



REPORT ON DETAINMENT OF GULTAN KISANAK & FIRAT ANLI, CO-MAYORS OF DIYARBAKIR



Diyarbakir, with a population of 1.8 million, politically and culturally the most significant city in the Kurdish region of Turkey, is now facing another major challenge after months of armed conflict in the city center that ended in March 2016. Co-Mayors of Diyarbakir, Gultan Kisanak¹ and Fırat Anli were detained by Turkish police on 25 October 2016 around 9 PM. Just after the detention, the internet connection across the Kurdish region was cut. As of 27 October 2016, millions of people still have no internet access. This blackout attempt aims at silencing voice of people in the region as well as to prevent them from exercising their right to be informed about developments.

Detention of co-mayors took place hours after the last official inspection process by the Court of Audit ended, that was continuing for the last 3 weeks within Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality. Although inspectors could not find any grounds for detaining co-mayors with allegations of misuse of municipal power and infraction of rules, the government detained co-mayors. As press release by Diyarbakir Chief Public Prosecutor's

¹ Ms. Gultan Kisanak also serves as the co-chair of the Union of Southeastern Anatolia Region Municipalities (GABB), which is an official umbrella organization bringing together 117 municipalities.



Office indicates, they were detained due to statements they had made, mainly because the government believes that their detention would be beneficial for its political interests. Those statements made by the co-mayors falls into cases of exercising right for freedom of speech.

Following detention of co-mayors, a number of high-ranking municipal officers were also detained such as Secretary General Zülküf Karatekin (on 26/10/2016), Deputy Secretary General Rojda Balkaş (27/10/2016), Deputy Secretary General Necati Pirinççioğlu and Head of Supportive Services Department U. Şiyar Nezan (27/10/2016) in addition to tens of others from various departments.

Detention of Co-Mayors of Diyarbakir shall be considered as final phase of a year-long process of carried out by the government to abolish local democracy in Turkey step-by-step. Thus this is also an opportunity to save local democracy by enabling release of the co-mayors and to halt appointment of trustees by the government to replace the elected mayors.

I. THE STATEMENT BY UNION OF SOUTHEASTERN ANATOLIA REGION MUNICIPALITIES (GABB) JUST AFTER CO-MAYORS DETAINED

Urgent: The Turkish Government Detains Co-Mayors of the Kurdish City of Diyarbakir!

Turkish police detained Ms. Gültan Kışanak and Mr. Fırat Anlı, co-mayors of Diyarbakir, around 9 PM on 25 October 2016. Ms. Kışanak was detained at Diyarbakir Airport on her way back from Ankara, while Mr. Anlı was detained at his house in Diyarbakir city center. The police raided residential houses of both co-mayors at 9 PM, which continued about 2,5 hours. Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality building is under police blockade and a search started at 21:00 PM that still continues as of 23:30 PM, while none of municipal staff, including the lawyers, are allowed to enter the building.

Diyarbakir is the cultural capital of Kurdish region in Turkey and Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality is considered as the politically most significant and pioneering local government institution in the region. Ms. Kışanak also serves as the co-chair of the Union of Southeastern Anatolia Region Municipalities (GABB), which is an official umbrella organization bringing together 117 municipalities.

As of today, 27 elected Kurdish co-mayors are in prison in Turkey, while 43 of them were dismissed. On 11 September 2016, the central government appointed deputy governors as trustees to replace dismissed Kurdish mayors, which has been the most destructive move in recent history of local democracy in Turkey.



As Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality, we urgently call on the international community to act immediately and vehemently protest the detention of our co-mayors and pressure the Turkish government to release them immediately.

25 October 2016

II. REPORT ON OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS WITHIN DIYARBAKIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Inspectors from the Court of Auditors and the Civil Administration Services of the Ministry of Interior, carry out regular inspections and investigations in Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality as they do in all other municipalities. Inspections by the Court of Auditors are on financial issues whereas the Civil Administration Services deals with administrative issues.

