

# De rechtmatige strijd van Turkije: de Afrin-operatie

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COMMENT & FEATURES

### The Kurds in Syria have been played by Russia and Iran

By RAMAN GHANAI

In January, Turkey launched an assault on the Syrian Kurdish enclave of Afrin, which is controlled by People's Protection Units (YPG), a Kurdish militia that is considered to be a terrorist organization and an extension of the Kurdish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). At the beginning, the YPG received the YPG has battle-hardened fighters, but this is not the only reason for Turkey's failure in pushing the Kurds back. There has been well-armed by the US in the right place. The YPG, and the PKK, clearly played an important role in slowing down Turkey.

Along with this, since the failed coup attempt in 2016, thousands of Kurds have been arrested, most of whom were imprisoned in Turkey. The PKK has been declared a terrorist organization by the PKK. As a result, the Turkish army has been unable to fully take control of the area. In addition, bringing in soldiers to Afrin would also be interpreted as a sign of a treaty agreement with Russia. Some rebel affiliates in the Free Syrian Army (FSA) have also been playing a role in the operation, claiming that they have nobody on their side except Turkey. A YPG commander, on the condition of anonymity, told this author that "there is no one on our side. FSA had asked Kurdish officials to allow them to send reinforcements, but they were rejected. Even the Americans asked us to help the FSA, but after they had returned the request." He added, "A part of the FSA with Turkey have launched the operation, hoping Turkey will help them so they can take over the entire area and take all the opposition territories. However, this operation is run directly by Iran and Assad. Turkey has become their proxy and maybe a partner."

Prior to the assault, however, he told the author that the Kurds were not aware of the operation. The Kurds refused and promised not to fight with Assad. In fact, the YPG, in the name of the YPG, announced that the YPG and Syrian rebels were "deported on 19th of February" from the area. He added, "The YPG commander added, 'the agreement was reached with the presence of Iranians and Russians and it was from them that we learned that the Kurds had no other options.'"

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SMOKE RISES FROM ARTILLERY STRIKES NEAR AFRIN, SYRIA

Since the onset of the Syrian civil war, Turkey has been engaged in one important factor over and over again to the world and especially to the members of NATO: this war is as much a threat to the integrity of Turkey as it is to the integrity of Syria.

As the war progressed, Turkey's fear was growing. The PKK, a terrorist organization in Turkey, has been using the chaos in Syria to launch attacks on Turkish citizens, and was in a bid to build a Salafist regime in northern Syria. Turkey, stepped up its efforts to support the Syrian opposition. This time, its efforts were aided by the West. As the events unfolded, Turkey in 2016 and it became clear that the situation was getting out of control.

The United States is still our ally, but Turkey's persistent presence has been a major factor in the region. The terrorist group plans to use this new position to gain access to the weapons of the Assad regime, and will threaten not only Turkey but also the Middle East and even the US that has been its protecting power. After getting no response to its demands and demands that have been rejected, Turkey chose other than launching a military campaign. In 2016, Turkey was the center of all these plans.

Turkey entered the Afrin operation, Operation Olive Branch, in line with UN Security Council resolutions 2254 (2016), 2379 (2018) and 2378 (2018) on the rights of the Syrian people, and the 54 in terms of the UN Charter on the right to self-determination. All the resolutions were adopted by a majority of 15, with the US as the only abstainer. Turkey, as well as the countries that support it, are not part of the UN Security Council, and thus cannot veto the resolutions. Turkey is not a member of the UN Security Council, and thus cannot veto the resolutions.

In addition, Iran's involvement in the Assad-YPG agreement has caused the PKK to pause the Syrian regime for defending Afrin, even though this has not been the case.

"Russia and Assad are willing to help the Kurds in Afrin on certain conditions. They want us to ask the US to leave Syria, and hand over most Kurdish territories held by the Assad regime. In return, they will hand over some territories in Aleppo, Latakia, and the PKK is eager enough to discuss terms with the Assad regime. Nothing about what comes next."

The PKK has been on a three-sided war in contact to political decisions, as its sole focus in Syria.

Western countries and their allies in the region should reach out to some key figures within the Syrian opposition groups who have been asking Turkey for using the FSA for its mission. Furthermore, the US should make it clear to the YPG and Syrian opposition groups that a dialogue to reach a deal should be the only option.

