

RECONSTRUCT KOBANÊ



REPORT ON URGENT AND ESSENTIAL NEEDS IN KOBANÊ

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Reconstruct Kobanê

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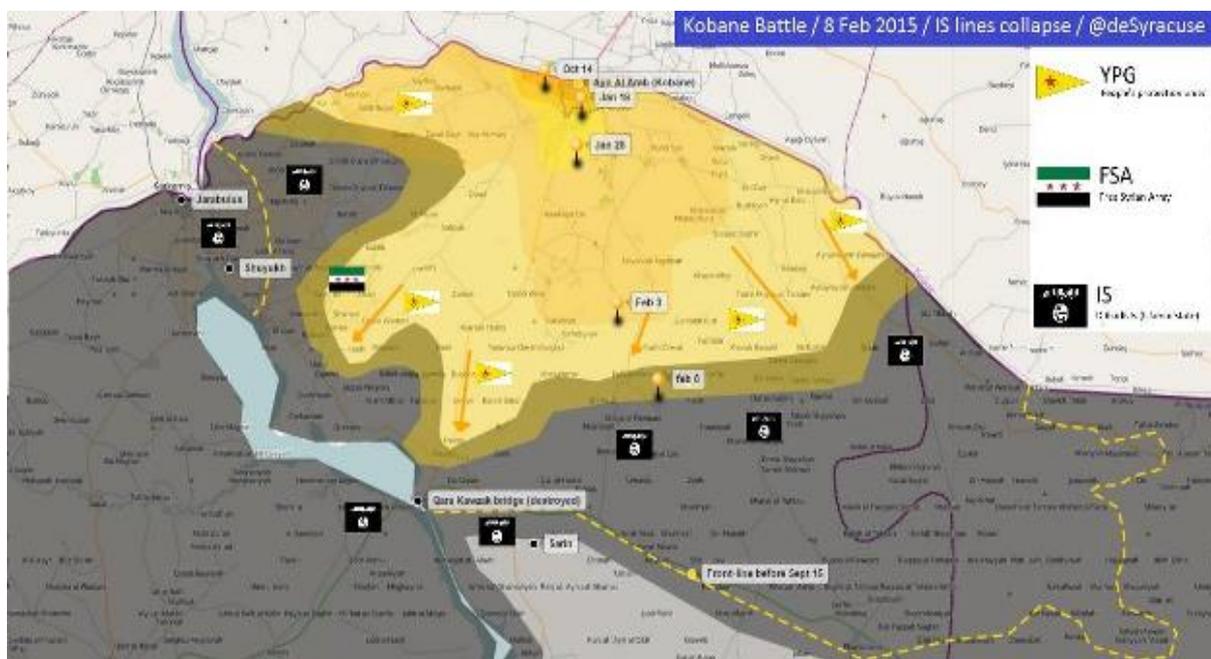
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REPORT ON URGENT AND ESSENTIAL NEEDS IN KOBANÊ

A CALL FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OF KOBANÊ CANTON

To International Aid Bodies to Rebuild and Normalise Life in the Canton of Kobanê

After months of fighting, our brave YPG and YPJ units have successfully driven out all ISIS terrorists from our democratic canton of Kobanê. We are grateful for all the international support that we have received to achieve this victory in battle. However, as of yet, we have received no official humanitarian aid from any government or international organization. Out of the 525,000 civilians from the Kobanê canton, only 25,000 currently reside within Kobanê. Of the remaining civilians, 200,000 are currently trapped inside Turkey and the rest have dispersed to different countries. They are all anxiously waiting to return to their homes. In order to facilitate the smooth transition of refugees back to their rightful homes, there are a number of obstacles that must be overcome.



1. Rebuilding the city of Kobanê: As a result of ISIS's offensive against Kobanê, more than 80% of the city is completely destroyed and urgently needs to be reconstructed. This is of utmost importance as refugees cannot return to their homes until the city is rebuilt. For the past two years, there has been no electricity in Kobanê and a constant shortage of water. Such a lack of services makes it very difficult for the people to resume their lives in the city. In order for civilians to safely return to their homes, we are making an urgent call for international aid and support in the rebuilding of our city.

