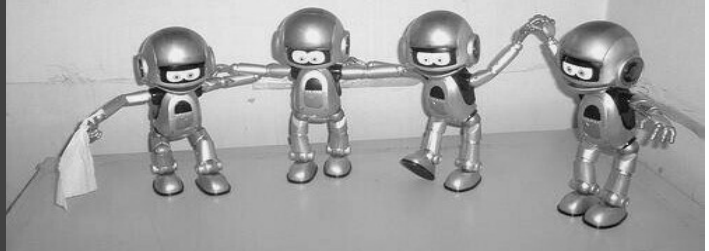




“Contagious Courage”



Statement on Behalf of the Kurdish Nation

The background file is with the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) since the 16/05/2018. As an experienced public servant and someone who paid a price for truth I believe that law enforcement should be seen to support genocide victims not the vested interests who drive or contribute to their demise. I don't think that it's in any way adequate to seek get out clauses, to trot out standard lines of limitation, not within our terms of reference, not our remit etc. Whose remit is it and why no follow-up with those who are responsible. There is a big difference between ticking boxes and delivering necessary results. There are approximately a million people at most serious risk in just 1 location alone in Syria presently, Afrin.

Lies, propaganda, genocide denial, partial stories, portrayals of a nation in absence of context costing lives, being propagated and bolstered around the world by those in positions of authority and responsibility to address it. I reserve rights of action on behalf of these people and this nation who exist under death penalty in various forms. In Turkey genocide by a nation with centuries old history of genocide, in Syria war, in Iran extreme deprivation of economic opportunity, death penalty and summary executions, in Iraq collaboration. At this point I would make reference to Yazidi genocide, the seizure of Kurd occupied Kirkuk in Iraq in October 2017 by Iranian forces. There is ongoing incitement to regime change warfare which will not hold up legally and as opposed to seeking treaty based solutions, betrayal of the leading Kurd political party the HDP and support of Turkish actions against the Kurdish people including establishment of military bases to enable attacks, for example. It is established fact that the Kurds are latest targets of Turkey's genocide policy - all the evidence supports it. It is facilitated by powerful elites internationally, with the United States, Great Britain, European Union amongst others featuring prominently. It is collusion with Turkey in a Mafia style operation and mercenary warfare. The Turkish regime delivers the goods for the vested interests who allow them to operate with impunity and take care of their “Kurdish problem”, amounting to genocidal collusion. They are using the worst extremists with complete disregard for the basic human rights of Kurds in general, anyone they choose to target, anyone who gets in their way.

By contrast Mr. Selahattin Demirtas and his colleagues in the HDP strove for integrative, democratic, protective politics for those so targeted to then be punished in the most severe manner. Despite that they have succeeded against all odds repeatedly, including at the Turkish Presidential and Parliamentary elections on the 24/06/2018. They represent a desperate cry from the disenfranchised, those with no voice and no other hope. What gives anyone the right to deny them, to rob them of that. Stability in the Middle East and beyond is contingent on allowing a true democratic process to evolve in Turkey, not the dictatorship now dominating. I have been around the Kurds for years and I know they have different levels of being Kurdish which can vary depending on the level of oppression they have experienced, witnessed and feel able to withstand. They don't speak much even though some I know speak many languages. They have other ways of expressing what they feel which are easier to bear seemingly, dance for example and many social and cultural outlets, a means of holding their identity too. Many are extremely accomplished, no doubt motivated in large part by a desire to overcome the extreme discrimination and violations they have known.

They are Kurds, the largest stateless nation in the world, a denied nation, disregarded, an ethnic group with insufficient foothold anywhere giving rise to extreme exploitation, falling between the cracks, retreated to mountain hideouts as inaccessible to their relentless enemies as possible. They are constantly used by international powers to advance their agendas only to be cast aside later when it suits them, leaving them open to backlash from other quarters too including state authorities in the Middle East. They are induced, encouraged and forced by deprivation of alternative options into life and death battles on a continuous basis. They say they have “No Friends But The Mountains” and it would be one

of the greatest failures of humanity if we were to prove them right in that. There are lessons to be learned from Ireland's history of British occupation and our travellers, now a recognised ethnic group with equal rights albeit in a different environment. Valuable precedents exist.



