

TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION

In our age, humanity is undergoing a massive process of change and transformation. A wealth of new mind-sets and methods unlock solutions to the insoluble problems of past eras. What fundamentally stymies Turkey is its inability to come to terms with the reality of a changing and transforming age and, within this context, to adopt a mind-set that will unlock the solution to its insoluble problems.

It is common knowledge that the Kurdish problem is Turkey's most serious and deep-rooted problem. The Republic of Turkey has ever since its inception striven to solve the Kurdish problem through the use of violence, by eliminating it through violent means. However, the method of oppression and violence has failed to eliminate and solve the Kurdish problem. The Kurdish problem takes the form of a basic problem which today, with all of its causticity and scope, leaves its mark on the agenda and awaits solution.

The Kurdistan Liberation Guerrilla movement has emerged and taken shape in the past quarter century, and has become a part and reality of Kurdish social structure. The liberation guerrilla movement, which today courts the support of the overwhelming majority of the Kurdish people, has a presence in virtually all areas of North Kurdistan. With various aims and forms of organisation, it has a degree of influence in other parts.

The Turkish state and army, in order to halt our people's dynamic towards liberation, applies unrestrained violence and state terror against the guerrillas and our people. Turkish state terror targets not only armed forces, but also, in an official and unofficial manner, the defenceless civilians of Kurdistan and up until now thousands of our civilians have lost their lives as a consequence of state terror.

In the face of this, the Kurdistan Liberation Movement and guerrilla movement must defend itself. In view of the state terror applied against the people and itself, it has been obliged to exercise the right to strike back and wage a Legitimate War of Self-Defence. The struggle that is currently being waged by the Kurdish people and its guerrilla movement is a defensive war within the framework of the notion of legitimate self-defence.

The Kurdish side has adopted the principle of waging this war of self-defence in accordance with the right of legitimate self-defence as enshrined in UN resolutions and in compliance with international law. As was once again confirmed at the Kongra Gel 4th General Assembly held on 17-22 April, no form of violence that exceeds the boundaries of legitimate self-defence is approved by us. We reject and class as terrorism all forms of violence that exceed the boundaries of legitimate self-defence.

In spite of this situation, the Turkish state portrays the state terror that it applies against our people as being legitimate, and attempts to give the impression to the world and Turkish public opinion that the struggle waged by our people within the bounds of legitimate self-defence is

terrorism. It endeavours to place the blame for a number of bombing incidents, which contradict the rationale behind our actions and injure civilians, on our movement, which is prosecuting our people's just and legitimate cause, and, using state resources and the large media outlets at its disposal, blatantly stands the truth on its head.

Because of this, we once again feel the need to share with public opinion the text of the resolution "The Rules that Require to be Applied in War" adopted at the Kongra Gel IIIrd General Assembly and the HPG IIIrd Conference along with our Corrective Decision Approach, which was again adopted by the Kongra Gel IVth General Assembly and prevents mistaken approaches that appear in practice.

Accordingly;

1. The Kurdistan Liberation Movement will respond to attacks mounted by the Turkish state's security forces -armed forces, police, special teams, agents etc. – within the framework of legitimate self-defence, and will base its success on rooting its liberation cause in a struggle within the precepts of legitimate self-defence.

2. It will exercise the necessary oversight so that the defensive war being waged in Kurdistan does not exceed the boundaries of a war of legitimate self-defence and will expend the maximum amount of effort so that the defensive war is furthered in accordance with international law.

3. All forces affiliated to the Koma Komalên Kurdistan system will, in waging defensive war, more effectively implement the attitude that avoids forms of action that will harm civilians not involved in the war and, in particular, more effective intervention and work will be undertaken to develop the understanding that bombing incidents are to be avoided in urban spaces where social life takes place in Kurdistan and, in this regard, for this to become a binding norm on all forces. Our movement also calls on all forces not affiliated to the Koma Komalên Kurdistan system to act in keeping with this rationale.

4. The most important plank of the legitimate self-defence struggle is the democratic activism process waged by the masses. In furthering the legal and legitimate mass actions and rebellion movement that our people have championed, all necessary work will be conducted with a view to making the rebellion process more planned, systematic and organised to avoid conduct from spinning out of control in a way that defeats its purpose and measures will be formulated so that the social movement that is the rebellion may be practised in an effective, successful manner in terms of an expression of the social reflex of the people of Kurdistan.

5. The Kurdistan Liberation Movement, having engaged in a solution process, believes in the necessity of informing public opinion that it has made all of the necessary cautions and arrangements to urge all forces in the Koma Komalên Kurdistan system to exercise greater sensitivity and greater care in performing their work so as, by acting with responsibility towards public opinion and the masses in carrying out every stage of our just cause, to prevent the Turkish state from portraying a distorted picture using psychological special war methods, to frustrate the policy of blaming our movement for attacks that harm our people, regardless of

who staged them, and to emasculate possible provocations in this regard, and we call on all relevant forces to assume responsibility in order to ensure that this is put into practice.

We call on all democratic circles, humanitarian organisations and institutions and all forces with an interest in the matter to be sensitive to the Turkish state's attacks that contravene the statutes of war, trample on the law and breach human rights, to monitor both sides, establish the truth more accurately and issue the appropriate reprimands, adopting a stance of neutrality with respect to both sides, to prevent legal principles from being contravened in the course of the unfolding conflict and to do all that is incumbent on them so that the just liberation struggle of the people of Kurdistan may find a solution in keeping with the precepts of democratic peace.

Koma Komalên Kurdistan

Executive Council Chair

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