2. Unexploded bombs and explosives: Whilst ISIS has now been defeated in the city there are still serious dangers for the people of Kobanê. The city is full of unexploded bombs and mortars. Children play in the street next to the real threat posed by such bombs. In one week alone, half a dozen people died from these bombs. In the villages surrounding Kobanê, ISIS has left houses full of deadly explosives, making it very difficult for our forces to proceed

effectively. Until all bombs and explosives are removed from Kobanê, the city and villages will not be safe and refugees, living in camps in Turkey, will not be able to return to their homes. We are calling on the international community and the UN to provide the necessary expertise and technical equipment to urgently remove the hazardous bombs and explosives.

3. Opening of a humanitarian corridor: Our Rojava project officially began on January 27, 2014, but we have faced an embargo since January 2013 against the three democratic cantons of Kobanê, Afrin, and Cezire. We call on the international community to lift this embargo immediately as it is obstructing the rebuilding of Kobanê. Without a humanitarian corridor to provide medical supplies and other aid as well as materials for reconstruction, Kobanê cannot be rebuilt. It is of the utmost importance that Turkey allows such a corridor to be opened, and we call on the international community to immediately demand this to bring justice to the Kobanê resistance and the people of the canton.



When we announced that our brave YPG and YPJ forces had achieved victory and defeated the ISIS terrorists on January 27, 2015, the whole world celebrated the victory as one of humanity against terrorism. The Prime Minister of Kobanê canton, Enwer Muslim, stated that “the resistance and victory of Kobanê was a victory for humanity and will be an example [of such] in history. In the face of ISIS barbarism, Kobanê stood up for humanity. Now, it is time for the humanity of the international community to stand up for Kobanê.”

We would like to invite those who stood by us to continue to support us in the rebuilding of Kobanê. We call on all governments and international organizations to immediately help facilitate the rebuilding of Kobanê by providing us with essential support.

***On behalf of the Administration of Kobanê Canton
Enwer Muslim***

APPEAL OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND SELF-PROTECTION To the Working Organization in Mines Clearance

Since 27 January 2015 our units of YPG (People's Protection Units) and YPJ (Women's Protection Units) could liberate 237 villages with the support of the coalition forces, Peshmergas and some brigades of the FSA (Free Syrian Army).



However, after heavy losses inflicted on ISIS (Islamic State) by our units, the terrorists booby-trapped the houses in the city and the villages. A delegation of our ministry visited many of liberated villages and documented names of dozens of civilians who lost their lives and were seriously injured because of mines and explosive materials left inside the houses of the civilians.¹ As our delegation to the villages and the city discovered the mines and explosive materials, it is worth mentioning that ISIS put such explosive materials in the surrounding areas of the houses, sitting rooms, bedrooms and kitchens, where these mines were set up in a way to inflict the maximum possible damage and deaths.

We in the ministry of defence and self-protection in Kobanê canton appeal to all the international organizations and bodies responsible for mines-clearing to provide expertise and technical support to clear the canton of such mines as soon as possible.

Minister of Defence and Self-protection


Ismet Sheikh Hassan

¹ VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OgzXaRfRKw>

FIRST URGENT LIST OF ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF KOBANÊ CANTON

For the purpose of accurately assessing the level of damage to the canton, the Kobanê Reconstruction Board (KRB) was established in late January 2015, with the aim of establishing an accurate assessment of such damage with the aid of international experts. The KRB has produced a detailed report and references from satellite mapping images from UNITAR for the purpose of determining the nature of the damage in the Kobanê Canton². The report details essential services in urgent need of reconstruction. Work is currently underway with these experts to determine the entirety of the damage, but initial assessments indicate close to 80% of the canton is severely to moderately damaged. These initial assessments indicate that further work is required before Kobanê is functional again and able to accommodate the returning refugees adequately.



