

## **Al- Furat Center for Studies has prepared a report with regard to a questionnaire concerning the Kurdish National Council Policy**

The report was conducted by the Al-Furat Center for Studies on the questionnaire and its results, dated on 17/3/2020, with regard to the Kurdish public opinion about the Kurdish National Council policies and its role as part of the Syrian Coalition

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#### **The Executive Summary**

The incidents occurred in the North and East of Syria(NES) have formed many divisions among the Kurdish political parties; the ramifications that had been produced by the Turkish Operations ( Olive Branch and Peace Spring) killed, displaced and fled a wide proportion of

the Kurdish Society, therefore, these parties sought to provide appropriate representation for this society.

This report discusses the results of the answer to the two questions that the **Al-Furat Center for Studies** had adopted as a questionnaire that was conducted from 23/2/2020 to 3/3/2020. These results will be used as an analysis tool for the Kurdish public opinion in Syria about (the Kurdish National Council) throughout the evaluation of its strategy and to what extent this strategy is appropriate for the Kurdish issues and the results of this strategy, whether it represents their rights, or leads to their loss.

The two questions are:

**1- How do you evaluate the Kurdish National Council staying within the Syrian Coalition so far?**

**2- How do you see the Kurdish National Council Agreement with the Syrian Coalition concerning IDPs return to their occupied regions by Turkey?**

The report was extracted by introducing the response results to the two questions and the analysis of these responses as well as coming out with some recommendations.

## **Introduction**

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, the number of Kurdish parties has increased and intensified its efforts to form a unified movement that the Kurdish community in Syria, in general, aspire to, and one of which called for this goal was (Kurdish National Council), which established in 2011 and was able to form a comprehensive coalition of Kurdish parties and political movements.

it started promoting itself that it commits to international initiatives and laws and encouraging dialogue, as it became involved with many different actors in Syria and abroad, the United Nations, Turkey, Russia and the United States.

## **The Purpose of the Questionnaire**

Inquiring about the political movement of the National Council (regionally and locally). By conducting a questionnaire that is intended only to access the Kurdish public opinion in Syria and extract their views about the National Council's political tendencies, whether it is part of the hopes that any Kurdish person would depend on, or it is disappointing?

; especially after the Turkish army invasion and the so-called (Syrian National Army) in Afrin and Sere Kaniye (Ras Al-Ain) and Gre Spii (Tel- Abyad) and carrying out violations related to human rights. The Council commitment to its membership within the (Syrian Coalition), the main supporter for the Turkish military operations in the Kurdish areas, and its refusal to abandon the idea of its association with it despite its counter-responses to the (Syrian National Army) acts and its supporter, the Turkish state after that invasion. These two questions must have been asked to assess the National Council's political role. Is it effective, or not?

## **The Methodology of the Questionnaire**

The methodology of the questionnaire was adopted by asking selected and pivotal questions in order to obtain information that the center deems necessary to answer questions, or to inquire, or to complete any other study related to the case of the Kurdish society and adopt it as a document throughout:

the identification of the form of the question and its composition:

A restricted question is asked - with a specific answer is required - that would be:

- Simple and easy to keep up with the level of various categories.
- Clear questions, about one idea.
- Do not require deep thinking.

## **The Description of the Questionnaire's questions**

The Kurdish National Council adopted the idea that it is part of the Syrian revolution, and a supporter of the Kurdish movement in Syria, which strengthened the differences between a proponent and an opponent to it, because of its position on the current events, especially with regard to the Kurds. Opinions varied about the compatibility or imbalance of its positions, so that, the idea was to conduct a questionnaire by asking two clear and

compatible questions for the categories' age (from the age of 18th and above) and for both genders, to survey the varying proportions between the proponent and the opponent to it and its political positions as following:

**1- How do you evaluate the Kurdish National Council staying within the Syrian Coalition so far?** The aim of this question is to identify the different proportions of the selected samples, whether they support the existence of the Kurdish National Council within the Syrian Coalition and consider that a guarantee to come out with gains that guarantee Kurdish national rights or this existence is the loss of these rights.

**2- How do you see the Kurdish National council Agreement with the Syrian Coalition concerning IDPs return to their occupied regions by Turkey?** It is an agreement between the "Kurdish National Council" and the "Syrian Coalition" in January 2020 that calls for the establishment of a "humanitarian mechanism" to ensure the return of displaced IDPs of the cities and towns in the North and East of Syria, who were being displaced and fled from their homes as a result of Turkish military operations with the participation of Syrian factions under the name of (the Syrian National Army), the Syrian Coalition-affiliated.

The aim of this question is to observe the Kurds' vision about this agreement, as the random selection of the targeted samples, was the main means of getting access to the largest number of Kurds to include the local population, in addition to the displaced people ( this category is the most affected by these operations). To know the varying proportions between who support them and who sees it (the agreement) as a way to return to their homes, and between the opponent who sees it as legalizing for the Turkish occupation.

### **The Presenting Mechanism**

The direct communication method had been adopted, throughout the meeting between the researcher and the participant, through which the researcher can explain the aim and the significance of the research, in addition to encouraging the participant to answer.

