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TURKISH EXPANSIONISM AND INVASION IN MIDDLE-EAST

INFORMATION BROCHURE

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CHAPTER I

END TURKISH OCCUPATION - TIME TO DEFEND KURDISTAN

Introduction

Turkey's occupation policies and the hidden side of the war of Heftanîn

After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, the Lausanne agreement (24 July 1923) formed the foundations of the formation of the new Turkey. The president of the Republic of Turkey, R. T. Erdogan, evaluated the Lausanne agreement as a "betrayal", while he announced his unfair and dirty war decisions in front of the eyes of the world at the UN platform (74th UN General Assembly-2019) with a map of the Kurdish region Rojava (North-Syria) in his hand. Erdogan also emphasized that the war he started would not be limited to Rojava. But no state or institution opposed this unlawful and destructive decision.

Encouraged by this, Erdogan declared his aggression and expansionism to the whole world, and at every opportunity raised his intentions for full sovereignty along their borders, from the Mediterranean to Iran. Erdogan, with Neo-Ottomanism and radical Islam as motifs, is trying to implement the caliphate of Turkish nationalism with fascist methods. The fascist Turkish state takes advantage of global chaos, and nowadays, with its changing foreign policy, acts with the logic of "the more land I occupy, the wider my borders." Turkey, by placing the ISIS gangs in the areas it has occupied in Syria, and exhibiting similar behaviour in Libya, is creating new dangers for volatile areas of the world. The intention of the war of Heftanîn seems to be to spread sovereignty throughout Southern Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) by invasion, and in addition, to subject all Iraqi and Arab peoples to massacre and terror.

The Turkish state has created a new international crisis every month of this year alone: These days it's attacking Armenia. It attacked Idlib (Syria) in February-March, Libya in April-May, Southern-Kurdistan (Iraq) in June-September, and Greece, Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean in August-September. Erdogan sent radical Islamists from Syria to Libya, and now is sending them to Azerbaijan. Since 2016, the Turkish state created an international crisis every month, increasing its observation points in Rojava Kurdistan (Afrin, Serikani, Girespi, Carablus), Idlib, and its existing military headquarters in South Kurdistan from 24 to 38, thus constituting a direct occupation. In the current situation, although the PKK is the only force resisting against this aggression, the Turkish state also wants to purge the PKK, based on some of its international relations. A weaker PKK means a more imminent success for the occupation operation.

Unfortunately, international forces and the South Kurdistan regional government (KRG-KDP) are assisting this occupation because they do not want to see this reality.

In a continuation of these policies, as when the Turkish army launched their wars of occupation in Kurdistan's Rojava area (northern Syria), on 16 June 2020, they advanced into South Kurdistan (Heftanîn on the Turkey-Iraq border). On 15 June 2020, the Turkish army simultaneously launched air and ground attacks against the Yazidi land in Shengal, the Mexmûr refugee camp in Iraq (where twelve thousand Kurdish refugees who fled from the Turkish massacre in the 1990s live), as well as Qandil, Heftanîn, Xakurkê and other regions in Southern Kurdistan.

In this sense, the Heftanîn war is not only a war between the fascist Turkish state and the PKK, but a war between the Turkish state and the peoples of the region. Heftanîn is the front line of the occupation war that will also cover Mosul and Kirkuk, for the borders of the so-called 'Misak-ı Milli' (a late Ottoman declaration of the Turks claiming that Mosul-Kirkuk belongs to them). It is a war that will reshape the region, change its borders and demography, and reveal new political dynamics.

The Heftanîn war is essentially the Turkish state's plan to invade Iraq, and the PKK, the only resisting force against this, is stated as the justification for the presence of the Turkish army. Unfortunately, the US and the KDP still support and encourage these reckless attacks and arguments of the Turkish state.

US support and goals for the Turkish occupation



When asked about the Turkish airstrikes in Southern Kurdistan, Joey Hood, the First Deputy Secretary of the United States for the Near East, avoided the question and instead said, "Shengal must be cleared from the armed militias including the PKK". He said further that Hewler, Baghdad and Ankara ought to work together "under the consultancy of the USA" for the establishment of a "civilian administration." In other words, he called for the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), the Iraqi government and the Turkish Republic to somehow intervene in Shengal under the control of the USA.

Hood not only made a call, but declared that there were concrete calculations and plans in this direction. With this call, the US put the Kurdish Freedom Movement, the PKK, on its target board. However, in April 2018, the PKK officially withdrew from Shengal, after rescuing the Yazidis from the ISIS attack, during which peshmerga (affiliated with the KDP) had left the Yazidis to face genocide. In the meantime, the people of Shengal formed a self-defence force, under the names YBŞ and YJŞ, and organized their political will in the form of assemblies. So, going forward, they can make their own decisions, defend themselves and not be dependent on those who abandoned them.

Now, does the US want to eliminate these forces, made up of only the people of Shengal, through the hands of the Turkish state? That is to say, the USA opposes the self-governance of Shengal, where the Yazidis form their own powers and wills. The USA does not want the Yazidis to become an organized society. They do not want them to fulfil the potential to set an example for other ethnic and religious communities.

On the other hand, how can the Turkish state be an "interlocutor" with Shengal? How can the AKP-MHP have any right of say on Shengal? Even though it's located 115 kilometres from the border with the Republic of Turkey, and has so far only defended itself against ISIS, the Turkish state has been carrying out airstrikes since 2017. In this way, the USA not only justifies the Turkish army's airstrikes and massacres against Shengal, it also offers an invitation for the Turkish republic to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq and Southern Kurdistan. Using this invitation, the Turkish state will want to create its dream of a "Sunni corridor".

This region mainly includes "disputed regions". In other words, in addition to Mosul and Kirkuk, it also includes Germiyan and Xaneqîn-Mendelî. Well, isn't the future of these regions that are historically located within the geography of Kurdistan at risk? What are the calculations made on this subject? Why doesn't the KRG see and oppose these plans and projects? Or is the US saying to Turkey: 'Drop the Aegean, the Mediterranean, you deal with the Kurds on the other side, and together we will create a Sunni corridor that extends from Basra to deal with the region on your back'? Therefore, could it be that the US, Iraq and Turkey have paved the way for the occupation of South Kurdistan?

Iraqi government and Southern Kurdistan government did not see the massacre of the Turkish state

KRG Government Spokesperson Adil Cotyar made a statement, but did not mention the invasion attacks of the Turkish state, and no serious condemnation was made regarding the civilian massacre. Instead of directly condemning the massacres of the Turkish state, the expression, "The Government of the Kurdistan Region condemns the martyrdom and loss of lives of citizens from any side and for whatever reason," was used. In the statement, expressions that emphasized that the PKK should withdraw from those regions in order to not cause attacks on the borders of the Kurdistan Region continued to be used. Cotyar said that the Kurdistan Region wants a friendly relationship with neighboring countries and does not want any country to be attacked from the territory of the Kurdistan Region. All KDP officials made similar statements; they did not condemn the Turkish state or call for an end of their occupation. On the contrary, KDP officials referred to Kurdish guerrillas resisting the occupation as the cause of the Turkish state attacks. In some areas, they even facilitated the invasion operations by providing both open and secret aid to the Turkish army. The Iraqi government has a similar approach. While there was no reaction from the prime minister against this invasion operation, the foreign ministry was content with just giving notes. However, Iraq could have reported Turkey to the UN Security Council. Additionally, Iraq could cut off all military, political, economic and diplomatic relations with the Turkish state. Evidently, Iraq is very weak and not in a position to resist this issue.

TURKISH STATE VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND COMMITS WAR CRIMES

The Turkish State, in all its attacks, violated the 12 August 1949 Geneva Conventions, Article 8 of the International Criminal Court on War Crimes of the Rome Statute:

Especially:

Article 8, section 2 (a) (iii): Intentionally causing great pain or serious injury to body or health.

(iv) causing massive destruction and seizure of property illegally and for no reason, without military necessity,

Part 2 (b) (i): deliberately targeting the civilian population or persons not involved in the conflict,

(iv) deliberately attacking, knowing that it could cause accidental deaths and injuries of civilians and that these damages would be excessive compared to the concrete military targets expected,

(v) bombing or attacking cities, villages, residences and buildings that are vulnerable and do not constitute military targets.

In addition, taking into account the Turkish UAV's ability to distinguish civilians during attacks, these airstrikes are deliberately carried out knowing the strike will not give military advantage to the Turkish army, and will result in the death or injury of civilians and damage the property of the civilian population.

These items also show that;

- The Turkish State commits War Crimes,
- The Turkish State violates Humanitarian Law and commits crimes against humanity.
- It even carries out ethnic cleansing and changes the demography in areas it occupies by settling other populations.

TO END THE TURKISH OCCUPATION:

- ***Close Iraqi airspace to Turkish warplanes and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's).***
- ***The UN must condemn the Turkish state attacks as violations of international law, and issue sanctions.***
- ***War crimes committed by the Turkish state should be tried by international courts.***
- ***The Turkish state should stop its attacks on the Kurdish people and immediately withdraw from the areas occupied.***
- ***KRG and Iraq should suspend all relations with the Turkish state.***
- ***All Kurdish forces should support the PKK in resisting the occupation.***
- ***Collaborative Kurdish parties especially KDP and institutions supporting the Turkish occupation should be exposed.***

TURKISH MILITARY ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS IN THE LAST 37 YEARS IN SOUTH KURDISTAN



The Turkish state entered 5 kilometres beyond the border into Southern Kurdistan territory on 25 May 1983, and carried out its first land operation with 7,000 soldiers. Its first airstrike operation was on 12 August 1986.

The colonising Turkish state has entered Southern Kurdistan on 25 May 1983, with Hot pursuit in 1991, Broom in 1992, the Southern War cross-border operation on 28 January 1994, Çelik in March 1995 and Brigade in December 1996. The transition to Operation Sledgehammer happened in 1997.

From 1998 to 2000, in addition to the operations of Çekiç, Murat and Sandwich, on 15 August 2000, the Lolan and Xakurkê areas were bombed from the air. The first civilian massacre of the Turkish state took place on 28 January 1994, in the Zelê camp.

The Turkish state, continuing its cross-border operations, bombed the Zap region of the Medya Defense Zones on 20 February 2008 for 9 days by air and land. The Turkish army, which failed to achieve results in 26 ground operations, started using reconnaissance flights with US UAVs for the first time in December 2007. The Turkish state has always violated international law during those attacks.

Out of hundreds of cases of atrocities and massacres, the following are some of the gravest:

Attacks Between 2000-2017

15 August 2000 KENDAKOLÊ Massacre



One of the biggest massacres carried out by the Turkish state was the Kendakolê Massacre on 15 August 2000. The Turkish army organized air strikes against 100 tents of the Herkî Surçî, Bradost and Mamsal tribes, who came to the plateau due to the abundance of water and pastures in the Kendakolê plain. At least 30 people, mostly children and women, were massacred.

The names of the murdered are as follows: M. Ali Uzeyir (35), Fatma Nebî (25), Berîtan M. Ali (4), Bahar Eshed (18), Gilawêj Simaîl (18), Ferzande Şakir (1), Xelat Qadir (18), White Abraham (70), Besê Ibrahim (68), Sonya Mihê (35), Fadima Sewdîn (18), Peyman Qadir (17), Rêzan Qadir (12), Fatma Hesên Esen (60), Hedîya Mele

Hesên (45), Nejat Maîn (10), Xecîca Maîn (11), Baxtîyar Hecac (16), Faxir Bakî Ali (40), Surmê Esmer (30), Şehnaz Faxir (15), Dilnaz Faxir (10), Kusret Faxir (5), Zuhre Sadî Şêxo (70), Semîr Mihê (25), Raîd Qadir (15), Fatma Rahman (30).

In addition, three more children under one year old, whose identities have not been identified, died in the same attack. This list of 30 people does not include those who lost their lives among the injured, who were sent to Diana and Hewler.

1 December 2007, First Discover Flights

For the first time, reconnaissance flights started with UAVs belonging to the USA. Kurds have announced that on December 1, 2007, the first mortar and Howitzer attacks based on these reconnaissance flights took place. The biggest air strike based on reconnaissance flights took place on 16 December. The Turkish army attacked twice by land in order to occupy Southern Kurdistan between 1 December 2007 and December 2008. The first was for the Xakurkê area on 17 December 2007.

15 May 2011, Semdinli

A group of people near the border stones numbered 502 and 503 were shot while collecting beets from the Field Police Station in the Semdinli District of Hakkari, and in the village of Helece in the city of Zive, Iran. Kadriye İslami, of Helece Village in the city of Zive in Iran, lost her life in the cannon shot. Three unnamed people were injured.

