

THE IMRALI POST

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General Elections in Turkey

YSK: 91.93 percent of ballot boxes opened

ANF | ANKARA | 15 MAY 2023

YSK chair Ahmet Yener said: "As of 02.25 [local time], 91.93 percent of the ballot boxes have been opened.

Mr. Erdogan has 49.49 percent of the vote, Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu has 44.79 percent, and Mr. Ogan has 5.29 percent of the vote."

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Live blog on the elections in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan

ANF | 15 MAY 2023

02:35 Ferit Şenyaşar entered the Parliament for the Green Left Party

Ferit Şenyaşar, whose father and brothers were killed by the relatives of AKP Urfa Deputy İbrahim Halil Yıldız during the election process in 2018, was elected as a member of parliament for the Green Left Party in Urfa.

02:10 YSK opened 91.93 percent of ballot boxes

YSK chair Ahmet Yener said: “As of 02.25 [local time], 91.93 percent of the ballot boxes have been opened. Mr. Erdogan has 49.49 percent of the vote, Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu has 44.79 percent, and Mr. Ogan has 5.29 percent of the vote.”

20:05 Long queues in Amed to deliver ballot boxes

The officials who delivered the ballot boxes to be counted in front of the Amed Supreme Election Council (YSK) building had to wait in long queues. Vote counting has not yet finished in Amed.

Green Left Party officials call on party members working in election centers not to leave their places.

20:03 Kılıçdaroğlu well ahead in Kurdistan

The Nation Alliance Presidential candidate Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu is well ahead in Kurdistan, according to the results of the elections so far. Some 44.3 percent of the ballot boxes have been opened.

According to ANKA's data, 44.30 percent of the ballot boxes have been opened. Kılıçdaroğlu leads with 72.07 percent in Amed, 68.07 percent in Batman, 72.77 percent in Sirnak, 69.39 percent in Mardin, 76 percent in Hakkari, 60.66 percent in Wan, 61.44 percent in Siirt, 79.86 percent in Dersim, 54.60 percent in Kars, 64.05 percent in Agir, 59.12 percent in Idir, 67.74 percent in Muş, and 51.78 percent in Bitlis.

19:39 CHP: We are ahead

The CHP mayors of Istanbul and Ankara, Ekrem İmamoğlu and Mansur Yavaş, made a statement to the press and strongly criticized the state-run Anadolu news agency which, they said, is manipulating the results of the elections.

In a Twitter post, CHP leader and presidential candidate Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said: “We are ahead.”

On the other hand, CHP Istanbul provincial branch co-chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu stated that 40% of the ballots have been counted in the city so far. Accordingly, CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu is ahead of the current president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan with 51.42 percent.

17:33 Green Left Party call: Protect the ballot boxes and votes

Co-spokespersons of the Green Left Party called for the protection of the ballot boxes and votes after the polls closed.

Green Left Party Co-spokesperson Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said: “Dear women and young people, for the democratisation of the Republic and the construction of a peaceful and equal country, let’s protect the ballot boxes, votes, wet-signed minutes and ballot bags. We are on the verge of a historic victory. We will surely win. We will change it together.”

Green Left Party Co-Spokesperson İbrahim Akın: “In order to crown the struggle for democracy, which we have grown with thousands of efforts, with the victory on 14 May, the main responsibility of each of us is to protect the ballot boxes and votes, we protect the wet-signed minutes and ballot bags, we will change together for a Democratic Republic!”

16:52, French MP, Danielle Simonnet: Immense popular hope

French MP Danielle Simonnet summarized the electoral spirit in Turkey with the following words; “Very strong police presence, palpable tension and immense popular hope.”

In a Twitter message, the French MP, who observed the elections in Van province, said: “Exciting and very moving exchanges. Between those who have been imprisoned, those who have lost loved ones to Turkish army fire in the mountains, the mayor of Van who was elected and then deposed, the activists for the emancipation of women. What courage!”

16:42: Progressive International warns against possible manipulation

“(…) Election night narratives can be easily manipulated when a party’s votes are coming in disproportionately early or late. We might see early declarations of victory from Erdoğan based on an early lead, even as later vote counts will likely erode these margins (...)”

Source: [*Twitter*](#)

16:39: HDP Co-Chair Mithat Sancar: We will definitely win!

Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Co-Chair Mithat Sancar shared a message on Twitter after the polls closed. Sancar said, “Dear friends, we have one last job left on this road we set out for democratic transformation and lasting peace. As of this hour, we are protecting the ballot boxes and votes, protecting the wet-signed minutes and vote bags. We will definitely win! We will change it together!”

16:08: Voting ends, counting begins

Voting for the presidential and 28th term parliamentary elections in Turkey has ended.

Over 191 thousand ballots were set up for 60,697,843 eligible voters across the country.

Counting began after polling stations closed at 17:00 local time.

Counting of the votes cast in foreign representations abroad has also begun. According to the official data of the YSK (Supreme Election Board), 1 million 691 thousand 531 people went to the polls and cast their votes since 27 April.

The electoral limitations in place since yesterday evening will last till 21:00 local time this evening.

15.59: "The wind of change is felt very intensely"

The co-chair of the HDP association in Amed (Diyarbakir), Gülistan Atasoy, spoke of a high turnout in today's elections in Turkey and North Kurdistan.

Speaking to ANF, the Kurdish politician said that "The wind of change is felt very intensely." She called for people not to leave the ballot boxes and to follow the counting of the ballots as the polling stations are to close at 17:00 local time.

15:54 Mercenaries from Syria transported to Turkey to vote

The invading Turkish state has transported mercenaries from the occupied territories in Syria to Turkey to vote in today's presidential and parliamentary elections.

According to ANHA, a large number of mercenaries from various groups were granted Turkish citizenship before, thus enjoying the right to vote in today's elections in Turkey.

Citing "reliable sources", ANHA reported that the mercenaries crossed into Turkey on May 12 through the border crossings in Jindires district of Afrin and Azaz.

15.42: Massive electoral fraud by the AKP in Istanbul

In Istanbul's 1st constituency, it was discovered that the ballot papers for ballot box number 1290 at Yıldız Has Oğlu Primary School in Tuzla had already been stamped for Erdoğan before the elections. The violation was recorded.

At Emlak Konut Cemil Meriç Primary and Secondary School in the same district, it was found that the election official had voted at two different ballot boxes. The incident was recorded.

At Fındıklı Gokan Soylu Primary School and Esenkent Secondary School in Ümraniye district, the persons appointed by the Green Left Party as observers to the election committee were not allowed into the building because their names were allegedly not on the list.

Ballot papers with "yes" stamps on Erdoğan's photo were discovered at ballot box No. 2020 of Kaptanoğlu Primary School.

In Kınalıada primary school in Adalar district, ballot envelopes were found to have a "yes" stamp instead of the High Election Committee's seal.

In Ataşehir and Üsküdar, people wearing orange badges resembling AKP emblems were seen in several schools.

At Imam Hatip Girls' Secondary School in Küçükçekmece, a police officer was reported to have voted without the necessary document ("142 belgesi").

At Mehmet Akif Ersoy Primary School, a polling station attendant reportedly stamped the ballot paper of an elderly woman who wanted to vote for the CHP as an AKP vote. A complaint was filed.

In Zeytinburnu, a fight broke out between AKP and CHP members at Abdülhak Hamit Secondary School. Police used pepper spray after representatives of the Green Left Party intervened.

Istanbul CHP Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu reported: "The board of an election committee in Istanbul was suspended after the committee chair tried to stamp the ballot paper he had given to a voter himself."

15:34 Locals prevented from casting their votes in Hakkari

In the polling station in the Otluca village of Hakkari, residents are prevented from casting their votes on the grounds that soldiers from the Mountain Commando Brigade will cast their votes.

15.32: IHD reports violations in several cities

The Human Rights Association (IHD) stated in a report on today's elections that votes were cast en bloc for the ruling AKP in many cities.

15.29: AKP mayor in Mersin visits polling stations with armed men

The mayor of Akdeniz district in Mersin province, Muhammet Gültak of the AKP, visits polling stations in the district with a squad of armed bodyguards. The Green Left Party deputy candidate Ali Bozan called the procedure illegal and provocative and filed a complaint with the Election Committee. The police at the polling stations did not intervene.

15.20: AKP supporters attack Green Left Party and CHP members in Adana

At a polling station in the Seyhan district of Adana, clashes broke out between AKP supporters who wanted to cast votes en bloc and CHP members. The AKP supporters insulted and physically attacked the CHP members.

At another polling station in Seyhan, at the Mekan Secondary School, AKP supporters attacked election observers from the Green Left Party who opposed groups of people visiting the polling stations without registering as observers. Ferhat Genç, an election observer from the Green Left Party, was injured in the neck.

