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3 HDP supporters murdered by counter forces laid to rest



10 June 13:37 2015

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DİYARBAKIR (DİHA) - The three persons murdered by counter forces in Diyarbakır last night, Bayram Dağtan, Bayram Özelçi and Emin Ensen, have been laid to rest following a ceremony attended by thousands of people.

HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) supporters Bayram Özelçi, Bayram Dağtan and Emin Ensen lost their lives in hospital last night after they were shot by members of HUDA-PAR who randomly opened fire on people in the streets of Diyarbakır yesterday evening. The funeral of the three men was held in Yenişehir Cemetery in Diyarbakır, where they have been buried following a ceremony attended by thousands.

The ceremony was also attended by newly elected Amed deputies, Çağlar Demirel and Nursel Aydoğan, while the coffins of the three were brought to cemetery on the shoulders of the people who frequently chanted the slogan "Martyrs are immortal".

MEYA-DER co-chair Mehmet Akar made a short speech at the ceremony after the burial, saying that those who cannot accept the election results and the victory of the HDP have now begun to attack the people. Speaking after, DBP Amed branch co-chair Ali Şimşek said the Kurdish people have now achieved gains bringing them closer to liberation, adding that dirty policies have started to be imposed on the Kurdish people right after the elections. Şimşek stressed that Kurdish people will not step back in the face of these attacks.

People of Amed will be able to offer condolences to the families of HDP member Bayram Özelçi in Şemsiler Mourning House, and of Bayram Dağtan and Emin Ensen in Temiran Mourning House in the coming days.

(nt)

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These eyes will never forget your ferocity!

Photo : Jêhat Akça 12-09-2015 - Cizre

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Turkey's south-east

Huda-Par's emergence

An Islamist party for Turkey's Kurds

Nov 23rd 2013 | BATMAN | From the print edition



IN A shiny office in the heart of Batman (see map), a group of men refuses to shake hands with female visitors, offering rosewater instead. They belong to Huda-Par, or “Party of Allah”, which was launched in December on a platform of Islamic values and greater rights for Turkey’s 14m mainly Sunni Kurds. Do they want *sharia* rule? Huseyin Yilmaz, Huda-Par’s deputy chairman, strokes his immaculately trimmed beard before responding. “We are Muslims before all else, but we will take note of the people’s wishes,” he says. “And the people will no doubt cleave to Allah’s path.”



Huda-Par’s emergence might have been seen as part of the newly liberal atmosphere in the country’s war-wrecked, mainly Kurdish, south-eastern provinces. Instead, it has prompted worries of a fresh turf war between Islamist and nationalist Kurds. This risks undermining the ambitious (albeit bumpy) peace talks between the government in Ankara and rebels of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Many say the intra-Kurdish rivalry goes beyond a local quarrel and reflects tensions between Turkey and Iran. These, despite a recent flurry of official visits, continue to be inflamed by the war in Syria.

Huda-Par is closely linked to a shadowy militant group, Hizbullah, which has no connection with its Lebanese namesake but shares sympathy for Iran. Successive Turkish governments have long accused Iran of using Hizbullah as a fifth column to spread its ideology and to undermine Ataturk’s secular republic. In the 1990s Hizbullah was recruited by Turkey’s “deep state”, an allegedly antidemocratic group of senior spooks, military officers and members of the judiciary, to murder hundreds of PKK members and supporters. When Hizbullah carried its bloodletting beyond the south-east, the government began to clamp down, killing the group’s leader, Huseyin

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Velioglu, in a shoot-out in January 2000.

Even so, Hizbullah is “alive” and has made “a comeback with Huda-Par”, says Yilmaz Arslan, Batman’s governor. “Iran is using them to undermine Turkey and the peace process,” he adds.

Tensions between Huda-Par and the determinedly secular PKK have been bubbling ever since the Islamists announced they would be taking part in municipal elections in 2014. Last month the PKK accused Hizbullah of attacking mourners in the town of Cizre on the Iraqi border. In reply, Huda-Par complained that PKK vigilantes had repeatedly targeted its offices. “The PKK is scared of our popularity,” Mr Yilmaz insisted.