17 August 2011, Kortek-Kandil Massacre



The Turkish army, which thinks that it will not be able to get results with ground operations after the 26th ground attack defeat, has started to focus on air attacks. The 5th day of the attacks that the Turkish army started on 17 August 2011 turned into a massacre. The combat aircraft targeted the vehicle in motion, near the village of Bolê on the Kortek-Ranya road on 21 August.

7 civilians, 4 of whom were children, were killed. All those who were murdered were from the same family. Father Hüseyin Mustafa, Mother Mêr Mam Kak, Rezan Hüseyin (34) hamile, Zana Hüseyin (11), Oskar Hüseyin (10), Sonya Şemal (4), Baby Solin (7 months old).

After the massacre, the Turkish state and the army denied it again, but Beşir Atalay from the AKP confessed the the massacre in a program he attended after the Roboski massacre. The Federal Government of Kurdistan has left all the applications made by those who lost their relatives in the massacre unanswered.

22 November 2011, Sulaymaniyah Region

There was an airstrike on the villages of Soregulê, Deregulê, Şêredê and Meredo in the Ranya District of Sulaymaniyah. In the bombed village of Meredo, a shepherd named Mehmet Bayiz was seriously injured. 48 small animals perished.

7 November 2012, Qandil Region

Turkish warplanes taking off from Diyarbakır bombed the Qandil region within the borders of Iran and Southern Kurdistan at around 00.00. 2 people lost their lives and 2 people were injured in the bombardment near the village of Soregulê on the border of Iran and Kurdistan. As a result of the bombardment that continued until 00:45, Mam Elî (45), the father of three children of Bodolê village in the city of Piranşar in Iran, and Şepûl Loqman (19), of Zêvê village in Mahabad, lost their lives. It was reported that one of the legs of Ebûbekir Çeko (23), of Çeko village in Serdeştê, and Rêbaz from Federal Kurdistan, whose surname could not be learned, was lost.

17 February 2014, Roboski

A large number of skorsky and cobra-type helicopters, which were dispatched to the area where the border stone number 15 was located in Beyaz Tepe, near Roboski village of the Uludere district of Şırnak, combed

the border line with heavy air weapons. Nearly 70 civilians who were trapped in the fire caused by the bombing were fired upon. Nihat Encü got an injury to his foot as a result of the firing from the soldier.

11 August 2014,

The Dinç family living in Yeşilova village of the Semdinli district of Hakkari visited their relatives in Federal Kurdistan. When they were going to cross the border and go home, soldiers from the police station in Mamreşa opened fire. As a result, Ayhan, Sihat, Habib and Fergeng sustained injuries in various parts of their bodies.

24 July 2015 Bombardment's

After Erdogan unilaterally ended the peace process, the biggest airstrike occurred on the evening of 24 July. Almost all regions - such as Kandil, Metina, Heftenîn, Avashin, Xakurkê, Xinêre, Garê - affiliated to Media Defense Areas were bombed by 50 aircraft. Civilian settlements were also targeted in attacks that continue almost every night since 24 July.

1 August 2015, Zargali Massacre



Turkish fighter jets bombed Binarê Qendil villages on 1 August 2015 at 04.00. One of the villages targeted by the bombings was Zergelê village.

Turkish fighter jets made the first attack at the home of Mam Xidir, from the village of Zergelê. Ayşe, the wife of Mam Xidir, died in the attack, while some other villagers were injured. Upon hearing the incident, three Civilian settlements were also targeted in attacks that continue almost every night since 24 July. Turkish Warplanes dropped bombs on the villagers who were trying to help following the bombing. As a result of the second bombing, 7 civilians were killed. As a result of the attacks, 8 people were killed and 10 people were injured.

The mosque and many houses in the village were also destroyed during the bombing. The villagers' crops and vineyards also burned. After the massacre, a 2-and-a-half-meter-long missile weighing 3 tons was found at the scene. According to Article 5 of the International Geneva War rules, such missiles were prohibited because they damaged natural water resources.

After the massacre, a group of the Human Rights Commission visited Zergelê village, led by the President of the Federated Kurdistan Parliament. The delegation stated that there was a massacre in the report it prepared after the investigation and requested that the victims' families be compensated. However, no compensation was paid to the villagers. The Federated Government of Kurdistan only sufficed with condemning the attack in Zergelê, as in Kortek.

12 December 2015, Qandil Region



Turkish warplanes carried out an air operation in the Kandil Region, and killed two civilians named Hurşit Ölmez and Macit Ölmez, from the Şifrezan village in Şirnak's Uludere district.

24 Oct 2016, Diyana city

The Turkish army's F-16 fighter jets bombed Mawata village in the Mêrgesor district of Diyana city of Southern Kurdistan at around 23:00. As a result of the bombardment from Turkish warplanes, 3 civilians died, who had gone to the creek to fish and started a small fire there. It is reported that the civilians who lost their lives were brothers named Herbi Elî and Mixdad Elî and Imad Mele Temir.

Attacks Between 2017-2018

On 25th of April, 2017, Turkish jets bombed the Sinjar area and two surrounding villages, Kesre and Amude. As a result, 5 Peshmerga forces and one YBS fighter were killed.

On 14 December 2017, the Turkish army entered the territory of South Kurdistan from the Şemzînan district of Hakkari. They occupied up to 30 kilometers of territory in South Kurdistan and established new military bases in Lêlikan, Çiyadêl and many other areas.

According to the 2017 Human Rights Association (IHD) report, 41 people, including 4 children and 3 soldiers, were killed and injured in the border regions of Turkey.

According to Cebbar Yaver, General Secretary of the Ministry of Pashmerge, Turkish warplanes ran 398 air strikes and 425 flights from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018. 288 villages became the targets of the attacks. At least 30 civilians were killed in the attacks of the Turkish state in 2017-2018, and dozens were injured.

On 13 December 2018, Turkish fighter jets attacked the Makhmour refugee camp, targeting 4 women who were tending their livestock and leaving all 4 killed. The names are as follows:

Asya Ali Muhammad (37), Narin Ferhan Qasim, (26), Evin Kawa Mahmoud, (14), Eylem Muhammad Omar, (23). This massacre has also been documented by the International Red Cross, who visited the camp and the massacre site.

On 21 March 2018, four young men who had taken part in Newroz Celebrations and gone back to their village of Serkan in the Qandil area were targeted by Turkish jets and lost their lives. Their names are: Shero Mahmoud, Kaka Mustafa, Derbaz Smaqoli, Kaka Smail.

On 18 December 2018, the Shilo Valley in Sinjar was bombarded. As a result, 3 civilians who were digging wells in the area were killed.

On 23 January 2019, 4 civilians were massacred in the Turkish state's air attack on the town of Dêralok. The people of Bashur, who have been living under the attacks of the invading Turkish state for years, expressed their reactions with great anger after these attacks. The people of Behdinan, known for their resistance, gathered in Dêralok against the civilian massacres of the Turkish state on 25 January, despite the blocking of the security forces. The people of Behdinan took to the streets once again the next day and showed great resistance against the invaders. Thousands of people marched towards the Sîrê Military Base, located in Şêladizê. Then they entered the military base, set the military vehicles on fire, and stoned the base. Thousands shouted "Erdogan is our enemy" and "Murderer Erdogan," and asked Turkish soldiers who had been occupying Bashur for years to leave the region. In the subsequent attack by Turkish soldiers, 2 civilians were martyred and 6 civilians were injured. There was also a child among those killed.

27 May, 25 June and 27 June 2019, KORTEK



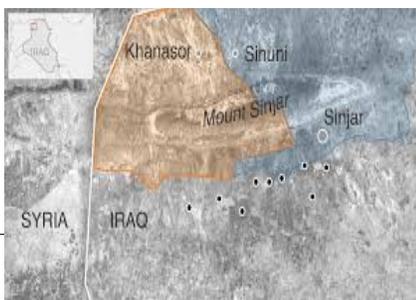
During the invasion attempt launched by the Turkish army in Southern Kurdistan under the name "Claw" on 27 May 2019, civilians were killed one after another in the attacks, accompanied by warplanes. One of the two brothers in the vehicle died in the bombing of a civilian vehicle on the 25th of June in the Goşin district of the Soran district of Hewlêr, and the other was seriously injured. As a result of the ongoing air bombings, on the evening of 27 June, two vehicles belonging to a family were targeted and shot by bombs in the Kortek area of Süleymaniye, Ranya district.

Abdulla Alî Mîne (53) and their children Kurdistan Abdula (30) and Heryad Abdula (19) died in the attack. Taybet Mihemed Abdula, Mihemed Abdula, Benaz Abdula, Rabî Mihemed and one other person survived with injuries. All three bodies were buried quietly.

Hêrîş Abdula, who lost his father Abdulla Alî Mîne in the bombardment, said, "My father and his friends went to irrigate our garden at Binarê, Qendil at 07.00 in the morning. When they returned in the evening, they became the target of Turkish warplanes. My mother, father, brother, my brother's wife and sister, who had two children. My father, sister and brother were martyred in the attack. We buried my father and sister at a funeral, and then we buried my brother's body. My father and sister's bodies were unrecognisable because of the bombing."

On 5 October 2019, Turkish armed drones staged an attack against the Khanasor town in Sinjar. According to YBS General Command, 3 of their fighters were injured in these attacks. On the same day, Bare village was also bombed.

On 19 October 2019, Turkish armed drones staged another attack against Khanasor town of the Sinjar area. According to the statement of YBS General Command, Agit Shangal fell martyr and four other fighters were heavily injured.



On 15 April 2020, armed drones of the Turkish military, targeted and killed 3 women on the way back from tending their livestock. Their names are as follows: Havva Omar Huseyin, (32), Azime Tahir Ferman, (33), Ayshe Ahmad Ferhan, (17). This massacre has also been documented by the Red Cross.

On 7 January 2020, A Turkish air strike killed two people in the Gare region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

On 15 January 2020, The Dugure village of Sinjar was bombarded by Turkish jets and YBS General Commander Zerdesht Shangali, along with 3 other YBS fighters, Hamid, Cilo, and Ezdin Shengali, fell martyr.

On 29 February 2020, Six people were killed during air strikes in the Metina and Gara regions.

On 13 March 2020, War planes struck the Bradost region of Sidekan, bombing Khalifa and Geli Reş villages.

On 17 April 2020, A Turkish drone strike against the Makhmour refugee camp east of Mosul killed two female refugees.

On 4 May 2020, War planes bombed Sinine village in the Bradost region, destroying the road leading to the village.

On 26 May 2020, A cross-border action by the TSK in Duhok province wounded a 13-year-old girl.

On 27 May 2020, Turkish war planes targeted a vehicle, killing five people, in Mawat town, north of Suleimani province.

On 30 May 2020, Turkish airstrikes killed 60-year-old Jalal Nuradin and his 32-year-old son Ahmed, and wounded one person in the village of Hetuta on the outskirts of Amedi district.

On 7 June 2020, Turkish bombardments caused huge fires in mountainous areas in northern parts of the Kurdistan Region, near the villages of Siran and Meragarsh in Erbil's Soran district.

On 15 June 2020, Sinjar mountains were heavily bombed by the Turkish army and as a result, 4 YBS fighters were injured.

On 17 June 2020, Ebas Mexdîfî (30) was massacred in the shelling of Turkish warplanes in Sîdeka.

On 19 June 2020, Turkish fighter jets attacked civilian areas in Şeladizê district of Amediye and killed 5 civilians, three of whom were siblings. Muxlis Adem, Azad Mehdî, Dêman Omer and Emîn Salih were killed in the air attack in Dolî Balende.

On 25 June 2020, A woman named Peyman Talîbî was injured in the attack on Kunemasi. One of her legs was cut off and the other leg was broken. Peywan Kaweyi and his two children were injured in the same attack.



On 15 June 2020, Turkish fighter jets simultaneously attacked Makhmour, Sinjar (Shingal) and Qandil areas in northern Iraq.

Makhmour is a refugee camp that was under the supervision of the United Nations for a long time. Makhmour's 15,000 inhabitants are Kurds from Turkey whose villages were destroyed and depopulated, and whose family members were killed, imprisoned or tortured by the Turkish army as part of the counter-insurgency warfare in the 1990s. There were no dead and wounded in Makhmour this time, as airstrikes targeted its outskirts, but some civilians were injured due to the bombardments on Serdeşt area in Sinjar - the historical home of Ezidi people. Serdest has a hospital and a camp for the Ezidis displaced from their homes after the attacks of ISIS in 2014.