15:11 Earthquake survivors in Malatya vote in containers

People are casting their votes in containers in the province of Malatya. In the city, where the most devastating effects of the two Maraş-centered earthquakes were heavily felt on 6 February, many people lost their lives as a result of the government's policies. The districts and villages of Malatya, where Alevis and Armenians live, were ignored by the government, which left the people to die.

15:06: CHP election commissioner attacked with boiling water in Urfa

In the Akçakale district of Urfa province, an election official of the CHP was targeted by a serious attack. A group of 40-50 people allegedly demanded to cast votes en bloque at the polling station in the Gündaş neighborhood. When the CHP member of the election committee at the polling station refused, he was allegedly doused with boiling water.

Lawyer Rohani Paydaş, a member of the CHP's legal commission in Urfa, reported that he was also attacked. Paydaş stated that there were people in military uniform among the attackers. While the CHP election official was hospitalised, Paydaş reported that the multiple voting could not be prevented.

14:55: Village guards attack Green Left Party observers in Şırnak

In the town of Şenoba in Şırnak's Uludere district, village guards attacked the polling staff of the Green Left Party.

A former chief of village guards, Şehmus Babat, and his son Metin Babat were warned by the Green Left Party staff as they were voting openly in Feyzi Türkeri Primary School. The Babat family then attacked the Green Left Party group and perpetrated violence, after which a large number of soldiers were deployed to the scene.

14.15: AKP group attacks TİP member

AKP poll watchers attacked a member of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) in Fatih district of Istanbul after they tried to enter the polling booths together with voters but were prevented by observers. While the violation was recorded, AKP election commissioners physically assaulted a member of TİP, which is a member of the Labour and Freedom Alliance.

13.52: Violence in Mardin

Violent clashes have occurred at polling stations in the districts of Kızıltepe and Artuklu in Mardin.

In the rural neighborhood of Miqbila Jêr in Artuklu, there was a brawl due to a multiple use of votes. While the police and lawyers intervened, one person was slightly injured.

In Kızıltepe, tensions arose when men tried to vote for their wives in Tumuk a Jor neighborhood. When prevented from doing so, they attacked election officials, and one lawyer was beaten.

In the rural neighborhood of Eşme in Kızıltepe, AKP candidate Faruk Kılıç wanted to vote for his family. Election officials from the Green Left Party intervened and were then attacked by dozens of AKP supporters. Havas Güngör and Kemal Erbey were injured in the attack. The incident was recorded.

13:33: Ewa Ernst-Dziedzic, Austrian MP as an observer in Ağrı

“At the next polling station, the police with their hands on their guns prevent us from entering the polling station and talking to people. Scientist Amy Austin Holmes is forced by them to delete her photos.”

Source: [Twitter](#)

13:20: Electoral fraud in Urfa

Another voting fraud was spotted in the province of Urfa, a video from which shows a person voting in a large number for Erdogan.

Source: [Twitter](#)

13.11: Soldiers at polling stations in Amed

In the district of Kulp in Amed (Diyarbakır) province, voters are under siege. At Bayır Primary School, it is reported that about 20 soldiers and 20 pro-government paramilitaries, so-called village guards, are at the polls despite the ban and putting pressure on the voters at the polling station.

12:54: Ballot papers pre-marked in Istanbul

In a polling station in Istanbul's Sultangazi district, ballot papers have turned up with the name of former presidential candidate Muharrem Ince marked with a cross or crossed out. Ince had withdrawn his candidacy on May 11. Lawyers took note of this violation and lodged an objection with the Election Committee. Votes on ballot papers that are marked in any way are invalid.

12:36: Fraud in Antep

In Antep, up to a thousand voters of the Green Left Party are believed to have been appointed as Vatan Party election observers against their will. Members of the electoral committees can only exercise their right to vote with a certain document (“142 belgesi”) in the polling stations where they are officially mandated. This mainly affects older people who cannot read or write. The HDP and the Green Left Party intervened and the violation of rights was recorded.

12:25: Over 70 electoral violations recorded in İdil

In Idil district of Şırnak, it was reported that the police went to the polls. The lawyers recorded more than 70 violations of the electoral law in the first hours of the election.

In the village of İkizce, at least one soldier voted without being on the electoral list. Only after the intervention of election observers was the vote cancelled.

