

We Will Win – No Matter What!

As we go to press, mass arrests of Kurds, including elected political representatives, are taking place in Turkey. The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) bears the brunt of the persecution, and has issued a defiant statement.

We would like to begin our statement by first condemning the bomb attack that took place in Diyarbakir on 4 November 2016. We wish mercy on those who lost their lives and extend our condolences to their relatives and to our people. We wish a swift recovery to the injured and would like to state that we share their pain.

We salute our Co-Chairs, our Members of Parliament, and all our elected co-mayors and executives who were taken hostage on 4 November



Diyarbakir, November 2016

or before. We support the dignified, upright, unyielding and indomitable stance they have maintained. Their stance against oppression, tyranny, denial and fascism is a great source of morale not only for the Kurdish people, but also for all the peoples of Turkey, consolidating their resolution and determination in the struggle.

1. Today, the Erdoğan-AKP government, with its massive attacks on democratic politics and the democratic opposition, aims to usurp democratic political gains, and to purge all our existing institutions and establishments. **They target not only the political will of more than six million people who voted for the HDP, but also millions of our conscientious and democratic citizens who continue the struggle for democracy, freedom, equality, labour rights, women's liberation and justice.**

The Erdoğan-AKP government first lifted the immunity of Members of Parliament. Then it took the 15 July *coup d'état* attempt as an opportunity to rule the country under a State of Emergency and by decree laws, thus carrying out their own *coup d'état*. It has disempowered the Parliament so that it can transform Turkey into a 'Republic of Appointed Trustees'. Most recently, this government has shown that it has no respect whatsoever for the choice and will of the people by arresting nine of our deputies, including the Co-Chairs of our Party. Our headquarters in Ankara is under siege while our Party administrators and members are continuously prevented from entering the headquarters building. All of these government actions show what kind of perspective they have on democratic politics.

2. **Confronted with the darkest and most comprehensive attack in our democratic political history, we have resolved in a joint meeting of the HDP Parliamentary Group and HDP Central Executive Committee today to halt all our legislative activities at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT).** We will deliberate on our final position at the GNAT in consultation with our peoples across Turkey.

In the coming days, we will visit neighbourhoods, villages, districts and provinces and go from door to door, listening to the complaints and proposals of our people. We will hold debates with our Party's constituent institutions, with all our allies, institutions and establishments, with the forces of democracy, peace and labour, with civil society organizations, with labour unions and professional associations, with faith groups, and with women's movements, environmental and ecological movements, and listen and assemble their proposals.

We will then, at the end of all these consultations, assess all proposals

and share the results with the public. We will not only share them; we will also take the necessary steps to weave the future together in line with the proposals that emerge. Against the ‘Republic of Appointed Trustees,’ we will increase our struggle for a ‘Democratic Republic’.

3. The HDP, with all its institutions and establishments, alliances, constituents, Co-Chairs, Members of Parliament, members and organizations is the guarantee of the existence and progress of democratic politics and democratic opposition in Turkey. To take hostage our friends who struggled for peace and resolution, democracy and freedom, justice and equality, to imprison them, shall never change our principled stance regarding this. Such acts will never force us to take a step back in our struggle in the field of democratic politics.

The path for all the peoples, faiths and cultures of Turkey to live together, equally, and in peace is through the existence and strengthening of the HDP and its alliances. The government may imprison those who want peace, those who raise their voices for democracy, justice and freedom, or our Co-Chairs, and may envisage extending its existence through violent means, but this will not deter us from our democratic political struggle.

In the last year and a half, the Erdoğan-AKP government has laid waste to the entire country for its aim of realizing a ‘Turkish-style Presidential regime’. It has caused the death, injury, displacement and loss of employment of thousands of people and led to an increase in tension and polarization. We once again very clearly underline the fact that what is presented to the public as a ‘Turkish-style Presidential regime’ is ‘one-man rule’; it is fascism, and it means war, oppression, unrest and tyranny.

4. This is our call to all the forces of democracy, democratic institutions and establishments, parliaments, political parties and civil society organizations across the world: Demand that the government in Turkey adheres to principles of universal human rights and democratic law! Raise your voice, show your political stance, and do not yield to Erdoğan’s threats! The Erdoğan-AKP government is dragging Turkey step by step towards a totalitarian regime where universal human rights are disregarded and international democratic conventions are violated. The failure to raise a voice now will also constitute a great threat to all the countries in the region, and to the peoples of Europe.

We call on Turkey’s forces of democracy, labour and peace, and to all our conscientious citizens suffocated by the oppression and injustice of the Erdoğan-AKP government: Our call is not merely a call for solidarity with the HDP. **Our call is a call for a common struggle shoulder to shoulder**

with everyone who has worked for freedom, equality, democratic secularity and justice, and has paid the price for their yearning.

We know very well that our common yearning has high social legitimacy. Therefore, against the 4 November coup d'état that has targeted democratic politics, democratic opposition and the democratic gains of the different peoples, faiths, cultures and the women's liberation movement of Turkey, we are determined to develop our struggle in solidarity with all the forces of democracy and peace.

We will not bow down to this regime and its practices; we will continue to spread our proposals for democracy in defiance of this dictatorship. Lest we forget, we, all of us, are Turkey's hope; we are its light of democracy and freedom. We will nourish this hope and light together.

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HDP Central Executive Committee

HDP Parliamentary Group

Diyarbakir 6 November 2016

