

GIRÊ SOR

A temple of resistance

THE STORY OF THE MOST RECENT OPERATION IN
SOUTH KURDISTAN TOLD BY THREE GUERRILLAS

ANF NEWS

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TERRASEMAMOS

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*We dedicate this book to those who have fallen
in battle in the liberation struggle of the Kur-
dish people, especially to the martyrs of Girê
Sor, who wrote an epic with their own blood for
the cause of their people.*

**Şehîd namarin!
Martyrs never die!**

EDITORA TERRA SEM AMOS

On April 23, the indomitable guerrillas were confronting an army which was repeating the bloody history of colonialism in the Avaşîn area. The resistance in Mamreşo, Mervanos, Aris Faris, Werxelê and Basya regions, the sounds of bullets, bombs and ululations echoing in the valleys and mountains, the words that the guerrillas whispered to the most conscientious times of history in their last moments were all crying out a truth whose recognition is still pending... Surrender would lead to betrayal, resistance to victory. The flag of the colonizers would not be planted in the lands where even Alexander the Great failed... This is the story of a freedom struggle carried out by 10 guerrillas who vowed to win a victory on one of the highest peaks of Kurdistan...

The narratives about the 80-day Girê Sor resistance may not be enough to describe even one second of those days of struggle. Nevertheless, this is a reflection of what they did, which started in the red corridors of Girê Sor and flowed to their successors and into the pages of history...

ANF compiled the 80-day Girê Sor resistance from the narratives of Mizgîn Dalaho, Armanc Simko and Têkoşîn Devrim who took part in the resistance.

Since Girê Sor borders with Avaşîn, it is a very strategic position for both the Turkish forces and us. Located in the Basya region, Girê Sor is home to several hills such as Xwede, Govende, Şehit Serhat, Xapûşkê, Helikopter, Leylek, Sivri and Çarçela, some of which were previously occupied. There is only the Basya Water between these areas and Girê Sor. In fact, almost the entire Girê Sor was surrounded before the invasion attack. Moreover, the aggression of the Turkish army did not begin with this attack. Previously, there was a never-ending military escalation through air strikes, howitzers and mortars constantly fired from outposts. Even the slightest movement around the hill was causing the Turkish army to use a large amount of ammunition and constant shelling. The Turkish army was worried that Girê Sor was still in the hands of the guerrillas.

GIRÊ SOR AND MILITARY POSITIONING THERE

One side of Girê Sor looks out over Govende and the other side faces Çarçela. The part facing Govende is like a natural castle; it is high and has forbidding cliffs. The part facing Çarçela is flatter. Girê Sor consists of four little hills (gupik). Together they form the great hill called Girê Sor. The guerrillas were positioned on the first hill where the battle tunnels are located. The tunnel construction here began in 2014, starting from the lowest part and going up to the summit. This strategic battle position was

a large cave (şikift) with three floors and very long tunnels. Because their tunnels were so long, each floor was separate from the others. The distance between each of the three floors was so long that one felt a different camp on each floor. Most of the gates were also removed from the cliff and used as a shield. Air circulation was no problem as it had too many gates. The structure of the cave was mostly for air strikes and air circulation. These tunnels were completed in 7 years thanks to the sweat and blood of hundreds of guerrillas. The guerrillas who were there during the invasion attack had been in their positions for a year. Hundreds of guerrillas laughed, cried, got angry, shouted, sang folk songs, danced, suffered injuries and fell as martyrs in these tunnels... Therefore, Girê Sor was like a temple with a spiritual meaning as well as a battle ground.

IT WAS NOT JUST A DEFENSE HILL

In Girê Sor, there were many gates and positions where one could protect one's own position and strike the enemy forces. Before the last invasion attack, the Turkish troops were not on firm ground. It was not only a hill where the guerrillas remained in a defensive position, but also an offensive position where the enemy forces were struck repeatedly. In other words, it was a sublime castle that defied technologically advanced weaponry. The Turkish troops were using heavy weapons, mostly against Leylek and other hills. Although the enemy carried out continuous air strikes after each of its offensives, it could not get any results. The enemy was starting to keep pounding the hill when the guerrillas initiated a minor assault. Sometimes, even when some garbage was thrown out, the Turkish army fired howitzers one after another. A paranoid army that can't even tolerate the garbage of the guerrillas... Moreover, the tunnels were not af-

ected much by the air strikes. When there was an air strike, the people inside were not affected by it in any way.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE HILL TO DEFEND ITSELF

The only hill to defend Girê Sor surrounded by the Turkish troops was Süleyman Hill. Girê Sor is located at the end point of Avaşîn province and its front line, for which reason there was no other hill to defend Girê Sor from the back line. There was the Mamreşo hill, but it was not close enough for defense. Due to its location, the hill is half disconnected from the Avaşîn province. The enemy forces could capture images while guerrillas were on the move. All hills, from Çarçel to Sivri, from Leylek to Xapûşkê, Şehit Serhat, Helikopter and Govende, were able to keep track of Girê Sor 24 hours a day. The hill was always targeted on a daily basis. The Turkish army was shooting it directly with tanks or field guns, especially when it received footage from the Sivri Hill. There wasn't a single day without shelling, whether there was footage or not, because the location of Girê Sor and guerrilla actions were posing an obstacle to the enemy forces. For example, while the Turkish army was repairing the roads on the Çarçela slope, the guerrillas were striking them with heavy weapons, making them stop what they were doing.

MATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

PREPARATIONS WERE INSUFFICIENT

Infrastructure was also a problem due to the hill's remote location from the province. It was necessary to take various risks in order to deal with the infrastructure. The surrounding outposts were no different from hungry wolves looking for their

victims. They did not hesitate to attack like barbarians when they saw a guerrilla movement. The guerrillas had to either take risks and complete infrastructure or act according to the seasonal conditions.

The seasonal conditions were not favourable for the guerrillas to complete the infrastructure in 2021. Supplies, ammunition etc. were partially provided during the winter months, but overall, there was a need for more. There was already information that there would be a Turkish military operation against Girê Sor, so some measures were taken. The tunnels were already like fortresses; they were both long and strong. Especially after the Garê attack, new measures were taken in line with the available resources, but when the attack on Avaşîn started on April 23, infrastructure preparations for this war were not complete in Girê Sor. What was complete was the enthusiasm, assertiveness and determination of the fighters. Everyone was ready to resist enemy forces under these conditions.

KEEP YOUR HEART AND BRAIN STRONG

The sound of Turkish helicopters heading towards Mamreşo on the night of April 23 marked the beginning of a new process. When the first attacks began, the guerrillas were already prepared with their weapons, positions, and most importantly, their hearts...

One needed courage for this war. How would one still dare to fight in the midst of all the pain if he had no courage? Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's motto "keep your heart and brain strong" was in the minds of the fighters.

When the invasion attack in the areas of Mamreşo and Mervanos started, all the guerrillas stepped into action. Since explosive materials were scarce, saboteurs were developing new ideas, and

assassins were preparing their weapons. All weapons were placed in the positions. Everyone was doing their best to confront the Turkish attack strongly. The hustle and bustle in the tunnels for the completion of the preparations and the atmosphere inside caused great excitement. The fighters were discussing how to hit the enemy forces. Preparations were being made in the tunnels, and the fighters were also concentrating on what could be done for Mamrešo. Some were saying, 'Let's go out and carry out an action in Sivri or hit the street below Çarçela, we should not give the enemy forces a rest'. All the fighters had the will and desire to do something for Mamrešo. Separate guards were placed on each floor and enemy activity was constantly monitored. When there was a Turkish helicopter mobility, the fighters were trying to help those in Mamrešo and Mervanos by shooting down attack helicopters with a DShK gun of 12.5 caliber. The aim was to assist those who resisted there, trying to attract the attention of the enemy forces. It was actually the most concrete form of the years-long feelings of comradeship gathered in the memory and heart. The enemy was hitting Mamrešo and airdropping troops, but all the guerrillas on the hills around were doing their best to attract the attention of the enemy troops.

EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM CONFLICTS

There were many gates in Girê Sor castle. One could strike the enemy or use heavy weapons without leaving it. For example, using a DShK gun at Girê Sor in the middle of an operation had a psychological effect on the enemy troops. DShK guns with 14.5 calibers were targeting the Sivri outpost from the Çarçela gate. The guerrillas sometimes struck the roads constructed by the enemy forces for military purposes. In this way, they were trying to support their friends on one hand while making preparations on

the other. The fighters were gaining experience from what was going on in Mamreşo. This was a new war, and the enemy was trying new tactics. The fighters were constantly following the conflicts in Mamreşo, Zendura and Şehit Serdar and were trying to gain experience for future armed conflicts in their own hills.

