

# WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY



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# TURKEY'S OPERATION IN NORTHERN SYRIA: MOTIVES AND OUTCOMES



Most popular social media reaction to Turkey's Northeastern Syria (Rojava) military operation accompanied by the **#TrumpBetrayedKurds** hashtag. However, this was far from reflecting the reality: Neither Trump nor even Obama and, neither the Republicans nor the Democrats ever had any political commitment to Kurds except supplying arms to them in their fight against IS. Ankara's traditional position against the emergence of any Kurdish political entity in the neighboring Syrian territory just accelerated the process of "leaving Kurds with their destiny". Moreover, preventing a possible Kurdish political entity in Syria was not the only motive behind Erdoğan regime's last military operation. Erdoğan's "Operation Peace Spring" over the Kurdish Rojava region had at least two major and four minor objectives:

First and most importantly Erdoğan regime aimed at preventing the possibility of a de facto or de jure Kurdish territory controlled by the PKK. Secondly Turkey intended to enlarge its area of control from Idlib Province to Afrin and now to the border of Iraq that make her the main protector of the "moderate" Islamist opposition. Preventing the emergence of a neighboring Kurdish autonomous political entity and enlarging her area of control could enable Erdoğan regime's 17 years long reign to make the four following steps:

First of all, as Turkish President Erdoğan announce at the UN General Assembly meeting, "the new territories" or the "safe zone" as he called it, could be used for inhabiting large number of Syrian refugees. Secondly the operation now gave Erdoğan to force European Union leaders once again to choose between Erdoğan's Syria policy or his serious threat of opening the borders for over 3 million refugees waiting to go to the EU countries. Thirdly transferring some half a million of 3.5 million Syrian

refugees back to Syrian territories expected to stop the erosion of votes of Erdoğan's AKP (Justice and Development Party). Surveys and public opinion polls showed that Erdoğan's support for the Syrian refugees to welcome them in Turkey is the leading reason behind his losses in last elections (including losing the municipalities of Istanbul and Ankara). And as the fourth implication and consequence of the operation Turkey wanted to succeed to be the main protector of only anti-Assad opposition which could control a huge area. That could have made Turkey an important actor in the eyes of anti-Assad countries. And bonus for the president is to reconcile anti-Kurdish secular nationalism with moderate Islamist neo-Ottomanism through a military campaign that made them to be consolidated in the same front.

### Realities on the ground:

With the above mentioned motives and targets in mind, Erdoğan regime's military operation confronted with several political obstacles on the ground: Tehran and Damascus expressed their discontent and Moscow backed their worries about Turkey's highly probable permanent invasion of the northern Syria. US establishment along with the Western capitals like Paris, Berlin and Helsinki tried to balance military operation through sanctions and threats of embargos. The initial green light turned into yellow and even into red in some regions:

A few days after the operation, the SDF reached an agreement with the Syrian government, in which it would allow the Syrian Army to enter the SDF-held towns of Manbij and Kobani in an attempt to defend the towns from the Turkish offensive.

On 17 October, U.S. forced Ankara to agree US terms to partially protect Kurds: U.S. and Turkey agreed on a deal in which Turkey will agree to a ceasefire in Syria for 5 days in return for a complete withdrawal by the SDF from a "safe zone" south of the Syria-Turkey border. US's balance act followed by Moscow's and on 22 October, Turkey and Russia reached a deal to extend the ceasefire by 150 additional hours for SDF to move 30 kilometers away from the border area as well as from Tal Rifaat and Manbij. The terms of the deal also included joint

Russian-Turkish patrols 10 kilometers into Syria from the border except in the city of Qamishli.

### Outcomes of an aggressive military operation:

After a full scale military offensive in the northern Syria, Turkish army managed to control one third of the east of Euphrates in Kurdish populated Northern Syria (Rojava) before Washington, Moscow and

Damascus intervened to operation through various direct and indirect diplomatic means. Compared to its initial expectations and aims Ankara managed to achieve half of its goals. Turkey's main aim to prevent the foundation of an autonomous region for Kurds in Syria "achieved" and Kurds' dream delayed for an unforeseeable future. On the other hand, the area Ankara managed to control so far is far from providing her a large enough space for transferring 3.5 million refugees. Damascus and Moscow broke the link between Turkish





controlled Azez region with newly held areas in Rojava and that made Turkey to forget about her dreams to control all of the northern Syria from Idlib to Haseke.

