

“Against feminicide - be the voice of self-defense”

*An international campaign by the
Freedom's Movement of Êzidî Women
(TAJÊ / Tevgera Azadiya Jinên Êzidî)*



Dossier

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From March 8th, 2024, the International Women's Day, until August 3rd, 2024, the tenth anniversary of the genocide and femicide in Şengal, we will raise our voices against femicide and for the self-defense of all women worldwide.

Our goal is to collect the voices, signatures and participation of women and women's organizations in this campaign.

You can find more information in this dossier.

We invite you to become part of this campaign in various and colorful ways (be it through pictures, videos, texts, poems, songs or manifestations)

Şengal, March 2024



To the women of the world,

As TAJÊ (Tevgera Azadiya Jinên Êzidî), the Freedom's Movement of Êzidî Women in Şengal, we send our warmest greetings and respect to all the fighting and resisting women in the world. To all those women standing up against the violence against our bodies and souls. To all those women organizing to make a better life possible. To all those women defending their lives, lands and cultures.

The times we live in are marked by brutal wars and inhuman violence. As women, we are beaten, raped, sold, killed and burned. Our lands get occupied and the nature destroyed. However, with every new attack, our global resistance and struggle against war, violence and femicide is growing. This gives us hope and strength. Our pain and our resistance is one.

For us as Êzidî women, the year 2024 is a special year. It marks the 10th anniversary of the genocide and femicide committed by the so-called „Islamic State“ (Daesh) in Şengal. On August 3rd, 2014 tens of thousands of Êzidî were murdered, abducted and taken as slaves. Children were forcibly recruited as child soldiers. On top of that, hundreds of thousands inhabitants of Şengal were expelled from their homeland. Our holy places were blown up and tens of buildings were detonated. However, despite all difficulties and dangers, also hundreds of families remained on the soil of Şengal, took up weapons and resisted against Daesh. They participated in the offensive to liberate Şengal and created their own protection forces, called Yekîneyên Berxwedana Şengalê (YBŞ; Şengal Resistance Units) and Yekîniyên Jinên Şengalê (YJŞ; Şengal Women's Resistance Units).

In all massacres and genocides, women are the ones suffering most. The assimilation and killing of women are frequently adopted as means to wipe out the identity, culture and belief of a society. When in 2014, women fell in the hands of Daesh, they were raped, sold as slaves and/or forced into marriage with jihadist fighters. Until today, 2.941 persons, most of them women and children, still remain in the hands of Daesh. The genocidal and femicidal attacks against Şengal are a cruel wound in all our hearts. We assess these attacks as the brutal face of patriarchal violence and therefore as attacks against all women.

We do not accept that so far no state and institution has judged Daesh and its accomplices, such as the Turkish State or PDK, for the systematic attacks carried out against the people of Şengal. On August 3rd, 2014 Şengal's security was under the responsibility of the KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government) and its ruling party PDK (Kurdistan Democratic Party). However, when Daesh attacked the first villages, 12.000 PDK-peshmerga left Şengal without shooting a single bullet and delivered our people to Daesh. We demand, that the responsibility of all forces will be proved and convicted.



The genocide and femicide of August 3rd, 2014 caused lots of pain, trauma and deep losses within our community. However, today this pain is the soil for our resistance. Many fighters have lost their lives for the sake of defending our land and people. We call them Şehîds. They are our light and hope.

After 2014, the people in Şengal organized in all fields of life based on the thought of Abdullah Öcalan. As Êzidi women we built the Freedom's Movement of Êzidi Women in Şengal called TAJÊ with the philosophy of JIN JIYAN AZADÎ. With proudness we can say, that the mothers of Şengal are at the forefront of our resistance. We are organized in women's councils and are working in the fields of culture, health, economy, press and diplomacy.

Our history is a history of struggle and resistance but also a history of 74. genocides. It taught us that we cannot trust on the protection of other forces. After the genocide of August 3rd, 2014, we therefore built our own protection forces YBŞ, YJŞ and Asayîş Êzidxan (a security structure to meet the daily security needs of the population). YJŞ is a women's-only military force and our greatest honor. Today, as Êzidi women, we know how to self-defend. This is our revenge against all the pain we suffered.

