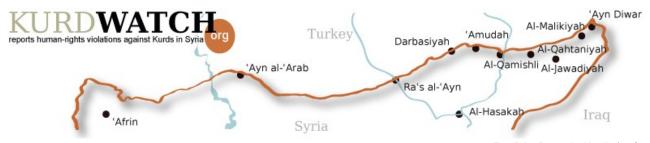
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Home

News 2013

News 2012

News 2011

News 2010

News 2009

Interviews

Reports

Documents Penal Code

Cities

About us

Links

Contact Us

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 (Yekîtî) in al-Malikiyah (Dêrik). The rally was intended to celebrate the Kurdish New Year's festival Newroz. A Yekîtî 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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