

[English] Speeches of the demonstration: We see your crimes - Stand against chemical weapons in Iran and Kurdistan

German: https://notes.climatejustice.events/s/6H0_p0MM#

Speeches

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Kurdish Community

Dear passers-by,

We are in a time, in which the inflation, the rising prices, the permanent reporting about the war in Ukraine makes us more and more dull. Making us forget more and more that there are far more problems and wars in this world. It has made us forget that in the shadow of all these grievances, war is being waged by a NATO partner for whose purposes our federal government approves arms exports. Especially in the context of Corona, there has been a lot of talk about solidarity in recent years, I would now like to ask you to show solidarity with the people who, unlike us, are in a situation over whose heads, hourly killer drones of the NATO partner Turkey are circling. Whose children are exposed to torture and abuse in Turkish prisons. Let's talk about the 18,000 demonstrators who are subjected to systematic torture in Iranian prisons, Let's talk about the imprisoned women who are subjected to brutal gang rape every day. Let's talk about the children being run over by Turkish tanks in Kurdish villages. Let's talk about the 63 children murdered in the open streets by the Iranian regime, whose parents still wait with a longing for their children to come home from school.

And let us now take a look at our own situation and realize that we have a great responsibility. Because we have to be aware and clear that we can only be quiet when children are sleeping, but not when they are shouting "Jin Jiyan Azadi" with their quiet voice and because of that they are murdered by the NATO partner Turkey with killer drones or executed by the Iranian regime.

We are here in the streets today with different organizations because there is war in Kurdistan. Kurdistan - the land that decades ago was divided with a ruler between Syria, Iran, Iraq and Turkey, an area whose wounds still have not healed. Since April 2022, the dictator Erdogan has been waging a war in Southern Kurdistan-Northern Iraq in violation of international law. Erdogan is trying to occupy the area, ethnically cleanse it and thus "Turkify it, and establish Islam as the state religion"

The fact that the Turkish military is no longer afraid of anything and is not afraid of consequences can be seen in the fact alone that poison gas has been used there for months. The use of these banned and internationally outlawed weapons has been reported for months, but no international organization has set out to investigate the incidents, let alone has any state so far agreed to sanction Turkey for it. Even the OPCW, the organization responsible for ensuring compliance with the ban on chemical weapons, remains silent on the allegations and inactive. This silence encourages the Turkish state to continue its war crimes. We are standing here today and just reading out that chemical weapons are being used there leaves such a pain that is indescribable. Because we are the relatives of those whose bodies cramped when they inhaled the gas. We are the relatives of those whose body names were desecrated and dismembered, whose body names we will never receive again. And yet here we are, yet here we are, making this

speech, shouting very loudly that we want peace at last. Because we don't want this pain to be felt by even one more person. Because we know this pain all too well!

But we see that every peace sign of us, with a further war crime is answered.

Because the fact that Erdogan does not get any headwind on the international level has motivated him to launch another invasion in the night of November 19 to November 20. This time on the self-government areas of northern and eastern Syria. The air operation, which will probably soon be supplemented by a ground offensive, has already caused massive damage to civil society. For example, 40 people have been killed so far. Critical infrastructure is being targeted for destruction, including a Covid hospital, grain silos, gas stations, schools, etc. Several villages and towns have since suffered from lack of electricity and gas. These are attacks on critical infrastructure, hardly any village has been spared from these bombings.

And as if that were not devastating enough, the Turkish state is now targeting the security forces of the camps where former IS fighters are being held. This is an attempt to revive the IS so that it does the "dirty work" for the Turkish regime. The fact that the IS is returning with its thousands of terrorists still active and taking the revenge it has vowed is no longer a horror story that people tell each other. It has become a reality that we will all face sooner or later. But again, it should be emphasized that IS has long been active under the flag of NATO, that is, Turkey. This shows us the cruel pictures and videos from the areas occupied by the Turkish army in Afrin and Rojava, also there we have seen the same cruel executions and the forced Turkishization and the forced Islamization.

But it is not only the Turkish state that is waging war in Kurdistan right now. The Iranian state is also waging war against society in Eastern Kurdistan and Iran. Since Jina's death on September 16, people-especially women-and even three-year-old children have taken to the streets hand in hand without interruption. Although hundreds have already been killed by the Iranian regime, 18,000 are threatened with death by execution, and although the danger grows every day, they take to the streets uninterruptedly and with an even more determined attitude and voice.