However, also ten years after the genocide and femicide the attacks against our people continue. The Turkish state, with the support of the PDK, is continuously committing air strikes against members of our military forces as well as against civilians. Dozens of our brothers and sisters were killed in these airstrikes since 2017. Furthermore, the Iraqi state as well as the PDK try to abolish our self-organization and self-administration in Şengal through diplomatic pressure and their agreement of October 9th, 2020.

We claim, that all suppressed people, societies and beliefs have the right to defend themselves against the danger of genocide and femicide. We consider the self-defense of the people and women of Şengal - that in other ways would be eliminated - as the only legitimate one.

As the freedom's movement of Êzidi women, TAJÊ, and the Şengal Women's Resistance Units, YJŞ, we carry out an active struggle against nationalism, religious fundamentalism and especially against sexism, so that in the future no women, people or community of belief will ever again have to face genocides and femicides. We believe that in the countries we live in, we will only reach democracy, freedom and peace if we as women lead the way on the basis of self-determination and free will.

The best response against the atrocities carried out against the Êzidi women is the solidarity and worldwide organization of women.



We therefore declare, that the year 2024 will be marked by raising our voices against femicide and for self-defense.

We demand:

- 1. That femicide will be recognized as a war crime and that all perpetrators are getting convicted of committing or supporting the systematic killing of women.**
- 2. That the right of women to organize for the defense of their lives, lands and culture will be accepted by all people and institutions.**
- 3. That the genocide of August 3rd, 2014 in Şengal will be officially recognized as a genocide. This also indicates, that the responsibility of all perpetrators and supporters, including Daesh, PDK, Turkey and Iraq will be proved and convicted.**
- 4. That our self-administration in Şengal as well as our protection forces YBŞ, YJŞ and Asayiş Êzîdxan will be accepted as the legitimate representation and protection of our people.**
- 5. That all attacks against our people in Şengal, especially the airstrikes committed by the Turkish state, stop.**

From March 8th, the International Women's Day, until August 3rd, the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Şengal, we will therefore collect the voices, signatures and participation of women and women's organization to call on all women across the globe:

Let us unite our voices in the spirit of JIN JIYAN AZADÎ. Let us raise them against femicide and for self-defense.

Together we will demand accountability for the massacres on women in Şengal and every other place on earth.

Şengal, March 2024
TAJÊ / Tevgera Azadiya Jinên Êzîdî



“As Êzidî women we built the Freedom’s Movement of Êzidî Women in Şengal called TAJÊ with the philosophy of JIN JIYAN AZADÎ. With proudness we can say, that the mothers of Şengal are at the forefront of our resistance.”

About TAJÊ, the Freedom’s Movement of Êzidî Women
(Tevgera Azadiya Jinên Êzidî)

Communal life is built around women. Where women are strong, society is strong.

As an answer to the genocide of August 3rd 2014 and in order to prevent further massacres, Êzidî women have started to organize. At the beginning, in 2015, they acted as a women’s group for supporting and educating women with the goal to strengthen the women’s free will. After more women had come together, they widened their organization. On September 20th, 2016, the foundation of the Freedom’s Movement of Êzidî Women (TAJÊ) was officially proclaimed in a congress. It unites Êzidî women from all ages and different places in the Şengal region. Based on the slogans “Free women, Free society” and “Jin, Jiyan, Azadî”, TAJÊ works on the basis of the thoughts and philosophy of Abdullah Öcalan and his paradigm of Democratic Confederalism and women’s freedom. It sees the liberation of women as the basis for the liberation of the whole society and is therefore at the forefront of the resistance in Şengal.

TAJÊ perceives the equality of men and women, democracy among all peoples and the protection of nature as fundamental. It works for a society, which is independent from state structures, by building its own political, economic, social, defense and legal system in all areas of life. Education and women’s academies are considered as an important basis to strengthen the free will and organization of women.

TAJÊ recognizes the Women’s Protection Units in Şengal (Yekîneyên Jinên Şingalê – YJŞ) as its defense force for the protection of Êzidî women and the whole society. It gives highest priority to the liberation of Êzidî women that have been enslaved by Daesh. In cooperation with the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces), the Ministry of Women of North and East Syria (NES), the Mala Êzidîyan (“House of the Êzidîs”) in NES and the Êzidî Women Support League in Şengal, around 1.500 Êzidî women have so far been liberated from the hands of Daesh jihadists and reunited with their families

On Education

Education is crucial for a free life, free thought and free will. TAJÊ therefore considers the field of education of women as one of its major and fundamental duties. Through education, women learn about their faith, their history, their society as well as about their enemies.



