



**The report on psychosocial processes that women and children in
İdil (Şırnak, Turkey) experienced during and after the curfew**

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INTRODUCTION

Between 16 February 2016 and 31 March 2016, the Turkish state imposed a curfew in Idil, Sirnak. At the same time, Sirnak municipality in cooperation with Idil municipality, sociologists, psychologists, and several activists from women associations (Women for Peace and Women Freedom Assembly) started a research on psychosocial trauma that women and children in Idil experienced as a result of the curfew and the clashes.

The final report includes information about the trauma that was inflicted upon women and children in Idil as a result of armed clashes and the imposed curfew as well as the human rights abuses committed during the curfew. The data in this report is generated through face-to-face interviews and surveys conducted when the curfew was partially lifted in Idil city center.

The data on the situation of children is generated with interviews and surveys that were conducted with their parents. To protect our participants, we used pseudo-names instead of participants' real names in this report. However, we retain the raw data in our encrypted files. We only reveal the real names of women who lost their relatives during the curfew. This reports quotes from interviews without making any change in wording. Where the interviewee could not speak Turkish, we translated the interview into Turkish after the interview. We occasionally shortened some of the interviews.

This report also includes visual images that were shot during the interviews or else borrowed from the media with the due permission.



Photo: Destruction in a street of Idil after the end of the curfew

PURPOSE:

The major purpose of this research was to observe how the curfew in Idil between 16 February and 31 March 2016 affected the women and children of this town. Via interviews and surveys conducted with women, we also aimed to determine the needs of women and children (sheltering, education & health services, economic loss, and lost property) and to map out a plan that would compensate for their immediate needs.

SCOPE:

This research is conducted in Idil, Sirnak. It particularly focuses on two neighborhoods (Turgut Ozal and Yenimahalle) where the clashes were most intense during the 43-day curfew. During this research, we interviewed 609 women in order to collect the data on the psychosocial processes that women and their children went through during the curfew.

SUMMARY:

The curfew that was declared by the governorate of Sirnak in Idil (populated by 26,500 people) on 16 February 2016 at 23:00 was partially lifted on 31 March 2016 between 04:30 am and 21:30 pm. During the clashes, women especially in Turgut Ozal and Yenimahalle neighborhoods were first hand witnesses of the events that unfolded before, during and after this curfew.

In our research, we used face-to-face interviews and the survey method. The data collected via these two instruments were recorded to be analyzed later by the survey firm, which was eventually merged and used in preparation of this report.

Our own research and reports prepared by organizations in the field of human rights also reveal that at least 23 civilians including one woman and 9 children died during the curfew. At the time of writing of this report, there was no official investigation about these civilian deaths.



Photo: A Street after the curfew ended in Idil

1- EVALUATIONS AND TESTIMONIES ON EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN WHO TEMPORARILY MOVED TO OTHER PLACES DURING THE CURFEW AND MOVED BACK AFTER THE END OF THE CURFEW

Our research conducted with 609 women reveals that people had to leave their houses in Turgut Ozal and Yenimahalle neighborhoods because of the indiscriminate artillery fire and gunfire. Our research also shows that some of the families left their houses willingly while other had to leave due to the pressure by the security forces.

Table 1: Did you leave Idil during the clashes?

Did you leave Idil during the clashes?			
	Number (Household)	Percent	ValidPercent
Yes	491	% 84.5	% 80.6
No	90	% 15.5	% 14.8

Our interviews bring out the question of why the great majority of the people (around 85%) had to leave the city during the curfew. Face-to-face interviews indicate that these people were heavily traumatized by the massacre in the basements of Cizre, and were afraid that something similar could have also happened to them. However, our research after the curfew ended shows that the majority of those who returned to Idil assert that they would not leave the city again if they were to experience similar circumstances.

Table 2: Did you ever think about leaving Idil after the clashes?

