

Report on Situation in North and East Syria, 8am 20th October - 8am 21st October

Rojava Information Center

Overview

As the SDF have confirmed full withdrawal from Sere Kaniye in order to comply with the terms of the ceasefire, the outcome of negotiations will determine who controls the area that has been invaded and is currently occupied by Turkish proxies, as well as the boundaries of that area. Shelling and attacks by Turkish proxy forces - particularly on villages - continue. The withdrawal of US forces continues, with troops moving to Western Iraq. Our team in Tel Tamer confirmed that US forces withdrew from Tel Tamer military base as American AH-64 Apache helicopters flew low over the city, monitoring the withdrawal. There were also helicopters over Qamishlo in the early hours of the morning, as well as jet flights in the surrounding countryside. As of the 20th October, US forces have fully withdrawn from Manbij, Kobane, Raqqa, Tabqa and Sarrin.

Humanitarian Situation

Another 15 wounded, seven deceased and five civilian families were evacuated by another Kurdish Red Crescent convoy into Sere Kaniye. The Kurdish Red Crescent reports that there are still wounded people and trapped civilians in Sere Kaniye, as well as corpses that need to be recovered. Some new displacement continues, with movement out of the villages surrounding Sere Kaniye, Tel Tamer and other areas occupied by proxy forces. Most displaced people are heading towards Hasakah.

Reports of Turkish proxy forces looting homes and farms and terrorizing civilians continue to emerge in areas where Turkish proxies have established military positions. The death of two civilians who were kidnapped as they fled Sere Kaniye two days ago has been reported. The Syrian Democratic Council calls for specialized missions to investigate alleged war crimes.

ISIS Resurgence

Once again, ISIS affiliates tried to flee from Al Hol Camp. 46 women and 56 children broke out, but were recaptured by security forces.

Sere Kaniye

Yesterday there were once again clashes between Turkish proxy forces and the SDF in Sere Kaniye. In the afternoon another convoy, this time composed entirely of medics and without civilians or journalists went to Sere Kaniye to evacuate wounded and dead. According to one of the NGOs in the convoy, the ambulances drove through the city to search for more trapped civilians and dead. They were brought to Tel Tamer, Qamishlo and Hasakah hospitals. Yesterday there were also pictures published of two civilians executed in Sere Kaniye by Turkish proxy forces after they were kidnapped when they try to flee the city on the 17th October.

At 6:00 PM in the evening the SDF officially announced their withdrawal from Sere Kaniye. Turkish drones also bombed the region of Abu Resen to the east of Sere Kaniye in the evening.

Tel Abyad

Yesterday there were attacks of Turkish proxy forces on the villages Wasita, Ibad and Kafia south of Tel Abyad. They also shelled the village Cirin. The Co-Chair of Tel Abyad Council said "both the humanitarian and the military situation are bad. Turkish proxy forces are imprisoning people. There is no food or water. 3 days of pillaging, raiding all homes, especially Kurdish homes, taking what they can."

Other regions

Kobane: Early in the morning Turkish proxy forces launched an attack on positions of the SDF

around Kobane. They also targeted the village of Asalia. In the evening Turkish proxy forces shelled the village Zormixar on the Euphrates shore in the Kobane region.

Ayn Issa: In the morning Turkey shelled the village Kizeli outside of Ayn Issa. There were reconnaissance flights and Turkish warplanes over the city.

Manbij: Russian forces are patrolling the city. The Manbij Military council reported ongoing demolitions of the village of Yalashi, captured by Turkish proxy forces.