

Afrin's Suffering

Turkey's operation 'Olive Branch' has already claimed hundreds of lives in the region of Afrin as it bombs largely defenceless communities from air and land. This illegal aggression by a prominent NATO member is carried out using sophisticated military equipment, much of it from Germany and other allied countries. Neither Russia nor the United States has acted to stop the slaughter.

Afrin is 63 kilometres from Aleppo, located in mountainous north-western Syria. The 'Deep Plain' borders Afrin to the west, near the Black River, while to the north there is a railway line that passes from Midan Akbis to Kilis. To the east, Afrin is bordered by the Izaz Plain, and by Samaan mountain to the south. The majority of people in the region are Kurds, with a population of about half a million, according to 2010 statistics. They live in some 360 villages across seven areas, as well as in Afrin City.

The Afrin region comprises different nationalities, religions and sects of Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians, Armenians, Yazidis and many others. Some minorities in Afrin City fear genocide by extremist Islamic factions led by the Turkish occupation. With bombing of mosques, churches and places of worship, the Councils and Churches of Afrin appealed to the international community to put pressure on the Turkish occupation to stop the barbaric shelling of civilians and halt massacres of Christians, Yazidis and all civilians in the city of Afrin. The Rev. Valentine Hanan, priest of the Church of the 'Good Shepherd' in Afrin, called on the international community to stop the Turks shelling the city, and for protection from Islamic factions threatening to kill inhabitants.

The Information Centre for Afrin Resistance publishes eyewitness reports and regular bulletins about the mounting casualties of the war on Afrin, including many children, together with background briefings, maps and photographs.

icaftrinresist.wordpress.com



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