

Situational update from Rojava:

Clashes between the SDF and the SNA took place west of the Euphrates on the night of December 4 to Thursday, December 5. Several sources speak of advances and territorial gains for the SDF. The area lies south of the Minbic region. In recent days, both Turkish media and the SNA have announced their intention to advance on Minbic. The first attempts were successfully repelled in the last few days. In addition to Minbic, the symbolic town of Kobane, which is close to the border, could also be in Turkey's sights.

It is not only in the Euphrates region that the Turkish state attacks the Self-Administration on a daily basis. On December 4, an Arab youth, Ebdullah Elî El Ehmed, and a Kurdish youth, Enas Temam Mihemed, were killed in a drone strike in the small town of Dêrik in the east of the Self-Administration. Both were sitting in the evening sun at a car wash in the city center when the rocket hit. Today, December 5, both were buried in Derik under huge public attendance.

Meanwhile, more than 100,000 people have fled from the SNA-occupied Shehba to the Self-Administration areas further east. In the middle of winter, people have lost their homes and at least one child has already frozen to death. While the de facto war situation persists, the Self-Administration is trying its best to provide for the people. The population is called upon to show initiative and take in the people. The Kurdish Red Crescent, Heyva Sor, is collecting donations internationally.

In the Shehba region, which is now occupied and controlled by Turkish-led jihadists, around 15,000 people have been banned from fleeing to the Areas of the Self-Administration. There are reports that young men are being pulled out of cars on the grounds that they could be fighters. The SDF announced that an entire car convoy of over 100 vehicles was hijacked by refugees today, December 5. There is great fear that people, especially women, will be tortured and enslaved, just like under ISIS.

After days of fighting in the city of Hama, it has now fallen into the hands of the Islamist militia HTS. Shortly after the withdrawal of the Assad regime's troops, HTS announced that it would now start the "March on Homs", which is the last city before the Syrian capital Damascus. A spokesman for the KCK (Union of Communities of Kurdistan), Zagros Hiwa, warns of NATO's possible plan to divide Syria into three parts. This would mean that there would be a Kurdish part, a Sunni part under the control of the HTS and an Alevi part under the control of Assad.

It is still difficult to predict what the future of Syria and large parts of the Middle East will look like. As in the self-administrated district of Sheikh Maqsood in northern Aleppo, which is holding out despite the most adverse conditions, old and young are preparing for resistance in all the towns and villages of the Self-Administration. Even though Shehba has been occupied, it is clear to everyone that no one will leave the field without a fight. The images of demonstrations and actions all over the world also reaffirm to people here that Rojava and the Self-Administration will be defended everywhere in the world.

#Riseup4Rojava
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