

INHIBITION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN CİZRE

(SEPTEMBER 04-12 CİZRE CURFEW REPORT)

Our country is get drawn into a violence climate that is gradually deepening by the breakdown of the non-conflict process that could not evolve to a permanent peace and the political power which ignores the popular will that emerges in the elections of June 7. This violence climate affected everybody and especially, all the sectors of the society who are dissident to the existing government are brought into a target. Thus, by way of blocking the demands in the areas of Equality, Peace and Democracy and depriving the society and institutions of the power to say "stop!" to injustices, it is tried to preclude obtaining information of the people about what is going on by perception management at different levels.

It is declared successive, weeklong curfews under the name of special security region executions in the different centers of Kurdistan by repressing the demand of the society to be governed in a different way. With these executions, the people are subjected to a disproportional violence and the fundamental rights of the people such as nutrition, access to health care/utilization from these services and primarily the right to live are violated.

In these difficult circumstances, what are felt to the health laborers who are trying to do their job with sacrifice is not only repression but also executions extend over death and this situation is still continuing. In these circumstances, health laborers could not provide health service and are killed, wounded, threatened; also they could not access to health service like the other members of the society. Some examples of this situation are seen in the experiences in Şırnak/Cizre which is blockaded with a 9-day curfew, unprecedentedly in states of siege.

In July, 26, 2015, it is carried out an armed attack by unknown attackers to the polyclinic section of Cizre Public Hospital and by the hospital is besieged before this attack by the security forces; the clash is get within the hospital. In the date August, 27, 2015, our friend, Eyüp Ergen who is a health laborer and was going out from his night duty is killed by snipers. Our member Eyüp Ergen had to wait for ambulance for one and half hour wounded and snipers also shot at the medical teams who came to scene. After these incidents, many health laborers who are working in Cizre Public Hospital are resigned, received health reports or went on leave.

In September 4, 2015, namely the day in which the heavy attacks on Cizre are begun, curfew execution is started to apply after 20:00 with the announcement in 19:00. It has been actually a precursor of the coming atrocity that allowing for only one hour to the people to fulfill food and other fundamental requirements. Within this given short time just before this prohibition which is a farthest point of unlawfulness, when people could not fulfill any of their requirements, the communication is cut off from all GSM operators right after. Nevertheless, in the afternoon of the same day, the doctors who are forensic doctors on call during curfew are called by the police headquarters and it is asked for that they have to stand ready and their home addresses. This means that the killings that will happen as a result of the violence which

will be applied with curfew are planned. From that moment on, there were implementations experienced by the people and the health laborers that are not in accordance with a democratic state of law.

During nine-day curfew, all health service is stopped and in the district in which all the maternal and child health clinics, it is tried to provide health services despite all impossibilities in the emergency service of Cizre Public Hospital. Under normal circumstances, the number of specialist doctor is 44, the number of practitioners is 3, the number of nurses is 126, the number of delivery nurses is 19 and the number of the other health staff is 160 in Cizre Public Hospital. In the first two days of curfew, it is tried to provide health service by 1 anesthetist, 1 practitioner, 6 nurses and 1 delivery nurse. They tried to provide health service with health stuff that could not go out from the hospital until the fourth day of curfew. The emergency service that is the only working unit of the hospital is became a headquarters during the blockade and it is placed snipers on the roof of the hospital. While this situation is turned the hospital into a target, it also posed an obstacle for the access of emergency patients and wounded people to the hospital.

In Cizre Public Hospital, when the number of patients who appeal to emergency service in ordinary times is around 600-700 daily, during 9 days of curfew, this number is 214 in total. During this period, the emergency service of the hospital is emptied and moved to the intensive care unit upstairs, all entrances of the hospital are closed and it is performed an identity control to everyone who came to hospital. Police insulted, threatened and pressured the hospital staff during this period. While the health staff that are on duty in September 4, 2015 (the date of the beginning of curfew) could not go out from the hospital along three days, the staff who has to start their duty could not come to hospital because of that they could not go out from their homes.