It is essential for women to know that patriarchy and its sexist mentality is the root of all injustice, oppression and domination. Based on this knowledge women have to develop their own opinions and learn to make decisions against male domination, concerning all parts of their lives.

On Organization

Without organization, neither country nor life can be liberated. Organization is especially important for women. The patriarchal system and male power have always tried to exclude women from social organization in order to bring them under their control. It has tried to separate women from each other and leave them alone under male oppression. As no one can become free by oneself, one of the patriarchy's biggest achievements is to prevent the organization of women. Therefore, becoming organized, getting to know each other, not staying alone, and developing a free will are fundamental necessities for women's liberation. Women who become organized stand united against the system of male domination, tyranny of the state, gangs like Daesh and the fascist mentality.

That's why, there is a great need for Êzidî women to get organized. When women fight in an organized way on their lands and based on their culture, that has risen through thousand of years, they become free. When women become free, they become beautiful and women who become beautiful are being loved. As TAJÊ, we consider this principle essential for a free and equal society.

TAJÊ organizes itself in the form of communes and establishes self-governing women's councils throughout Şengal. It established its own committees, such as the committees for education, economy, culture and arts, diplomacy and health. It furthermore builds up relations with women's organizations of other ethnicity and religions including Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians, and Chaldean Catholics.

On Self-defense

Organized women can achieve their goals through struggle. This struggle is waged under all conditions and circumstances. It is directed against all forms of domination, including mental, social and political domination, oppression in the name of marriage, beatings, murders, insults, rape of women's bodies, disrespect of women's will, and any other despicable behavior, that aims to make woman worthless. The organized struggle of women can defeat all of these forms of domination. Every woman has the right to defend herself against violence, be it at home or in public, and against all other attacks on the free will and life of women.

Just as every living being in nature has its own self-defense, it is also the natural right of women to protect themselves.



The self-defense against the mindset of male domination through a free will as well as the self-defense against all kinds of massacres, murder, assimilation and femicide through a strong organization are essential for women. A free and democratic life can only be established with the protection of your homeland, your society, your soil, your community, your religion and your culture.

On Struggle

TAJÊ fights against the structure and mentality of the oppressive and authoritarian patriarchal system while rooting itself in the principles of women's freedom. Furthermore, it resists against sexist attacks by the dominant male mentality as well as by dominant states and organizations. Women are attacked in the family and on the streets. They are suppressed and get banished. They face violence and so called "honor-killings". TAJÊ confronts this violence directed against women within families, society and at work.

For the self-defense against all these attacks, it is essential that Êzidî women struggle based on a free thought and free will. They must be trained, educated and organized in all fields of life. Creating democratic, free and equal organizations for women must be the basis for all other forms of social organization. TAJÊ is founded on this basis. It participates in all social activities, be it in the fields of politics, economic, culture, diplomacy, law, education, communication or health. This fight is necessary for the protection and freedom of the Êzidî faith, community and homeland. It is necessary to break the history of 74. genocides and femicides (ferman).

It has been said that history has always been written by the dominant male forces. But if you ask the gods they will tell you that history can be found in the reality of Êzidî women who beautify themselves with the rays of the sun. They will tell you that from Mitra to Xatûna Fexran and from Zerîfa Osê to Şehîd Bêrivan Şengalî resistance, freedom and survival has never stopped on the soil of Mesopotamia, the Cradle of Humankind. Until the right history will be written, the resistance of women will continue to arise like fire.



“YJŞ is a women’s-only military force and our greatest honor. Today, as Êzidî women, we know how to self-defend. This is our revenge against all the pain we suffered.”

About Yekineyên Jinên Şengal (YJŞ)

The history of the Êzidî people is not only a history of genocide, it is also a history of resistance. Even during genocides, they did not bow to the enemy and, especially women, resisted. There are dozens of examples of resisting Êzidî women, who rose up, fought and defended their people against enemies and genocide. Zerîfa Osê, Sitya Nesran, Xatûna Fexran and from nowadays Şehîd Bêrîvan Şengalî, Dayê Gûlê and Cîlan Berces are only some examples. The foundation of YJŞ after the genocide can be seen as a new chapter of this legacy of resistance.