On June 21 2020, Turkish air strikes in Duhok province land 1 km away from the Christian community of Bersv and three Yezidi camps, causing extensive property damage.



On June 25 2020, Air strikes in the Bradost sub-district in northern Erbil province hit communities near Mount Zararan, causing widespread fires.

On July 11 2020, The Turkish state bombed Badyeyan village of Duhok. In this bombardment, 10 houses in the village were destroyed and the gardens were damaged.

On July 22, 2020, Two civilian cars were targeted by Turkish jets in the village Barzanki belonging to the Bamerni area. As a result, two civilians, Dilovan Shahin and Abdullah Ahmad, lost their lives.

BALANCE OF RESISTANCE AGAINST TURKISH OCCUPATION

The People's Defense Forces (HPG) Statements



The Press Office of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) released a statement announcing the details of the latest airstrikes carried out by the Turkish army on the guerrilla-held Medya Defense Zones in Southern Kurdistan, Northern Iraq.

Civilians who lost their life in the bombardment were deliberately targeted and murdered by the occupant Turkish army. HPG says that through the media under its control, the fascist Turkish state attempts to present the local people it deliberately murders as PKK members and to cover up the massacres they have committed.



YJA Star Commander spoke about the current situation of violence against women in Turkey. Reminding that women who are subjected to violence in Kurdistan turn their direction to the free mountains, and underlining the importance of the Istanbul Convention, which is on the agenda of women, she stated:

"This agreement and women's laws alone cannot solve the crises in the society. Attacks against women in Turkey under the AKP regime is not something new. We must not forget that during the AKP rule, violence, rape and all kinds of violence against women increased. (...) At the same time, what happened is not only limited to the AKP, but is also related to sovereignty and hegemony. That is why we cannot limit the attacks on women only to the Erdogan regime. As we see, for

example, there are many agreements and laws on women's rights in Europe, yet these cannot prevent a male-dominated mentality.”



Commanders of the People's Defense Forces (HPG) spoke about the current actions of the guerrillas and their perspective, stating: "The Turkish occupying state has been carrying out extermination operations since the beginning of the year. It is obvious that it will continue like this. There is a desire to occupy all of Kurdistan within the framework of the Turkish government's neo-Ottoman expansion strategy. To this end, the occupation of the region of Heftanin is intended be completed this year. The guerrilla resistance, however, has thwarted the Turkish state's plans here."

The balance sheet of the Heftanin war for these 3 months

Martyr	36
Action Number	147
The result of unknow action	34
Enemy soldier killed	293
Injured enemy military	41
Total air attack	171
Kobra-Helicopter attack	17
Obus-mortar attack	30
Enemy operations	3
Number of hitched helicopters	6

The guerrillas who fell martyr by the Turkish attack

DATE & REGION	
04 June, Avaşin	Berçem (Melel Maku;



air

16 June, Heftanin	Çiya (Şerif Ali Ebubekir) -Ranya;Şahin (Nadir Kerimi)- Sine; Tolhıldan (Mehdi Ahmedi)- Kotol
19 June, Heftanin	Amara (Mizgin Tağay) –Muş
21 June, Heftanin	Memyan (Abdullah Dünder) –Siirt
25 June, Dupisk	Zerya (Derya Çavuşoğlu)- Muş; Nucan Serdoz (Zarife Kiran)- Mardin
30 June, Xantur	Şoreşger (Mehmet Emin Toy) -Siirt; Welat (İsmail Ali) -Derik
03 July, Xantur	Goran (Muhammed Bayram) -Adana;Viyan (Cina Terpuş) -Kobane; Xabur (Ömer İso) –Kobane
7 July, Zap	Agit (İdris Ören)- Şırnak; Zana (Sidar Çiçek)- Amed

REACTIONS TO THE TURKISH OCCUPATION

Kurdish parties and groups issue call to reject Turkish war plans



Numerous parties and organisations from Kurdistan, like YNK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan), GORAN Movement, PYD (Democratic Union Party), KKP (Communist Part of Kurdistan), P.D.K.S (Partiya Demokrata Kurd li Sûriya), Party of Zehmetkêşanî Kurdistan, P.Ç.D.K-S (Partiya ÇepaDemokrata Kurd – Sûriya), PÇK-S (Partiya Çepa Kurd – Sûriya), PJAK (Party of Free Life of Kurdistan), PÎK (Islamic Party of Kurdistan), Mesopotamia People's Congress, KCD-E (Democratic Society Congress of Kurds in Europe), TJKE – (Kurdistan Women's

Movement in Europe), Assemble of Şengalê in Foreign Country, Yarsan Platform, Zagros Platform, Horam Platform, and the Brussels-Stockholm-Koln Kurdish Institute have warned about and called to stand against the invasion attacks and plans of the Turkish state.

A joint written statement said: *"We see that the invading Turkish state is trying to play a very dirty game in South Kurdistan. As we all know, the history of this state is full of hostile policies and actions against the people of Kurdistan. Recently, along with its plan for the West (of Kurdistan), it has begun a dangerous plan in the South. We clearly see that this hostile state wants to bring the forces of the Kurdistan People's Movement into civil war... We call on everyone to reject this plan. The conscientious peoples and humanity of the world and the people of Kurdistan should stand up for a free and equal struggle for life."*

A Parties and institutions statement: *"On June 14 at 24:00 the fascist and colonial Turkish State attacked and bombarded all resistance areas of Shingal, Makhmur, Qendil and Southern Kurdistan with all its military power and warplanes. Dozens of times, the colonialist and genocidal fascist AKP-MHP state has carried out devastating attacks on the entire Kurdish people in all parts of Kurdistan. We can no longer be alien to such genocidal policies and attacks of the Turkish state against the people of Kurdistan, or they will become partners in the crimes committed by the fascist R.T.Erdogan and D.Bahceli state"*.

KCK: KRG must take a stand against the Turkish state



The Committee for External Relations of the KCK (Kurdistan Communities Union) made a statement on the Turkish drone attack on 11 August in the region of Bradost in Southern Kurdistan, Northern Iraq. The Turkish Air Force bombed vehicles of Iraqi border guard units on Tuesday, killing two commanders and a driver. The KCK committee notes that while the drone attack on

Iraqi territory has been condemned by all sides, only the Kurdish regional government (KRG) has not taken any action.

KCK calls also for unity against Turkey's occupation attacks: *"As the Turkish state wants to extend its occupation attacks to guerrilla areas, KCK warns that Turkey's plan was to annex Southern Kurdistan and Rojava next, and this would remove all obstacles to its neo-Ottoman expansion in the Middle East."*

Iraqi President Berhem Salih stated that the Turkish state violated Iraq's sovereign rights with the attacks and demanded that the military activities and cross-border attacks stop.

The former Iraqi Foreign Minister and KDP Politburo member, Hoshyar Zebari, says Turkey's attacks on South Kurdistan are a serious geopolitical development, and that he is concerned by the continuation of the attacks. It is even more worrying that the view of claiming the Province of Mosul is put on the agenda by the Turkish leaders, he said. In addition, Cebbar Yaver, General Secretary of the Ministry of Peshmerga, stated that 288 villages have been targeted and evacuated due to 398 air and 425 artillery attacks in recent years.

General Secretariat of the Arab League, "This is against the norms of international law" ²



The Press Office of General Secretariat of the Arab League condemned the Turkish army's air strikes against the Makhmur Camp, Shengal and Medya Defense Zones with their statement. Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Abu Gaytan in his statement condemned Turkey's excuses of following the PKK, and the military operations carried out in southern Kurdistan, and testified that "the Turkish military occupation was a violation of the sovereignty of Iraq."

He emphasized that Ankara "underestimates international law and equally the relations with neighboring Arab countries." *"Turkey's military intervention against both Syria and the Arab countries, including Libya and Iraq, concerns all Arab countries, and leads to denial and condemnation and reflects Turkey's expansionist ambition,"* the statement said.

IGFM: Germany should not remain silent to the attacks

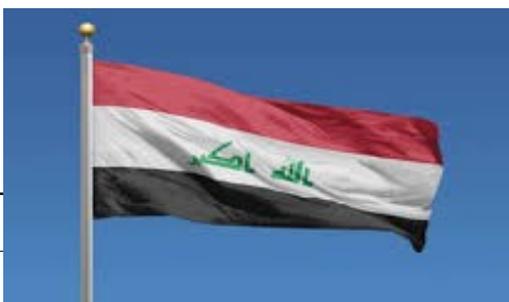


International Association for Human Rights (IGFM)³ - Germany and other Western countries should not remain silent in the face of these attacks. Turkey's human rights violations and war politics in the region, which are closely followed by the IGFM, have caused civilian deaths during the attacks.

IGFM Board Member Vasilis Pavegos *"Germany should not remain silent about the war crimes and human rights violations committed by the Turkish state. The most important of these crimes are the ones in Iraq and Syria. Whenever Turkish President Erdogan gets jammed internally, he puts the military apparatus into action to make the country forget the bad political and economic situation. As always, the victims of these attacks have been different ethnic and religious groups such as Kurds and Yazidis. Turkey's allies will never be accepted; we must act now to end these attacks."*

IGFM, headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, has been working as a non-governmental international organization since 1972. The organization, which has nearly 35 thousand members worldwide, has an organized network in 26 countries.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has asked Turkey to withdraw its forces¹



The Iraqi Foreign Ministry urged the Turkish state to end its "provocative actions" and withdraw its troops from Iraqi territory. Turkish Ambassador Fatih Yıldız in Baghdad was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a second time and a protest letter

was given. According to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, in the letter the attacks were protested "with a firm statement."

The Iraq Joint Operations Command condemned Turkey's air attack on the grounds that it violates the country's sovereignty.

Statements of the parties and fractions in the Iraq Parliament

PUK has made a call to the International Security Council to take action against Turkey's attacks. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) fraction in the Iraqi parliament condemned the Turkish state's attacks and demanded an end to its military presence in Iraq and Southern Kurdistan. Drawing attention to the recent bombings targeting Shengal, Mahmur Camp and Kandil, the PUK-fraction stated,

"With these attacks, the Turkish state aims to spread fear in the region and to force the inhabitants of the village to flee. It wants to dehumanize these areas in order to intervene in the area more. It especially plans to evacuate the Biradost region of Hewlêr and place its military forces there. "The Turkish state and Iran violate Iraq's right to sovereignty."...



"We condemn these attacks that violate the sovereignty of Iraq and call on the Iraqi government to take a serious attitude against the attacks. The Iraqi government must protect the territorial sovereignty and the right to sovereignty and the people that are targeted by the Turkish state. These attacks, which the civilian population suffers from, must be prevented. In order to end the military presence of the Turkish state in Southern Kurdistan and Iraq, serious and urgent action, especially by the international public, should be taken, and pressure should be applied to solve the problems of the Turkish state through democratic means."

Nesir Alliance: We condemn the violation

The Nesir Alliance stated, *"Once again, we condemn the violation of Iraq's sovereignty. The state is obliged to protect the sanctity of the land and people of Iraq."* The Nesir alliance, who asked the government to use its authority to protect Iraq's sovereignty and honor, protested that the Turkish state increased instability in the region.

Islamic Dawah Party: The Turkish State must draw its power

Islamic Dawa Party declared in a written statement that it wants Turkey to completely withdraw their forces from Iraqi territory, and at the same time it demands the governments in Baghdad and Erbil *"fulfill their national duties in protecting the sovereignty of Iraq."*

Former Egyptian Foreign Minister Bayoumi: Turkey wants an occupation

Former deputy Egyptian Foreign Minister Jamal Bayoumi criticizes the lack of willingness to act on the part



of the community of states with regard to the Turkish aggression in Libya, and said that, **"Turkey is acting in a highly unethical manner and wants an occupation."**

"Article 50 of the UN Convention recognises the right to self-defence. If someone stands up and says that this applies only to internal security, that may be permissible, but it is important to know that there are more than two million Egyptian citizens in Libya at the moment and Egypt has an obligation to defend them, and should not wait until the threat reaches the Egyptian border. Turkey is playing the Muslim Brotherhood card to control the region. Turkey's evil game is becoming more obvious

every day. At the same time a decision was also taken in Jordan in this context, and now this situation must be tackled together. (...)

