



# **War Crimes in North and East Syria**

**Prepared by**

**JİNEOLOJÎ ACADEMY ROJAVA**

**Qamışlo-2026**

---

# **War Crimes in North and East Syria**

**Prepared by**  
**JINEOLOJÎ ACADEMY ROJAVA**

**Qamişlo-2026**

## CONTENTS

<b>THE SECURITY EQUATION IN NORTH AND EAST SYRIA.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>WAR CRIMES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 - Deliberate Attacks Against Civilians.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2 - Inhuman Treatment And Torture.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3 - Forced Displacement and Exile.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4 - Imprisonment.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5 - Destruction of Culture and Property.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6 - Use of Turkish Drones.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>7 - Obstruction of the Right to Life – Embargo.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8 - Attack on the Values of the Women's Revolution.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9 - Desecration of Cemeteries - Martyrs' Cemeteries.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>10 - Burning the Corpses of the Dead.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>11 - Killing of Children.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>12 - Threats Against Members.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>13 - Those Abducted From Areas of Conflict.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>14 - The Aqtan Prison and the Release of ISIS Fighters.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>VISUAL EVIDENCE.....</b>	<b>24</b>

## THE SECURITY EQUATION IN NORTH AND EAST SYRIA

During the first days of 2026, the security balance in Northern and Eastern Syria severely deteriorated. The information gathered by the Jineolojî Academy indicates that during this period, elements of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and ISIS cells have operated simultaneously and in a coordinated manner. These attacks have progressed in parallel with Turkish military pressure and physical interventions on the border. This situation indicates that the attacks on the region are not isolated incidents, but part of a planned and multifaceted war concept.

The first phase of the attacks began on 6 January 2026 in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh neighbourhoods of Aleppo. These neighbourhoods, long home to a Kurdish population, were subjected to direct attacks targeting civilian life. At the same time, similar attacks occurred in the predominantly Christian Benni Zeid area in northern Aleppo, revealing that the conflict was not only military but also targeted ethnic and religious communities. These attacks were considered a deliberate attempt at destabilisation, aimed at disrupting the common life between different communities.

The attacks, which began on the Aleppo front, quickly spread to the Raqqa region. ISIS cells reactivated their long-standing, clandestine operations. Assassinations, bombings and sabotage were carried out. The aim of these attacks was to recreate an atmosphere of fear in Raqqa and to weaken the security struggle that the SDF has been waging against ISIS for years. During this period, SDF forces were forced to conduct defensive operations to both ensure the safety of the population and prevent the re-establishment of ISIS. At the same time, fighting and clashes on the Deir ez-Zor front intensified. Particularly in rural areas, ISIS-affiliated groups laid ambushes against our checkpoints and local security forces, and attempted to destabilise the region through tribal structures. In response to these attacks, the SDF was forced to defend multiple fronts simultaneously, which placed a significant strain on regional security. As January progressed, the focus of the attacks shifted to Kobanî and its surrounding area. Kobanî was targeted in particular because it is a symbol of the historic resistance against ISIS. According to the SDF, during this period, Turkey carried out intense attacks with drones. At the same time, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and armed groups affiliated with the Turkish state intensified their ground attacks on the Kobanî countryside. The main aim of these attacks was to weaken Kobanî's defensive capabilities and to force civilians to flee. This is clearly evident in videos published by HTS members on social media and on television channels close to the group.

Our assessment, as the Rojava Academy of Jineolojî, is that this wave of attacks, which began on 6 January 2026, not only aims to achieve military results but also to produce political and social outcomes. These waves of attacks, which begin in the Kurdish and Syrian neighbourhoods of Aleppo and extend as far as the Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor lines, target the shared life of the peoples and the model of Autonomous Administration in North and East Syria. The ongoing attacks and siege on Kobanî show that this war concept is continuing and

poses a serious threat to the region's stability. The SDF, YPG and YPJ emphasise that their main objective in this process is to ensure the safety of the people; prevent the resurgence of ISIS; stop the massacres of HTS against them; and protect the will for a shared life established in North and East Syria. We are writing this document on 26 January 2026. That is, the anniversary of the expulsion of ISIS from Kobanî in 2014. In this region, there are fierce attacks by HTS and ISIS.

## **WAR CRIMES**

The purpose of this study is to assess the military attacks carried out by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ISIS and the Turkish state, in accordance with international humanitarian law and the criteria for war crimes. Information from the ground, testimonies and regional reports indicate that a significant portion of the actions of these actors should not be considered as natural consequences of war, but as deliberate and systematic practices targeting civilians.

