

Afrin Under Occupation (283):

Civilian martyrdom and injury, arbitrary arrests, Al-Amshat imposing levies and cutting down forests, chaos and detention of Nowruz celebrants, and thefts

Arabic to English Translation*

"Abu Amsha" distributed "sweets and flowers" to the Kurds whom he forced to celebrate the Nowruz holiday in the villages of Shiyeh/Sheikh Al-Hadid and Mobato/Ma'batli on the evening of March 20. However, his poisoned dagger always in his hand and the hands of his elements, they stab whenever they want, from threats, insults, beatings, killings, thefts, imposing large levies, stealing antiquities, cutting down forests and trees, seizing properties and real estate, and other described crimes; for the crimes of the militias in Afrin are neither hidden nor covered with compliments and excuses!

Here are the facts about the prevailing conditions:

= Civilian martyrdom and injury:

On March 24, 2024, as a result of the Turkish army and its Syrian militias shelling the surroundings of Tal Rifaat city - northern Aleppo countryside, citizen "**Rashid Abdo Hamo** /41/ years old" from the displaced people of Mobato/Ma'batli town was injured by shrapnel in his abdomen, but due to the delay in his evacuation under continuous shelling and internal bleeding, he died after being taken to Afrin-Fafeen Hospital. Another civilian from the displaced people of Afrin was also seriously injured.



= Arbitrary arrests:

- For more than two weeks, in the early hours of the morning, masked men from the Turkish security forces raided the house of citizen "**Mahmoud Sabri Abdalo** /43/ years old" from the villagers of "Jalemeh" - Jenderes, in Istanbul city, and arrested him on charges of affiliation with the former autonomous-administration, despite being a civilian and never working with it. He remains arbitrarily detained without any contact with his family; as he traveled with his family to Turkey in 2018 for the purpose of work and securing a livelihood.

The occupation authorities also arrested:

- Citizen "Adnan Al-Khalaf /35/ years old" from the Arab component, for more than a month, by the Turkish intelligence and police militias, on unknown charges to his family, after being forcibly deported from Turkey and arriving in his wife's village (Hikjeh – Jenderes), he remains arbitrarily detained.

- On March 17, 2024, citizen "**Farouk Muhammad Jameel Sheikho** /55/ years old" from the villagers of "Seimolko", by the Turkish intelligence and militias of "civil police in Ma'batli", on charges of participating in night guard duties during the former autonomous-administration, and he remains arbitrarily detained.

- On March 26, 2024, citizen "Mohammed Aslan Mohammed /30/ years old" from the villagers of "Sheikhotka" - Mobato/Ma'batli, by the same authority, on charges of affiliation with the former self-

administration, after returning from the Aleppo displacement destination four months ago, and he remains imprisoned in Marateh Central Prison.

= "Al-Amshat" imposes levies and cuts down forests:

The imposition of levies by "**Mohammed Al-Jassem/Abu Amsha**" the leader of the "Sultan Suleiman Shah Brigade" militias on the remaining Kurdish families in the villages and towns within his sector throughout the year continues, under various pretexts; after the end of the olive season and the seizure of approximately /27/ million US dollars, his "Economic and Security Office" in Mobato/Ma'batli town resumed inventorying agricultural properties (mostly olive fields), and listed all fields whose owners are absent or do not have ownership proofs or are shares of absent heirs under the name of "agencies" and imposed a levy of /3.5/ US dollars on each tree (whether bearing fruits or not), where large amounts were collected under pressure and threat before the season started ten months later; as well as starting to inventory the properties of the neighboring village of "Qantareh/Qantara" for the same purpose.



- The militias of the "Sultan Suleiman Shah Brigade" continue to cut down forests and timber trees, in the vicinity of the village of "Hasiyeh/Mirkan" - Mobato/Ma'batli, even those planted individually within olive fields and on their outskirts, for the purpose of logging and trade.

= Chaos and lawlessness:

- On March 24, 2024, the charred body of **a minor girl /17/** years old was found in the basement of a building under construction near the main road and the hill at the entrance of Maydanky town - Sharra/Sharran West, and near an armed checkpoint; according to what is circulated among the locals, the girl from the immigrant Mowali tribe was killed and burned by her brother and another young man accompanying him, who fled after committing the crime.

- On the night of March 28, 2024, gunfire erupted between a group of militias of the "Military Police" and human traffickers (who are armed members of the Sultan Murad Brigade militias) towards Turkey, after raiding their homes in the border town of Bulbul, due to disagreement over sharing the proceeds of smuggling, where these incidents are repeated, with civilians intending to migrate in search of better living conditions, being subjected to fraud or they are arrested and financially blackmailed, where the fee for smuggling one person reaches \$3,000.

= Other violations:

- On the night of Nowruz, after lightning the fire, the so-called "Mohammed Khair Al-Raya" security official of the "Hamzat Brigade" militias in Raju sub-district and from the village of "Ma'arat Al-Harma/Ma'arat Al-Nu'man" - Idlib, arrested the citizens "**Rafai Khalil Dawood** /45/ years old, **Shiyar Ali Hamki** /38/ years old, **Sheikh Moussa Youssef** /70/ years old, **Ali Hassan Bata** /26/ years old, **Ali Habbash Nasan** /55/ years old, **Arbil Dweeko son of Azzat** /35/ years old" from the villagers of "Atmana/A'tmanli" - Raju, and transferred them to the security headquarters in (the former municipality building) - Haj Khalil village, and released them after detaining them for hours and imposing a levy of \$300 on each of them under threat, and warned them against igniting Nowruz fires again.

- On March 25, 2024, an armed group robbed the contents of a men's clothing store on the main street in Raju town, next to "Al-Furat" gas station, from the back door, estimated at about /8/ thousand US

dollars, belonging to citizen "Mohammed Jaafar/Qanqleh family" from the town and the main source of his family's livelihood, while the store is rented; and after filing a complaint with the "civil police" militias, they blocked the surveillance camera recordings from its owner and did not take any action.



The lack of security and safety, the division of the region into military militia sectors, amidst hate speech, spreading discord, and hostile policies, in addition to various harsh living conditions, lead to displacement and further violations and crimes in various fields.

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Media Office-Afrin Kurdish Democratic Unity Party in Syria (Yekiti)

Images:

- Martyr "Rashid Abdo Hamo".
- Mohammed Al-Jassem/Abu Amsha, the leader of the "Sultan Suleiman Shah Brigade" militias.
- Theft of the store "Mohammed Jaafar" from the back door in the town of Raju.

<u>* Under the supervision of the European Organization of the Kurdish Democratic Unity Party in Syria</u> (Yekîtî).

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