MAMREŞO HERITAGE

From April 23 to May 3, an epic resistance led by Serhat, Rûken, Canfeda, Kamuran, Zafer, Xebat and Sarya took place in Mamreşo. Their resistance has passed to and guided us. They fought ferociously to inspire future resistance that would come after them. Mamreşo was the first bullet of the war in Avaşîn and it was a direct hit. The victory would be theirs no matter what. The pain experienced in Girê Sor after the 10-day resistance in Mamreşo and the enemy's chemical attack that killed fighters was indescribable. However, this was only the beginning of the war and they had to keep their spirits up against the hideous enemy. After Mamreşo, the guerrillas said that 'We will respond with actions, not words'. The idea of retaliation was articulated in all conversations and discussions.

Serhildan was a unit commander. He was constantly shouting in the corridors, changing the lyrics of 'Berxwedana Serdemê" ballad into 'Berxwedana Girê Sor', cheering all his friends up. Indeed, a guerrilla retaliation was serious. All the guerrillas kept saying 'This hill will be a graveyard for the enemy'.

BEFORE THE ATTACK ON SULEYMAN HILL

The guerrillas, friends, had left Suleyman Hill during the winter. Many guerrillas were unaware that the hill had been evacuat-

ed because it would be held again in the spring. Armanç and Baz were set to go there in the spring, and the Turkish attack began on the very day when they were on their way there. The next day they nevertheless reached the hill. Preparations were made there, including planting mines. Since there were no sabotage materials in Girê Sor, explosives were brought directly from the Stûnê region. Suleyman Hill was given priority because there were few fighters there and it was an important position. It was the highest hill in the province and dominated especially over Basya and Stûnê. It was known that the enemy would attempt to capture this position in case of a possible Basya attack.

The tunnels of Suleyman Hill were not very solid and it had only three gates. The tunnels were constructed on the summit and its rocks were falling down on their own. It was a strategic hill, but it was better to leave it based on a tactical point of view because of the condition of the battle tunnels. There were limited supplies only for a single unit until the autumn. Since there was an infrastructure problem in Girê Sor, it was decided to transfer the supplies, technical materials and ammunition from Süleyman Hill to Girê Sor. Each time, a group of fighters went and collected the supplies there. There was a serious battery problem at that time. The tunnels of Girê Sor were very long. Since no one had a flashlight, the fighters were moving against the walls in the dark. The guerrillas had a hard time in the dark tunnels. Everyone was going with a lighter, which made it impossible to move quickly in the tunnels. There was a plan to bring supplies and batteries from Süleyman Hill. After an attack in Mamreşo, the Şehit Şoreş Camp was surrounded and the needed materials could not be brought from there. They would be brought from Süleyman Hill. Every evening, a group of two fighters was bringing supplies into Girê Sor on their backs. A day or two before the start of

the attack, Botan, Özgür and Baz would go to Süleyman Hill and collect batteries and other supplies.

ATTACK ON SULEYMAN HILL

On June 14, the Turkish attack began at around 20:00 when the fighters had already collected the materials and were about to leave. The Turkish troops first struck Girê Sor and Süleyman Hill with howitzers and tanks. Later, Turkish fighter jets struck Süleyman Hill three times and Girê Sor once. Then the helicopter movement started, and the Turkish army landed its troops about 20 times on and around Süleyman Hill. The attack helicopters didn't shell much, but there was a lot of activity. In the meantime, the guerrilla forces were also filming them. The Turkish soldiers must have thought that the hill was empty, so as soon as they arrived, they advanced towards the gates of the tunnels. The Turkish soldiers wanted to lay cables immediately so as to place explosives near the gates. The guerrillas activated the explosives they had previously placed in the area, and it was around 05:00 in the morning when the Turkish soldiers approached near the explosives. When they came right over the explosives, the first explosive was detonated. 3 Turkish soldiers died there and they all fell down the cliffs. A guerrilla footage showed the fall of the soldiers from the cliffs after the explosion.

The guerrillas remained there for two days. The position there was already small and unsuitable for a prolonged battle. It had a gate which the enemy forces had not yet seen. The guerrillas dropped bombs and engaged in a clash for a while. Those in Girê Sor were coordinating the guerrilla action from afar, transmitting the enemy's movement directly to them, and the fighters here were hitting the enemy forces. However, the right decision

was to leave this position. Announcements were made constantly for the guerrillas to leave, and a DShK gun was fired constantly to help them leave, attracting the enemy's attention to Girê Sor. Botan was never helpless, and he was offering solutions to his friends. He was very creative indeed. They did not say 'we are just three people, we can't do anything anyway'. Three fighters were defending a war position against hundreds of Turkish soldiers and causing enemy casualties with their actions. The guerrillas were both hitting the enemy from inside and detonating the explosives outside, dealing serious blows to the enemy forces.

THEY WERE CONVINCED TO LEAVE

The guerrillas detonated a second explosive targeting the enemy around 21:00. Other explosives weren't in the coverage area of Girê Sor. The three fighters resisted there until the evening, and they were constantly instructed to leave the area. However, all three remained determined, saying that they would not leave and would fight to the very end. They were constantly instructed to get out of there and they were also told that reinforcements would be sent. The next evening, they were convinced to get out of there at around 20:00. The Turkish troops had not noticed the Çarçella gate anyway. Baz went out first, and Özgür and Botan went after him. Just as the guerrillas were leaving, someone noticed them. They were not sure whether he was a village guard or a soldier. Özgür called out to Botan, 'We have been noticed'. Botan replied: 'Just pull yourself down right away'. Most likely, he was a village guard and he saw the guerrillas, but he did not do anything out of fear. In this way, they dropped themselves one level down.

FIRST GUNDÊ HERKÎ, THEN GIRÊ SOR

It was a very tough road after leaving the hill. It was not easy to get out of the enemy lines and to walk that long road without water in the middle of summer. Since they did not know exactly how the enemy troops were positioned in the area, they had stopped somewhere below the enemy forces. They had contacted Girê Sor with a wireless device. They asked if there were Turkish soldiers in Girê Spi. The answer was 'yes'. In fact, they were only 400 meters away from the Turkish troops, but the enemy forces did not notice them. They heard dogs and soldiers and changed their positions without being captured by a camera. They later moved to Gundê Herkî. They managed to reach Girê Sor safely on the night of June 17. There was great happiness upon their arrival at Girê Sor. Leaving a small hill like Suleyman and surviving chemical gases and enemy troops had a very different meaning.

They gained experience within a few days from what had happened there. They understood the enemy's course of action. During this process, Botan always kept saying 'We must reach Girê Sor, our friends need us, we must also take batteries'. Botan was injured, but a person could get great power from his will. Özgür, on the other hand, always said, 'I couldn't make sense of the construction of these positions in the past, but after what happened to us at Suleyman Hill, I understood what it meant'. Now he was insisting on building a position. They are now more experienced. After them, the number of guards was increased and more precautions were taken at the gates. They were now ready and waiting for the enemy to come.

The enemy forces suffered a blow on Süleyman Hill. There were both dead and injured among them. The fact that the guerrillas were able to get out of there safely was itself a setback for

the enemy. That's why they hesitated till they moved to Girê Sor from Girê Spî. It took them about a week to arrive in Girê Sor. On Süleyman Hill, an explosive was detonated aimed at the enemy, causing them to approach Girê Sor in a very controlled and heavy way.

GIRÊ SOR AND POSITIONING

They arrived at the fourth hill after Süleyman Hill. The distance between Girê Spî and there was not particularly great anyway. Mizgîn, Serhildan, and Özgür were staying on the summit level at the time. Têkoşîn, Argêş, and Zinarîn were on the bottom. Botan remained on the middle floor so that he could intervene on both floors. Delal stayed with Botan, not on the frontline, because he was young. On every floor, there were saboteurs and assassins. Baz and Armanc were standing guard at the Çarçella entryway. This positioning was continually shifting in response to changing circumstances. There were ten guerrillas at the time.

From his participation in the struggle till his martyrdom, Area Commander Botan was always in Avaşîn and was familiar with all the terrain. In these places, he learnt both to fight and to command. He was the personified name of humility and self-sacrifice in Avaşîn. Having a commander like Botan was one of the best opportunities in the resistance struggle. Botan had the most to do with the long-term survival of this resistance without a single surrender.

