



## **Dear women;**

This greeting we send you on occasion of the day to eliminate violence against women comes from a place where all kinds of violence is institutionalized under state guarantee. As sites of systematic violence against society in general and women in particular, prisons are in one of the most active periods of their history. However, those who imprison us and hence perpetrate violence do not stop at this. Life itself has been transformed into a prison everywhere for women. The male-dominant, reactionary and misogynist government is acting out the politics and guardianship of this vast regime of servitude and violence. Their goal is to create a community of women who obey, who bow down without questioning, who cannot confront the words of the ruling regime with words of their own, who cannot defend themselves against violence, repression and injustice, whose access to the slightest right is dependent on male permission. They thus aim to rule over half of the society and the whole of life by means of policies of war, violence and exploitation.

Wherever there are massacres, violence and enslavement against women there also is resistance. If the resistance launched by Mirabal sisters against fascism, the regime of enslavement and jails is still alive and has kept spreading to this day, then we have firm bases for confidence in woman's will and belief in ourselves, in our pluralistic female identity. All around the world there exist women in action and in consciousness of sisterhood marching, fighting and prevailing against centers of misogynist and tyrannical power. We exist! We may be dying every day, but we are born again with each new awakening of consciousness, rising objection, growing rebellion. In this historical period where femicide takes place, female consciousness and resistance also rises.

Murderers of women, rapist and vicious men feed on the reactionary, sexist, policies of male favoritism of AKP-Erdoğan government. We feed on our rightfulness which no one can take away from us, and from the spirit of sisterhood and solidarity that grows day by day. We know our source is strong. Even if we are surrounded on all sides, even if our loved ones have been ripped from among us, we will break the blockades and step up our struggle for each friend we lose.



Those who advance and nurture violence against women at home, on the street and in politics will not endure. Those who do not take their hands off of women's bodies and children's innocence, will sink into the abyss of history with their evil. Those who destroy the achievements women made through much work and sacrifice will get trapped under their own political debris. Those who find in themselves the right to intervene in the childbirth, marriage contract, clothing, life, work and livelihood of women shall have to face with what they deserve: the fury of women.

Dear women, know that we are powerful regardless of where we are or what condition we are in. It is this woman power which flows deep and calm at times and like a tumultuous river at others that will change the world, life and the country. Women's will resounding the streets and squares on 25 November will be the stamp of our power and rightful struggle. The legitimacy of self-defense in the face of all sorts of violence against women will thus pass a threshold.

With this conviction, you should know that our hearts beat to the same tune with our sisters who are out in the squares. I greet those who struggle against violence everywhere, against solitary confinement in the island of İmralı, against attacks on the body integrity and political representation of women, and against the disregard for woman's labor. I embrace the women who have been targets of violence with love, solidarity and resistance, and I remember with respect the women who have lost their lives. I am convinced that those who resist to bring justice to women's suffering and fury will win. Women who don themselves with life against death, hope against helplessness, courage against fear will win.

I greet you with love, solidarity and comradeship.

**Figen Yüksekdağ**

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