In a village near Silopi, it was reported that unsealed bags of ballot papers were transported to the polling stations. The bags were exchanged only after objections were raised.

12:17: Violations in Şırnak

Observers complain that the police enter polling stations at the Vatan School in Cizre district of Şırnak. This is an illegal way of exerting pressure on voters, which is prohibited under Turkish law. Despite the protest, the police continued to insist on their illegal practice. Only after massive intervention at the administrative level did the police have to retreat.

At Menderes Primary and Secondary School in Cizre, the Green Left Party representatives officially responsible for the polling stations were prevented from entering the school by the police. Only after persistent objection was it possible to enter the school.

Heavily armed police were also present in the corridors of the polling stations at the Mithatpaşa school in Cizre. When the illegality of their actions was pointed out to them, they insisted that the police would be on every floor of the school.

11:45: Delegation from Italy prevented from observing elections in Mardin

A delegation from Italy observing elections in the province is being prevented from completing its mission and is being intimidated. The police demanded that they stop the observation.

11:25: French delegation witnesses fraud and obstacles in Iğdır

“We observed some irregularities in several polling stations we were able to enter. We entered 20 polling stations and observed disturbances between the officials and the voters. In all the offices, discrepancies were observed between the number of voters and the number of ballot papers in the polling stations. We are also noticing a heavy military presence everywhere. We can no longer enter the schools.”

11:15: Italian delegation in Mardin stopped by the police

Anna Camposampiero: “The police stopped us and identified our Italian delegation outside of a school where people were voting. They caused problems with our documents. They followed us for a time.”

Source: [Twitter](#)

11:00, High military presence in Kurdish cities

There is a heavy police and military presence outside polling stations, especially in Kurdish areas. The military is also present in the polling stations themselves. In some cases, there is talk of up to 20 military personnel being present in the polling stations and intimidating the population with their presence.

Supreme Electoral Board says 1529 ballot boxes uncounted yet

ANF |ANKARA |15 MAY 2023

Supreme Electoral Board (YSK) Head Ahmet Yener announced the latest data concerning the May 14 Presidential elections.

According to Yener, as of 09:45, 192,187 (99 percent) ballot boxes in Turkey and 8,655 ballot boxes abroad were counted. The number of uncounted ballot boxes is 1529.

Yener revealed that the presidential candidate of the People's Alliance, Tayyip Erdoğan, received 49.40 percent, while the presidential candidate of the Nation Alliance, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu stood at 44.96 percent.

According to Yener, Sinan Oğan, candidate of the far-right alliance ATA and former member of the far-right party MHP, received 5.2 percent of the vote, adding that data entry continues.

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Green Left Party sends 63 MPs to Parliament

ANF |ANKARA |15 MAY 2023

The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which has been subjected to a closure case and the Kobanê Trial, fielded its candidates for the parliamentary elections under the banner of the Green Left Party. According to unofficial results, the Green Left party won 63 deputies in 23 cities with 9.33 percent of the votes. Despite the government's election campaign that used state power and the judiciary to crack down on the opposition, the Green Left Party managed to maintain its strategic position and become the 3rd biggest party in the Parliament, and its principle of equal representation, sending 31 female MPs to Parliament.

The list of new deputies of the Green Left Party is as follows:

ADANA: Tülay Hatimoğulları

AĞRI: Sırrı Sakık, Nejla Demir, Heval Bozdağ

ANTALYA: Saruhan Oluç

BATMAN: Keskin Bayındır, Zeynep Oduncu, Mehmet Rüştü Tiryaki, Nurten Ertuğrul

BİNGÖL: Ömer Faruk Hülaki

BİTLİS: Hüseyin Olan, Semra Çağlar Gökalp

AMED (DİYARBAKIR): Berdan Öztürk, Halide Türkoğlu, Cengiz Çandar, Adalet Kaya, Serhat Eren, Sevilay Çelenk Özen, Mehmet Kamaç, Ceylan Akça

ERZURUM: Meral Danış Beştaş

ANTEP: Sevda Karaca Demir

HAKKARİ: Vezir Coşkun Parlak, Öznur Bartın, Onur Düşünmez

İĞDIR: Yılmaz Hun

ISTANBUL 1ST CONSTITUENCY: Sırrı Süreyya Önder, Kezban Konukçu

ISTANBUL 2ND CONSTITUENCY: Cengiz Çiçek, Özgül Saki

ISTANBUL 3R CONSTITUENCY: Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar, İskender Bayhan, Çiçek Otlı, Celal Fırat

