

CİZRE
"THE CURFEW"
REPORT



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THE CONDITIONS IN TOWN BEFORE CURFEW

Cizre has been one of the symbolic cities in terms of both Kurdish political movement and the state, for many years. Understanding the mentality that has been implemented in Cizre on September 4, 2015 and comprehending this spirit of revenge, in which the survivors are not even allowed to bury their dead and are forced to keep the bodies in refrigerators to stop the decay, is only possible through an understanding of the history of Cizre and its resistance. A provocation and crushing policy has been set in motion in Cizre in the last months, after the President abandoned the Dolmabahçe Declaration and adapted a "There is no Kurdish problem" discourse. Firstly, people were attacked by various forces, people were racked many times. Any and all demonstrations and press statements were met with force. The State deemed Cizre a town that must be exterminated, to the public. Preparations for a massacre were put under way.

Especially after the elections on June 7, because of its symbolic importance, Cizre was chosen as a province through which the Kurdish people would be punished. Cizre was closed for 9 days, was under a blockade; the spirit of resistance and the demand for freedom, democracy, and peace were tried to be eradicated. By looking at the evidence on hand, it is right to say that the state, whose responsibility it is to protect its citizens and to serve them, has attacked its citizens and massacred them. In this context, people have taken up self-defense against the state, which does not allow its citizens any sense of security, denies their agency and ownership on their own lives, with communal defense principles that do not include a theme of violence as a last resort. In order to defend themselves against random gunshots, snipers placed on high ground, tanks that enter the streets and bomb the houses, and several types of armored vehicles, the denizens of Cizre hung curtains and blankets between buildings to obscure view into streets in many points. They tore holes in the walls and dug ditches to be able to get to and from other buildings.

FORMATION AND PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

With the call of Özgürlükçü Hukukçular Derneği (Libertarian Lawyers Association) and Mezopotamya Hukukçular Derneği (Mesopotamia Lawyers Association), a committee that includes Asrın Hukuk Bürosu (Asrın Law Office), Bar Associations of the Kurdish Region, Çağdaş Hukukçular Derneği (Progressive Lawyers Association), Demokrasi için Hukukçular Derneği (Association of Lawyers for Democracy), Sosyal Haklar Derneği (Social Rights Association), Çağdaş Avukatlar Grubu (Modern Lawyers Group), Özgürlükçü Demokrat Avukatlar (Libertarian Democratic Lawyers), Toplum ve Hukuk Araştırmaları Vakfı (Foundation for Law and Community Research) and independent lawyers from different provinces has been formed. The committee has been formed to cancel out

the curfew put in place in the city of Şırnak's Cizre district on September 4, 2015, to determine the human rights violations, to create public awareness for the events and to apply national and international legal remedies against violations of human rights. .

A delegation of around 300 lawyers representing the above mentioned institutions met in Mardin in the morning of September 11, 2015. On their way to Cizre, on the district of Midyat exit (90 kms to Cizre), they were stopped by special forces and police in the shadow of heavily armed armored vehicles and were told that they could not continue on to Cizre. Thereupon, the committee decided to make a statement and indicated that "The committee is in the purpose of creating a public awareness and opening up legal ways of national and international appeal against human rights violations" and reported to the police that "the armed forces had closed the roads to Midyat and Nusaybin completely although the curfew only relates to Cizre, which is against Constitutional Law for preventing freedom of travel". On several occasions, the committee demanded the Governor be called. However, the road was kept closed by the police. As a response, the delegation of lawyers decided to start a sit-in. After many attempts, they were informed that the road would stay closed, and the delegation started to walk through Idil through fields and mountain roads.



Our committee on the way to Idil witnessed that 4 separate police barricades were set up to prevent any passage. Through this ordeal, lawyers walked for 15 kms, attempted to board trucks and tractors at times, and by the help of HDP MPs all barricades were passed over one after the other, and they managed to reach Idil just in the middle of the night.

On September 11, 2015, the Governor of Şırnak declared that the curfew would be over on September 12, 2015 at 07.00 a.m. Therewith, our committee would be one of the first groups that might go into Cizre by September 12, 2015 at 7.15 a.m and immediately formed different functional groups to start to investigate.

People who were killed and injured during the curfew

As a result of investigations carried out by our committee, it is confirmed that during the curfew between September 4 and September 12, 2015, twenty one (21) people were killed and many more were injured. The detailed information about casualties are as follows:



1. Mehmet Emin LEVENT (26)

In the Nur neighborhood, on September 4, at around 01.00 a.m, after hearing screams outside of his house, he was shot by snipers when he got out of his home. Neighbours carried him into a courtyard but the police did not allow ambulances to pass through, and he died of blood loss.

2.Xetban BÜLBÜL (65)

As a consequence of the tension created by intense bombing, attacks and explosions, on September 4, he died of a heart attack.

3.Hacı Ata BORÇİN (70)

Intense attacks on Sept. 4, bombs deployed from military vehicles and the resulting stress caused by the explosions triggered a heart attack.

4. Cemile ÇAĞIRGA (10)

She was killed by snipers' opening fire in the Cudi neighborhood during the evening of September 6 just in her own courtyard. Her mother was not allowed to move her because of the curfew, her body had to be kept in a freezer in the house for two days.

5. Muhammed Tahir YARAMUŞ (35 days)

35 day-old infant, fell of from his mother's arms, the mother was killed when their home was raked by heavy guns, he started vomiting immediately after the incident. The ambulance called for the baby was shot at by police and prevented from entering the neighbourhood. 35 day-old infant died because no medical attention could be obtained. As every person who tried to go into streets would be ranked by police, his body was kept in a mosque in Nur neighbourhood for 35 hours and finally through the attempts of HDP MPs, the body of the baby was transported to the hospital morgue.

6. Said ÇAĞDAVUL (19)

In the Nur neighborhood, on September 6, he got shot on his neck and torso by an armored vehicle, and he lost his life in front of his family members because he was not allowed to go to the hospital.

7- Bahattin SEVİNİK (50)

On the evening of September 6. He was injured, but because the ambulance was kept from taking him to the hospital due to the armored vehicles opening fire, he lost his life.

8- Suphi SARAK (52)

While trying to help his injured neighbour Bahattin Sevinik to be taken to the hospital, he got shot by the fire from an armored vehicle, he was killed with 6 bullets in front of his children. But his family was prevented from carrying his dead body by the very same police force in the armored vehicle.

9.Osman ÇAĞLI (18)

On the third day of the curfew, on September 7, at 07.00 a.m, in front of his home, he got shot by snipers on his shoulder, back and left thigh. For two hours, ambulance entrance was not allowed and during the transport of the injured it was stopped several times. Çağlı lost his life due to blood loss and lack of treatment.

10.Bünyamin İRCİ (14)

On September 9, he was wounded by the fire from an armored vehicle and was carried to a courtyard by witnesses. While people tried to get him to the hospital, armored vehicles opened fire again, after which bystanders ran away and he got killed while he was already injured by the fire from the armored vehicle.

11.Eşref ERDİN (60)

On September 10, 23.00 p.m, he got shot on his back on the roof of his house. When he was carried out of the house in order to be taken to the hospital, gunfire started again from the armored vehicle, and he had to be moved back into the house and died within an hour of the incident. After 22 hours, the ambulance was able to take the body.

12.Zeynep TAŞKIN (18)

She went to her neighbour's house to call her father who was outside of Cizre because of the curfew. After the call, just as she left the house, she got raked through although she was carrying her baby, both of them got injured. All who tried to help got raked, many them were injured and Taşkın lost her life. The baby Berxwedan Edin is still in the hospital under treatment.

13.Maşallah EDİN (35)

After witnessing her daughter in law and grandson being shot by the police, she tried to help them and got killed by gun fire. Again, nobody could help her since everybody who tried was exposed to gunfire.

14- Özgür TAŞKIN (18)

On September 9, 2015, at approximately 03.30 p.m, he tried to go to his uncle's home just across the street from theirs in order to get some cold water and to watch news on the TV, he was shot immediately after he stepped outside his home and lost his life.

15.İbrahim ÇİÇEK (80)

Due to his worsening health condition an ambulance was called, but was not allowed to enter the neighbourhood by the police, and he lost his life.

16. Meryem SÜNE (45)

On September 8, she got shot by a police bullet when she got out of her home into the courtyard. Although all the authorities including district governor, security forces, the gendermarie and ambulances were called, she lost her life after failing to receive medical attention for the following 2.5 hours. Her body had to be kept in the house at the night, then was carried to a cold storage division and afterwards taken to Şırnak State Hospital Morgue.

17.Mehmet Sait NAYCI (16)

In front of his house, due to heavy gun fire to a side wall he got shot by a bullet entering from his back and exiting from his chest. For the following 6 hours, the hospital responded to all calls for help with "It is not possible to get there", no ambulance arrived at the district and because there was no medical treatment he lost his life. Burying of the body was not allowed but by a massive march of people it was possible to carry his body to a cold storage division of a local market. After being kept in this cold storage for 3 days, our committee and other NGOs carried his body to a funeral car and the body was taken to the hospital for an autopsy.

18.Mehmet DÖKMEN (70)

On September 11, in Abdülrezzak St. in the Yafes Neighbourhood, after an explosion near his house he died of a heart attack. Although he was under continuous medical treatment because he was sick and old, he wasn't able to go to hospital since the beginning of the curfew.