	Number (Person)	Percent	ValidPercent
No	485	79,6	86,9
Yes	42	6,9	7,5
We can't go back because our house is destroyed	14	2,3	2,5
We don't want to go through the same events	5	,8	,9
We are affected psychologically	5	,8	,9
For the Children	2	,3	,4
Because of the curfew	1	,2	,2
Fear	2	,3	,4
Security reasons	2	,3	,4
Total	558	91,6	100,0
No Answer	51	8,4	
Total	609	100,0	

1.1.Economic Difficulties

The majority of people in Idil went to conflict-free zones (villages, districts, and provinces) and stayed with their relatives after the curfew started. Others set up tents in surrounding villages or rented apartments in nearby towns and provinces. The fact that the majority preferred to seek shelter with their relatives created economic difficulties both for the guest and the host families. Families who could afford a relatively comfortable life before the curfew could not do so during the curfew since they could not find jobs in the places where they went. As a result, many failed to pay their rents and compensate for their basic needs.



Photo: A neighborhood corner store damaged during the clashes

Our interviews reveal that there is a significant income loss in almost every household after the curfew ended. Our research demonstrates that the majority of the people who provide for the family are males mostly working in informal sector (underground economy) in jobs such as construction, cleaning, driving. In general the curfew conditions and particularly the closure of the border gate between Iraq and Turkey seriously undermined the working conditions of these people causing grave economic difficulties for them and their families.

Table 3: Profession of the person who provides for the family

	Number (Person)	Percent	Valid Percent
State Employee	25	4,1	4,4
Worker	222	36,5	38,7
Petty Merchant	99	16,3	17,3
Merchant	9	1,5	1,6
Professional	2	,3	,3
Informal Sector	67	11,0	11,7
Farmer	30	4,9	5,2
Seasonal Worker	19	3,1	3,3
Retired	24	3,9	4,2
Unemployed	52	8,5	9,1
Unemployable	24	3,9	4,2
Total	573	94,1	100,0
No Answer	36	5,9	
Total	609	100,0	

Before the curfew, there were only 35 households, which had no income. After the curfew, this number increased by almost fivefold increasing to 150 households. In around half of the families, people who are responsible from providing the family are actively looking for a job. Nevertheless, our research did not identify any children who are younger than 15 and looking for a job.

Table 4: Are any people actively searching for a work in the household?

	Number (Person)	Percent	Valid Percent
Working	294	48,3	54,6
Yes	171	28,1	31,8
No	28	4,6	5,2
Unemployable	45	7,4	8,4
Total	538	88,3	100,0
No Answer	71	11,7	
Total	609	100,0	

Table 5: Income before and after the clashes

Monthly Income	Before the Clashes (Number of Households)	After the Clashes (Number of Households)		Monthly Income	Before the Clashes (Number of Households)	After the Clashes (Number of Households)
0	35	150		1300	49	46
150	1	0		1400	4	2
200	2	3		1450	1	1
250	1	2		1500	37	14
300	4	10		1800	5	1
400	4	6		2000	27	10
500	31	32		2100	2	0
600	9	13		2200	2	2
650	2	0		2300	1	0
700	14	13		2400	3	3
750	6	0		2500	9	3
800	13	10		2700	1	2
840	1	1		3000	18	6
850	1	1		3500	2	2
860	1	1		3600	1	1
900	6	7		4000	4	0
980	1	1		5000	2	1
1000	86	44		7000	1	1
1100	1	0				
1200	24	13				
1250	3	0				

Another indicator that informs us about the economic conditions in Idil is social security figures. We observe a significant decrease in economic welfare in the city of Idil, which was not a prosperous city even before the curfew. In this city where half of the population holds Green Card¹, the curfew wreaked havoc on people since many lost their jobs and houses.

Upon their return to the city, families experienced severe difficulties to pay for their basic needs. Many families lost a significant part of their property including their real estate. Some families had to move into their relatives' houses that were relatively less damaged while the majority of the families had to use one room of their houses since other rooms very heavily damaged during the clashes. We also observed that many houses were burned with the crops inside, which formed a significant part of the livelihood of families in the region. We also witnessed that house furniture, kitchens, bathrooms and electronic equipment were deliberately destroyed even in houses where external walls were undamaged.

Table 7 summarizes the results of interviews that we conducted with 609 women about the issue of sheltering after the curfew ended.

