

## **Kurdistan Regional Government's Response to Human Rights Watch Query**

**From:** Dindar Zebari

**Sent:** 06 July 2020 19:36

**To:** Belkis Wille

**Subject:** Data on the Ongoing Turkish Bombardments

Dear Belkis,

I hope this email finds you well.

We are sending you this email to update you on the latest available data on the "Operation Tiger-Claw", the military operation carried out by Turkey in the border areas of the Kurdistan Region to target the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Below is the summary of the data obtained from the Iraqi border forces and other related sources in this regard. The data covers airstrikes, artillery shells, air-to-air missiles (AAM), and affirmative intrusions into Iraqi territories, from June 16 towards June 26, 2020. The bombardments targeted areas near Zaxo, Amedi, Rania, Qaladze and Sharbazher. Some of the villages, mountains, and districts targeted are Shelazdze, Kani Mase, Deraluk, Qandil, Kuna mase, Qasrok, Zelok, and many other spots.

On June 16, Turkish military intensely bombarded several villages near Zaxo and Amedi with AAMs and artillery. The villages included Bsagha, Darshesh, Nazduri, and Haftanin area. One day after, as a part of the "Operation Tiger-Claw", they launched boots-on-the-ground campaigns and proceeded four kilometers into the KR-I territories to seize several spots in the Haftanin, Afakezi, and Seli areas located in Zaxo and Amedi.

The airstrikes on June 18 targeted Kani Masi and Beshek valley near the district of Deraluk in Amedi. On June 19, the Turkish ground troops further proceeded five and nine kilometers to capture a number of spots in Kuxi Mjulya and Bsagha, respectively. Series of dense bombardments carried out by Turkish fighter jets also targeted Sheladze area on that day, killing four civilians.

On June 20, in different areas in Zaxo and Amedi, the Turkish troops advanced between seven and ten kilometers to seize several positions near Katwi mountain, and villages of Kuxi Debashka, and Mala Kzngy. Moreover, Khamter mountain, Qasrok valley, and Bersfy camp have been shelled approximately 125 times on that day, along with 13 missiles from airstrikes. Another 6 missiles and 6 artillery shells targeted Kani Masi and Sarki villages on June 21. On June 21, Batefa district and Sharan Nasara villages were shelled 57 times and intensively bombarded by airstrikes. Furthermore, the Turkish forces proceeded about three to four kilometres in two different places and seized two positions.

Around 76 artillery shells and 5 missiles targeted Khmitr mountain on June 23. Helicopters also carried aerial attacks by machine guns and missiles on that day and the day after. On June 24, the number slightly differed: 62 shells and 8 missiles. But the targets remained the same. About 25 shells, 15 missiles, and helicopters' bullet rounds targeted Shashdare area, Mnene village, and Khmitr mountain. Finally, on June 26, the Turkish troops advanced to Khmitr mountain by 8.3

kilometres and Syara Korek area by 5.2 kilometres from Iraqi-Turkish borders, and were positioned there.

The continuation of these attacks endangers the lives of Kurdistan citizens, destroys their properties, annihilates the villagers' agrarian lands, impairs civilian infrastructure and damages the forests. Moreover, these actions have imposed displacement on many of the villagers, and killed five civilians along with dozens of casualties. The attacks have started in mid-June and they are launched on a daily basis.

KRG requests the PKK to discontinue their provocations against a neighboring state from the KRG territories. Also, it calls upon neighboring countries to consider that civilians inhabit the border areas, which are currently exposed to bombardments.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Dindar Zebari*  
*KRG International Advocacy Coordinator*  
*Council of Ministers*