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DISCOURSE IN NATIONALIST-SEPARATIST TERRORISM IN THE CONTEXT OF MORAL EXCLUSION AND FACES OF LEGITIMATION THEORIES: THE SAMPLE OF PKK

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Background and aims: Nationalist-separatist terrorism is fundamentally closely related to ethnic discrimination and national liberation-motivated conflicts. Ultimately, the goal of nationalist-separatist terrorism is territorial change or acquisition. It is well known that numerous separatist groups around the world have gained prominence when they spark armed conflict within a state's borders or in the interstate system. Organizations and movements may employ a variety of tactics to legitimize these conflicts and recruit members and supporters. In this context, propaganda and manifesto discourses are the main methods used to reach the masses.

Methods: Two theories that examine the groups that implement these methods through acts of violence in many different dimensions and interpret the motivation and dynamics of the actions considering various parameters are used in this study. Moral exclusion theory is the perception of individuals or groups as outside the boundary in which moral values, rules, and considerations of fairness apply. Faces of Legitimation Theory, on the other hand, studies discourses legitimating political violence from a social psychological, and sociological perspective

Results: The discourses created by PKK (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê/Kurdistan Workers' Party) to justify separatist activities were interpreted with the help of these two theories within the scope of this study.

Discussion - Conclusions: As a result, in parallel with the results of the studies conducted on similarly motivated organizations (ETA and IRA), it was observed that the PKK preferred discourses in which the Kurdish people were historically exposed to oppression and colonialism, that the Kurds have the right to self-determination and that they explain the legitimacy of the armed struggle.

Keywords: Terrorism, Violence, Faces of Legitimation, Moral Exclusion, PKK