

Commemorative actions to mark the 5th anniversary of the Suruç massacre



Five years have passed since the Suruç massacre, in which 33 people were murdered who came to Suruç with the slogan „We defended Kobanê together, we are rebuilding it together“ to rebuild the city of Kobanê. Every year on the anniversary of the massacre, comrades, families and youth organizations increased the fight for justice and with each year the anger over the massacre has grown. With this year’s campaigns it was once again proven that it is possible to defeat fascism.

On the 5th anniversary of the Suruç massacre, the blockade of the fascist state terror was broken and the spirit of anti-fascist resistance by the 33 dream followers was carried into the streets and onto the public places despite all state repression. In many cities in Turkey, northern Kurdistan, Rojavas and Europe grave visits, demonstrations, commemoration ceremonies and rallies.

In the run-up to the anniversary, there were also various actions and events. The Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF) organized a month-long campaign with the slogan “Justice for Suruç, Justice for All”. Together with many other youth organizations, SGDF called for rallies on the evening of July 20th. In many cities, the anti-fascist youth organizations have mobilized together and made significant resistance to the fascist state terror.

All of the actions surrounding the anniversary of the Suruç massacre made three things clear: The actions have shown that not even the most brutal attacks by fascism cannot stop the masses. Revolutionaries have shown which path to take

against fascism. And the thought, „Resistance is futile“ has been defeated one more time.



Already in the run-up to the anniversary, anarchist, socialist, democratic, autonomous, in short, anti-fascist youth organizations have mobilized together for the commemorative demonstrations with leaflet campaigns and human chains.



On July 18, 20 people were arrested during a leaflet campaign in Istanbul.



At several rallies, the fight for justice for Suruç was declared a fight for all: justice was demanded for the murder of Nurcan Aslan and all feminicides, for Berkin Elvan and all Gezi martyrs and all children murdered by state violence, for Hande Kader and all murdered trans-activists, for Hasan Oğuz and all workers who lost their lives due to labor murders, for Hrant Dink and all Armenians, for Kadri Bağdu, for Rabia Naz, for Ebru and Aytaç as well as for all hunger-striking lawyers.



The Suruç family initiative organized a "Justice Panel" to discuss the struggle for justice.

In front of the office of the new Future Party (Gelecek Partisi), which was founded by former Prime Minister and AKP leader Ahmet Davutoğlu, rallies were organized asking Davutoğlu to confess to the Suruç, Amed and Ankara massacres. Davutoğlu was in office during the three bombings and had hinted at government responsibility for the massacre. In Istanbul and Ankara, family members of martyrs and survivors of the Suruç massacre have brought charges against Davutoğlu.

On July 18, 2020 lawyers from the Platform Justice for Suruç published a dossier detailing the state involvement in the massacre. In a press conference in the Urfa Bar Association, lawyers presented numerous trial examples proving that there are no legal omissions, but deliberate attempts to cover up the state's responsibility in the massacre.



The Suruç family members' initiative sent cards to Suruç's family members, wounded and lawyers who are in prison.

In a series of events and panel discussions, survivors spoke about the importance of the massacre. Several women's organizations commemorated the women who lost their lives in Suruç. Women have launched balloons and kites in the air with the names of the fallen.

Trees were planted in memory of the fallen from Suruç at the Middle East Technical University and in Kadiköy.



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July 20, 2020

On July 20 at 11:50 a.m., throughout Turkey and Northern Kurdistan commemoration ceremonies were organized at the graves of the martyrs of Suruç.



A commemoration ceremony was held at the Amara Cultural Center at 11.50 a.m. at the place of the massacre. The oak tree that was on fire after the massacre and had become a symbol had been felled by the police after the massacre. The police used the pictures of the fallen at the memorial event as a pretext to ban the ceremony, then intervened and tore up several of the pictures. The participants resisted and realized the ceremony.



The police attacked a rally in Findikli on the Black Sea coast. The rally that took place outside the ESP office continued despite police intervention, with resistance to police attempts to arrest participants. Slogans against fascism were shouted out and a commemoration ceremony was organized.



In numerous other cities such as Samsun, Bodrum, Amed, Hatay, Çanakkale, Mersin, Eskişehir, Dersim, Antalya, Aydın, Didim and Adana, demands for justice were made at rallies and in commemorative ceremonies.



In the speeches it was said „we will always fight for peoples' brotherhood and say: the only way is the revolution“.

There were also several commemorative ceremonies and actions in memory of Suruç in northern and eastern Syria. Commemorative events were organized in Qamishlo, Haseke, Kobanê and Dirbêsiyê.



The Revolutionary Communist Youth (CKŞ) mobilized in various cities for July 20, organized a demonstration in Kobanê, a football match and events for refugee children.



The Şehit Alişêr Deniz Brigade fighters organized a military ceremony on the anniversary of the Rojava Revolution on July 19 and the anniversary of the Suruç massacre on July 20. At the commemoration, the fighters promised to make the dreams of the fallen of Suruç and the dreams of the revolution come true.



In Europe there were also rallies, demonstrations and commemorative ceremonies in Paris, London, Dundee, Creil, Cologne, Berlin, Hamburg, Nuremberg, Kiel, Stuttgart, Duisburg, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Ulm, Brussels, Vienna, Zurich, Basel and The Hague.



*Demonstrations by youth organizations on the evening of July 20
Ankara*

In Ankara, the youth demonstration was attacked by the police, and 28 young people were arrested. The activists were attacked at Güvenpark. The ESP office in Ankara was besieged by the police.



Izmir

In Izmir, youth organizations have called for a memorial to the 33 dream travelers at the Türkan Saylan Cultural Center.



Istanbul

The demonstration by youth organizations calling for Mehmet Ayvalıtaş Park in Kadıköy was attacked. 51 young people were taken into custody. Four lawyers who tried to speak to the detainees were also violently taken away by the police. Despite the police attacks, the demonstration was carried out and the slogans „Justice for Suruç, Justice for All“ and „No Forgiveness, No Forgetting“ were heard in the streets of Kadıköy.

The Suruç family initiative and youth organizations launched a rally against the police on July 21, announcing that the fight for justice will continue more than ever.

