

Appeal: Support a Democratic Experiment

The Kurdish region Rojava in Syria needs help!



Kurds celebrate spring festival Newroz on the 21st of March in Qamishli/Rojava (Syria).



Syrian arab refugees in Qamishli: They fled the religious terror in the central Syrian town of Deir ez-Zor.

The events in Syria are an embarrassing human disaster. For four years, we have witnessed the attempts to brutally crush the liberation movement that had erupted so unexpectedly. Consequently, the social upheavals for rights and justice became an armed rebellion which culminated not only into a full-scale civil war in Syria but also into a proxy war between important regional and international powers. But although the promise of democracy has not been fulfilled yet the hegemony of the old Republic of Fear, omnipresent until recently, is broken. And thus, despite everything, unexpected spaces have opened for all those who dared to resist in the name of freedom for themselves and for everyone. Perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in the Kurdish region in the north of Syria.

The Kurds form the country's largest ethnic minority, the Kurdish region is called Rojava, meaning „the West“ in Kurdish. The region has a unique cultural and religious diversity. Eventually, after nearly all state authorities had left the territory the 2.5 million people that live in this „West“ saw a chance to gain the autonomy they have been longing for. Today, the region is trying to implement direct communal democracy and to develop social capacities for conflict resolution that reach beyond the old methods of surveillance and punishment established by a culture of violence. The new political bodies attach particular importance to a high percentage of women in politics, a new health care system is being established, the region will have its own security forces and the schools broke a fundamental taboo when they recently started to teach Kurdish along with Arabic.

Rojava, which stands for an utterly important peace effort and provides shelter for more than 1.2 million internally displaced persons from Syria's civil war regions, is at risk. Relief aid for the Kurdish territories in Syria is blocked at the border by the regional power Turkey and at the Kurdish/Iraqi border the free movement of goods is hindered as well. Inside Syria, radicalreligious militias which belong to the Al-Qaida network have built a circle of siege around the Kurdish settlements. Islamic hardliners will not forgive the Kurds, neither their experiment to set up a democratic autonomy nor the guarantee of equality for women.

The impact of war has long since reached Rojava; important medicines are no longer available, infectious diseases are reappearing, there is no insulin, chronically sick such as diabetics or dialysis and cancer patients can no longer be treated. There is a lack of basic food such as sugar, oil, rice and tea as well as a lack of heating materials for emergency shelters.

History has shown that all fledgling democracies have their roots in the prospect of their very existence, in their particularities and the clear difference between themselves and the power they are fighting against. The Kurds in Syria, the excluded among the excluded for decades, now have won for themselves the right to speak, to make their culture visible and to self-determine their political background. They understand themselves as an indispensable component of a future federal and free society for all Syrians.

We are defending the right to freedom and equality of all Syrians and Kurds. The democratic experiment in Rojava has reawakened the ethnic, cultural, religious and political diversity in Syria. Right now, Syria needs peace and democracy. And Rojava in Syria needs our recognition and our solidarity.

We are therefore appealing to you to donate and support the humanitarian emergency relief aid for the Kurdish territories in Syria. Keyword for the solidarity campaign: "Rojava".

April 2014



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An appeal of medico international in cooperation with Civaka Azad - Kurdish Centre for Public Relations e.V.

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Newroz 2014 in Qamishli/Rojava.



Sowing the seeds in Serê Kaniyê (Ra's al-'Ain) in Rojava, March 2014.

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