19.Selman AĞAR (10)

On September 10, while playing in the street in Cudi neighborhood he was shot in the head by snipers around 17:00 and died immediately.

20.Şahin AÇIK (74)

Suffering from serious hypertension and a stroke, Şahin should have been under continuous treatment, he got worse and worse on September 11 and his family called the ambulance line (112) but they did not answer. His son Mehmet Emin Açıık tried to go outside to explain his father's health condition to the police but he got raked and had to go back into the house. His health worsened through the night and Açıık lost his life in front of his family members.

21.Mehmet ERDOĞAN (75)

On September 11, he left his home after telling his daughter in law that "they would not touch the elderly" and he was shot by snipers and died immediately. Because of the curfew the family could not get out and his body was left in the street through the night. In the morning our committee and HDP MPs were informed and we took his body from the street.



Our Committee has observed the following points, out of the investigations about those who got injured:

- On September 5, four people were injured in an attack with armored vehicles in Nur Neighborhood, Botaş Street.
- On September 5, in Cudi Neighborhood, a child was wounded by sniper gunfire and he was not allowed to be taken to the hospital.
- On September 5, many citizens were wounded by police gunfire. However, only 4 of them were allowed to be taken to the hospital.

- On September 5, a citizen named Deniz Gökay was wounded as a result of police gunfire.
- On September 5, police opened fire on the reporters of Dicle News Agency, Cihan Ölmez and Nuri Akman. The journalists were able to save their own lives by diving into side streets.
- On September 6, as a consequence of police attacks, 3 people from different neighborhoods were wounded. Their names could not be obtained because they were not allowed to be taken to the hospital.
- On September 6, Bahattin Sevinik died. Police attacked his neighbors trying to take him to the hospital and many of his neighbors were wounded.
- On September 7, a child whose name is unknown was seriously wounded by sniper fire on the Nusaybin road within the Cudi Neighborhood.
- On September 7, Abdullah Özcan was injured as a result of shots fired by the police. His leg was amputated and his treatment continues in Diyarbakır.
- On September 7, as a consequence of gunfire from armored vehicles, 3 children were wounded around Medresa Sor. One of these children was taken to hospital by the efforts of HDP deputy Murat Babayiğit.
- On September 7, a citizen named Mesut Yurttaş was taken to the hospital as a result of sniper gunfire.
- On September 8, an imam named Mele Ehmed was wounded as a result of police gunfire in Cudi neighbourhood.
- On September 9, a child named Devran Budak got wounded by police gunfire.
- On September 9, Mülkiye Taşkın got injured as a result of gunfire opened by security forces.
- On September 12, just after the curfew was lifted, children named Yusuf Şık and Berivan Dadak got wounded in an explosion in Nur neighbourhood. Yusuf Şık's hand and foot have been amputated.

The following is a list of the wounded who we could contact and got permission to display their names:

- Ekrem DAYAN

- Berxwedan TAŞKIN

- Ayse EDİN
- Yusuf ECER
- Lokman SUNGUR
- Hüseyin ASLAN
- Ferhat YEŞİL
- Behiye YEŞİL
- Bahattin YEŞİL
- Abdullah ÖZCAN
- Fatma TEKİN
- Saliha ÇAKAR
- Emine ŞAHİN
- Funda BARIN
- Botan İMRAĞ
- Yusuf ŞIK

Injuries mentioned above are the ones that could be detected during the examination of our committee. Though the actual figures are higher, it can not be ascertained since the wounded could not go to hospitals due to the fear of arrest. Many citizens have attempted to treat injured citizens by their own means.

Interviews with victims and witnesses

Rahime AĞAR, mother of Selman AĞAR:

"On Friday (11/09/2015) at 17:00, we were at the street where our house is located, like everyone else in the neighborhood (Mehmet Fatih Street at Cudi neighborhood). We got out to greet the HDP Committee that had come to protest the curfew in Cizre. I had my son Selman with me. He walked away but I didn't notice. I was sitting atop an empty can in the middle of the street when I saw

Selman suddenly collapse. There were no gunshots or explosions, I didn't hear any. The crowd on the street carried Selman to a mourning house in Cudi neighborhood. I could not touch my boy's body. Later, I was told that he was taken to the morgue of Şırnak State Hospital. He was taken to the hospital the day he was killed. Kasım Ağar and Ekrem Ağar went for his autopsy.

Mehmet AĞAR, father of Selman AĞAR:

"I work in Dicle Shopping Arcade. I was in the arcade on 4.9.2015 Friday, when the curfew was announced. Electrical transformers were made to explode with gunfire. I took shelter in Çatak Hotel right next to the arcade. We remained confined in the hotel for 4 days. There was no bread or water left. We called an ambulance on the 5th day. The ambulance took me to the hospital from the hotel we got confined in. We stayed in the hospital for 2 days. When the curfew was lifted on 12.09.2015, I came home around 11:00. Our neighbor told me that my son was killed. I did not know this before. They said that he was sent to Şırnak State Hospital."

Halil SARAK, Suphi SARAK's brother:

"On the 4th day of the curfew, we heard that he was shot 7 times near the Mourning House on Botaş Street in Nur Neighborhood while running to help Bahattin Sevinik. My brother was shot close to where our neighbor Bahattin Sevinik was murdered. We don't know whether the shot was from a sniper or from a vehicle. People were not in touch with each other because of the curfew. We thought that he was stranded somewhere or went to the hospital with Bahattin Sevinik. After the curfew was lifted, we learned about my brother's death when some close relatives called us. We know that my brother and Bahattin Sevinik were taken to military vehicles. Later, they were denounced as "terrorists" by the press. Our other relatives (Abdullah Kurt, Feyzi Kurt) went to the Şırnak State Hospital after they were taken there with the information from the hospital. Abdullah Kurt was given the death certificate and was told that they could take the body. He was killed at 21.00 in Cizre. But we could not be with him during the incident in any way. We were unable to find out whether he was wounded or not. We do not know whether there was an autopsy or not. Abdullah Kurt and Feyzi Kurt who are our relatives buried them in Kasrık Town. They had Emin Sorak, another relative of ours, identify the body and provide the identification document. As they could not bring the bodies to Cizre, they had to bury them in Kasrık to preserve and prevent them from rotting.

Mehmet Emin AÇIK, Son of Şahin AÇIK:

"My father Şahin AÇIK had to stay in bed because he was suffering from paralysis and blood pressure problems. We had him treated in the hospital periodically. We periodically got him under treatment in the hospital. I even took him to the hospital in the morning of 04/09/2015 when the curfew began. We spent a few hours in the hospital. We returned to our home in the evening at around 19.00. With the beginning of the curfew and the increase of gunfire, we could not go back to the hospital again for the treatment. His situation returned to normal within a few days. On 11/09/2015 at around 19.00, his blood pressure increased again and he fainted. I called 112 but they did not answer. All GSM lines were offline. Only "Avea" (a telecommunication company) could be used from time to time. As I was going to the armed vehicle to explain the situation of my father, the police started to shoot at me from the vehicle. I had to go back home. I waited at home hopelessly, but my father got increasingly worse. We used the medication available at home but there was no improvement. We measured the blood pressure around 18 and he was getting worse. He kept getting worse until 2:00 A.M in the morning and passed away. Next day we went to the hospital with municipal ambulance with the removal of the curfew. Special operations police officers were walking around the hospital entrance relentlessly. They stopped in front of us and asked why we came. They let us in when they saw my father. "

Hassam TAŞKIN, father of Zeynep TAŞKIN:

"I was in Zaxo, when the curfew was declared in Cizre on 04/09/2015 at 19:00, as I am a driver. I stayed in Zaxo for approximately 13 days until the curfew ended. Afterwards, I entered Turkey. When I entered Cizre the curfew was still in place. The bridge in Konak neighborhood that I could use to enter Cizre was closed off, so I stayed with Hüsni İğdi for 3 days. I heard the news of my daughter Zeynep Taşkın's death on TV while I was staying in this house. Even though I found out that my daughter has passed, I could not go to my daughter because of the curfew. I was able to find out the details of her death only when I went to my house after three days. My daughter Zeynep and our relative Maşallah were worried about me and my relative Ahmet Edin, and they went to our neighbor's house to call us from their phone. As soon as my daughter Zeynep left our neighbor's (Abdullatif Dayan) house to go back home, she was exposed to gunfire with her baby in her arms. My daughter passed away. My grandchild was injured. Yet only Ekrem Dayan would be able to tell the details of the incidents, as he was injured at the same time and has insights to the matter. He is currently being treated in the hospital."

