

Civilian Casualties of Turkish Bombardments in Northern Iraq in 2022



A report by
End Cross-border Bombing Campaign

August 2023



Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction	4
3. Incidents by Turkish Armed Force involving civilians in 2022	5
3.1 Fewer incidents, higher civilian toll	5
3.2 Attacks from Turkish Bases	5
3.3 Turkish Airstrikes	6
4. Civilian Casualties by Turkish Armed Forces recorded in 2022	7
4.1 Incidents in which farmers, foragers of wild plants and a shepherd were killed and/or injured	7
4.2 Incidents that killed and injured civilians in outdoor community gatherings	8
4.3 Incidents in which civilian vehicles were bombed	10
4.4 Killing and injuring civilians in populated areas	11
4.5 Killing and Injuring civilians in Makhmur Refugee Camp, Erbil Governorate	11
5. Civilian Impact of Iranian Bombardments	12
6. Looking back at the past year: the work of the End Cross Border Bombings Campaign	13
7. Recommendations	14
8. Methodology	15
Appendix 1: Identity of civilians killed and casualty demographics, where known (2022)	16
Appendix 2: Turkish cross-border attack civilian casualty incidents 2022	17

Cover Photo: Abdulwahid from Hirure village showing shrapnels from artillery fire that damaged his house.

End Cross-border Bombing is a coalition of survivors of Turkish and Iranian military operations in northern Iraq with local and international non-governmental organizations that work on protection of civilian lives and freedoms and nonviolence. The campaign aims to amplify voices of the affected civilian population, raise awareness of the civilian impact of cross-border bombardments and call for protection and reparations.

Coalition members include: Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative, Community Peacemaker Teams, Iraq Body Count, CODEPINK, NOVACT, Un Ponte Per, Solidarity with Kurdistan/Solkurd.

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A report by **End Cross-border Bombing Campaign**

1. Executive Summary

During 2022, Turkish Armed Forces' (TAF) operations in Northern Iraq caused the largest number of documented civilian casualties since 2015, despite claiming to only target combatants affiliated with Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Key findings:

- » Between 18 and 20 civilians were killed, including six children, and 57 to 58 civilians were injured, in 11 incidents conducted by the TAF in Northern Iraq during 2022.
- » Six of the attacks originated from fire from the 60+ bases that TAF have built inside Iraqi Kurdistan. This makes such civilian harm incidents the majority for the first time since 2015.
- » One of these attacks, during which artillery fire targeted a picnic area at a mountain village resort, caused the largest civilian toll of any single incident since 2015, killing nine civilians, including three children, and wounding 23. The victims were tourists from central and southern regions of Iraq.
- » In the other five attacks from Turkish bases, a total of six civilians were killed and four civilians were wounded. The victims included two children, three women who were participating in community celebrations, and a farmer who was cultivating his land.
- » Four incidents saw civilians bombed by Turkish drones: a bombing inside a residential area of Sinune town, which led to ten civilian casualties (including one child killed), multiple airstrikes in a remote mountain area that led to six casualties (one killed and five injured) among foragers of wild plants, and two airstrikes, which resulted in the death of three civilians who were driving vehicles.
- » In the 11th recorded incident, the TAF conducted multiple airstrikes inside Makhmur refugee camp, killing up to two civilians and wounding 15 others.

The incidents recorded in 2022 have raised the total count to at least 97 incidents in which the TAF have killed between 113 and 140 and injured between 187 and 215 civilians and non-belligerents in Northern Iraq since 2015. In-depth analysis of the civilian impacts of Turkish operations in Northern Iraq from 2015 to 2021 was published in 2022 and can be found [here](#).

The data presented in this report builds on the extensive research that members of the End Cross-border Bombing Campaign have conducted on the civilian impacts of Turkish cross-border military operations in Northern Iraq and is based on interviews with survivors, witnesses, and local authorities, in addition to the analysis of available media and other public sources.

In addition to Turkish attacks, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran conducted multiple bombardments using dozens of ballistic missiles and suicide drones within Iraqi Kurdistan in 2022. In these attacks, claimed to be a retaliation for the feminist and Kurdish led protests in Iran, at least 18 people were killed and 50 people injured. The casualties were mostly members of the Iranian Kurdish armed opposition parties, yet the attacks nonetheless caused damage to houses, at least one school, and other civilian infrastructure inhabited by the residents of refugee camps hosting Kurdish Iranian displaced people. In Sulaymaniyah, approximately 450 families fled one of the refugee camps following the attacks.

The End Cross-border Bombing Campaign's efforts go beyond the documentation of civilian impacts of the Turkish and Iranian attacks. The present report describes advocacy initiatives that campaign members organized jointly with families affected by the bombings. The most important initiative took place in November 2022, when a delegation of nine survivors of the cross-border attacks accompanied by members of the campaign met with representatives of the Iraqi Parliament and with the Iraqi Minister of Justice. As a result of the meetings, the Iraqi government committed to take action in order to protect civilians, including recognising the families as victims of armed conflict and thus providing long-term compensation to those affected.

2. Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive account of the civilian casualties of cross-border bombardments and military operations conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces in Iraqi Kurdistan (KRI) and more broadly in northern Iraq through 2022 and is an update of the End Cross-border Bombing Campaign's documentation of civilian impacts since 2015. The report also presents findings on the civilian impacts of multiple bombardments of Iraqi Kurdistan by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran.

The figures analyzed in this report, however, do not only constitute an update to the long record of previous civilian casualties, but also shed light on the recent developments in the decades-long conflict which has seen northern Iraq turning into a battleground between regional and local rival forces. The year 2022 has witnessed notable and certainly tragic and continuing patterns of conflict-related violence which could be argued to reflect repressive domestic policies, expressed in an international context.

This report also documents the work of the Campaign over the first year after its launch, illustrating some of the most significant achievements in opening pathways to recognition and justice for the victims where no similar initiatives existed before. By highlighting the contributions of the Campaign to obtaining reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence for all the victims of this invisible conflict we do not mean to suggest that the work on the cross-border bombings in KRI is anything near concluded; rather, we believe that acknowledging the steps taken so far and reflecting on the efficacy and limits of our actions can inject renewed meaning and inspiration in the efforts of those pursuing justice and peace in KRI and elsewhere.

3. Incidents by Turkish Armed Force involving civilians in 2022

3.1 Fewer incidents, higher civilian toll.

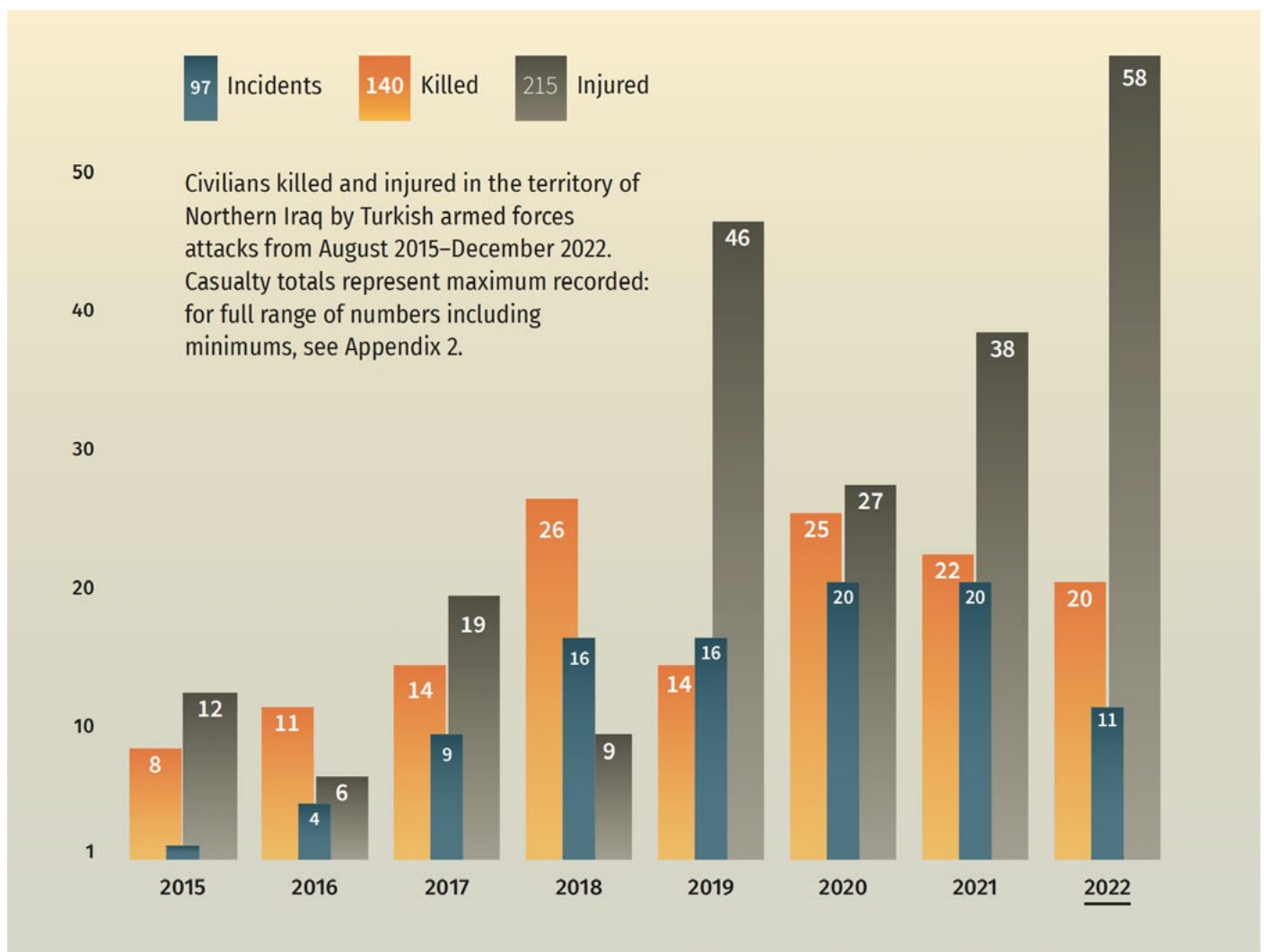
The frequency of Turkish cross-border attacks that led to civilian harm in 2022 has decreased in respect to the previous four years (17 incidents in 2018, 16 incidents in 2019, and 20 incidents in both 2020 and 2021); nonetheless, the 11 incidents in 2022 have caused the highest yearly civilian toll since 2015.