The attacks – particularly those that took place on 6 January 2026 – along the Aleppo, Kobani, Tabqa, Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor line were acts that are explicitly defined as war crimes under international law. This includes the direct targeting of civilian areas, forced displacement, the destruction of infrastructure, executions, torture, and siege tactics. Findings that these attacks were not only against military targets, but also targeted specific population groups based on their ethnic, religious and political identities, indicate that these incidents were not random, but part of a specific concept of warfare.

This text is on the allegations of the siege of areas under the control of HTS; its artillery and rocket attacks on civilian neighbourhoods and its policies of forced demographic change; the revival of executions, abductions and terror-based attack methods by ISIS. Turkey's participation in this process, through cross-border military operations, drone strikes and bombings targeting civilian infrastructure, is central to this process. In this context, the acts under discussion should not only be considered a matter for political debate, but must also be regarded as serious crimes that are subject to accountability under international criminal law. The aim of this study is to present concrete and substantiated examples of war crimes committed by these actors in North and East Syria, offering their dates, locations, and methods. The aim is to expose these violations, amplify the voices of the victims, and remind the international community of its responsibility for these crimes.

In this study, the war crimes and crimes against humanity that are the subject of the criminal complaints are as follows:

## 1 - Deliberate Attacks Against Civilians

The targeting of civilian areas such as hospitals, schools and places of worship, which are under the absolute protection of international law. This indicates that the HTS's combat practices are not accidental, but are based on a deliberate criminal policy.

The bombing of health centres effectively denied the wounded their right to medical treatment. The targeting of schools made children direct targets of the conflict. The attacks on churches and mosques not only caused physical destruction, but also constituted a clear attack on the beliefs of the population and their will to live together. These HTS attacks on civilian areas are systematic and deliberate, to such an extent that they cannot be justified by the conditions of war. The aim is not the protection of civilians; it is the creation of terror, the displacement of populations and the destruction of the social fabric. Therefore, attacks on hospitals, schools, churches and mosques are not merely questionable military actions, but are blatant and grave war crimes under international humanitarian law.

	Date	Location	Incident	Perpetrator	Evidence
1.	From 06.01.2026 to 10.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Attack on al-Hassan Mosque	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS) + Turkish Army	Photo Video
2.	From 06.01.2026 to 11.01.2016	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Bombing of Khaled Fajr Hospital	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS) + Turkish Army	Photo Video
3.	From 06.01.2026 to 11.01.2016	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Targeting civilian homes and locations on streets 15 and 16	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS) + Turkish Army	Photo Video

4.	06.01.2026	Aleppo - Ashrafiya	Bombing of the Osman Civil Hospital	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS) + Turkish Army	Photo Video Kurdish Red Crescent Report
5.	06.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Attack on the Sheikh Maqsoud Grand Mosque	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS) + Turkish Army	Photo Video

## 2 - Inhuman Treatment And Torture

Throughout the entirety of 6th January 2026, in clashes that began in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah neighbourhoods of Aleppo and extended to the areas of Deir Hafar, Raqqa, Tabqa and Deir ez-Zor, there is serious and sustained evidence that Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ISIS and armed elements affiliated with the Turkish state have systematically committed torture, inhuman and degrading treatment against civilians and detainees. These acts not only violate the fundamental principles of the law of armed conflict, but also constitute grave breaches of the laws of war and, in their nature, crimes against humanity under international criminal law. There are numerous testimonies that Kurdish civilians in these areas have been arbitrarily detained, beaten, threatened and subjected to ethno-religious hate speech. It has been established that the victims are targeted because of their identity; humiliated with statements that disregard their human dignity; devalued and subjected to systematic violence with the aim of intimidation. These acts constitute a clear violation of the duty to protect civilians.

The treatment of SDF fighters, particularly of female YPJ fighters, after their capture constitutes grave crimes. The forced shaving of female detainees' heads, their public humiliation with sexist and dehumanising language, and the targeting of their dignity through their bodies and identities – acts which are clearly defined as torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols – must also be assessed within the framework of gender-based violence. Furthermore, forcing detainees to appear on camera and have their images recorded, forcing them to make humiliating statements, and subjecting them to psychological threats and pressure, constitute violations of the absolute rules concerning the protection of prisoners of war. The public

display of detainees for propaganda purposes is prohibited under international law and constitutes a psychological aspect of torture.

