

# Commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Maraş Massacre 1978



**The Maraş massacre was the massacre of more than one hundred Alevi civilians killed by the radical jihadist and right wing pro-fascist groups.**



BRITISH ALEVI FEDERATION

# Maraş Massacre...

40 years have passed since the massacre against Alevis in Maraş planned by the dark groups in the deep state and carried out by fascist and jihadist gangs.

It has been 40 years since the Maraş Massacre, a massacre covered up as a “state secret” by the Turkish state that has a history of massacres against Alevis, Kurds, and other minority groups.

The Maraş Massacre against the Alevis is just one in a long line of massacres the state has imposed upon civilians since Ottoman times.



Since 40 years It hasn't been solved, the masterminds haven't been punished, and despite decades have passed, it is easy to see that the painful wounds it left on Maraş Alevis and all Alevis in the country in general are still fresh. The perpetrators who organized and carried out the massacre have never been on trial, which is enough to expose the massacres face of the state.

As is common knowledge, December 19, 1978 marked the start of the massacre attacks on Alevis in Maraş by gangs of nationalist Grey Wolves and political Islamists utilized by the deep state.

The attacks on Alevis in Maraş continued for a whole week until December 26, 1978 and turned into a bloody massacre. Children were put in the big pots and boiled in the hot water, elderly lady's eyes were carved and killed, pregnant women were killed and babies were killed, children's heads were nailed to the trees and many dead bodies were raped.

In the Alevi “hunt” started by counter guerrilla units and fascist/ jihadist gangs in the streets of Maraş, Alevis were massacred under state supervision for a week. Homes and work places of Alevis were attacked. Official records claim 111 people lost their lives in these attacks, but in truth 150 people were massacred. 552 homes and 289 work places and vehicles were burned and destroyed. The planners of the Maraş Massacre against Alevis were hidden a “state secret”.



With the implementation of the massacre plans and the slaughter, 80% of Alevis, who comprised 70 to 80% of the city’s population at the time, were forced to move out. One of the goals of the bloody massacre was to act as a message to Alevis who supported the rising revolutionary movements in the country. Maraş was a Alevi-intensive region where Alevis and Sunnis lived together. The deep state (MİT) wanted to utilize the polarization that developed over ideological controversy and set the plans for the massacre in motion.

After the massacre, the then-Interior Minister İrfan Özyıldın formed a special unit to investigate the massacre. This unit discovered important information, but the information was hidden, dubbed a “state secret”. The then-Public Prosecutor Dündar Saner prepared a report which laid bare the details on how the massacre was organized and implemented. The massacre was covered up as a “state secret” and it hasn’t been solved still.



According to reports, the massacre was planned by MİT members, including the MİT legal counsel who was an in-law relative of Alparslan Türkeş. The involvement of Alparslan Türkeş, the MİT officials, AP and MHP provincial branch chairs, businessmen, landowners and the Susurluk gang including Abdullah Çatlı and Haluk Kırıcı were covered up, dubbed a “state secret”.

Also among the planners of the massacre were the Justice Party (AP) Provincial Branch Chair Faruk Kadiođlu and the then-Mayor of Maraş Ahmet Uncu. The lawsuit on the massacre continued into 1991. 804 people on trial received varying prison sentences, while the 68 people who had important roles in the massacre were never caught, or investigated. Those in charge of the massacre were rewarded by the state and the governments instead.

Those who received prison sentences were released in April 1991, due to the Anti-terror Act passed by Turgut Özal. And the case file for the Maraş Massacre was closed as such. Many of those killed in Maras graves are not known. Alevi population in Maras is not more than few hundred and still under oppression.

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With Britain Alevi federation’s support and all Alevi associations initiative first time in 2010 Alevis were in Maras for the memorial of those who was killed in massacre. Memorial activities banned by the governor and the interior ministry since then.

