“Kurds against Kurds”: The System of “Village Guarders” (Korucus) in Turkey
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In early 1980s when Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê (PKK) started its military operations against Turkey, Turkish Government decided to reintroduce system of “Korucu” (temporary village guarders), that still exists in our days. Korucus, that are mostly Kurds, have obligations to fight PKK for the help of Turkish state (salary, weapons, etc.). By this way Turkish Government not only managed to organize thousand of semi-military forces against PKK, but also they tried to spread division between the Kurdish population (sympathizers of PKK and Korucu’s families). Thus, we can say that Turkish side, using “Korucu” system, runs “Kurds against Kurds” policy.

In my paper I will present Korucus’ short historical background/structure to understand its routes because this kind of paramilitary structure was used by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and even earlier. I will underline the important role of Korucus in the frame of Kurdish Question in the last decades. I will focus on social understanding of Korucus in Kurdish/Turkish societies. There are also local and international efforts to stop this system as it has a huge amount of problems (for example: crime, hatred, social issues, etc), so I will touch this topic as well.

Thus, I will try to cover this topic from various aspects trying to complete the past and current issues of Korucus. The lack of rich academic research is one of the main problems of this complicated, but a very important topic and this conference can partially feel that gap.