The use of dehumanising and humiliating language by perpetrators targeting Kurds on the basis of their beliefs and identity indicates a hate-based model of attack that aims to devalue the victims and legitimise violence. This approach indicates that these acts are not isolated incidents, but are carried out within the framework of a deliberate, systematic, and widespread policy. For these reasons, the torture, inhuman treatment, gender-based violence and acts of humiliation committed against civilians and detainees in areas from Aleppo to Deir ez-Zor, must be considered war crimes and, as applicable, crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute, the Geneva Conventions and customary international law. The identification and prosecution of the perpetrators of these crimes, as well as those responsible in the chain of command, is an urgent legal obligation of the international community.

	Date	Location	Incident	Perpetrators	Evidence
1.	08.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Murder of a school teacher Melek Khalil Ali	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo
2.	06.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Targeting of civilians; 6 people killed	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
3.	08.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	A family of five is targeted The Reço Family	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
4.	06.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud - Ashrafiya	Artillery shelling on civilians. 51 people were injured.	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo

5.	09.01.2026	Aleppo - Ashrafiya	The killing of 2 doctors at the Osman hospital  Dr. Ednan Arif Osman and Dr. Ali Hanif Osman	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Kurdish Red Crescent Report
6.	10.01.2026	Aleppo - Sheikh Maqsoud	Playing with the Corpses of Security Members	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo
7.	10.01.2026	Aleppo - Ashrafiya	Murder of 4 brothers  The Ekrash Family	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo
8.	25.01.2026	Kobani – Qasimiye Village	Attack on a family: 1 killed and 2 injured  Sabrin Ahmed Ellewî	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
9.	22.01.2026	Raqqa – Kobani Road	A family killed because of their Kurdish identity	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
10.	26.01.2026	Kobani – Xirabîş Village	Targeting of a civilian family: 7 injured and 5 killed  The Osman family	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
11.	27.01.2026	Raqqa – Kobani Road	The murder of a lawyer  Suleiman Ismail	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo
12.	21.01.2026	Raqqa	Cutting off the braid of a YPJ fighter and playing with it after killing her	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

13.	18.01.2026	Between the Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor road	Murder of 6 people from one family  The Salih family	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo
-----	------------	---	---	--	-------

### 3 - Forced Displacement and Exile

The illegal displacement or deportation of a portion of the population.

Following HTS' attacks on Aleppo, the region's indigenous communities, particularly the Kurdish people, have been subjected to a systematic and forced policy of displacement. In particular, the Kurdish population in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh districts of Aleppo has been forced from their homes through armed pressure, threats, and direct violence. Civilians who refused to leave their homes were either abducted, tortured and killed, or taken hostage.

The Kurdish people, who were previously forcibly displaced from Afrin and settled in the Shahba region of al-Bab, are being forcibly displaced for the third time. This situation is clear evidence of a policy of forced displacement and demographic engineering that is not temporary but ongoing. In Raqqa and its surrounding areas, they forcibly entered Kurdish homes and subjected civilians to beatings and threats before driving them towards the Jazira canton in North and East Syria.

The process of forced displacement was not limited to evictions; household goods, personal belongings and the basic necessities of civilians were seized. Numerous attacks and massacres occurred on displaced people on the road. These crimes have been documented with photographs, videos and eyewitness testimonies. All these incidents constitute compelling evidence of grave human rights violations and war crimes committed against the civilian population. Under international law, the forced displacement of civilians, ethnic cleansings, torture, hostage-taking and extrajudicial killings are clearly war crimes and crimes against humanity. Despite this, the silence of the international community, the United Nations and human rights organisations in the face of these crimes is unacceptable. This silence not only emboldens the perpetrators, but also paves the way for new crimes. What is happening today, particularly in Aleppo and wherever attacks are being carried out, is not just an attack against the Kurdish people. It is a blatant crime against the shared conscience of humanity. It is the duty of the international community not to ignore this crime, but to identify the perpetrators, ensure accountability and guarantee the safety of civilians. Silence is not neutrality; silence is complicity in the crime. Therefore, we call upon all international institutions, international organisations, human rights organisations and the international community to take immediate action against the forced displacement, genocide and human

rights violations in and around Aleppo, to establish independent investigative mechanisms and to ensure the protection of the victims.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1.	07.01.2026	Aleppo - Ashrafieh	Displacement of hundreds of civilians from their homes	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
2.	10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Displacement of hundreds of civilians from their homes	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
3.	17.19.01.2026	Raqqa Tabqa	The displacement of hundreds of civilians from their homes, including previously displaced people	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

#### **4 - Imprisonment**

The methods used against Kurds in the detention centres established by HTS are not only war crimes; they constitute a systematic attack on human dignity. These centres have become places where the rule of law is suspended, conscience is disregarded, and violence is used as an ideological tool. Detained civilians are targeted because of their identity; being Kurdish is in itself seen as a crime.