Serhildan, the Unit Commander, had stayed long in the Basya region and was well-versed in the territories of Süleyman, Kartal, and Girê Sor. He made significant contributions to the construction of battle tunnels, particularly in the Kartal and Girê Sor areas, digging tunnels for meters at a time. He was smart, empa-

thetic, and a source of inspiration. With his songs and poems, it was as though Girê Sor's tunnels came to life. He always commanded in the most difficult places, on the slopes where it was difficult to exist, let alone fight. He had very profound feelings, concentrations, and a fine spirit, in addition to the enormous practical tasks he assumed. He penned and read lovely poems.

Zinarîn, the female guerrillas' team leader, was a qualified young commander who respected the attitude and command of all guerrillas, not just women. Zinarîn's organizing method, sensibility, pro-freedom stand, commander personality, and comradeship all played important roles in the formation of the Girê Sor resistance. It wasn't long since she moved to the military field, but she quickly became a guerrilla and commanded in the most difficult Zagros highlands, such as Girê Sor. The resistance was led by Botan, Serhildan, and Zinarîn. It was their tenacity, Apoist spirit, and camaraderie that made this resistance a fortress.

They were commanders but everyone there was also from the selected members of the guerilla. They were all involved in the process as if they were battle commanders. Têkoşîn and Özgür were saboteurs, and Armanc, Argêş, Mizgîn, and Baz were assassins. Everyone on the hill had a particular trait and a branch. Delal, who had just turned a year old in the struggle, was the newest friend. She was a quick learner and ambitious. There were both quality and harmony among the guerrillas. On the top floor, a saboteur, an assassin, and a guerrilla operating mid-automatic weapons were always stationary.

THEY REACHED THE SECOND HILL ON JUNE 21

On the first day, the enemy forces were pursued through unexposed doorways. After Girê Spi, the enemy was advancing by

land. On the 21st of June, they reached Girê Sor's second hill. Because enemy movement was no longer observable from the guerrilla's perspective, they could no longer be followed properly. It was Özgür to notice their movement first. While on guard on the summit, Özgür heard the enemy's voice and saw them approaching through binoculars. The enemy was attempting to consolidate their positions on the other hills before approaching the main hill. They started to form positions on the second hill and then headed for the top of the hill where the guerrillas were mainly located.

In fact, the enemy did not show up as expected by the guerrillas. They launched their attack from above. They couldn't attack from below, knowing they wouldn't get far. This was true until the tunnels were exited. The enemy's goal was to step on it, gain possession, and block the exit. They were constantly stationed around a hundred meters distant. That's why they began their attacks from the top floor. A battle was taking place for the first time in the Girê Sor tunnels, and it was the guerrilla's first experience. As a result, they were learning a lot of new things while fighting here. For example, the enemy was trying something new, and the guerrillas were developing different and new measures to nullify it. The war was also creating its new tactics.

THEY WERE MANY IN NUMBERS

The enemy could not be allowed to advance so easily. Their voices could be heard from the second hill, but it was not clear where they were and the guerrillas were actually unaware that the enemy had gone so far. Soldiers were stationed on all three slopes. They arrived by land, but their numbers were enormous. Sikorsky helicopters dropped troops on the fourth hill that night.

The guerrillas repeatedly struck the enemy through the general entrance with DShK fire. As a result, they did not dare to move through there. They were extending and changing their courses because of the DShK fire.

MIZGÎN STARTED THE ASSASSINATIONS

Mizgîn suggested an assassination while the enemy was on the second hill. The distance was roughly 500 meters. On June 22 and 23, Mizgîn carried out two targeted actions there. The enemy opened direct fire with grenade launchers and individual firearms. Mizgîn carried out a targeted action the other day while 6-7 soldiers attempted to build a shelter. The soldiers got a little closer this time, and the distance was around 450 meters. Mizgîn donned a camouflage costume, took her weapon, went outside, and fired two shots, killing one soldier and injuring another.

SPEAKERS FLYING TOWARDS THE TUNNELS

Following these actions, the enemy flew a bee-sized device in the air towards the tunnels and called for surrender through that thing. They were operating that thing in the middle of the field and were calling for surrender.

BEGINNING OF THE FIRST CLASH

On June 23, the enemy force arrived at the first peak and attacked that morning. On the second day, it was noticed from the upper floor that the soldiers' voices were getting quite close. The enemy was now directly on top of the cave. Mizgîn was on guard at the summit when she heard a soldier giving commands to the

others and noticed three soldiers 5 meters away. When Mizgîn raised her head, the soldiers noticed the movement and the first confrontation with the invading Turkish forces started...

THEY RETREATED TO THE SECOND HILL THAT NIGHT

Turkish soldiers opened fire straight on the entryway. Mizgîn also dropped a bomb, opened fire on the soldiers, and came back to report. On that day, Özgür, Argeş, Serhildan, and Mizgîn were present on the summit floor. The first clash that day lasted over 40 minutes. The soldiers were staying away from the gates and firing from a safe distance. That day, the guerillas fired incessantly from all three gates. When the enemy density gave it to that gate, a guerrilla would fire from another gate. The enemy was stunned, and had no idea where the bullets were coming from. When they discovered at first encounter that Girê Sor was not an easy bite, they retreated to the second hill that night. After dusk, both the enemy and the guerrillas came to a halt. There were sporadic clashes during the next few days, especially in the evening. Evenings were increasingly filled with confrontations.

WE WANTED TO ABSTAIN FROM USING TOO MUCH AMMUNITION

The majority of the guerrilla's weapons were bombs. The war was incredibly fierce in the early days, and the sound of fighting never stopped. As a result, the atmosphere was different. Some guerrillas shot the enemy, while others pulled ammunition and discovered the enemy, and while all of this was going on, the lessons learned were passed on and new measures were implemented. There was exciting mobility inside. Everyone was encouraging

one another. Every guerilla made an effort to implement their branch. The ammunition was not to be wasted, yet the fingers could not be taken off the trigger. On the first day, the enemy began hurling bombs from the top gate, and the explosives were falling down as the gates were pulled upright. For example, the air flow was very strong and went from top to bottom. Following the explosions, dust, smoke, or utilized gases immediately went down to the ground. The first day was spent in combat because the enemy had not yet weighed in on explosions and chemical gases.

THE CLAIM WAS EXCELLENT BUT THERE
WERE DISADVANTAGES TOO

The guerrillas' assertion was amazing: "We will absolutely smash the enemy in Girê Sor". They carried out their tasks without hesitation, no matter what it was. Friendship relationships dominated over structure and managerial relationships. Every guerrilla took the initiative to share their views and participate. Whatever was necessary was done.

Because of Girê Sor's location, there were various drawbacks. For example, during the attack on Mamresho, there were guerrillas in the field who were coordinated from neighboring hills. There were also external actions. This was a huge benefit to the Mamresho resistance. Those at Girê Sor had braced themselves for anything. They understood there would be no outside reinforcements and that a ground war would not be fought. Girê Sor was now under siege after the enemy seized Mamrešo. There was only one way in from the outside, but it was tough to get there. They were already aware that no one could coordinate from the outside, and that no outside intervention or action would be taken. They were alone now. They were discussing the conditions

among themselves. Sometimes, they said, “We will resist until the autumn, and if there is no outside intervention in the rains, we will come out of the tunnels and take effective actions against the enemy”. Therefore, no matter what the work was, no one objected, and they successfully fulfilled every task given.

THE ENEMY IS USING GAS NOW, BUT WE ARE OKAY

The huge device was reading the message for Girê Sor. The date was June 24th. During the reading of the message, the enemy tossed something from above, which was responded to by a gunshot. Then they detonated what they tossed. They conducted another explosion 20 seconds later. When the enemy employed chemicals, they caused a second explosion, increasing the pressure and allowing all of the gas to enter as a result of the pressure. It was known at the time that the enemy was listening in on the huge device. The enemy was using gas, and the guerilla wanted the enemy to know that their efforts were futile. They acted quickly and proceeded to converse through the device. The passageways were filled with gas, but Botan was shouting via the device, “The enemy is now employing gas, conducting explosions, but our condition is good, we are not affected at all”. At the time, the enemy was using chemicals for the first time.

IT WAS SWEET LIKE SUGAR WITH AN ODOR OF BURNT SUGAR AND GREEN COLOR

The earliest chemical explosives they utilized had a burnt sugar odor, tasted sweet like sugar, and were green in hue. It was discovered to be a chemical weapon. It was also known to emit pleasant smells in order to avoid being bothered by the odor of

chemical weapons. Têkoşîn exclaimed, “Comrade, how wonderful is the smell of this?” when he first smelled gas, because he didn’t realize it was a chemical. Botan was warning the guerrillas, saying, “Get your head down, you’ll suffocate, it’s not a joke, you’ll be harmed if you don’t take it seriously”. They were indeed affected later on. One became numbed and exhausted as a result of whatever gas the enemy used. There was resistance in the Werxelê area at the same time, and a link was formed between them. The guerrillas in the area were also warned to be cautious. They were exchanging information regarding the measures. The upper deck was small, and the ventilation was inadequate. As a result, the gases used on that floor had an effect. The guerrillas were going downwards, but Botan was not. They essentially dragged him down from the summit.

