

Kurds Ally with Damascus Against Turkish Aggression

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, October 14, 2019 Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u> Theme: <u>Intelligence</u>, <u>Militarization and</u> <u>WMD</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

Kurds in northern Syria comprise around 10% of the nation's population, its largest ethnic minority.

Their relationship with Damascus has been uneasy at best, stormy at worst. They seek local autonomy.

Syrian authorities want the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity preserved and protected, their right under the UN Charter and other international law.

US-dominated NATO and Israel want Syria illegally partitioned along ethnic lines for easier imperial control — part of their scheme to redraw the Middle East map.

As things now stand, war rages in Idlib province, largely controlled by thousands of USsupported al-Nusra terrorists, holding around three million civilians hostage as human shields.

After Turkish forces launched cross-border aggression last week, things greatly escalated — Kurdish YPG fighters outgunned and outmatched against the onslaught.

Their only option was seeking accommodation with Bashar al-Assad against a common Turkish foe, President Erdogan hell bent to annex northern Syrian territory, especially its oilproducing areas.

His aggression has nothing to do with protecting Turkish security. It's unthreatened by Syrian Kurds except in self-defense if attacked.

Nor is Ankara threatened by ISIS, al-Nusra and likeminded terrorists, elements Erdogan supports.

His rhetorical concern for Syrian refugees is head fake deception. His cross-border incursion is entirely for self-serving interests — unrelated to pretexts he and other Turkish officials cited as reasons for the current offensive.

All wars are based on Big Lies and deception, Turkish aggression following the norm — making restoration of peace and stability to Syria all the harder, especially if government troops from both countries clash.

Here's where things now stand. Over the weekend, Syrian Kurds agreed with Damascus to

have government troops aid them in countering Turkish aggression, a statement saying:

"To prevent and repel this attack, an agreement has been reached with the Syrian government to protect the border and sovereignty of Syria," adding:

"The Syrian army will enter (Kurdish-controlled areas) and deploy troops along the entire Syrian-Turkish border in order to help (YPG fighters) repel this attack and liberate areas occupied by the Turkish army and its affiliates."

According to reports cited by Southfront,

"by the morning of October 14, Syrian Army units will enter the towns of Manbij and Kobani. Some sources say (government troops) will also enter into al-Tabqah. However, these reports still have to be confirmed."

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that government forces are "moving north to confront Turkish aggression on Syrian territory," adding:

"This movement comes to confront the ongoing Turkish aggression on towns and areas in the north of Hasaka and Raqqa provinces, where the Turkish forces committed massacres against locals, occupied some areas, and destroyed infrastructure."

AMN News reported that Syrian forces are poised to enter Raqqa province for the first time since 2014, adding they'll "soon enter the city."

They're "striking the positions of the foreigner-led Turkestan Islamic Party near the Turkish border" in Latakia province.

Late last week, Syrian attack helicopters struck US/Ankara supported jihadists along Turkey's border.

Turkish troops are attacking "densely populated" al Qamishli neighborhoods, said AMN News, other civilian areas likely targeted the same way.

When naked aggression is waged, hostile forces ignore the rule of law, prohibiting attacks on civilian areas.

On Monday, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said government troops are preparing "to confront Turkish aggression on Syrian territory," adding:

"Turkish forces committed massacres against locals, occupied some areas, and destroyed infrastructure."

"The Turkish regime forces (and 'mercenary terrorists') intensified aerial and artillery bombardment on villages and towns in Hasaka and Raqqa provinces in framework of their aggression on Syrian territory...occupying several towns and villages." people, including foreign journalists," adding:

"A video surfaced showing tens of bodies and injured people, most of them having been mutilated and burned."

Is Turkey using incendiary and other banned weapons against heavily populated areas?

Ankara's large-scale aggression makes conflict resolution all the harder.

Restoration of peace and stability to Syria depends on defeating US-Turkish supported terrorists and aggression, along with ending illegal occupation by foreign forces.

These goals remain unattainable as long as Washington, NATO, Israel, and Turkey pursue their imperial aims in the country.

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