



**REPORT ON A VISIT CARRIED OUT BY THE DELEGATION, COMPOSED OF
KESK, DİSK, TMMOB, TTB, TO SİLOPİ TENT SITE INHABITED BY KURDISH
EZİDİ (YAZIDI) ASYLUM-SEEKERS FLED AFTER SİNJAR MASSACRE
ON 14 AUGUST 2014**

INTRODUCTION:

The brutality of the war in the Middle East, against the peoples in Syria and Iraq are being witnessed by the whole world. Attacks by the gang like forces, international powers gathered from all parts of the world, are now transformed into slaughters that are spreading the war almost all part of the Middle East. Especially religious and faith groups are playing their role accordingly.

Recent example of such slaughters is the Massacre in Sinjar. This massacre against Ezidi peoples in Sinjar is also a part of the war carried out. Thus, who takes part in this massacre and who supports and tolerates such attacks are guilty as the ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and Levant) gangs are. The new documents coming into view day by day proves that the gangs of ISIL were put forward by the hegemonic powers that had also banded these gangs together. In according to such proofs, ISIL gangs has been supported by several powers such as the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar and Turkey and some of the local reactionary powers are also playing a role in this project.

At the midnight on 2 August 2014, ten thousand of Kurdish Ezidi people living in the area at the skirts of the Sinjar Mountain (or Şengal) in Iraq were slaughtered in a similar way that the Shia Arabs, Shia Turkmens, Christians and Armenians were slaughtered by the ISIL gangs which are the cat's paw of the imperialist and reactionary powers. People recovered alive from the massacre were able to escape to the Mountain of Sinjar as leaving their houses as barefooted, by taking their kids and elders with them. They arrived at the border of Turkey after the days.

We condemn these massacre politics that deemed proper for all peoples of the world in the person of Ezidi peoples in the lands of Mesopotamia where the civilization grown. We would like to state that we do not accept such attacks and that we are against this war. We would like to say that we are going to stop this war and that we will stand with Ezidi people, hundred thousands of whom were enforcedly migrated while many of them were massacred and some of who arrived Turkey and some of who are now trying to cross the border of the Kurdistan Federal Region and Rojava. We will continue to be in solidarity with them.

What Gaza means in terms of the war in the Middle East, Rojava and Sinjar have the same meaning. We will be in a determinate struggle for peaceful, equal and emancipated togetherness of the peoples in the Middle East, by being with them.

THE MISSION AND THE TARGETS OF THE VISIT:

The delegation composed by DİSK, KESK, TMMOB and TTB visited Silopi tent site where the majority of the Kurdish Ezidis survived from the massacre of ISIL are now living. These people took shelter in Turkey by managing to endure the hard conditions on their ways. The aim of the mission was to identify the living conditions and the needs of the asylum seekers in the camp, to meet with the witnesses of the events, to share the impressions arose from these meetings with the public opinion, to condemn the slaughters and to call for a campaign to ensure the asylum seekers will be provided all types of fundamental life support by raising awareness on the matter.

THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION:

Mr. Lami Özgen, Co-President of KESK (Confederation of Public Employees' Trade Unions), Mr. Kani Beko, President of DİSK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey), Mr. Mehmet Soğancı Chair of the Executive Board of TMMOB (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects), Ms. Gülistan Atasoy, Women Secretary of KESK, Mr. Mesut Fırat The Press and Media Secretary of Egitim-Sen Headquarters, Ms. Birsen Seyhan General Secretary of SES, Mr. Fikret Çalağan the Press and Media Secretary of SES, Ms. Dr. İncilay Erdoğan The Member of Executive Board of İstanbul Tabip Odası (Turkish Medical Association İstanbul Branch), Mr. Dr. Fethi Bozçalı the member of the Human Rights Commission of İstanbul Tabip Odası (Turkish Medical Association İstanbul Branch), Dr. Kamuran Yıldırım Chairperson of Mardin Tabip Odası, (Medical Association Mardin Branch)

and Dr.Azad Karagöz, Chairperson of Şırnak Tabip Odası (Medical Association Şırnak Branch).

