



STATEMENT ON THE LIBERATION OF BAGHOUZ

In the name of the General Command of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ), we celebrate a historic victory. After a 5 year long struggle, we achieved the end of the barbaric organisation calling itself "the Islamic State".

Our fight to liberate our land from the hands of ISIS began in 2014 in Jeza. Step by step it spread far across the region until we the flag of victory was raised in Baghouz on the 23 March 2019.

From the beginning of 2012, our units had already been in a constant struggle in resistance against the brutal forces of islamist mercenaries whose aim was to spread their dictatorship on our land, holding us hostage, as women and all the peoples. At the same time, we were fighting the porxy forces of regional powers that helped groups like ISIS come to power. Although we were still a fledgling organisation, we established ourselves as the vanguard. As women's forces, we took our place on all the front lines, standing strong in the face of any attacks. We swore to fulfill our duty of protecting our dignity and bringing to life the social values that we stand for.

In 2014, we came under attack from an organisation that whole world recognised as the most barbaric and brutal force. Nonetheless, Kobane was the beginning of the end for ISIS, thanks to a historic resistance effort, and the exemplary self sacrifice showed by our Comrades Arin and Revan and hundreds of other women fighters.

This struggle was not just for this region, but the front line of defence for the whole world. It became a struggle that stood for women's global struggle. The concept of legitimate self defence, and the principles of Democratic Nation, were the beating heart of the resistance.

One of the most key elements in defeating ISIS was the power of women's unity that the YPJ forged in the fire of front line struggle. This unity was built between Kurdish, Arab, Turkmen, Assyrian, Circassian, Suryoye and Armenian women. This unity became an inspiration to the women of the world. From different countries hundres of revolutionary women came and joined the women's revolution. With the dedication of our fallen comrades Helin from England, Ivana form Germany, Legerin from Argentina, Deniz from Turkey and our Turkmen Comrade Destan, the womens revolution in North and East Syria was crowned a world women's revolution.



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On the 3rd of August 2014 the ISIS carried out the most barbaric attack on our Ezidi people. As a result of this thousands of Ezidi women were murdered and abducted. As the YPJ, commanders and fighters, we went to Sinjar to protect our people. We defended them and swore to liberate those who had fallen into the hands of ISIS. Step by step we are fulfilling our promise. So far we were able to liberate more than 600 women and children from the hands of ISIS.

The victory over ISIS was achieved with the selflessness, fidelity, commitment, belief, determination and hope of thousands of our martyrs. We remember our comrades like Jînda, Şevîn, Bêrîvan, Silava, Barîn, Avesta, Amargî, Agirîn, Sozdar, Roksan, Bêrîtan Erebe and hundreds more with the deepest respect. In the battles of the last years 752 of our fighters were martyred. Furthermore there are three thousand wounded or disabled comrades who were injured in order to bring about the victory: known as living martyrs. As well as our fighters hundreds of civilians were martyred in this period.

In this phase of liberating our land, the YPJ as a vanguard force within the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) liberated 52 thousand km² and almost 5 million people in North and East Syria. We want to thank all the women around the world who stood in solidarity with us; all our military forces who fought with us shoulder to shoulder against ISIS; and we also thank the International Coalition.

From the beginning of this revolution until today, we as the YPJ have carried the important duty and mission of defending women, society, the land and all achievements of the revolution. From now on we will be the force guaranteeing the protection of the autonomous women's system and the values of the women's revolution. We will defend our people against all attacks from outside and inside.

Once again, we want to emphasize that we will destroy all sleeper cells of ISIS that are still operating in North and East Syria. Our struggle will continue until we can guarantee security and peace in our region. In the upcoming time, our fight against all jihadist mercenaries and those who are holding Afrin occupied will continue. We will working relentlessly to liberate Afrin. Liberating Afrin is a moral imperative for us that our conscience will not rest until we have achieved.

We promise to all our fallen comrades, like Barin, Amargi and Avesta, that we will liberate Afrin. With all this in mind, we congratulate all women and peoples for this historic victory over ISIS and dedicate it to all our martyrs and the mothers of the martyrs. From now on we, as the YPJ, will be the vanguard in our duties to our land and in defence of all women.