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### Kim and Trump

By GEORGY KUNAIK

A far as one can read the often impulsive decisions of US President Donald Trump are a reflection of his own chaotic changes in US-North Korea relations. Maybe the only thing that is a constant is that North Korea's supreme leader Kim Jong Un, a.k.a. "Little Rocket Man," has graciously invited Trump to a summit meeting, and that Trump, a.k.a. "momentarily deranged demented," has accepted that invitation, without consulting anyone in the administration.

Covers the fact that since becoming a dictator Kim has never been a negotiator, and that Trump may find it unwise to change the status quo. "Can they meet in a third country, say, in Kazakhstan. After all, having the president of the world's leading superpower travel all the way to North Korea to meet with a notorious villain will dramatically upgrade the status of the latter and downgrade the status of the former. Let alone the problems of logistics, the world's two most powerful nations would have a summit meeting, the world's two most powerful nations would have a summit meeting, the world's two most powerful nations would have a summit meeting."

But suppose the two can somehow find a place to meet, what are they going to talk about? Would Kim eventually demoralize and to resign the DPT? Would Trump come back with a deal? Or would he be in a position to say "no"? And would they trust him enough to accept this offer at the end of the day?

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### The rightful struggle of Turkey: The Afrin operation

By AFRIN OKTAZ

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largely a ground operation, the only reason for this is preventing civilian casualties.

The Turkish Army has clearly stated that the world that all the targets are those who are not the Syrian people, weapons and explosives were destroyed and that the "outcome can be a territorial or a political one. As the current director of the Turkish military, General Gökhan Arslan, has stated, "The Turkish military has not been targeted by the YPG and the PKK. The very beginning of this operation, throughout these seven years of the Syrian war, Turkey has always been in the line of fire. It is not in the line of fire, it is not in the line of fire, it is not in the line of fire."

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Sinds het begin van de Syrische burgeroorlog, heeft Turkije steeds weer een belangrijk feit aan de wereld en vooral aan de NAVO-leden uitgelegd: deze oorlog is zowel een bedreiging voor de integriteit van Turkije als voor de Syrische bevolking.

Naarmate de oorlog vorderde, bleek dat waar Turkije voor vreesde terecht was. De PKK, een terroristische groepering die al 40 jaar terroristische aanslagen uitvoert op Turkse grond, die het leven heeft gekost van 40.000 Turkse burgers, en op weg was om een stalinistisch regime te stichten in het zuidoosten van Turkije, versterkte zijn inspanningen in combinatie met de escalerende oorlog. Deze keer werden de rekruten getraind door professionals, hun wapens werden geleverd door het Westen. Naarmate de gebeurtenissen vorderden, vond de couppoging van 15 juli plaats in Turkije in 2016 en het werd duidelijk dat de terroristische groep FETO steun had geboden aan de PKK.

De Verenigde Staten zijn nog steeds onze bondgenoot, maar desalniettemin de verwachtingen niet heeft waargemaakt. De aanhoudende protesten van Turkije hebben geen resultaten opgeleverd.

De terroristische groep is van plan deze nieuwe positie te gebruiken om gemakkelijker toegang te krijgen tot de wapens van communistische kringen, en probeert een bloederige staat op te bouwen, wat niet alleen een

bedreiging zal zijn voor Turkije, maar ook het Midden-Oosten en zelfs de VS, die zijn beschermende kracht is geweest. Nadat de protesten en eisen van Turkije onbeantwoord bleven, had Turkije geen andere keuze dan een militaire campagne in Afrin te starten, wat het centrum was van al deze plannen.

Turkije startte de Afrin-operatie, Operatie Olijf Tak, in overeenstemming met resoluties 1624 (2005), 2170 (2014) en 2178 (2014) van de VN-Veiligheidsraad over terrorismebestrijding, en het 51e punt van het VN-handvest over het recht op zelfverdediging. Alle structuren waar Turkije zich aan dient te houden, evenals de landen die zijn aangesloten bij de NAVO en de VN, waren op de hoogte van de campagne. Het doel ervan is gedefinieerd als het elimineren van de PKK / PYD-dreiging in de regio, die met de dag sterker werd en zich innestelde.

Turkije, vóór en tijdens de campagne, herhaalde haar respect voor de territoriale integriteit van Syrië en benadrukte nadrukkelijk dat het doel beslist geen 'bezetting' was. Het is ook duidelijk dat de campagne vanaf het begin met het medeweten van Rusland heeft plaatsgevonden. In feite is de territoriale integriteit van Syrië altijd een cruciaal punt geweest in de onderhandelingen die door beide landen zijn gevoerd.