They recognize our right to defend ourselves against all threats against Egypt according to the UN Convention. We will also defend ourselves within this framework... Turkey intends to stay there for centuries. That's what Erdoğan's defence minister himself tells when he says, 'This is our country, you came and occupied it.' So why doesn't he go straight to Austria and Macedonia? All this shows very clearly what it's really all about. The Turkish state is eager to take over territories and occupy them. (...) Turkey wants to actively intervene in the situation with these groups it has gathered here. It has pulled together many of these troops, and five divisions are said to have been established. The forces it has pulled together from Libya and Egypt are called the 5th Division. They try to mingle with the population. The attitude of the people towards these forces, which are even worse than the militias, is clear. They have collaborated with terrorists against us. Everyone knows that. But their plans are being closely monitored and will continue to be so. Moreover, Turkey is not only invading Libya, but is also forcibly invading Syria and Iraq and occupying the regions permanently. (...) Erdoğan tries to bring back the empire from the past, he wants to occupy Northern Iraq and occupies Syria. (...) Turkey is trying to use the latest changes as an opportunity to occupy Syria completely."

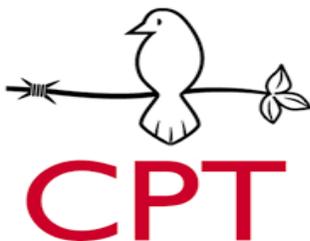
Parlasur President issues call to international community



Mercosur Parliament (Parlasur) President Oscar Alberto Laborde condemned the Turkish state's recent attacks, including those on Maxmur and Shengal, and urged the international community and institutions to take action. Reminding that international law allows the use of diplomatic and economic sanctions, as well as military sanctions if necessary, to states that threaten global peace and security, Mercosur Parliament Speaker Oscar Alberto Laborde emphasized that the international community should not tolerate the Turkish state's attacks.

Reminding that international law prohibits states from interfering with other states' internal affairs and using force, President Laborde said that primarily, diplomatic and economic sanctions could be imposed on states that threaten global peace and security if necessary. He added also that military sanctions should be applied and stated further, "The Turkish state is violating international law principles." He asked the United Nations, the USA, the Iraqi Government, the Federal Government of Kurdistan and the European Union to urge Turkey to declare an immediate ceasefire and respect human rights. Oscar Laborde added: "I make this call to the international community to stand against these attacks. Dialogue can be developed only within the framework of a peace process."

Christian Peacemaker Teams-IK: Turkish fighter jets, drones bombardments killed 85 civilians



CPT-IK calls on the Government of Turkey to respect civilian lives and put an end to its military operations in the territory of Iraq. According to CPT-IK, since August 2015, Turkish fighter jets, drones, artillery bombardments and gunfire killed at least 85 and wounded more than 95 civilians.

Of the 85 fatalities, 15 civilians were killed in the first six months of 2020 alone. The Turkish operations emptied more than one hundred villages and caused a concerning deterioration of safety and economic security for several thousand families.

"Since the Turkish Air Force's Operation Claw-Eagle launched on 15 June 2020, followed by the Military Forces incursion named Operation Claw-Tiger on 17 June, at least 6 civilians have been killed and at least 4 civilians wounded. In addition, these

military operations have burned agricultural lands, orchards and livestock, and threatened the existence of many villages."

Turkish attacks that have indeed targeted civilians since June this year:

On 17 June, Turkish airstrike killed Abas Maghdid, 30 years old, in Khnera heights in the sub-district of Sidakan.

On 19 June, Turkish airstrike killed Mukhlis Adam, Azad Mahdi, Deman Omar and Ameen Salih, who went for a leisure trip to the Balanda valley near Sheladze after work.

On 25 June, a Turkish drone bombed a grocery store in a picnic area of Kuna Masi while many families were in the vicinity. The attack severed Peyman Talib's, a 31-year-old woman, leg from the knee down, broke her second leg in many places and burned both of her arms. Talib's husband, Keywan Kawa, 30, and their two children, a 7-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy, were also injured in the attack.

On 10 July, residents of Avla village, Batifa sub-district, Duhok province, fled their homes after Turkish forces dropped 26 bombs on the village.

On 11 July, Turkish artillery targeted Bedihe village in Duhok province with six mortars, causing damage to 10 households. The artillery has also damaged groves and orchards of locals in the area.

UN: Culture of impunity for human rights violations marks Turkey



The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances says most of its recommendations were ignored by Turkey, where a culture of impunity prevails.

The Working Group reported that, "*limited progress was made in the legislative domain, notably in abolishing statutory limitations for the crime of torture.(...) Many recommendations have only been partially addressed or have not been addressed at all(...)*

Equally concerned that the aforementioned practices, conducted within Turkey or abroad, epitomized a denial of justice, insofar as these individuals were reportedly deprived of liberty in the form of secret, unacknowledged

or incommunicado detention and completely removed from the protection of law.

It is further disconcerting that they may have been deprived of the rights to an effective remedy and fair trial whilst held incommunicado, including through forced confession of guilt, denial of the presumption of innocence, inability to challenge the lawfulness of detention, denial of access to legal representation, as well as torture and ill-treatment. Such practices can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment."

The Working Group also notes, "*with concern that even after the suspension of the state of emergency, the authorities have not complied with procedural safeguards upon arrest and during the first hours of deprivation of liberty aimed at preventing possible violations, such as torture. These safeguards include immediate registration and judicial oversight of detention, notification of family members as soon as an individual is deprived of liberty, the hiring of a defence lawyer of one's choice, and lawyer-client privilege... the entrenched culture of impunity for human rights violations perpetrated by state agents continues to be a main obstacle to holding officials accountable in Turkey. While there are various factors that foster a culture of impunity in the criminal justice system, the lack of judicial independence and impartiality are reported to have been most critical ones."*

CHAPTER II

TURKISH INVASION FORCES IN SOUTHERN KURDISTAN (IRAQI KURDISTAN) IN THE LAST 40 YEARS

Introduction

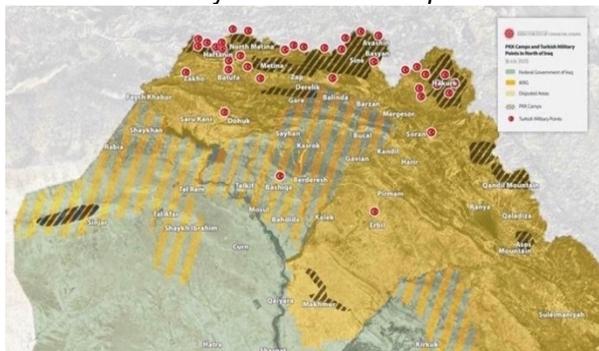
Turkey's attacks and invasion attempts in Southern Kurdistan have been ongoing since 1980, with the construction of the first bases. **There are over 10,000 Turkish troops stationed in Southern Kurdistan today.**



The first military attack by the Turkish army was in 1981, and later again 1983, called the *Hot Pursuit Operation*. The *Border Security and Cooperation Treaty* was signed between Ankara and Baghdad in 1983, giving the Turkish army authority to carry out operations on Iraqi soil up to 10 km beyond the border.

The first attack against the PKK guerrillas after the treaty was on 25 May 25 1983, as 7,000 soldiers entered 5 km in from the border. Meanwhile, the Iraqi army attacked the PKK camps in the south.

The Turkish army's *Hot Pursuit Operation* was followed by a second operation in 1984, when PKK camps were targeted. On 12 August 1986 a **third operation** was conducted. 14 soldiers died in the action against the Cukurca Gendarmerie Outpost by the PKK guerrillas.



The fourth operation was on 4 March 1987. Turkish jets bombed several areas in Southern Kurdistan. KDP targeted the PKK instead of protesting against the Turkish army. The Turkish state wasn't able to carry out cross-border operations between 1988 and 1991 because Baghdad didn't allow it in those years.

The people of Bashur (Southern Kurdistan) launched an uprising from Ranya in 1991. In a short time, it spread from Behdinan to Zakho, from Soran to Halabja. The Baath regime was removed from many areas in Bashur.

The US had forces stationed in the region, the *Hammer Force*. Southern Kurdistan's borders were defined as the *36th-42nd parallels*, and the area within these borders was closed for an Iraqi air field.

The Turkish state and launched an attack against the Kurdish Freedom Movement in October 1992, the **“Sandwich Operation”**. This operation was the beginning of Turkish state attacks against the Kurdish Freedom Movement.

After this attack, there was another attack titled the **“Steel Operation” in March 1995**. Turkish tanks and armored vehicles entered into Haci Umran, Coman and Pirdesale villages in 1997 to attack the Kurdish Freedom Movement guerrilla together with the invaders.

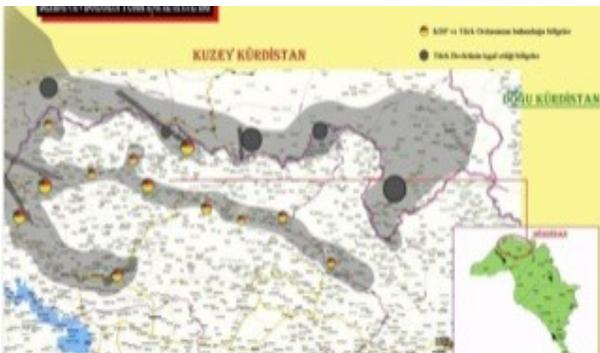
In 2007 airstrikes became more prevalent. The last ground operation was against **Zap in February 2008**. Since April 2018, these invasion attacks continue against Xakurke, Shekif Mountain, Lolan Stream and their surroundings in the Bradost region.

THE TURKISH BASES IN SOUTHERN KURDISTAN



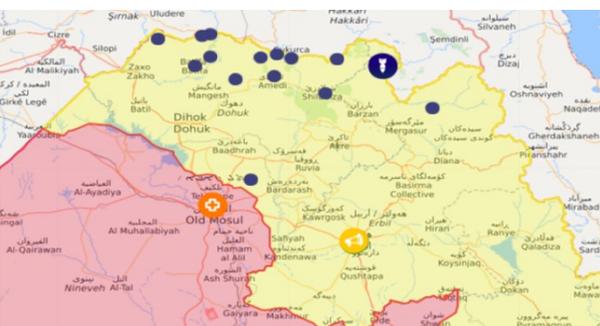
After the large-scale attack, the Turkish state settled in Duhok, Zakho and its surrounding areas in the form of MIT intelligence units and secret units. These units set up several bases. The bases and headquarters they formed were made official in 1996. According to the Turkish media, the first military base of the Turkish state in Southern Kurdistan was set up in the town of Salahaddin, 25 km from Hewler, in 1994. There is also a unit that belongs to Turkish special units there. The Turkish army later settled their military units in Hewler, Zakho, Duhok, Diyana, Batufa, Bamerne, Amediye and Kanimasi areas as well.

The Turkish Bases set up in 23 years



The bases that the Turkish army set up in Southern Kurdistan in 23 years are as follows:

1. Batufa military base
2. Kanimasi (Girebaruxe) military base
3. Bamerne logistical and airport military base
4. Sinke military base
5. Begova (Gire Biye) military base
6. Geliye Zakho military base
7. Sire (Sheladize) military base



8. Sire (Sirte) military base
9. Kupke military base
10. Qimre military base in Berwari
11. Koxe Spi military base
12. Deriye Dawetiya military base
13. Ciyaye Serzeri military base
14. Military base in Zelkan at the skirts of the Maqlub Mountain
15. Bashiqra (northeast of Mosul) military base



Forces in the Bases:

The **Shekif Mountain**, the **Martyr Dervis Hill in Xakurke**, the **Martyr Sarya Hill**, and the surroundings of the **Lolan Stream** were added to this list after the attacks to deepen the invasion on 28 May. The Turkish army has over 10,000 soldiers and military personnel in Southern Kurdistan.