Table 7: Sheltering

Sheltering	Number (Household)	Percent
House is intact; lives in her own house	79	13.0%
House is damaged; lives in her own house	297	48.8%
House is damaged; lives in a relative or neighbor house	72	11.8%
House is damaged; lives in a rented apartment	125	20.5%

Table 8: Property Loss during the Clashes

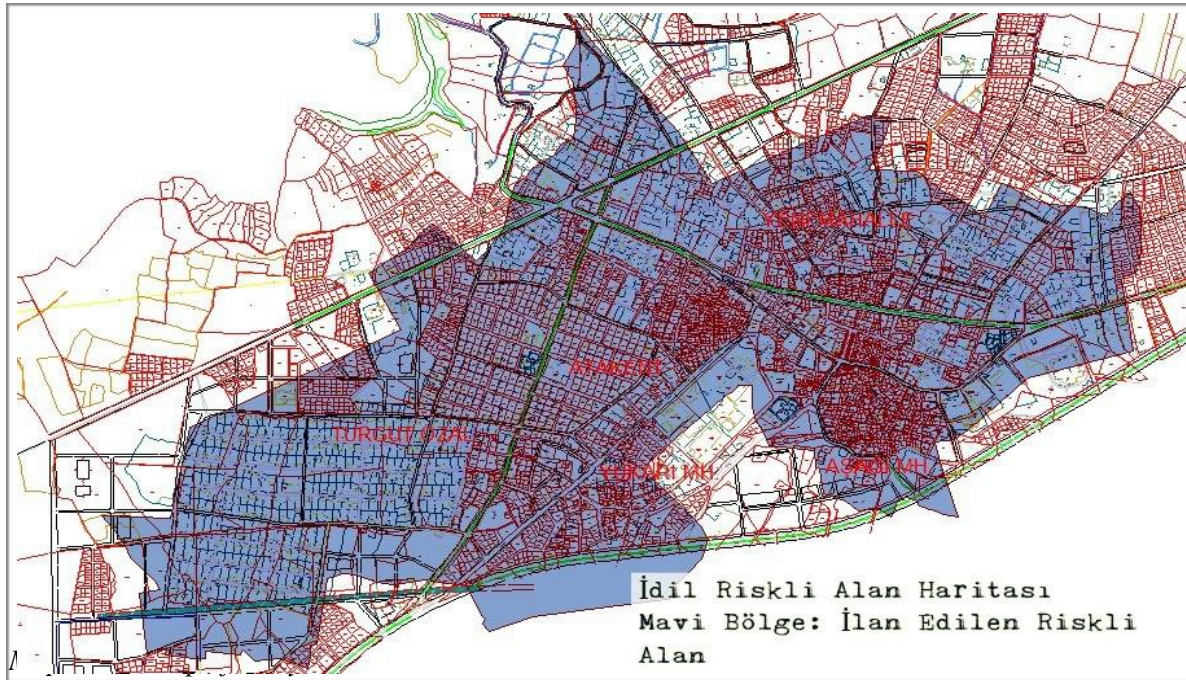
Property Loss during the Clashes		
	Number (Household)	Percent
Yes	575	94.4%
No	34	5.6%

¹It is a social security card given to the people who do not work and pay for their own social security. Green Card allows the owner to benefit from health services in public hospitals free of charge.



Photo: Woman living in a tent in the front yard of her house after her home is heavily damaged during the clashes.

A general survey conducted by the GABB and the TMMOB (Association of Turkish Engineers and Architects) in two neighborhoods (Turgut Ozal and Yenimahalle) shows that of 1,600 buildings in these regions, 1,200 were damaged. 700 buildings were mildly damaged; 250 buildings were moderately damaged; 100 buildings were heavily damaged; and 120 buildings were completely destroyed. The record of calls made to the Fire Department of Idil Municipality reveals that 150 households were burned during the curfew. In addition, after the clashes ended, the Turkish Cabinet of Ministers expropriated around 80% of downtown Idil without giving any prior warning or consultation with the local people, which enabled the Turkish state to demolish undamaged or mildly damaged buildings as well.



Note: Territories marked with blue represents neighborhoods that were declared as risky by the Turkish Cabinet of Ministers; thereby granting the Turkish state extraordinary powers about the future of these parcels.

1.2. Problems about health services

During the curfew, families who left Idil experienced several important problems regarding access to health services. In face-to-face interviews, those families who sought temporary refuge in surrounding villages expressed their problems about reaching hospitals since roads were blocked by the security forces, and there were curfews in other nearby towns as well. Particularly women, elderly, and children could not get treatment for their pre-diagnosed sicknesses (i.e. cancer, high-blood pressure, heart diseases, epilepsy, and etc.), which required these patients to get regular attention.