İZMİR 1ST CONSTITUENCY: Burcugül Çubuk

İZMİR 2ND CONSTITUENCY: İbrahim Akın

KARS: Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit

KOCAELİ: Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu

MARDİN: Saliha Aydeniz, Kamuran Tanhan, Beritan Güneş, George Aslan

MERSİN: Ali Bozan, Perihan Koca

MUŞ: Sezai Temelli, Sümeyye Boz

SIİRT: Tuncer Bakırhan, Sabahat Erdoğan

URFA: Mithat Sancar, Ömer Öcalan, Dilan Kunt, Ferit Şenyaşar, Aliye Kızıldamar

ŞIRNAK: Nevroz Uysal, Zeki İrmez, Ayşegül Doğan

DERSİM: Ayten Kordu

VAN: Pervin Buldan, Zülküf Uçar, Gülcan Kaçmaz, Sinan Çiftyürek, Gülderen Varil, Mahmut Dindar

HDP and Green Left Party: We will address the election results with criticism and self-criticism

ANF | ANKARA | 15 MAY 2023

The Green Left Party co-spokespersons Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar and İbrahim Akin and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) co-chairs Pervin Buldan and Mithat Sancar held a press conference at the HDP Headquarters in Ankara concerning the outcomes of the May 14 elections.

According to unofficial results, the Green Left party won 63 deputies in 23 cities with 9.33 percent of the votes. Despite the government's election campaign that used state power and the judiciary to crack down on the opposition, the Green Left Party managed to maintain its strategic position and become the 3rd biggest party in the Parliament, and its principle of equal representation, sending 31 female MPs to Parliament.

'We couldn't fully achieve our objectives'

Green Left Party Co-Spokesperson Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar said that they could not fully achieve their objectives in this election, adding, "It is clear that the election outcomes cannot be seen as a success for us."

Uçar pointed out that her party had been subjected to detention and arrest operations for political reasons since the first day of the election campaign. She said: "We were subjected to a government crackdown during the entire election campaign with the Kobanê Trial and the closure case. The closure case, like the sword of Damocles hanging over our heads, prevented an equal and fair election race in Turkey."

Government crackdown and election fraud

Uçar continued: "During the election campaign, hundreds of our friends were detained and imprisoned through a new political operation every day, creating conditions in which our most fundamental right, the right to democratic politics, was undermined. In many places, the government encouraged racist attacks on our party activities. The People's Alliance used all kinds of public resources and power to their advantage during the election period. The government crackdown and election fraud tipped the balance in the results of the election."

"In the meantime, we are aware of our responsibility to take the message of the voters seriously and make criticism and self-criticism in all aspects, and we will do what is necessary. We will carry out an extensive evaluation on the deficiencies and shortcomings we encountered during the election campaign. We will conduct discussions with our people and will take the necessary steps," Uçar noted.

'We will do what is needed in the second round'

"Our people and millions who voted for the Green Left Party should feel relieved. We will fulfil the historical role, mission and responsibility given to us by our people concerning the presidential elections which are heading for a second round. We will continue our work without losing our hope and enthusiasm. We

will evaluate the second round of the elections at all the authorized boards of our party, and we will share our work program with our people and the public as soon as possible.”

Uçar pointed out that the presidential election went to a second round thanks to the altruistic and self-sacrificing attitude of the HDP and Green Left voters who were in favour of democracy and justice. She said: “In this context, we would like to express our gratitude to all our fellow party members once again. We consider it important to maintain our position as the third largest party in the parliament after an unfair election amid a critical period. With this in mind, we will continue our struggle. We will ensure that democratic politics provides a basis for a solution to all problems.”

Uçar remarked that “No one should give way to pessimism and despair,” and emphasized that the struggle to end the one-man regime would continue.

‘We will discuss the loss of votes’

HDP Co-Chair Mithat Sancar answered journalists’ questions. Asked whether entering the elections under the banner of the Labour and Freedom Alliance “caused a loss of votes”, Sancar replied that “We have certain losses”. He stated: “we said and defended that a single list was the most appropriate formula. However, we always cared about protecting the alliance. Such risks are likely to occur within alliances. We faced some of these risks in these elections. We will discuss this with our own boards and allied parties.”