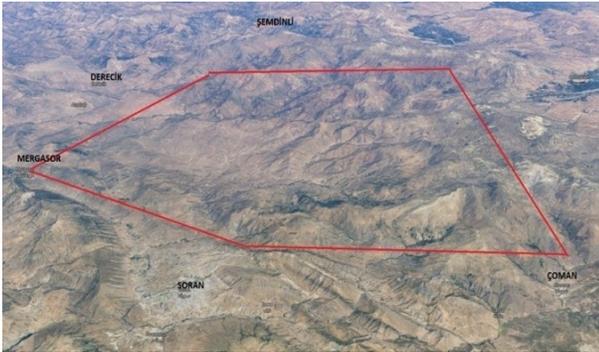
The number of soldiers and amount of weapons and equipment the invading Turkish state has positioned in Southern Kurdistan's invaded areas they set up bases in are as follows:

THE AREAS	NUMBER OF FORCES
DIYANA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binpistiye Base area; Along the road between Diyana and Rewanduz. • Herire Base area; There is a helipad in this base area and it is used as the headquarters for scout planes.
SAQLAW A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They have 3 bases near Peshmerga barracks.
AMADIYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 tanks are stationed next to the former district governorate in an attempt to control the district.
KANIMASI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is 1 battalion. There are 324 ranking officers, 50 tanks, 70 Hammer jeeps, 98 artilleries, 86 mortars. 77 RPG-7s, 90 DHSK guns, 47 military vehicles, 93 BKC's, 22 flare guns, 13 Howitzers and heavy artilleries, 11 landmine detection scanners, 54 satellite phones, 85 location devices and 12 location centers. ▪ There are 60 soldiers stationed on the Sere Seve hill.
DUHOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 13 official locations. Omer, a KDP intelligence official, and Faruk Beg. There are 980 Turkish soldiers in the Duhok area. ▪ On the Kubka hill in Duhok's Amadiya district there are 130 soldiers and 2 tanks. ▪ On hills controlling the Amadiya district of Duhok, 75 soldiers, 6 tanks, 3 DHSK guns, 6 mortars and 4 Hammer jeeps are stationed. ▪ There are 45 soldiers stationed in Amadiya district center in Duhok.
BATUFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 91 ranking officers between Duhok and Zakho, and 240 privates and 340 special forces units under them. ▪ In an unnamed village in Batufa along the Batufa-Zakho route there are 16 ranking officers and one 120 mm mortar. The village is kept secret.
BAMERNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a center used for logistics and supplies. There are 55 tanks, 18 Hammer jeeps, 16 mortars and 18 civilian buses (used for military transports) in the base.

ZAKHO

- There are 414 soldiers, 6 tanks, 15 RPG-7s, 2 DHSK guns, 2 Hammer jeeps, 11 artilleries, 14 civilian buses, 11 Kanas weapons and 12 BKC guns in the Qirede subdistrict of Zakho.
- There are 34 soldiers stationed in Geliye Zakho
- There are 70 soldiers in Gire Spi and Deriye Dawetiya.

Turkish state intelligence activity in Bradost area:



The Turkish state has launched intelligence activity in the area of Bashure Kurdistan they invaded last year under the guise of census works.

The invading Turkish state occupied the Geliye Lata and Geliye Jilya areas with dozens of villages in the Bradost region in Bashure Kurdistan last year.

The Turkish state has been pressuring and threatening the villagers in the occupied area. When the threats and pressure didn't work, they launched intelligence and profiling efforts under the guise of census works.

Turkish army has replaced five hills in Zakho on 22 June 2019



While the Turkish state's invasion attacks in South Kurdistan continue, KDP peshmergas have surrendered five more hills in Zakho to the Turkish army after abandoning six other positions in Kanimasi to Turkish forces.

The surrendered locations include **Hill Serzerik** in Behdinan region. Peshmergas have been stationed on this hill for some 20 years, while there were also intelligence centers affiliated to the Turkish state.

The hill is now completely under Turkish army control.

The other positions abandoned to Turkish forces are; **Girê Xemgin across Hill Barox, Hill Casus near the villages of Girika and Qumriyê in the Berwariyan region**, and two hills near the **tunnel in Çiyayê Sipî area at the exit of Zakho**.

Concerning the Turkish army, pointing to the Turkish military presence in the Behdinan region for 21 years now, a resident said; "Kurdistan Regional Government exists only by name. It is as plain as day that everything else is in the hands of the Turks."

TURKISH INTELEGENGE SERVICE (MIT) HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTHERN KURDISTAN

There are also several MIT headquarters set up in Southern Kurdistan. Most of them are in Duhok. There are MIT headquarters in the Batufa town in the Zakho district, Zakho district center and Duhok.

The invading Turkish state has invaded several areas in the Bradost region since last year, on top of the known 17 bases in Southern Kurdistan. The occupied areas are as follows:

Lelikan	Navmergan	Xelkere
Bilasinen	Xelifan	Geliye Res
Araqa	Xeme	Bezine

Benavok	Cinaro	Ciyaye Kitkin
Resmele	Sapane	Kanires
Qongre	Sosine	



Xakurke - Xinere Area

ZONE	PLACES
Mount Bermizi	3 places
Eşma village	1 place
Mount Kani Reş	1 place
Mount Pişte Xalifan	1 place
Lelkan area	1 place
Bejane Village	1 outpost
ZONE	PLACES
Mount Hasan Beg- Rebanok Hill	1 place
Hasan Beg itself	1 place

Sere Berde	1 place
Bane Village	1 outpost
Mount Ruste	2 places
Tav Zava Village Sideka Province	1 place



- One of the centers is on the **Pirefate Mountain** between Barzan and Balekayeti. This is the center where much of the military and scouting activity is directed.
- The second center at the **entrance of the tunnel between Zakho and Duhok** is used to recruit spies from among the local population.
- The third center in **Seranis** focuses in **Zakho**.
- The fourth center, in which peshmerga forces have retreated from **Dilman and Baroxê**, two of the most strategic hills in the **Kanimasi** region, and from six locations they held close to the border of Baroxê village.

- Another one, the **Geliye Lata and Geliye Jilya** areas, with dozens of villages in the Bradost region in Bashure Kurdistan last year.
- Turkish MİT are stationed in **Hill Serê Rola** in the Qesrê area, where there is an outpost, and is conducting reconnaissance activities on a daily basis in the **Koliter, Mamê Rut, Berdezerdan and Şêrawaz regions**.
- The outposts on **Mount Korek**, which are under the control of Zerevan forces, have been used as a center by the Turkish intelligence. These outposts on Mount Korek are located in a region extending from the Dola Alanê border, Dola Meleken and Kêlkilêl mountain to Helgurt's back border, and from there to Ako and the Gereway mountains in the Rawenduz region.
- MİT units are stationed in another outpost on **Mount Wêzê at the Haj Omran** border.
- KDP Parliamentarian Erşed Hisên Lolani personally welcomed the invading Turkish soldiers in the village of Bermize on 1 June 2018

COUNTER-GUERRILLA NETWORK OF MIT EXPOSED IN SOUTH KURDISTAN

MİT's training of counter-guerrilla gangs on intelligence gathering, sabotage, assassination, abduction, interrogation and execution tactics in Hewlêr's Kuştepe and Duhok's Zawita regions against the PKK and other Kurdish parties in South Kurdistan has recently emerged.

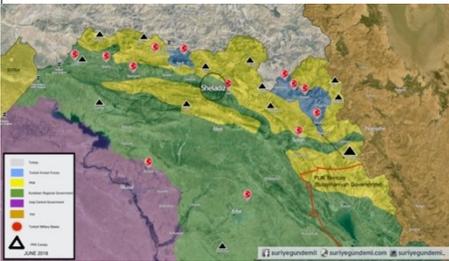
Accordingly, the counter-guerrilla gangs operate in the Medya Defense Zones, Duhok's Zaxo, Amediye, Derelok and Şeladize areas, Hewlêr's Diyana, Çoman, Werte and Qastre, and Sulaymaniyah's Ranya, Sengeser, and Qaladize areas.

The names and photos of several counter-guerrilla units that had been identified by the security personnel of South Kurdistan have been made public. All of these people were given IDs, and below is the information on these counter-guerrillas:

NO	NOME SURNAME	PASS NO	GANG
1.	Kerem Kaleli	P00032641	Turkish Republic, MÎT Gang
2.	Mustafa Mesten	P00016350	Turkish Republic, MÎT Gang
3.	Kemal Demirtaş	P00032405	Turkish Republic, MÎT Gang
4.	Hüseyin Kırmıt	P00032667	Turkish Republic, MÎT Gang
5.	Mustafa Toker	P00020641	Turkish Republic, MÎT Gang
6.	Savaş Kutluk	U1099796 2	Turkish Republic, MÎT Gang
7.	Rêbend Mihemed Hemed		South, MÎT Parastin Gang
8.	Nevzat Abdullah		South, MÎT Parastin Gang
9.	Pola Ömer Hesên		South, MÎT Parastin Gang

In addition, reports suggest that all of the agents in Qandil's Lewce, Enzê, Bolê, Sûredê and Balayan villages that work for the MÎT have been exposed.

PEOPLE OF BASHUR PROTEST TURKISH INVASION



According to international law, a military force can't cross into another state's territory unless the state gives approval. The Turkish state's military bases were set up by approval from the Federal Kurdistan Administration.

When the plans for the military base in Bashuqa came up, the Federal Government announced that the Turkish soldiers were there under their knowledge. The soldiers stationed there have attacked the people and the region several times. They have abducted and murdered citizens. And, they have attacked the Kurdistan Freedom Movement with every chance they got. The people of the region are protesting these forces and want them out. The Iraqi government has asked the Turkish state to leave Iraq. The Federal Kurdistan Parliament itself also passed a resolution in 2005 to remove Turkish forces. The people of Bashur have protested the invasion of their lands by foreign powers constantly. The most visible of these protests was when the people surrounded the barracks to trap the Turkish soldiers inside when they wanted to attack the Amadiya and Bamerne areas in the Zap region in 2008.



The other most significant protest was the action in Deralok on 25 January against the Turkish state's murder of civilians, despite security forces stopping them. The same day, the people set off on a march towards the Sire Military base in Sheladize. They entered the base and set vehicles on fire. The people climbed over fences and entered the base despite security forces trying to stop them and chanted "Enemy Erdogan" and "Murderer Erdogan". Thousands of people demanded that the Turkish state, which has been occupying Bashur for years, leave their lands. 2 civilians were killed and 6 were wounded in the Turkish soldiers' attacks. One of the deceased was a child.

CHAPTER III

Turkish Expansionism and Occupation

municipalities and more. The repression and onslaught against the Kurdish population by the Turkish regime, either within the current Turkish borders or in Syria and Iraq, are genocidal acts that have occurred systematically and over a long period of time.

War against Kurds

Parallel to developments in the Middle East, particularly the turmoil in Syria since 2011, the Turkish state has transferred its Kurdish war to Rojava/North East Syria and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Since then Turkey has been trying to occupy North and East Syria/Rojava by insisting on establishing the so-called “safe zone”. From 2011 onwards, the Kurds in North and East Syria/Rojava both defeated the IS, and developed an autonomous democratic administration, built on the coexistence of all ethnic and religious groups. In 2014, Kurdish forces of the People’s Protection Units (YPG) and Women’s Defense Units (YPJ) led a heroic resistance against the IS, in which made they formed a military alliance with the International Coalition.

The Report for Reform in the East from 1925, and 2014’s Plan of Destruction



Turkey was scared by the Kurdish implementation of their alternative system, as well as by the international acceptance of Kurdish successes against IS. In September 2014, the Turkish state pulled old massacre plans out of the drawer and updated them under the title of the “Çöktürme Planı” or “Plan of Destruction” against the Kurds. At the root of this endeavour we can see the Report for Reform in the East (Turkish: *Şark İslahat Raporu*), according to which, in September 1925, the Turkish military suppressed the Kurdish resistance of Sheik Said. The Kurds under Sheik Said were seeking to use the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the foundation of the new Turkish Republic as an opportunity to achieve their freedom. This confidential “Plan of Destruction” was prepared by the Under-Secretariat of Public Order and Security for the Strategy Branch of the General Staff Strategy Planning Department, and was presented to the General Staff Command in September 2014. Among the claims were a war simulation aimed to be implemented against the Kurds, and particularly against the PKK.

On 31 October 2014, the plan was adopted by the National Security Meeting. This plan, which is still extant, seeks the total elimination of the Kurdish resistance.

Isolation, Lawlessness - Fascist Politics

After Erdogan overturned the negotiating table between the state and the Kurdish People's leader, Abdullah Ocalan, and the PKK in April 2015, the Turkish state practically declared war against the Kurds, beginning with a widespread attack on 24 July 2015. A total isolation strategy against Ocalan was begun and continues until today. This strategy of oppression has been expanded to include all Kurds.

The breakdown of the negotiation process led to catastrophic effects on the Kurds and the whole of Turkey. The Turkish state turned to ferocious forms of violence. The negotiation period of 2013-2015 offered alternatives and compromises by Ocalan, and was a period where the people in Turkey and Kurdistan, as well as the Turkish economy, started to breathe.

Now, under the AKP, the Turkish state has dissolved the separation of powers step by step. The President of the state now has legislative, judicial and executive power. Absolute centralization of power has led to fascism.

With the imprisonment of thousands of Kurdish politicians, parliamentarians, journalists, and activists, the war continues. A systematic policy of rape and violence by the Turkish military forces against Kurdish women is increasing. This is intended to intimidate Kurdish women, because Kurdish women are the leading power of Kurdish democracy and resistance. In Kurdish areas, civilians are killed by drones, forests are deliberately set on fire, and people are forced to leave due to colonial economic disadvantage. Today, in all Kurdish areas, the Turkish state is controlling and observing the Kurds with surveillance cameras.