Previously in Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality and in other municipalities, the inspections used to be carried out once in three years time for a changing interval ranging from 1 month to 3 months. The inspections by these two different state institutions do not generally coincide in terms of time, namely they are done in different periods. However, for the last two years, the inspections in Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality have been continuing unceasingly and mostly simultaneously.

When any kind of deficiency or incompleteness is established during the inspections, the inspectors ask for the immediate rectification or a case is opened by the Court of Audits. If there is a serious infraction of rules detected, an investigation is commenced at once by the public prosecutor. To date in the last two years, no infraction of rules have been observed in neither of the inspections by the Court of Audits or the Civil Administration Services; and there is no investigations carried out by the public prosecutor regarding these inspections. There is not any cases opened by the public prosecutors regarding the municipal work and services in terms of financial or administrative issues.

As a side note, the inspectors have shared with the executives of the municipality that the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality has carried out its work and services more meticulously and without less deficiencies compared all the other municipalities they have inspected so far and therefore thanked to the municipality.

III. ALLEGATIONS

Allegations about Ms. Gültan Kışanak and Mr. Fırat Anlı by Diyarbakir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, within the context of investigation conducted on crime of membership to PKK/KCK armed terror organization with file no. 2015/45832



Grounds of detaining Ms. Kışanak (quoted from press release by Diyarbakir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on 25 October 2016):

- 1- Participating to Democratic Society Congress and making a speech there in support of the organization, in her capacity as a routine member.
- 2- Calling for autonomy during her statements in Newroz festival organized in Diyarbakir.
- 3- Enabling the use of official vehicles registered to Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality for funerals of PKK members.
- 4- In the course of various demonstrations she participated, making statements and doing deeds which legitimize violence in favour of the organization.

Grounds of detaining Mr. Anlı (quoted from press release by Diyarbakir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on 25 October 2016):

- 1- Allocating vehicles and equipment of Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality for digging graveyards for the PKK members as well as protection and preservation of “so-called martyrdom” with public resources.
- 2- In the course of various demonstrations he participated, making statements and doing deeds legitimizing violence in favour of the organization.

IV. DEMANDS FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY DIYARBAKIR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

Considering that this might be the last chance to save local democracy in Turkey:

- 1- Support for our demand for removal of the blockade around Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality building that continues non-stop since 25th of October, as of 27th of October, 2016.
- 2- National and international institutions to release statements protesting detention of the co-mayors of Diyarbakir and convey these statements to official bodies of Turkish Republic (Consulates, Embassies, Union of Turkish Municipalities, Office of Prime Minister and Office of President of the Republic of Turkey / disiliskiler@tbb.gov.tr & contact@tccb.gov.tr & cumhurbaskanligi@tccb.gov.tr)
- 3- International governance institutions (i.e. United Nations) and European governance institutions (European Council, European Parliament, The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities etc.) to consider this issue as a matter of true urgency and summon their



related bodies as soon as possible in order to initiate actions in regard to their jurisdiction.

4- Delegations to visit Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality as soon as possible in order to show their solidarity with the co-mayors of Diyarbakir and their constituencies.

5- The Turkish government replaced 27 elected mayors with appointed trustees since July 2015. It is highly likely that the government will pursue same policy for Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality too. All voices raised for release of co-mayors shall be accompanied by a strong opposition against further destruction of local democracy in Turkey.