Sancar revealed that his party saw a decrease in votes throughout the country. He added: “This decrease is more striking in western provinces. For a more detailed assessment, we need to see the official results. There is a failure in question. It is a problem for us that we get fewer votes in the western part of the country. We need to discuss its reasons together with the voting rates. If we have deficiencies and shortcomings, we will address them with criticism and self-criticism.”



Erdogan’s AKP loses votes in many cities

ANF | 15 MAY 2023

Despite the government crackdown and election fraud, President Erdogan’s AKP lost votes in many cities in the May 14 elections.

The ruling party lost votes in cities such as Elazığ, Erzurum, Urfa, Antep, and Bitlis.

The loss of votes stood at 10 percent in the Black Sea region, a stronghold of Erdogan.

Erdogan lost votes even in his hometown, Rize, compared to the 2018 elections.

The AKP's votes decreased from 54.88 percent to 43.26 percent in Erzurum, from 54.63 percent to 40.24 percent in Elazığ, and from 52.7 percent to 42.99 percent in Urfa, from 51.45 percent to 44.93 percent in Antep and from 44.77 percent to 37.14 percent in Bitlis.

In Maraş, the AKP votes declined from 58.54 percent to 47.79 percent, while in Sivas, an AKP stronghold, its votes fell from 54.73 percent to 40.5 percent. AKP's votes decreased also in Konya, from 59.51% to 48.07%.

In Istanbul, AKP votes, which stood at 42.7 percent in the 2018 elections, decreased to 36.2 percent, while the party saw a decrease from 40.2 percent to 32.6 percent in Ankara.

The AKP votes decreased from 46.2 percent to 38.8 percent in Bursa, from 40.06 percent to 31.34 percent in Manisa, and from 50.64 percent to 40.62 percent in Kayseri. In Erdogan's hometown Rize, the party saw a loss from 64.99 percent to 54.07 percent. The AKP lost 10 percent of its votes in Samsun, from 51.99 percent to 42.38 percent. While its votes decreased from 56.06 percent to 48 percent in Trabzon, the party lost 13 percent of its votes in Sinop compared to the 2018 elections. The AKP lost 1 deputy and 10 percent of its votes in Giresun as well. Like his party, Erdogan's vote dropped compared to the 2018 elections.



European Greens supports Green Left Party: Cross-border solidarity is needed

ANF | ISTANBUL | 15 MAY 2023

The European Green Party Co-Chair Mélanie Vogel and Green Left Party Executive Member Ahmet Asena held a press conference in Istanbul to evaluate the 14 May elections.

Green Left Party Istanbul Provincial Co-Chairs Beser Çelik and Mevlud Ustabaş, Greens Co-Spokespersons Özlem Teke and Koray Doğan Urbarlı attended the press conference held in the Cezayir Meeting Hall.

European Green Party Co-Chair Vogel underlined that the elections in Turkey were also important for Europe. She said: "People from different ideological backgrounds and platforms came together for the elections. They came together because they knew that the main purpose was democracy. In this sense, we saw very strong opposition in this election. The opposition wants to protect the country from all kinds of hatred."

Vogel pointed out that the electoral turnout was high, unlike in European countries. She added: "There is fear and sadness. However, post-election Turkey has not been shaped yet. As the European Greens, we will always stand by you. Cross-border solidarity is needed."

Green Left Party Executive Member Asena pointed out that although the electoral turnout was high, many did not go to the polls.

Asena said: “Before the elections, some young voters said they would not go to the polls. It is important to urge these voters to go to the polls in the second round of presidential elections. Democratization of Turkey is important. There are 15 days until the runoff election. In this sense, we must work harder.”

Green Party Co-Spokesperson Özlem Teke underlined that it was not easy to reverse the oppressive policies in Turkey. She said: “We should not get desperate. We will renew ourselves; we will renew ourselves better. We are not hopeless and intimidated.”



YSK: Presidential election to go to a runoff

ANF | ANKARA | 15 MAY 2023

Ahmet Yener, Chair of the Supreme Electoral Board (YSK), made a statement concerning yesterday’s presidential election, in which the three rivals, AKP leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and far-right alliance candidate Sinan Oğan and failed to get over 50 percent of the votes.

Yener stated that the presidential election would go to a runoff. The second round will take place on May 28, Sunday.