SURVEILLANCE THROUGH THE UNEXPOSED GATES

The summit’s tunnels were perpendicular, which was a disadvantage. Even during the day, the enemy stayed at least 50 meters away from the gate. They were also launching gas bombs from a distance. When the guerrillas arrived at the gate to place explosives on the summit gate, they noticed that the front was littered with stones. However, there had been no stones there previously. The enemy was putting their distance to the test by hurling stones at the gate from afar. When they threw a bomb, they did so from a distance. Soldiers’ voices could be heard in the distance at times. They spoke Turkish, but there were also village guards who spoke Kurdish and had been brought from various areas of Kurdistan. The camera outside had been destroyed, and the enemy was being tracked with binoculars through unexposed doorways, but not all of the hills were visible. The enemy also began to employ pepper spray. It was the first time fighting in the

tunnels, thus there were some inexperience. At the same time, experience was being gained based on the enemy's orientation. For example, the enemy was primarily assaulting during the day. According to them, the guerrillas were devising new methods.

WE AGREED THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE
TO STAY ON THE SUMMIT

The enemy launched a barrage of attacks in the first week. In Mamrešo, Martyr Serdar, Werxelê, and Süleyman, they used pepper gas extensively. In Girê Sor, they also used powerful gas, explosives, and chemicals. There were major consequences after the first week. There were no guerrillas remaining at the end of the first week who were strong enough to get all the way to the top. They were all weak and frail. Botan had no intention of leaving the summit; he was steadfast. The enemy was also struggling; they were hesitant to approach the gate and they were shooting from a safe distance. The guerrillas agreed that they couldn't stay at the summit much longer. The enemy had a stronghold there, and the tunnels were vertical. Because the guerrillas had become quite weak as a result of the gases, it was decided to close the summit floor with a majority consent. The headquarters was also informed of the decision.

Every day, the enemy used more chemical gas and pepper spray. To close that site, guerrillas hauled stoned soil down from the Çarçella gate. This duty was quite exhausting. The enemy was closing in on them, and they were out of energy due to a lack of supplies. There was not a single thing left on the summit.

THE GATE GAME

Mizgîn and Baz were affected and fell one day when the enemy used extremely strong gas. Fortunately, people from the Cizre area of Şırnak who had previous experience with tear gas were among them. They were suggesting that lemon, cologne and sugar were effective against pepper spray. When they couldn't breathe, they poured water on their faces first. When things worsened, Mizgîn remembered what the inhabitants of Şırnak had said and brought cologne. They came to their senses a little more as a result of the cologne. Then everyone became accustomed to the pepper spray, and it became usual. After the guerrillas left the mountaintop, the enemy was concentrating not on the summit but on the Çarçella gate.

The enemy forces were not approaching all of the gates at once, but were advancing steadily. They were also getting struck from the Çarçella gate, which, however, was one of the weak points of the cave. The enemy could dominate and strike there. The guerrillas closed it, but every time they did, the enemy opened it again by means of explosions. 'If that's the case, let the gate remain open and we strike them from here,' said the guerrillas. This time, the enemy arrived and closed the gate themselves. In other words, it became a game constantly played.

During the day, the enemy attacked heavily and then retreated at night. Baz remained near the Çarçella gate, which was closed up to three meters. Every time it was closed, it was checked to make sure. The enemy was bombing there using B7 and BKC, and the smell of TNT was very strong; the guerrillas were also affected. The enemy carried out a few detonations there after closing the Çarçella gate, and because the earth was not hard, it would close on its own every time there was an explosion. The

enemy remained silent for a long time after closing these two gates. Until the 6th of July...

Every four days, a fire was lit. To comfort his friends, Botan used to say, "It's pointless to overeat in order to gain energy. At the end of the day, our body gets as much it needs whether we eat with a plate or a spoon of food". There was just half a bag of rice, a few handfuls of flour, and a half bag of beans left. That was the extent of the supplies, nothing else.

NO ONE AGREED TO LEAVE

Following the closure of the summit, a general review was conducted with the participation of all of the guerrillas there. Botan stated that the situation could worsen, that there was a supply deficit, that they would not leave the hill even if the supplies ran out, that they would manage even if it was only with sweetened water, and that anyone who was not prepared for these situations should tell them in advance.

Botan was already considering the exclusion of a group due to the lack of supplies. Those who wish to leave can speak up, he said. Nobody was going to give up the hill. They all took turns speaking, declaring that they would resist until the end and expressing their commitment. Everyone vowed again after reaching an agreement. Botan, after all, did not send anyone away when he observed their tenacity. Botan wanted to send Delal away because she was new, but no one wanted to leave, so she stayed there until the last day.

THE POISONING AND MARTYRDOM OF BAZ

There was a plan to reopen the Çarçela gate and take action there, but the ground was continually shifting, making it difficult to dig. On July 6, Delal was on guard at the Çarçela gate. She came to report after hearing the troops' footsteps. Baz and Serhildan ran upstairs with their rifles in hand. The enemy carried out a detonation just as Baz approached the barricades and sought to listen. Baz was affected only by the pressure and gas. With the blast that day, the enemy also used chemical gas. This gas had a bleach odor and was white in color.

Baz wasn't too bad at first; he merely lost his appetite and couldn't eat, but he was fine overall. But he couldn't sleep at all, and his chest was wheezing heavily as he inhaled. Baz was having trouble breathing after 10 p.m., and it was like he was suffocating. The healthcare professional Armanc was called. His heart was racing. His pulse was strong, erratic, and quick. Baz recovered a little when Armanc gave him an injection. He wanted to get up at around 5:00 a.m., but he couldn't get up no matter how hard he tried. It was too much for Özgür and Mizgîn as well. He just drank too much water. He had consumed a large amount of water up until two hours before his martyrdom. Armanc was called once more when Baz became unwell. The guerrillas were all assembled there. Baz collapsed before Armanc reached him. Mizgîn slapped him a few times to awaken him, but all they could see was yellow foam spilling from his lips and nose, and a lot of noise coming from his chest. Baz had fallen a martyr by the time Armanc arrived. He applied CPR several times but there was no reaction. His pupils had become dark, and his pulse had stopped. Armanc was both performing CPR and crying nonstop. Despite the fact that he had passed, he continued to apply CPR

for ten minutes without a break. Botan tried to put a stop to it by saying, “Armanç! Baz fell a martyr!” Armanç and Baz’s friendship was different, and in Süleyman they were as accustomed to one another as they were alone there. That’s why he found it very difficult to accept.

THE LOCATION NAMED AFTER HIM

They were deeply saddened by Baz’s death, and quietness reigned in the camp for a week, but they strove to overcome it. The guerrillas planned to bury Baz outside, on the ground near the main gate, but the enemy might spot him or the plane might hit him. Then they decided to bury him in a different location, which was named after him, as ‘Martyr Baz Emplacement’. His name and surname were written on a box which was placed at the tip of his head. It was expected that if the occupying troops departed or the situation improved, he could be taken from that area.

HE WAS WITH MAM ZEKI WHEN HE DIED

Baz came from Gever (Yüksekova district of Hakkari). The young fighter was trained in Zap and stayed in Shengal with Mam Zeki. He was injured in the attack that resulted in Mam Zeki’s martyrdom. He was trained and brought to the mountain after treatment. He was an experienced guerrilla fighter.

When he returned to the mountain, he settled on the Basya front, on Süleyman Hill, and stayed there for two years. Süleyman Hill was the province’s border hill. There was no coming and going; perhaps once a year, someone from the administration would come. It was too far away from the province, yet

Baz claimed this hill with very small units in conditions that not everyone could rapidly adapt to. Even when one sees Baz, one can get uplifted and can discuss and share anything with him. He was always open to discussions. Most notably, despite immense challenges and impossibilities in Süleyman, Kartal, and, most recently, Girê Sor, he put out an unrivaled effort and saw it through to the top.

NEITHER THE FIRST NOR THE LAST MARTYR

Baz was the first victim in the cave, which, of course, had effects on his companions, but instilled in all of them a feeling of vengeance. Everyone understood that Baz was neither the first nor last martyr. Their hearts had been hardened, their anger had grown, and everyone wanted to move and strike the enemy. Botan was there for them all, trying to keep emotional outbursts to a minimum.

