

# Bashar al-Assad Government Poised to Fulfill the Promise of Regaining all Syrian Territory

By [Steven Sahiounie](#)

Global Research, October 17, 2019

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)  
Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Military](#) and [WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)  
In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*“Our proposal is for the terrorists to lay down their arms, leave their equipment, destroy the traps they have created, and leave the safe zone we designated, as of tonight,” [Turkish President Erdogan said](#). “If this is done, our Operation Peace Spring will end by itself.”*

Erdogan of Turkey has stated he [will not order a ceasefire](#) in Syria, even though his NATO partners have asked for it. Pres. Trump has sent [VP Pence](#) to Ankara today to ask for a ceasefire, and to explain the [consequences](#) should Erdogan refuse.

Turkey began [‘Operation Spring Peace’](#) one week ago with the stated goal to eliminate Kurdish terrorists from the border region and to create a ‘safe-zone’ in northeast Syria for Syrian refugees currently in Turkey to return to. Trump inadvertently gave the green-light to Erdogan in a [phone call](#), after which Trump ordered the US troops in the area to withdraw. Trump has explained his withdraw order was not a stamp of approval on Turkey’s military incursion into Syria but instead was done to keep the [US troops safe](#).

Once Turkey began the military attack, first by airstrikes and then using ground troops, the international community, including American critics of Trump, began an outcry based on [humanitarian](#) concerns of a possible bloodbath of the Kurdish population. Additionally, the [US military and legislators](#) have expressed dismay and regret at having left behind a valuable ally in the fight against ISIS: the Kurdish militia Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), who were to be the target of the Turkish invasion into Syria.

The Kurds are a minority in Syria, and while they do have towns and villages in the northeastern corner of Syria, they are still a minority there. During the Syrian conflict which began in 2011, the Kurds of Afrin saw an opportunity to benefit from aligning themselves with the Obama backed [‘Free Syrian Army’](#) (FSA), who were Syrian mercenaries supported by [Obama](#) and the US Congress. The FSA was openly Jihadist, following the political ideology of Radical Islam, with the final goal of ‘regime change’ to pave the way for an Islamic government in Syria. Obama and his right hand in Syria, [Republican Senator John McCain](#), were not themselves adherents of Radical Islam, but used the assets on hand for ‘boots-on-the-ground’, knowing that the US Congress would never approve of a [‘regime change’](#) project in Syria. Getting US troops to invade Syria was too complicated, and the Jihadists were local assets that only required funding and weapons, which was done covertly through a [CIA program](#), and then later McCain lobbied the [US Congress](#) for funding. [Trump pulled](#) the plug on the CIA funding of the FSA, which had by then become Al Qaeda after the FSA failed to find support among the Syrian population, and was forced to recruit [Jihadists](#) from around the world, who came pouring in through [Turkey](#).

The Kurds were fighting the Syrian government to establish a Kurdish 'state'. The FSA was fighting to establish an Islamic 'state' in Damascus, while the Kurds took advantage of the chaos throughout the country to take their piece of the pie: the northeastern section, which they began to call '[Rojava](#)', and later they termed the [Autonomous Administration of North East Syria \(NES\)](#). [Their political ideology](#) was extreme socialism and secular. The majority of Kurds are Sunni Muslims, as were the FSA; however, we have seen in the Kurdish city of Kobani hundreds of the [Sunni have changed their religion](#) to American Evangelical Christianity, which is linked to the [support of Israel](#). A female, former Muslim, convert to the church in Kobani commented, "I don't mind leaving Islam, but I want to continue to wear my headscarf."

In **2014 the ISIS attacked Kobani** and the Kurds fought back, and eventually [became the US ally](#) in the fight to defeat ISIS. The US military used the assets on hand to fight ISIS, and eventually, in a small village in northeast Syria, they were declared defeated in 2019. It was the SDF who fought alongside the US troops to defeat ISIS, with the US having lost 5 soldiers, compared to about 11,000 Kurds. Many cautioned the SDF and their political wing in NES that the US would eventually [abandon them](#), as they had done with the FSA. The Kurds had confidence their Rojava would remain, and they remained loyal to the US promises and support.

Posters of [Abdullah Ocalan](#) are plastered everywhere in Kobani, and throughout NES. He is the imprisoned leader of the PKK, an internationally recognized terrorist group, responsible for 40,000 deaths in Turkey for over 30 years. The [Kurds in Syria](#) claim they are [SDF and YPG and are not connected to PKK](#); however, you will see SDF soldiers with PKK patches on their uniforms, and with the posters of Ocalan everywhere, it is obvious that the [Kurds are PKK, and the PKK are Kurds](#). This did not bother the US Pentagon, because they had to use the assets on hand to defeat ISIS.

Erdogan continuously complained to the US about their support of Kurdish 'terrorists' in northeast Syria, even long after ISIS was defeated. To [Turkey, the SDF is the PKK](#) and had set up a 'state', NES, on the Turkish border, and this was unacceptable and reason enough to invade Syria to neutralize the threat to Turkey's national security. Now, the Turkish ground troops are face-to-face with the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) at Manbij. The land is Syrian, the SAA are all Syrians, as it is mandatory military service in Syria for all males over 18 who are not enrolled in a University. The SDF has recently agreed with Damascus to align with the SAA to repel the invasion of Turkey. However, the ground troops used by Turkey to invade Syria are not Turkish: they are [Syrians](#) who were formerly [terrorists](#), who survived the battles against the Kurds and the US, and escaped to Turkey through Idlib, and fell into the open arms of the Turkish military, who saved them for the invasion of northeast Syria as they were the assets on hand.

[Russian security forces are patrolling Manbij](#) and are tasked with keeping the SAA and the former ISIS mercenaries employed by Erdogan from clashing. The place is a [tinder-box](#) ready to blow. In a phone call between Russia and Turkey today, an invitation for [Erdogan to meet Putin](#) in Moscow was accepted.

"Everything related to the destiny and future of Syria is a one hundred percent Syrian issue, and the unity of Syrian territory is self-evident and not up for debate or discussion," [President Bashar al-Assad](#) stated in his speech on August 2017.

After more than 8 years of war, the Syrian President's promise is poised to be fulfilled for the Syrian people.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

*This article was originally published on [Mideast Discourse](#).*

**Steven Sahiounie** is a Middle East observer. He is a frequent contributor to *Global Research*.

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Steven Sahiounie](#), Global Research, 2019

---

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Steven Sahiounie](#)**

**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)