Since 2015, the highest annual tally of civilians killed and injured was 60 in both 2019 and 2021. However, in 2022, up to 20 civilians were killed and 58 were injured, a total of 78.

3.2 Attacks from Turkish Bases

In 2021 and 2022, Turkish forces have significantly progressed the consolidation of their occupation over Iraqi Kurdistan’s mountainous borderlands through the construction of several dozen new bases.

The majority of incidents registered in 2022, six out of 11, involved the use of artillery or heavy machine gun fire, originating from the Turkish military bases, which marks a change with respect to the past years. These six attacks took the lives of 12 civilians,



This graph contains a correction from the graph in the previous report, which included in error 2 incidents (containing 3 killed and 4 injured) from 2017 and 2018.

including five children, and wounded 30 civilians, amongst whom three were children.

Currently, Turkish forces are present in more than 60 bases and outposts in Iraqi Kurdistan, some built as deep as 35 kms south of the border. The Turkish occupation has displaced thousands of civilians and led many to abandon their homes and land. This may be a likely reason for the lower number of incidents in respect to previous years, many of which between 2015 and 2021 were conducted in the areas that are now occupied and controlled by the Turkish forces.

Two of these bases from which civilians were harmed three times (in Parakhe and Kesta villages) were built by Turkish forces in 2021.

Parakhe, which was bombarded by artillery twice in 2022 and witnessed the highest civilian toll in a single incident (32 casualties), was one of the few villages¹ where the civilian population decided not to leave.

3.3 Turkish Airstrikes

In four incidents, Turkish drones harmed civilians: twice civilian cars were bombed, once a residential neighborhood of Sinune town was bombed and once a group of farmers who were collecting wild plants on a mountain side were targeted. In one incident fighter jets (with likely presence of drones) bombarded the Makhmur refugee camp heavily. In these five attacks, eight civilians were killed and 28 others injured.

¹ According to the data from the 2020 Kurdistan Regional Parliament's report published by Rudaw, more than 500 villages have been emptied due to the Turkey/PKK war since the 1990s. CPT-İK estimated that at least a hundred villages were emptied due to the Turkish attacks during the last four years alone.

[504 villages emptied due to Turkey-PKK war: Kurdistan parliament report](#), Rudaw.net, accessed May 17, 2023

4. Civilian Casualties by Turkish Armed Forces recorded in 2022

Weapons used	Incidents	Killed (min)	Killed (max)	Injured (min)	Injured (max)
Air attacks	5	8	8	28	28
Artillery/shelling	5	10	12	26	27
Heavy machine-gun	1	0	0	3	3

4.1 Incidents in which farmers, foragers of wild plants and a shepherd were killed and/or injured.

One farmer killed in Sita village, Shiladze, Duhok Governorate. On 15 February, Hussein Rekani, a 52-year-old farmer, father of ten children, went to work on his farmland in Avashin region, in Sita, one of 92 villages that were abandoned in the area in the past by its inhabitants due to the proximity of the war between Turkish forces and PKK. After he had not returned, security forces with relatives went to search for him and found him dead in the village. His relative reported that he was killed by artillery fire. Two farmers injured in Parakhe village, Zakho, Duhok

Governorate. On 15 June, Nazir Omer, 53-year-old farmer, and his 24-year-old son, Mohammad Nazir, were irrigating their fig and pomegranate orchard in Parakhe village, when artillery fire from a nearby Turkish base injured both of them. Nazir Omer fainted during the explosion and woke up at a hospital in Zakho with two shrapnel wounds in his back. His relatives had rescued the two men and rushed them to hospital in Zakho. Mohammed had suffered a shrapnel wound to the palm of his hand.

The agricultural village of Parakhe sits in a valley eight kilometers from the Iraq/Turkey border in the Darkar sub-district region. Thirty families permanently call the village home, with others returning to work their farms seasonally. In 2021, Turkish forces constructed two bases in the mountains overlooking Parakhe. As a result of the shelling, families began to leave the village.

One female shepherd injured in Robiya highlands, Sidekan, Erbil Governorate. On 16 October, a 30-year-



Nazir Omer at Zakho Emergency Hospital after being injured by Turkish artillery fire while farming in his village Parakhe.

old woman was tending to her livestock with her family in Robiya highlands in the Sidekan area when Turkish forces targeted her with artillery fire and wounded her.