Kurds face a genocidal politics that may continue to rise until 2023, when the Lausanne Treaty becomes 100 years old. In 2023, if Erdogan has achieved his goal of ethnic cleansing of the Kurds, a presidential election will take place.

Increase of Turkish crimes finally forces the UN to speak



The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic published a 25-page report on 14 August, presenting its findings from investigations conducted between 11 January and 1 July 2020. In Afrin and the surrounding area, the report documents how the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army may have committed war crimes of hostage-taking, cruel treatment and torture, and rape. In the same region, scores of civilians were killed and maimed by large improvised explosive devices, as well as during shelling and rocket attacks. The forces known as the 'Syrian National Army' are composed of mercenaries from ISIS and al-Nusra.

In particular the report notes:

Since 2019, Kurdish women throughout the Afrin and Ra's al-Ayn [Serêkaniyê] regions have faced acts of intimidation by Syrian National Army brigade members, engendering a pervasive climate of fear which in effect confined them to their homes. Women and girls have also been detained by Syrian National Army fighters, and subjected to rape and sexual violence – causing severe physical and psychological harm at the individual level, as well as at the community level, owing to stigma and cultural norms related to ideations of “female honour”. During the period under review, cases of sexual violence against women and men at one detention facility in Afrin were documented.

The Turkish invasion and occupation of Northern Syria is clearly against international law. Nobody openly supports the invasion, but the lack of serious and legal condemnation strengthens the Turkish state's ability to continue.

Turkish President Erdogan holds up a map of North and East Syria as he speaks at during the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2019. The areas he shows are the areas Turkey try to occupy.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq/South Kurdistan



In June 2020, the Turkish military launched operations called “Claw-Tiger” and “Claw Eagle” in the Haftanin area in the northern Duhok province in the KRI. These followed their earlier military operation, named “Operation Peace Spring”, carried out in October 2019. This widely-concepted war by airstrikes, drones and other military operations is the largest and most aggressive of the operations carried out by the Turkish state in the last in five years. The, US-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) stated that, since May 2020, 77% of Turkish military actions have taken place in the KRI.

While the Turkish state uses the presence of the PKK in the region as a pretext for military aggression, the truth is that Turkey seeks to destabilize and occupy the KRI and to crush the aspirations of the Kurdish people there. Furthermore, the potential occupation of the KRI, which is the ultimate objective of the assaults on Haftanin and other regions, is not just a problem for the PKK or the Kurds – it has extensive and dangerous ramifications for the whole region. The Turkish state knows very well that as long as the PKK, a leading power of the Kurdish Freedom Movement, is not smashed, occupation and genocide cannot be completed in Kurdistan. Today, Turkey has more than 30 military bases in the KRI.

Turkey brings Iran on Board

Turkey's loss of good relations with the Arab world has led Ankara to strengthen relations with Iran. As Turkey cannot get the Arab world to act against the Kurds, it intends to act with Iran in an anti-Kurdish strategy. Since the Kurds became a visible power in the Middle East, and particularly with their propagation of the concept of democratic autonomy within the existing borders of Syria, many Arab countries have come to see the Kurdish solution as acceptable. The invasion by Turkey has shown that it is Turkey who intend to change borders, and not the Kurds. Internationally isolated, Turkey has chosen to make an alliance with Iran. This is a tactical alliance, since both states are rivals in Middle Eastern politics. Turkey aspires to be the head of the Sunni Muslim international community, but cooperates with Shiite Iran, the enemy of the Sunnis. Overcoming this contradictory policy, Turkey and Iran have decided to unite in an anti-Kurdish strategy.

Since the beginning of this year, Turkish airstrikes have attacked Kurdish freedom fighters at the borderline between Iraq and Iran. At the same time, Iran has also increased attacks against Kurdish fighters in Iraq. In Iran there are probably around 15 Million Kurds. The majority of these are supporters of the Free Life Party of Kurdistan (PJAK). Turkey is now attacking PJAK on behalf of Iran. The Iranian regime is not able to declare a direct war against the Kurds, since Tehran is involved in many other conflicts. A direct war against the Kurds is Iran's biggest fear, because the Kurds have more diplomatic and political options than they do. Furthermore, the Kurdish forces would launch defensive actions inside Iran, which would create radical turmoil.

Turkey as Occupying Power and Aggressive Player in the Middle East and North Africa

While Turkey is using the presence of the PKK as an excuse to invade and occupy North and East Syria and Iraq, there is no PKK in Libya, South Yemen, or Mali, which Turkey is also trying to occupy. Taking

advantage of internal conflicts and challenged governance, the Turkish state has expanded its occupation strategy beyond Kurdistan to other places in the Middle East and North Africa. In doing this they are ignoring international rules regarding the sovereignty of states. Against UN resolutions, the Turkish regime is continuing to recruit, train, and make use of mercenary jihadists. Today, in September 2020, the declared and undeclared conflicts caused by Turkey encompass more than 30 states and regions. In these conflicts, the Turkish regime is using proxy armed units, most of which are led by the National Intelligence Service, MIT. The Turkish state's strategy of expansion aims to create a pan-Turkism and a vague global pan-Islamism, with Turkey at its center. Muslim Brotherhood ideology is used to escalate religious conflict in different Islamic countries and also in countries with high proportion of Muslims. Turkey is supporting the Muslim Brothers in the Middle East and North Africa, leading to confrontation with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.



Strategy of Maritime Dominance: Turkish Conflict with the East Med Gas Forum

The establishment of the East Med Gas Forum (EMGF) in early 2019 by Egypt, Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority (PA) increased Turkey's sense of insecurity, as it was excluded from

this regional arrangement to transform the Eastern Mediterranean into a major energy hub. The European Union (EU) was forced to prevent Turkey's provocative intervention. "Mavi Vatan" or "Blue Homeland" is a maritime strategy for Turkish expansion in the eastern Mediterranean. The Blue Homeland strategy is connected to the Turkish occupation of Libya. In December 2019, the Turkish government signed an agreement with representatives of the Turkish-backed Tripoli government. The agreement is based on a mutually expansive maritime border between the two states. On 17 September, members of the European Parliament condemned Turkey's actions in the Greek and Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone and expressed full solidarity with the two member states.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict: In September, following clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh, Ankara launched military exercises with the Azerbaijan army, making it clear it stood by its ally. Turkish-backed Azerbaijan continues to threaten Armenia. However, Russia is a military guard of the Armenian borders, so with this conflict Turkey also threatens Russian hegemony in this region.

Conflicts with the states of the Arab League: On 9 September, the foreign ministries of the Arab Countries held a meeting in which Turkey was a central point of the agenda. In its written statement of 10 September, the Arab League condemned the Turkish interventions in Arab countries (Syria, Libya and Iraq), and called on Turkey, "not to meddle in the Arab countries' internal affairs and to halt its provocative actions that would sabotage trust and pose a threat to the region's security and stability." Furthermore, the statement of the Arab League says: "These decisions lack any context to be taken seriously.(...) Turkey attaches utmost importance to the preservation of the territorial integrity and the political unity of the Arab countries, as well as regional stability, and exerts efforts for their protection." The ideological and political differences between Turkey and Arab countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have for years led to problems, not only in Libya, Iraq and Syria but in other countries such as Yemen, Sudan, and Tunisia. Neighboring countries fear violence in Libya could spill over into their countries and facilitate the smuggling of weapons and infiltration of Turkish-backed mercenaries.

Libya: According to the acting head of the UN Support Mission to Libya (UNSMIL), Stephanie Williams, Turkish arms shipments were condemned by the United Nations as an "alarming breach" of Libya's sovereignty, "a blatant violation" of the arms embargo, and a violation of commitments made by leaders of 12 world powers and different key international players, who accepted a 55-point roadmap to peace in Libya at a convention in Berlin on January 19. More alarming than the shipments themselves, the UN said, is the large-scale presence of overseas mercenaries and operatives, which further complicates the dynamics of the Libyan conflict and jeopardises a future settlement. Turkey has so far sent some 17,420 Syrian mercenaries to Libya, including 350 minors under the age of 18, according to figures published by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Jordan: The Muslim Brotherhood, which is banned in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, has widespread grassroots support in Jordan, where it is supported by Turkey and Qatar. The Jordanian "Islamic Action Front" party, which is a political wing of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, is now causing political and social problems in Jordan.

Somalia : In Somalia, Turkey established a large military base in the capital Mogadishu, causing social and political conflicts within the Sunni and Shia Muslim communities in the country. Turkey helps to combat Iranian-backed groups, such as the Al-Shabaab group, but it also uses its military base to pursue geopolitical expansion, and seeks to dominate in the Red Sea area.

Oman: Turkey is planning to build a further military base in the Sultanate of Oman, near the Yemen border, for dominating the Gulf region. To achieve its goal, the Turkish state seeks to harm relations between Oman and other states within the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Niger: Many of the countries neighboring Libya are being affected by the fragile situation in this war-zone, including Niger to the south. Turkey is planning to expand first economic ties and then military relations with Niger.

India: The Indian intelligence service is accusing the Turkish government of efforts to radicalize Indian Muslims and recruit fundamentalists. It said that Turkey has been providing lucrative scholarships and running exchange programmes for Indian Kashmiri and other Muslim students to study in Turkey through state-sponsored NGOs. A long list of Turkish groups and persons, who sponsor the scholarships, has been reported by Indian intelligence. It includes Turkey Youth Foundation (TUGVA), Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), Turkish Airlines, Yunnus Emre Institute (YEI), Turkey's Diyanet Foundation (TDF) and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). TUGVA is led by the son of Turkish president Erdogan, Bilal Erdogan. In recent years Bilal Erdogan's organization has developed strong links within India by establishing connections with Islamic outfits in India.

Hagia Sophia Provocation: With the conversion of Hagia Sophia ("Holy Wisdom" in Latin) in July from a secular museum into a mosque, Turkey created problems with prelates in both the Orthodox and Catholic worlds. Erdogan chose for the opening date, 24 July, the anniversary of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne that established Turkey's current borders. This is the treaty that Erdogan rejects, invading neighboring countries in an attempt to change the borders. Erdogan's message with Hagia Sophia was an anti-Christian picture aimed at pleasing the Muslim world, because he has declared himself as the most worthy leader to stand at the head of the world's Sunni Muslims.

Conclusion and Demands

Stop Fascism

Enforcement of pan-Turkism and Turkish pan-Islamism through nationalism, racism and sexism is the main pillar of Turkish fascism as it is enacted on the Kurds and on other people in Turkey and the occupied areas in North and East Syria. This must be stopped. The policy of homogenization and ethnic cleansing against the Kurds and other ethnic and religious groups, and the femicide against women, have to be recognized by the UN as crimes against humanity. Legal measures should also be taken by the Council of Europe. As a crucial first step, the PKK - the leading Kurdish political party and mass movement of the Kurds in Turkey – must be delisted. International organizations need to recognize and support the Kurdish Freedom Movement as the leading political power that can defeat Turkish fascism and lead to the democratization of Turkey.

Stop Occupation

Turkey's expansion has led to the occupation of many Kurdish and Arabic areas in North and East Syria. Turkish attacks in pursuit of the occupation of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and of Libya continue. Political and military interventions to destabilize countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East are posing a great danger for all. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all Turkish military, paramilitary, and jihadist mercenaries forces from Syria, Iraq, and Libya.

The UN, NATO, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Islamic Cooperation Organisation, the African Union, the Council of Gulf States, and the European Union must move beyond the rhetoric of critics and convictions and take legal action, and impose sanctions against the AKP-MHP government.



Turkey's expansionism and occupation is threatening the sovereignty of states, and causing political and social destabilization and leading to migration.

REACTIONS TO TURKEY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND KURDISTAN

The co-presidency of the Executive **Council of the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK)** pointed out in a statement that the Turkish state is not only hostile to the Kurdish people, but that its neo-Ottoman expansionist policy also threatens Arab countries. KCK called on the peoples of the Middle East to resist Turkish expansionism. The KCK Statements:

"While the Turkish state wants to subject the Kurdish people to genocide in a region where humanity became a society for the first time, at the same time it is carrying out an attack to occupy the Ottoman Empire's territory and bring it under its rule. The attacks of its army on Syria, Iraq and Libya also threaten all other Arab countries. The ambition to occupy other countries, inherited from the Ottomans and their domination, has become the fundamental character of the Turkish state policy.