The number of returning refugees to Kobanê demands an urgent need for international support, aid, and materials required to begin immediate reconstruction. According to UNHCR following the ISIS attacks since 2013 especially from 15 September 2014, it is estimated that well over 200,000 refugees fled from Kobanê and surrounding villages into Turkey. With Kobanê's liberation thousands of these refugees have left the camps in the bordering Turkey, creating an urgent need for basic services and supplies such as food, medicine, clean drinking water and winter clothes. Hundreds of refugees cross the border and return to Kobanê daily, creating a constant flow of traumatised returning refugees in critical need of basic services and essential infrastructure. Currently over 25,000 civilians live or have returned to the city and surrounding villages, but they lack basic services, clean water and food.

² Rojava, Kurdistan in Syria

Assessment of Damages to Kobanê Canton, Syria:

Using satellite imagery acquired between 6th September, 2014 and 22nd January 2015, UNITAR / UNOSAT has identified a total of 3,167 affected structures within the area of this map, with well over three quarters including essential infrastructure and service building necessary for affective administration of the canton. The attached map illustrates satellite-detected damage and destruction in large portions of the city of Kobanê.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF KOBANE, ALEPPO GOVERNORATE, SYRIA

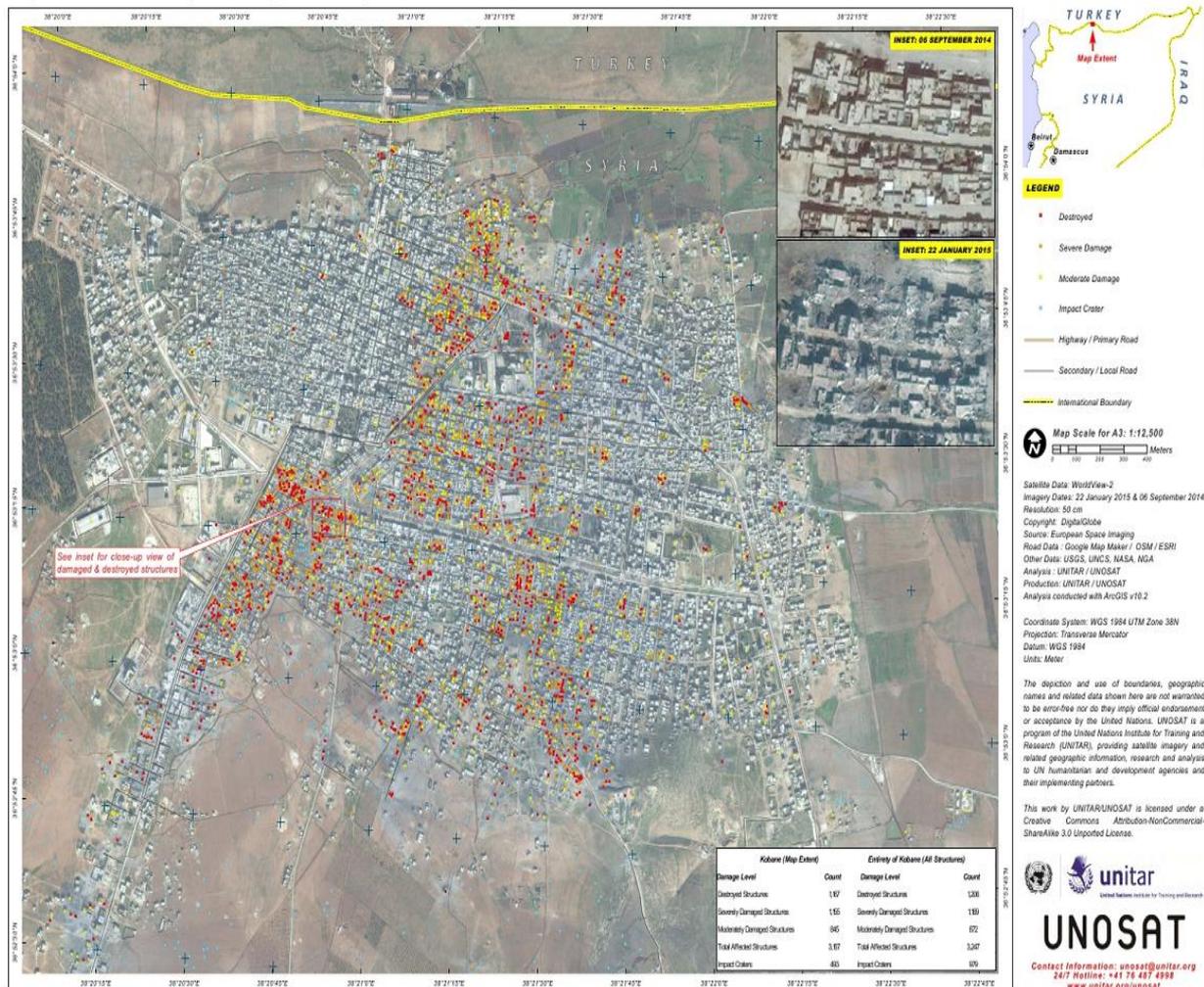
Analysis with WorldView-2 Data Acquired 22 January 2015 and 06 September 2014

