



Women living under muslim laws  
النساء في ظل قوانين المسلمين  
Femmes sous lois musulmanes

Transnational Solidarity Network

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### **WLUML Statement on charges against Silan Ozelik**

Along with the other members of the [Women's Alliance for Kurdistan, Iraq and Syria](#), Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) condemns the terrorism charges against Silan Ozelik for allegedly trying to join the fight against ISIS.

We are extremely concerned by the news that Silan Ozelik, an 18 year-old woman from the Kurdish community in north London has been remanded for allegedly trying to join the Kurdish resistance against ISIS in northern Syria.

Yesterday, Silan was charged with 'engaging in conduct in preparation to for giving an effect to an intention to commit acts of terrorism' under section 5 (10) (a) of the Terrorism Act 2006 and remanded to Holloway prison to await trial on the 1st April.

We condemn the arrest as a blatant example of political and selective criminalisation of the Kurdish community at large, which has continued since the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) has been listed on the UK's list of 'terrorist' organisations.

We emphatically reject this labelling of the PKK, which we believe confuses the Kurdish people's legitimate struggle for self-determination with terrorism and has the effect of criminalising anyone in our community who is part of peaceful political activity. We know that Silan has never committed any act of violence and poses no threat to the people of this country.

The arrest comes at a time when the Kurdish struggle has been garnering unprecedented international support for their recent armed struggle against ISIS. There, the PKK's affiliated forces, the YPG and YPJ, have received praise from activists and senior politicians alike for their incredible efforts fighting back ISIS from Kobane and parts of northern Syria and Iraq.

Given this context, the arrest of a young Kurdish woman for allegedly attempting to join the YPJ seems more than a little contradictory. The YPG and YPJ, who had been in a tacit alliance with US and British forces in the struggle for Kobane, are not listed on any terrorist list.

We call for Silan's immediate release, and for the PKK to be removed from the terrorism list once and for all.

## REFERENCES

CAMPACC Briefing: [The UK Ban on the PKK – Persecuting the Kurds](#)

Desmond Fernandes: [Surveillance, Targeting And The Criminalisation Of Kurds In The UK](#)

Campaign to [Delist the PKK](#)

## ACTIONS

**We encourage everyone to write to Silan in Holloway Prison to show her she is not fighting alone. Please send you letter via her solicitor:**

Av. Ali Has Morgan Has Solicitors

Bank Chambers, 1st & 2nd Floor,

133 Stoke Newington High Street,

Stoke Newington

London N16 0PH

Please contact the Women's Alliance via Melanie ([knklondon@gn.apc.org](mailto:knklondon@gn.apc.org)) or Eylem ([karedervaroj@gmail.com](mailto:karedervaroj@gmail.com)) if you wish to be kept informed of upcoming actions.