INSTITUTIONS VISITED:

Ms. Emine Esmer and Mr. Seyfettin Aydemir, co-mayors of the Silopi Municipality were visited and the delegation was informed about the general condition and living conditions of the asylum seekers. During the mission's visit to the tent area, Ms. Selma Irmak and Mr. Faysal Sarıyıldız, Şırnak deputies of HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) provided information to our delegation about the experiences after the Massacre in Sinjar and their meetings on the matter. They also informed the delegation about disturbances regarding the silent position of the Turkish Government as a response of the massacres of ISIL. The mission also visited Mr. Suat Demirci, the Silopi Governor and requested information about the situation of the asylums. Mr. Demirci explained that 300 asylum seekers who entered Turkey illegally were placed to the schools in Silopi and their needs were met by using the opportunities provided by the state. He also stated that they would close the tent camp in Silopi and asylums would be transferred to another camp in Midyat which has 5000 people capacity or if they agree they would be transferred to the another camp that would be set by AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey) in Zaho. Further, he informed about us that Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent) does not provide any service in the region. The delegation also visited the deputy of HDP Şırnak who said that Midyat is not secure region because of its Sunni Arabic population and that it will be more proper to set decent camps in Nusaybin, Batman, Viranşehir or Silopi. She also explained that approximately 90 thousands of Ezidi Kurds were settled in Rojava and these people have main needs. She added that roughly 250 thousand people are at the other part of the border and it is most probably that thousands of asylum seekers are about to migrate to Turkey. She explained that making some preliminary preparations and arrangements is, therefore, important.

GENERAL FEATURES OF THE TENT SITE and RELEVANT OBSERVATIONS:

- ✓ The tent camp which was set and supported in terms of the needs of its inhabitants by the support of peoples living in the area and many organizations such as Silopi Municipality, Medical Association in Şırnak and Şırnak branch offices of the KESK affiliated trade unions is approximately 5km away from the center of Silopi.

- ✓ Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent) does not provide assistance in the region and needs regarding the health of people from Sinjar in the region are not met by the Ministry of Health.
- ✓ While in Silopi only people holding a passport are able to enjoy health services provided by the Ministry of Health, health teams working for Bişeng Community Health Care Center affiliated to the Municipality provide health services for all people.
- ✓ Delegation was informed about that 2500 of approximately 5000 Ezidi Kurdish and Shia Turkmen asylum seekers escaped from massacre committed by the ISIL and took shelter in Turkey are in Şırnak and its districts. According to the same information resource, 500 people are in Cizre living in an area by the assistance provided by the Cizre Municipality, 700 people are in Diyarbakır and three different areas supported by Diyarbakır Municipality (Sümerpark, Koşuyolu and Bağlar Sport Centers). Remained population is received as guests by the households in the region including Şırnak, Diyarbakır and Mardin.
- ✓ It was stated that the number of population in the tent site has been rapidly changing and although about 3000 people were staying in the area during the first days of migration; many of the families then moved to the houses of some volunteer householders living in villages and districts around.
- ✓ The delegation was informed that there are 800 people living in the tent site in Silopi and 220 of them are children.
- ✓ According to the information provided most of the asylums managed to pass Turkey had their passports with them and ten thousand of asylums passed from the border area between Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan including women and children are made wait at the borders' gates. It is stated that this situation also causes an important problem.
- ✓ As a result of the investigation by the delegation, especially health condition of the patients with chronic diseases and children who had to walk for days in order to pass the border is reported as alarming. It is also observed that the risk of epidemic diseases is very high, the need of medicines is very apparent. Additionally serious symptoms of trauma especially suffered by women and children were observed.
- ✓ Families from Sinjar stated that since the region is surrounded by Arabic Sunni villages they were subjected to harassments of these groups occasionally on the basis of their faiths. They added also that Iraqi soldiers had left the region one or two months before the attacks by giving up their weapons. People in Sinjar wanted to use the guns soldiers had left to defend themselves; however stating that they would have defended them,

peshmerga dispossessed weapons of people living in Sinjar. Through the secure zone opened by the YPG (the Peoples Protection Units), about 150 thousand people living in Sinjar were transferred to Rojava. There are, however, thousands of people at the other side of the border. Delegation observed that there is a potential that a sudden migration can be to the region, but there is not any preliminary preparation made by the authorities.

✓ Families stated their experiences as follows:

“Instead protecting us, peshmerga officers escaped from the region when the attacks of ISIL were started. ISIL and Arabic Sunni tribes together attacked us at a night at about 03.00 a.m. Thus we had to leave our villages and escape. They wanted to convert villagers of the two villages by forcing them to become Muslims. They kidnapped our wives and 8-10 year old daughters. They sold our daughters as the slaves to the Arabs. We do not know anything about whereabouts of over 500 kidnapped women. They brought Arabic Sunnis to the villages we forcibly evacuated to settle and they demolished our sacred places and symbols.”