Tarık İRCİ, father of Bünyamin İRCİ:

"The events started after the announcement of the curfew in Cizre on 09/04/2015. Before the events started, my son Bünyamin went to visit his grandfather İhsan İrci in his village. After the announcement of the curfew, I went to take my son and brought him home. Our house is located in Kale neighborhood, my son's uncle lives on İrci Street in Dicle District. My son asked for permission to go and see his cousins in their house as his uncle who was a driver was in Iraq at the time and the children were alone. But I did not allow him and he went without my permission. I could not reach my son as telephones were down. Although I wanted to go after him, I could not leave the house as there were sharp shooters in the government mansion close to our house, and on the minarets of mosques. As I learned later, my uncle who lived in Nur neighborhood was carrying ice and bread from the Dicle neighborhood. On the seventh day of the curfew, I read the news about the death of my son Bünyamin. I went to my brother's house in the Dicle neighborhood. They told me that Bünyamin was not there. Then I wanted to go to my uncle Aydın İrci's house in the Nur neighborhood, but could not go. I took a white flag and wanted to go to the Nur neighborhood with my eldest son. 3 Cobra-type armored vehicles cut us off twice, the second time they stopped us they made us lie on the ground and they swore and insulted us. Then we ran directly to the Nur neighborhood as they told us to disappear immediately. They opened fire at us even while we were running. We arrived at my uncle Aydın's house, I asked about Bünyamin. They said they also had similar information and did not know where he was. Then I passed by the streets, I asked people about my son. One of the people told me that there was a corpse in the mosque, and I went to the Şeyh Sait mosque and I saw the lifeless body of my son. Then we reached the ambulance through (HDP MP) Faysal Sarıyıldız. The ambulance was not allowed to enter the street. The ambulance waited in front of the Dalmış Petrol Station on the İdil road. Faysal Sarıyıldız was told that only 4 people were allowed to carry the corpse and otherwise they would not be responsible for anyone's safety. I, my son and Faysal Sarıyıldız took my son's dead body to the ambulance. While we were carrying my son, 4 Cobra-type armored vehicles pointed their barrels against us and told us that only I could go with the funeral car. Although I and Faysal Sarıyıldız insisted so much, they did not allow my son to come with me. They were forced to return to the neighborhood. We were taken to Cizre State Hospital with the funeral car. We did not see any hospital staff at noon when we reached the Cizre State Hospital. Two special operation forces were waiting in the hospital morgue. And we were told by the prosecutor that there is not enough space for the corpse and we needed to go to Şırnak State Hospital for autopsy procedures. Every funeral was sent away by groups of 3. Some questions were asked by the prosecutor and we were told we did not need to go with the corpses and the corpses were sent by ambulance. After the corpses were kept waiting for about 2 hours, the

ambulance went to Şırnak where my uncle met it. After the autopsy in Şırnak State Hospital, the corpse was brought to Cizre. On 12.09.2015, my son's dead body was not kept in the morgue as they said that there was not enough space. My son's dead body was kept in the thermoking in the vegetable market for one night on 13.09.2015. The images of the young boy taken to a Cobra-type armored vehicle published by the press belongs to my son. From the images, it can be understood that he was taken into this vehicle. As a father, it is unbearable to admit that those images belong to my son's dead body."

Selim DÖKMEN, brother of Mehmet DÖKMEN:

"I live in Istanbul. My brother Mehmet Dökmen lives with his wife Ayşe Dökmen in Cizre. My brother called me on 30/08/2015 and said that he was hospitalized because he was ill. He asked me to go and take care of him. I arrived in Cizre at 13.30 on 31.08.2015. And I went to the hospital. We stayed in the hospital until Wednesday. On 02/09/2015 at 14.30, they discharged my brother. At 17:00 on the same day, he felt ill again. We took him to the hospital by a taxi. They discharged him after giving him an injection. At 3 o'clock at night on 10/09/2015, he called me and told that he felt pain in his heart. He was short of breath. Sounds of guns and weapons were coming from outside. There was a big explosion. I went out to see what happened. When I returned I saw my brother had been shot. I called an ambulance when he was still suffering. They did not answer. Then I called a taxi. They said they could not come. On 09.04.2015 in the morning, we took him to the mosque. The imam came to wash and enshroud his corpse and we put the corpse in cold storage in the neighborhood. It stayed there for 2 days. Then the ambulance came and took it to the hospital. My son Nevzat went to the hospital with the body. It stayed in the morgue for one day. Next day, on 09/13/2015 it was buried. When my son met with a prosecutor named Nevzat, he said that there was no need for an autopsy and he was convinced that my brother died from a heart attack."

Ahmet EDİN, husband of Maşallah EDİN:

"I was in Zaho when the incidents took place. With the curfew announced on 09.04.2015, we could not go to Cizre and I called my sister-in-law, my brother's wife Katibe Dayan and asked her to tell my wife and children to call me. This was because the GSM operators in Cizre did not work properly. I was worried about my family. Later, I talked to my wife Maşallah and Zeynep on the phone. They said they were fine. When I was in Zaho, I used to communicate by this landline quite often. On 09/09/2015 when the incident took place, my brother Abdullatif Dayan told me what happened.

When I arrived in Cizre with the lifting of the curfew, I learned the details of the incident. My wife Maşallah and daughter-in-law Zeynep were assaulted with a gun as soon as they left Abdüllatif's house which they visited to be able to call me. First, my daughter-in-law Zeynep fell to the ground with her baby, then my wife Maşallah and our neighbor Ahmet Dayan were shot while they were trying to take Zeynep and her baby inside. My wife Maşallah was murdered by the gunshot. Our neighbor Ekrem is still under treatment as he was injured. He will give more detailed evidence when his treatment ends within 2 or 3 days.

Rahmet ERDİN Ağar, daughter of Eşref ERDİN:

"Due to the curfew that started on 04.09.2015, I and my husband left our house located on Varol street in the Nur neighborhood and went to my father's house whose I address I stated above because of safety problems. On 09.09.2015 when the curfew was in place, at 21.30, my father Eşref went up to the roof of the house despite all our opposition as gun fires and artillery shooting were very intense. After a few minutes, we got worried as my father did not come back. We went up to see what had happened. My stepmother screamed that my father had been shot. Because the gunfire and artillery shooting were very intense, we could not take my father for around two hours. Then, we could go up and take my father after the cessation of gunfire. He was shot by his kidney. And he was not dead yet. I, my wife, and our relatives that Mustafa Erdin, Kadri Erdin and Ekrem Ağar took my father down to our yard and called 112 seeing that he was still alive. Because all the GSM lines were down, we could only call 112. They told us that they couldn't come because the police did not allow them and they wouldn't be able to come because of the security problems. We told the police about the situation by calling 155 as Avea lines were still active from time to time. They asked about the license plate of our car and said they would report the incident to the police teams. As we took my father to the car and drove away, the police started to shoot fires very heavily against us. There we noticed that the police officers we talked to left out license plate information when they informed the police in the streets so that we would be trapped within the area under police control. 7-8 shots were fired on our car and its tyres. We immediately had to go back to our house. We took my father inside and tried to do something by our own means. His pulse was regular and could still breathe until morning. We had to wait until evening on the same day (10/09/2015). After noticing that my father passed away in the morning, we put ice around his dead body because the weather was hot and electricity was down. Towards the evening, a delegation including Şırnak MP Faysal Sarıyıldız came with an ambulance and said that we could give the body to the ambulance. But the ambulance could not pull up to our house. We wrapped up my father's dead body in a blanket and my husband and our neighbors carried him to the ambulance. My husband

said that as soon as they delivered the body to the ambulance, the police started to fire shots, first in the air and then towards them. They took my father's body to Şırnak State Hospital for an autopsy. My uncle Abdulrahim and Abdurrahman Erdin who had come from Germany were called to Cizre State Hospital to identify the body. "

Father of Cemile ÇAĞIRGA, Ramazan ÇAĞIRGA:

"My daughter was shot by snipers on her lower chest at 21:00 on the third day of the curfew. We were in the garden. When we saw that she was shot, we tried to take her in. There was gunfire the whole time. We were able to reach the 112 hotline from my son's Avea phone which is the only GSM operator that works in Cizre. However, for security reasons, they said the ambulance would not come. Since we could not go outside, we put our daughters body into the freezer that belonged to our butcher neighbour, Mehmet Matur, so that my daughter's corpse would not rot. On her first night after she died, we covered her body with ice while her mother slept next to it. MP Faysal Sarıyıldız was informed as he was in the neighborhood. After the story got covered by the press, the MP commission tried to get permission for the burial for the morning of 9th of September 2015. At 10:00 am, the MPs arrived to take it to Şeyh Sıraç Mosque on the İdil route. However, when they went out on the street, the commission was threatened over the speakers and they were shot at. We could barely make it to the ambulance. They shot open fire onto civilians again later. No one was allowed to escort the ambulance, not even us. She was kept in the morgue unattended at the Şırnak Hospital. We were able to find out that she was there through our personal connections. It was especially painful for us to wash her ourselves, to get her to the ambulance, keep her in the freezer and to contain her in ice to keep her body from smelling.

She was brought back from the Şırnak State Hospital on the night of September 12 for the burial. We were asked to take her out of the Cizre State Hospital. We were given a discharge-diagnosis report and a burial licence and were asked to take our daughter. We had to put our daughters corpse into the thermo-trucks at the Cizre vegetable market. There were four other bodies (Sait Çağdavul). We were able to bury the body on September 13.

I think that my daughter Cemile was shot by the snipers placed on the schools which fall perfectly in the field of vision of our house.

None of us were allowed in the ambulance when we took our daughter's body and we were not informed about what kind of material was removed from her and what they did with it after the operation at the Şırnak State Hospital.