### **The Targeted Inhabitant Category**

This questionnaire had followed a methodology focused on conducting interviews for some groups who are concerned categories in

The (NES) regions and the sites were chosen throughout taking random samples, from the residents of the region, In addition to:

Internally displaced people: IDPs who were forced to flee and leave their homes or usual places of residence as a result of the Turkish invasion and its affiliated-factions.

The forced-displaced people: forced-displaced who were forced to leave their homes and lands due to various pressures had been put on them by the occupied groups.

The questionnaire targeted most of the Kurdish cities and towns. Interviewers were tasked with the completion of using paper-based forms surveys and collecting data on age classification, gender, functional, and educational, and then preparing a final list of sites by combining them into one main list, and identifying the total number, which had reached to 8200 form.

### **The Results and Recommendations**

The results of the questionnaire relied on accuracy by providing information about the targeted population, so that it is not representative statistically rather, randomly that provided implications related to the participant's credibility by filling in the questionnaire, by adopting neutral and indirect questions. Filling out some data from the participant. As the results showed varying proportions in terms of gender and age category, as shown in the Appendices. Accordingly, the report came out with a set of results and recommendations based on the results of the questionnaire questions that were:

With regard to the first question:

**How do you evaluate the Kurdish National Council staying within the Syrian Coalition so far? Which included two options which are:**

#### **- Losing the Kurdish national rights**

The proportion and number of the proponents of this option have reached (74.6% as an overall proportion i.e. 6116 out of 8200 people).

#### **- Consolidation of the Kurdish national rights**

The proportion and number of the proponents of this option have reached (23% as an overall proportion i.e. 1889 out of 8200 people)

As for the second question:

**How do you see the Kurdish National council Agreement with the Syrian Coalition concerning IDPs return to their occupied regions by Turkey? Which included two options, which are:**

**- Legalizing the Turkish Occupation:**

The proportion and number of the proponents of this option have reached (81.4 as an overall proportion i.e. 6674 out of 8200 people).

**- Paving the way for the return of the displaced:**

The proportion and number of the proponents of this option have reached (81.1 as an overall proportion i.e. 1486 out of 8200 people).

Therefore, according to these results, the authors of the report consider that the presence of the Council within the coalition is considered one of its most important weaknesses, which stands as an obstacle to its acceptance among the Kurds and to achieve their goals in Syria (as is it shown in the spreadsheets below).

As well as, the largest proportion of the questionnaire participants see the presence of the Council within the Coalition and its policies as the loss of their rights compared to the small proportion that supports it. But, (Kurdish National Council) obliges to review his policies, to establish an appropriate environment for it in the region, and to prepare plans that are compatible with the vision of the Kurds as a whole and works on:

- Looking at the results of this questionnaire seriously, and searching for a way to benefit in preparing a better program to reinforce its presence in the region.

- Activating the dialogue in a serious manner with all the Kurdish parties in a way that guarantees coming out with a common a unified vision that achieves the gains of the Kurdish people in Syria, and the unified vision would pave the way to demand the return of the displaced people to their lands. And it achieves the goal of bringing the Kurds together, which insists on removing the Turkish and his backers from their lands.

## **Spreadsheets Appendices**



**Al-Furat Center**

Dear lady, sir...


AL-Furat Center for Studies is conducting a Questionnaire concerning the different Kurdish perspectives with regard to the local and regional alignments; it aims at its evaluation throughout, these two questions bellow, would be answered by you, therefore, If you please fill in the form by putting a sign to the answer that you find it expresses your opinion?

|                |                                |                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Age:</b>    | <b>Educational Attainment:</b> | <b>Current Work:</b> |
| <b>Gender:</b> | <b>Place of Residence:</b>     |                      |

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>How do you evaluate the Kurdish National Council staying within the Syrian Coalition so far?</b> |  |
|          | Losing the Kurdish national rights <input type="checkbox"/>   | consolidation of the Kurdis national rights <input type="checkbox"/> |

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| <b>2</b> | <b>How do you see the Kurdish National council Agreement with the Syrian Coalition concerning IDPs return to their occupied regions by Turkey?</b> |   |
|          | Legalizing the Turkish Occupation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Paving the way for the return of the displaced <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Politics Questionnaire  |  |                    |        |         |
|---|--|--------------------|--------|---------|
|   |  | Overall Proportion | Number | Gender  |
| Questionnaire Paticipants Number  | 8200   | 84.2%              | 6904   | Male    |
|   |  | 15.6%              | 1282   | Female  |
|   |  | 0.2%               | 14     | Unknown |
|   |  |                    |        |         |
|   |  |                    |        |         |
| How do you evaluate the Kurdish National Council staying within the Syrian Coalition so far?  |  | Overall Proportion | Number |         |
| 1   | Losing the Kurdish national rights             | 74.6%              | 6116   |         |
| 2   | consolidation of the Kurdish national rights   | 23.0%              | 1889   |         |
| 3   | with no answer                                 | 2.4%               | 195    |         |
|   |  |                    |        |         |
| How do you see the Kurdish National council Agreement with the Syrian Coalition concerning IDPs return to their occupied regions by Turkey? |  | Overall Proportion | Number |         |
| 1   | Legalizing the Turkish Occupation              | 81.4%              | 6674   |         |
| 2   | Paving the way for the return of the displaced | 18.1%              | 1486   |         |
| 3   | with no answer                                 | 0.5%               | 40     |         |