And why, why all this courage when death is so close? Because it is about much more than women's hair. It is a struggle and revolt of women against oppression! Also it is a fight of the oppressed peoples, like the Kurds, Loren, Turkmen and Baluch, for their existence! In Iran, the struggle is not to change a few laws or to gain rights, it is to smash a regime whose existence is based on murdering women, recognizing child marriages as legitimate, oppressing minorities, and fomenting hatred and racism in society!

But why is this relevant for us? Why should this war concern us here in Germany? One of the most important political, as well as economic partners of Iran and Turkey is the Federal Republic of Germany. Our policy carries this war with! The voices of the nearly 1.5 million Kurds living in Germany and the more than 100,000 Iranians remain unheard by our politics. We are on the streets because we want to show the Turkish and Iranian state that they cannot commit their crimes unpunished. We see their crimes and we make sure that they are condemned. But at the same time, we also see the complicity that Germany bears because of its policies. It supports this war by not intervening through sanctions or diplomatic means. To remain silent is to actively bear complicity.

That is why we are here in the streets today, while at the same time other actions are taking place around the world to oppose these attacks that violate international law! The war starts here, let's end it here too!

For international solidarity!

Jin Jiyān Azādī

BiPoC+ Feminismen*

Solidarity and power: to the women of Iran! Solidarity and power: to the women in Kurdistan!

My friends, these women are making a mark right now! They are changing history! HERstory instead of HISStory!

Because this revolution, my friends, is a feminist revolution! World history is written by those "female revolutionaries"!

Glory and feminist power to the people! Solidarity and power to the women who changed the narrative: Instead of secondary narratives and objects, they became protagonists and subjects!

Listen to them: Jin Jiyān Azādī! Women, Life, Freedom! Women Life Freedom!

This slogan is Kurdish and has its origin in the Kurdish freedom movement, especially to the women's freedom movement and their fight for their self-determination. The protests, which have now spread across Iran, were already strong in Kurdistan. Because, as known from their history, they are forced to mobilize again and again to show resistance, to fight for their existence and freedom! We see that the Kurdish slogan Jin Jiyan Azadi unites the fight of women worldwide. United to resist Islamism wherever it takes place, whether in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan or anywhere else! Their fight is a fight for freedom! We must not trivialize a dangerous, inhuman ideology like Islamism! Especially because it is a global problem! Trivializing its existence only strengthens Islamism while allowing them to evade any responsibility.

The protest highlights how a Kurdish woman Jina Amini was murdered due to the intersections she faced in Iran: ethnic-Kurdish and woman. A gendered racism! Sarcasm: Yes, women die from racism too, and yes, even in PoC countries! (PoC: People of Color). Anti-Kurdish racism is lived daily in Iran, in Turkey and also in Germany! Kurdish people are not safe! Not even in Germany! The fear of re-traumatization, the fear of trivializing this danger is always there, even in Germany!

Solidarity and power to the women who face these challenges every day. Now, save your tears! Because they don't need that! They remain unwavering and are not afraid to stand up for their rights!

Their courage scares the Islamist regime! The regime speaks of a "religious end time". Because the next ones are them, the Islamist regime, and also any oppressors. No matter what kind of oppressor, they are next!

The revolution is a feminist revolution. How often do we not know about the stories of women who died during revolutions while they were fighting alongside men: they were beaten, shot or sexually assaulted. And, afterwards only realizing that they remain oppressed by patriarchal structures.

But look at them now, they are not afraid! Solidarity to the women of Iran who are burning their hijabs and thus, setting our imaginations on fire! Feminists' hearts around the world are on fire with you!

In Iran, the hijab is a tool of the Islamist patriarchal regime! Unlike in Germany, where hijabis are forced to take off their hijabs. Whoever makes differences here on the question of self-determination is not part of our global feminist struggle. Self-determination means self-determination, and not heteronomy (external determination)! Generalizing Muslims with an Islamist ideology is nothing else than anti-muslim racism! How wrong is it that German Hijabis are afraid to go to protests because of racist violence! So, fuck your colonial-Alice-Schwarzer mindset! (Alice Schwarzer: a second wave feminist who uses anti-muslim rhetoric). And fuck your White Saviourism! No anti-racism without decolonization! No freedom without intersectionality!