Selman ERDOĞAN, brother of Mehmet ERDOĞAN:

"Few hours before the curfew of September 4 was lifted, during the late night hours between the 11th and 12th, my older brother Mehmet Erdoğan told me that he was going to collect bread from the garbage cans to feed the animals and that the soldiers or the police would not do anything to him as he is old, and he left the house. There was nothing left in the house for us or for the animals to eat at home during the curfew of 8 days. My brother relied on his old age to go out and save the animals. But he did not return home at night. There was no reception for the phones and we knew whoever goes out was shot during the curfew so we could not go out to look for him. On 12/09/2015 when the curfew was lifted after 7, our cousin Ridvan Olca who was on his way to check up on us, learned that my brother Mehmet Erdogan was shot near Nusaybin Avenue İdil Parking Lot, and that his body lied on the ground. So I went to the place my brother was killed. At that time, the committee which included MPs Hüda Kaya and Faysal Sarıyıldız had arrived to the scene where his body was. My brother was lying in the middle of the street, holding bags filled with breads that he collected from the garbage. I saw that his head and several parts of his body was shot by the snipers. Afterwards we took my brother's body to Cizre State Hospital with the ambulance belonging to Silopi Municipality. There was no medical staff at the hospital. It was only after waiting 30 minutes by the emergency door that we were able to move (the body) to the morgue. There were only two staff members in the morgue. They told us that the morgue was full and they put my brother on the musalla stone (the stone where the coffins are put during the funeral in mosque courtyards)."

Hanife LEVENT, sister of Mehmet Emin LEVENT:

"It was September 4, 2015, the first day of the curfew at Şırnak's Cizre district. There were no serious incidents yet. My brother went out into Nur Neighborhood's Özgür Street to buy cigarettes. After a few minutes, there was a shocking sound, like a bomb. Then, there were gunshots. Upon hearing people scream, we went out too. Then, the electricity was cut off and my phone didn't have any reception. Although we called, we could not reach him. Hearing gunshots again, we got home from fear like everyone. We heard of the incident through neighbors, but it was said to us that he was injured. I and my mother went out, despite the daytime we could not reach him. While my brother was injured, he was taken to a house at Özgür street with the help of neighbors. We know that my brother was targeted by snipers. He was the one of people being shot at the first night. Neighbors did not know where he was. We looked in the mosque where corpses were gathered, but he was not there. People there said that injured people were sent to the hospital through the PM's, and the

ambulances did not come anyways. During the 8 days of curfew, we waited without knowing where my brother was. Because there were snipers and military vehicles in the neighborhoods. We knew that. He stayed there, where he was shot, until 6:00 a.m. of the day after. We could not reach anywhere with Vodafone phone line since it had no signal. On 12/09/2015, the day the curfew was lifted, a municipal police informed us that corpses were in Cizre State Hospital for identification, I and my family went to the hospital. Police officers met us at the hospital. There was a prosecutor with them. They took us to the morgue for the diagnosis. I and my uncle diagnosed Ahmet Levent. I recognized my brother. Then, the statements were taken. The prosecutor insistently told us that the body should be taken from the morgue. We would have taken him at the same time as other families, but upon this insistence we took my brother from the hospital to a place like a cold storage depot of Cizre marketplace. The next day, we buried him along with other bodies."

Abdullah YARAMUŞ, father of Muhammed Tahir YARAMUŞ:

"After the electricity and telephone lines was cut off after 20.00 in the beginning day of curfew, 09.04.2015, we could not stand the heat indoors. Then, there was so many gunshots and sounds of bombing. So we went back to our houses since we were afraid and wanted to stay in a safer place. Because of the hurry caused by the fear the baby Muhammed fell off his mother's arms. At first, he began vomiting. Then his fever rose. We waited on him and watched him until the morning. But we could not reduce his fever. I realized that telephone signals has started to come at around 07.00, on 09/05/2015, and I called the emergency number 112. I informed them and I gave the home address. First, they said they were coming, but then I learned they were waiting at the entrance of Sultan street, 100 m away from the house, because I called many times. They inhibited the transition of the ambulances at the Sultan Street by cobra type armored vehicles, they didn't want the ambulances reach us because of security reasons. Due to the reason that there were snipers on each street, I could not take my baby to the ambulance. Because I knew I was going to be shot by snipers. Then I continued to call the ambulance permanently. Because the baby, Muhammed, was alive. Lastly, due to my permanent calls and my bawling, on 05/09/2015 around 21.00 a doctor answered my call and gave me some medical information. The doctor told me to lay him on his back and to move his legs back and forth towards stomach in order to prevent vomiting. I have done all these, but they didn't work. My son Muhammed died that night around 3:00 in the morning. Throughout all these, the curfew continued. There were military armored vehicles on every street of the neighborhood. On 06/09/2015 around 08.00 we brought him to Şeyh Sait Mosque with the help of neighbors so his mother wouldn't cry anymore. Then, we had to keep the body of Muhammad, unwashed, for 30

hours. There was no electricity, cold storage or water in the mosque so we had to just leave the body out in the open. Sait Çağdavul's body was also there in the mosque along with my son Muhammed Tahir's body. The two HDP MPs in the area at that time, Leyla Birlik and Ferhat Encü, and I took the two bodies in the mosque and took off on foot toward İdil. I carried baby Muhammed in my arms. On the way to İdil, we have seen funeral transport vehicle of the municipality and we gave them the bodies. We were shot at and tear gassed from Cobra-type armored vehicles. We ran and hid in nearby places. On 09/12/2015, the day the curfew ended, I visited Cizre State Hospital morgue. The special operations policeman standing there told me that my 35 day-old baby was not in the Cizre State Hospital, and he had been brought to the Şırnak State Hospital for an autopsy. Then I went to Şırnak. I went to the morgue of the Şırnak State Hospital, and there, I learned that the body was in the unclaimed bodies section. In the morgue, the prosecutors and policemen were standing by and the autopsy was performed. The prosecutor gave us the death certificate and told us to take the body away. But I had arrived late in Şırnak, so I asked the prosecutor to keep the body in the morgue until the place of burial was determined, but he refused. 7 other bodies were treated similarly. The bodies were handed over to municipal funeral vehicles with the help of Şırnak municipality. That was our night. At 08.00 in the morning we left for Cizre. We were able to finally bury baby Muhammed at around 14:00 on 9/13/2015."

Sosin YARAMUŞ, mother of Muhammed Tahir YARAMUŞ

"The electricity was down and there were constant gunfire and explosions. The bullets hit the walls and the doors of the house. There were even debris falling in to the courtyard where we were. With all the panic and fear it brought, we tried to get into the house. In the confusion we bumped into each other and fell to the floor. Apart from this, my husband Abdullah Yaramuş's statement is true, that is how the events transpired."

Nuri ÇAĞLI, father of Osman ÇAĞLI:

"The second night at about 6:30 after the announcement of the curfew, my son went out to check out the noise coming from the street. He was shot on his back and hips as soon as he went out. We went out to see our wounded son, then together with our wounded son we tried to get to the main street through the neighborhood. We could not continue because shots were fired. It was known that there were snipers in certain places throughout the city. But I do not know whether the bullet that killed him was from an armored vehicle or from a sniper. Several people called the ambulance.

But they said they could not come to the neighborhood. They said they were not allowed. We tried for four hours to take my wounded son out of the neighborhood. After four hours at around 10 p.m., they picked Osman up from the Cudi district with an ambulance. He was still breathing when he was taken onto the ambulance. But we could see that he was losing a lot of blood. His body was very cold. His brother Mehmet Salih went with him in the ambulance. He passed away on the way to the state hospital. The special forces told Mehmet Salih that his brother's body was going to be taken to the hospital and that he could not accompany them. We do not know where exactly the corpse was taken. On 12/09/2015 when the curfew was lifted, we went to Cizre State Hospital to identify the body. They made me identify the body. After the identification process, we said we wanted the body to stay in the morgue because it was late in the evening, but it was not allowed. Therefore, we had to take Osman's body to the cold storage room in the fruit and vegetable market. We could bury him only on September 13. The cause of death for my son is excessive blood loss because the ambulance came very late."

Sadun TAŞKIN, father of Sadun TAŞKIN:

"On 09/09/2015 when the curfew was still in place, my son Özgür wanted to go to his uncle's house 4-5 meters away from our house because there was no electricity and the GSM operators were down. His uncle Abdullah Erdin had a generator in his house and there was electricity there. My son went there to follow the news and find out what was going on in Cizre. It was around 04:00 in the morning. An hour later at around 05.00, he left the house and was shot a few meters away from our own house by snipers stationed on the ring road in Yafes district. Özgür had been on the ground for 20 minutes when the neighbors called my wife and that was how we found out. He was still wounded when I ran to get him home. He asked me and his mother to give our blessings for him. We immediately asked for help by calling 112. But the officials said 112 will not come because it wasn't safe. I and our relative Yakup Zileas found a vehicle and took my son to the hospital under gunfire. I realized my son Özgür passed away while we were on our way still. Thinking that something could be done with other methods like CPR, I still took him to the hospital. The hospital was full of special operations police. Inside, there were only two doctors and they told me that there was nothing to be done and that my son had passed away. The policemen on the ring road in the Yafes district kept shooting continuously through the night. All the houses were badly damaged by this. My son was probably caught in the middle of these shootings and was killed. When I saw my son, there were 4 or 5 bullet marks on various parts of his body and he was covered in blood. 4 or 5 hours later, at around 15:00, the public prosecutor came and told us they would transport the body to Şırnak for an

autopsy. They did not allow me to accompany them. After 2 days, we buried the body on 13.09.2015."