The harsh treatment of prisoners was not merely the result of individual actions, but was an organised and sustained policy. The forced shaving of beards, the shaving of heads and the humiliating display of male prisoners naked was not just physical torture, but also a deliberate degradation that targeted masculinity, identity and dignity. The aim of these practices was to break people's will. The methods targeting women indicate a more serious and profound crime. The use of detained women as market currency, their sale and trafficking, clearly reveals a continuity between the mindsets of HTS and ISIS. In these

structures, female bodies are seen as spoils of war, an instrument for ideological discipline and an economic commodity. This approach is the product of a patriarchal and slave-owning mentality. The collaboration between HTS and ISIS is evident not only in their military tactics, but also in their policies of abduction, misogyny, and their human rights violations. Although the names may change, the methods remain the same. This shows how wrong and dangerous it is to present these groups as 'soft' or 'local' actors.

International law remains silent on these crimes. This silence in the face of the trafficking of women, the taking of civilians as hostages, and torture and humiliation that become systematic is not merely indifference; it is, in fact, complicity. Discourse on human rights often loses its meaning and its claim to universality unravels when it comes to the Kurdish people. These events are neither unique nor hidden. Witnesses, documents, photographs and testimonies all exist. The problem is not a lack of information; it is a lack of will. The dignity broken today in the detention sites is a wound not only on the conscience of the Kurds, but on the conscience of everyone who remains silent. The detention centres must be closed immediately, those responsible must be brought to justice and the crimes, especially those against women, be considered as crimes against humanity. This systematic violence against the Kurdish people must be exposed; the wall of silence must be broken. For silence is the most loyal accomplice of these crimes.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1.	From 06.01.2026 to 12.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	The abduction of 278 civilians, whose fate remains unknown. Among them are women and children.	Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
2.	18.01.2026	Raqqa	Arrest of a Kurdish Red Crescent Member Taher Rakan	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
3.	18.01.2026	Tabqa	Imprisonment of 2 Fighters	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

4.	18.01.2026	Tabqa	8 women of the Zenobia women's assembly	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
5.	18.01.2026	Raqqa	5 young women	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

## 5 - Destruction of Culture and Property

Efforts to protect the works that constitute the shared heritage of humanity have yielded significant results since the beginning of the last century. Today, all the values that illuminate the long history of humanity on Earth, regardless of religion, language or race, are under the protection of the international community. As a testament to this protection, objects created by humankind and targeted during war or armed conflict have been incorporated into the framework of international criminal justice. In particular, the treaties signed after the Second World War and the most recent amendments to the statute of the International Criminal Court have clearly defined the scope of this protection.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1.	From 06.01.2026 to 10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Looting of dozens of civilian homes	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Video Photo
2.	From 06.01.2026 to 08.01.2026	Aleppo – Ashrafiya	Looting of dozens of civilian homes	Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Video Photo
3.	21.01.2026	Al-Jilakh – Til Elo Village	Theft of wheat	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Video Photo

## 6 - Use of Turkish Drones

Our field research and audio-visual materials regarding the attacks carried out by HTS on Aleppo, Raqqa, Tabqa and Cil Agha clearly show that these strikes were not initiated solely by local armed groups. An examination of the warfare technologies used reveals the active participation of Turkish state-owned UAVs, drones and UCAVs – particularly the Bayraktar armed drones. This indicates that the Turkish state was directly involved in these attacks.

Footage shows the presence of Turkish elements during the coordination of attacks. Camera recordings clearly show that the individuals conducting reconnaissance, designating targets and coordinating the operation in real-time were Turkish soldiers. This evidence indicates that this was not a temporary or ad-hoc relationship between HTS and the Turkish state, but rather a long-term alliance and a pre-planned offensive strategy. The targeting in these attacks is not coincidental. The selection of areas with large populations through forced displacement, hostage-taking, executions and humiliating acts clearly indicates an anti-Kurdish policy of annihilation and extermination. When the actions of HTS on the ground are combined with the military and logistical support of the Turkish state, the resulting picture is not a 'proxy war', but a joint offensive practice. The role of the Turkish state in this process is not limited to air support. Direct involvement in operational guidance, reconnaissance activities, and targeting processes also entails political and military responsibility for the attacks. This clearly demonstrates that, under international law, states can be held responsible for war crimes committed by third parties. Therefore, this line of attack stretching from Aleppo to Tabqa is not the result of spontaneous clashes, but rather a premeditated, organised, and state-backed anti-Kurdish offensive. Silence in the face of this reality is not only complicity in the crimes of HTS, but also complicity in the crimes of all the actors who empower, direct and protect it.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1	From 06.01.2026 to 10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Use of Turkish State Weapons (Bayraktar)	Syrian Interim Government (HTS) – Turkish State	Photo Video
2	10-14.01.2026	Meskena	Use of Turkish State Weapons (Bayraktar-TB2-akinci)	Syrian Interim Government (HTS) – Turkish State	Photo Video