Feminism means freedom! Everyone who falls under the grid of the regime are currently diversified and represented in the protests: women who are deprived of their rights, LGBTQ+ people and minorities: Kurdish people or Baloch people.

Only when they are free, then we are all free! Only when women are free too, then we are all free! Only when LGBTQ+ people are free, too, then we are free! Only when Kurdish people are free, too, then we are all free! Only when Baloch people are also free, too, then we are all free!

An Islamist patriarchal regime CAN ONLY be overcome through an intersectional feminist fight! If we want to overthrow Islamist regimes, then learn from the generational knowledge of minorities, e.g. from the Kurdish people instead of lecturing or patronizing them!

Women Life Freedom! Jin Jiyan Azadi!

Women Defend Rojava & Gemeinsam Kämpfen

Dear friends, dear passers-by, in Rojava, drones, poison gas and bombs have been killing for months and years, but since two weeks the Turkish state escalates this violence to a new level, now the invasion of ground troops is imminent. While Turkish bombs kill civilians and try to liberate fighters of the so-called Islamic State, the FRG supports Turkey with weapons, knowledge and personnel and contributes decisively to the fact that Erdogan on his sinking ship just nevertheless throws fascism back to Rojava.

The liberation from the so-called Islamic State seven years ago, the building of all self-governing structures and the development of feminist, ecological and socialist values in the region are the expression of a revolution, which is

not only the result of a revolution, but also of a revolution. The liberation from the so-called Islamic State seven years ago and the development of all self-governing structures and feminist, ecological, socialist values in the region are the expression of a revolution that gives hope to democratic forces all over the world. The friends in Rojava show us: Struggling movements release so much beauty and life that we can hardly imagine in our everyday life. But they also show how dangerous it is for fascist nation states like Turkey when people help themselves to their freedom: so dangerous that since April of this year the fighting Freund*innen in the free mountains in the Turkish “operation claw sword” with poison gas are attacked and murdered. The chemical warfare agents that are being used are prohibited under international law. Not only that: the FRG is an accomplice in the use of chemical weapons and has been for decades.

Under the Iraqi Ba’ath regime of Saddam Hussein, there were genocidal operations on the Kurdish people between 1986 and 1989. As part of these operations, there were 87! Gift gas attacks on Kurdish villages. Among others, the city of Halabja was attacked - between 3200 and 5000 people died in the poison gas attack on Halabja. It was the worst use of poison gas since the end of the First World War. German companies had supplied Iraq with equipment and supplies since the early 1980s, the only way Iraq could produce chemical warfare agents. However, the German government did not want to know anything about this, so they did not tighten the relevant foreign trade laws until much later. According to estimates, 60 percent of Iraq’s gas was produced with German technology! The German state produces and supplies, the responsible Politiker*innen want to deny thereby their complicity. Over the last years until today the Turkish state uses chemical weapons. Since April the Turkish military systematically uses poison gas against the guerrilla forces in the mountains of Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq). The International Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, OPCW, could investigate this - if a request were made by one of its nearly 200 member states to do so. The German state does not make such a request and thus remains an accomplice! Turkey has been attacking the self-government of northern and eastern Syria with drones for a long time. Since the night of 19 to 20.11., however, Turkey escalates and has launched massive air strikes. These are to be seen as the first step in a war of aggression with ground invasion. This is also illegal under international law. Turkey is killing civilians and bombing targeted civilian infrastructure: water, food, and energy supplies are destroyed, as well as the health care system. The German government only calls for restraint, Nancy Faeser asks Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soyly to keep the attacks on Rojava “proportionate”. Not a single clear note of condemnation. Clearly, the German government treats Turkey differently than other states, since Turkey is a NATO member and economic interests of Germany are apparently more important than human rights.

