

*The Final Straw reached out through various channels to anarchists working and fighting in Rojava, northern Syria. We got this response from an anti-authoritarian combatant from Canada currently in Rojava. The two sections are a bit disjointed because of the passage of time and circumstance between the sending.*

*Comrade, can you tell us about the current situation you are experiencing with the Turkish and TFSA threat of invasion and what the Russian military and Syrian Arab Army that just brokered a so-called cease-fire with Turkey appear to be doing?:*

I want to say that it's an analysis, an analysis here on the ground and shared by US Special Forces here on the ground that this whole thing with Russia and Syria is a fucking fraude, it's a fucking sham. Villages here are getting steamrolled by Turkish infantry, armored vehicles, tanks, joint strikes with artillery. The SAA is literately shooting into fields, deliberately missing targets. I don't know where the fuck the Russians are. We've seen their vehicles but they're not deploying to slow the Turkish assault. It's bullshit. My analysis and that of people on the ground is that this is backroom deal with Erdogan for the regime to re-acquire this territory. I don't know, many I'm wrong, I fucking hope that I'm wrong, but that's how it looks on this front. It's really scary.

The front is 10km from Til Tamir and right now it looks like there's nothing between the front and this hospital that I'm guarding. The situation is bad and I think it might get worse. I don't know if internet goes down, but if the attack comes to Til Tamir and I'm not able to respond or send message, this is a fraud, a sham more than we thought. Not to be breathless or panicky, but I wanted to share this with you.

*In response to the question of folks abroad should think about the solidarity they can offer to comrades and folks they share affinity with in Rojava, they had this to say:*

I think one of the first things that friends back in Canada, Turtle Island and all over the west that might be hearing this can do to support Rojava is to fully understand the approaches here and not just draw abstract inspiration from it. But act to implement some of the principles that they find inspiring from here into their own organizing at home and to create revolutionary situations everywhere but Rojava. Because, of course, if this starts and ends here, then in many ways it would be a dead end for people all over the world. And that would be the greatest tragedy, for this to all exist in a vacuum. We need for comrades to analyze what their own organizing looks like beyond Rojava solidarity actions. And words can't express how lonely being under seige can feel sometimes when it's hard to even commmunicate with people 5km down the road. Following this, an understanding that currently people

are really drawing a lot of inspiration from the city that one is in and the events that one is participating in is quite humbling and beautiful.

I think some people draw direct connections between the violence that they face from the police in the West during Rojava solidarity actions and the violence we face from the fascist invasion. I know that there's some analysis that came from some people at an action in Richmond, Virginia in the USA, I think, that meant a lot.

It's been quite a beautiful thing to see the things people have put together back home. Sometimes I get the internet for a little while and we get to see that and it's extraordinarily beautiful to see how many people are talking about these things and carrying them on. But it's also this sort of troubling thing when we can see these large actions and also wonder what kind of impact they're having. And I think the tendency in the west is to see a problem and make a protest about it, thinking "let's make get as many people as we can and make some great signs and post about it online" and this is the concept of solidarity. And I don't want to sound pessimistic or put any of it down, because it is really beautiful to see people mobilize around this, but I would challenge people to formulate their approach in relation to the desired outcome. I think that we need to be approaching solidarity in a very different way. And we need to be very attached to outcomes. And we need to think, "What needs to happen and how do we make that happen?" Comrades in the west, I would encourage them to make these actions, mobilize people, get people talking about it. But also, people need to be taking action in ways that have a real impact on creating the solutions that we need. And so, I wish people would be thinking more in that framework.

At the end of the day I think that people should realize that their solidarity actions are just that and that no policy is shifting here and bombs are not falling because of anarchists taking the streets in the number that they're taking the streets in the united states. I don't mean to be pessimistic, I'm just being real. And I think if people are looking to make a change and make it quickly, to make people stop losing their lives, they need to consider their tactics very carefully. They need to reflect as always on the phrase that 'solidarity means attack' and to determine what that means to them, and act accordingly. Serkeftin.