

***In 2012, from within the civil war of Syria, emerged Rojava.  
Today, they need our solidarity more than ever.***

The Kurdish movement in Rojava, Northern Syria, took an opportunity to assert their autonomy and put into practice ideas of a free society based upon women's liberation, ecology and a council-driven horizontally democratic system of local communes. Although the revolution was in part the assertion of a once criminalized Kurdish identity, it was also a proposal for the rest of us who are tired of feeling powerless in the face of modern capitalist society and under the rule of nationalist states.

Shortly after Rojava declared it's autonomy from the Syrian Regime it came under attack from the Islamic State. The volunteer based Kurdish People's Protection Units, the YPG, and its all-woman counterpart the YPJ defended their revolution at all costs in epic battles epitomized by the fight to defend the city of Kobane. In their fight against ISIS, the Kurdish movement in Rojava has had to play a delicate game of uneasy alliances, negotiating air support and weapons from both the US and Russia while maintaining an uneasy stalemate with Syria's Assad Regime.

To the north of Syria, the modern Turkish State was founded on the brutal assimilation of the diverse peoples within it's borders. Those who resisted being assimilated into a Sunni Muslim ethnic Turkishness were repressed at all costs. Those who fought back the hardest were the Kurds enclosed within Turkey's southeast borders with Syria, Iraq and Iran. And for nearly 40 years the Kurdish movement in Turkey has been waging a struggle of existence through both an armed insurgency as well as by forming numerous political parties trying to have a voice within the Turkish parliament.

Turkey's authoritarian president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who fancies himself the next Sultan of the Middle-East, consolidated his power partially under the guise of being a peacemaker and resolving the Kurdish conflict. But he has turned out to be the most brutal Turkish leader yet. His government has trained Islamists in safe havens within Turkey before equipping them and sending them across the border to fight the Kurds. In the midst of conducting a proxy war in Syria, Erdogan conducted a war against his own Kurdish population 2 years ago committing massacres and destroying entire towns.

Last Friday, Turkey launched an operation into the western territory of Rojava called Afrin. It has used dozens of warplanes to attack YPG and YPJ positions as well as targeted villages where there are only civilians. Now that ISIS has been defeated in Syria, Russia and the US have left the Kurdish fighters on their own. An attack on Afrin, on it's people and it's defense forces the YPG and YPJ is an attack on the Rojava Revolution. Don't let this revolution fade into history, show your solidarity and support with the Kurdish fighters defending their autonomy.

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