After PKK youths prevented Huda-Par volunteers from distributing leaflets on November 2nd, gunmen stormed a wedding attended by supporters of the pro-PKK Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), killing one guest. One of the assailants, who were arrested last week, was identified as a Huda-Par member and former Hizbullah militant.

“It is clear that Iran is behind them. Iran wants to stir things up,” claims Serhat Temel, Batman’s BDP mayor. This, he adds, is because of the PKK’s growing support among Iran’s own Kurds. Mr Yilmaz rejects the accusations, saying Iran is a convenient scapegoat for Turkey’s ills, but agrees that his party “respects the Iranian revolution”. Although the BDP is expected to sweep the local polls in the Kurdish region, Huda-Par is likely to lure away some pious Kurds. And its belated embrace of Kurdish nationalism has helped to boost its credentials.

On November 16th Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey’s mildly Islamist prime minister, stole an electoral march against the BDP at a mass rally in Diyarbakir, its biggest stronghold. Flanked by Massoud Barzani, the leader of the semi-independent Kurdish statelet in northern Iraq, who is lauded by Kurds of all stripes, and Sivan Perwer, a Kurdish-nationalist singer, Mr Erdogan uttered the word “Kurdistan” for the first time. “We shall witness the days when those in the mountains [PKK rebels] will come down and the prisons will be emptied,” the prime minister roared.

BDP leaders have dismissed the rally as cheap electioneering. Mr Erdogan acknowledged this week that an amnesty for the rebels was not on the table.

Yet despite all the mutual recriminations, after 11 months of uninterrupted peace, neither side is ready to walk away. “The Kurds have finally tasted peace,” said Arif Arslan, the owner of an independent local newspaper. “Anyone who disrupts it, Huda-Par included, will be buried at the ballot box.”

From the print edition: Europe



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Major Kurdish armed group commits to the protection of children in armed conflict

25th October 2013 | **Turkey - Child protection**



After three years of dialogue with Geneva Call, the **People's Defense Centre/People's Defense Forces (HPG)**, also known as the **Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)**, has signed Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict*. The commitment was made on 5th October by female commander Delal Amed, on behalf of the People's Defense Centre/HPG.

By signing this *Deed of Commitment*, the People's Defense Centre/HPG is **publically formalizing its policy to prevent children under 18 from taking part in hostilities and to protect them from the effects of the conflict**. HPG has entered a reservation in accordance with the *Deed of Commitment*: a new

non-combatant category of the HPG will be created and children between 16 and 18 will only be allowed to join this category.

“We will make all efforts **to ensure that all 16-18 year olds are separated and kept away from combat zones**. We are also ready to cooperate with Geneva Call and provide access to these young persons” said Delal Amed. “We sign the *Deed of Commitment* for the cause of children and because it is our conviction” added Baroz Erdal, member of the delegation. “The next HPG conference will adopt this new status and we will take all measures to secure compliance with this commitment.”

“Today we are pleased to receive this pledge, which is the result of a constructive dialogue” said Elisabeth Decrey Warner, President of Geneva Call. We will now cooperate towards its implementation, **which will benefit the approximately 300-400 children directly concerned**, according to the People's Defense Centre/HPG. We commend their pledge and are confident that this will serve as an example for other armed non-State actors, notably in Syria. We also hope that it will make a positive contribution to the ongoing talks between the Turkish State and Abdullah Öcalan of the PKK movement.”

For more information, please contact:

Anki Sjoeborg
Programme Director
Geneva Call
+41 (0) 22 879 94 40
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group, and ultimately emerged victorious. In 1993 the İlim group took the name *Hizbullah*.

