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# **WITNESS TESTIMONIES FROM TURKEY'S DOUBLE-TAP ATTACK ON TEQIL BEQIL**

**22 NOVEMBER 2022**

## SUMMARY

On the 22nd of November, RIC went to Derik to speak with five people who directly witnessed Turkey's double-tap strike on a power station near Teqil Beqil village on the night of the 19/20th of November, in which 11 civilians were killed and 6 injured. Each person told their story and how they experienced the attack. Their unedited testimonies are translated and transcribed below.

### JIWAN HESEN



My name is Jiwan Hesên. I work in construction. As many of the people here in this region, I come from Berave area. When I heard the sound of the explosions, around midnight, like many people, we left our house. At the beginning we didn't understand what was going on or where it was, but the sound was quite strong. We heard on the news that the power station was hit. Because our place is close to there, we went there. There was no system or organization of people heading out. We just heard the sound so thought we must go, because when there is something happening like this there might be people killed or injured who need help. Like when something happens, you go see if you can help. When we arrived, I parked a little away. It was night, it was dark, a lot of other people had come. In the beginning we didn't know how many people had been killed or injured. We came together and again the site was struck. The American patrol was also there. We thought, "okay when the Americans are here, Turkey wont strike again". We believed in them. So many people came together. I don't know the exact time, but from around 12 until 3, 7 missiles were fired. When the missiles hit we spread out, but still we wanted to stay to see if we could help the injured. Until early in the morning we stayed there. We collected two corpses. An ambulance had come and again the drones were circling around in the sky. We spread out. We left the place. Some people went on motorbikes to try to save the injured people, bringing needed supplies and blankets. Until 9/10am we were there collecting the corpses. Some of the people who had been killed we knew, others we didn't. Most of them, we couldn't identify them because they were so burnt, they were in pieces. It was horrible to see the corpses divided in parts and burnt. It was really awful. I don't know how to say it, but what I remember is that I was crying but I was also collecting pieces of bodies. I will never forget this. One of our friends from the press, Isam, he was killed. We had known each other for ages. I recognised his shoes therefore I knew he was dead, but his body was beyond recognition. Beyond that, I couldn't recognise anybody because they were all burnt.

**SHIHAB UMER**

My name is Shihab Umer, I am from the village of Sherie, which is in the Kocherat region. I work in the justice committee. I come from Kocherat. Derik is the town; Kocherat is linked to Derik. It's not the first time that the Turkish state attacks civilian people in the region in which we live, committing massacres against civilians. We are not soldiers, we are not militias, but drones are an everyday occurrence. We are seeing them everyday. Turkey's bombing at 12 o'clock at night in the power station when there is nobody? It's not a military place, it's a civilian place. There is electricity there, there are no military forces or HPC. The Turkish state this time didn't attack with a drone, but with warplanes. The sound was loud and children were scared and the people were scared too. In the village there are old people, now they cannot sleep at night. We went outside. They have already attacked the same place 2 or 3 times. Also that time there were warplanes. But it's a power station, not military. Usually there are 2-3 people there. We went there because they are civilians. We wanted to see what had happened, and to help. Maybe somebody had been killed. And American patrols also came. There was no electricity in the whole region. The American patrols left and then the warplanes came again. Only civilians were there. Civilians... All with their families, mothers, fathers... No soldiers were there, just civilians with their families. And the Turkish warplanes came attacking the civilian people. What do they want from the civilian people? The American patrol was also there but then they left. When they left, part of the bomb that came also fell in the cars of the Americans. But the civilians were injured and killed. A lot of people were injured. The ambulance couldn't go to the place. We are civilians but we were attacked. Until 3am we were there, but we couldn't speak to anybody because we had no phone signal. Then at 2 o'clock planes came again. It's not clear what they were doing there. Some civilians were dead but we couldn't get them out. Until the morning, we were there walking around. We didn't use a car. The bombs attacked the people there. The airplane came targeting the civilian people with missiles. 6-7 people tried to flee to the cars and then a bomb attacked those people fleeing to the cars. The people who were struck, their bodies were divided into parts. In some places were their hands, in some places their legs. In some cases the hands were 100m away from the bodies. There were some friends in the car and the car was on fire. With the fire in the car they died.

If we could manage to get them out maybe we would have managed to save them but we couldn't move. People in the car were burned alive. We couldn't go there until the morning. And we could not recognize anybody, the bodies were burned and broken into pieces. And still the drones were there around. So we couldn't take the corpses. When the ambulance arrived, we wanted to put the corpses in the ambulances. But the drones were still there. Why? We were all civilians. Some of them mothers, some young people, some elderly people... No soldiers. But all the time there were drones so we couldn't get the people out. Until the morning we couldn't get the parts of the corpses out of that place. We couldn't get the corpses of our friends. Maybe if we would have fled to the surrounding areas people wouldn't have been killed. There was some fire but we couldn't get the corpses. Until one o'clock in the afternoon the drones were continuing to stay there.. One of those killed was called Isam, he is from the press, from ANHA, one of the people who went there to record what happened. People like that have been bombed. This is really something horrible that the Turkish state is doing. What does the Turkish state want from us? Killing and bombing us, our children... And everybody is staying silent. America is staying silent. Civilians are being killed and all the states are staying silent. Nobody is speaking. Nobody is condemning it. Nobody is condemning the burning and the dismembering. Even for the ambulances it was difficult to get the people from the site, because of the drones.