“Our houses were burnt by the support of our Sunni Arabic neighbor villagers. All of our properties were plundered; our daughters were kidnapped as considered war booty. Our elders, young, women and even pregnant women were killed brutally. People who were able to manage from the massacre took shelter at the skirts of the Sinjar Mountain where the weather was as hot as 50 centigrade degree. Many of our peoples, including children, elders and patients who were not able to resist the hot weather and lack of water dead at the skirts of the Mountain they searched shelter.”

“Teams of the PYD (Democratic Union Party) that controls the Rojava region of Syria arrived to Sinjar and gave protection to the people who sheltered at the skirt of the mountain. We partly relieved after our fundamental needs such as water were met. We, however, took to the roads in order to reach more secure areas.”

“We may have different faiths. We, however, all of our pray to the God wish goodness for firstly Muslims, Christians but lastly for ourselves. We do not understand the reasons of these massacres.”

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE TENT CAMP:

- ✓ Clear water supply for asylum seekers to use and as drink is provided by the Municipality as 15 two ton metallic water tanks filled by the clear city water by municipality vehicles. At three times a day, two kinds of food were provided by the authorities. Foods are had in the same places where they sleep.
- ✓ Even it cannot be said that their number is enough; there are 20 toilets and bathrooms for women and men separately. There is water supply. The delegation was also informed about that water can be used in order to wash the clothes.
- ✓ It is stated that the wastes are collected and the environment is relatively clear, disinfectant to insect are applied.
- ✓ It is observed that there is a huge tent where children can play with provided toys. This tent is also made cooler via air-conditioner. The delegation was able to see children playing there. It is reported that in the tent camp in Silopi, totally 800 people are living including 220 children.
- ✓ The delegation was not able to reach relevant data on ages, gender and groups at risk in the camp. It is observed also that registration system is not sufficient.
- ✓ It is observed that the health service is provided by the volunteer health teams working under Şırnak Medical Association and SES. The first step aids for health is provided by a vehicle including a polyclinic equipped by basic medical consumable and medication. This polyclinic is also appropriate for minor surgeries. This vehicle was provided by the Cizre Municipality on this purpose. It is reported that this service is given every day at daytime. The delegation observed further that a group of volunteer physicians visiting asylum seekers are working to collect data about age groups, number of pregnant women, women after childbirth and people carrying risks.
- ✓ There were also a driver provided by the Ministry of Health and an emergency aid team. It is reported that emergency aid vehicle is present in the camp everyday till 24.00.
- ✓ In the reports recording to provide polyclinic services shows that the many of the asylums are suffering from some aches including back ache. It is reported that there is no information on the immunization of babies, children and pregnant and the other asylums either.
- ✓ It is reported by the volunteer physicians that the Ministry via its teams and within the scope of ordinary vaccination program children are applied measles and polio vaccination.

- ✓ The basic medicines are paid by the pharmacies if they are prescribed by a state hospital. It is reported also that free emergent and second step health services are given by the Silopi State Hospital. Need of some medicines was also underlined.

FINDINGS AND COMMENTS:

1. What has been experienced is the crime against humanity.
2. All the institutions, organizations and individual people should show reaction on such events where Ezidi, Shia, Turkmen, Arabic, Christian, Assyrian, Armenian and Keldani people are being slaughtered on the basis of their faiths, origins and other belongings are different.
3. It is possible to share their pains at least supporting them and hearing their voices.
4. It is necessary to prevent the future slaughters by ISIL Gangs by taking them before the judicial mechanisms. It is also required to provide all types of humanitarian aid to the people. We believe that all people who are responsive to humanity shall support the aid campaigns.
5. Therefore, the United Nations, European Union, Governments, labor organizations, humanitarian and charity organizations shall take an immediate action to prevent new massacres.
6. Asylums do not having passports with them are not allowed to enter Turkey. Thus, there are fragmented families, some members of which have to wait at the other side of the border. Under the international conventions it ratified, Turkish government independent of the presence of a passport should accept all asylum seekers from the region since their right to live is in danger.
7. It has been reported that there are about 250 thousand people at the borders waiting. Thus, Turkey should make relevant preparation in case of mass migration.

Peoples are destroyed since their faith and origins are different! It is a crime against humanity! We are living in an important time, since our loyalty to humanity is being tested.

Consequently, we would like to say that we started to launch campaigns to provide health and food support and we call all our international contacts and the United Nations as well to be sensitive on the matter and act in order to prevent such events.

Believing that all relevant parties who take part in democracy and human rights struggle would do what is necessary, we are greeting all.