Abdullah ÇAĞDAVUL, father of Said ÇAĞDAVUL:

"There were intense gunfire sounds starting from the beginning of the curfew at 20:00 in the Özkan Avenue where we reside. Since our house is on Özkan Avenue, and bullets from military vehicles began hitting our house, we decided to go to our father's house around 02.00 in the morning with the other family members. While going to my father's house, which is also on Özkan Avenue Kent Street, we saw guns and bombs being shot all over the neighborhood. When we entered the street with the whole family (7 people), we saw my 19 year-old son Sait Çağdavul fall down as the bullets hit his throat and arm. We took my son Sait to my father's house and immediately called the 112 emergency service. However, because of the heavy gunfire and artillery shootings they said it was not possible for security reasons. Despite all the calls they said they will not be able to come. Because the telecommunication services were offline, we could not call anyone else. All mobile phones and GSM operators were off. Despite all of our efforts my son died in half an hour. After he died, we put him on the stone at the mosque in the neighborhood wrapped in a blanket. Even while taking my son to the mosque there were heavy weapons and artillery shootings in our direction. We stayed in the mosque until noon the next day and notified the the deputies committee, which included Şırnak MPs Leyla Birlik and Ferhat Encü, of our situation. Even though they also made insistent appeals to the authorities so we could bury my son, the ambulance came after 36 hours and took my son to Şırnak State Hospital. After the curfew was lifted, we were summoned by the state hospital for an autopsy on 13/09/2015. After the autopsy was done, our son's body was brought to the Cizre State Hospital. In the identification process, I could not identify him at first, since his eyes were removed. My son did not have any injuries other than gunshot wounds at the time of his death. When I looked carefully I noticed that he was further maimed, his eyes were deliberately gouged out. When I asked about this to the authorities, the public prosecutor who attended the autopsy said it possibly could have happened during the autopsy. When I asked him why my son's eyes were removed, even though he was shot by a gun and had wounds from on his neck and arm, and thus no injuries near his eyes, the prosecutor said that it was possible that they took tissue samples from different parts of his body, and that could be the reason for the removal of the eyes, but that he was speculating and did not know this as a fact. After the autopsy, we put our son's body in a refrigerated vehicle called thermoking together with the other bodies and buried him the next day."

Veli Çađlı, Eyewitness:

"On September 7 at 22:30, everybody gathered in their houses because of the curfew. My father went out to the toilet. Then, he went to the front gate of our shop. That was when we were all shaken by a huge explosion. We went to the back room. We heard my brother and my father screaming. "Here," said someone. With my brother, we tried to pull him inside from the shop entrance. I and my brother tried to lift him. We pulled him into the kitchen thinking that it was safer there. I am a student at a private medical vocational high school. His left leg was injured. We tried to tampon with a bandage. We slowed down the bleeding and called the neighbors. We called the ambulance, we called Faysal Sariyıldız and sent him photos to explain the severity of the situation. The ambulance was able to come with the help of MPs. We arrived at Dalmış Oil Station by moving from house to house. We had to drill holes in the walls. There we waited for the ambulance to arrive for 30-40 minutes. He was taken to Cizre State Hospital by the ambulance. They did not make any other intervention and even accelerated the bleeding by removing the tampon in the hospital. It wasn't until the morning of September 8 that he was taken to Mardin State Hospital."

Eyewitness (Abdullah Özcan's father)

"After my son Abdullah Özcan finished his evening prayer around 8 pm, while the curfew was still in place, he walked through the garden to close his own gate and was shot in the leg by a bullet that we think was fired by a sniper. We could not help him because the police opened fire, so he had to wait injured for half an hour. We called the ambulance later but it did not show up so we had to carry him to the hospital with a private car. Even though we let the police know about it in advance, our car was raked by the police. He was shot in the leg and his kneecap shattered. Abdullah has 6 children and he was making his living as a shopkeeper.

Kader Gargan, eyewitness:

"We suffered from hunger and thirst for eight days, we experienced psychological breakdown. We could not sleep since there was constant artillery fire and gunshots. We could only learn the massacre happening in our own neighborhood through television, and only if the power was on. A pregnant woman in our neighborhood suffered labor pains for four days, then passed away because the ambulance could not come and she couldn't be treated.

An Anonymous Imam

The imam has requested we keep his name off the record as he is a public worker. He stated that he took a bullet in the right shoulder as he was on his way from the mosque after the night prayer, and he thinks the shooter was a sniper. He said that during the curfew they were not even able to change the water on the roof. When they attempted to change it, they were targeted by sharp shooters, which made it impossible. He said that his wound was treated at home, that the doctor came to his house and took the bullet out with his own means, and that the bullet was from an assault rifle. When the doctor learned that there were seriously wounded people, he had to leave before closing his wound properly and returned after a few hours to close it. He stated that no one could go outside and that they provided water from bins and other neighbors had to meet their water needs by carrying water from wells and bins. He added that they could not recite the ezan throughout the curfew and that the minarets were occupied by sharp shooters anyway (The interviewee tried not to disclose any names during the interview).

Mardin Chamber of Pharmacists Cizre Representative

Pharmacist Narin Zeren:

“Pharmacies were not able to be opened as of 04/09/2015, when the curfew was declared, until 12/09/2015. Only one of the pharmacies across the Cizre State Hospital could be opened until noon for the first 3-4 days. That pharmacy had to close down as well since no one could come due to the curfew, all the streets of the city were closed with armored vehicles and the news came that the snipers shot at live targets. The pharmacy warehouse which provided medicine both to the hospital and the pharmacies of the district in normal times could not have their trucks enter the district as it was forbidden to enter or exit the district. In the meantime, patients with chronic diseases did not have access to the medicine they have to take regularly. We knew that many people needed medicine due to what was happening in the district; but we could not open our pharmacies. Only a pharmacist near the neighborhood of Cudi wanted to open his pharmacy but it was raked as soon as it was opened. On the same day and around the same time, two children were also shot by the police in the same neighborhood as that pharmacy.

Later, we learned that the office of the district governor sent instructions to all pharmacies in Cizre District on the day the curfew was announced. They could not fax the instructions since electricity

was down. According to those instructions, all the pharmacies had to be closed except for the one across the Cizre State Hospital. In short, right of access to public health was prevented. Only the pharmacy across the hospital was open but that one was only open for a couple of days till noon for the sake of their own safety. It is not true that pharmacies were open during the curfew. Public access to the health system was blocked, and in many instances the already closed pharmacies also faced property damage.

Ramazan Tavlur, bakery owner:

"The bakery located in Sur neighborhood's Nusaybin Street Nr:123/A was closed from the date that curfew was announced 04/09/2015 till it was over, 12/09/2015. When the curfew announcements by armored vehicles on the streets began, we evacuated the bakery. My bakery was targeted by the police bullets even when it was closed. We could not come to the bakery during the curfew. I have another bakery located in Nur Quarter. When the curfew began, my employees were stuck there for 6 days. When the shop was raked by bullets, they hid upstairs. I tried to reach them with my wife, thinking that they would be hungry and thirsty. But me and my wife were blocked by the police and the police threatened to shoot us if we do not go back. We escaped by paying attention to high buildings to protect ourselves from snipers and escaped to the side streets. Both of my bakeries stayed closed throughout the curfew.

Eyewitness Nimet Şimsek:

I am a street vendor in front of the bakery on Nusaybin Street 123/A. We did not go out during the curfew. Two days after the announcement, we were out of food at home. So I went out to the bakery to buy bread, but it was closed. Apart from its being closed, as soon as I arrived there, the police opened fire on me, I was almost raked. We escaped."

Ramazan Batar, bakery owner:



I am the owner of Tatlısöz Bakery in Alibey Neighborhood. I also live in the same neighborhood. We were in the bakery on the day the curfew was announced. Normally we work in two shifts as day and night. But we could only work the day shift during the curfew. We were producing two times more bread not to leave people hungry. However, the police stopped by every now and then. We worked only during the day in order to protect our lives and to not have our bakery closed. People from Alibey neighborhood made long queues in front of the bakery because there was no other open shop. Sometimes the police came and said they would close the bakery if there is a crowd in front of it. People from other neighborhoods were not able to come here. One person from our district said he wanted to bring some bread to Nur District because people were starving there. We gave him the bread but we do not know if he could reach them or not. Once the police shot tear gas into the bakery because the front was crowded. But we knew that the only open bakery was ours and the bread was not even enough for this neighborhood. We worked only during the day and it was not enough.

Salih AŐKIN, eyewitness:

"I work at Tatlısöz bakery in Alibeyler neighborhood. I could not come to Alibey district from Cudi district during the curfew. The bakeries in Cudi were not open. We used all the wheat we had at home during the curfew. We went hungry when we had no more.

Victim Celal İşlek, shop owner:

My shop was closed officially during the curfew, but after the 5th day we could serve people from the back door. 2 employees and 1 security personnel stayed in the supermarket during the curfew period. There was no attack on the shop during that time. We lost fresh meat, milk and vegetables because of the power outages. We suffered a financial damage of approximately 10.000 Turkish Liras because of this. During the power outages, the generators worked for a while but they ran out of fuel too. The 9 days of curfew brought forth a serious decline in revenue. It is going to take several months to fix these losses – our suppliers are making it difficult for us to restock because of the unrest. We lost approximately 100.000 TL in revenue during the curfew. After the events, our working hours were reduced. We were open until midnight before, now we have to close at 5 pm. We suffered big damages in the long term in general.