About the foundation of YJŞ

After being left without any protection during the genocide of August 3rd, 2014 dozens of Êzidî men and women took up weapons to defend their society against the ongoing massacres. They joint the war against Daesh next to the Guerrilla forces of the Kurdistan’s Workers party (PKK), called HPG and YJA-Star, as well as YPG/YPJ.

On January 1st, 2015, these men and women founded its own military self-defense forces to ensure a constant protection of Şengal as well as to take revenge. Yekîneyên Berxwedana Şengalê (YBŞ; Şengal Resistance Units) and Yekineyên Prastina Jinên Şengal (YPJ Şengal; The Women’s Protection Units – Şengal) were created. Out of its own ashes, the Êzidî people and especially Êzidî women started its own organization. Through the foundation of the Êzidî women’s self-defense forces, which played an essential role in the liberation of Şengal as well as in the liberation of the people taken hostage by Daesh, day by day Êzidî women regained more strength.

After Êzidî women further developed its protection forces YPJ Şengal, it was transformed into Yekineyên Jinên Şengal / YJŞ (Women’s Protection Units in Şengal) in a conference on February 12, 2016. Based on the philosophy of Reber Abdullah Öcalan, the self-organization of Êzidî women became the protection unit for Êzidî women as well as for the whole society. It declared that, “in the line of Ş. Bêrîvan and Binefşan, YJŞ is the promise for the revenge of Êzidî women”. The foundation of their own military forces was the strongest reaction Êzidî women could give towards the genocide. From now on, Êzidî women came together on their free will and gained strength. They would not let it happen that women would be taken as hostages and be sold on markets again.

The role of YJŞ in the struggle to liberate Şengal

After the forces of HPG and YJA-Star were able to put an end to the ongoing massacres in Şengal, the offensive to liberate the region,



that was occupied by Daesh, began. For eleven months, Êzidî men and women fought non-stop next to the forces of HPG and YJA-Star to liberate the city of Şengal. YJŞ participated at the forefront in every part of the offensive. In 2017, it started its first own offensive, called “the revenge of the Êzidî women”, in the villages Sikênîyê and Heyalê, resulting in its liberation. Furthermore, YJŞ also took part in the offensive in Raqqa, which was the capital of Daesh and where thousands of Êzidî women were sold on markets. To put an end to this violence as well as to free the girls, women and children still in the hands of the jihadists, some of the YJŞ forces moved from Şengal to Raqqa to join the war against Daesh.

Also Êzidî women, that were taken hostage by Daesh during the genocide, joined the rang of YJŞ after their liberation to take revenge for themselves and all other detained women. One of them is YJŞ-Commandeer Hêza Şengalî. After she was taken hostage by Daesh during the genocide, she was taken to Raqqa with a small group of women and got sold to Daesh jihadists there. After her liberation, she became a commander of YJŞ, joined the war against Daesh and participated in the offensive for the liberation of Raqqa.

Today, the lack of education and organization is seen as one of the essential reasons why women had to face so much pain and violence during the genocide. If Êzidî women had known how to protect themselves, thousands of women would not have been fallen into the hands of Daesh. It is a law of nature, that all living beings have a way of self-defense to protect their existence – including Êzidî women. It was on this fundament, that Yekîneyên Jinên Şengalê (YJŞ) was founded and saw it as its duty in educating Êzidî women in the field of defense. An important part of these educations deals with philosophy and thought, to create a protection force, which is based on a free and democratic will. The educations were not only opened for Êzidî women, but for all women in the region, no matter what belief or ethnicity they belong to. Hence, dozens of military and philosophical educations began to ensure that women were able to protect themselves against all kinds of military as well as mental attacks.

The goals of YJŞ

Today, YJŞ follows an agenda of various goals. In general, the protection of Êzidî women and Êzidî people as well as the protection of the whole Şengal region are a fundamental goal of YJŞ. YJŞ sees its duty to protect all nations and religions who live on this soil.

Until today, the fight for the liberation of girls, women, children and all people that still remain in the hands of Daesh is continued. In order that a genocide against the Êzidî people will never happen again, the self-defense forces are continuously strengthened. Êzidî women are educated in the field of military and mental self-defense to ensure the defense of its culture, religion, language and homeland.