One collector of wild plants killed and five injured on Kelashin mountain, Mawat, Sulaymaniyah Governorate. On 2 December, a group of four farmers from Qamish village in Sulaimani governorate went to collect wild plants on the Kelashin mountain near Zarun village. A Turkish drone targeted the group killing an elderly man Aziz Muhammad Rasul and severely wounding two of his friends. Aziz's brother was injured by the debris flying around from the explosion. Two other men who were nearby came to help when another bombardment occurred. The two men were also injured by the flying debris.

The attacks on agricultural and livestock farmers and collectors of wild plants in 2022 follow a more general trend that has been observed. Since 2015, one third of TAF attacks (33 incidents) targeted civilians as they farmed land, took care of their livestock or collected wild plants on the mountain slopes to augment their income. These attacks led to a minimum of 76 civilian casualties (40 killed and 36 injured) in total. Moreover, a significant portion of civilians who were killed and wounded in populated

areas or in civilian vehicles were making their living by agricultural and livestock farming. Subsistence farming forms the backbone of livelihoods in the areas most affected by Turkish bombardments.

4.2 Incidents that killed and injured civilians in outdoor community gatherings.

Two children killed, one child injured at a community gathering near Bamarne, Amedi, Duhok Governorate. On 26 May, a multiple mortar attack killed two boys Yousif Kovan, 13-years-old, and Avand Hishyar, 11-years-old, and wounded a third boy Sipan Farhad, 8-years-old, outside Bamarne in the Dohuk governorate. The attack was launched against a gathering of Zewi Sere village residents who had come together to honor a community celebration. The gathering of about a thousand people, some of whom were displaced in the past due to the Turkey/PKK conflict and had since resettled, took place in an open field in the proximity of the Bamarne air base. This base has been operated by Turkish forces since the mid-1990s and recently used for launching drones. In the late afternoon, three boys were playing football at the edge of the gathering. Without warning, at least three mortar shells exploded in rapid succession only meters from the boys.

Fathers show photos of Yousif and Avand-their sons killed by mortar attack in Bamarne.



According to a statement by the Kurdistan Region's Directorate General of Counter Terrorism (CTD), which was widely shared by the political parties' media, the mortars were fired by the PKK. However, analysis of the attack location and of the evidence collected by CPT-IK points instead to the Turkish Armed Forces as the probable responsible party. Relatives of the victims reported to CPT-IK that they heard drones hovering over the crowd during the day. The proximity of the gathering (800 meters) to the large Turkish military base in Bamarne, the ballistic precision of the munitions combined with the drone surveillance suggests that gathering was deliberately targeted as a warning or for lethal effect. Additionally, Metina mountain, the PKK alleged firing position, was under the control of Iraqi Border Guards and the military forces of Kurdistan Regional Government and Turkey.

Three women injured at a Friday picnic in Kesta village, Kani Masi, Duhok Governorate. On 17 June, at 5:10pm, Turkish soldiers fired multiple bursts of heavy machine gun fire at civilians on the lands of Kesta village, located in Kani Masi sub-district, Amedi district, 9 kms south of the Turkey/Iraq border. The injured were three local women, 28-year-old Kazhin Taha Saeed, 49-year-old Nazira Abdulstar Ahmad and Nazira's 24-year-old daughter-in-law Fawzya Diyar Omer, who were enjoying a Friday picnic.

The gunfire came from a Turkish base on Zneri Kesta mountain overlooking Kesta village. After building the base in April 2021, the Turkish military began to repeatedly fire upon the village, which forced its entire population into displacement. In 2022, some families began to return to tend or visit their abandoned farms.

Nine Iraqi tourists killed and 23 injured in Parakhe village, Zakho, Duhok Governorate. On 20 July, Turkish soldiers fired multiple artillery shells at a large group of tourists from central and southern parts of Iraq who came for a picnic to a resort near Parakhe village. The attack caused a massacre among the families, with the greatest civilian toll of all recorded Turkish cross-border attacks. Among the victims, three were female children, one-year-old Zahra Khayri Muhammad, and two sisters, Sarah Qais Ali (12-years-old) and Zahra Qais Ali (16-years-old). The other six civilians killed were: Ali Sabah

Ismaeel, 40-years-old, whose wife and two children were injured; Abbas Muhammad Jawad, 34-years-old, who was on his honeymoon trip; Taha Abdul-Rahman Nihma, 25-years-old university graduate; Sajad Muhammad Jasim, 24-years-old; Abbas Alaa Abdul-Ahmed, 30-years-old, Hussien Abdul-Amir, 55-years-old. At least 23 civilians, including two children, were injured in the attack.

The incident sparked largescale popular anti-Turkish protests in many cities across Iraq, and raised an unprecedented- although more symbolic than concrete- wave of indignation among the Iraqi polity.