Information Taken from DEDAŞ(power distribution company):

The power cuts started 1-2 hours after the curfew was announced on the 4th of September. While the transformers have varying power levels in Cizre, one transformer can supply electricity to at least 75 households. Through 21 non-functioning transformers, 1500 households remained without power.

DEDAŞ workers could not work during the whole curfew period. Some employees living in the inner neighbourhoods tried to work. Because of the complaints, some employees wanted to go to Nur district to make repairs. Although the car they drove belonged to the distribution company, the guns were pointed at the employees and they had to hide in a house. The problems caused by power cuts were not fixed, some districts still do not have power. Security forces demanded the electricity company not go there, due to the lack of life guarantee.

The findings after the curfew: Technically there are some lines that the transformers are connected to. The line between transformers 14 to 25 in Nur neighborhood was cut, the power was kept from entering the transformers and all the transformers were exploded afterwards. Overall, 21 transformers were exploded or damaged in some way that they are not functioning anymore in all of Cizre, especially in Nur district. Explosions were not mentioned in the reports of DEDAŞ. Approximately 4 or 5 thousand meters of the conducting electricity cables that the transformers were connected to is out of service. Serious economic damage has occurred on the cables that were hit by bullets.

As many photos already used by the press show, the concrete sticks of conductors were broken, the guns were specifically used to cut the iron pieces in the concrete. Especially Nur district, Özkan Street, Varol Street and Kurami Street were without power.

Although the reports from Keban Dam are still to come, according to calculations roughly 3,5-4 billion liras of financial damage was incurred. In general, all of the Nur neighborhood, the majority of Cudi neighborhood, half of Yafes neighborhood and most of the Sur neighborhood were without power. In the inner neighborhoods, the power cuts took place for shorter times. The repair process took a long time, a couple of transformers remained unfixed. The smaller districts came to help to fix.

Ferhat ENCÜ, HDP Şırnak Deputy:

"The evening of the day of the curfew announcement in Cizre, we entered the district center together with my group. At the entrance, there were hundreds of armored vehicles and intense population of police blockade. First we went to Cizre State Hospital. We saw the hospital surrounded by the police, both inside and out. We spent the night there. Hospital workers were trying to work under difficult conditions. At 8 o'clock in the morning the police tried to create tension at the entrance of the hospital, it was a pseudo-conflict to scare us and the medical staff, to make us anxious and to not go outside the hospital, and not feel comfortable at all. Although special operations police with automatic weapons and their faces covered recognized me and my committee, they targeted us by jamming us at the corridors of the hospital and pointed their guns at us, especially towards me. On the same day, the second day of the curfew, in the evening the police attacked us by shooting tear gas at us without warning while we were in Şah street in Cizre with my fellow MPs from various regions. Neither the governor of the city of Şırnak, nor the lieutenant colonel and chief of police in the county responded to our phone calls or addressed our issues in any way. On the fourth day, we went to observe the situation ourselves and get information from the desperate, locked-in inhabitants of Nur neighborhood which is where people have been subjected to the most intense attacks; but our entrance to the Nur Neighborhood was blocked. Despite our efforts to have a dialogue, they drove their armoured vehicles toward us with a sarcastic and cynical attitude. Our efforts to negotiate for the bodies to be carried to a morgue were blocked by police attacks. They strafed us with gunfire from Cobra-type armoured vehicles and drove said vehicles toward us. When we called emergency 112 and asked for an ambulance for the injured, the staff answered with "You are targeted by the police. If you come near the ambulance with the injured, then you put us at risk." and asked us to not go where the ambulance was.

STATUS OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS

On the morning of September 12th, with the removal of the curfew at 07:00 our committee, together with the MPs, became the first committee to enter Cizre. However, despite the curfew being lifted it was observed that there were some difficulties in entering the town because of the police and military. Again in the district center and on the main streets there were armored vehicles named "scorpions", "hedgehogs" and "Intervention Vehicle for the Social Events" sometimes not allowing the usage of some roads. People began to exit their houses only after some time had passed since the committee entered the district and before that the de facto curfew still kept people from going out onto the streets. From that moment on, our committee divided into groups and began their investigations in different parts of the neighbourhood.





CUDI NEIGHBOURHOOD

Our committee in Cudi neighborhood has confirmed that thrash piles have built up and they emit a very heavy and foul smell. It was told to the delegation by the residents that water and electricity were out for most of the curfew period and that the public health center was closed. During the interviews, it was also stated that most of the people that got killed were shot by snipers who also steadily opened fire from the minaret of the mosque and that the daily ezan was not recited. It is our observation that the ambulances were kept from entering the neighborhood by the police and the

people were left to their own limited means in caring for the wounded and the otherwise ill. Our delegation observed that people tried to convert condolence houses to makeshift infirmaries to tend to the wounded.



While our committee was still investigating, we received reports on a body was out on a street and it had been there for hours. When we went to the place reported, we did in fact find a dead body covered with a blanket by a wall. The medical staff, knowing the man was shot on his head, gave plastic bags to people and told them to wrap them around his head. When the body was uncovered, it was found that the person was elderly and the upper-back part of his head was completely smashed in. First, his head was covered by a plastic bag and then the body was carried to an ambulance. The man's beret was found on the ground covered in blood and there was a plastic bag full of pieces of stale bread. This situation has been photographed by the lawyers in the delegation. During interviews with the family and their neighbors, the man was identified as Mehmet Erdoğan and the family has stated that they could not go to retrieve the man's body on the night he was shot because they had the police open fire on them when they tried. The funeral was only made possible after the committees' efforts and the committees were the ones to arrange the funerals as well.

It was clear from the examinations that during the curfew of Cudi neighborhood, the armed forces opened fire without any specific target from the blockaded minarets and especially from the higher

buildings in Nusaybin Street; that the people were not allowed to move the injured and the dead and ambulances were not allowed to enter the street.

NUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The first things noticed in the Nur Street are that the streets were turned into ruins with heavy smells spreading from trash and animal corpses and that there are no buildings left undamaged or not targeted by the bullets. According to our investigations, there was no water supply, no electricity and no telephone services during the curfew for eight days. It was observed that the main water supplies of the neighborhood was blasted; the water tanks on top of the houses or in the gardens were targeted by gunfire and the people were left thirsty. All the store shutters were smashed into pieces, their windows were broken and shot at, and the stores were looted. It was also observed that the main transformer was blown out; electric wires were completely damaged; all the air conditioner units on the walls of houses were targeted and broken.



It was identified that with the lifting of the curfew, the previously blown out water pipes formed small ponds in the pits, that there were many murdered animals, such as of cows, cats and pigeons and that the surroundings were full of bullet casings and there were explosives everywhere; at some

places there were unused or unexploded military ammunition present as well. It was witnessed that the neighborhood had been turned into an ammunition dump. Indeed, while our committee was continuing its investigations, two children named Yusuf Şık and Berivan Dadak were injured as a result of one of these unused bombs exploding and they were hospitalized. Yusuf Şık had one foot and one arm amputated and his condition is still critical.



During the investigations, it was observed that the situation inside the houses was not any better than the outside; that many buildings and houses were left in an unusable state of ruin; that windows were targeted and much material damage has been done. In some houses fire broke out and many people got injured as a result. In the interviews, it was stated that on the streets that were too narrow to be targeted by military vehicles, helicopters were used to target houses and buildings. In the interviews with locals, it was stated many times that they called for an ambulance for the injured, but the ambulances did not come citing a danger to their own lives.

While our committee was working, the committee was asked to help with the still unhospitalized people with injuries. MPs and lawyers went to the house in Köprülü Street where the injured people were. In one of the rooms, Bahat Yeşil (the father), Ferhat Yeşil (his son) and Behiye Yeşil (his daughter-in-law) were found lying on the floor, their clothes covered in blood. All three of them were injured from their legs but they could not go out and be taken to the hospital since the ambulance did not come. These people were shot in their legs while they were sleeping around 2am on September 12. With the initiatives of MPs, these people were hospitalized. After that, our committee visited them at the hospital and observed that they were still receiving treatment. The bullet marks on the walls and in the windows of the house were identified and photographed.

During the investigation of Köprülü Street, it has been reported to our committee that a pregnant woman, Mualla Yalın, needed to be taken to the hospital in order to have a caesarean section ten days ago. She had been suffering labor pains for hours, but she could not get to the hospital and ambulances could not reach her because of the curfew.

Again it is reported by the Köprülü Street eyewitnesses that 65 year-old Eşref Erdin was shot on his back on the roof of his house on September 10, at around 23.00. The armored vehicles began shooting again while he was being carried outside to be taken to the hospital. He had to be moved back inside and died within the hour. Eyewitnesses add that, ambulances could come and take the body until 22 hours later.

In general, it is repeatedly reported by many that the psychology of residents and especially children have deteriorated, the children are constantly crying and having trouble sleeping. It was stated repeatedly by many people that, when their houses come under gunfire, they had to either hide in their shelters or flee to their next door neighbours' through holes they made on walls. Also in these statements are people telling the committee that they went hungry and thirsty for days, people had to boil dirty well water to drink and many children fell ill because of this.