We determined that in our sample 109 women were pregnant during the curfew, and 44 experienced serious problems during their pregnancy.

Table 9: Is there a pregnant woman in your household?

	Number (Person)	Percent	ValidPercent
Yes	109	17,9	18,7
No	474	77,8	81,3
Total	583	95,7	100,0
No Answer	26	4,3	
Total	609	100,0	

Table 10: Did you experience a problem during the pregnancy?

	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
0	474	77,8	82,3
Yes	44	7,2	7,6
No	58	9,5	10,1
Total	576	94,6	100,0
NoAnswer	33	5,4	
Total	609	100,0	

Table 11: If the answer is “Yes”to the previous question;

	Number	Percent	ValidPercent
0	532	87,4	92,7
Miscarriage	7	1,1	1,2
Baby Died	2	,3	,3
Premature Birth	10	1,6	1,7
RiskyBirth	20	3,3	3,5
Danger of miscarriage	3	,5	,5
Total	574	94,3	100,0
No Answer	35	5,7	
Total	609	100,0	

Pregnancy is a situation that requires women to be under doctor’s constant control. However, the curfew in Idil created an environment that was not fit for the needs of the pregnant women. In addition, constant shelling and gunfire caused serious health problems and visible psychological trauma for these women.

During our interviews, we also determined that handicapped people had important problems because of their deteriorating living conditions and lack of access to health services. Handicapped people who were in need of particular care suffered from overcrowded and unsterile houses. These problems of handicapped people also increased the workload of women who were responsible from the caring of the handicapped family members.

Table 12: Are there any handicapped family member?

	Number (People)	Percent	ValidPercent
Yes	109	17,9	18,3
No	488	80,1	81,7
Total	597	98,0	100,0
No Answer	12	2,0	
Total	609	100,0	

1.3. Problems about access to education

Our research reveals that 58.8% of the children could not attend to their schools during and after the curfew. Therefore, a major result of the curfew for the children in Idil is the obstruction of their right to education. For instance, children of families who sought temporary refuge in surrounding villages could not find any schools to attend to. Though students who had to take exams (i.e. university entrance exams) were affected more from the curfew, it is possible to argue that the curfew created put all students in Idil into a disadvantageous position when compared to the rest of the students in Western parts of Turkey. More than 50% of the families stated that their children could not continue their education during the curfew. Those who could continue their education during the curfew had to go to schools in nearby towns and provinces. The families of these children also explained that their children experienced serious adaptation problems in the schools that they had to attend temporarily. Therefore, a sizable number of children in this category also dropped out from these schools.

After the temporary lifting of the curfew, we determined that out of eight schools in the city, seven were heavily damaged and not fit to serve as schools anymore. As a result, education in Idil at all levels (primary, middle, and high school levels) had to continue in one particular school, which was unharmed from the clashes. This de facto situation in the city created overcrowded classrooms and adaptation problems for students in Idil. In addition, the security forces continued to be stationed in the front yard of this school during the dismissal time of the students, a situation that significantly worried their parents.

Table 13: Children who cannot attend school during the curfew

Children who cannot attend school during the curfew		
	Number (Household)	Percent
Yes	352	%58.8
No	247	%41.2

1.4. Psychosocial Problems:

Our research indicates that the clashes and the curfew created significant psychological pressures on women and children in the city; probably causing longlasting traumas for these people. Sounds of bombardment and gunfire and heavy clashes had important negative effects on local women. The fact that clashes between the security forces and the guerillas were intensifying even before the curfew caused numerous families to worry about lives and emigrate elsewhere. Women heard about dead bodies remaining in the streets of Cizre and Silopi for days. They also knew the stories of women whose naked bodies were exhibited in the streets. They were deeply affected and scared that similar things would happen to them in Idil during the curfew. The fact that some women took their underwear when they left their houses during the curfew is a testimony to this psychological trauma. Our interviews and observations also revealed that children in Idil suffer from similar psychological problems. Wetting themselves, not being able to sleep alone, general sleep problems, screaming during the sleep, not being able to go to bathroom alone, and stuttering speech were some of the side effects of the psychological trauma children in Idil experienced.



