

# Erdogan's Hard Times in Syria, Pressured to Backtrack by Putin

By [South Front](#)

Global Research, December 04, 2016

[South Front](#) 3 December 2016

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

On November 29, he publicly announced that Turkey had launched its operations in Syria to end the rule of "[the tyrant al-Assad](#)":

The Turkish military launched its operations in Syria to end the rule of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, President [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](#) said Nov. 29.

"In my estimation, nearly 1 million people have died in Syria. These deaths are still continuing without exception for children, women and men. Where is the United Nations? What is it doing? Is it in Iraq? No. We preached patience but could not endure in the end and had to enter Syria together with the Free Syrian Army [FSA]," Erdoğan said at the first Inter-Parliamentary Jerusalem Platform Symposium in Istanbul.

"Why did we enter? We do not have an eye on Syrian soil. The issue is to provide lands to their real owners. That is to say we are there for the establishment of justice. We entered there to end the rule of the tyrant al-Assad who terrorizes with state terror. [We didn't enter] for any other reason," the president said.

Nonetheless, on December 1, the Turkish president was pushed to backtrack on Syrian goals, clarifying that "to end the rule of tyrant al-Assad" means "[to combat terrorism](#)":

Turkey's military operation in northern Syria does not target any country or individual, and is aimed only at terrorist groups, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said. He had earlier stated that Turkey was in Syria to "end the rule of the cruel Assad."

"The aim of the Euphrates Shield Operation [in northern Syria] is not any country or person, but only terrorist organizations," Erdoğan said Thursday, as quoted by the Hurriyet Daily News.

"No one should doubt this issue that we have uttered over and over, and no one should comment on it in another fashion or try to derail it," he added.

The shift of Erdoğan's strategy in Syria came after a phone call with Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

Accident? Don't think so.

*If you're able, and if you like our content and approach, please support the project. Our work wouldn't be possible without your help: PayPal: [southfront@list.ru](mailto:southfront@list.ru) or via: <http://southfront.org/donate/> or via: <https://www.patreon.com/southfront>*

The original source of this article is [South Front](#)  
Copyright © [South Front](#), [South Front](#), 2016

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [South Front](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)