Contrary to the unresponsiveness which typically follows these incidents, on that occasion Iraq and KRG state representatives issued official statements condemning Turkey's military activity on Iraqi soil and the unjustifiable killing of civilians as a result of an inconsiderate military operation. A Parliamentary investigation was scheduled for the same week, among unprecedentedly bold promises that Turkey would have been held accountable for what happened- promises which were however not yet kept at the time of writing.

Despite the beacon of hope sparked by this initial commitment to address Turkey's cross-border attacks and the suffering of the communities impacted, however, the promises to defend Iraq's sovereignty and hold Turkey accountable for its crimes, no concrete steps were taken to put an end to cross-border military operations and to offer reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence, let alone to facilitate a ceasefire and a peaceful composition of the conflict.

Although civilians have been targeted before by the TAF in the context of picnics, the firing of mortars at large community celebratory gatherings, as it occurred twice in 2022, represents an unprecedented development. The Parakhe incident has led to the highest civilian toll (32 killed and injured people) of any single incident documented since 2015. Since 2015, 12 children have been identified to be killed by TAF. Six, therefore a half of all the child victims, were killed in 2022 alone. It is very concerning that even the presence of children in civilian gatherings do not deter the TAF from launching attacks.

4.3 Incidents in which civilian vehicles were bombed.

Two civilians killed in a car in Tutaqal village, Sulaymaniyah governorate. On 21 May, a drone strike killed two farmers: Aram Haji Kaka Khan, the mukhtar (chieftain) of Tutaqal village and his brother in law, Ismail Ibrahim (aged respectively 43 and 50), along with three PKK members in a civilian car on the road from the village of Tutaqal, in Chamchamal district (Sulaymaniyah). The dynamics of the incident, according to what CPT could apprehend over the course of interviews with families of the victims, saw the three PKK affiliates being hit by a first strike, while a second strike killed the two civilians who had tried to provide assistance to the wounded and, reportedly, take them to the closest hospital. Both victims were survivors of the genocidal Anfal campaign, which was especially brutal in the region around Tutaqal. Following the 21 May incident, eight out of ten families have fled the village out of fear of further bombings.

One civilian killed in a car on the road west of Mosul, Nineveh governorate. On 17 July, a civilian car was targeted and destroyed by a drone on a road west of Mosul. All five occupants of the car were killed. The Governor of Nineveh reported that a civilian car was bombed, of which a driver was known, while identities of the others (one woman and three men) were unknown. On the same day, social media began to circulate a photo of a 23-year-old man Ahmad al-Jubouri, a student of College of Engineering at the Mosul University, identifying him to be the driver of the car. Ahmed's friends wrote that Ahmed was giving a ride to strangers (referred to as "family") whom he encountered in his village. Since 2015, at least 16 civilians (including one child) have been killed and ten civilians (including two children) injured in 12 attacks targeting civilian vehicles. The incidents that were primarily conducted by drone strikes, but also by heavy machine gun fire, occurred both on remote rural roads as well as inside populated areas.

Mukhtar of Tutaqal village and his brother-in-law who were killed on 21 May by drone strike while driving in their car



4.4 Killing and injuring civilians in populated areas.

Two civilians killed and eight injured during a bombing of Sinune, Sinjar Nineveh governorate On 15 June, in Sinune town in Sinjar, a Turkish drone bombed the headquarters of Shangal Resistance Unit (YBŞ), an organization affiliated to the PKK. The explosion destroyed and damaged nearby houses, including a bookstore. In the bookstore, a 12-year-old Yezidi boy, Salih Shifan Khider Nassou, was killed. Salih's grandfather and eight other civilians were injured in the strike. On 24 June a media source reported that Ibrahim Avdi Darwish, a 45-years-old male employee of a local NGO, died as a result of the wounds.

The Turkish cross-border attacks are commonly viewed as having impact only on sparsely populated remote areas. The ECBBC research however shows that at least 52 of 97 documented incidents since 2015 occurred inside populated areas, like villages, towns and cities. More than 54 civilians have been killed and 123 civilians injured by explosive weapons used by TAF in populated areas.

Besides, this was not the first time that the Yezidi population was impacted by Turkish attacks. Yezidi populated areas and infrastructures in Ninewa province, including a health clinic, were bombed by Turkey at least five times between 2020 and 2022.

The area of Sinjar is predominantly inhabited by civilian survivors of the 2014-2015 ISIS genocide against the Yezidi population. The hardships which the local Yezidi community is already subjected to as a consequence of centuries of discrimination and victimization, genocidal politics and invisibility, are compounded by these attacks.

4.5 Killing and Injuring civilians in Makhmur Refugee Camp, Erbil Governorate.

Makhmur Refugee Camp is located in the Erbil governorate at a distance of 160 kms south of the Turkish border. It is a home to more than 11.000 people and their descendants, mostly of Kurdish origin, who had fled anti-Kurdish violence in Turkey in the 1990s.

On 1 February, Turkish fighter jets and/or drones conducted multiple bombings, which killed civilian residents of the camp as well as PKK combatants, as multiple media sources reported. A non-resident of the camp, who was present at the site during the attack, reported to CPT-İK that among the killed two were civilians, and that they saw at least 15 injured civilians.