I don't want to see mothers of young Kurds searching billboards of deceased force members for the photo of their child, amongst numerous martyrs, desperately wanting to believe their child died for something worthwhile. That little consolation they cling to in time taken from them also. I don't want to see Yazidi youths offering themselves as human shields out of loyalty to those who tried to protect them. I don't want to realize that there are no plans of rescue for ISIS hostages, yet ISIS are enabled and supported as tools of engagement by the powers that be. I was blocked by them in my efforts to help the Yazidis. I don't want to see them beaten with shovels when they try to make a pittance in exploitative employment and know that they will offer to sell pieces of themselves literally to try to rescue their loved ones. This goes on while those with responsibility have shopping malls shut down for them in Turkey, so they can purchase the best that money can buy undisturbed with the proceeds of their corruption and complicity. I don't want to see the abandoned grave sites of the victims, evidence eroding while their legal representatives do celebrity appearances and glossy photo shoots. Other celebrities front the White Helmets for example, in reality an extremist operation masquerading as rescuers. What has the world come to, who can we rely on. All the time I know the victims knew no justice in life and no authority truly seeks it for them in death. A few handpicked victims and much insubstantial protest used to conceal the wounds and countless casualties.

I've seen their homes torn down by Turkish troops repeatedly, human beings standing against tanks and aerial firepower clinging to the little land the Turks have not yet taken, to ruins of homes and communities once theirs, hiding in caves, frozen out, no supplies, hunted from place to place, no refuge, no place to call home, tents torn down, livestock slaughtered, land in flames, community resources demolished, Turk flags, signposts and language erasing all trace. I don't want to cave in, seeing torture marks, beheadings, reports of victims starved to death, infected from wounds or deliberately with HIV, burned alive, all assistance withheld, pieces of them being displayed as trophies by Turkish soldiers, abductions, rapes, bodies dragged through the streets by state authorities to send a message, assassinations and attempts with no will to find the perpetrators, explosions at weddings (Gaziantep) and rapid burials, done and dusted, cases closed, skulls that look like train tracks, stapled and stitched because their conscripted army colleague was Kurdish not Turkish, murders finished in hospitals with police looking on to dissuade HDP representatives and voters, a license to kill, graves and memorials desecrated, all that is sacred, valued and inspiring taken down, gone.

I don't want to become numb to images of children missing half their skull, bone fragments, teeth and charred remains all that's left. They label innocent civilians terrorist, no cases to answer, no place to go, pursue it and we'll get you too is the message. We don't see, we don't hear, we don't answer, we don't feel and we don't

have to, no rights in graves. So you tick that box my life is over – you say I'm less but I know I'm more. It's what you left behind, it's what you ignore, hide and what I couldn't that separates us. I don't want to live knowing so many die like this, I exist to do what I can, I want to see them smile. You robbed our joy, you snuffed out the light, a nightmare I can't seem to end. I can't return to them with empty hands, they need good news.

I can't express the impact on Kurdish Kolbers, amputees included, carrying inhuman loads over dangerous terrain because they have no other earning option, no benevolent funds exist here, no welfare state, shot dead by border guards, being hung in large numbers from cranes for the slightest infraction or none at all, no due process, broken parents, families, injuries and scars visible and invisible, disability and death in battles against ISIS and all so inclined, dreams of freedom and equality they'll never know, for terrain they're not allowed retain, betrayed by insiders and outsiders, walking miles to vote not knowing if their vote will ever register or be honoured in free and fair elections unknown to them, risking death for any expression of being Kurdish which is what they are.

I don't want to hear death threats from one Turkish presidential candidate to another or witness it fall on deaf ears, Kurds taken in night raids from their homes to illegal and indefinite imprisonment for representing their people. I don't want to observe the destruction of a man and colleagues who were on track to bring peace to Turkey and beyond. I don't want to read of the horrors faced by prisoners, so many detained illegally in a manufactured "State of Emergency" to enable a dictator achieve another level of dictatorship and wealth by seizure of assets. You are the emergency Mr. Erdogan. I don't want to read of prison torture teams and prisoner suicides, imprisonment of babies, infants, mothers, failure to provide medical treatment to dying inmates. I hear of plans for more prisons, guns of sufficient power to take planes down being moved into those compounds and Mr. Erdogan's desire for the death penalty. I don't want to think about what it could mean.

I don't want to see photos of an elated Mr. Demirtas Senior following his son's successful campaign in Turkish elections against every horror and imposed impediment to have it all disappear from view rapidly again. It never happened as you make sure they disappear deeper into the prison system. No appeal will succeed, you'll see to that and you have the backing to make sure of it. Grounds and facts don't matter - no justice applies here. No media coverage of truth or they're in prison too. In time the general public will forget just as you intend. I don't want to imagine the broken spirit of a man or people like that maybe days, months or years down the line but knowing that when it happens it leaves them beyond recovery. We won't let you separate us. We will dance on.