During this aggression process, taking patients of ambulances are precluded, health staff are threatened by the security forces and 112 (emergency phone line) is became functionless. The proof of this is the images in a video that is circulating on the social media in which the ambulance driver is threatening by the police to not go in the neighborhood. Many wounded person who could live with basic medical interventions are dead because of the police did not allow the ambulances to pick up these patients. Preventive health services hindered to a great extent, chronic patients who have to get regular treatment face with serious difficulties. Most of the patients could not go out from their homes and irreparable important health violations occurred. For example, in the first four days of the blockade, 68 people who have end stage renal disease and who are dialysis patients in the proceeding of dialysis service of Cizre Public Hospital could not go to hospital and after then, limited number of the patients (only 25 of them) could go into dialysis after the fourth day of the curfew. Also, pharmacies could not be opened, chronic patients could not take their medicines and the babies who have to be fed by infant formulas could not access to these foods during the curfew.

Not only had the people, all living creatures in the district had their share from the blockade and the aggressions in Cizre. The dead animal that can be seen in the streets of the district, the

small cattle and bovine animals that could not be fed because of the people were all in housebound and the destruction of the farms, gardens and fields that could be irrigated are all examples of this.

The garbage could not be collected during the blockade. In some neighborhoods, the lack of electricity and water and destroying of the water tanks in some houses as a result of the attacks caused serious enteritis cases and contagious diseases. The people are forced to drink dirty well waters.

Pregnant women are obliged to give birth in difficult circumstances.

In Cizre Public Hospital, normally, 10-12 birth take place daily in average. The total birth number in July 2015 is 349 and in August 2015 is 351. In the region which has normally high birth rates, in this process, the number of patients who could appeal to gynecology and obstetrics service was 12 and the number of patients who could give birth in the hospital is only 7. During 9 days of curfew, only 7 births could actualize in the hospital. During the curfew time in September, the number of home births and miscarriages up to socio-physiologic traumas in this process could not be identified because of the no access to the hospital.

Again, in this process, none of the patients who require emergency medical intervention because of heart attack etc. and the children who convulse because of high fever could not go to hospital in the city center and because of these problems, a 35-day baby whose name is Muhammed is dead.

While the arm and artillery sounds that never end during 9 days caused irreparable psychological traumas especially for the children, everybody who live in Cizre regardless of being child, woman, young and old, is targeted by snipers and security forces. The mother of Cemile Çağırğa who is killed by random machinegun fire when she is in front of her house had to conserve the body her corpse in deep freeze because of not being allowed to lay her to rest. The corpses of the other residents of Cizre who are killed and not allowed to bury like Cemile are taken to cold storages by carried over to holes made in walls like in Kobanê.

After all these, after the blockade and curfew are removed, when there was a necessity of doctors and hospital staff in hospital, Secretary General of Şırnak Public Hospitals Union did not allow 60 doctors and 100 health staff who came for solidarity with Cizre, for dressing Cizre's wounds and for fixing the destruction encountered to work in the hospital voluntarily. This situation is an approach that is not incompatible with profession principles and ethics and that confirms the violence to the people.

We can sum up the incidents that happened over the weeklong violence and repression environment as such:

- 1- In July 26, 2015, there have been shot fired to Cizre Public Hospital by unknown attackers
- 2- In August 27, 2015, Eyüp Ergen who is a health laborer and was going out from his night duty is killed by snipers, had to wait for ambulance for one and half hour wounded and snipers also shot at the medical teams who came to scene.
- 3- Cizre Public Hospital is blockaded by the security forces, is used as a headquarters and is became a target.
- 4- During curfew, the access of people to health services is precluded and the people is prohibited to benefit from these services.
- 5- 22 civilian citizens are dead because of they are precluded to access to the health institutions after attacks during curfew.