US's political priority always been the help for the security of Israel and security of energy supply and arms sales to the regions countries. With those political objectives Washington supported the policies and processes that limit the Iran's enlarging areas of influence and support those who fight against anti-Israel/Anti-USA governments (like Iraq and Syria). We should remember that the Turkey backed militia (Former Free Syrian Army and now the National Army) founded by the funds and political support of USA and even some EU countries along with Saudis and Turks. Turkish leaderships autonomous and sometimes independent objectives (like aiding the Muslim Brotherhood network) and unwillingness to fight against Al Qaeda and ISIS between 2013-2016 led US leadership to balance Ankara with Kurds in the region. They supported SDF militarily in their fight against ISIS and when it ended the partnership also ended.

However, on the other hand Erdoğan's partial "achievements" in the region will mean her defeat in many areas: First of all, Turkey became a fully coercive power, not an influential country with soft power anymore. Secondly, in addition to Turkey's own large Kurdish population now another millions of Syrian and even Iraqi Kurds turned against Erdoğan politically. And finally this operation is the end of Turkish balance dance between Moscow and Washington. Turkey will have more problems with one of them at the end of the operation.

Worker's Party of Turkey (TİP) condemned the operation from the first moment it has declared to be implemented. Along with the progressive forces in Turkey, TİP considered the operation as an invasion of a neighboring state, as a chauvinistic act against Kurds and as the break of international laws. TİP repeatedly called to fight against all imperialist and regional revisionist action in the region and cooperatively work for a political solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey, Syria and in the region in general.



# “IF HALF OUR HEARTS IS HERE, THE OTHER HALF IS IN BOLİVİA”



We condemn the fact that President Evo Morales, who defends the interests of the poor, the workers and the indigenous peoples in the Plurinational Bolivian State, was forced to resign by the US-backed fascist forces and troops.

President Morales, who won the elections in October 20 with the support of the people he represented, became the target of the accusations which are not relying on any concrete evidence. Armed forces were finally deployed under the provocative environment created by the desire of the rich and elites, the provocation of the US-led Organization of American States (OAS), along with the attacks of fascist gangs on the streets. Today's news show that looting, raids and violence have escalated against representatives of the poor and local communities.

It is clear that the Monroe Doctrine, which is based on the design of Latin America as a “backyard” of US

has been put into practice. The coup scenarios involving military or judicial forces against governments that threaten US interests have recently come to the fore in many countries, including Venezuela, Honduras, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina. We know that socialist Cuba is still under open attack with sanctions.

We, as the representatives of the oppressed peoples and labourers in Turkey, as in many countries, declare that we stand by the legitimate and elected President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, and by the poor and indigenous peoples who supported him. We call the international community, independent organizations, trade unions and progressive forces to take action against the fascist coup

Inspired by the communist poet Nâzım Hikmet:  
*"If half our hearts is here, the other half is in Bolivia"*

**Resist fascism and the US, Bolivia!**

## Observing Cyprus from Cyprus: Inferences From TİP Meeting With Leftist Movements From the North and South on Nicosia.

Cyprus Issue has always been one which remained a polemic topic for the socialist movement in Turkey. Presently most leftist organisations prefer to remain silent on the Cyprus Issue because of its ominous nature. But the leftist movement, who have relayed their messages of internationalist solidarity to everyone from Chile to Lebanon have to fight for the struggle of peace of the people of Cyprus, who have been stuck in a deadlock for years. The best way of pursuing this endeavour is to comprehend the Cyprus Issue with all of its dimensions and getting to know the Cypriot working class better. This is the only way to produce a lasting peace in accordance to historical reality and the interests of the working class. Keeping this basic approach in mind, the Workers' Party of Turkey has made a visit to Cyprus in October 11-12, 2019. We have come together with the progressive forces from north and south of the island with the invitation of the Leftist Movement of Cyprus and learned the Cyprus Issue from the Cypriots themselves.

The Party delegation have stressed that the reason for our visit was to discuss the Cyprus Issue from both Greek and Turkish Cypriots to better comprehend it and to relay the Cypriots' demand for peace in Turkey in our own language.

Every interview during the visit have generally had positive outcomes. Meeting have been held with a large part of the Cypriot progressive organisations. The common ground on which all of these organisations meet is the demand for a bi-societal, bi-zonal federative state with equal political

representation as the solution of the Cyprus Issue. This approach corresponds to the Party's stance on the Cyprus Issue. Another common point is the opinion that Turkey is changing the demographic structure on the island via population transferring.