History [edit]

The group which became known as Kurdish Hizbollah took this name in 1993, after emerging victorious from a bloody factional war between two wings of the Union Movement (*Vahdet Hareketi*) which had been established following the [1980 Turkish coup d'état](#)'s crushing of Islamist hopes for democratic success. [Hüseyin Velioğlu](#)'s group had previously been known as *İlim*, named for his bookshop.^[2] According to Turkish security officials, the Turkish Hezbollah was financed by and trained in post-revolutionary [Iran](#) , with Iran allegedly using terror groups to establish Islamic governments throughout the Middle East.^{[15][16][17]} However, there is substantial evidence that Turkish Hezbollah was in fact supported, if not actually established, by elements of the Turkish state and military.

Further groups within Kurdish Hezbollah were named as *Tevhid*, led by Nurettin Şirin and Mehmet Şahin and *Yeryüzü*, led by Burhan Kavuncu.^[18] Besides the town of Batman, Hezbollah was strongest in [Silvan](#) district of [Diyarbakır](#) province. For a long time the village Yolaç was used as their base.^[13]

In the early 1990s the organization became a direct threat to the already rising Kurdish separatist movement. The Kurdish Islamist group (of Sunni thought) began as an oppositional force against the [Kurdistan Workers' Party](#) (PKK), though later they have targeted both the PKK and people who they considered to be with *low morals* (people who drank alcohol, wore mini-skirts etc.).^[19] Between 1992 and 1995 KH killed around 500 PKK members, for the loss of around 200 of its own.^[2]

The KH also targeted journalists which wrote about its activities, particularly those who wrote about connections between KH and the Turkish state and military. Journalists associated with *2000'e Doğru* and *Özgür Gündem* were particularly targeted (see [List of journalists killed in Turkey](#)).^[20]

Some of Hezbollah's major attacks allegedly include an April 1999 suicide bombing in Bingöl, and the February 2001 assassination of Diyarbakir police chief [Gaffar Okkan](#) (and five other police).^[21]

Turkish military support [edit]

The weekly *2000'e Doğru* of 16 February 1992 reported that eyewitnesses and sympathizers of Hezbollah had informed them that members of the organization were educated in the headquarters of Turkey's rapid deployment force (*Çevik Kuvvet*) in Diyarbakır. Two days after the article was published its author, Halit Güngen was killed by unidentified murderers.^[14] Namik Taranci, the Diyarbakir representative of the weekly journal *Gerçek* (Reality), was shot dead on November 20, 1992 on his way to work in Diyarbakır. Again, the previous edition of the magazine had examined relations between the state and Hizbullah. Hafız Akdemir, reporter for *Özgür Gündem* (Free Agenda), was shot dead in a Diyarbakır street on June 8, 1992, after reporting that a man who had given refuge to assassins fleeing a Hezbollah-style double killing in Silvan was released after only six weeks in custody, without even appearing in court.^[14]

The 1993 report of Turkey's Parliamentary Investigation Commission referred to information that Hezbollah had a camp in the [Batman region](#) where they received political and military training and assistance from the security forces.^[22]

Former Minister [Fikri Sağlar](#) said in an interview with the paper *Siyah-Beyaz* (Black-White) that the army not only used Hezbollah, but actually founded and sponsored the organization. He maintained that such a decision had been taken in 1985 at the highest levels - the [National Security Council](#) .^[23] On 17 January 2011 [Arif Doğan](#), a retired colonel in the [Turkish army](#) who also claims to be a founder of [JİTEM](#), while

testifying in court in the [Ergenekon](#) case, declared that he set up Hezbollah as a [contra](#) group to force to fight and kill militants of the PKK. The organization was originally to be called *Hizbul-Kontr* ("Party of the Contras").^[24]

According to journalist [Faik Bulut](#), some Hezbollah members were caught in Istanbul with 40 kg of [C-4 explosive](#) and valid [National Intelligence Organization](#) identity cards.^[25]

Human resources ^[edit]

In December 2003 Corry Görgü put the number of militants as high as 20,000^[9] a figure presented by the [Center for Defense Information](#) as well.^[26] Information provided by the Intelligence Resource Program of the [Federation of American Scientists](#) based on the 2002 [Patterns of Global Terrorism](#) report suggests that the organisation possibly has a few hundred members and several thousand supporters.^[27] Ufuk Hiçyılmaz stated that the group had about 1,000 armed members.^[28]