The names and the ages of the citizens whose death cause is identified are as below:

Death by wounding from firearms:

1. Özgür TAŞKIN (18)
2. Cemile ÇAĞIRGA (10)
3. Bünyamin İRCİ (14)
4. Sait ÇAĞDAVUL (19)
5. Mehmet Sait NAYCI (16)
6. Osman ÇAĞLI (18)
7. Zeynep TAŞKIN (18)
8. Maşallah EDİN (55)
9. Mehmet Emin LEVENT (26)
10. Mehmet ERDOĞAN (70)
11. Suphi SARAK (40)
12. Bahattin SEVİNİK (52)
13. Eşref EDİN (60)
14. Meryem SÜNE (45)
15. Selman AĞAR (10)

Death by diseases and other causes because of that they could not access to hospital:

1. Muhammed Tahir YARAMIŞ (35-day)
2. Mehmet Emin AÇIK (41)
3. Mehmet DİKMEN
4. Hacı Ata BORÇİN (70)
5. Xetbân BÜLBÜL (65)

Additionally;

* In September 6, 2015, the citizens named Hacı Ata Borçin (70) and Xetban Bülbül (65) are dead by heart attack because of the tension that is created by clash environment.

- * In September 6, 2015, a baby named Muhammed Tahir Yaramış (35-days) who has health problems is dead because of he could not be taken to the hospital because of the police blockade.
- * In September 7, 2015, Osman Çağlı (18) is killed by gunfire.
- * In September 7, 2015, Cemile Çağırğa (13) is killed by gunfire.
- * In September 7, 2015, Eşref Edin (60) is killed by gunfire from an armored vehicle.
- * In September 9, 2015, Meryem Süne (52) who has 7 children and is wounded by gunfire is died from the loss of blood in Yasef neighborhood.
- * In September 9, 2015, Özgür Taşkın (20) who is wounded by gunfire is died from the loss of blood in Yasef neighborhood because of the ambulance did not come.
- * In September 10, 2015, Zeynep Taşkın (17) is killed by a cannon ball that hit her house while her baby named Berxwedan was in her arms in her home.
- * In September 11, 2015, a child named Bünyamin İrci (14) is killed by gunfire.
- * In September 11, 2015, a child named Selman Ağar (10) is killed by gunfire.
- * In September 11, 2015, Mehmet Dikmen (70) is dead because of the tension that is created by clash environment.
- * In September 11, 2015, Mehmet Erdoğan (70) is killed with shooting in the head by snipers while he was going to buy bread.

Also there are many people who are precluded to access to health services despite they are wounded during curfew which we could not identified. From these people, Z.D. (30) lost one of his eyes, A.Ö. (31) lost one of his legs and Y.Ş. (13) lost one of his hands and one of his legs.

- 6- The health laborers are put a gun to their head by special operations forces; are insulted by police and the security guard and cashiers are threatened; closeted and assaulted.
- 7- 112 ambulance emergency service staff are threatened by the announcements from armored vehicles and the patients are hindered.
- 8- During 9 days, the people could not meet their basic needs (water-electricity-food) and as a result of that the garbage did not collect, the disease risk and level are increased notably infectious diseases.

Many underground water supplies are burst and a risk about mixing of the underground sewage with water supply network, notably in Nur Neighborhood, is come out. Also a risk of infectious disease came out because of that the dying and the killed animals are waited for 8 days in hot weather. It is seen that the chronic lung patients are affected negatively from the heavy gunpowder and pepper spray smell. In some places, citizens had to satisfy their water needs from well waters that should not be drunk. Consequently, the diarrhea cases that are mostly seen in children are increased.

For revealing the destruction that is occurred as a result of the state of siege that is applying with a "curfew" by Şırnak Governorship in September 4 in Cizre district

of Şırnak, TMMOB City Representation prepared a damage assessment report with Cizre Municipality:

- With 9 days curfew, nearly 1.000 buildings including notably houses and work places, bakeries, pharmacies, mosques, schools, culture centers, health centers have been targeted.
- Damage assessment could not be prepared because it could not be reached to home owners in nearly 100 houses.
- The building and vehicle types of which damage assessment are prepared as such:
 - 652 houses
 - 204 workplaces
 - 2 bakeries
 - 2 pharmacies
 - 1 health center
 - 1 culture center
 - 2 schools
 - 5 mosques
 - 2 stables
 - 27 vehicles
- It is identified that 132 houses and workplaces are destructed with heavy weapons.
- 9 houses are burnt; it is identified that 46 houses have heavy damage.
- In Nur neighborhood, nearly all of the power transformers of Dicle Electricity Distribution Company and the water supply network infrastructure of Cizre Municipality are made unusable.