All of this is happening at the same moment that the Iranian regime is acting with the utmost brutality against its own population. Here, too, a targeted attempt is being made to crush the resistance for a self-determined life organized and led by women, with over 300 people murdered during protests so far and over 18,000 people imprisoned. Military sieges are taking place in Iran’s Kurdish areas, and people are being shot or beaten to death in the streets everywhere. It is clear that the Iranian regime is trying to separate and divide the minorities Azerbaijanis, Lorenis, Arabs, Baluchis and Turkmen, the different ethnic and religious groups among themselves. In this way, the Iranian regime wants to perpetuate the narrative that the protests are controlled by the West, and that non-Iranians are cooperating with Western powers to overthrow and divide the country. But the protests currently show that people are not letting this stop them. All over the country, whether in Shiite or Sunni regions, whether in Kurdish, Baluchi or Persian regions, people are taking to the streets. They are shouting Jin, Jiyan, Azadi or Zen, Zendegi, Azadi - in two languages, but united in cause. The slogan unites people of different ethnicities, religions and classes. And it also unites us across national borders. The demands of the people in Iran are clear: women, life, freedom and away with the Mullah regime! Therefore, as Women Defend Rojava and Fighting Together, we call on the world public to show solidarity with the protests in Iran and the self-government in North-East Syria!

Stop the use of chemical weapons in Kurdistan! Stop the arms exports to Turkey! We see your crimes! Jin, Jiyan, Azadi!

Ende Gelände Tübingen

For more than a week now, the Turkish army’s attacks on Southern Kurdistan have continued with the mass use of chemical weapons. These attacks on the Kurdish people are a new level of escalation, but they are in line with the recurring attacks on the population of the self-government of northern and eastern Syria.

We, the Ende Gelände local group of Tübingen, speak here today as part of the climate justice movement to draw attention to the ecological consequences of the attacks and their implications for the people of Kurdistan. Because political, feminist, ecological issues cannot be separated from each other. They are all closely intertwined, and so we

also bear responsibility. Turkish attacks murder innocent people - every day - and are without question a terrible violation of international law and human rights. Chemical weapon attacks are particularly cruel in this regard because the scale of their destruction is not obvious. Not only do they kill directly, but in the long run they damage nature, shatter the ecological balance, and thus cause immeasurable suffering even years after their use. Thus, they make it more difficult to continue building an ecological society.

Already, the climate crisis is having immense effects all over the world. The responsibility for this catastrophe is clear: With the emissions that we in the global North, emit and have emitted in the past, we have not only significantly caused the crisis, but also ensure that this threat continues to grow. The global South, which has contributed the least to this situation, is the main sufferer. Habitats and biodiversity are just as threatened as food and the very existence of millions of people.

People assigned the gender or sex “women” suffer the most. Due to societal expectations and role attributions, they are less mobile, have fewer financial resources, are primarily responsible for the family, and are the last to be supported. As a climate justice movement, we want to prevent the climate crisis from becoming a catastrophe of even greater extent. The only way to achieve this is a radical transformation of our system into an ecological, solidarity-based society without the greed for profit. Our struggle for this must be feminist and anti-racist, since people in the global south and especially women or people not conforming to binary gender categories assigned at birth are particularly threatened by the climate crisis.

The Kurdish freedom movement has achieved an enormous progress in this regard. In Rojava this social change has been lived for more than 10 years - against all odds. Until 10 years ago, Rojava was in a colonial relationship of dependence on the Syrian state. Land use was designed to maximize profit: Forests were cut down to make way for monocultures and self-sufficiency was forbidden. Much has happened since then: Agriculture is being diversified again in Rojava and also made possible in urban areas to ensure autonomy. Three quarters of the electricity from power plants is produced with hydropower. Feminism and ecology are pillars of the revolution in Rojava.

All these achievements are threatened by the Turkish state. And by its inaction Germany is bearing part of the blame. Chemical weapons are poisoning the soil for decades to come. Dams built in Turkey and the pumping of groundwater threaten the supply of drinking water, cause droughts and prevent the efficient use of water energy. Rojava and other Kurdish areas are deliberately cut off and isolated from vital infrastructure. This makes violent attacks even more destructive and defense increasingly difficult.

In addition, people in Kurdistan and Turkey are threatened with the worst repression if they rebel against the Turkish government. Here, too, activists are affected by repression. But we have to become aware of the possibilities and liberties we have. We must use our privileges to revolt and not leave alone the people in Kurdistan whose voices are to be silenced by all means. We cannot and should not speak for these people. What we can try to do, however, is to amplify the voices of those of whom the Turkish state is afraid and to carry them into the world. Because they show alternative models of society in which there is room for all people and which are open for constant improvement.