### **SHERIN FERHO**



My name is Sherin Ferho. I am from Derik. On the 20th of November, I heard the sound of an explosion. We knew that they [Turkey] attacked us. We knew that they attacked a place where civilians are. They killed civilians. We also got into our car and we went there. To see if there were injured people and try to save them because the injured people are our people, our children. Many people from Kocherat were also there. We were hoping for America, because we also saw that the American military were also there at the place where the missile had struck. We went to the place where it happened. We said to the Americans please come to us. But we were left alone. We called them, because we were separated from them. We wanted them to come to our place. We wanted it but whatever we did, they didn't come to us. We said: "Come! We want to say something to you." They are killing us, they are killing our children. "You are here but they are attacking us. Why are you here? Are you here to see us die? To see our children dying? Are you living on our blood?"

Why are they attacking us? What are you doing here? Are you living here on our blood?" They are killing our children. They came to our country but they are not protecting us. They are living on our blood. They came here to take our oil but not to protect us. If it is like this, then let them go. Let them leave. May America leave from here. America and Turkey are partners, cooperating, acting together. So let them leave. America and Russia also. May they leave. There is no humanity in them. Nobody is seeing the rights of Kurds. None. They don't behave according to human values. Nothing. There is nobody who is seeing Kurds as human beings. For us Kurds nobody is seeing us as human beings. Not accepting our rights. Nothing else. We didn't see anything. There was nobody who hasn't been attacked. There is no family left who didn't have someone in their family killed by the Turkish state. The Americans were still there and they were bombing us. The Americans left with their cars. All civilians were there, no military people were there. They [Turkey] are lying. Only civilians were there. Let them not lie. There were no military people there. All mothers and fathers. Three children of Hussein are now dead. All mothers and fathers; no soldiers. The Americans left, left us alone. And then they struck. They struck everywhere; we didn't know where to go. We couldn't save the people. We didn't know what to do because they were always bombing. I fled to the open ground around the space and so I saved myself. One of my friends was injured. He went into his car and they [Turkey] drone bombed the car. 11 people were killed in total. I put myself into the open, empty land outside, next to the site. Until the morning I stayed there. When the situation was a little more clear, I went to the village. I could not sleep at all. My children were scared and even the dogs were scared. Still now, my children are scared. Until 3 am the planes were there. 3 big airplanes. After the warplanes left, the drones came. They dropped 5 big bombs. Nobody is doing anything, nobody is protecting us, nobody is helping us. May they go, let them leave. If they don't protect us, if they don't care about human beings, then let them leave. Not American, not Russia, so let them leave. Let us be alone. We will protect our country. We promise. As long as we are alive, we won't leave the blood of those killed on the ground. That is all I have to say.

## HUSBAND OF HEDIYE ABDULLAH



I am the husband of Hediye Abdullah, who was killed in Turkey's attack. We went to Derik as civilians from Kocherat. We came together in Teqil Beqil village to see the killed and injured people. It is not okay to leave the killed and injured people alone without help, therefore we went there. Americans were also there. We went to the place of the explosion. As civilians we made a statement. We went to the Americans to discuss. We said: 'We are partners together'. We said: 'We are all civilians here - why don't you keep your promise? You kill us!' We tried to have a discussion like this. When it was finished, the people went to the Americans and I went to my car to try to discuss with them and understand each other, say that something like this must not happen again. When I was with them, fragment from two missiles that were fired hit my car. This was around 3 o' clock. The missiles made burning all over. We said that something like this is forbidden. All the people were killed and burned. Four missiles were fired. Three came from drones, as well as one from an airplane. Two airplanes came. The airplanes fired two missiles. And they hit the people who had congregated. I could save myself in the car. But my car was destroyed, I am also injured, and my wife was killed, and other friends were burnt.

## EBDULREHMAN MEJID



My name is Ebdulrehman Mejid and I am the co-chair of Derik's council for the families of those killed by Turkey. I am from the Kocherat area. The things which we have been seeing are this: we were at home. It was between 11 and 12 [at night], when the sound of an explosion came. We heard the sound of the explosion and of airplanes. We stood up; we understood that the place where they targeted is the same place they targeted last year and the year before. We understood it was the place of the power station. We knew there were two guards there. We said "okay let's go to the guards and see how they are, maybe they are injured, if they are injured we can help". When we went and reached the place: both guards were injured, and a lot of people had come, especially from the Kocherat area and Berave area. The villages around Kocherat, a lot of people were coming. And Americans [soldiers] also had arrived. 4 armored vehicles of America had arrived. Two other bombs were fired by the airplanes when we were there. It looked like there was coordination between America and Turkey. Turkey was waiting for the American patrol to leave and were waiting for many people to be in one place before they fired the other bombs. It was clear the goal was to kill as many as possible. The Americans left. We also wanted to leave because we heard the sound of airplanes. So many people had been killed, including old people, some mothers, who were killed in this attack, unfortunately. The last missile which was fired was at 3 o'clock, 10 minutes before 3. It seemed like in this bomb there was phosphorus. *[Note: there are no confirmed reports of phosphorus use in this attack]* The corpses of the killed people were all burnt. There was no blood, just burnt corpses. The bones were melted. We went into the villages, stayed there until 8 am. We didn't return to the site of the attack until 8am, because drones were circling around so we had to leave, even though we wanted to save the injured people. Then we returned to look for more injured people at 8am but until 1pm drones continued circling that place. The place they hit is a power station. It gives power to the whole area around Kocherat. It has been attacked twice before. It is clear that the Turkish state, with barbarity, is targeting the whole of NES: hospitals, like in Kobane, here the power station... there were mothers and fathers, 60 or 70 years old, trying to save other people. This is not something normal. We all know these mothers and fathers are not soldiers.



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