On 25 May, a Turkish military drone bombed the Makhmur Refugee Camp a second time, with no civilian casualties reported.

Another incident which saw the Makhmur camp become a target of a drone strike occurred on 29 August, also without resulting in civilian casualties.

Since 2015, TAF has conducted airstrikes within Makhmur refugee camp multiple times. In five of these bombings between five and 12 civilians were killed and 20 to 25 civilians injured in Makhmur camp.

5. Civilian Impact of Iranian Bombardments

During 2022, the Iranian armed forces conducted several bombings inside Iraqi Kurdistan territory. As members of the ECBB campaign, we believe that there may be a link between the outbreak of large-scale uprising in Iran, which saw a remarkable participation of Kurdish-Iranian women, and the re-surge of attacks in Iraqi Kurdistan. According to a statement issued by a commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), 73 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles were launched from Iran in 2022, and dozens of suicide drones were used to target the headquarters and bases of three Iranian Kurdish opposition parties such as the Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iran (KDP-I) in Koya (Erbil governorate), the Komala in Zirgwez (Sulaimaniya governorate) and the Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) in Prde (on the border between Erbil and Kirkuk governorates).

Multiple military operations were carried out during the year, killing 18 people or more, and wounding more than 50. Although the media reported that both civilians and members of the armed wings of opposition parties were killed and wounded, the

authors of the present report could not confirm the identity and status of civilian casualties or survivors beyond one account. According to witnesses, one baby was prematurely born and died as a result of the bombardments. The baby's mother, allegedly a member of KDP-I, had also died during labor from wounds inflicted in the attack.

The KDP-I and Komala headquarters are located near refugee camps housing displaced civilians from Iran, and the shelling forced hundreds of families to flee. In Sulaymaniyah alone, some 450 families fled the Zirgwez camp and faced extreme difficulties in trying to relocate elsewhere and access basic services (including education) and sources of income, as their livelihoods relied on the camp premises. In addition, houses and a school were damaged in Koya.

In light of these preoccupying trends, the ECBB campaign is committed to continuing to monitor the military activities of the Iranian forces within Iraqi Kurdistan's territory and borders.

ECBBC delegation meets with Iraqi Minister of Justice in Baghdad on 28 November 2022.



6. Looking back at the past year: the work of the End Cross Border Bombings Campaign

This section aims to review the activities that the campaign carried out during 2022.

The first important event that we wish to highlight is the participation of campaign's representatives in the Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI) conference, which took place in Sulaymaniyah from 11th to 16th of March. On that occasion, an assembly was held bringing together campaign members and families affected by bombings, during which some families illustrated their needs and developed along with the campaign members and ICSSI's participants and delegates a working strategy for the campaign, which laid out goals to be achieved both locally and internationally. It was a very important moment which enabled us to grasp the needs of victims of the bombings, and to give voice to their demands that were previously not heard by the international community and the national polity alike.

In August 2022, the campaign launched its first report, a publication which collects data on the bombings recorded between 2015 and 2021. The report was presented in Kurdistan through the organization of a press conference which gathered many local media outlets. In addition, several international media agencies picked up on the report too, thus giving a valuable contribution to shedding light on, and providing international media coverage to, the issue of bombings in the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Moreover, the publication of the report gave campaign members an opportunity to structure

advocacy actions. In particular, international members of the campaign concentrated on arms exports to Turkey. CODEPINK, a U.S. non-profit organization and member of the campaign, launched a petition calling on the U.S. government to stop sales of F-16's to Turkey.

The most important advocacy action was organized jointly by campaign members on 29 November 2022, and consisted in the organization of a delegation of families affected by the bombings visiting Baghdad to meet with members of the Iraqi Parliament and the Iraqi Minister of Justice. The auditions were a very positive step, because the testimonies of the affected families had a chance to be heard by Iraqi lawmakers and the representatives of the Iraqi government as well as by the local and national media.

Three meetings were held separately, with Iraqi Parliament Deputy Speaker Mohsen Al-Mandalawi, members of Iraqi Parliament Soran Omer and Bryar Rasheed and Iraqi Minister of Justice Khalid Shwani, respectively. In these meetings a series of promises was given to the survivors:

- » Condolences for the victims
- » That the Iraqi Government would take action to address the issue of the cross-border attacks.
- » A parliamentary session will be devoted to the issue of the cross-border attacks in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- » Assurance that families who lost family members or had close relatives injured in the attacks will receive support in the form of financial compensation.

These talks represented a paramount moment for the campaign, marking the beginning of an interlocution aimed at securing a permanent means of compensation for the families.

7. Recommendations

We express our concern with the continuation of cross-border attacks, and increasing number of civilians who are killed and injured and otherwise impacted by these Turkish and Iranian attacks, and we recommend the following:

Turkish and Iranian military forces must stop all air and ground attacks within the territory of Iraq that directly and indirectly impact civilian lives and livelihoods, including populated areas, farmlands, vehicles, and other civilian infrastructure.