Photo: A woman who wants to rebuild her home that was destroyed during the clashes

2- STATEMENTS OF WOMEN WHO WERE INTERVIEWED

N.T: “We want peace, we demand tranquility. My children are affected badly. My 1 year-old kid cries for he thinks that they will bombard our house. He always cries, and does not sleep. My 6 year-old wets herself when she hears gunfire. We did not have any choice but to leave Idil for our village when we saw these”.



Photo: A kitchen and family's food after the clashes

E.İ:“We returned to Idil after the curfew ended. We saw that our home was completely destroyed. We had to sleep in our garden for days since the state forces did not even let us set up tents in our own garden”.

S.A:We cannot enter our garden. They say there might be explosives in it. We have no security of life in Idil. I cannot sleep during the night. My husband died because of cancer before the curfew started. I have no breadwinner, and my child is handicapped. On top of that they burned down everything we owned”.

T.Y: “After the curfew, we returned to Idil. However, the police continued to fire their weapons randomly during the night. Because this situation continued for 2 or 3 consecutive days, we left the city again. This is not how you make peace. You cannot bring the end of Kurds like that”.



Photo: Bedroom of a house that after bombardment and resulting fire.

S.İ: “All of my children had a nervous breakdown. They are afraid; they wet themselves; and they scream. They want to sleep in our bed, and they do not want to go to other rooms in the house”.

T.Ş: “We do not repair our house because we know that clashes will restart. (During the curfew) first we went to Sirnak and then to Silopi. We came back to Idil after the curfew ended. Only God knows where we will end up tomorrow. We demand a solution to this problem”.

S.B: “We did not leave Idil during the curfew. My husband had a heart attack during the curfew and died. We were in a village suffering from the curfew conditions. His heart could not take it anymore, and he died. Now, I am on my own with my children”.

H.Z:“Police dogs attacked me and my neighbor. My neighbor’s clothes were torn by the dogs. Nobody intervened. I took my underwear with me before I left Idil because I feared that the police or soldiers would pick them”.

S.A:“ I was 6 months pregnant when the clashes started. There were so much tear gas and gunfire. One day there was a huge explosion, which scared me a lot. That day, I had a miscarriage”.

F.T: “We cry for our losses everyday. The police keep torturing us. They have no tolerance, not even for the children. Because my child made the victory sign, the police stopped his armored vehicle and yelled him ‘*Bastard, I will break your fingers when I catch you*’. My son ran away, and hid in the house. Since then, he cries when he sees the police”.



Photo: Kitchen of a house damaged during the curfew

M.H: “It was obvious that the security forces intruded into my house during the curfew. It was in a very bad shape. There was human excrement on my beds. There were muddy foot prints all over my beds. Do they do the same in their own houses?”

B.A: “We have been going through the same thing for the last 30 years. We had the same experience back in 1993. We live through the same thing today. So many young people are gone. Isn’t this a sin? They (the security forces) climb on top of my roof at 2 or 3 a.m. in the morning. They play nationalist songs and unload their weapons into the air. We have to lock their doors and listen to those sounds. It is humiliating. We might lose our homes; we might starve; or we might even die. Despite all these, we are determined not to leave our homeland”.

A.D: “I have an 11 year-old suffering from a kidney disease. I need to take him to the hospital every 15 days. We also have two elderly people in this house. One is diabetic; the other has a heart condition. During the curfew, we had very important problems to get treatment for them”.

H.S: “ When we returned to Idil, we saw that the school in our neighborhood was destroyed. We had to send our children to a school in a distant place. It is already dark when the school is dismissed and my children are really scared. We are also very worried for our children until they come home from school. Only a couple of days ago, a bomb some children had mistaken for a toy exploded in their hands. We are worried that the same could happen to our children”.

2.1. Statements of women who lost their relatives during the curfew

Fatma METİN (mother of Mete Ağırhan (15) who died during the curfew): He was born on 5 March 2002, but I registered him a year older because I wanted him to go to school earlier. He was going to his school. His father is much older than I am. My father married me to his father because of dowry. All my neighbors can talk to you about the difficulties I have been through while raising my child. We sent him to work as a seasonal worker when he was a 6th grader because his father was old and unable to work. We asked his principal for his permission. He himself wanted drop out of school at seventh grade. He said that he wanted to take exams outside the school system, and work as a seasonal worker during summers. His father and I agreed. Then this thing happened to him.