YJŞ sees its struggle as a part of the struggle for a democratic life. A life, in which the mentality of the dominant masculinity (patriarchal mentality), that enslaves women, is replaced by the free will of women. This includes, that the resistance of the Êzidî women is a resistance for all women in Iraq, the Middle East and worldwide.



Flag of Yekineyên Jinên Şengal (YJŞ)



“After 2014, the people in Şengal organized in all fields of life based on the thought of Abdullah Öcalan.”

About the self-administration council in Şengal

The genocide the Êzidî people were subjected to in 2014, was the most tragic and painful genocide or every Êzidî individual. Because there was neither a self-administration nor self-defense forces, Şengal was occupied by Daesh in a short period of time on August 3rd, 2014. Furthermore, because the military forces of the Iraqi state and the Peshmerga-forces of the PDK left Şengal only few hours before Daesh attacked the first villages, hundreds of thousands people were left to die. Ten thousands of women, children, and elderly people took refuge in Mount Şengal.

After the plan to extinguish the Êzidî culture and believe failed, the people of Şengal established the Şengal Resistance Units (YBŞ) and the Şengal Women’s Units (YJŞ). Along with the Guerrilla forces of the Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK) and the People’s Protection Units (YPG/YPJ), YBŞ and YJŞ resisted for an entire winter by preventing Daesh from entering Mount Şengal.

The genocide on August 3rd, 2014 presented a moment of existence and non-existence for the Êzidî people and was hence packed with historical lessons. It led to the conclusion, that like all peoples and societies, the people in Şengal need to protect their existence, belief and live according to its ancient geography to ensure its continuity. Hence, the self-administration council of Şengal was founded. The people in Şengal started to organize in all fields of life, be it economy, education, diplomacy, art and culture, self-defense and many more. Furthermore, the autonomous organization of Êzidî women (TAJÊ) as well as of Êzidî youth (Yekitiya Ciwanên Êzidxanê / YCÊ) and Êzidî young women (Yekitiya Jinên Ciwanên li Şengalê) was established. Also the Arab society and especially Arab women in Şengal started to get to know the idea of self-administration and organized on the thought of Abdullah Öcalan.

Self-administration and de-centralization are not only considered as a necessity to protect the people in Şengal, but also to enable a democratic process in the Federal Republic of Iraq. The Iraqi population is based on various beliefs and ethnic identities, including Sunnis, Shias, Êzidîs, Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Armenians and many more. Federalism and the right to establish local administrations were therefore also included in the Iraqi constitution of 2003.

However, although the autonomous self-administration council of Şengal is not only consistent with the will of the people but also with the principles of the constitution, it is still not officially recognized. On the contrary, on October 9th, 2020 the so-called Şengal-agreement, initiated by the United Nations, USA and Turkey, was signed between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi State.



It is aimed to legally abolish the autonomous self-administration council of Şengal and transfer the administrative as well as security responsibilities to the Iraqi Central State. However, as the people of Şengal were not included in the debates concerning the agreement and do not accept any other administration than the self-administration, the agreement faced a lot of resistance and could not be implemented until today.



“The genocidal and femicidal attacks against Şengal are a cruel wound in all our hearts. We assess these attacks as the brutal face of patriarchal violence and therefore as attacks against all women.”

About About the Êzidî culture, the Genocide of 2014 and ongoing threats against Şengal’s Êzidî community

The Êzidî people of Şengal, are considered one of the oldest societies in Mesopotamia in terms of language, culture and belief. Through its belief in humanitarian principles, it is based on peaceful coexistence, tolerance and the rejection of war and violence. Every community is seen to have the right to freely practice its language, culture and belief, and to live in peace and security. The Êzidî culture and belief kept up many traces of a natural society down to the present day. Most Êzidî customs have been shaped within nature, respect for all living beings is fundamental. Close relations between humans as well as between human life and all living beings has not been cut off from its free and natural essence. The culture created is a collection of values comprising thousands of years.

Until today, the Êzidî community earns its living mainly from agriculture and physical work. The mythology that is still alive within society shows that the woman is a main element in the life of the Êzidîs. She follows her culture and belief with her own will and colour. The Êzidî philosophy of life is based upon equality and mutual appreciation. Children are seen as the future and continuity of Êzidî existence and are therefore, in priority to everything else, educated aligned with the values of their belief in Êzda. “Êzda” is one of several names by which the Êzidîs call God. It roots in the words “ez dayîm” - “[the one who] has given/created me” - which is also the root of the word “Êzidî”.