Turkish Armed Forces must withdraw from the bases and outposts they have built within the territory of Iraq, and allow for the civilian population to reclaim their villages and farmlands without the fear of violence or retaliation

The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) must not use areas inhabited by civilians for their operations or transit.

We call for diplomatic efforts and a renewed will to return to negotiations for both PKK and the Turkish government.

We call on the Governments of Iraq and on the Government of Kurdistan Region to:

- » Uphold promises made to the survivors of the cross-border attacks that they would be compensated for their losses.
- » Ensure all victims and survivors of the cross-border military actions are compensated and supported, including medical, financial and psychological assistance.
- » Develop and implement an effective system for monitoring civilian harm in collaboration with local authorities, human rights organizations and agencies.

» Create spaces and processes in which the victims and survivors can report on the direct impacts that the war has had on them and in which they can be included in decision-making. This will allow civilians who bear the brunt of this conflict to be heard.

» Take into account the expertise of civil society organizations in the decision-making process: human rights and environmental activists have played an important role in documenting the impacts of the war on the civilian population and the environment.

We call on all governments that sell or give weapons to Turkey to prioritize the protection of civilians, civilian well-being, and their commitments to human rights instead of profit.

8. Methodology

The findings presented in this report are predominantly the result of interviews conducted by members of Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) with the survivors of the attacks, affected individuals and families, and local authorities carried out over the year 2022, supplemented and corroborated by an analysis of publicly available media, organizational and institutional reports. Relevant variables were extracted from the interviews and other reports and codified into two connected data tables, the first listing and describing incidents in which civilians were killed and injured and the second listing those casualties for whom some identifying or demographic data could be obtained.

The incidents dataset (See Appendix 1) contains one row for each incident documented. Columns represent recorded variables, including incident date and time, location, the minimum and the maximum number of people killed and injured, and the weapons involved.

The minimum number of killed or injured is recorded as zero when uncertainty exists over (a) the civilian or combatant status of the victim, (b) the possibility of double-counting the same casualty in two separately recorded incidents, and (c) whether the Turkish Armed Forces caused the harm.

When uncertainty or disagreement exists between sources about the number killed or injured, the lower number is given in the Min column and the higher in the Max column. Every effort is made to establish the facts as definitively as possible: using the Min/Max columns is a cautious and consistent means of accommodating remaining uncertainties. Weapons are identified as closely as possible by witnesses, most of whom were at ground level, and are therefore given in broad categories (airstrikes, artillery, etc.). Sources are primarily transcripts of interviews by CPT, supplemented by the reports of local activists and local and foreign media organizations.

The casualties dataset (Appendix 2) gives names for the killed, if known, and other demographic and identifying details of the 37 casualties for whom some information in addition to their non-combatant status was available. Names of injured civilians, even when known, have been omitted for privacy reasons. Children are defined as persons 4-17 years old and babies and infants as 0-3.



ECBBC strategy planning meeting at the ICSSI conference in March 2022

Appendix 1: Identity of civilians killed and casualty demographics, where known (2022)

Code	Date yyyy-mm-dd	Killed	Birth Sex / Gender	Age	Age category	Occupation	Notes, including family relationships among killed
		Injured (<i>names omitted for privacy</i>)					
cb42103	2022-02-15	Hussein Haider (Hussein Rekani)	Male	50	50-59	farmer	
cb94850	2022-05-21	Aram Haji Kaka Khan*	Male	43	40-49	farmer, mukhtar (village chieftain)	* brothers-in-law
		Ismaeel Ibrahim*	Male	50	50-59	farmer	* brothers-in-law
cb79163	2022-05-26	Youssef Kovan	Male	13	Child (4-17)		
		Avand Hishyar	Male	11	Child (4-17)		
			Male	8	Child (4-17)		
cb88031	2022-06-15	Salih Shifan Khider Nassou	Male	12	Child (4-17)		
		Ibrahim Avdi Darwish	Male	45	40-49	NGO worker	
			Male		Elder (60+)		
cb72326	2022-06-15		Male	53	50-59	farmer	
			Male	24	20-29	farmer	
cb78812	2022-06-17		Female	28	20-29		
			Female	49	40-49		
			Female	24	20-29		
cb32292	2022-07-17	Ahmed Al-Jubouri	Male	23	20-29	student of engineering at Mosul University	
cb75820	2022-07-20	Sarah Qais Ali*	Female	12	Child (4-17)		* sister to Zahra
		Zahra Qais Ali*	Female	16	Child (4-17)		* sister to Sarah
		Zahra Khayri Muhammad	Female	1	Baby (0-3)		
		Ali Sabah Ismaeel	Male	40	40-49	policeman	
		Abbas Muhammad Jawad	Male	34	30-39		
		Taha Abdul-Rahman Nihma	Male	25	20-29	university graduate	
		Sajad Muhammad Jasim	Male	24	20-29		
		Abbas Alaa Abdul-Ahmed	Male	30	30-39		
		Hussen Abdul-Amir	Male	55	50-59		
			Female	40	40-49		
			Female	13	Child (4-17)		
			Male	10	Child (4-17)		
	Female	42	40-49				
	Male		Adult (18+)				
	Female		Adult (18+)				
cb58846	2022-10-16		Female	30	30-39	livestock farmer	
cb50736	2022-12-02	Aziz Muhammad Rasul	Male		Elder (60+)	farmer	
			Male		Adult (18+)	farmer	
			Male		Adult (18+)	farmer	
			Male		Adult (18+)	farmer	
			Male		Adult (18+)	farmer	
			Male		Adult (18+)	farmer	