Rojava and other Kurdish areas are living examples of how to unite struggles. We MUST think intersectionally, that is, unite struggles. Because we cannot win them individually. We MUST unite, engage and solidarize as a climate justice movement. We MUST actively support and save lived utopias from the real dystopia of our societies. Because examples like Rojava exist. And these very examples are our future. The only future we have. When governments now violently attack the progress we have fought for, they are also attacking our future. And there is no alternative but to defend it.

Therefore, as a climate justice movement we see ourselves in the responsibility to show solidarity and become active in order to defend Kurdistan and the achievements of the feminist and ecological revolution in Rojava! Hence, I would like to end with the words borrowed from the Kurdish women’s movement and say:

Jin Jiyan Azadi!

Speech of comrades from Rojava

Dear friends Dear comrades

we send you revolutionary greetings from the liberated Rojava and greet the resistance on the streets of Europe.

Dear friends. The evil of capitalist modernity tries to keep itself alive through exploitation, our societies and values, resources and nature. The crisis of the capitalist system not only poisons our living space with daily lies and

corruption the life of the bourgeoisie is prolonged and the patriarchy is fed. In the fortresses of capitalist modernity, attempts are being made to erase hope and the power for resistance from the memory of societies and to declare itself as the only true system. But the revolution in Rojava has shown us in the last ten years that another world is possible. The revolution in Rojava, has made the fire of socialism burn again in the hearts of humanity. Rojava has put our utopias into practice, made our theories tangible. Dear comrades, hundreds of internationalists have fought shoulder to shoulder with the societies of Northeast Syria, created together and left their lives here. The revolution in Rojava, became the spring of internationalism, the painting of the tenderness of peoples, the home of the revolutionaries of the 21st century. Dear friends. Because of this, the attacks on German and Northeastern Syria have never stopped. Especially in the last year, the Turkish state has not let the people of the region sleep peacefully with its drone terror and ongoing threats. Dozens of people were deliberately killed and many seriously wounded, including children and especially women, were targeted. But since the night of November 19, the war has taken on a new dimension. Since then, the Turkish state has been bombarding the region with fighter jets, kamikaze drones and heavy artillery. Dozens of civilians and military forces have already been killed, and civilian infrastructure is attacked daily to destroy people's livelihoods. In addition, Turkish-backed jihadist groups have now tried several times to infiltrate the liberated areas and they continue to try. Also, the fascist dictator Erdogan has announced that he will launch a ground invasion at an unspecified date in the coming days. Dear friends, our struggle, our victory over the state and patriarchy, over fascism and exploitation depends on the success of the revolution in Rojava and Northeast Syria. If we win the struggle against the state terror of the AKP/NHP regime, the effects of the revolution will liberate the whole region, destroy the ground for the existence of capitalist modernity and make possible a better life beyond state, power and violence.

Dear friends, let us be together the strength, expression and love of the revolution let us be the revolutionary fire of Rojava, the courage of the women in [unintelligible].

Spring is coming whether they want it or not. We will win together! Jin Jiyan Azadi! Biji Rojava, Biji Internationalisme

Interventionistische Linke

Dear friends, I speak for the local group of the Interventionistische Linke or IL Tübingen and I would like to keep it short.

We are all standing here today because Rojava and the women's revolution in Iran is a symbol. A symbol that a liberated society is possible.

But we also see who stands against such a society. These are dictators like Erdogan and all those who help them. And with the helpers of Turkey we do not have to look far.

Because Germany participates in this war. So NATO country arms exports to Turkey are practically unregulated. At the border to Kurdistan Leopard 2 tanks are gathering - war made in Germany.

And also Tübingen has a part in it: BreakForce One is a Tübingen company that produces brakes and belongs to the ZF Group. The Friedrichshafen-based group is a major supplier to the military industry.

No matter if ZF, Rheinmetall or Heckler&Koch: What we need is an immediate export stop of all armament goods and technologies as well as chemicals that can be used for weapons production. To Turkey, but also to all other authoritarian regimes.

It also needs from society a clear condemnation of Turkey's attacks in northern Syria and northern Iraq, and the naming as what this war is: a violation of international law.

Solidarity with Kurdistan, solidarity with the women's revolution! Listen to the people who are fighting and say their names.

Jin, Jiyan, Azadi