The Çarçela gate was completely reinforced. It was assumed that explosions would no longer have an effect on it. In any case, the enemy didn't conduct a detonation there until the very final day. The following days were relatively calm. When the enemy conducted an explosion on the summit, there was no response from there. They didn't get involved too much. They might also have destroyed it completely because nobody went to the summit after that section was closed. The dominance on the summit did not exist anymore. The dominance over the enemy diminished once the Çarçela gate was closed.

Later, on July 13, the enemy employed extremely lethal chemicals through the Çarçela gate, and despite various attempts, the gas did not escape the passageways for about an hour. It smelled and tasted like sugar, exactly like the previous time.

THE SHOUTS COULD BE HEARD FROM THE TUNNELS

After the guerrillas closed the Çarçela and the peak gate, the enemy moved to the front line facing Govende. The sound of soldiers could be heard from the summit, but they wouldn't be able to proceed from there. Because they needed to hang down from there with ropes. One day, it was noticed that one soldier from the outside was directing another soldier. One soldier was trying to send explosives inside. It suddenly smelled like chemicals. They set off the explosion, but because their ropes were insufficient, they could not go in, and the guerrillas were not affected very much. Then they made their way to the position tunnels on the middle floor. It was a tunnel, but it was shaped like a position. A tunnel, for example, had 6-7 windows. The guerrillas who built the tunnels made a window that allowed them to observe each outpost. One overlooked Leylek, another the Xapûşkê, another the Helikopter, and another the Govende. These gates had been struck by jets previously. Their explosions were becoming more and more powerful. They occasionally used explosives weighing 50 pounds. The guerrillas frequently used grenades to hit the enemy. The enemy was ambushed there, and the explosives would be detonated when footsteps were heard. The enemy was stationed in Martyr Tekoşîn's location. The guerrillas were firing bombs at the enemy from the side facing the Leylek area, hoping to halt their positioning. They could easily do it with sweeping fire. The troops' shouts filled the tunnels every time a bullet or bomb was fired.

ARMANC WAS THE FIRST TO GET INJURED

One day, Armanc and Serhildan were on duty from 10:00 to 12:00. The enemy's voice could be heard coming through the Martyr Tekoşîn gate. They went there because they had the pos-

sibility to get out through the Leylek position. They went outside, dropped bombs, opened fire, and went back inside to draw the enemy's attention. Girê Sor was being watched by those on Leylek Hill because they regularly came out and shot from there. They carried out an explosion after Armanc stood there for a bit. The tanks were assumed to have hit there, but Armanc pushed himself inside, uninjured. Serhildan threw a bomb and opened fire to respond after the explosion. "The enemy is outside seeking your corpse," Serhildan said to Armanc, half-jokingly, as he returned inside. Armanc was on the cliff, and the enemy had detonated an explosive just as he was on the precipice. While the enemy assumed Armanc had fallen, thanks to his agility, he threw himself inside, only one of his shoes falling down the cliff.

When the enemy arrived at the spot, there were frequent explosions. Armanc suffered the first injury. The 20th of July was the date. He was injured as a result of the enemy's explosion while on his way to check the positions. Têkoşîn and Özgür rushed up to him. The pressure ripped all of Armanc's clothes in pieces. We escorted Armanc to a spot, and when he found it hard to move in the hallways, Têkoşîn picked him up and carried him to the squad. His eye was swollen, bruised, and in poor condition. He was always tried to be cheered up.

SERHILDAN WAS INJURED TWO DAYS LATER

Two days later, the guerrillas would make a mine similar to a grenade and throw it towards the enemy. Serhildan planned to throw the mine, while Mizgîn would detonate it. Just as they were going to do this, it was discovered that the enemy had planted explosives in the sacks and had roped them to the Leylek gate. Serhildan cradled his head in his arms and threw himself

to the ground when an explosion occurred and left him injured. Têkoşîn and Botan carried him to a location. There was a large yellow cart nearby. That cart had long turned into an ambulance. Whoever was hurt was loaded onto that cart and taken to the squads. The person driving the cart was making an ambulance noise and shouting “first aid, first aid” in the corridors. Despite the injuries and pains in Girê Sor, success was demonstrated to increase morale, even in the midst of all the negativity. As a result, the injuries had little effect on their psychologies. Serhildan was wounded in several parts of his body. He had multiple deep wounds, the most serious of which was the never-ending bleeding on his arm. For a long period, he couldn’t stand up, but he was conscious and able to talk. This was the second time someone had been injured. Serhildan could not recover quickly because he had lost a lot of blood, and he lay on the ground for a long time.

The enemy had begun to achieve results from the explosions in this position, and the guerilla no longer used that side as much. The number of guerrillas on guard decreased when Armanç and Serhildan were injured. Because the wounded were in poor condition in the early days, one of them stayed with them. There were some challenges after Serhildan was injured. They were exhausted. When they went to the wounded, they were smiling and talking, but it was clear that they were exhausted. Because two male guerillas were injured, the female guerrillas bore most of the burden. They did not even manifest their troubles for a single day.

BOTAN WAS INJURED BY A MISSILE

Botan was on his way to check the position a week later when the enemy launched a missile from Leylek Hill and hit the Leylek

gate. Botan challenged his fear and jumped roughly 10 meters down, collapsing on the wall. Botan, he was strong to the core. He came back himself before the others could catch up with him in his injured state, so they wouldn't come to take him. "I'm alright, leave me alone," he told those who approached him. He got up and went to the squad. He was really strong-willed, he never gave up. He knew that the guerrillas were gaining strength from him and that he needed to recover immediately. Separate food was served for the wounded, but Botan did not accept it. This 'special food' was flour halva with some tea poured in it, so that it would not be too heavy for the injured. We said, "This is special food for the injured". Botan didn't even want that. He had a ruptured ear and was having a lot of trouble with his chest, but he soon recovered. Now that he was forbidden to stay on vigil, they were teasing him like "Comrade Botan, the enemy missed you this time". And he replied, "They couldn't do anything for 12 years, and they can't do it now".

BOTAN WAS EVERYTHING TO GIRÊ SOR

They were all affected when Botan was injured because he was the war's vanguard. This injury had a negative impact on everyone's mood. Botan, on the other hand, recovered soon and rejoined with the same zeal and passion. Botan had been injured before. He had a knee injury, was blind in one eye, and was missing two fingers on his right hand. He was hurt practically everywhere on his body. He didn't stay inactive even for a day. "I've got to be among my comrades," he said. He was the area and the top commander, as well as a cook and a health worker at times. In short, he was everything to Girê Sor. He was in every task, and all of the guerillas were there to help him in any way they could. For example, when the sounds of troops were

heard, Botan was always the first to move and drop bombs on the enemy.

He would not let the guerillas leave, but he was always on the move. “You give the commands but you do them yourself. You are our commander, if something happens to you, we cannot take this,” the guerrillas said to him, to which he replied, “You are all Apoist militants, you all have remarkable willpower. You’ll do it again even if something bad happens to me. Whatever happens, we must not impede ourselves, for the enemy is so cowardly that even if he hears a friend breathing in these tunnels, he will be unable to approach us”.

HALF BAG OF RICE, A LITTLE FLOUR
AND ONE BAG OF BEANS

After Baz fell a martyr, the Çarçela gate was fortified and was rarely used. It was well known that in such a cave, the enemy could not assault all the floors at the same time. Because the middle level positions were cliffs, the soldiers were unable to enter or exit; instead, they began to detonate explosives with ropes. Botan and Delal were usually on the middle floor and never slept. They were continually taking food, and communication was open 24 hours a day. They were in charge of everything pertaining to the guerrillas. They were referred to as “our war coordinators”. “This area is under our control. If the troops go down to this floor, we will seize them by the feet and pull them down; this floor is now a question of honor,” they said. Delal was young and saw the enemy for the first time, yet she was eager and assertive.

Every four days, a fire was lit. There were no supplies to be found. In order to comfort his comrades, Botan used to say “ It’s pointless to overeat to gain energy, etc. At the end of the day, our

body gets as much it needs whether we eat a plate or a spoon of food”. Botan took care of the logistics. Only half a bag of rice, a few handfuls of flour, one and a half bag of beans remained. That was the extent of the supplies, nothing else. Rice soup was being prepared, but with a lot of water. He was eating something merely to stay afloat and keep an eye on things. No one ate to be full. Sugar and salt were non-existent. We got used to how all the dishes were salt-free. When the beans were cooked, they were not boiled much, Botan said it was enough “as long as it’s eatable” and put some tomato paste in it. Only the injured ones were advantageous. We used to cook pilaf for them from the little bulgur spared for them.

