



## Kurdish Human Rights Action Group South Africa

**NPO Number: 118-985 NPO**

13th March 2018

Dear Esteemed friend of KHRAG,

KHRAG asks for your joint solidarity in our protest action, kindly read below:

### **URGENT CALL IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF AFRIN**

#### **JOIN THE PROTEST ACTION**

**DATE: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

**TIME: 12pm**

**VENUE: Meeting at 11:30am on the steps of St Georges Cathedral to proceed to Parliament**

The Kurdish people in Afrin are being subjected to genocide and ethnic cleansing by the Turkish Army with the support of jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra and the remnants of ISIS.

This invasion and genocidal attack has been carried out in front of the eyes of humanity. A city is now on the verge of being destroyed by the second largest army of NATO which is equipped with the most sophisticated weapons produced by several countries. This attack is being legitimised by the spreading of propaganda as if the armies of two big states were fighting with each other. Those powers, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council, who provide weapons to Turkey, are accomplices to this crime.

#### **Human shield action commenced in Afrin**

The people of the city of Afrin refuse to leave their homes and vow to resist the invasion. When the Turkish army and its gangs approached within 1km of the city centre, civilians in Afrin started actions against the invaders. Several vehicle convoys were set up by the residents and activists toured the city to call upon everyone to join in the human shield action. During 52 days of attacks, the invading army has killed more than 290 civilians.

We call on the UN Security Council to intervene and stop the Turkish invasion of Afrin

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**We also demand:**

We call on the South African Government to express solidarity with the people of Afrin

We urge the South African Government to demand Turkey's withdrawal from Afrin

We call upon the United Nations Security Council to stand firm in defence of Resolution 2401, and not to let the Turkish regime evade its responsibility for its actions in the region of Afrin, Syria.

We urge the international community to enforce the UNSC ceasefire and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian and medical aid to civilians who are in desperate need, both in Afrin and in Ghouta.

We stress the urgent need for the implementation of a No-Fly-Zone over the Afrin region in order to preserve civilian lives and residential areas, civil infrastructure and significant monuments and cultural artifacts. We invite the international community to aid the enforcement of this No-Fly-Zone with peacekeeping troops or observer delegations.

Right now hundreds of thousands of civilians in Afrin are coming under heavy bombardment by Turkish Jets

Stopping this invasion has become a historic responsibility

Turkey continues the Afrin bloodshed flouting the UN ceasefire resolution

Stop the genocide and ethnic cleansing by the Turkish Army in Afrin

Sincerely,

Mahmoud Patel

Secretary General

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