Yener announced the rates of the votes

Tayyip Erdoğan: 49,51 percent

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu: 44,88 percent

Sinan Oğan: 5,17 percent



Green Left Party: People’s will in Hakkari should be respected

ANF | HAKKARI | 15 MAY 2023

With the counting of the overseas votes, it became clear that all three parliamentary seats from Hakkari province were won by the Green Left Party in the 14 May parliamentary election.

64.05 percent of the votes in Hakkari were won by the Green Left Party, 19.75 percent by the ruling AKP and 6.67 percent by the CHP.

Öznur Bartın from the Green Left Party, who has been elected as a deputy, HDP executive member Abdullah Zeydan and HDP Yüksekova District Co-Chair Şoreş Diri made a statement about the election results at the party's campaign office in Yüksekova.

Zeydan thanked the residents of the city and urged the authorities to respect the voters' will.

Zeydan said: "The Green Left Party received 95,300 votes and the AKP 29,048 votes in Hakkari. The people's will secured 3 parliamentary seats for the Green Left Party. With the overseas votes, the Green Left Party reached 95,742 and the AKP 31,000 votes."

Zeydan stressed that the Green Left Party won 3 deputies by getting 2,800 more votes when the overseas votes were added. He added: "We call on all district election board heads and officials to stick to the wet-signed minutes. Neither these people nor the law will accept any change in the sum of these votes and an increase in favour of the ruling AKP. We expect everyone to respect the people's will in Hakkari. We want everyone who believes in democracy, freedom and law to respect this will."

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Other News

PUK MP Karwan Gezneyi victim of a gun attack

ANF | HEWLER | 15 MAY 2023

Karwan Gezneyi, a parliamentarian belonging to the PUK, was the victim of an armed attack in the Koye district of Hewler on Sunday evening.

It is reported that Gezneyi escaped unharmed from the attack. A security guard, however, was wounded.

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First hearing of Kurdish journalists arrested in October 2022 to be held on Tuesday

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11 journalists, 9 of whom are imprisoned, are on trial. As part of an investigation conducted by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, on 29 October 2022, Mesopotamia Agency (MA) Editor-in-Chief Diren Yurtsever, correspondents Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, Deniz Nazlım, Emrullah Acar, Hakan Yalçın, Selman Güzelyüz, JINNEWS reporters Habibe Eren and Öznur Değer were sent to prison.

MA reporter Zemo Ağgöz and Mehmet Günhan, who worked as an intern at the MA Ankara office for a while, are on trial in the same case.

The journalists are accused of “membership in a terrorist organization”. Representatives of press organizations and journalists will watch the first hearing to be held on Tuesday at the Ankara 4th High Criminal Court.



KCK celebrates Kurdish Language Day, calling for enhanced struggle for the right to mother tongue

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15 May has been celebrated as Kurdish Language Day since 2006. The date dates back to the first publication of Hawar magazine in 1932. Published in Damascus, the magazine is considered the school of Kurdish publishing and it played an important role in the history of the Kurdish language.

In a statement marking the Kurdish Language Day on 15 May, the Education Committee of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) stated that mother-tongue education is a legitimate and indispensable right.

On this occasion, the KCK remembered Abdullah Öcalan “who carried the hope of freedom of our people into the struggle and did not recognise any obstacles to this cause, our martyrs who became immortal for the sake of the existence, language, values and freedom of their people, and our resistant people who did not give up their language and did not kneel down despite all bans, oppression and deaths”.

The statement of the KCK Education Committee includes the following:

“Language is the common memory of society. The protection and development of society’s memory is directly linked to the protection and development of the mother tongue. The practice where denial meets

genocide is the banning of language. Calling the Kurdish language forbidden, reprehensible, divisive, backward and primitive is essentially a policy of annihilating Kurdish existence. The greatest destruction a society can suffer is undoubtedly not being able to speak in its own language, forgetting its language and gradually moving away from it. A society that forgets its language inevitably forgets its culture, its history, its identity and, finally, its memory. This is the very essence of the systematic social annihilation practised by the nation-state mindset.

Due to the monist nation-state policies pursued in many parts of the world since the beginning of the 20th century, many countries have become graveyards of languages. Anti-democratic nation-states have made monolingual education compulsory in all areas of life through policies of criminalising language and culture.

While the language revolution led by Kurdish women in Kurdistan tens of thousands of years ago was a breakthrough in the development of humanity, today, in the same countries, our people are forbidden to read, write and do politics in their own language and Kurdish is treated as an 'unknown language'.