The Party delegation visited TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı and AKEL first. On the second day of our visit the delegation held a



round-table meeting together with the Leftist Movement of Cyprus to which progressive organisations, parties and unions from the north and south of Cyprus participated. Participants other than TİP and the Leftist Movement of Cyprus were representatives from AKEL, CTP, YKP, KTÖS, DEV-İŞ, East and Southeast Cultural Association and Basın-Sen (Press Workers' Union). Main topics of discussion were the peace process in Cyprus, hydrocarbon issue and renewable energy resources, and the developments in the region after the military intervention in Syria.



## NEWS FROM THE PARTY



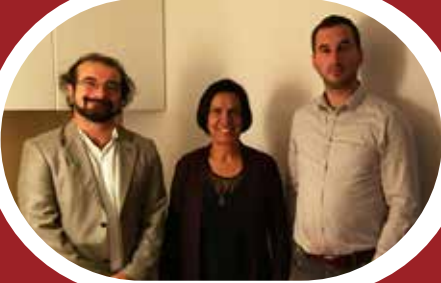
Chairperson of TİP Erkan Baş and our party delegation, visited TRNC (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) President Mustafa Akıncı in Nicosia/Cyprus.

Chairperson of TİP Erkan Baş and our party delegation visited AKEL General Secretary Andros Kyprianou and the delegation accompanying him as part of Cyprus visit and discussed the latest political issues and exchanged their political views on Cyprus and regional politics.



During the roundtable co-organized by TİP and the Cyprus Left Movement, representatives of AKEL (Progressive Party of Working People), CTP (Republican Turkish Party), YKP (New Cyprus Party), KTÖS (Turkish Cypriot Teachers' Union), DEV-İŞ (Revolutionary Party of Working People), Eastern and Southeastern Cultural Association, and Basın-Sen (Trade Union of Press) representatives came together. They discussed the peace process and developments in the region..

## NEWS FROM THE PARTY



Ozgur Dirim Ozkan from TİP International Relations Committee met Cuban ambassador to Budapest Alicia Elvira Corredra Morales with Union of Communists of Bosnia and Herzegovina Central Committee member Dusko Malesevic in Sarajevo. Labour movement in Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina and US aggression and blockade in complete disregard to any international law towards Cuba were discussed.

Party Vice Chairperson and Hatay MP Baris Atay Mengulluoglu visited Izmir Metropolitan Mayor Tunc Soyer with Party Izmir Provincial Organisation.



Party Chairperson Erkan Bas attended the press conference concerning the arrest of Diyarbakir Mayor Selcuk Mizrakli along with HDP MPs. "We stand with the Kurdish people and workers resisting the oppression and the nationalist policies of the government."



## NEWS FROM THE PARTY



TİP Hayat MP Baris Atay in press conference:

We salute the poor in rebellion across the world; to the rebelling peoples of Ecuador, Chile, Lebanon and Azerbaijan.

The government should take its lessons from these revolts and know that no one's position is secure.

Chairperson Erkan Bas and the Istanbul Provincial Organisation attended the 405st station watch in Haydarpasa.

“Haydarpasa and Sirkeci stations are not sources for income but the common cultural heritage of Istanbul. The tender given to the partisan company must be terminated, the stations must be put in the people's service!”



Chairperson Erkan Bas attended the 760th-week demonstration of the Saturday Mothers. Hailing the years-long struggle of those who lost their relatives, he stated we will never give up on defending peace against violence.

## NEWS FROM THE PARTY



7 TİP members were taken into custody in the local resistance against telpher line construction in an Emergency Disaster Assembly Area in Sapanca's Kirkpinar neighbourhood.

Soma mine workers' march to Ankara for their severance pay was banned by Manisa Governorate. TİP İzmir Provincial Organisation paid a visit of support and solidarity to the miners in the 7th day of their resistance.



Chairperson Erkan Bas and TİP Ankara Provincial Organisation attended the #October10AnkaraMassacre memorial.

"We will carry on the peace struggle of the 103 comrades we've lost; stand for peace in the face of jihadist attacks and warmongering, defend the fraternity of people regardless of the cost!"



# WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY

## Head Office

Caferağa Mah. General Asım Gündüz Cad. No: 17 D: 4 Kadıköy/İstanbul/Türkiye  
T: (+90) 216 418 00 32 F: (+90) 216 418 00 42

Contact: International Relations Committee of **TİP**

[int@tip.org.tr](mailto:int@tip.org.tr)

**tip.org.tr**

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) tipgenelmerkez