3	19.01.2026	Heseke	Use of Turkish State Weapons (Bayraktar)	Syrian Interim Army (HTS) – Turkey	Photo Video
4	21.01.2026	Qamishli	Use of Turkish State Weapons (Bayraktar)	Syrian Interim Army (HTS) – Turkish State	Photo Video

## 7 - Obstruction of the Right to Life – Embargo

The right to life is a fundamental right, which under international law cannot be suspended under any circumstances. However, today in North and East Syria, this right is being directly targeted. HTS' attack on the Tishreen Dam, the capture of the dam and the subsequent cutting off of water clearly demonstrates that war is waged not only with weapons, but also through water, energy and infrastructure. The Tishreen Dam is not just a source of energy and water; it is a piece of vital infrastructure for the entire Jazira region, where Kurds, particularly in Kobani, live in large numbers. The capture of the dam by HTS and the subsequent cut-off of water is a direct violation of the right to life of hundreds of thousands of civilians. This situation is not a side effect of a military conflict; it is a deliberate and planned policy of punishment. The obstruction of water access in Kobanî means the paralysis of hospitals, health centres, agricultural areas and daily life. With the power cut, this situation becomes a serious threat, especially for children, the elderly, and the sick. Meanwhile, the internet outage renders these violations invisible, preventing witness testimony and documentation.

This attack is not limited to Kobanî alone. A large geographical area in the Jazira region, with a Kurdish population, is being targeted with the same water policy. The seizure of the people's water resources and the denial of water to them is one of the most severe forms of collective punishment in the modern era. This is clearly a war crime that targets civilians. International humanitarian law is very clear: attacks on essential civilian infrastructure, and the use of dams, water facilities and energy sources as weapons of war are prohibited. The capture of the Tishreen Dam and the cutting off of the water supply is a clear violation of this prohibition. This act creates responsibility not only for Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, but also for all actors who made this process possible, supported it, and remained silent. This policy, implemented through the Tishreen Dam, is not a security measure; it is a war strategy that aims to subjugate the Kurdish people, force them to flee, and break their will. It is not just water that is being cut off. What they want to cut off is life itself. The Tishreen Dam must be immediately placed under the control of civilians and local authorities, the flow of water to

the Kobanî and Jazira regions must be restored, and these violations of the right to life must be investigated at an international level. Water is not a weapon, but the source of life.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1.	January 2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Heavy Embargo on Kurdish Quarters	Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video Report of the Sheikh Maqsoud People's Council
2.	From 06.01.2026 to 10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Blocking of Medicine to the Wounded	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Kurdistan Red Crescent Dossier
3.	24.01.2026	Kobani	Blocking Medicine, Water, and Electricity to the Civilian Population	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
4.	21.01.2026	Qamishli	Shelling of the Kurdish Red Crescent Hospital and the Heart and Eye Hospital	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

## **8 - Attack on the Values of the Women's Revolution**

The joint attacks by HTS, ISIS and the Turkish state are not just against a specific geographical area. At the heart of these attacks are the gains of the women's revolution built in North and East Syria. The advance of the paradigm of women's liberation in Rojava is an existential threat to patriarchal, militaristic and theocratic mindsets. Therefore, the policy being pursued is not a security operation, but a blatant attempt at genocide and ideological

annihilation. These attacks target the model of a shared life based on fraternity among peoples. The coup against the will of a shared life for Kurds, Arabs, Syriacs and other peoples on the basis of equality is being shaped, in particular, by the issue of women's freedom. This is because women are the driving force of the Rojava revolution.

The distribution of black veils and Qurans door-to-door in Raqqa and Tabqa, and the imposition of Sharia law, is a deliberate practice aimed at forcibly transforming society. Freedom of belief, freedom of dress and individual rights are being systematically violated. The purpose of these impositions is to control women's bodies and lives and to exclude women from the public sphere. The destruction of statues of female fighters (Tabqa), the burning or looting of women's organisations; these are not symbolic attacks but direct ideological attacks. The aim of these acts is to erase the memory of women's resistance, their collective achievements and their symbols of freedom. The forced shaving of female combatants' heads, their detention, rape and sale are blatant and undeniable war crimes. These crimes specifically target the identity of Kurdish women, aiming to subjugate them through their national and gender identities. In this process, Arab women are also targeted. Through policies of intimidation and forced displacement, women are used against their own communities and neighbouring populations. The aim is to break the trust between communities, dismantle the foundations of a shared life, and fracture solidarity among women.