History is an eyewitness to what the Êzidîs were subjected to by extremist religious forces. 74. genocides against the Êzidî people were aimed at eliminating it once and for all. What we suffered cannot be explained in any religion, sect or culture. While our Êzidî community counted more than 80 million members in the past, less than one million survived until the present day. However, despite all the genocides, a portion of our people succeeded in remaining in the Şengal and Şêxan region, thus contributing to the continuity of our belief and culture to this day. Like all oppressed peoples, we had great hope that the twenty-first century would bring us freedom, equality, democracy and tolerance.

However, on August 3rd, 2014 we were subjected to the biggest and most brutal genocide in our history, which branded the Êzidîs’ collective memory forever. The world knows the Êzidî people rather because of genocides than by their culture and belief. This is a painful reality for us. The 74th genocidal act was carried out in the year 2014 by Daesh, the so- called “Islamic State group”.



Without doubt this genocide caused lots of pain, trauma and deep losses within the Êzidî community. Tens of thousands of Êzidî were murdered, abducted and taken as slaves. Children were forcibly recruited as child soldiers. On top of that, hundreds of thousands inhabitants of Şengal were expelled from their homeland. Until today, about 200.000 of them live under miserable conditions in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. All Êzidî values were attacked. In Êzidî holy places, 6 temples were blown up and tens of buildings were detonated. The whereabouts of thousands of Êzidîs couldn't be clarified until today. At least 87 mass graves have been found throughout Şengal region so far, with most of them still due to be exhumed for taking DNA samples and making proper burials possible.

Some numbers and estimations about the 2014 genocide (as of 2023):

Women abducted.....	3 504
Men abducted.....	2 869
Persons still in the hands of Daesh.....	2 940
Children orphaned.....	2 166
Persons displaced.....	~ 360 000
→ still remaining in camps in KRI.....	~ 200 000
→ left Iraq.....	~ 10 000
Missing / unkown fate.....	220
Mass graves.....	87
→ Mass graves exhumed.....	33
Women liberated.....	1 185
Men liberated.....	337
Êzidî returned to Şengal.....	~ 150 000

Nevertheless, not all families left Şengal during the genocide to escape Daesh. Despite all difficulties, also hundreds of families remained in the mountains of Şengal, not leaving their soil and resisted. Dozens of Êzidî men and women took up weapons and joint the war against Daesh next to the Guerrilla forces of HPG and YJA-Star as well as YPG/YPJ.

The crimes that Daesh committed against the Êzidî community constitute a genocide by international human rights (see Genocide Convention of 9 December 1948, Art. 2). Several political entities of the international community of states, including the US House of Representatives and Department of State, the European Parliament and the French and German parliament, have already formally recognized them as such.



The punishment of the perpetrators, although required by §§ 3, 4 of the Genocide Convention, has only showed slow progress so far. Only a small percentage of the persons responsible for the genocide have been sued and convicted. This lack of justice additionally reinforces trauma and ongoing grief that the Êzidîs are still undergoing.

Suffering of women in the frame of the 2014 genocide

In all massacres and genocides, women were the ones suffering most. Assimilating and murdering women are frequently adopted as means to wipe out identity, culture and belief of a society. The genocide of August 3rd, 2014 is one example for this. When women fell in the hands of Daesh, they were raped, sold as slaves and/or forced into marriage with jihadist fighters. Not only they themselves were violently pressured to follow the rules of radical Islam; also their children were indoctrinated with Daesh ideology. Women who resisted against the jihadists' orders faced cruel punishments sometimes leading to their death. Tens of women also committed suicide by slitting their wrists or throwing themselves from rocks in order to escape or prevent a life under Daesh oppression.

Also after the 74th genocide, women and children were the ones most heavily affected by the ongoing difficult situation. The forced migration had an especially strong negative impact on women since the majority of them has a strong connection to their land. Through the loss of almost all possessions, poverty evolved. The major part of this burden is lifted by women because of their direct responsibility for their children and families. For years, women try to manage their everyday life under great difficulties in tents. Because of the destruction and lack of infrastructure in all villages and cities of Şengal region, they are faced with health and society problems. Basic necessities like drinking water, electricity and utilities for childcare can barely and only under huge efforts be fulfilled. Most of the women struggle with mental health issues. Female migrants in other countries and especially in the camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq are pressured into behavior and actions far from their own moral, culture and belief.

