

**PKK**

Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan  
Kurdistan Workers Party  
Kurdistan İşçi Partisi

## DECLARATION OF APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND PROTOCOL I OF 1977

The PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party),

- concerned at the suffering being inflicted on the people of North-West Kurdistan because of the war between the PKK and the Turkish authorities, views the Turkish side as perpetuating this suffering;
  - desiring to reduce that suffering as much as possible and having already declared a unilateral cease-fire in 1993 and continuing to show its willingness for a peaceful resolution of the conflict;
  - aware of the significance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977 as setting a standard for the conduct of the hostilities and the protection of the victims of war;
  - aware of the special contribution which the I.R.C can make in situations of conflict;
  - regards itself as the authority representing the Kurdish people who are entitled to self determination;
  - respects the rights of individuals and the minorities;
  - having examined the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977;
- submits the following declaration to the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs, as the depository of the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I, with the request that it be circulated to all the parties to those treaties:
1. The PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) undertakes to respect the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977, regarding the conduct of the hostilities and the protection of the victims of war, in its conflict with the authorities and to treat those obligations as having the force of law within its own forces and the areas within its control.
  2. For the avoidance of doubt, the PKK regards the following groups as part of the Turkish Security Forces and therefore as legitimate targets of attack:
    - members of the Turkish armed forces;
    - members of the Turkish contra-guerrilla forces;
    - members of the Turkish intelligence services;
    - members of the Turkish Gendarmerie;
    - persons designated as village guards by the Turkish authorities.

It does not regard civil servants as members of the security forces, unless they come within one of the above categories.

3. The PKK will treat any captured members of the Turkish security forces as prisoners of war.
4. The PKK will disseminate this statement and the rules of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of the 1977 to its forces and asks for the assistance of the ICRC with regards to suitable materials. It has adopted a system of discipline to ensure respect for these rules and the punishment of those who break them. It accepts the principle of command responsibility.
5. The PKK would accept an offer of services from the ICRC.
6. The PKK calls upon the Turkish government to give the same undertakings and to accept an offer of services from the ICRC.
7. The PKK calls upon all High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I to ensure that the Turkish Government and the PKK respect their obligations.

*Abdullah Ocalan*

Signed on behalf of the PKK by:  
Abdullah Ocalan