The combination of the Ottoman domination culture with the nation-state mentality of a superior Turkishness makes the Turkish state a dangerous and aggressive power that threatens the peoples of the Middle East. It wants to cover up this policy and its attempt to subjugate the will of other peoples with an Islamic mask. Like no other government and no other state, it uses Islam as a means for his own dirty ambitions. In all the places it occupies, it raises its flag, sets up Turkish schools and organises police and security forces under its command. In Syria, it is even introducing his own currency, thereby preparing the ground for annexation. The Islamic mask and proclamations of an alleged fight against terrorism are intended to conceal the attacks aimed at occupation and annexation. It makes its Syria and Iraq policy clear by calling Lausanne a failure. Its intervention in Libya is justified by the discourse that it is their ancestral territory, which it has inherited and for which it is responsible. A genocide is wanted to be committed against the Kurds, and Kurdistan is wanted to be turned into an expansion area for the Turkish nation. At the same time, the Turkish state also occupies territories of the Arab nation and wants to bring the areas within the old borders of the Ottoman Empire under the rule of the Turkish nation-state.

Aggression, occupation and expansion

The Arab League has recognized these ambitions of the AKP/MHP government and has clearly adopted a stand against the attacks of the Turkish state on Iraq, Syria and Libya. It has emphasized that Turkey's policy is about aggression, occupation and expansion. The attacks of the Turkish state on the Kurds have also been condemned by the Arab League. The former Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa declared that Turkey is attacking Arab countries and is hostile to Arabs. Him denouncing the AKP/MHP policy is important. It is clear from the statements of the Arab League and Arab countries that they are aware of the Turkish state's objective. It is very important that they call for a common stand from the Arab League in order to obviate this policy. It is also important that the Arab League and Arab politicians and intellectuals protest against the Turkish state's attacks on the Kurdish people and we would like to thank them for this.

Genocidal mentality of the nation state

For over a hundred years, politics in the Middle East has divided and weakened especially the Arabs and the Kurds. It has become a fundamental policy of the international powers and regional forces like Turkey to ignore, break and divide and thus weaken the will of the Arab and Kurdish people and other peoples. The Turkish state, in particular, has never accepted that the Kurds and Arabs have their own will and are becoming stronger. And now it wants to establish the former dominion of the Ottoman Empire with its genocidal mentality of the nation-state. The Kurdish genocide is a clear objective, but with its current mentality and politics, it wants to make Turkishness the ruling ethnic group in all occupied and annexed

territories. It is of great importance for the stability and peace in the Middle East that all peoples, countries and political forces in the region unite against the aggressive expansionist policy of the Turkish state. The Turkish state has become the bandit of the Middle East. Its attacks can only be repulsed by the unity, common will and struggle of the peoples. Once this banditry is pushed back, the whole Middle East can become a region of truly democratic values, peace and stability based on the fraternity and equality of the peoples.

Appeal to the peoples of the Middle East

The Turkish state is not only hostile to the Kurdish people. The genes that make up the character of the existing Turkish state are based on occupation, expansion, hegemony and genocide. No state, country or society should believe in the special war demagoguery that the Turkish state uses for its purposes. As long as the existing mentality is not pushed back, the Turkish state will remain a hostile force towards the Kurds and other ethnic and religious communities, but also towards its own society and the peoples and countries of the region. As Kurdish people, we will resist this genocidal system. We call on all peoples and countries of the Middle East to take a stand against the Turkish state's occupation and hegemonic policy, which is anchored in its nation-state mentality, and to fight to repulse its aggression"

EU: All foreign powers must withdraw from Libya



The foreign ministers of France, Germany and Italy and the EU Foreign Policy High Representative jointly called on the parties in Libya to "participate in constructive negotiations in the form of 5 + 5 on the basis of the draft agreement on February 23". While the foreign ministers of the three European countries called for a ceasefire in a joint statement, they noted that this ceasefire should include the withdrawal of all foreign powers, mercenaries and military equipment delivered in violation of the UN arms embargo from all regions in Libya. The Turkish state's settlement in the region raises concerns both in the region and in Europe. What Russia is doing in Syria,

and Turkey in Libya. Europe is worried about Syrianization 200 kilometers from its own shores. Speaking to the newspaper Le Figaro, a diplomatic source said, "The Turkish trail in Tripoli is creating a strategic and political pressure on Europe that we do not want. "It is necessary to obtain a ceasefire in order to stop this game and to protect the necessity of a political agreement."

Greece calls for EU sanctions against Turkey



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis demands EU sanctions against Turkey because of the continuing aggression of the Turkish state in the Eastern Mediterranean and suggests to appeal to the International Court of Justice. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has sharply warned the EU to impose sanctions on Turkey, saying: "If Europe wants to exert genuine geopolitical influence, it cannot simply risk making concessions to a belligerent Turkey." Mitsotakis called for dialogue alongside Turkey's withdrawal and offered as a solution: "We talk about our differences. And we are trying to reach an agreement. If we can't, we will let the International Court of Justice decide. After all, what does Ankara have to fear from the sovereignty of law?"

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian: The EU should open discussions about its relations with Turkey without taboos.

Foreign Minister Le Drian said in the Senate, "France considers it imperative that the European Union opens a concrete discussion very quickly and firmly defends its own interests, without excluding anything, without being naive, about the future of its relations with Ankara; the means to do this are there," he said.

"Turkey is needed to clarify the role they play in Libya," indicates Le Drian, "I think in Libya, we are facing a Syrianization, because Turkey is executing its military intervention with extensions from Syria", he said. Relations between Ankara and Paris worsened with the Libyan crisis. Not long ago, a French ship in the Mediterranean was targeted by a Turkish state frigate. In the statement made by the French Ministry of Defense after the incident, the ships belonging to the Turkish state made "extremely aggressive" maneuvers. The ministry called on NATO to give up its "ostrich policy." French President Emmanuel Macron, "Turkey is playing a dangerous game in Libya," he warned.

In Libya, the situation has worsened in recent weeks. Haftar's forces, who control the east of the country, failed in the operation they carried out for months to take Tripoli, due to the support of the Turkish state with drones, armored vehicles, soldiers and gangs. The Tripoli government has also set its target in the coastal city of Sirte, 450 kilometers east of Tripoli. This is a strategic point towards the areas under the control of Khalifa Haftar.

Egypt also warned on Saturday that if Tripoli forces advance to Sirte, they will engage in direct military intervention. Tripoli took this as a "declaration of war". Currently there are two powers in the country. The National Unity Government is based in Tripoli and is especially supported by the Turkish regime. This government is dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood. The Turkish state explicitly violated the UN Security Council's arms embargo and sent thousands of gang members from Syria to Tripoli, as well as weapons, ammunition, armored vehicles and drone support. Thus, the Turkish army settled in Tripoli. The Turkish state has recently announced its intention to establish two military bases in Libya.

UAE Foreign Minister Enver Gargas: Turkey was unmasked in Libya - Le Point 30 Jun 2020

Gargas wrote: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan clearly showed that he does not want to be a bridge between Europe and the Arab World: He chose to position Turkey according to its imperial past and to become a competitor and enemy of both ... Turkey has to give a lot of account about its former attempts with Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood, such as creating chaos in the Arab world by using the aggressive and perverse interpretation of Islam as a cover. In recent months alone, Erdogan has used refugees from Syria and Libya to pressure Europe; It has collaborated with Iran to bomb pro-western Kurds in Iraq and has actively sought to exploit the instability in the Horn of Africa to its advantage. Libya is an undeniable platform for self-proclaimed 'neo-Ottoman' expansionism. "

First of all concerning the activities in Libya, the international community's priority is to clearly and explicitly tell Turkey that it has an "unacceptable behavior" Gargas noted and continued as follows:

"Second, it must put all its weight behind a call for a ceasefire that would allow Libya to return to a political process free from hostile acts from outside. There is a mechanism for this: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's statement in Cairo on June 6, based on the recommendations of the Berlin conference supported by the United Nations. The statement envisions an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of foreign fighters from Libya, and multi-faceted talks that pave the way for elections.

Gargas, reminiscent of Turkey accusing the opposition of creating the humanitarian crisis in Libya, stated that Turkish backed militias were moving eastward, committing revenge and calling on all Libyans to obedience. Gargas said, "The current impasse around the coastal city of Sirte endangers more than 60 thousand people. However, lives all over the country are under threat," he added. "Stating that it is not just to end the war. Libya has the potential to be a regional base for economic growth and harmony, with a functional leadership and intelligent management of resources....."



Saudi Arabia officially bans Turkish products

Saudi Arabia's decision to ban Turkish products comes into force this week in a bid to deal a blow to Turkey's already crippled economy, the Cumhuriyet daily said on Sunday. Riyadh has laid an unofficial embargo on Turkish goods, including textiles and perishable food, last year. The Saudis have been keeping hundreds of Turkish trucks at the Saudi border and thousands of packages from Turkey in their airports. The trucks were allowed into the country only after an intervention by

Turkish diplomats in the kingdom.... Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has launched a campaign to discourage its citizens from travelling to Turkey. The kingdom's media has designated Turkey as an unsafe location due to rising petty crime aimed at Saudi citizens and gun violence, while the Saudi embassy in Ankara has also warned of rising violence aimed at Saudi citizens. The number of Saudi tourists coming to Turkey has dropped 17 percent last year...

EU ministers criticise Turkey



In a meeting between the foreign ministers of the European Union Member States began in Brussels, Josep Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said "Relations between the EU and Turkey are not good at the moment."

Swedish Foreign Minister Anne L said, "What's happening in Turkey is concerning." Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha Gonzalez Laya stated, "a series of actions we have identified by Turkey deserve a debate, and require us to address them."

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, not hiding his disappointment for Turkey, stated, "16 years ago, I had great hopes for Turkey to become a European country. Unfortunately, we have to admit that this is going badly," he added. The Turkish state is carrying out drilling activities off Cyprus, declared "illegal" by the EU and which need to be "sanctioned."

MEPs call for an end to arms sale to Turkey

Members of the European Parliament heavily criticized Turkey and called for an end to aid and arms sale to Turkey. The European Parliament's plenary session in Brussels, titled "Stability and security in Eastern Mediterranean and the negative role of Turkey" has witnessed criticism against Turkey.

EU Rapporteur for Turkey, **Nacho Sanchez Amor**, said they stood in solidarity with Cyprus and Greece and stressed that Turkey must respect the European norms.

Manfred Weber, Chair of Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) called for the membership negotiations with Turkey to be suspended and for a new partnership to be established.

French parliamentarian **Nathalie Loiseau** of the Renew group stated that Turkey turned its back on European values and acted with hostility. He said they expected Josep Borrell to not be diplomatic but to stand firm regarding Turkey.

German parliamentarian **Özlem Demirel** from the Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left said; "You are right to criticise Turkey. Then stop the arms sale to Turkey."

French parliamentarian **Thierry Mariani** of the Identity and Democracy (ID) group accused Borrell of being actionless toward Turkey and told him; "Do not let yourself make history like Edouard Daladier and Neville Chamberlain." Daladier and Chamberlain were the Prime Ministers of France and United Kingdom at the outbreak of World War II and were strongly criticised for appeasement toward Adolf Hitler's Germany.

Cypriot parliamentarian **Costas Mavrides** from the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats criticised Germany's ongoing arms sale to Turkey and said that Turkey would be using these arms against the values of Europe.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides called on the European Union to impose sanctions on Turkey immediately, to counter its illegal actions in the eastern Mediterranean waters.



The Cypriot Foreign Minister said, in statements to Greek media, that Turkey had chosen to escalate against his country by taking a decision to extend the

work of the exploration vessel "Yavuz" in the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus. The Cypriot minister added that Ankara revealed behind this step "its true intentions," as he put it, referring to the continued Turkish provocations in the eastern Mediterranean, which angered several countries. The foreign minister's comments come less than a day after the Cypriot Defense Minister Charalambos Petrides warned that the situation in the eastern Mediterranean is causing concern, in light of the continuing Turkish provocations.

In a press statement, the Cypriot Minister of Defense said that the European Union should send a "decisive message" to Turkey, confirming the unity of its position on its illegal activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

French Minister says Turkey is "in the provocation"

Franck Riester, minister delegate in charge of foreign trade said Erdogan "is in the provocation.". Speaking this morning on Europe 1, Franck Riester reacted to the words of Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who called on President Emmanuel Macron not to seek "quarrels with the Turkish people" and "with Turkey". The Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs stressed that France left "aggressiveness" to Turkey which "is in the provocation."

