

## Statement of Solidarity with the People of Rojava

To all freedom lovers, human rights defenders, and women's rights activists,

I am writing to you not only as a women's rights activist, but as someone who lived through the 1979 revolution in Iran, and who has lost ten members of loved ones along the way in fight for freedom in Kurdistan of Iran. I speak to you today from a place of deep pain, responsibility, and hope.

Since late 2025, the Rojava region in northern Syria has been facing an escalating military confrontation. Fighting between Syrian government forces and Kurdish-led forces has continued into January 2026, marked by intermittent ceasefires followed by renewed hostilities. This escalation is not an isolated event, but part of a long-standing dispute over autonomy and self-determination, one that once again places the civilian population of Rojava, both women and men, at serious risk. The people of Rojava have been subjected to an unjust and unintended war. Ongoing military operations have resulted in violence, displacement, and widespread insecurity, threatening the social, political, and humanitarian structures that communities in the region have worked for years to establish.

Rojava was once internationally recognized as a symbol of resistance and collective self-organization, particularly during the fight against ISIS. Kurdish women and men played a decisive role in containing and defeating one of the most violent extremist forces of our time. Their courage, and especially the leadership of women on the front lines and in governance, gained global admiration and represented a powerful alternative to authoritarianism and extremism.

Beyond military resistance, the people of Rojava developed an inclusive and humane model of governance that emphasized women's rights, human rights, and the protection of ethnic and religious minorities. This model, though imperfect and developed under extraordinary conditions, demonstrated the possibility of coexistence, gender equality, and grassroots democracy in a region long marked by conflict and repression.

Today, this model is under direct threat. As violence intensifies, human rights organisations, women's groups, and civil society actors in the diaspora and neighbouring countries have mobilised in solidarity. At the same time, regional and international powers continue to pursue political and economic agreements that disregard the rights and safety of the people of Syrian Kurdistan. Strategic deals involving the Syrian government, Turkey, and global actors like Us and Isreal risk dismantling hard-won achievements and returning the region to conditions of authoritarian rule and systemic abuse.

The legacy of Rojava cannot be erased. The images of women and men standing together in defense of their communities, and the autonomous structures established in places such as Kobani, remain an enduring part of recent history. They serve as evidence of what collective action and popular resistance can achieve, even under extreme pressure.



The responsibility of the international community is clear. We must stand in solidarity with the people of Rojava and support their right to live in dignity, security, and equality. Their voices must be heard, their rights protected, and their contributions recognized.

We call on human rights organizations, women's and children's rights advocates, NGOs, and all individuals committed to justice and freedom to take action. This includes public advocacy, engagement with government representatives, and sustained pressure to halt ongoing violence. Political and military agreements from US, Syrian state and all other rolling classes in region that sacrifice civilian lives and undermine fundamental rights must be openly challenged and condemned. The people of Rojava must not be treated as bargaining chips in regional or international negotiations.

The recent uprisings in Iran, especially Mahsa-Jina Amini's uprising in 2022, demonstrate the power of collective resistance and grassroots mobilization in the pursuit of freedom, equality and a better future, without foreign domination. This experience offers inspiration to all communities confronting repression, including those in Rojava.

We reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Rojava and our commitment to freedom, equality, and a dignified life for all.

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