YAFES NEIGHBORHOOD



As we began our examination in Yafes Neighbourhood, it was brought to our attention that there was a body in cold storage and it should be taken to the morgue. When we went to the cold storage with our lawyers, we saw that there was a body in the storage where chicken meat was stored. The authorities were notified so the funeral could be held. Information about the body, that it was a man named Mehmet Dökmen and that he died of a heart attack was provided by his family. It was reported that the man was hospitalized when he took a turn for the worse on 30.08.2015, was released from the hospital on 02.09.2015 around 14.30, then fell ill again around 17.00 the same day, and that he was taken to the hospital again. We gathered that he was released after being given a shot, but told his relatives around 03.00 on 10.09.2015 that his heart was aching, while there were sounds of gunfire and explosions outside and that he died during a loud explosion. Mr. Dökmen's family called for an ambulance that night when he fell ill, but they didn't respond. They tried to take him with a taxi cab, but the taxi driver also said he couldn't come. He was taken to the mosque on 04.09.2015, was washed and put in a shroud. Later, he was taken to the cold storage in the neighborhood and kept there for 2 days because a burial wasn't allowed.

At the Dönmez family's house where Mr. Dönmez had the heart attack, our delegation observe that, some parts of the house were torn down completely and all the walls of the house across the street were covered with bullet holes. A vehicle was found in the next street that was covered entirely with bullet holes. Our committee met with and received reports from the husband of Meryem Süne who died in the same neighborhood. According to her husband, on 8 September 2015 at 21.30 Meryem was injured as a result of bomb fragments thrown by security forces at the gate of their house. Although neighbors called the district governor, the police, the gendarmerie and the hotline 112 for an ambulance, she lost her life after 2.5 hours when medical aid failed to arrive. Her family had to keep her in the house that night after she lost her life. The next day her body was moved to cold storage. Thence it was taken to the morgue in Şırnak.

During our investigations, we interviewed the father of Özgür Taşkın's (18) who lost his life in the same neighborhood. He told the committee that on September 9, 2015 at around 3:30 - 4:00 Özgür went to his uncle's house across the street since they had a generator and he wanted to get some cold water and find out what was happening in Cizre from the television and that he was wounded when the security forces opened fire, and the ambulance didn't come although they called several times. In our committee's observations at Yafes neighborhood we saw that as a result of the curfew, patients who need regular medicine found themselves in life-threatening situations because they didn't have access to their medication, the streets were covered in a heavy smell due to the garbage not being collected and this created a threat to public health together with water outages. Right to health was violated.

The water tanks were shot by snipers deliberately, starting from the very first night of the curfew. and people were left without water by this measure. Our committee observed that, shops belonging to the people were also targeted along with their houses, that the shops were also damaged and raided and the people's need for food was targeted as such. People in the shops have seen soldiers and police officers take supplies and loot shops. It was observed that sidewalks, roads and courtyards were covered with bullet shells and exploded bombs and the area resembled a war front because of them.

The gas used by the police and the soldiers during the curfew is told to have a dazing and sleep-inducing effect. People report that the police spoke Arabic, presumably to remind people of ISIS on several occasions; the artillery fire caused holes with a diameter of 2 to 3 meters and blew the sewage pipes, thereby creating pools of waste water. It was said that the conflict became more severe on the last night of the curfew when it was announced that it would be lifted, and on September 11, 2015 the policemen made announcements like "Armenian bastards, we will kill you

all, and we will exterminate you". We have observed that the people have come to the conclusion that the forced displacement routine that resembles the 1990's was being reinstated because of the house walls coming down due to heavy attacks and artillery shootings, rendering the houses unusable and the police making announcements like "Leave the neighborhood, we will exterminate you". The citizens' right to property, freedom of travel and especially right to establishment were violated.

It was reported by all the residents in the neighbourhood that the conflict was by no means reciprocal and the police had a continuous unilateral attack against them. It was also noted that all the people murdered by the police were absolutely unarmed and were usual residents of the neighbourhood. Despite the lifting of the curfew, the tanks and several types of armed vehicles were still stationed where they were during the shelling and they did not leave their posts, therefore the people were hesitant in going out to the streets even though the curfew was lifted.



HEALTH ASPECT



Our delegation report that the entrance of the hospital garden, the emergency and intensive care unit are controlled and blockaded by special operations police. All patients were checked for ID's by the police at the entrance of the emergency unit. Even a 4 year-old burn victim brought to the hospital was allowed in after police control. Hospital staff state that the hospital's emergency could not be used and the intensive care unit was used as the emergency department. Our delegation confirms this. The patients in intensive care and the patients in the emergency room and their relatives having to share the same space put the patients in critical condition at risk. All patient rights were violated by the police during the curfew. Hospital personnel cited that after the curfew started, the hospital was closed to civilians. It was open only for the police and the soldiers. Staff who tried to help injured civilians were threatened by the police. Because of police threats, hospital personnel had to flee the hospital. Hospital staff state that the police held guns to their heads and they were exposed to the insults of special operations police. 112 (Emergency hotline) was deactivated and ambulances were not allowed to enter the streets. Because of these obstructions none of the hospital staff could help the injured civilians.

In our interviews with the public it was reported that citizens, especially children, have suffered from diseases like diarrhea due to consumption of contaminated well water after the nine day long water outage.

Murdered animals like pigeons, goats and cows have been sighted along with others that starved to death in the streets. Moreover, it was reported that people feel the pungent smell of garbage and dead animals because the garbage was not collected. It was also stated that many diseases, notably contagious diseases emerged. It is stated that the incidents have deeply affected people's -especially the children's- mental state. We are informed that there are people who could not go to the doctor and who had heart attacks due to artillery shooting and bombardment. According to the reports of Cizre Chamber of Medical Doctors and SES(Union of Medical and Social Service Workers), a great number of pregnant women gave birth at home and under difficult conditions. Dialysis patients and other patients who have to be under doctor supervision weren't able to benefit from medical services.

LEGAL ASPECT

IN TERMS OF AUTHORITY OF GOVERNOR DECIDING CURFEW

"In accordance with the 11/C article of the Provincial Administration Law No. 5442, a curfew was declared in Cizre by the Şırnak Governorship effective 8.00 p.m. September 4, 2015 and the curfew lasted for 9 days. In accordance with the principle of legality in administration, the administration has the authority or duty on condition that such authority is clearly granted by laws. Unless there is law, there is no administration or authority. When Şırnak Governorship declared the curfew, they did not base this declaration on any solid justifications. Neither the Provincial Administration Law nor legal arrangements concerning the authority and duties of governors grant governors the right , authority or responsibility to declare causeless enforcements. Şırnak Governorship has blocked the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens in the town through such enforcement. Giving terrorist incidents as an excuse, Şırnak Governorship based the nine-day curfew on the 11/C article of the Provincial Administration Law, which was absolutely unrelated. Governorship's basing such happenings on the 11/C article of the Provincial Administration Law means the declaration of "State of Emergency" and this is why it is against the law.

No article of the Provincial Administration Law calls for THE DECLARATION OF A CURFEW. The governorship acted on an authority it was not granted. This situation clearly constitutes the crime of "misconduct and corruption" in accordance with the Penal Code in Turkey.

The 11/C article of the Provincial Administration Law, which served as the basis of the decision to declare a curfew, states: "It is within the governor's duties and responsibilities to ensure peace and safety, the inviolability of the person, acts concerning security and public welfare and to hold the authority for preventative law enforcement within provincial borders. The governor takes the decisions and measures necessary for their provision. Legal action is taken against those who do not abide by these decisions and measures according to the Article 66." 66th article also says that Article 32 of the Misdemeanors Act is enforced. The article 32 of the Misdemeanours Act indicates that a fine of 100 Turkish liras will apply for violation of the curfew. Not only is "the curfew decision" not regulated by law in the aforementioned article, it is also clearly against the law that the decision refers to this legal regulation. "The curfew" is a practice that is not part of the normal state of affairs and legal regulations, it is rather observed under the circumstances of a state of emergency and in periods when the martial law is applied. The state of emergency and martial law are regulated by the articles 119, 120, 121, and 122 that clearly state the conditions under which and how they can be exercised.

Article 3 from the Martial Law no. 1402 grants the martial law commander this authorization. Article 3 / 1 is concerned with "recording citizen's leaving their homes during a curfew, declaring a curfew and removing some or all of the civil defense measures when necessary."

The subclauses of the Emergency Law no. 2935 are as following:

"a) To declare partial or full curfew b) to prohibit the people at certain times and in certain places from wandering and congregating unrestricted and driving vehicles."

In the relevant articles of the Constitution it is stated that this power can only be used solely with approval of the Parliament given by the Cabinet, thus no governor can use it. In addition, transferring of the authority defined in this article to governors is not legally possible.

THE CURFEW WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTITUTION

The rights guaranteed by the Constitution to citizens were violated in an arbitrary and unlawful manner with a decision of the governorship. Citizens were forced to stay in their homes by force, violating the freedom and security of the person (19th article of the Constitution) and freedom of residence and travel (23rd Article of the Constitution).