ALL THE GUERRILLAS GOT STRENGTH FROM HIM

Botan always stated, “Even if something happens to us here, the organization will commemorate us and tell other guerrillas that we lived and resisted with the spirit of Kemals and Zilans”. I would never want my friends to be trapped in this enemy circle, especially without food, but stand tall thanks to the organization’s evaluations”. He wasn’t just stating these things to excite the guerrillas; he truly believed them and was quite passionate about it. Because he believed in it, the guerrillas were more devoted to him. All the guerrillas got strength from him. The shortage of supplies was no problem. Nobody was concerned, and no one said they couldn’t hold out without supplies. A small amount of whey was kept aside for poisoning cases. Food was already very little, and no one could get enough of it, but they were trying to encourage themselves, drinking the whey for ayran. Botan had become a life instructor, disproving all the notions that people thought to be true. His commitment, passion, and perseverance

enabled him to do the seemingly impossible. He was extremely intelligent and was always mentally active.

ÖZGÜR'S INJURY

A short time after Botan's injury, the enemy's density decreased. The enemy was now concentrating on positioning at the hill, trying to seal the balcony entrance. The majority of the air-flow was provided through that gate. Every day, the enemy piled up soil there, and the guerrillas went there every night to open it. When the enemy detonated an explosive on Martyr Tekoşin side, the gate was opened. The guerrillas said that they would not close that gate again and that if they arrived, they would be welcome. They wanted to carry out actions there anyway. The contact with the upper fronts was lost after the summit was closed, and it was unknown what the enemy was doing.

While Özgür was trying to follow the enemy on 20th of August, an explosion occurred just as he was stretching his head. The pressure trapped him beneath the bags. Due to the dust, nothing could be seen, and Botan arrived when the bags on him were being lifted. "Don't make a sound so that the enemy doesn't know you're injured," he said. Guerrillas had placed tomato paste boxes in the position to make a sound when the enemy arrived. Those boxes sprang all around with the pressure of the explosion and Özgür's head was severely damaged by a part of those. His entire face was blackened and burnt. Özgür was once again placed in the famous ambulance and transported to the general unit known as the first aid unit. The mood of the injured was the thing that kept them going in such situations.

The guerrillas had little experience with the enemy's use of explosives. Many were injured until they became accustomed to the

tactics of the enemy. They didn't have a lot of medical supplies with them. They were pulling tarps from squads, sewing them with cables, and using them as bags. Whoever went downstairs to keep guard had to sew bags. There were numerous explosions occurring in the emplacements, and this was the time when the most injuries occurred. Medical supplies were in short. All of the supplies were used when Serhildan was hurt. Due to the scarcity of supplies, they cut and used the undershirts piece by piece to clean the wounds and use them as bandages.

The enemy had now seized control of the main gate. They were throwing grenades instead of explosives from the balcony door because they weren't getting anywhere with the explosives from the balcony door. When they arrived at the line of battle, they demanded surrender. The soldiers' goal was to divert the guerrillas with discussion while also throwing and detonating bombs.

WE WON'T SURRENDER

They couldn't get too close since they were using a lot of explosives from their positions. They were also launching missiles. Because the airflow in the location was outward, when they used gas or chemicals in this region, it all returned to them. As a result, they no longer used gas in the locations, which benefited the guerrillas. B7 and grenade launchers were fired toward the top of the general gate, attempting to keep men from working on their positions.

The disadvantage of the positions was that they did not shield each other because they were all next to each other. The cover didn't shield the other doors either, although they weren't upright, so that was a plus. They were also making a lot of calls for surrender during those operations. They talked Kurdish at

times, and Baz had even heard some soldiers speak Arabic. The guards were shouting as they came over the hill. They had arrived during Zinarin and Özgür's vigil. They spoke Kurdish, although it sounded close to Adıyaman's Kurdish. The balcony's cliffs were high, and they were shouting from there. Their surrender request was answered like this: "We are Leader Apo's militants, and we will never give up. Surrender is betrayal; we are our people's defenders".

After a while, the enemy opened the Martyr Têkoşîn position, which was previously closed. There were jokes on it: "What is this? We are opening the positions, the enemy is closing them. The enemy is closing the positions, we are opening them".

THEY STARTED TO TURN TOWARDS THE LOWER GATE

After the position gate, the Turkish soldiers planned to attack through the lower gate. We moved away from the main gate and struck the top twice with the B7. The Zagros gun was also used to shoot Cobras through the same entrance. It wanted to arrive at this gate because the enemy's stance at the top was obstructed by it. He wanted to strengthen its position at the top, but it wasn't about to walk through the door. Their distance was too great for explosives or gas to be effective. With ropes, it could only send explosives. Their goal was to rule from afar and prevent the guerrillas from coming here to fight. When the enemy arrived, it was the guerrillas who struck first. That's why they stationed themselves covertly there and planted their snipers. The guerrillas were no longer leaving that location. A woodland area was 150 meters from the gate. The enemy was there. A few days later, it dispatched his snipers to the general gate. When Özgür

looked through the general gate with his binoculars, he noticed two camouflaged snipers. It was the 8th of August.

This door was previously used as a DSHK. Botan was urging, “Shoot even if they don’t hit”. Because he wanted the soldiers to think, “We’re higher than them, how can they still shoot bullets?” They weren’t supposed to be so carefree. Attack helicopters would reroute after being hit. So, even if there was movement in Mamrešo, they would be shot from here. It was simple to leave here. It was decided that. Because the efforts conducted here were yielding results, the enemy decided to come here. It was decided that “If the enemy has returned below, we would take the dock to the middle floor and strike it once more”.

It was their first day on the lower ground, and they hadn’t yet set their positions. As a result, the guerrillas struck hard that day. It was attempted not to enable them to arrive and dwell happily there. The lower area is now receiving more attention, and the number of sentries has been raised. The enemy would occasionally send explosives down as well as drones. The guerrillas were also shooting shots from here, and they didn’t want the enemy to assume they had abandoned this location. They had used ropes to lower the explosive bags to the gate once more. Têkoşîn approached Botan and remarked, “This explosive is too far from the gate; they just put it there so we may be psychologically disturbed. Têkoşîn and Armanc stood guard after Botan went inside. The enemy exploded while they were watching. “We sometimes do irrational things too, if someone hears that we throw a bullet at the bomb, they would think we’re crazy,” Botan said.

GRENADE SHOTS WITH ESTIMATED ANGLES

A human-like model was created, and a keffiyeh was placed on his head. Turkish soldiers shot it as soon as they got it out of the general gate. When the oncoming bullets struck the stones, stone pieces were occasionally struck. A stone was flung from the bullet they fired and injured Delal in the face one day when she was building a human figure. “Hey, you’re wounded too, now you have war scars on your face, now everyone will know you fought too,” Botan teased. Delal was then transferred to the third floor, but she constantly said, “I spilt blood downstairs, I have to go there”.

On August 11, Mizgîn noticed some bags when she walked out to inspect. They were setting trenches, and if they were let to do so, they would now increase their attack. Mizgîn wanted to go take pictures to figure out what happened because the entire head couldn’t be removed. The enemy shot the camera in her hand just as she was about to take it outdoors, and Mizgîn was hurt in her hand. The bullet wounded Têkoşîn’s side and grazed his knee when he was inspecting the outside with binoculars. There were minor injuries as well. As a result, they didn’t stick their heads out as much, but they were still hitting the enemy with grenade launchers at predictable angles. In fact, it was very desirable for the enemy to attack from the general gate, but they were not coming too close. The front of the door was already a cliff after the enemy planes hit it. If the enemy wanted to enter in, they would have to come right up to the door, but he lacked the guts to do so. It was only a remote control; they stayed in that position until the very end.

THE VENTILATION OF THE TUNNELS WAS EFFICIENT

The tunnels had the advantage of being very well ventilated despite the fact that many doors were closed. It was unaffected by gas. The blasts injured and paralyzed numerous people, yet no one cared. As the number of injured increased, everyone was on high alert for 8 to 12 hours a day. They were exhausted. The number was little in comparison to the size of the cave, but given the supply situation, it was better. There were some difficulties in these areas, but everyone was always coming up with new ways to attack the enemy; and used to go to Botan and make suggestions.

THEY ALL HAD THE SAME HAIR CUT

None of them could meet their particular needs due to the crowding. As a result, the female guerrillas had the most problems, struggling with their long hair. The braids were almost longer than their belts. Because there was no way to wash hair, it could no longer be combed as they had been exposed to so many chemicals and gas. The decision was made to cut everyone's hair. Zinarîn initially refused to do so, but later agreed. There was no one who knew how to cut hair. Zinarîn destroyed everything she touched, like a rookie barber. The remaining victims complained as well. Delal cut Zinarîn and Özgür's hair, leaving them in a total mess. Argêş was called upon out of need. Argêş initially cut the hair of Têkoşîn and Delal, then of all women. Men trimmed their hair to zero, and all of their hair became like men's hairstyles. Everyone had the same appearance. In truth, the consequences of this unjust war that were hitting all of them was also mocked and dismissed. It was attempted not to let any condition that arose in life become an impediment to the effort.