The organization of women in the Freedom's Movement of Êzidî Women (TAJÊ) as well as the foundation of the women's only self-defense forces YJŞ are a consequence and revenge for the pain women had to suffer.

The role of Iraqi state players during and after the genocide

In August 2014, together with the security forces, the political administration of Şengal withdrew from the region. The administrative status of Şengal is disputed between the Iraqi Central State and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) under the rule of the Kurdish Democratic Party (PDK) since the war in 2003.



Although the status of Şengal was not clear, on August 3rd, 2014, it was under the administrative responsibility of the Government of Iraq and Şengal's security was under the responsibility of the KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government) and the Peshmerga forces of the PDK. Before 2014, especially the Peshmerga forces of the PDK, declared that they will ensure the protection of Şengal's people. In this context, they also took all the weapons from the Êzidî families, who in their history of 74 genocides, knew about the importance of self-defense.

However, when Daesh started to attack Şengal, 12.000 Peshmerga forces of the PDK left Şengal without shooting a single bullet and delivered the people of Şengal to the jihadist forces. Furthermore, also the 6.000 Iraqi police officers positioned in Şengal did not defend the region. In order to stop the brutal violence, the Guerrilla forces of the Kurdistan's Workers Party (PKK), called HPG and YJA-Star, as well as the fighters of YPG and YPJ from Rojava (Western Kurdistan), came to liberate the Êzidî people and put an end to the ongoing massacres. Through their commitment, hundred of thousands of Êzidîs caught without water and food in the mountains of Şengal could escape to a safe place, Rojava/Western Kurdistan, through a human corridor.

Until now, the responsibility of both authorities (Iraqi Central State as well as the Kurdistan Regional Government under the rule of PDK) in this genocidal and femicidal attack has not been discussed and highlighted so far.

Since 2014, attempts to impose a proper administration have failed and attempts rather constituted a formality than created an institution actually capable of acting. State services and reconstructional works remain very poor. Many Êzidîs consider the troop withdrawal of the Iraqi state as well as PDK forces a betrayal. They therefore lost most of their trust in the state, especially in matters concerning security and protection.

After years of disputes around responsibility and power over Şengal, the federal Government of Iraq and the KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government) reached an agreement on October, 9th, 2020: the so-called Şengal agreement, mediated under assistance of the UNAMI (United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq). However, most parts of Şengal's people have voiced disapproval and protested against the agreement, criticizing that they had not been consulted and that the result didn't meet their needs.



“However, also ten years after the genocide and femicide the attacks against our people continue. The Turkish state, with the support of the PDK, is continuously committing air strikes against members of our military forces as well as against civilians.”

A Selection of Turkish airstrikes on Şengal 2017 – December 2023

2017

April 24, 2017: Amûd, Qae Kersê and Geliyê Kersê are attacked by three Turkish airstrikes. The airstrike in Qae Kersê kills a civilian from the village Sîba Şex Xidir (District of Şengal), called Sifyan Casim.

2018

August 15, 2018: A drone strike on Geliyê Şilo takes place. The pioneer of the Êzidî society Mam Zeki Şingaly (Ismail Ozden) and his driver, Mahir Guney, are killed.

December 14, 2018: A drone strike kills three civilian workers.

2019

November 4, 2019: The village of Xanesor is attacked.

November 5, 2019: The village of Barê is attacked. In both airstrikes, three people get injured.

November 19, 2019: Another drone strike on Xanesor takes place. It kills the YBŞ fighter Ezîz Salih.

2020

January 15, 2020: The village of Gigurê (district of Sinunê) is targeted by an airstrike. The YBŞ commander Nîzar Bapîr Mirad, his brother Eymen Bapîr Mirad as well as Elî Huseyin Xidir and Hemid Xelîl Qasim are killed. Furthermore, three YBŞ fighters get injured.

June 14, 2022: 22 Turkish warplanes attack Şengal more than 20 times. Two YBŞ fighters are injured.