In short, what is happening today is a comprehensive attack on the values of the Women's Revolution in Rojava and North and East Syria. Against the paradigm of women's liberation, ecology and democracy, a paradigm of plunder, destruction, theft and annihilation is being imposed. This paradigm is a mixture of the darkness of ISIS and the state militarism of HTS. Whatever they change their name to, the target remains the same: free women and free society. However, it must be understood that these attacks are not only against women, but against the shared future of humanity. Every attack on the women's revolution is an attack on life itself. And in the face of this truth, silence is not neutrality; it is complicity.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1	6.01.2026	Aleppo Sheikh Maqsoud	Seizure of the Nagihan Akarsel Library	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

2	14.01.2026	Raqqqa	Looting and Burning of the Zenobia Women's Gathering Centre	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
3	24.01.2026	Tabqa	Trashing the organisation and seal of the work of the Zenobia Women's Gathering.	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
4	23.01.2026	Tabqa	Trashing Sculptures and Symbols of Women	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
5	23.01.2026	Tabqa	Looting and Theft at the Jineolojî Research Centre	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

## 9 - Desecration of Cemeteries - Martyrs' Cemeteries

The attacks carried out by HTS are not only against the living, but also, through the dead, against the memory and values of society. The destruction, desecration and humiliation of the graves of martyrs are not random acts of vandalism, but a deliberate and ideological attack. These acts constitute a blatant war crime against the history of a people, their memory of resistance, and their most sensitive social values.

Martyrs are the honour, memory, and collective conscience of a society. Cemeteries are not just cemeteries; they are places of collective mourning, respect, and social memory. Targeting these areas sends a message to the living: "Your values will not be recognised, your memory will be erased." Therefore, the destruction of graves is more than physical destruction; it is a policy of psychological warfare and cultural annihilation. International humanitarian law is very clear on this matter. Attacks on cemeteries, religious and cultural sites are strictly prohibited during armed conflicts. The Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols establish respect for the honour of the dead as a fundamental principle

that must be protected even in times of war. The destruction of martyrs' graves is not only a violation of the right to respect for the dead, but also a form of collective punishment against the civilian population. The methods of HTS are similar to those of ISIS. The destruction of graves has historically been one of the methods this ideology uses to terrorise people, violate their beliefs and sever social ties. The re-enactment of these same methods today clearly demonstrates the ideological continuity of these attacks. These attacks specifically target the values of the Kurdish people. This policy, carried out through the desecration of martyrs' graves, aims to undermine the legitimacy of the resistance, erase the memory of the struggle, and leave new generations rootless. However, it must not be forgotten that the destruction of a people's graves does not destroy their will; on the contrary, it makes the truth even more apparent. The desecration of martyrs' graves is a violation of the laws of war, an attack on cultural heritage and part of a chain of crimes against humanity. These crimes will not go unpunished. Silence is the greatest guarantee that such attacks will continue. The desecration and dishonouring of martyrs' graves must be immediately recognised as a war crime, those responsible must be prosecuted in accordance with international law, and these attacks must be considered crimes against humanity. Any attack on remembrance is an attack on humanity.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrators</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1	24.12.2025	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Shelling of the Sheikh Maqsoud Martyrs' Cemetery	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
2	08.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Shelling of the Sheikh Maqsoud Martyrs' Cemetery	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
3	24.01.2026	Hassakeh – Shaddadi	Deliberate destruction of the Martyrs' cemetery	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

## 10 - Burning the Corpses of the Dead

Certain acts committed by HTS in Aleppo constitute flagrant and grave violations of the most fundamental principles of the law of armed conflict. The killing of an SDF fighter after capture, the dismemberment of his body, the removal of his heart and displaying it is, without a doubt, a war crime. Such acts cannot be justified by military necessity or the conditions of war. The killing of a YPJ female fighter by throwing her from the third floor of a building, followed by the desecration of her body, is a deliberate form of violence that targets the woman's identity, resistance, and symbolic value. This targeting of the female body is not only a war crime, but also a gender-based crime against humanity.