Life went on until the martyrdom, having grown accustomed to the atmosphere of this struggle. Aside from the occasional fights and actions, a book was occasionally read. When necessary, organizational items were gathered and prepared for destruction. The camp was packed, and the injured were cared for. Sometimes the stairs were cleaned. Some books were burned so that they would not fall into the hands of the enemy. The days passed like this until the last day.

EXAGGERATION

The enemy has now seized control of the main gate. They were throwing grenades instead of explosives from the upstairs door because they weren't getting anywhere with the explosives from the balcony door. When they arrived at the line of battle, they demanded us to surrender. The soldiers' goal was to divert the guerrillas with discussion while also throwing and detonating bombs. Knowing this, Botan always stated, "Shoot bullets when they talk to you. We realize you're hungry, but there's plenty of food here, and you're already down to five people". "Can you tell me how many you have?" "We are 50 people," he said. "You are exaggerating" Argêş was told. They were all laughing at Argêş's exaggerated response. Yes, there were now nine people, but their will and determination were sufficient to achieve anything. This frightened the enemy as well. The enemy was standing at the general's door. It was located a long distance away from it. Because there was a lot of earth and stone or something, it was always working hard on the balcony area. Hand grenades landed on the balcony and in front of the barricades at different times. They burst in the Martyr Têkoşîn position as well as on the balcony, and hand grenades or B7 rockets were occasionally tossed

down. This hostile disposition and guerrilla struggle lasted until September 3rd.

APPRECIATION OF ORGANISATION

The big device could detect Amed's voice, but the other party couldn't hear it because the wire was only accessible inside. When their speech was heard, there was a burst of morale and strength. The Headquarters' perspectives and assessments of Werxelê and Girê Sor were vastly different. "Are they really saying everything to us?" someone asked while listening to their evaluation. Probably because they were in the middle of a fight, what happened didn't seem that unusual to them. The appreciation of their resistance was high. "Our comrades rate us so highly, how will we be worthy of this?" one person asked. Botan's determination was, in fact, very notable. He was saying: "The organization is dealing with us through the line of Zilans and Bêritans, as well as the dungeon resistance; no matter what, we will not leave the hill. We are satisfied if the organization views us in this way, even if we die or vanish, it wouldn't be a source of pain".

It was stated that this area would not be abandoned anyway, even if only one person went out to report about the resistance here and communicate what transpired with the organization. That was the sole issue; perhaps it would be worse if the organization didn't know what had happened. Apart from that, everything was in order. They all had that claim in their heads, and it was a one-time thing.

WOMEN'S RESISTANCE AND COURAGE WAS VITAL

The participation of women, their labor, and their participation as in all parts of the resistance that began in Avaşin, left

their mark on the Girê Sor struggle. So much so that the leading male guerrillas gained a lot of strength from it and talked about their labor in this resistance. "We stayed together with female friends over the winter season, sometimes we had problems, criticism emerged. We got to know each other and learned about each other's personalities. When the enemy rose to the top, the female comrades took their seats," Armanc said of the female guerrillas after the resistance effort. The majority of them had prior experience. All of our positions were varied, and especially when it came to attacking the enemy, the women comrades were very brave. We gained courage and morale after witnessing their bravery. For example, when a female comrade took action, when they bravely confronted the enemy, it would encourage us. We had a grenade launcher one day while we were at the mountains, and they had a strategy to shoot the enemy with individual weapons. Zinarîn and I were planning to go. Zinarîn was thrilled and eager. People's morale improved as a result of this. During challenging circumstances, their true nature becomes revealed. In such difficult and hazardous times, whoever is next to you is your true friend. The reality of combat reveals the true nature of solidarity. The women comrades showed no signs of selfishness or disengagement. There was no hesitation. In fact, it is a characteristic of women comrades, and it is a part of Bêrîtan and Zilan culture. They fought to the last bullet and, if necessary, detonated their own bomb, but they refused to surrender. We were certain that none of them would surrender. I was gaining a lot of morale and bravery. Their engagement, jokes, encouragement, and assistance strengthened our participation and hope.

IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Têkoşîn, for example, carried me to the squad on his back when I was injured. My clothes were already ripped, and I was

covered in blood. Heval Zinarîn was the team commander, and she even washed and dressed my socks. This had a huge influence. You'd think that if you went on the battlefield with such companions, you wouldn't mind dying. It's even worth dying as a martyr next to these people. This was a great opportunity. Heval Delal had recently joined us. She spent the first year of their life at Girê Sor. The anniversary of participation occurred 20 days before the operation. Despite her lack of expertise, she was extremely daring. When she shot the first bullet at the enemy, we could see the morale and delight in her eyes. We don't think, even if it is only for their sake, we won't stop resisting. As a result, it was always women comrades that checked the positions during the vigil. They were usually the ones to thrust themselves forward and say, "Wherever there is risk, we will go". Their participation was in keeping with color and harmony. For example, I was feeling low at times, but they were arguing with me and building morale and strength. There is much to say, yet one cannot convey one's sentiments, therefore one must live...

Until 3 September, the Turkish army kept carrying out its routine attacks. They have tried in every imaginable way to end us. There was no scent, no smoke, explosion, and gunfire that we had not been engulfed in during the war. These magnificent Zagros tunnels, created with effort and sometimes bloodshed by hundreds of guerrillas since 2014, stood like a fortress against the enemy, shielding them. For more than two months, Turkish state forces had been rendered impotent by nine guerrillas. Whatever the case, the victory belonged to the guerrillas. This was announced at the time of Baz's martyrdom.

UNMATCHED ATTACK

It was predicted that the Turkish army could do something that day, possibly using explosives or poisons. Everyone has been warned about this. Six of them were on the second floor, while three were on the first floor. After dinner, about 6 p.m., there was a very powerful shake that no one could explain; even those downstairs were shaken. The interesting part is that there was no explosion sound and merely a sudden shock. Then, before I knew what was going on, a greyish-white smoke began to fill the passageways. The smell was disgusting; it was a foul odor that no one could stand, similar to rotten eggs. Normally, when they exploded on the middle floor, there was no smoke or smell coming downstairs because the distance was too much. This time the smoke came all the way down. Therefore, it was understood that this attack was a different attack unlike any other.

NO ANSWER FROM ABOVE

Armanc and Têkoşîn hid their faces behind their hands and went to inspect the general door. Armanc collapsed after only 5-6 meters. Têkoşîn, too, collapsed to the floor after making a small advance. Têkoşîn was choking and her skin was getting purple all the time. She couldn't breathe; it was as if she was taking her final breath. Mizgîn slapped her and gave her artificial respiration, and when she began to feel better, she brought her milk that had been kept against poisoning. Têkoşîn couldn't drink since she bit her tongue. Mizgîn drew her to the manga as she began to regain her composure. She also began vomiting.

Armanc was said to have died as a martyr. Mizgîn arrived at her at 9:00 p.m.; her skin was normal, but she was unconscious.

She checked her pulse and found that she was still alive. She had no recollection of what had happened. Mizgîn also brought her to the squad. She'd misplaced her shoes and lost her memory. She was asking bizarre questions and repeating the same ones dozens of times.

They were called via radio, but no one responded. Têkoşîn still fainted on occasion, but she was not permitted to sleep. Mizgîn followed Armanc upstairs at 21:00 when she didn't return. The barricades in front of the blasted Çarçella gate flew up to the squad's front. However, there was around a 150-meter gap between them. Even the heaviest supplies for the middle-floor barricades were damaged. Despite the 200-meter distance between the kitchen and the door, it was evident that the pressure was so intense that the kitchen utensils were almost flung out.

SERHILDAN AND BOTAN DIED SIDE BY SIDE

Serhildan's body was found first after venturing a little further down the tunnel. Serhildan and Botan were killed next to one other in the passageway, near the munitions store. Botan was lying on his back, his body scarlet, his eyes open. Zinarîn's body was discovered near the squad after passing through the kitchen. Their throats were very red. I went to the manga, where Argêş, Delal, and Özgür had also fallen. She had her hands on her throat and her eyes were wide. Her legs were pointing outward. Argeş had a gas mask in his hand, but he didn't have time to place it on his face. All three were in the same place. It was assumed that they fell as martyrs in a very short period of time as a result of the gas's effect. There were no words to describe the emotions and feelings felt after seeing the bodies, as well as the wrath and hatred that nearly exploded their hearts.