Bovendien hebben de Turkse autoriteiten duidelijk verklaard dat de Turkse inlichtingendienst, MIT, in contact was met het Syrische regime om de territoriale integriteit van laatstgenoemde te waarborgen. Tijdens de operatie, hebben Turkse vliegtuigen herhaaldelijk flyers gedropt over Afrin-dorpen, die een oproep tot eenheid hebben gedaan aan het volk van Afrin en hen ervan verzekerd hebben door te zeggen: "Afrin behoort toe aan de bevolking van Afrin."

Zoals welbekend is, is de Syrische oorlog veelal met vliegtuigen bevochten door veel van de betrokken landen. Coalitie krachten, met name Amerikaanse jagers, hebben de afgelopen zeven jaar luchtaanvallen uitgevoerd tegen het land, terwijl Rusland, de beschermheilige van het Syrische regime, ook luchtaanvallen uitvoert, evenals het Syrische regime.

Het is duidelijk dat Turkije, het op één na grootste leger in de NAVO heeft, in staat is om zijn campagne uit te voeren met uitsluitend straaljagers. Bijgevolg is het duidelijk dat de PKK / PYD niet in staat zou zijn terug te vechten tegen luchtbombardementen en dat door dergelijke bombardementen toe te passen, Afrin binnen enkele dagen kan worden gezuiverd van terroristische groeperingen, of zelfs enkele uren. Bovendien zou een dergelijke optie eventuele Turkse verliezen voorkomen.

Echter, vanaf toen dit artikel geschreven werd hebben we 43 martelaren gehad in Afrin, en elke dag ontvangen we nieuws van weer een andere. Dit komt omdat de campagne grotendeels een grondoperatie is, de enige reden daarvoor is om burgerslachtoffers te voorkomen.

Het Turkse leger heeft de wereld duidelijk verzekerd dat alle doelen grondig worden gecontroleerd voordat ze worden getroffen, en benadrukt dat alleen terroristische doelen en hun schuilplaatsen, posities, wapens en uitrusting werden vernietigd, en dat de 'uiterste zorg en gevoeligheid' werd getoond om burgers of het milieu niet te schaden. Tegelijkertijd zijn religieuze, culturele, historische en archeologische vindplaatsen, evenals openbare voorzieningen, niet het doelwit geweest van de Turkse strijdkrachten sinds het allereerste begin van deze operatie.

Gedurende deze zeven jaar van de Syrische oorlog, is Turkije altijd vastbesloten geweest om burgers te beschermen, zowel binnen de grenzen van Syrië als daarbuiten. Op dit punt, zou het nuttig zijn om op te merken dat Turkije degene was die de Syrische vluchtelingen verwelkomde, die door EU-autoriteiten uit EU-wateren zijn verdreven en die door prikkeldraadafsluitingen buiten de EU zijn gehouden.

Columnisten zoals Robert Fisk, die bekend staat om zijn aversie tegen Turkije, zijn voorspelbaar geweest in de voorhoede van de campagne tegen de gaande operatie van Turkije in Afrin. Zijn recente artikel in The Independent is volledig gebaseerd op desinformatie.

In het licht van al deze details, is het belangrijk om de volgende vraag te stellen: wat zouden de Westerse landen doen als ze zich in de positie van Turkije zouden bevinden? Zouden ze achterover leunen en kijken hoe de bloedigste terreurgroep van de wereld een staat langs hun grens stichtte? Of zouden ze binnen een paar uur met hun straaljagers het gebied volledig verpletteren? Of zouden ze doen wat Turkije deed en een gevoelige grondcampagne starten die enkele maanden zou duren en ongetwijfeld tot verliezen en hoge kosten zou leiden? Laten we deze vraag beantwoorden door de Turkse presidentiële woordvoerder Ibrahim Kalin te citeren: "De Afrin-operatie vertegenwoordigt een oprechtheidstest voor de Westerse landen."

Artikel van de heer Adnan Oktar in The Jerusalem Post (Israel):

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/The-rightful-struggle-of-Turkey-The-Afrin-operation-544919>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/nl/artikelen/de-rechtmatige-strijd-van-turkije-de-afrin-operatie>