

## Second JN Award Commission, from September 2024

**Coordinator/ Organisor: Fexriye Adsay**

**Haci Akman** lives in Norway. He is a Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Bergen in the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies, and Religion. He has published extensively in both the Norwegian and English languages.

**Veman Lineva** lives in Norway and holds a bachelor's degree in Culture and Science, as well as a master's degree in Science and Religion, both from the University of Bergen. While studying at the university, she served as the head of the Kurdistan Student Union. Veman is actively involved in civic activism and is a social media influencer.

**Behkash Takouk** lives in Germany. She received a master's degree in sociology from Goethe University in Frankfurt. She has worked as a project manager and political educator at Kurdische Gemeinde Deutschland. Additionally, she has organized and moderated several seminars. She has written articles on Kurdish issues and has been actively volunteering in Kurdish activities over the past decade.

**Xunav Haco** lives in Germany and is an activist and writer. She is a member of the Kurdish National Council in NRW and also serves as the director of the Komeleya Ronahî association in Bochum. With a degree in social education, Xunav has worked as a lecturer in Women's Studies (Women in Culture and Politics) at the University of Bochum from 1996 to 2000. Prior to that, she was employed in the Kurdish department of WDR in Dortmund from 1990 to 1995. In 1992, Xunav established the International Women's Struggle association to support Kurdish women. She has been a member of the Kurdish Women's Platform since 1994. Additionally, Xunav is the founder and director of the WIS Language School in Bochum. Moreover, she is the founder of the Rewşen Bedirkhan association, which focuses on Kurdish-German women's union.

**Sirwan Renas** is an independent Kurdish researcher. He has published articles in Kurdish, including "Qeyranî Nasinamey Neteweyî Le Bizûtnewe Kurdistan Da" and "Dêmuokratîzekirdinî Dêmukrasî; Rexine Le Binemakanî Tiyorî Dêmukratî Le Goşenîgay Netewe Bêdewletkanewe." Sirwan holds two master's degrees, one in Political Science and another in International Affairs with a focus on Global Studies. Currently, Sirwan is pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests encompass various areas such as political theory, liberal nationalism, democratic theory, national independence (secession), territorial justice, and border studie

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**Shano Mato** was born in 1986 in Şengal. In 2010, he graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts in Silêmanî with first place in the theater department.

In 2013, he became the second founder of the Yoga Center in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and worked as a yoga teacher and director of the center for three years. He introduced and spread yoga. He is a writer of theatrical texts, stories and screenplays, poems and religious and cultural research. As an actor, director and writer, he has played leading roles in several theater and film works. In total, he has more than fifty works of art. He has worked as a religious researcher, especially on Kurdish beliefs and religions. He is currently the director of the Rêya Piranî Association in Germany, which was received its official constitution in 2023 in Bielefeld.

**Fexriye Adsay** is from the northern part of Kurdistan and currently resides in Amed. She holds a bachelor's degree in History from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. Additionally, she completed her master's degree in Sociology at Dicle University in Diyarbakir, and she pursued studies in Kurdish Language and Literature at Mardin University. She is editor, author and translator of *Zarema* Magazine, a publication focusing on criticism and theory. The magazine released 16 issues between 2014 and 2022; now it continues its publication through YouTube channel (Kovara Zarema) with interviews on mostly theoretical and critical subjects. She has translated dozens of books and articles from English to Turkish and mostly Kurdish. Her last translations are into Kurdish on history of siyonism and Israel. Her primary research interest centers around Kurdish nationalism. She continues to translate to Kurdish and she also is coordinator of the biennial Jemal Nebez Award given by Jemal Nebez Foundation.

