

International women's delegation for the 25th of November in Rojava

We are just returned from Rojava, the free region of West Kurdistan in the North of Syria. We want to tell you that women are assuming a central role in the construction of the new radical democratic society, which is based on the liberation of women and the developing of the consciousness of being free subjects, women and men. They have done and are doing a revolution, within the civil war and the imperialistic power interests in Syria and although the fascist terror of Daesh/IS.

We call it a feminist revolution. This revolution is the practical realizing of a very advanced theoretical elaboration, based on deeply questioning all forms of gender, class, cultural and ethnic oppressions, connected with a radical analyse of 5000 year of civilisation and herstory of women and a self-organized perspective against colonialist and imperialistic power interests and wars.

The women's delegation was initiated by the international representation of the Kurdish Women's Movement in Europe and was realized in cooperation with the autonomous feminist movement. It took place from 22nd – 29th of November. The participants came from Italy, Germany, Austria and France and at age of 25 – 75.

While in Europe for the 25th of November – international resistance day against male violence against women – in many cities in Europe women went out in the streets, we wanted to project active solidarity with the revolution of the women in Rojava and the resistance in Kobane. We also brought messages of solidarity to the women's movement in Rojava by 12 feminist organizations and groups.

The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in north Iraq prevented the women's delegation for two days to exit to Rojava.

On the 24th of November made the women's movement in Rojava a women's congress with around 300 participants and on the 25th of November women's demonstrations took place in all cantons and cities

Our purpose as women's delegation was to meet the women and to get to know the structures of women's organization and to get to know their desire, analyses and perspectives.

We came with the knowledge, that the economic and political power interest of the European Union are part of the war in the Middle East and against the Kurdish liberation movement and also profit by war, arms exports and exploitations of oil. And we came with the experience that in the mass media in the European countries the armed fighting women are made to sexist objects, instead to face up to the radical democratic perspectives based on women's liberation.

The women's resistance is a struggle for the freedom of Kurdish, Arab, Syrian women and for all the women around the world. It is a struggle for dignity and humanity. The women fight at the front against Daesh/IS as autonomous armed force. And they fight autonomously organized in women's structures and are present in all general structures of radical-democratic selforganisation. They fight against the sexist and patriarchal system within the traditional structures of the Kurdish, Ezidish and Arabic societies, but also against the modern patriarchal structures, which exist in Middle East as well as in Europe. Their resistance challenges radically and basically the racist and Eurocentric point of view.

Because of the engagement of a lawyer for women- and human rights, who took part in the women's delegation, we met in Erbil/Hawler in the Kurdish Regional Government in north Iraq, a representative of the ezidish society and an ezidish woman who could escape from captivity from Daesh/IS. Based on first researches 2000 – 7000 ezidish women and girls are missing and till now

305 women could escape from captivity and sexual slavery by Daesh/IS. Their necessary liberation and their escape is part of the resistance in the region.

On the first day in Rojava we visited the refugee camp Newroz. There live 5000 – 6000 refugees and a self-organized structure is build up. But basic life needs are missing, for example heater for the tents, as winter is coming, and sawing machines to fix and sew clothes. Many relief supplies and funds from Europe and UN, which were promised don't arrive in the camp.

The following days we visited in cooperation with a representative of the committee of the women's movement for foreign affairs, structures of the women's movement. All the women we met define themselves as feminists. They said hat they build up on feminism around the world and on the decades-long struggle of the Kurdish women's liberation movement within the Kurdish liberation struggle. We met activists and responsible women of * the women's movement Yekitiya Star (Union Star), * a women's cooperative, * of one of the women's centre NPZJ (Navenda Perwerde û Zanista Jin, which was build up in each neighbourhoods), * from Sara - women's organization against male violence on women, * of one of the women's academy, * the academy for activists in the new law-system Akademiya Zanistên Civakî a Mezopotamya, * the first university in Kurdish language MEzopotam Ya, * women's media. We visited * a graveyard for fallen fighters and met us with * a unit from Asayisa Jinê (women's security forces of the society) and * a unit of YPJ (women's selfdefence forces). The representatives of the structures don't have an own flat, but they live in different families to be connected with the daily life and problems of the people. And all representatives, activists and fighters don't take money for their work and receive what they need from the collective structures.

We have seen the deconstruction of gender roles and the construction of the new feminist society, with its repercussions inside the houses, in the relationships, in the way of reacting against violence, in the attitudes of men, in the conscious assumption of power's roles to avoid becoming prevarication, in the social organizational structures that allow to become aware, to study, to recognize, to react, to invent...

We stayed overnight at families and met us in daily life, with conversations with “hands and feet”, laughing and stories about daily basic work, changing of daily life of women, prison and resistance.

We are very impressed and touched by the meetings and thanks all women we met for their involvement and hospitality.

The women's revolution is possible.

The women's movements in Europe must stand up, in solidarity and for a common fight for a social revolution based on women's liberation. And we must fight militarism and war propaganda in Europe, which exports and supports war and devastation in the world.

The women in Rojava are doing their part, now it's our turn.

Jin jiyana azadî

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