We decided to go to Batman when the curfew started. He said he wanted to stay with his paternal grandmother, who is like a second mother to him. He did not want to leave his grandmother alone. Therefore, he was with his grandmother when the curfew started. We were not awfully worried because he was just a kid living with his old grandmother. We did not know that there would be such savagery. We understood that they (the state) declared everybody as terrorists regardless of their age. For them, a 6-month old baby was a terrorist as well as the baby who was still unborn. Our chickens, trees, and houses were terrorists in their eyes as well. We thought our kid was only a child. They murdered him in our garden. He had no guns, no tanks, or planes. He was just a kid. He was only a 14 year-old kid. They murdered him right here.

We went to the morgue in Mardin to claim his body. For 4-5 days during our wait, we were in a horrible situation. They showed us no respect though we lost our loved one; they showed me no respect as a mother. Then, we brought my son to Idil and buried his body in the cemetery.

During the curfew, we moved to Batman. We could not find an apartment. For two days, we slept on mats in a distant relative’s house. When we understood that this was no way of living, we decided to return to Idil. We decided that they should kill us if they wanted to. We knew what they did in Cizre and Silopi. We were afraid but believe me we did not fear death. The thing that scared us most is that

they could exhibit our women's naked bodies in the streets after they killed, something they did in Cizre and Silopi. We knew that it was not only the police and soldiers who fought in Idil. There were also people who dressed like Daesh (ISIL). They came to Idil, and slaughtered our young and women.

We lost lives. We are at loss immaterially and financially. We still owe the money that we borrowed for our travel expenses. My husband is born in 1957. He is almost 70 years old. He still has to work as a shepherd to pay our debt. We did no harm to anybody. We did nothing to deserve these things. Our son did not hold a gun in his hand. He was a student. You cannot kill a 14 year-old boy even if he holds a gun because he is just a kid.

You (Erdoğan) read poems on TVs; you say O God do not leave us without a homeland. If that is what you believe, you yourself shall not expel other people from their homeland. We live the life of a refugee in our own homeland. Our children cannot leave their homes because they are afraid. Look, I lock my door when I go to Quran classes because I have a 13 year old, and I am afraid that something could happen to her when I am not home. I do not fear my own people, my neighbors, or my own land. I can leave my child to my neighbor, however my city is now full of people whose intentions and identities are unknown to us.

We did no disrespect to others' flags. We did not insult others' leaders. We have only one concern, and it is our rights. They constantly violate our rights. Our women are harassed. Our young ones are murdered, and their dead bodies are dragged behind armored vehicles. Tell me which nation, which religion would accept that? Do such practices exist in Islam? Then, why should we accept all these?

We are victimized by these practices. It is such a level of violence that we cannot go to the streets. We cannot go and do our grocery. Why is it so? It is because they have built police stations everywhere. Do they protect us with these police stations? If that is their goal, first they need to protect us from their own wrath. The people they murdered did no harm to us. Our youth did nothing bad.

I think I said all I needed to say. I repeat we respect every nation, every religion, and belief. We also want our own rights and liberties. We want to be able to speak our own language and live our identity freely. We do not violate your rights; we do not harass your people. All we want is to live in peace like normal human beings. We ask for nothing else. I just hope that my son did not die for a lost cause. I trust people. Those who killed my son knew that he was just a kid. They killed him despite that. I hope he did not die for nothing.

My son was fathering me and my other children. I raised him, but he was fathering me afterwards. He was the center of my life. I have four other children, and he was like a father for them as well. He took an interest in everything about his siblings. We were not mother and son; we were friends. Imagine you have a very good with whom you always fight but never give up his or her friendship. We were

like that with him. He was my father, my son, and my homeland. I gave birth to him but then he became my soil. He raised me. He was always with me when I did grocery.

You ask me to tell you about my life as a woman. How can I talk to you people about my life as a woman? I lived as a mother or as a close friend to him. I lost my children's father. I lost my own father. I lost my closest friend. I lost my homeland. These are the only words that could describe my pain. I lost my homeland. During nights, I think to myself about the future. Should I embrace life for the sake of my other children, or should I just rise up, rebel and fight? I stopped asking why it was my child. I stopped what were the events that led him to his death.