I get angry when I witness completely thoughtless, selfish and inadequate representations of the Kurds or responses to them by casual observers or vested interest affiliates knowing the price the Kurds pay for that. I don't want the word of a nation dominated by those who deny genocide put above the word of the Kurds. "If you really want to know about the Turkish government be a Kurd for one hour." Those are the words of Nelson Mandela himself. "There were certainly no words they could have used to embed in me the central reality of Kurdish life - the fierce and unshakeable necessity of belonging to a people." Stephen Mansfield The Miracle of the Kurds. Marginalization is at the core of genocide and we all have a responsibility to counter that any way we can. We don't have a

right to abuse platforms, positions or status to condone or support this. We have a responsibility to humanity, to those who can't fight for themselves, to future generations, to any God we believe in to say no and mean it.

I've seen documentaries of Kurds still on the front line with 11 bullet wounds, dead young, devastated children and spouses with only photos, stories and shattered pieces to pick up. I don't want to know of young women blowing themselves up to stop an ISIS advance while we enjoy coffee mornings, knowing also that her family are now Afrin refugees. I don't want to see photos of them captured alive wishing they had anything to take them out of it, knowing what's ahead. I have moments where I wonder how the greatest sniper against ISIS was taken out, a revered man, colleague and manager also, and then I remember it was at conference tables and on red carpets where they were traded for luxury lifestyles. My silent scream – they die because you lack integrity and courage no position or money can confer. They had a dream, you shattered it and took accolades that rightfully belong to them. On my mind then wanders to a memorial in which hundreds of thousands of genocide victims are represented by pieces of shattered mirror, the Hall of Mirrors in Slemani Iraq. Take a good look at yourselves. Are rank, status and wealth all there is to you. I'm sick and tired of hearing check our terms of reference, beyond our remit, we'll take no further action, insubstantial responses. Tell me who will take action, do what they're paid to do. Don't give me your excuses nor your silence. Mediocrity isn't enough here and so don't tell me that I am – they need us to be better than that.

We must collectively permeate through to those in greatest need, sincerely attempt to make a positive difference here. The story has been told. It must be someone's responsibility and it is the moral responsibility of all to call for justice. Ireland assisted Mr. Nelson Mandela and the cause of apartheid in the past, proving that from small beginnings it could be done. It began with a few shop workers peacefully refusing to go along with what they knew to be wrong. Rosa Parks refused to give up a seat on a bus igniting a civil rights movement and I refuse to deny genocide. If they are not "members" neither am I. Stand By Me. "Those who think they can capture us in this darkness, should not forget that even one match, a single candle can defy the darkness." Selahattin Demirtas (Known as the Kurdish Mandela).

A memorial at Newgate Prison Dublin refers to inculcating a grateful reverence in Irish minds for sacrifices thus nobly made for freedom and to proclaim Ireland's fidelity to the principles of the men involved. The Kurds deserve and need that reverence now to survive. This is a last stand realistically so please let's make it count, let the HDP do their jobs, what they were elected by more than 6 million people to do. How can the Kurds defend themselves otherwise - they can't and that is the plan. Free these people. A request for the release of the HDP was also made in Ireland's Oireachtas recently. Dedicated to the victims, my parents and all who inspire me. Further information on request. Thank you very much. "Contagious Courage" Mr. Demirtas – I'm trying.

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1 million Kurdish civilians in Afrin are under threat of genocide by the combined forces of Turkey, ISIS, Al-Nusra & Al-Qaeda at this very hour! The world must step in and repay those who have been defeating ISIS for the last 4 years.



I want to thank the Tanaiste for his recent response to me and the Pope for his recently announced stand in relation to the death penalty worldwide. I hope that the Syrian Government will now work with the Kurd Commune System, which those in dire need have successfully developed to aid survival. Areas for consideration by relevant powers include, I believe, right of Kurds to own land, offering a reasonable portion of land to them off border areas, Kurdish language option in education, equal employment rights in the military and otherwise, enshrinement of ethnic rights and ways the public worldwide can help directly so avoiding vested interests and agendas.



In honor of the victims of the Yazidi Genocide 2014, 4th Anniversary on the 03/08/2018, I was in touch with a professional hostage negotiator with regard to the remaining ISIS hostages and pray that such an initiative will progress as soon as possible. The Yazidis have suffered an unimaginable 74 genocide attacks. I would ask everyone to keep a focus on these matters to prevent repeats. We can all make a difference and there is potential to stop genocide and war here.

This leaflet can be used as a reporting basis by anyone so please keep a copy with that in mind.

**Thank you very much. BIJI
26/09/2018**