MIZGÎN SAID THAT SHE COULD NOT STAY
IN THE CAVE ANY LONGER

Armanc had lost her memory and had become emotionally distraught. She was sobbing over the bodies. She was knocked down. Têkoşîn and Armanc were both in poor health. They had no recollection of anything. Even though she had seen the bodies, Armanc would question where they were every five minutes. Mizgîn stated that they would no longer be able to stay in the cave like that. What Mizgîn indicated was the wisest decision to make, but the climate of the time prohibited a logical and suitable decision from being made after the martyrdom. It was difficult to persuade her to go. At around 23.00, we left the bodies, but there was still hesitation at 03.00. Armanc alternated between saying “Yes” and “How are we going to leave the martyrs behind us? We can’t abandon the cave”. Everything she said was being repeated hundreds of times. It was also known they had to leave it there. Finally, after so much effort, she was persuaded. Even though it was a difficult decision to make, even if it was merely to tell what had occurred in those tunnels, they would have to leave there...

IF DETECTED, THEY WOULD DETONATE THEIR BOMBS

Mizgîn and Armanc headed upstairs once more. In any case, there was no food and no bread. Things including sugar and tahini, as well as a radio, password, organizational records, and thermal materials, were prepared. Because there was moonlight, it was important that they leave as soon as possible. They were not under the influence of the chemical gas, and they were moving very slowly. Armanc was already half unconscious, and Mizgîn had the upper hand. Everyone had bombs in their pockets, and

they were warned that if they fell on them, the bombs would detonate. Têkoşîn and Armanc got into an argument in front of the door just as Mizgîn came out. As they were descending, there was a sound from the stones slipping beneath their feet, and Turkish state forces began to shoot. When they rolled meters down the cliffs, their backpacks and both of their guns landed on the cliffs. Armanc was shot in both arms. Armanc's wound had healed, but she had lost a lot of blood. Drones and reconnaissance aircraft flew over for around 40 minutes. The Turkish army was continually requesting surrender. Then the scout and drone took off, and as things quieted down, they threw themselves into the woods and took off. A week later, they met other guerrillas by traveling to Stûne.

MARTYRED AS A YJA STAR COMMANDER

In the Girê Sor resistance there were 5 female guerrillas. Women were the main element that determined life and war in this country as well. The same was true in Mamresho, Aris Faris, and all other fields. Zinarîn, Özgür, and Delal all excelled in their parts in Girê Sor. It is vital to understand what conditions they can withstand.

The team's commander was Zinarîn. She was a person who swiftly obtained organizational maturity since she had spent a long time with the old cadres and had entered the settings with this maturity. She had not been in conflict; when she arrived in Avaşin in 2018, she gathered experience. Despite her age, Zinarîn never concealed the fact that she lacked experience and always stated that she needed to get it. She was always very modest. She was always eager to learn, no matter how much she knew or how much experience she had. As a result, anybody who went to the

action was escorted. Her focus on combat and military service, as well as her drive to grow, were great. Her organizational attitude, dedication to her teammates, and discussions were always sources of strength for her. It was said that if Heval Zinarîn was among us, comradeship would never be broken. She was sincere, easygoing, and disciplined all at the same time. If something bad happens, they should be able to say, “She resisted as a YJA Star Commander and fell as a martyr”. She felt the burden of the process and was conscious of the organization’s confidence. She took life and war very seriously. Living in modesty was her guiding concept, and she never wavered from it. She was martyred as a pioneering YJA Star Commander who left her mark on the resistance.

SHE WAS AWARE OF THE ORGANIZATION’S EXPECTATIONS

Özgür became a member in 2015. She also remained in Heftanîn’s attack. She arrived in the Avaşîn area after receiving sabotage training. She also continued to participate in the attack on Süleyman Tepesi. She was one of the most important figures in Girê Sor. She had prior experience and knowledge in the field, as well as knowledge of war tunnels. She was dedicated and practical. A person trusted Özgür and could fight beside her in every field, whether on the battlefield or in the tunnels. She never let anyone down, and she always had an opinion about the war. She wasn’t officially in charge, but she was aware of the organization’s expectations. She was also a key figure in Heftanîn’s land battles. He was thinking about the conflict and was highly interested in it. She was a saboteur, yet she never shied away from contributing to the resistance effort. She was not terrified of coming into contact with the enemy. She was not tired of the conditions, and she was also ideologically competent. She wrote about the martyrs, and she was especially close to the Heftanîn

martyrs. She was severely injured in a recent explosion which burned the majority of her face. It seemed as if she was healing her wounds and re-creating herself every instant. Just like a person resurrected from her ashes... She joined the war by giving meaning to the physical, intellectual, and spiritual pains she was experiencing, gaining spirituality and becoming more beautiful with each meaning she offered. She never escaped from life. Özgür was constantly photographing and filming her friends with her camera. "All of this is history," she added, "and we need to convey the photos of these times to the organization". She became one of the most stunning faces that would live on forever in those pictures...

DELAL WAS THE YOUNGEST OF GIRE SOR

Delal was the latest participant as well as the youngest in age. She was from Qamishlo and joined in 2019. She arrived in Basya after the new shirvans. Delal was well-known among the Basian forces for her maturity, self-sacrifice, and modesty. These three characteristics were embodied in her. People are sometimes ashamed of themselves when they see the effort she has made, despite her early age. Girê Sor was close to the enemy, so you'd like to acquire some experience there.

Delal discussed all of her challenges and inconsistencies. But she was eager. She was quiet and reserved. Despite her inexperience, her maturity and organizational stance often astounded others. She inherited these characteristics from her family. She got easily trained in the organisation. When they teased her, "After you get out of here, the organization will appoint you to command the unit," she would respond, "I don't need to be a commander; I'm already a militant of this party". She responded

to all surrender calls with gunfire. At this age, she valiantly died after a battle with the Apoist spirit.

ARGÊŞ USED TO SAY WE WILL WRITE AN EPIC

Argêş arrived in Avaşîn after spending time in other places. She was very attached to women, with whom she shared all of her problems. In Avaşîn, she stayed with women for a while. She placed a high emphasis on women. “A soldier must die in this Martyr Têkoşîn stance,” she said. She was very insistent on getting out to shoot. I’m not going anywhere; we’re going to write an epic here,” she used to say. Her heart was pure, and she had no bad thoughts. She grasped everything immediately because she knew how to listen.

THREE GUERRILLAS MANAGED TO EXIT FROM GIRÊ SOR

Three guerrillas managed to escape from the Girê Sor battle tunnels. Their stories were used to create this five-part narration. Finally, we will end with their common statement: “We have shared all of life’s joys and sorrows with these friends; we have supported one other in all of our trials and tribulations, and we have given each other hope. We recognize that we have been insufficient in explaining them. This is what causes us pain. We now understand that our weight is greater. Keeping them alive and relaying their stories”. It was our job and duty to tell this... It was a great chance for all of us to be a part of such a resistance and to live with those people. Perhaps it was very different to fight in the same position as Kurdistan’s most self-sacrificing children, the most ardent revolutionaries, and to live under those conditions. We desired to learn about the conditions in which they resisted and how the enemy attacked. This was their lega-

cy. We shall always carry their flags high. We shall build on the values they established. We shall persevere in this spirit of resistance, and we will surely win!”



Şehîd Baz Gever (Firat Şahin), Colemêrg



Şehîd Botan Özgür (Celal Ozcan), Wan



Şehîd Özgür Bagok (Fatma Balica), Merdîn



Şehîd Serhildan Mordem (Serdar Dinç), Wan





Şehîd Zinarîn Welât (Rama Şemdîn), Heseke

ŞEHİDÊN BERXWEDANA GIRÊ SOR



We have shared all of life's joys and sorrows with these friends; we have supported one other in all of our trials and tribulations, and we have given each other hope. We recognize that we have been insufficient in explaining them. This is what causes us pain. We now understand that our weight is greater. Keeping them alive and relaying their stories". It was our job and duty to tell this... It was a great chance for all of us to be a part of such a resistance and to live with those people. Perhaps it was very different to fight in the same position as Kurdistan's most self-sacrificing children, the most ardent revolutionaries, and to live under those conditions. We desired to learn about the conditions in which they resisted and how the enemy attacked. This was their legacy. We shall always carry their flags high. We shall build on the values they established. We shall persevere in this spirit of resistance, and we will surely win!"

(MIZGİN DALAHO, ARMANC SIMKO E TÊKOŞİN DEVRİM)

Survivors of Girê Sor attack