Seve Varlı (mother of Ahmet Varlı (15) who died during the curfew):

We were doing our grocery on the day the curfew was declared. We left Idil hastily when the curfew was officially declared. My son stayed in Idil. We went to my husband's nephew's house to stay. Because of the curfew, we could not return to the city and take our son with us. It was either 17th or 18th day of the curfew that we heard about Ahmet's death. He was only 15 years old; he committed no crime. He simply could not leave the town with us because of the curfew. When we returned to Idil, we also saw that our whole furniture was burned. What else should I say? We went through some much trouble.

Guli Erarslan (mother of Fatma Erarslan (13), who died during the curfew):

We were home when the curfew started. We thought our daughter was with her aunt's when the curfew was declared. We phoned her aunt, and learned that she was not there. We looked for her everywhere. We stayed in Idil for 22 days during the curfew. Then, people who went to the morgue in Mardin called us to inform us that Fatma's body was also in the morgue. We did not believe them until we personally saw her body in the morgue. We took her body to Cizre and buried her in the cemetery. We stay in Cizre till the end of the curfew.

My daughter had very good friends. She loved her friends dearly. She was always saying hello to people, even to strangers. She was kissing babies she saw in the streets. She was a joyous kid, always smiling. She would turn to 13 years old 22 days after her death. She was going to her school and doing her homework. She was just a kid. The state killed this child.

They made us refugees. They expelled us from our houses. They killed our children. They broke our windows and doors. They tortured us. They razed our walls with bulldozers. They razed our walls just for their own pleasure. They told us that there were explosives planted in our streets. They kept questioning us about why we stayed in our homes. They were saying that not to worry and the state would rebuild their houses. We said nothing in return.

Some of them (the security forces) were saying that they came from Kayseri and Antalya to protect us. However, they only killed our children. We neither needed them nor their protection. We were better off before they came here.

Last year, we worked as seasonal workers in another city. We went there to pick up apricots. This year we went the same place again. I went there to forget about my daughter's death at least for a while, but her memories were everywhere because she carved her name to almost every apricot tree there.

We will follow our lawsuit. We are going to call her murderers accountable for their deeds. We are determined. She was innocent. She was a student. We were working seasonal workers, and making a modest life with our earnings. We were in our own homeland. They came and murdered my daughter in her own town. We want live in our homeland.

3- OBSERVATIONS VE CONCLUSIONS

- The curfew in Idil, Sirnak started on 16 February 2016 upon the orders of the Sirnak Governorate. It was partially lifted on 31 March 2016 between 04:30 a.m. and 21:30 p.m. The residents in Idil claim that clashes continued only during the first 19 days of the curfew. For the rest of the curfew, the security forces continued to shell neighborhoods even though there were no clashes.
- Our report reveals that a great majority of houses became inhospitable after the curfew. Some houses were completely razed to the ground. Some other houses, which were not completely destroyed, were burned deliberately. The furniture and inner walls of the mildly damaged houses were also vandaliseddeliberately.
- After the end of the curfew, returning families demanded to set up tents either in their own gardens or in the residential areas. These people repatedly expressed their willingness not to leave Idil. However, families were also scared that their houses would be expropriated by the state.
- Fieldwork reveals that families tried to return and fix their houses if their houses were not completely demolished during the curfew. Nevertheless, due to the high number of heavily damaged houses, it was common practivefor two or three families trying to live in the same house, causing very difficult life conditions especially for the children and women.
- House of District Governor in Idil fined families who tried to set up tents in their gardens and neighborhoods by claiming that 'tents lead to visual pollution'.