Although the prevention of education in the mother tongue, which is a fundamental universal right, is defined as cultural genocide in the United Nations and European Union conventions, the Turkish, Persian and Arab nation states have denied the Kurdish language and culture and deprived our people of all opportunities and possibilities of education in the mother tongue.

The colonialist Turkish state, which develops its language policy on the axis of nation-state politics, insults our people by considering Kurdish as an elective course for Kurdish children. All Kurds should be aware that reducing Kurdish to the status of an elective course is nothing but an insult. A person's mother tongue cannot be considered an elective; an elective is a second language that is not the mother tongue. Saying yes to such a practice is tantamount to walking out of the struggle. What needs to be done against this is to demand and assert the right to education in the mother tongue as a legitimate fundamental right through continuous mobilization in all spheres of life.

It is a fact that the Kurdish people have never compromised in the defence of their language, culture and existence, even in the genocidal attacks perpetrated against them by nation states. Even outside Kurdistan, which was divided into four parts, it has preserved and spread its existence, language and culture in many countries of the world.

From now on, our people should fight vigorously to guarantee the teaching of their mother tongue wherever they are, both in Turkey and abroad, and to remove the obstacles to the use of their mother tongue in the public sphere. One must not give in to assimilation policies that force linguistic homogenisation, but must fight daily against self-assimilation by speaking, writing and thinking in Kurdish.

Against this background, Kurdish Language Day is a day to create awareness against the policy of assimilation, to resist the policy of annihilation and to create a social memory against the understanding of memory loss. In this sense, the Kurdish language is the Xwebûn (Self) reality of the Kurdish people.

We must not forget that we are in the most fertile historical moment as well as in the most colourful historical space. In this place where countless different identities, communities, languages, religions and ethnicities intersect, the coexistence and expression of all differences will be the most meaningful celebration

for our peoples. The revolution of Rojava is this holiday itself. Happily, the Rojava Revolution is leading the quest of all languages and voices to live freely in their mother tongue as a true cultural revolution.

On the 91st anniversary of the publication of Hawar magazine, we once again celebrate 15 May Kurdish Language Day, saluting the Kurdish people who never bowed to the policies of assimilation and denial, those who have kept the Kurdish language alive and improved it at a heavy price, as well as Celadet Ali Bedirxan and his companions.”

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Three soldiers killed as guerrillas respond to Turkish attacks in Metina

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In its daily overview of the war in Kurdistan, the press centre of the People's Defence Forces (HPG) reported that two soldiers of the Turkish army have been killed in the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in southern Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

According to the HPG statement, the Turkish invading forces attacked the Girê Hakkarî Resistance Area in Metina region on May 13. Guerrillas of the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops) responded to the attack. During the ensuing fighting, three soldiers were killed and an emplacement of theirs was destroyed.

On May 14, the Girê FM and Girê Cûdî Resistance Areas and the guerrilla positions in Sida were targeted by 8 attacks with howitzers, tanks and heavy weapons.

Turkey's attacks continue despite a ceasefire announced by the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK). The decision was taken after the devastating earthquake disaster in the Turkish-Syrian border area on 6 February. The Kurdish guerrillas, which include the HPG and the YJA Star (Free Women's Troops), are implementing the call for a cessation of all hostilities and are in a defensive position.

In a statement on February 9, the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK), an umbrella organization of the Kurdish freedom movement of which the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) is also a member, called for a halt of military actions in Turkey, in metropolises and cities. “It is necessary to prevent the people from experiencing even more suffering in this affliction”, [said](#) Cemil Bayık, co-chairman of the executive council of the KCK.

The Central Headquarters of the People's Defence Forces (HSM) expressed support for the KCK's call and [said](#) on February 11 that the guerrillas were ready to do their part to alleviate the suffering of people.

On March 27, the KCK Executive Council co-chair Besê Hozat [announced](#) that the unilateral ceasefire would remain in place until after the elections to be held in Turkey on May 14.

According to the annual [balance sheet](#) of war in the Medya Defence Zones, published by the Central Headquarters of the People's Defence Forces on April 14, the Turkish army carried out 3,730 attacks with chemical and other unconventional bombs on guerrilla areas, 4,233 attacks by combat aircraft and 5,628 attacks by combat helicopters.

According to the [balance sheet](#) of war for the month of April, published by HPG on May 2, the Turkish army bombed Medya Defense Zones from the air and land 1081 times and attacked the guerrilla positions 8 times using chemical and banned weapons.

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