For the full list of incidents from 2015 to 2022 and further information including GPS coordinates (where available) and sources with links, please visit the dataset <https://shorturl.at/yzGHS>

Killed and Injured entries that contain “0” (zero) casualties in a “min” column but a higher number in the corresponding “max” column account for the following uncertainty:

The possibility that the perpetrator was the PKK, not the Turkish military

Appendix 2: Turkish cross-border attack civilian casualty incidents 2022

Code	Date yyyy-mm-dd	Time	Killed (min)	Killed (max)	Injured (min)	Injured (max)	Weapons	Town or village (1) = inside (2) = outside	Subdistrict	District	Governorate	Short description
cb55690	2022-02-01	10:00 PM	2	2	15	15	Air attack(s)	Makhmur Refugee Camp (1)	Makhmur	Makhmur	Erbil	2 civilians killed and at least 15 wounded in Makhmur camp besides an unknown number of killed and wounded PKK combatants by multiple airstrikes.
cb42103	2022-02-15	PM	1	1	0	0	Artillery / shelling	Sita village (2)	Amedi	Amedi	Dohuk	1 farmer (fifty-two years old, a father of ten) killed while farming in Sita village in Sheladze area by artillery fire.
cb94850	2022-05-21	9:35 AM	2	2	0	0	Drone(s)	Tutaqal (2)	Aghjalar	Chamchamal	Sulaymaniyah	2 male farmers (forty-three years old mukhtar/chieftain of Tutaqal village and his fifty years old brother-in-law) killed in their car while transporting 3 wounded PKK combatants to hospital, by drone strike. The civilians heard a drone strike near their village, found three wounded PKK fighters and attempted to save their lives.
cb79163	2022-05-26	PM	0	2	0	1	Artillery / shelling	Bamarne (2)	Amedi	Amedi	Dohuk	2 boys (thirteen years old and eleven years old) killed and 1 boy (eight years old) wounded during a large community celebration near Turkish base in Bamarne, by mortars. Officials claimed PKK fired at civilians; CPT investigation shows that the mortars originated most likely from the Turkish base.
cb88031	2022-06-15		2	2	8	8	Drone(s)	Sinune (1)	Sinjar	Sinjar	Ninewa	1 boy (twelve years old) and 1 male (forty-five years old, NGO employee and father of six, died nine days later due to his wounds) killed and 8 civilians wounded in Sinune town, by drone strike on YBS headquarters inside a populated area of the town.
cb72326	2022-06-15	3:49 PM	0	0	2	2	Artillery / shelling	Parakhe (1)	DarKar or Hizawa	Zakho	Dohuk	2 male farmers (fifty-three years old father and twenty-four years old son) wounded while farming in Parakhe village, by artillery fire from a base built in 2021.
cb78812	2022-06-17	5:30 PM	0	0	3	3	Heavy machine-gun	Kesta (1)	Kani Masi also known as Barwari Bala	Amedi	Dohuk	3 females (forty-nine years old, twenty-eight years old, twenty-four years old) wounded during a Friday picnic in Kesta village, by heavy machine gun fire from a base built in 2021.
cb32292	2022-07-17	2:20 PM	1	1	0	0	Drone(s)	Bab al-Sham (2)	Mosul	Mosul	Ninewa	1 male (twenty-three years old university student) killed while driving a car with 4 unknown people (possibly members of PKK) west of Mosul, by drone strike.
cb75820	2022-07-20	PM	9	9	23	23	Artillery / shelling	Parakhe (1)	DarKar or Hizawa	Zakho	Dohuk	9 Iraqi tourists, including three children (one, twelve and sixteen years old) killed and 23 injured during a picnic in Parakhe village, by artillery fire from a base built in 2021.
cb58846	2022-10-16	12:45 PM	0	0	1	1	Artillery / shelling	Robiya highlands (1)	Sidekan	Soran	Erbil	1 female (thirty years old) wounded while tending to her livestock in Robiya highlands, Sidekan area, by artillery fire.
cb50736	2022-12-02	PM	1	1	5	5	Drone(s)	Kelashin mountain near Zarun village (2)	Mawat	Sharbazher	Sulaymaniyah	1 elderly male farmer killed, 5 male farmers wounded, while foraging wild plants on Kelashin mountain near Zarun village, by drone strike.

A report by **End Cross-border Bombing Campaign**
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