

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	325
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	Kurdwatch.
Titel:	Al-Malikiyah: PYD wants to ban unauthorized demonstrations.
Udgivet:	28. marts 2013
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	3. maj 2013

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Al-Malikiyah: PYD wants to ban unauthorized demonstrations

KURDWATCH, March 28, 2013—On March 19, 2013, fighters for the Democratic Union Party's (PYD) People's Defense Units (YPG), aided by members of the Kurdish Democratic Progressive Party in Syria, attacked a rally by the Kurdish Union Party in Syria (Yekîti) in al-Malikiyah (Dêrik). The rally was intended to celebrate the Kurdish New Year's festival Newroz. A Yekîti activist told KurdWatch: »The attackers wanted to prevent our demonstration on the grounds that we had not applied for permission with the Asayiş [PYD security service]. We told them that, just like the PYD, we are members of the Supreme Kurdish Council and don't need permission from other members. They didn't like that at all, and they subsequently shot into the air above our heads. Then we took shots into the air as well. We can do that, too. Then they disappeared.« About two hours after the incident, the gathering dispersed.

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