Trials (2000 - 2011) ^[edit]

After the kidnapping of several businessmen in [Istanbul](#) and the subsequent raid of a house in [Beykoz](#) quarter a nationwide hunt on Hezbollah supporters followed. During the operation in Beykoz on 17 January 2000 Hüseyin Velioğlu was killed and Edip Gümüş and Cemal Tutar were detained. Edip Gümüş, born 1958 in Batman was alleged to lead the military wing of Hezbollah and Cemal Tutar was said to be a member of the armed wing.^[29] In this period nearly 6000 KH members were arrested.^[2]

In the time to follow many trials were conducted in Diyarbakır and other places against alleged members of Hezbollah. In several instances defendants raised torture allegations. Such allegations are documented in [Urgent Actions](#) (UA) of [Amnesty International](#).^[30] In the trial in which Edip Gümüş and Cemal Tutar were indicted the defendant Fahrettin Özdemir said on 10 July 2000 that he had been held in custody for 59 days and had been tortured. In the hearing of 11 September 2000 Cemal Tutar said that he had been held in police custody for 180 days.^[29]

The Hezbollah trial was concluded in December 2009. The defendants received varying terms of imprisonment.^[31]

Eighteen members of Turkish Hezbollah, suspected of militant activities, were released from jail on 4 January 2011, in accordance with a recent amendment to the Turkish criminal code that set a limit of 10 years on the time detainees can be held without being sentenced in a final verdict.^[32]

Movement of the Oppressed and Hüda-Par (2002 -) ^[edit]

Following the decision to end armed struggle in 2002, sympathizers of Hizbollah's Menzil group founded an association called "Solidarity with the Oppressed" (tr: *Mustazaflar ile Dayanışma Derneği* or short Mustazaf Der) in 2003.^[33] It also became known as the Movement of the Oppressed ([Turkish](#): *Mustazaflar Hareketi*). On 18 April 2010 Mustazaf Der organized a mass meeting in Diyarbakır to celebrate the anniversary of the [Prophet Muhammad](#)'s birthday (known as [Mawlid](#)). The Turkish police estimated that the event was attended by 120,000 people. The organizers put the figure at over 300,000.^[34]

On 20 April 2010 a court in Diyarbakır ordered the closure of the Association for the Oppressed (Mustazaf-Der) on the grounds that it was “conducting activities on behalf of the terrorist organization Hizbollah.”^[34] The decision was confirmed by the [Court of Cassation](#) on 11 May 2012.^[35]

In late 2012, the Movement of the Oppressed announced its will to found a political party, basically to

challenge the hegemony of the [Peace and Democracy Party](#) ^[36] In December 2012, a political party with the name [Free Cause Party](#) (*Hür Dava Partisi*) was founded.^[37] Hüda-Par, the abbreviated form of the party's name is synonymous with Hizbollah, both interpreted as the "God's Party", emphasising that the party is a front for the otherwise illegal Hizbollah. Societies affiliated with Hüda-Par operate under the umbrella organisation Lovers of Prophet (**Turkish** : *Peygamber Sevdalıları*, **Kurdish** : *Evindarên Pêyxamber*) particularly active in Kurdish [Mawlid](#) meetings.

See also ^[edit]

- [Konca Kuris](#) , Turkish feminist, one of Hizbollah's victims
- [Islamic terrorism](#)
- [Great Eastern Islamic Raiders' Front](#)
- [List of designated terrorist organizations](#)
- [List of illegal political parties in Turkey](#)