The cases in which fundamental rights and freedoms may be limited are indicated as follows in Article 13 of the Constitution: "Fundamental rights and freedoms may be restricted only by law and in conformity with the reasons mentioned in the relevant articles of the Constitution without infringing upon their essence. These restrictions shall not be contrary to the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the requirements of the democratic order of the society and the secular republic and the principle of proportionality." As is clearly indicated in this regulation, a curfew cannot be declared based on an authority which is not given by the law and if declared, constitutes a violation of the Constitution. Article 15 of the Constitution also mentions the conditions under which the exercise of fundamental rights may be suspended: "In times of war, mobilization, martial law, or a state of emergency, the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms may be partially or entirely suspended, or measures derogating the guarantees embodied in the Constitution may be taken to the extent required by the exigencies of the situation, as long as obligations under international law are not violated." Since none of those conditions exist in the case at hand and since there is no such decision of the Cabinet or any approval of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the given decision clearly violates this article.

According to the Articles 13 and 23 of the Constitution and the Article 2 of the 4th Supplementary Protocol of European Convention of Human Rights, the curfew declared by the governorship and the denying or limiting of entrance to and exit from the district in a way to limit the freedoms of residence and travel are contrary to the principle of "rule of law". The fact that the ban started 90 km away from Cizre, where the curfew was declared, and was applied to both our deputies and our delegation is a proof of arbitrariness and the existence of the police state.

The fact that all who died in Cizre during the 9-day curfew were civilian people and most of them died from hemorrhage due to lack of medical assistance is a violation of the right to life guaranteed by both international conventions and by the Constitution. It is a crime against humanity that in the district, electricity and water was cut off for 9 days; bakeries and markets were not opened; the police and the military opened fire on people who were trying to bring the wounded to the hospital; the dead were not allowed to be buried; the hospital was blockaded by the police and the civilians

were not allowed to be treated and were targeted and killed by the law enforcement officers. According to the Geneva Convention which was also signed by the Republic of Turkey, the humanitarian needs of civilians are to be met even under conditions of war. It is forbidden to starve civilians and keep them away from the resources they need to continue living. The Convention also guarantees that the sick and the wounded are to be protected and treated and the dead may be collected. The health officers are to be protected according to the Convention as well. It was forbidden to use bullets which spread and burst to pieces in the human body. However, we observed that both the Constitution and the international conventions were clearly violated in these respects.

DETECTIONS

- 1. It has been found that prior to the official declaration on 04.09.2015, a de facto curfew had been in place.**
- 2. During the curfew that started on 04.09.2015 and ended on 09.12.2015; the attacks of law enforcement units left 21 citizens dead, dozens injured - many of them without chance of recovery.**
- 3. During the curfew, civilians have been killed by snipers who targeted indiscriminately. People, animals, and houses have been raked. Especially in the neighborhoods of Nur, Cudi and Yafes, there is almost no dwellings that have not been raked, torched, or damaged. Around 1000 dwellings have been damaged as a result of the attacks.**
- 4. During the curfew that lasted eight days, by disrupting operation of bakeries and markets, people have been deprived of their basic needs such as bread, milk, and infant formulas.**
- 5. During the curfew that lasted eight days, GSM networks were disrupted and communication was prevented.**
- 6. Right after the declaration of the curfew, main water supply networks were destroyed by explosions. Throughout the curfew, water valves were shut off by law enforcement who kept close watch on the valves and purposefully prevented the residents of these neighborhoods from accessing clean water.**
- 7. In addition to shutting off water valves, water tanks installed on roof tops of dwellings have been targeted with heavy weaponry and rendered dysfunctional.**
- 8. Law enforcement officers have purposefully destroyed power distribution units in order to prevent access to electricity.**
- 9. The air conditioners installed in dwellings due to the mostly hot climate of Cizre were also targeted with heavy weaponry.**

10. In addition to the recitation of azan at mosques being prohibited by law enforcement officers, the security forces have damaged mosques by opening fire and snipers were placed on minarets.

11. By shooting every moving living being, snipers deployed in the higher locations of the neighborhood caused deaths and injuries during the curfew.

12. Security forces invaded some of the streets with armored vehicles and raked the insides and outsides of all the houses with heavy weapons.

13. Entrance to Cizre Public Hospital was prohibited by security forces and people were not allowed inside. Medical staff were precluded from treating injured citizens and they were threatened with death.

14. Because the Family Health Centers were closed down throughout the curfew, health service could not be provided and the people had no means of reaching any medical institutions.

15. Again, doctors and health workers who volunteered to provide service were precluded and were not allowed in the district.

16. People who had been targeted by snipers and those injured by the explosions could not reach ambulances due to the preclusions of the security forces.

17. Efforts of the citizens to reach the hospitals by the vehicles that they have found with their own means were precluded again by the security forces by opening fire.

18. 112 Emergency service workers who were called regarding the injured and the regular patients stated that they are not able to come because of the police barricades and those who had come before experienced a security problem as a result of police fire.

19. Since the 112 emergency hotline could not provide any service, people called the 155 police hotline for permission to be able to take patients to the hospital. Since the police shot at even the cars, they had to return although the policemen gave permission by the license plates.

20. During the curfew, due to policemen taking injured people into custody before they went to the hospital, they could not get adequate treatment.

21. During this process, the District Governorship of Cizre ordered the pharmacies to not open shop, and precluded the right for health of urgent and chronic patients.

22. During the curfew, it was ascertained that women could not have their routine pregnancy checks in Cizre.

23. Because it was not possible to transport those women in labor to the hospitals, many of them had to give birth at home and many women had miscarriages.

24. It was observed that people of Cizre who had been under heavy gunfire throughout the curfew had psychological traumas due to the incidents.

25. The Cizre Attorney General's Office declared that they started to conduct an investigation about injuries and deaths, but not even crime scene investigation or evidence collection processes have been carried out.

26. It was detected by analyzing weapon residues and collecting samples from houses and streets that during the curfew security forces used very heavy and destructive weaponry.

27. After the end of curfew, security forces left out unexploded ordnance consciously while they were withdrawing, and so people were injured.

28. During this process, not only civilian citizens but also animals like cows, goats and pigeons were targeted, and animal corpses were seen in the streets.

29. After the investigations, it was noticed that all the dead and injured people were civilian citizens and they lived in Cizre.

30. Most of the houses were rendered unusable by rocket launchers, bullets and mortars.

31. It was rereported that since there was no permission for burial the bodies were kept in freezers and cold storage rooms.

32. State institutions such as mosques and schools had virtually been turned into military quarters by stationing snipers in them.

33. In the streets, graffiti like "Turkish Revenge Brigade", "TC here" were written on walls. Ottoman military Mehter marches were played loudly from police vehicles. Announcement involving insults like "Armenian scum, tonight will be your last" were made, and announcements in Arabic were performed to give the impression of ISIS.

34. It was found out that special operation officers who had served and committed countless crimes in Cizre in 1990s have been deliberately deployed in Cizre again.

CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

Citizens' right to live was violated, access to water, electricity and food was cut off, exercising the rights to health and communication was not allowed, bakeries and pharmacies were kept from opening shop and an attempt at "taming" the people as a whole was carried out by waging a systemic war during the curfew between 04.09.2015 and 12.09.2015 in Cizre. As such, the State has violated the Geneva Convention which the (Turkish) State is a signatory to and should comply with during any conflict. The state has also acted against all international human rights conventions, universal legal principals as well as the domestic law. Thence, below proposals should immediately be realized.

1.FIRST OF ALL, WE SAY IT IS TIME FOR PEACE AND CALL THE WISE MEN COMMISSION TO CIZRE.

2.WE PROPOSE THAT A PLATFORM OF NGO'S THAT WILL MONITOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE CURFEWS AND SPECIAL SECURITY REGION PRACTICES AND THAT WILL INFORM THE PUBLIC OPINION ON THE MATTER BE FORMED.

3.WE INVITE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE TURKISH NATIONAL PARLIAMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON SITE IN CIZRE.

4.A SPECIAL COMMISSION ON CIZRE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE CONSTITUTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO COMPENSATE FOR THE MATERIAL AND PERSONAL LOSSES, ALL INCIDENTS SHOULD BE EXPOSED IN ALL CLARITY AND ALL LOSSES, FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL, SHOULD BE COMPENSATED.

5.DISTRICT GOVERNOR AND ŞIRNAK GOVERNOR MUST IMMEDIATELY BE DISMISSED AND THEY SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO AN INQUIRY.

6.ACTIVE INQUIRIES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO DETECT WHICH LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS ARE GUILTY AND THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY.

7.CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE DEATHS AND INJURIES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE CARRIED OUT AND THE EVIDENCE SHOULD BE GATHERED BEFORE IT IS DESTROYED.

8.THE EMPLOYMENT OF CURFEWS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE ABANDONED.

9.CİZRE SHOULD BE OPENED TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, THE FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION SHOULD NOT BE VIOLATED.

10.THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELECTRICITY, WATER AND GSM NETWORK OUTAGES SHOULD BE EXPOSED, AND IT SHOULD BE CLARIFIED ON WHOSE AUTHORITY AND WITH WHOSE INSTRUCTIONS THAT THESE OUTAGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

11.POLICIES OF WAR SHOULD BE TERMINATED AND THE PROCESS OF PEACE MAKING AND NEGOTIATION SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE STARTED.