This map illustrates satellite-detected damage and destruction in a portion of the city of Kobane, Aleppo Governorate, Syria. Using satellite imagery acquired 22 January 2015 and 06 September 2014, UNITAR / UNOSAT identified a total of 3,167 affected structures within the area of this map. Approximately 1,167 of these were destroyed, 1,155 severely damaged, and 845 moderately damaged.

The city-wide analysis of Kobane revealed a total of 3,247 affected structures, of which 1,206 were destroyed, 1,169 severely damaged, and 872 moderately damaged. A total of 979 impact craters were also identified within Kobane and its immediate surroundings. This is a preliminary analysis and has not yet been validated in the field. Please send ground feedback to UNITAR / UNOSAT.

Complex Emergency

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According to these satellite images, the portion of Kobanê pictured demonstrates that approximately 1,167 of the infrastructure and service buildings were destroyed, 1,155 severely damaged, and 845 moderately damaged. A greater analysis of the canton of Kobanê reveals a total of 3,247 affected structures, of which 1,206 were destroyed entirely, 1,169 severely damaged, and 872 moderately damaged. A total of 979 impact craters were also identified within the city and its immediate surroundings. This analysis of the entirety of the canton and surrounding locations is a preliminary analysis and is yet to be validated more concretely in the field.

Kobanê Map Extent		Entirety of Kobanê (All Structures)	
Damage Level structures	Count	Damage Level structures	Count
Destroyed	1,167	Destroyed	1,206
Several Damaged	1,155	Several Damaged	1169
Moderately Damaged	845	Moderately Damaged	872
Total Affected structures	3,167	Total Affected structures	3,247
Impact craters	493	Impact craters	979

3

Essential Infrastructure for Reconstruction of Kobanê:

Infrastructure:

It was a systematic policy of the Syrian regime that the Kurdish majority towns such as Kobanê, were to depend on neighbouring towns and cities (Mimbej, Sirrin and Shekhlar) for drinking water, electricity and flour production mills.

The terrorist organization ISIS controlled the surrounding towns and villages for well over two years, resulting in the deliberate tactic of destroying and cutting the flow of clean water, electricity and flour production mills and factories.

The Kobanê Canton Administration (KCA) considered alternatives as a matter of urgency. The resulting solution was to rely on water production from ground wells, which were then purified and distributed via the previously existing networks. However, two months into the production of this alternative system, ISIS deliberately targeted these infrastructures.



³ UNITAR/UNOSAT

	Situation
Water	Lack of purification facilities, with Sewage pipes and system are completely destroyed
Electricity	Essential infrastructure and equipment destroyed
Grain Mills ⁴	Destroyed entirely ranging from 20-50%
Public Service Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipality Headquarters and all its machinery are completely destroyed. • The Asayesh (police) Headquarter is completely destroyed. • The Civilian Registering Centre is completely destroyed. • The Financial Headquarter is completely destroyed. • The Saray (An old governmental building) is completely destroyed. • The Parliament Hall is completely destroyed. • The Kurdish Red Crescent Headquarter is completely destroyed. • The Electricity Company Headquarter is completely destroyed. • The Consumer Supervisory Centre is completely destroyed. • The Agricultural Bank and its branches are damaged from 30 – 80%. • The Post Office is damaged from 20 – 60%. • The Petrol station has sustained damages from 20 – 70%. • The Consumer Institution Centre is completely destroyed. • The security and staff building of Murshid Pinar Border Gate is completely destroyed. • The offices of the main political party are destroyed.

