



PEACE AND DEMOCRACY PARTY REPRESENTATION IN EUROPE

Brussels, the 16th of December 2013

Invitation Municipal Election 2014

As the municipal elections are looming, the latest government policy haven't enabled the peace process to fulfill its promises since October. The governmental 'democratic' reforms package hasn't satisfied any of the parties involved, be it the Kurds, the Alevis or the other ethnic minorities. Mother tongue education is only available in private schools, and due to the cost it is unavailable to most of the population. In short none of the Kurdish demands have been met.

These anti-democratic actions have fueled an ever-growing social dissent in the country. The willingness of the Kurdish people remains, regardless, one of the most important factors in the pursuit of the peace process.

This is why our party the BDP, demands three basic rights ; the recognition of the Kurdish identity in the new constitution, mother tongue education in state schools and democratic autonomy, or the right for the Kurdish region for self-governance.

Furthermore, the Kurds demand the withdrawal of the 10% threshold in the electoral system and the release of the political prisoners, comprising of the MPs, mayors, local and regional politicians, journalists, lawyers, unionists and students

It all started with the victory of the BDP at the municipal elections in 2009 to the demise of the AKP which hoped to gain control of Diyarbakir and other large cities of 'Kurdistan'. Several mayors and elected BDP members were taken into custody and incarcerated straight away.



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Nearly 5 years later the arrests are still going on. Every week new police raids help to further lengthen the presumed terrorist list. Thousands of people, an estimated 8000 have been arrested since the beginning of this investigation, according to the lawyers.

According to most observers, the KCK case has become more of a political reckoning than a judicial one. The legal and enforcement system always works by groups; mayors, public servants, associative members like those from the IHD, Turkish human rights league, journalists from the Kurdish media, unionists like those from the KESK, public servants union

This is why the presence of international observer is of utmost importance for us; it can enable these elections to really improve the democratic process in Turkey and thus prevent fraud.

We invite you and your fellow colleagues to monitor the municipal elections of the 30th of March 2014 in Turkey in order to enable total transparency and thus give indisputable results.

We count on your supportive presence from the 21st of March (Newroz) to the 31st of March 2014 (Election Day).

Please confirm your participation before the 31th January 2014.

Sincerely yours,

Eyyup Doru, European representative of the BDP