

**VT AFL-CIO 2021 Convention  
Submitted By The Executive Board  
Resolution #4**

**THE VERMONT AFL-CIO RECOGNIZES THE AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH AND EAST SYRIA & STANDS WITH THE REVOLUTION IN ROJAVA**

**Whereas** the Kurdish led government in Rojava (the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria or AANES) and their armed forces (known as the YPG and YPJ) have spearheaded the fight against ISIS terrorists in Syria;

**Whereas** the YPG and YPJ, through force of arms, have previously re-taken the ISIS capital of Raqqa, and have largely driven ISIS out of Syria;

**Whereas** the YPG and YPJ continue to battle pockets of ISIS terrorists in Rojava;

**Whereas** the YPG and YPJ have stood firm in defense of Rojava autonomy in the face of pressure from the Assad regime in Damascus and imperialist Turkish intrusions on its northern border;

**Whereas** international volunteers, including Vermonters, have fought alongside the YPG and YPJ against both ISIS and all those who would trample on their liberty;

**Whereas** the AANES and YPG/YPG seek to build a secular direct participatory democracy in Rojava within which economic and social equity is enjoyed by all;

**Whereas** the Revolution in Rojava is the most significant and far reaching social & political uprising since the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939, and, before that, the Paris Commune of 1871;

**Whereas** the AANES and YPG/YPJ look to the writings of Vermonter Murray Bookchin for the ideological framework that helps define their social and political objectives;

**Whereas** the society that AANES and the YPG/YPJ seek is establish is one akin to a greatly empowered Town Meeting system of self-government;

**Whereas** the Vermont AFL-CIO opposes ISIS, imperialism, & dictatorships and supports the objectives of building a more direct democracy with economic equity for all working people;

**Let It Therefore Be Resolved** that the Vermont AFL-CIO recognizes the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) as the exclusive and legitimate government of Rojava.

**Let It Further Be Resolved** that the Vermont AFL-CIO stands in full support of the YPG and YPJ's armed defense of Rojava from all enemies of the direct democracy they envision and practice;

**Let It Further Be Resolved** that the Vermont AFL-CIO encourages and supports all Americans who choose to volunteer with the YPG & YPJ in their armed defense of Rojava, and, upon request from former volunteers, commits to working with returning American fighters in order to help them secure good Union jobs;

**And Finally Let It Further Be Resolved** that the Vermont AFL-CIO calls on all nations throughout the world who claim to support democracy or economic equity to also recognize the AANES government and

to further provide military and political support to AANES and YPG/YPJ, along with humanitarian aid and COVID-19 vaccines, in order that Rojava can more robustly combat threats to its democracy as may be posed by ISIS, Turkey, and the Assad regime.