

Geneva Institute for Coexistence
Non-Governmental Organization
Item 4

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sitting in front of you today to denounce the events that have recently taken place in Rojava, Syrian Kurdistan, where the situation of my people is critical.

In the same way that Turkey decimated Kurdish villages in the 1990s, Erdogan is lashing out at Kurdish civilians of all ages and genders under the pretext that, to him, Kurds are terrorists.

Therefore, I would like to ask how it is possible to qualify an entire national as terrorists, while we were the only ones to deploy all the means in our possession to prevent the rise of the Islamic State in the Levant and in the world.

How can we still be considered as terrorists in your eyes?

Terrorism entails the propagation of terror among a population, but the only terror that is currently being propagated in Rojava is that which we see in the eyes of Kurdish children who are forced to leave their lands.

Ladies and Gentlemen, another thing is bothering me. Today, we let Turkey use NATO to destroy anything and anyone. For the Turkish government, there is no difference between a wall, a house, or a child. This was demonstrated when Turkey used white phosphorous against children in Rojava.

We Kurds are suffering because no one is sanctioning the 5th army of NATO. However, it does not respect human rights conventions, nor the protocols put in place after the First and Second World Wars. For instance, the Geneva Convention that has prohibited the use of chemical weapons since 1925.

We Kurds ask ourselves if we will ever have to relive an Operation Anfall.

We Kurds ask why no one dares to oppose the violent tyranny of the Turkish government.

We Kurds ask ourselves who will bear the responsibility for the current inaction of the big democratic powers, while our people are already facing the consequences.

400,000 of us are refugees today and are questioning our future.

Who among you is willing to welcome these people in their hope to finally find a peaceful life?