Notably in Nur neighborhood, 284 air conditioners and 301 water tanks are targeted and are intensely shot. This is a point which has to be remarked and emphasized especially.

- 9- The people are remained among the clashes and are exposed to physiological traumas with executions like state of emergency practices and that cannot be seen even in warfare. Therefore, the clash environment that is continued by heavy weapons influenced the people mentally and deeply.
- 10- After the curfew is over, Şırnak Public Hospitals Union administration did not allow the doctors and the health staff who came for solidarity and for providing the people health service in the hospital voluntarily by saying "you cannot work

without official letter" and adopted an attitude through inhibiting the getting health service right of the people.

- 11- In Cizre, 1 private medical center, 1 ADSM (Oral and Dental Health Clinic), 8 ASMs (Family Health Center) and 1 TSM (Public Health Center) could not provide service during curfew; therefore, the public health services hindered; it could not be conducted vaccination and obstetrics; the medicines of certified patients could not be written to receipt; and nursing of home care patients could not be carried out.
- 12- The patients in risk groups could not reach to specialist control and treatment and could not take their medicines because of that the access to health service is precluded.
- 13- 55 patients who are bedbound and in need of special treatment and who are registered to home care service could not be benefited from health service by no way during this period.
- 14- The vaccines are decayed because of power cuts and therefore, the vaccination to children could not be done (*Between the dates of 04.10.2015-29.10.2015, no vaccination is done*).
- 15- Some of the patients who were receiving a treatment in Cizre Tuberculosis Dispensary could not take their medicines and their treatments hindered.
- 16- Pharmacies went through serious problems can be summarized as such;
 - 19 pharmacies in Cizre tried to open by their pharmacists but they could not provide service because of the clash environment during curfew.
 - Because of the longtime power cuts, the vaccines and the medicines which have to be kept in cold storage are decayed.
 - Because of the entrance-exit prohibition in Cizre, the medicines that were delivering from Cizre to other cities could not be reached; the medicine delivery to Şırnak Uludere, Beytüşşebap, Güçlükönak and Silopi by way of Cizre could not be done.
 - The pharmacies that are tried to open are shot and are closed forcefully.
- 17- Despite the curfew is removed, because of that the blockade was continuing, the people did not want to go to hospital originating from the trauma that is experienced; and because of the nervousness of health laborers in the hospital, the working environment is worsened.

Suggestions to the labor organizations and trade bodies in conflicting processes encountered:

- 1- It has to be taken measures about the health laborers who are affected from clash processes.
- 2- Labor organizations and trade bodies have to develop initiatives, actions and relations to force the state to adhere to Geneva Convention. In case of that violations about this issue are experienced, it has to be became partners with the other organizations around the world for imposing sanctions on international level.
- 3- Street health provider conception has to be developed and worked through on this.

- 4- It is quite important to mention and remark that inhibiting the people from access to basic needs is a human rights violation and that the people cannot be deprived of these needs in war/clash processes.

The picture that we are trying to summarize is based on stated violation of rights as a result of our delegation's observations after the curfew is removed in Cizre in recent weeks. It is carried out a preposterous domination over human lives in defiance of law entirely in the district. These circumstances caused many health problems, exacerbation and increment of existing health problems, physiological problems, precluding of benefiting from health services and especially, physically irreparable destructions.

As health laborers who defend peace against war and life against death, we are repeating that we will give all kinds of support to our people and we are calling relevant institutions and organizations about unearthing, following and inhibiting the repetition of the crimes committed for duty.