



Brussels, 21 March 2007

Statement of Solidarity with Kurdish Communities Opposing the Ilisu Dam Project

At the occasion of the Newroz celebrations 2007, we reaffirm our opposition to European export credit support for the planned Ilisu Dam in Southeast Turkey.

We also reaffirm our solidarity with the many thousands who are currently living under the threat of displacement and those working to support their interests.

The dam is an issue of international concern. In destroying the ancient town of Hasankeyf, it will destroy part of humanity's common heritage. Allowing the project to go ahead whilst it patently fails to meet international standards would also send a message that those affected are less valued as citizens than others elsewhere in Europe.

To their shame, the Governments of Austria, Switzerland and Germany have provisionally agreed to support the project, subject to conditions which remain secret. We pledge to continue our campaigns to overturn this decision.

We are optimistic of doing so. In 1999, the UK said it would support the project but withdrew after the true extent of the project's adverse impacts were made public.

We urge Turkey to reconsider the project and to embrace a future for the region that would truly benefit its people and its environment.

Let the fires of Newroz signal that, acting together and in the common interests of humanity, we can make a difference!

The European Campaign to Reform Export Credit Agencies & International Campaign Against the Ilisu Dam Project

* Bern Declaration, Switzerland * Both ENDS, The Netherlands *
Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale, Italy * The Corner House,
United Kingdom * Debtwatch, Spain * ECA-Watch Austria * Euronatura, Portugal * FERN,
Belgium * Friends of the Earth France * Kurdish Human Rights Project,
United Kingdom * Proyecto Gato, Belgium * urgewald, Germany
* World Ecology, Economy & Development, Germany *

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