



YPJ Information & Documentation Office



**Turkish war crimes in North-East
Syria: drone attacks on civilian
gatherings at Tishreen dam**

17. - 23. January 2025

Targeting civilian protests at Tishreen dam

TISHREEN DAM

On the 27th November 2024 the jihadist militia Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and its allies began an offensive against the Bashar al-Assad regime, which was to end its reign and significantly change power dynamics in the Middle East. Simultaneously Turkey and its mercenary army, the Syrian National Army (SNA), began an offensive against the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) and its peoples. They began by invading the Shehba canton, forcefully displacing an estimated 150,000 people. Shortly after they besieged the Manbij canton, just west of the Euphrates river. This occupational war, that has been going on for over 55 days as of date, has seen war crimes such as targeting Tishreen dam itself, posing a great danger to the region and beyond.



The Tishreen Dam, located east of Aleppo on the Euphrates River, is part of the vital civil infrastructure in North and East Syria. The dam provides around one million people with agricultural, water and electricity needs. Turkey has been bombing its vicinity since the 9th December 2024 nearly on a daily basis with drones and occasionally with warplanes. If the Tishreen Dam, which

holds 2 billion cubic meters of water, collapses, the dam will spill into the Euphrates River. Even under the precautionary measure of opening all river gates, the level of water will reach 16 billion cubic meters, far exceeding the river beds, meaning it will flood the surrounding areas. The consequences of the flooding would reach as far as Raqqa and possible even Iraq.

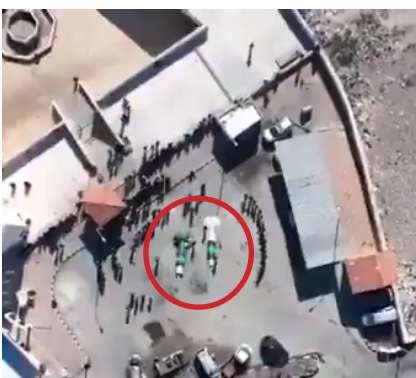
PEOPLES VIGIL AT TISHREEN DAM

As a response to these heinous attacks, the people of North-East Syria began protesting the bombing of the dam in order to protect their livelihoods. Since the 8th the people have been holding a vigil at Tishreen dam, with every few days convoys departing and newly arriving. Turkey has not stopped attacking the civilians, consciously targeting these despite clearly showing as civilian gatherings.

While the Turkish state continued its attacks on the dam itself, it overall attacked the civilian convoy and gatherings as of date 17 times - 6 times drones were bombing civilians on the dam and 11 times civilians were targeted gathering nearby or being en route. The attacks are times being accompanied by shelling on the ground from SNA militias. We previously reported on the attacks that took place on 8th, 15th and 16th January 2025. Since then, the following attacks have taken place:

- On 18.01.2024 Turkish drones attacked a gathering at Tishreen dam martyring 7 civilians and injuring 68.
An ambulance transporting injured civilians to the hospital was also targeted near the Tishreen dam vicinity, destroying it.
- On 21.01.2025 Turkish drones targeted civilians while they were dancing on Tishreen dam. The attack led to 2 civilians being martyred and 63 being injured.
- On 22.01.2025 a Turkish drone attacked again the civilian gathering on the dam, resulting in 1 civilian being martyred and 19 being injured.

Since the 8th January 2025, overall 203 civilians have been injured in attacks on Tishreen dam, including health workers and journalists, and 22 civilians have been martyred. Turkey has been conducting several war crimes - targeting civilians, targeting health workers and targeting journalists. The Turkish state continues to act with impunity among the international community. SDF further obtained footage from a Turkish drone. showing that Turkish Armed Forces are operating drones from a base on Syrian territory.





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