YPJ were engaged in. The number of women engaged in this work also increased.

Without any doubt, the struggle of 2017 engendered great sacrifice. As a result of the YPJ's increased participation on all fronts of the self-defence of Northern Syria,

- ▶ 59 heroic fighters of the YPJ were martyred.