France's defense minister Parly: Mediterranean no playground for national ambitions

France's defense minister Florence Parly warned the Erdoğan regime against abusing the Mediterranean as a "playground for national ambitions." The region is a "common good", Parly said. "Our message is simple: In order for the Eastern Mediterranean to be an area of stability and respect for international law, dialogue, cooperation and diplomacy are prioritized. It shouldn't be the playground for some of their ambitions; it is common property" he said. Parly added: "The Eastern Mediterranean is turning into a field of tensions. Respect for international law should be the rule, not an exception. We are starting a military exercise with our Cypriot, Greek and Italian partners as of today."

Le Figaro: France can no longer rely on NATO, regarding Turkey. 16 Sep 202

In an interview published in the French newspaper Le Figaro, it was emphasized that France could no longer rely on either NATO or Germany to protect European maritime borders against Erdogan. Giving an interview to the newspaper responsible for the Pont-Neuf foundation of international issues, Hadrien Desuin stated that regarding the, "Mediterranean crisis pitting Greece and Turkey against each other, France could no longer rely on NATO, of whom Turkey is also a member, or Germany to protect the overseas borders of Europe."

European Commission President Leyen: Distance between us and Turkey growing

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday said that the withdrawal of Turkish exploratory vessels from the eastern Mediterranean was "a positive step" during her "State of the Union" speech at the European Parliament on Wednesday. She underlined, however, that Turkey must "refrain from unilateral actions.".."Turkey is and will always be an important neighbour. But while we are close together on the map, the distance between us appears to be growing. Yes, Turkey is in a troubled neighbourhood. And yes, it is hosting millions of refugees, for which we support them with considerable funding. But none of this is justification for attempts to intimidate its neighbours," she said."Our Member-States, Cyprus and Greece, can always count on Europe's full solidarity on protecting their legitimate sovereignty rights," the European Commission president emphasised.

Austria wants to discuss sanctions against Turkey at EU summit

At the next European summit, Austria wants to speak openly about sanctions against Ankara, including the possibility to break off accession talks with Turkey. Austria's EU Minister Karoline Edtstadler said that her country wants to speak openly about sanctions against Ankara, including the possibility to break off accession talks with Turkey at the next European summit. The summit was to take place on 24 and 25 September, but because of the coronavirus emergency, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, announced that it has been postponed to 2 October. Edtstadler said: "There are a number of issues we want to address at the next summit. We must also clarify how we as the EU will continue to deal with

China and Turkey. Austria advocates discussing all options and breaking off the accession talks with Turkey.”

REACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST PRESS

Damascus government is failing to solve the fuel crisis, new Egyptian blow to Erdogan 23 Sep 2020



The Damascus government has failed to try to alleviate the fuel crisis, as the capital's streets are almost empty of cars, while Cairo has officially turned into a natural gas capital in the eastern Mediterranean region, in a new blow to Erdogan, while everyone is wondering about the fate of the agreements between Turkey and Sarraj.

Today, Arab newspapers discussed the fuel crisis in the areas controlled by the Damascus government, in addition to the tension in the eastern Mediterranean, and the agreements between Turkey and Fayez al-Sarraj.

Al-Sharq al-Awsat: The streets of Damascus are empty of cars, amid a rise in the prices of vegetables and fruits

Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper said: “The measures taken by the Syrian government recently have not succeeded in alleviating the crisis of the availability of petrol in their areas of control, which led to a significant decrease in the movement of cars in the streets. Damascus doubled the prices of vegetables and fruits, and public car drivers exploited citizens, and after car drivers needed between 15 and 20 minutes to pass the streets in the center of Damascus, which are known to be very crowded. The movement of cars in them decreased by an estimated 60 percent; with the continued crisis of gasoline availability that afflicted cities under the control of the government since the beginning of September, the driver can now pass it in a few minutes.

Despite a recent change by the government, the period for filling gasoline on the "smart card" for all vehicles with the aim of reducing congestion at gas stations, so that the filling period becomes one time, 30 liters for each private vehicle, within a 7-day period from the last sale, according to its monthly allocations (100 liters). And once for each public vehicle, within a 4-day period from the last sale; after the difference was made 4 days, the congestion at gas stations in Damascus has only decreased by an almost negligible rate.

Car drivers confirm to Al-Sharq Al-Awsat that they still spend long hours and perhaps a whole day to obtain 30 liters at the subsidized government price (225 Syrian pounds), while some of them resort to buying from the black market at prices of 2500-3000 pounds per liter.

Al-Arab: To deter Turkey, ...transforming the Mediterranean Gas Forum into an international organization

Regarding the tension in the eastern Mediterranean, Al-Arab newspaper said: "The Allied countries have moved under the cover of the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum to a more realistic stage after announcing the transformation of this project into a regional organization that is supposed to face Turkish harassment, and will formally transform Egypt into the natural gas capital in the region."

Representatives of Egypt, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Jordan and Israel concluded, in Cairo, on Tuesday, an agreement to officially convert the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum into a regional organization, and the representative of Palestine missed a meeting that took place through video conferencing.

This step is an important development for Cairo in its multifaceted dispute with Ankara, as the former has achieved a strategic goal that enables it to become a regional energy center and a major gas capital in the eastern Mediterranean region, and gives it preferential advantages due to its good infrastructure in this field.

Al-Bayan: What happened to al-Sarraj's agreements with Erdogan?

Regarding the Libyan issue, Al-Bayan newspaper said: "Whether in Turkey, Libya or neighboring countries, there has become a question that imposes itself strongly, since the President of the Presidency Council in Tripoli, Fayez Al-Sarraj, announced his intention to resign from his post before the end of next October, which is what the fate will be for the agreements, which he made with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which led to the opening of his country's gates to the Turkish forces, and thousands of mercenaries, who were transferred from northern Syria to the Libyan west?"

The Turkish side and its allies in Tripoli are trying to confirm that the agreements remain after al-Sarraj, as they are signed by the government, and observers point out that the Turkish regime relies on its exaggerated confidence in maintaining its agreements with al-Sarraj, on the power of armed militias in its orbit, as well as on the role of the extremist movement and terrorist groups Which has strong relations with it, and some of its symbols reside in Turkey, including the Mufti of Terrorism, Sadiq al-Ghariani, and the leader of the terrorist fighting group, Abdul Hakim al-Hajj.

These observers believe that the centers of Turkish influence in Tripoli have pushed Sarraj over the past months to appoint dozens of senior officials affiliated with her in the security, military, financial and economic decision-making departments in Tripoli, to ensure the preservation of Turkish interests in the country.

France: EU to discuss dangers of Erdogan's double game

The French presidency confirmed that the upcoming European summit on 24-25 September will discuss the dangers of Erdogan's double game.

The French presidency indicated that the upcoming European summit will discuss the terms of dialogue with Turkey. The French presidency stressed that it supports the German mediation between Turkey and Greece, but it stressed the need for it to reach tangible results on the ground. The European Union (EU) will hold its summit on Thursday amid escalating tension in the eastern Mediterranean, and the European Union had previously hinted at the possibility of imposing sanctions on Ankara.

The Turkish occupation carried out sorties along the border strip with Syria; simultaneously, the mercenaries shelled positions of the Syrian government south of Idlib, according to what was reported by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Meanwhile, after midnight yesterday and this morning, government forces targeted places in Al-Fateerah, Kansafra, Sufuhn, Falifel, Binin, Ibdita, Al-Bara, and Ahsim.

Al-Arab: Al-Kazemi's affinity with Paris disturbs the Turks

On the Iraqi issue, Al-Arab newspaper said: "The Iraqi-French rapprochement showed the extent of Ankara's annoyance over the existence of strong ties between Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kazemi and President Emmanuel Macron, who views Iraq as a gateway to restore his country's influence to the Middle East region."

The Iraqi prime minister intends to visit Paris in mid-October, during which he will request the purchase of French weapons according to the needs of the Iraqi army, according to Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein. Al-Kazemi works on multiple paths to serve his government reform program, unlike his predecessors who relied entirely on the Iranian regime to provide for Iraq's economic and security needs.

Hussein said in press statements published on Monday, that there is a French desire to strengthen relations with Baghdad, matched by an Iraqi desire to strengthen relations with Paris, and there are economic projects that have been put forward and have received initial approval, which are projects related to infrastructure, the energy and oil sector, in addition to security and military issues.

Macron had visited Baghdad early this month, and that visit raised evident alarm among the Turks, who continue to violate the sovereignty of Iraq under the pretext of pursuing the PKK, which takes northern Iraq as a main stronghold. The French President is counting on rapprochement with the central government in Baghdad much more than achieving any kind of rapprochement with the Kurdistan government, which is silent about Ankara's violations of Iraqi sovereignty.

European Union foreign ministers agreed to impose sanctions on violators of the arms embargo on Libya, with diplomats saying that three companies from Turkey, Jordan, Kazakhstan and two Libyan people are on the list. 21 Sep 2020

The 27 European Union foreign ministers agreed to impose sanctions on violators of the arms embargo on Libya during a meeting in Brussels on Monday, the German news agency (DPA) reported. European Union countries agreed to a tentative list of sanctions for entities and individuals who provided ships, aircraft, and other logistical services to transport combat equipment to Libya, according to EU diplomatic sources.

Asharq Al-Awsat: The heaviest airstrikes on Idlib since the "ceasefire"

The Arab newspapers published this morning covered several topics, the most prominent of which was the escalation in Idlib, and in this context, Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper said: "Russian planes bombed northwestern Syria, yesterday, Sunday, in the most violent raids since a Turkish-Russian agreement led to the cessation of major combat operations about six months ago."

Reuters quoted witnesses as saying that warplanes bombed the western outskirts of Idlib, and that the Jabal al-Zawiya area in southern Idlib was subjected to heavy artillery bombardment from locations close to the Syrian army. Witnesses said that a Turkish military convoy, consisting of at least 15 armored vehicles, was seen entering Syria during the night from the Kafr Lusin border crossing, towards a main base in the Idlib countryside.

Al-Bayan: Legal experts: Europe is continuing to implement the plan to curtail Turkey

Regarding the European-Turkish tension in the eastern Mediterranean, the Al-Bayan newspaper said: "European international law experts said that the European Union, in coordination with the influential international powers, took its decision to proceed with the implementation of the plan to curtail Turkey, and to oblige it to respect the borders of the member states in the eastern Mediterranean region, according to two important axes, The first is to impose sanctions that have already begun to be implemented in a limited way, and they will be expanded in the coming weeks to act as a "painful blow" to Ankara, and in parallel the door of the International Court of Justice will be knocked to obtain binding enforceable judgments against Turkey, protected by the power of the International League, after its conviction in the case of arms smuggling to Libya. And the violation of the maritime borders of United Nations member states in the eastern Mediterranean, which will increase the sanctions against Ankara, and turn it into a "rogue" state, as a step that the European Union will not be deterred by negotiation or dialogue, as the issue of limiting Turkey to a national security has become irreversible. It permanently restores tranquillity to the vital area for everyone and permanently. "

Reports said that the differences between Russia and Turkey over Idlib deepened, while observers saw that Erdogan was angry at al-Sarraj's resignation before he implemented the economic agreements, while sources revealed that Trump intends to punish any person or party violating the arms embargo imposed on Iran.

Al-Bayan: The circle of the Russian-Turkish dispute is expanding over Idlib

The Arab newspapers published this morning on the Syrian issue dealt with several topics, the most prominent of which was the dispute in Idlib. In this context, Al-Bayan newspaper said: "The gap between the Turkish and Russian influence in northwestern Syria is still wide, while some see it widening due to the depth of disagreements about the situation in Idlib, especially after last Wednesday's consultations ended without reaching understandings between the two parties.

The dispute became apparent after Ankara rejected a Russian proposal to reduce the number of Turkish observation points in Idlib governorate, during the military meetings last Wednesday, but Russian sources said that Ankara agreed to withdraw heavy weapons from the city of Idlib and its countryside.

Al-Arab: Al-Sarraj angered Erdogan by leaving before implementing his demands

Regarding the Libyan issue, Al-Arab newspaper said: "The anger expressed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan regarding the intention of the President of the Presidency Council of the Libyan Government of National Accord Fayez al-Sarraj to step down from his post at the end of next October indicates that Al-Sarraj did not complete everything that was asked of him by the Turks during the period. "The past in exchange for the intervention to repel the attack carried out by the army led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar to control the capital, Tripoli."

Former US official: Turkish adventures may lead to armed conflict within NATO

A former US military official warned that the Turkish adventures in the Mediterranean might lead to the outbreak of an armed conflict "within NATO," if the United States did not intervene harder to contain the situation.

Official in European affairs: A French effort to impose European sanctions on Turkey

France, on Friday, backed Cyprus' calls for the European Union to consider imposing tougher sanctions on Turkey if the Turkish government does not suspend its search for energy reserves in the eastern Mediterranean waters.

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