Consequently, Kobanê currently has no clean drinking water and all drinking water servicing 25, 000 civilian is unpurified. The sewage system and electricity networks inside the city are also destroyed entirely. The combination of these issues could lead to serious health crises and lack of food security within the city.



⁴ According to the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) wheat is the most important staple food commodity in the country and is consumed primarily as bread. It is essential to note that the Rojava region also produces an estimated 70% of the grains for all of Syria, and its currently debilitated infrastructure has a state wide impact on food security and production.

Healthcare:

Previous to the ISIS attacks, Kobanê had four functioning hospitals servicing an estimated 500, 000 civilians.

Following the conflict, two of these hospitals were destroyed entirely, and the last two have suffered damages ranging between 20 – 50% to their infrastructure.

A number of private clinics and pharmacies have also seen damages considered severe to moderate. Consequently, there is a critical need for infrastructure that can provide medical and healthcare to thousands of existing and returning civilians in the city and the countryside.

Services	Number	Destroyed	Damaged
Hospital	4	2 completely	2 have damages over 50%
Pharmacy	8	completely	-
Private clinics	3	completely	-

Education:

Prior to the conflict, Kobanê had 19 functioning schools from elementary to high school level. Post-conflict, 4 of these schools have been destroyed entirely, with 15 having received damage ranging from 20-80% to their infrastructure. In the surrounding 300 villages all schools and educational institutions have been entirely destroyed.

Schools	Number	Damage	Destroyed
In Kobanê city centre	19	15 schools have 20-80%	4 entirely
In Village	300	-	Destroyed



Short Term Services and Needs:

Temporary Refugee Camp:

Due to the large flow of returning refugees, the ongoing tentative nature of the security situation, the deliberate planting of mines in surrounding villages, and the lack of available services and infrastructure, the Kobanê Reconstruction Board is proposing the necessity of preparing 40 acres of land in the west of the city for the purpose of setting up a temporary tent city to house civilians. The most critical issue according to Kobanê’s Minister of Defence and Self-protection is the nature of the land mines planted which prevents the returning refugees from going back to their homes.

Until the mines are safely removed it is possible that the refugees will need to be housed long term in the tent city. For these reasons, the camp needs to have two medical points, four tent schools, security points and other necessary public services. The necessity and significance of the tent city remains one of the most critical points for aid and support from the international community.

	Number
Tents	1000
Schools	4
Medical points	2
Hygienic Services	500

Finally;

KRB will continue to assess the situation on the ground, but we stress the urgency of the humanitarian situation and the necessity of immediate support, aid and supplies. In order to achieve these goals and objectives KRB urges the international community, human rights organizations, aid organizations and NGOs, including the European Union (EU) and its Member States as well as the United Nations (UN) to help facilitate a safe *humanitarian corridor* from Turkey to Kobanê Canton. While the international community has provided significant levels of support and aid, these necessary materials have remained within the borders of the Turkish state and have not been passed onto the Cantons. The KRB stresses the importance of a safe humanitarian corridor to allow the passage of necessary supplies to the civilians and returning refugees.

Kobanê’s historical resistance is, and has been, in defence of humanity and acts *as a barrier to prevent the spread of ISIS into Europe*. But the resistance continues, and the Kurdish Defence Forces continue to fight for the liberation of innocent civilians from the ongoing ISIS threat in the Middle East.



- Therefore the reconstruction of Kobanê and international aid and support will serve two important purposes in this conflict.
- It will demonstrate that the international community is united and stands in solidarity against all forms of terrorism in defence of humanity.
- It will demonstrate the united efforts of the international community in support of democratic, human values and women's rights.
- KRB, therefore, emphasizes the need for the international aid, humanitarian organizations, EU, and the UN to work and coordinate directly with Kobanê Canton Administration (KCA) in facilitating the reconstruction process and the long term global security.

***Mr. Idris Nassan,
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For more information and urgent requests

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