



## WAR STATISTICS 2019

The year of 2019 was a year of struggle and resistance for all the peoples in North & East Syria. After a 9 year long difficult fight full of heavy sacrifices, the struggle of the people of North & East Syria reached a new era with the defeat of the Islamic State.

During all the attacks that happened in the past year, the peoples of North & East Syria and Rojava worked to develop the revolution through the consciousness of peoples unity, under the leadership of the women of resistance. The struggle that was carried out in this year, on the basis of sister- and brotherhood between the Kurdish and Arabic people, has historical significance. As with past years, the women of resistance left their imprint on all the works, defence and achievements. Also in 2019 women took responsibilities first of all in the area of defence, the social sphere, in politics, diplomacy, culture, education and in organisational works. In order to become a force, the YPJ unified the will and voices of all women in North & East Syria in all the different defence-works into one body, thought and spirit of struggle.

The phase of defeating ISIS, which the Defence Forces started in 2018, lasted until 2019. In the last months there was heavy war. Although it was under the circumstances of winter, our fighters fought with high moral and strong commitment. In this way, they kept the promise they gave to humanity, the martyrs of freedom and to the peoples of North & East Syria.

Led by the YPJ and YPG forces, all other defence forces under the roof of the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces), carried out a heavy war against the Islamist mercenaries of ISIS within 3 months of this year. All the dirt and barbarism of ISIS was eradicated under the leadership of our avenger seeking fighters in the battle in Baghuz and Hejin. The ISIS militants who kept the world in fear and nightmares, fell when confronted with our women fighters in Baghuz. In this phase, hundreds of Ezidi women and children who had been captured by ISIS and lived for years in their enslavement were liberated.

After three months of heavy fighting, the SDF announced the defeat of ISIS on the 23rd of March in Deir ez Zor (Baghuz) with a military ceremony and published this good news to the world and the people of North & East Syria. This historical victory, which was achieved with the sacrifice of eleven thousand martyrs, was finally celebrated in all North & East Syria with great morale and celebrations. We as Women Protection Units, shared this news with the women of the world in a powerful ceremony on the 27th of March.

After the war against ISIS, the YPJ newly evaluated its organisation, education and military system in order to professionalize its defence. After 7 years of revolution, full of struggle and resistance, we held our conference on the 1st and 2nd of June. The conference's slogan was "With Leyla's spirit and Avesta's anger, we will tear down



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the occupation.” The YPJ evaluated the last 7 years of struggle at this conference. Also the constitution was updated and important decisions were made. The promise was made that the YPJ will enlarge its protection force and that it will rebuild itself newly with regards to quantity and quality, according to the need of the Revolutionary Peoples War and legitimate selfdefence. Also in this year, there was the annual meeting of the SDF where all forces that organize under the roof of SDF joined. YPJ who is a basic element of SDF joined the meeting with its autonomous identity.

In this year, one of the most strategic works was education. Fighters as well as commanders saw education in gender-mixed academies as well as in autonomous women’s academies such as Martyr Dilan and Martyr Rojda Academy. There, they received ideological and military education. Also in the academies of the different branches, successful graduations happened. 10s of educational courses of the New Fighters program have been successfully accomplished at the Martyr Bêrîvan, Martyr Hebûn Enteriyê and Martyr Sadiq Academies. After their graduation the fighters started practical work. The education given on the basis of war tactics, values in daily life, self-defence and how to organise together; played a major role in the practice of every fighter to bring forward our struggle and increase our resistance.

In order to fulfil their plan of genocide and demographic change, the Turkish state together with its Islamist mercenaries and allies, started a big manoeuvre of occupation on the 9th of October. This day has special historical meaning for the peoples of North & East Syria, the women and especially for the Kurdish people. At the very beginning of the occupation, the Turkish state and its mercenaries were targeting revolutionary women with brutal attacks. Once again their true face of fascism and enemy to the people was visible in front of the eyes of the whole world. Against these attacks of the Turkish state an epic resistance was carried out, especially in Serekaniye, Gire Spi and all of North & East Syria. This resistance is continuing until today.

The Turkish army with all its tanks, bombs and drones aimed to eradicate the will and belief of the people who had grown with the feelings of revolutionary life. Against this murderous plan however, the Resistance of Dignity with persons like Hervin Xelef, Dayika Eqide, Amara and hundreds of martyrs, wrote its name with golden letters on the pages of history, of humanity. They became symbols and heroes. In the resistance of the cities of Serekaniye and Gire Spi as well as the Euphrates Region, our fighters showed a great willingness to sacrifice against the occupation of the Turkish state and their Islamist allies. In order to thwart the attack of occupation by the Turkish state, they used their bodies as a living shield to protect the people in every street and in every front line without any hesitation. The struggle against the Turkish occupation that our fighters and the peoples of North & East Syria have started will continue in the framework of the Revolutionary Peoples War on every front line.



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The bravery and the resistance of our forces brought the agenda of women to the world. Women understood the occupation of the women and people in North & East Syria as an attack on themselves. This is why all streets and squares of the world became witnesses of the anger and rage of women. They saw the occupation here as an occupation against themselves and this is why they support the women of Rojava with various different actions expressing their anger.

For all the people in North & East Syria, Rojava and especially for women, the year of 2019 became a year of bidding farewell to our fallen friends who sacrificed their life in the Resistance of Dignity. In the last 9 years of our struggle thousands of lives were given and still sacrifices are made to protect the achievements of the revolution. Thanks to the heroes of today, the struggle for freedom of the people of North & East Syria and Western Kurdistan has reached a new level. As a result of war, fighting and resistance, our forces showed a great willingness to sacrifice. On this basis;

- ▶ In Deir-er-Zor, in the step of defeating ISIS, our forces participated with great commitment, like our fallen comrades Amara and Güneş
- ▶ In the operation defeating ISIS, 52 yezidi women and 178 yezidi children were liberated by our forces and our allies within SDF
- ▶ Next to this, hundreds of women and families have been rescued from the hands of ISIS
- ▶ After our second conference of YPJ 10s of educational courses were completed successfully within the framework of restructuring our forces
- ▶ With great morale and high commitment our forces took part in all front-lines from the 9th of October until today defending our dignity
- ▶ In the operation to defeat ISIS and the Resistance of Dignity, 72 of our fighters were martyred
- ▶ As a result of the attacks of the Turkish state, 3 of our fighters fell into the hands of Turkish soldiers and their Islamist mercenaries

It was a year full of struggle and resistance that brought forward the peoples revolution for freedom. We, as Women's Protection Units, are preparing ourselves for the tasks and duties of the upcoming year of 2020 in order to develop even more and be ready for the ongoing war. For the dignity of all humanity and the protection of women our struggle for freedom will put the dreams of our martyrs into practice. This will be the aim of our struggle in the next year. In order to save the values of humanity and defend women, we will bring our struggle to victory!

**YPJ Press Center  
05.01.2020**