



FROM ROJAVA TO IRAN: A WOMEN'S REVOLUTION IN THE MAKING

From Iranian occupied Eastern Kurdistan to Southern Kurdistan, strangled by corruption and Turkish invasion, from Rojava, constantly under attack, to the total encirclement of Kurdish society in Bakûr (Northern Kurdistan) by the fascist Turkish state, the various attacks on Kurdish society continue in order to achieve the common goal of the occupying states of Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria: The disappearance of the Kurdish identity and of any desire for political and cultural autonomy.

When Jina Amini, a 22 year old Kurdish women was killed by the Iranian morality police on September 16 in Tehran, a wave of protests swept through the country, spreading from the Kurdish city of Shino to all provinces and major cities. The protests were quickly met with violent attacks by the regimes security forces and denounced as fueled by separatists. Despite the killings of hundreds of protesters and thousands of arrests the protests are ongoing and even spread to regime strongholds like Qom and Mahsad. Students and Professor are on strike, doctors and even religious students formally declared their support for the protests.

Young women are leading the protests, fearless & determined to end the oppression of women that has been strangling society, especially since the so called Islamic Revolution of 1979. They call for a life free from oppression by patriarchy, the state and religion: Jin, Jiyan, Azadî!

The slogan “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî” quickly was taken as one of the leading chants on the streets from East Kurdistan's Sine to Tehran, from Loristan in the West to occupied Baluchistan in the very East. The slogan translated to “Women, Life, Freedom”, stemmed from Abdullah Ocalan, who designated women's liberation as the very base of societal freedom and called on the Kurdish women to spread it into all corners of the world. In Rojava we can see how this idea translates into an egalitarian society. The Women's Movement was at the very forefront of defending the societies against the evils of Daesh and Turkish Fascism; it gave huge efforts in empowering women to take their place in the very center of society.

What we see in Iran now, what we see in Rojhilat (Eastern Kurdistan) is an uprising for women's liberation but it is also a uprising for the recognition of universal rights and liberties of oppressed people. Kurds, Azeris, Balochs and other ethnic minorities raise their voice to End the regime and are joined by young Iranians.

The difference between the uprising following the death of Jina and previous uprisings lays in the fact that the issue of mandatory hijab laws and the despise for the regime's morality police are shared by most Iranians. In practically all cities and now also schools and universities, the people chanting “Death to the dictator!” and “Down with the Islamic Republic”. The protest are clearly a revolt against the establishment and their police forces. The hate towards all regime structures has united different ethnicities, classes and cultures and maybe for the first time ever Iranians showed solidarity for the killing of a Kurdish women. While there was not many visible sympathy for previous victims of feminicides and denouncement of the constant violent oppression of the people in the militarized East-Kurdistan region, the uprisings of the last weeks bare the chance for Iranians to learn about the struggle of the Kurdish people under Iranian occupation and develop a honest solidarity towards them.



The reactions from the rest of the world on the other hand are split between those falling into the old mantra of solely blaming religion and those that try to negate any existence of a connection between religion & politics. But what they share is the silencing of Kurdish voices; even going so far to completely hide the fact that Jina was Kurdish. Politicians like those of the German CSU who printed "Jin Jiyan Azadî" on posters, ostensibly to show solidarity with the protests in Iran, are the same ones responsible for the murder of vanguards of the Kurdish women's movement in Rojava, which is constantly targeted by Turkish drone terror. Without political support, arms-supplies and transfer of technology the murders of Jiyar Tolhildan or Zeyneb Mihemed would have not happened.

After two weeks of protests, forces of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps launched attacks on facilities of Eastern Kurdish Parties in Southern Kurdistan and civilian settlements. Due to attacks with dozens of Rockets and suicide drones at least 14 were killed, and 58 injured, a lot of them inhabitants of a camp for refugees from eastern Kurdistan. Some days later more than 50 protesters were shot by security forces during a demonstration in the Baluchistan region. Despite the massive violence protests are continuing.

The regime is unlikely to fall in the next few days or weeks, but it will be more controversial than ever, as the Islamic Republic has lost a lot of legitimacy. The change, for democratization of Iran and autonomy for Rojhilat, of Baluchistan and Loristan is on the horizon.

In the coming days we will likely see the regime turn to a even more bloody approach while limiting the possibility to communicate by cutting the internet. The youth on the streets of Shino, of Sine and Tehran have repeatedly called on the world to be their voice.

We join their call and encourage everyone to seek for what is behind the "Jin Jiyan Azadî" slogan, take up the struggle against patriarchy, fascism and the state and build a better world on the base of what we can see today in Rojava: Create two, three, many women's revolutions!

04.10.2022

RISEUP4ROJAVA
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

JÎNA MAHSA AMINI