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The conflict	1974–1984	<div>Political violence in Turkey, 1970s • Maraş Massacre • 1980 Turkish coup d'état</div>
	1984–1999	<div>15 August 1984 PKK attacks • Yeşilova incident • Battle of Şırnak • 1992 Taşdelen attack • Battle of Kulp • Operation Northern Iraq • May 24, 1993 PKK ambush • Başbağlar massacre • Winter Campaign of 1994-1995 • Operation Steel • Operation Hawk • Siege of Varto • Sazak assault • Operation Hammer • Operation Dicle • Operation Murat • 1999 Istanbul bombings</div>
	1999–2004	<div>2000 Turkish Hezbollah crackdown</div>
	2004–2012	<div>2005 Kuşadası minibus bombing • 2007 Ankara bombing • October 2007 clashes in Hakkâri • 3 January 2008 Diyarbakır bombing • 2008 Turkish incursion into northern Iraq • 2008 İstanbul bombings • October 2008 Aktütün attack • Reşadiye shooting • İskenderun attack • 2010 Hakkâri bus attack • 2010 İstanbul bomb blast • August 2011 Turkey-Iraq cross-border raids • 2011 Hakkâri attack • Uludere airstrike • June-August 2012 Hakkari clashes • 2012 Gaziantep bombing • September 2012 Beytüşşebap attack</div>
	2015–	<div>Operation Martyr Yalçın</div>
Protests	Serhildan	<div>1990 • 1991 • 1992 • 1999 • 2001 • 2005 • 2006 • 2008 • 2009 • 2011–2012 • 2014</div>
Peace efforts	Attempts	<div>1999-2004 cease fire • Solution process</div>
Kurdish leaders	Insurgent	<div>Abdullah Öcalan • Cemil Bayık • Murat Karayılan • Bahoz Erdal • Mustafa Karasu • Duran Kalkan • Haji Ahmadi • Osman Öcalan • Mahsum Korkmaz • Şemdin Sakık • Nizamettin Taş • Mazlum Doğan • Muhammad Mustafa • Hüseyin Velioğlu • Celal Başkale</div>
	Political	<div>Ahmet Fehmi Işıklar • Yaşar Kaya • Leyla Zana • Hatip Dicle • Orhan Doğan • Ahmet Türk • Zübeyir Aydar • Selim Sadak • Murat Bozlak • Tuncer Bakırhan • Aysel Tuğluk • Hüseyin Kalkan • Selahattin Demirtaş • Nurettin Demirtaş • Orhan Miroğlu • Ayla Akat Ata • Gültan Kışanak • Pervin Buldan • Emine Ayna • Sebahat Tuncel • Kemal Burkay • Sevahir Bayındır • Orhan Miroğlu Fatma Kurtulan • Osman Baydemir • Nursel Aydoğan • Sırrı Süreyya Önder • İsa Altsoy</div>
Turkish leaders	Military	<div>Kenan Evren • Tahsin Şahinkaya • Bülend Ulusu • Nurettin Ersin • Necdet Üruğ • Necip Torumtay • Eşref Bitlis • Doğan Güreş • İsmail Hakkı Karadayı • Hüseyin Kıvrıkoğlu • Hilmi Özkök • İbrahim Fırtına • Faruk Cömert • Yaşar Büyükanıt • Aydoğan Babaoğlu • İlker Başbuğ • Işık Koşaner • Erdal Ceylanoğlu • Necdet Özel • Hayri Kıvrıkoğlu</div>
	Political	<div>Turgut Özal • Süleyman Demirel • Bülent Ecevit • Ali Bozer • Yıldırım Akbulut • Mesut Yılmaz • Erdal İnönü • Tansu Çiller • Mesut Yılmaz • Necmettin Erbakan • Ahmet Necdet Sezer • Abdullah Gül • Recep Tayyip Erdoğan</div>
See also	Media outlets	<div>MED TV (1990–2004) • Roj TV (2004–present) • TRT 6 (2009–present)</div>
		<div>Iraqi–Kurdish conflict • Iranian–Kurdish conflict • Kurdish rebellions</div>

	Other	Kurdish refugees	Kurdish villages depopulated by Turkey	Iraq Operations
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Categories	: Organizations designated as terrorist	Jihadist groups
	Kurdish Islamic organisations	Secession in Turkey
	Organizations designated as terrorist by the Turkish Directorate General for Security	
	Terrorism in Turkey	Rebel groups in Turkey
		Kurdish terrorism

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