Al-Furat Center

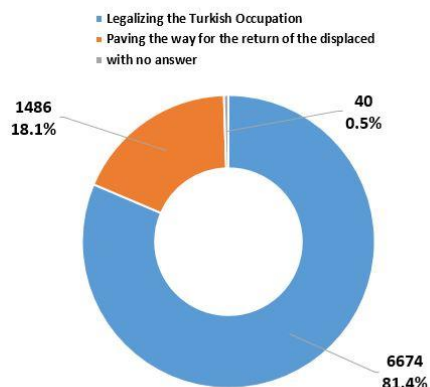
Overall Proportion

| Educational Attainment |                |         |  | Age         |             |         |
|------------------------|----------------|---------|--|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Pre-Secondary          | Post-Secondary | Unknown |  | Less than40 | More than40 | Unknown |
| 55.5%                  | 42.2%          | 2.3%    |  | 57.1%       | 42.7%       | 0.2%    |
| 4547                   | 3463           | 190     |  | 4682        | 3501        | 17      |

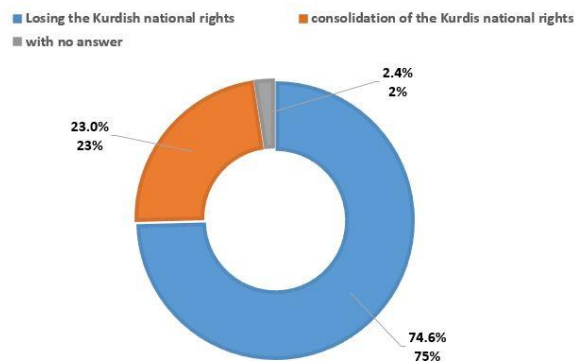
Place of Residence

| Tirbespiyê | Dêrik  | Girkê Legê |  | Dirbêsiyê | Amûdê | Qamişlo |
|------------|--------|------------|--|-----------|-------|---------|
| 815        | 1290   | 831        |  | 817       | 885   | 3562    |
| 9.94%      | 15.73% | 10.13%     |  | 9.96%     | 10.8% | 43.44%  |

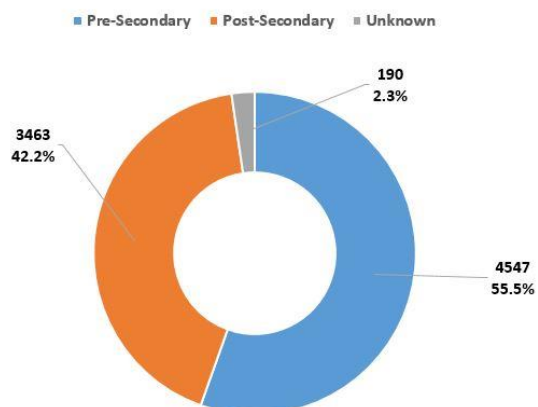
### How do you see the Kurdish National council Agreement with the Syrian Coalition concerning IDPs return to their occupied regions by Turkey?



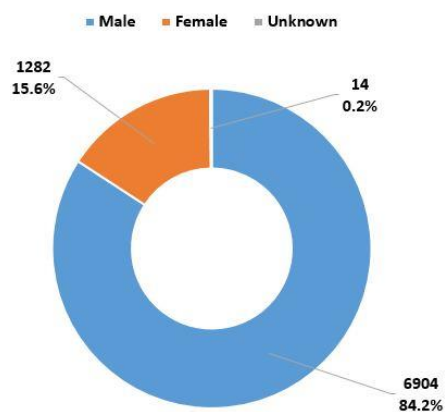
### HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE KURDISH NATIONAL COUNCIL STAYING WITHIN THE SYRIAN COALITION SO FAR ?



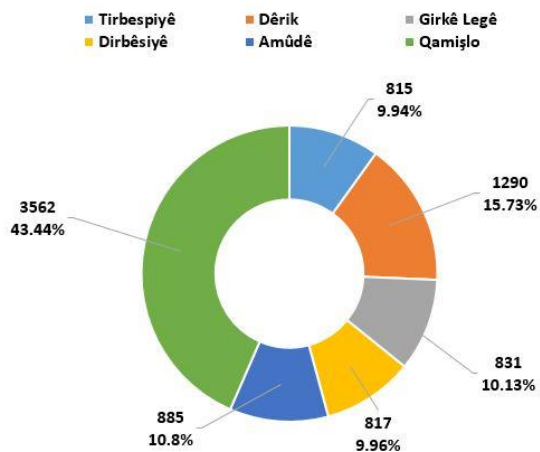
### Educational Attainment



### Gender



### Place of Residence



### Age