November 11, 2022: An airstrike targets the village Xelef (district of Şengal) and kills the YBŞ fighter Azad Şingalî.



2021

August 16, 2021: An airstrike targets the city of Şengal and kills the YBŞ commander Said Hesên Said as well as his nephew, YBŞ fighter Îsa Xwedêda. Three people get injured.

August 17, 2021: Turkish warplanes bomb a civilian hospital in the village of Sikiniyê (district of Til Ezêr in Şengal) three times. Eight persons lose their lives, three people get injured. The hospital building is completely destroyed. The people killed in the attacks are: Elî Reşo Xidir, Sedo Îliyâs Reşo, Hecî Xidir Xelef (all part of the hospital staff), Muxlîse Sîdar (doctor of the hospital) as well as Hemîd Sadûn, Xidir Şeref, Ramî Eî Salim and Meytem Xidir Xelef (all part of the security staff of the hospital).

December 7, 2021: A bomb attack by MIT (Turkish secret service) happens in Xanesor. The male co-chair of the Executive Commission of the Democratic Autonomous Council of Şengal, Merwan Bedel, is killed by the explosion of a bomb in his car. Furthermore, two of his children, who also sit in the car, get injured.

December 11, 2021: Another bomb attack by MIT (Turkish secret service) takes place in Xanesor, targeting the People's Council of Xanesor. The explosion causes the complete destruction of the building.

2022

January 21, 2022: A drone strike targets a car in Geliyê Şilo (district of Şengal). The YBŞ commander Silêman Şemo Yusuf and YBŞ fighter Nacî Hecî Sebro are killed, three YBŞ fighters get injured.

February 1, 2022: Eight Turkish warplanes attack Şengal non-stop for five hours. The airstrikes cause the deaths of three civilians.

June 15, 2022: A bomb attack by MIT (Turkish secret service) targets the People's Council of Sinûnê. In the explosion, the twelve-year-old Selah Naso and Xidir Şivan, both civilians, get killed; eight civilians get injured.

August 29, 2022: A Turkish drone attacks a car between the villages of Xanesor and Barê. Two YBŞ fighters get injured.

September 11, 2022: A car of the YBŞ forces is attacked in the village of (district of Xanesor). The attack causes no human casualties.

September 26, 2022: An airstrike targets the city of Til Ezêr. The attack causes no human casualties.

October 2, 2022: An airstrike targets Camp Serdeşt. The attack causes no human casualties.



October 28, 2022: An airstrike targets a civilian car in Cissalê (district of Şengal). The attack causes no human casualties.

October 28, 2022: An airstrike targets a civilian house in Xanesor. The attack causes no human casualties.

November 1, 2022: An airstrike attacks the temple of Hesin Meman, a place to pray for Êzidî people, in the city of Şengal. The attack causes no human casualties, but partly destroys the temple.

November 3, 2022: An airstrike attacks a civilian car on al Nasir-street in the city of Şengal and kills the civilian Mihsin Şemo. A woman gets injured.

2023

February 27, 2023: An airstrike targets a car of YBŞ forces in the village of Behrava. Saed Alî Bedel and Xeyrî Xidir Xelef, both commander of YBŞ, are killed. One YBŞ fighter gets injured.

February 28, 2023: A Turkish drone targets a car of the Asayîş Êzîdxan in the city of Şengal and kills the commander Şerzad Qasim Şemo.

May 16, 2023: An airstrike targets a civilian house in Xanesor and causes its full destruction.

June 1, 2023: An airstrike targets a civilian house close to the temple of Hesin Mama in the city of Şengal. The house gets fully destroyed.

September 17, 2023: An airstrike targets a car of YBŞ forces close to Camp Serdeşt. The YBŞ commander Xalid Reşo Qasim, Raid Hacî Ferho and Kemal Îlyas Birû Elî are killed.

November 13, 2023: An airstrike targets a car of YBŞ forces in Sinûnê and kills the YBŞ commander Cahid Derweş Îliyas and Xelîl Qasim.

December 28, 2023: Three Turkish drone strikes attack the tents of fountain workers in Kora Simoqya (close to the mountains of Şengal). Five worker from Northern Syria get killed. Their names are Remezan Hamad, Şahîn Elî, Hisên El-Hisên, Ehmed El-Mihemed Elkî and Mûnîr El-Bikûr.