The burning of corpses and attempts to destroy them with diesel fuel constitute a systematic violation of the right to respect for the dead. International humanitarian law obliges the protection of the dignity of the dead, even in situations of conflict. The burning, dismemberment, fragmentation and display of corpses are methods of psychological warfare that aim to spread fear, intimidate the population and erase the memory of resistance. The stripping and display of the clothes of a killed YPJ fighter in public is a clear act of humiliation and a sexual assault. This act aims to humiliate women, not only physically but also symbolically. Such acts are similar to those of ISIS and clearly indicate that the same ideological line is being followed.

These acts are war crimes and, in some cases, crimes against humanity. These crimes are not being committed in recent times and go unpunished. These acts are not the result of individual rage or a lack of control. On the contrary, they are systematic, ideological and message-driven attacks. The aim is to instil fear, to belittle the struggle for women's liberation, to target the legitimacy of the SDF and YPJ, and to break social resistance. However, it must be understood that this brutality inflicted on corpses cannot erase the truth. These crimes have been documented. There are witnesses, documents and photographs. Silence will not erase these crimes; it will only increase accountability.

	Date	Location	Incident	Perpetrator	Evidence
1	10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Throwing the Body of YPJ member Deniz Ciya from a high-rise building on Street 15	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
2	10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Cutting out the Eyes and Heart of a Member of the Internal Security	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

3	10.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	The Execution of an Interior Security Forces Member on the Stairs of an Apartment	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
4	26.01.2026	Raqqa	The Burning of Corpses	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

## 11 - Killing of Children

HTS' attacks have targeted not only armed forces, but also the most vulnerable part of the population – children. Many children were killed in attacks on the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh neighbourhoods of Aleppo. Similarly, many children were also murdered in Kobani, Tel Tamir, Qamishli and Cil Agha. These children were not parties to the conflict; they did not bear arms nor did they take part in the fighting. Despite this, they were targeted in their homes, on their streets and in their playgrounds. This is a clear and undeniable war crime against children. Similarly, events following the siege of Kobanî show that children were systematically driven towards death. The cutting off of water, food, electricity and heating; bombardment; and the harsh conditions of the siege caused the deaths of children from starvation, cold and the direct effects of the attacks. These deaths were not "collateral damage". They were the result of living conditions that were deliberately and intentionally created.

International humanitarian law is very clear: children are entitled to special protection. Killing, wounding, starving, or exposing them to disease, or deliberately destroying the conditions of their existence during armed conflict, constitutes grave war crimes. Depriving children of the means to live through siege is as grave a crime as direct targeting. The children who died in Aleppo from bombardment and those who died in Kobani from starvation and cold are victims of the same policy. This policy is a strategy of collective punishment that aims to terrorise civilians – particularly children – and force them to flee. This war, waged at the expense of children's lives, shows that the most fundamental boundaries of humanity have been crossed. Another aspect of these crimes is the silence surrounding them. Any mechanism that remains silent in the face of children's deaths renders law and conscience ineffective. The right to life of children cannot be a matter for political bargaining. No ideology, no military justification can legitimise the killing of children. The children who lost their lives today in Aleppo and Kobani are a loss not just for a specific region, but for all of humanity. This loss cannot be forgotten, nor can it be concealed. The crimes committed against children by HTS and all organisations that made these attacks

possible must be immediately recognised as war crimes. Independent international investigations must be launched into the deaths of children in Aleppo and Kobani. Without the protection of the right to life of children, there can be no peace and no claim to justice is genuine.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1	08.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Murder of 3 Children and Their Family	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
2	08.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud	Murder of a 12-year-old girl	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
3	06.01.2026	Aleppo – Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya	Wounding 2 Children	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
4	24.01.2026	Kobani	Murder of a child due to cutting oxygen	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video
5	24.01.2026	Kobani	Injuring a child through shelling	Army of Syrian Interim Government (HTS)	Photo Video

## **12 - Threats Against Members**

The actions of HTS in Raqqa and Tabqa constitute blatant and systematic war crimes against women. Women are intimidated through public shaming, threats and blackmail; their spheres of life are targeted to force them to surrender. Women who have previously worked with the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria are particularly targeted. Their identities and personal information are exposed on social media, they are openly threatened and blackmailed. The aim is to push women out of public life and to break their political and social will. This is not just a problem; women's homes are targeted, pressure is put on neighbourhoods, and they are forced to migrate and be displaced. These actions are not individual acts of harassment; they are an organised, planned, and ideological policy of intimidation. Women are targeted through fear and shame and are turned into objects of war. International humanitarian law is clear: the threatening of civilians, the disclosure of their personal information, their forced displacement and their exposure to gender-based violence are serious war crimes. These attacks, carried out using digital tools, do not lessen the nature of the crime; on the contrary, they reveal its systematic nature. This policy against women in Raqqa and Tabqa is a continuation of ISIS' mentality, carried out by HTS. The target is not just the women themselves; it is women's freedom, equality and a shared life. Silence in the face of these crimes is unacceptable. The honour, safety and right to life of women are not up for negotiation.