V. PHOTOS FROM THE SIEGE & PROTESTS AFTER CO-MAYORS OF DIYARBAKIR DETAINED





Armoured police vehicle used for
the blockade in front of
Diyarbakir Metropolitan
Municipality building -
26/10/2016



Protocol Entrance of
Diyarbakir Metropolitan
Municipality building blocked
by the police - 26/10/2016



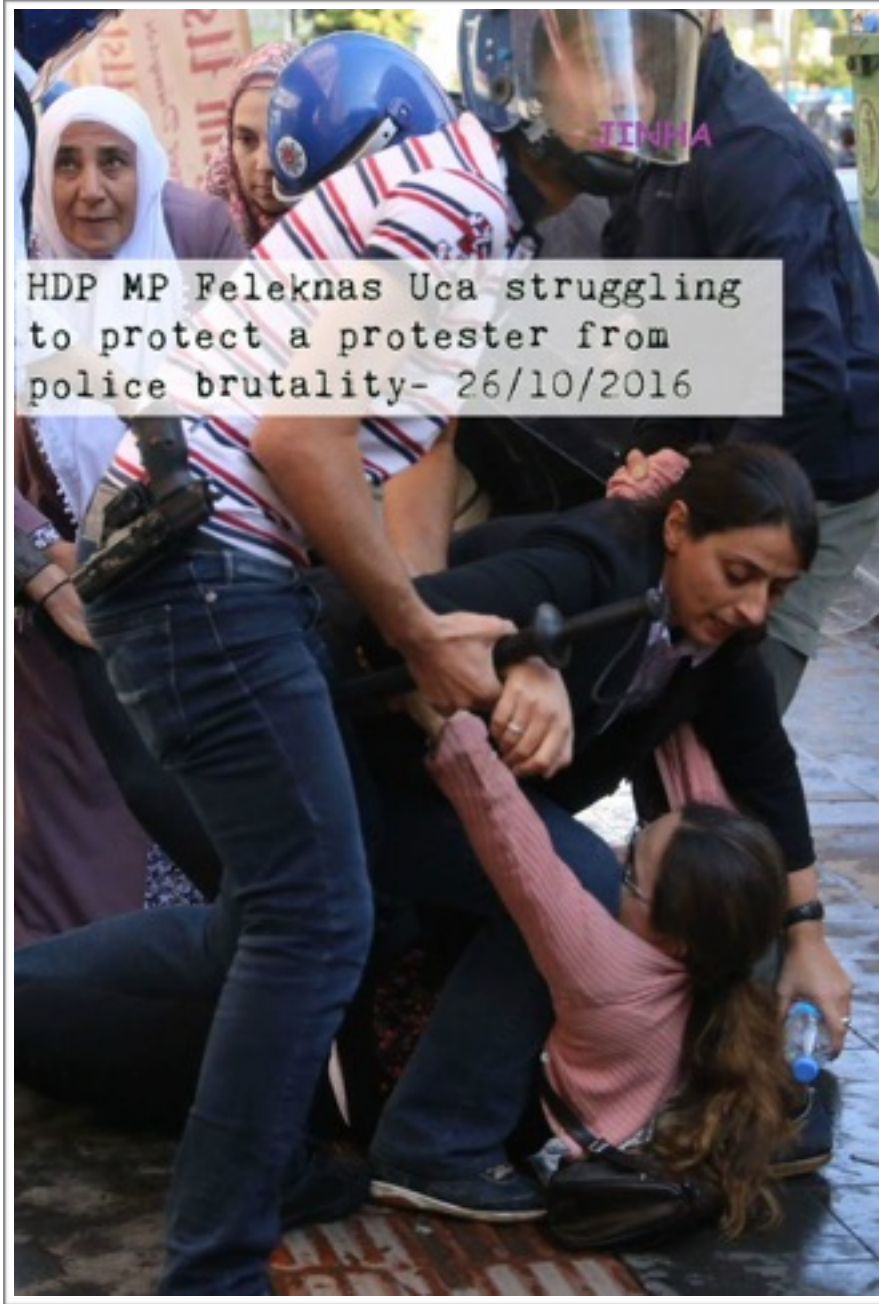




Just after Turkish police attacked people protesting detention of Co-Mayors of Diyarbakir - 26/10/2016



While the police tries to detain Cevahir Sadak Duzgun, Head of Culture and Arts Department of Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality - 26/10/2016





Turkish Police brutality against an elder person protesting detainment of the co-mayors - 26/10/2016

