

Monika Gaertner-Engel  
European Coordinator of the World Women's Conference  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2015-09-26

Dear Gültan Kışanak,

I would like to express our solidarity with all my heart.  
We world women vehemently protest against you being charged of “propaganda for a terrorist organisation” by the public persecution of Diyarbakir because of your speech at the rally on this year’s International Women’s Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March.

In your speech on the International Women’s Day you declared that women are marching step by step towards liberty and this march could be seen as a legacy of all revolutionary women worldwide.

By accusing you, the solidarity with the fight of the women of the YPJ (women defence units) together with the YPG in Rojava is being criminalized, despite them being the most consequent force against the IS.

The accusation is in line with a number of arrests of revolutionaries and freedom fighters in Turkey, as well as with the termination of the peace process by Erdogan and the bombings of Kurdish villages and towns. The upswing and the successes of the liberation struggle of the Kurdish people are a problem for Erdogan’s and the Turkish government’s aspirations of becoming a hegemonic power in the region of the Middle East.

The fight in Rojava is of huge significance, also for the liberation of women and has seen international solidarity.

When we first met at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the Women’s Council of the (former) Party for Peace and Democracy (BDP) in Ankara in April 2013, you welcomed the peace progress and the peaceful solution of the Kurdish issue. You said: “Like everywhere on this world, the war is especially affecting the women. On the one hand it is important to stop the war, on the other hand to solve the Kurdish issue leading to more democratic rights and freedom.” You explained that the Kurdish women have achieved a lot in the last 30 years and are determined to achieve their goal: women’s liberty.

As mayor of Amed (Diyarbakir) you were patroness of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Middle East Conference for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Women's Conference.

In this sense we will make the protest against these accusation known in the world women’s process as well and cordially invite you to take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Women's Conference from 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in Kathmandu in Nepal.

Cordial greetings  
Monika Gaertner-Engel