## **13 - Those Abducted From Areas of Conflict**

With the attacks of HTS, the abduction of civilians from conflict zones has become a widespread and systematic practice. In particular, in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh neighbourhoods of Aleppo, many people have been forcibly detained by HTS, separated from their families, and their fate remains unknown. This is not a matter of isolated incidents; this is a planned and ongoing policy of enforced disappearances. A significant proportion of those abducted are civilians. These individuals, forcibly taken from their homes, streets and checkpoints, are being held without legal process; their families are not informed and their right to life is gravely at risk. Enforced disappearance is a tactic of intimidation aimed at creating fear in society, breaking resistance and emptying neighbourhoods.

## **14 - The Aqtan Prison and the Release of ISIS Fighters**

The release of numerous ISIS fighters held by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, following attacks of HTS – effectively with the knowledge and oversight of the Damascus regime – constitutes a flagrant war crime and a major threat to humanity. These

individuals, who should be prosecuted under international law for terrorism, war crimes and crimes against humanity, were knowingly released. Just like in Heseke-Shaddadi and then particularly Raqqa's al-Aqtan prison, they are once again targeting the people of the region, now with videos containing threats, calls for revenge and expansion. The resurgence of ISIS poses a direct security threat not only to the people of North and East Syria, but to the entire region and humanity. The release of these terrorist elements is a blatant violation. The silence of the international community on this crime not only perpetuates impunity, but also paves the way for new massacres. Those who released ISIS and those who turned a blind eye to this threat bear the political and legal responsibility for the crimes that have been committed.

## CONCLUSION

As the Rojava Jineolojî Academy, we have prepared this document under very difficult conditions; despite limited resources, continuous attacks, threats and pressure. Regardless, our insistence is clear: war crimes will not go unpunished. This report has been prepared so that what has happened will not be forgotten, will not be concealed, and will be recorded in history.

The findings in this document clearly show that the crimes committed by HTS against civilians, women, children, detainees, the dead, and social values are systematic, planned, and ideological. Enforced disappearances, executions, torture, sexual violence, public humiliation, forced displacement, targeting of infrastructure and attacks on cultural and social memory constitute grave breaches of international law and, in some instances, crimes against humanity. These crimes also show that HTS has not acted in isolation; that it has an ideological continuity with the ideology of ISIS; and that a military-political alliance with the Turkish state has made these crimes possible. Therefore, responsibility is not limited to the perpetrators on the ground. All actors who have supported, directed, ignored, and provided a basis for impunity for these crimes must be held to account. The severity of the attacks on women clearly shows that one of the main targets of this war is the gains of the Women's Revolution in Rojava and North and East Syria. These attacks against women's liberation, the brotherhood of peoples, and a way of life built on ecology and democracy are not only a regional threat, but also a global one.

All war crimes committed by HTS must be immediately investigated by independent and international mechanisms; the alliances formed with ISIS and the Turkish state must be exposed and those responsible must be brought to justice. Without justice, peace is not possible. As long as impunity continues, the crimes will deepen. This report is not an end; it is a document of continuity. We will pursue these crimes, for truth, justice, and women's freedom.

## **VISUAL EVIDENCE**

We have video recordings, photographs and visual materials that clearly show the war crimes that have been committed. Initial testimonies from displaced persons, interviews with the wounded, and direct observation notes from the field have been systematically documented. The resulting archive highlights organised and ongoing war crimes, which go beyond individual violations. This report will conclude with several symbolic images to illuminate this reality. Our aim is to prevent the truth from being concealed and to prevent the perpetrators from hiding behind a shield of impunity. We once again appeal to the conscience of humanity and to international law: these documented crimes must be immediately investigated by independent mechanisms, the perpetrators must be brought to justice, and justice must be served. Silence is complicity; justice cannot be delayed.







آثار الدمار في مشفى عثمان بالأشrafية  
بعد استهدافات متكررة



قائمة بأسماء وصور/ ضحايا شهداء مدنيين من أهالي دهلي الشيخ منصود والأشقرية (٢٠٢١ - ٢٠٢٠ كانون الثاني)

