- Some certificates of demolition that were given to the families by the Turkish state had no record about parcel numbers, addresses, or information on assessment of damage. These certificates indicated only names of the owner of the property. We have also seen completely destroyed houses which were not claimed by anybody.
- In Idil, a substantial part of the population makes a living through animal husbandry and seasonal work. They lack regular income, which prevents them from renting houses. Therefore, they temporarily moved into their relatives' houses in other towns. Those with regular income were able to rent apartments in other neighborhoods of Idil or in other towns. Those who had separate houses in their villages went to villages during the curfew. These people also returned to Idil after the curfew ended. We determined that a great majority of people who left the city during the curfew returned after it ended.
- Idil had important infrastructural problems even before the curfew. These problems became even worse during the curfew. Maintenance work pertaining to electricity, water works and other infrastructure in Idil was continuing during the course of this research. Some houses had their private wells in their gardens. However security forces made these wells unusable by dumping dirt, socks, and other garbage into these wells. We also observed that water tanks with bullet holes making them useless for the owners as well.
- Because there were water and electricity cuts and people lacked kitchen equipment, Idil municipality distributed bread and hot meal after the curfew. Making bread available was the top priority for the authorities since the security forces burned wheat and firewood stored by the people for future use.
- The Idil municipality tried to supply affected families with food after the curfew. In addition, the food and provisions that was collected by Rojava Mutual Assistance and Solidarity Association was distributed to the neighborhoods with the assistance of municipal workers and volunteers.
- The special operation forces tried to prevent distribution of food arbitrarily. The trucks that were used for distribution of food & provisions stopped and fined repeatedly. For instance, the traffic police fined some trucks only because those trucks bore "Mas'allah" or "Muhammed" signs. One particular truck was refused permission to distribute food because there was a blue strap on it.



Photo: A family trying to rebuild their house after the destruction.

- Armored vehicles tailed trucks that were used for distribution of food. The police also searched kettles and pots that were used for the distribution of the food. In addition, the volunteers and municipal workers that participated in distribution of food were searched and their IDs were investigated to see if they had any criminal records. In one instance a female municipal worker was detained and naked searched under detention.
- The District Governorate in Idil asked everybody who was doing charity work in the city to inform the police station and the district governorate about their identities. They also forced the volunteers and municipal workers to call the police whenever they went to Turgut Ozal and Yenimahalle neighborhoods. In addition, the District Governorate appointed an official to the storage to keep track of the families who received aid.
- The police forces raided the mawlid dinner that was hosted by the Idil Municipality. All attendees were searched by the police. Imams, volunteers, and media members in the dinner were detained. Later, two imams were arrested by the police.

- When this research first started, there were almost no children playing in the streets because they were not able to cope with their fears, an observation that became clearer during the course of this research.
- Many students could not attend to their schools during the curfew. Families did not send their children to the schools because they were afraid of their safety. Children of families who left the city during the curfew experienced serious problems in their new schools. Thus, the majority of students in this category dropped out from school as well.
- Because schools are demolished or significantly damaged during the clashes, neighborhood children had to go to schools in distant locations, which prolonged their return from the school. This particular situation worried their parents significantly. Many middle school or high school students either could not properly study for their exams or they simply could not take those exams.
- Two children in Idil died while they were playing with ammunition left from the clashes. These incidents forced some parents to forbid their children to play in the streets.



Photo: Racist graffiti written by Turkish security forces on the wall of a resident's house says "Turkish Republic, you either love it or you f.ck off".

- We observed that the security forces gave candies and money to children to force them make Grey Wolves (an ultranationalist group in Turkey) sign and give the military salute. Those children who refuse to do so were threatened by the security forces.
- Some of the women with whom interviews were conducted were undergoing treatment for depression. However they did not want to talk about their treatment process. Instead, they expressed their desire to focus on their families' needs and work towards alleviation of the effects of destruction inflicted upon them.
- Women, particularly mothers, wanted to protect our team from the police and the specialforces. They did not want us to leave their gardens when the police was patrolling the street with armored vehicles.
- Women suffered from increasing amount of housework because two or three families had to live under the same roof due to damage inflicted by the clashes.
- Women repeatedly expressed their resolution not to leave their houses and homeland. To quote one of them *“Our beautiful house which was the product of 20 years of hardwork is gone. However, we grieve most for our dead ones. We can rebuild our homes, but we cannot resurrect our dead. We need the state to leave us alone”*.
- The process left many people unemployed and deprived them of any social insurance. Therefore, families had major difficulties to access health services. Because many families sent their patients to hospitals in nearby cities, they sometimes could not communicate with them given the extraordinary conditions in Idil.
- Police vehicles patrolled the neighborhoods even though the curfew ended. They also systematically harassed the local people by opening fire randomly. Especially residents of Turgut Ozal neighborhood had to listen to gunfire because there was a nearby gendarmerie station.
- Media members who wanted to visit Idil were prohibited from entering the city, and forcibly expelled from the city



Photo: A woman trying to rescue what is left of her belongings from her house that is bombed during the curfew



Photo: A mother with military ammunition in one hand and pages from Quran in the other hand tells her story.