

Rotary Model UN 2020

United Nations



General Assembly

28 March 2020

Seventy-fourth Session

Agenda item 20

Sponsor: Switzerland

Resolution #1

[To] Establish a U.N. Administered [Security] Zone on the Turkish Syrian Border

The General Assembly,

Expressing grave concern over the most recent escalation of hostilities in northeast Syria - following a Turkish cross-border military operation (Operation Peace Spring) in October 2019 - which has exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation affecting over 3 million Kurds and Syrians living on the Turkey-Syria border,¹

Understanding that the most recent crisis is an extension of decades long hostilities, complex in nature and cause, among the peoples populating the Turkish-Syrian border area, each with their own needs and desires for basic and acceptable living conditions and human rights,²

Further understanding that the Kurds, although stateless, are the fourth largest ethnic population in the Middle East - after Arabs, Persians and Turks - numbering a total of approximately 30 million spread out mostly over four countries (Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran),

Noting that, with the Kurds being a minority population in said countries these countries over the last half century have, in varying ways and degrees, attempted to assimilate the Kurds into their respective countries,

¹ <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-01-15/syrias-kurdish-forces-hold-back-tides>

² "Who Are the Kurds", [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29702440), October, 2019 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29702440>; Kurdish History, The Kurdish Project. <https://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-history/>

Further noting that in his October 2009 report for the 12th session of UN Human Rights Council entitled Persecution and Discrimination against Kurdish Citizens in Syria, the UN High Commission for Human Rights held successive Syrian governments failed to adopt policies adequately eliminating ethnic discrimination and national persecution against Kurds thereby preventing them from attaining adequate national democratic and human rights - an integral part of human existence,³

Recognizing that in 1978 and thereafter a separatist militant Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), was formed and commenced waging an insurgency in these other countries, primarily in Turkey and Syria, bombing military, police and government outposts causing death and destruction to property,

Stressing that life, health, property and basic human rights have been lost not only to the Kurds but other populations in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran as a consequence of and during the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraq War of 2003, the Syrian Civil War in 2010 and in the war beginning in 2015 against ISIS, causing a continuing and increasing humanitarian crisis of growing proportions,

Drawing attention to the fact that as these recent humanitarian and refugee crises continued to unfold, Turkey has absorbed 3.6 million Syrian and Kurdish refugees, by far the largest refugee population of all countries, compared, for example, to 1 million refugees in all of Europe, further observing that today more than 5-6 million Syrians and Kurds are scattered throughout the region making them the world's largest population under UN mandate, representing the worst exodus since the Rwandan genocide of 24 years ago,

Noting that on March 10, 2017 the UN Human Rights Office published a report detailing allegations of massive destruction, killings and other human rights violations committed between July 2015 and December 2016 in southeast Turkey, said report also acknowledging the complex challenges Turkey has faced in absorbing the numbers of refugees and in responding to a series of terrorist attacks.⁴ The report nevertheless concluded that the Government of Turkey has severely weakened human rights protections through enactment and implementation of counter terrorism legislation,

Underscoring the consequence that, as large numbers of Syrian Kurds living along the Syrian Turkish border are moved out of their homes by Turkish, Syrian and Russian forces, hundreds of thousands are facing a humanitarian crisis of dramatic proportions, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation. Lacking food, safe drinking water, marginal if any housing and scant medical care, the elderly, disabled, women and children are suffering from deplorable conditions,

Observing that Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez has recently stated that 'after eight years of conflict there is no military solution to the Syrian conflict', and that 'the only sustainable solution is a UN - facilitated political process pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2254' (referring to the Security Council's 2015 road map for Syria's peace process),⁵

³ https://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session12/SY/KIS-KurdsinSyria-eng.pdf&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1

⁴ Ohcr.org. "UN report details massive destruction and serious rights violations since July 2015 in southeast Turkey" <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21342&LangID=E>

⁵ See Secretary General statement dated October 9, 2019: <https://undocs.org/en/S/2019/784>

Agrees and Recommends the Security Council,

1. *Establishes* a U.N. Mission in Syria (UNS) under the supervision of a U.N. designated Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) from Switzerland;

2. *Establishes* a Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) in northern Syria under the supervision of UNS with borders as shown in the annex to this resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the deployment within TSZ of up to 4,200 troops, including up to 220 military observers, civilian police, and other administrative staff under the supervision of the SRSG until 31 December 2021, with a mandate to:

(a) Assist, as appropriate, in ensuring the observance of the security commitments agreed by the parties within the TSZ,

(b) Ensure Syria's and Turkey's territorial integrity,

(c) Monitor the cessation of Turkish Operation Peace Spring,

(d) Monitor and verify the redeployment of Turkish troops to areas within Turkey,

(e) Monitor and verify the redeployment of other non-Syrian troops to areas outside the TSZ,

(f) Monitor and control movement of civilians and goods into and out of the TSZ,

(g) Monitor the TSZ to assist in ensuring compliance with the cessation of hostilities,

(h) Create the conditions conducive to voluntary, safe and dignified return of refugees from within Syria and Turkey,

(i) Take necessary steps to protect civilians, including captured fighters,

(j) Establish a Joint Coordination Commission (JCC) comprised of representatives of Syria, Turkey, Russia and the Kurdish people to be chaired by the SRSG to regularly meet to discuss progress on redeployment of troops and the resettlement of refugees with representatives from Switzerland acting on behalf of the Kurdish people,

(k) Coordinate and provide technical assistance for humanitarian activities with special emphasis on the health and medical needs of people in the TSZ and areas adjacent to it,

(l) Coordinate and assist in the clearing of unexploded ordinance in the TMZ,

(m) Coordinate the Mission's activities in the TSZ and areas adjacent to it with humanitarian and human rights activities of the United Nations and other organizations in those areas;

4. Calls on the parties to take whatever action may be necessary to ensure UNS's access, safety and freedom of movement, and to provide the assistance, support and protection required for the performance of its mandate in all areas of its operation deemed necessary by the Secretary-General;

5. *Urges* the parties to proceed immediately, in order to ensure safe access of United Nations and associated personnel to the areas being monitored, drawing on United Nations technical assistance as needed;

6. *Calls* on the parties to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all those in need;

7. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to assist and participate in the longer-term tasks of safe resettlement within the TSZ reconstruction and development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council closely and regularly informed of progress towards the implementation of this resolution;

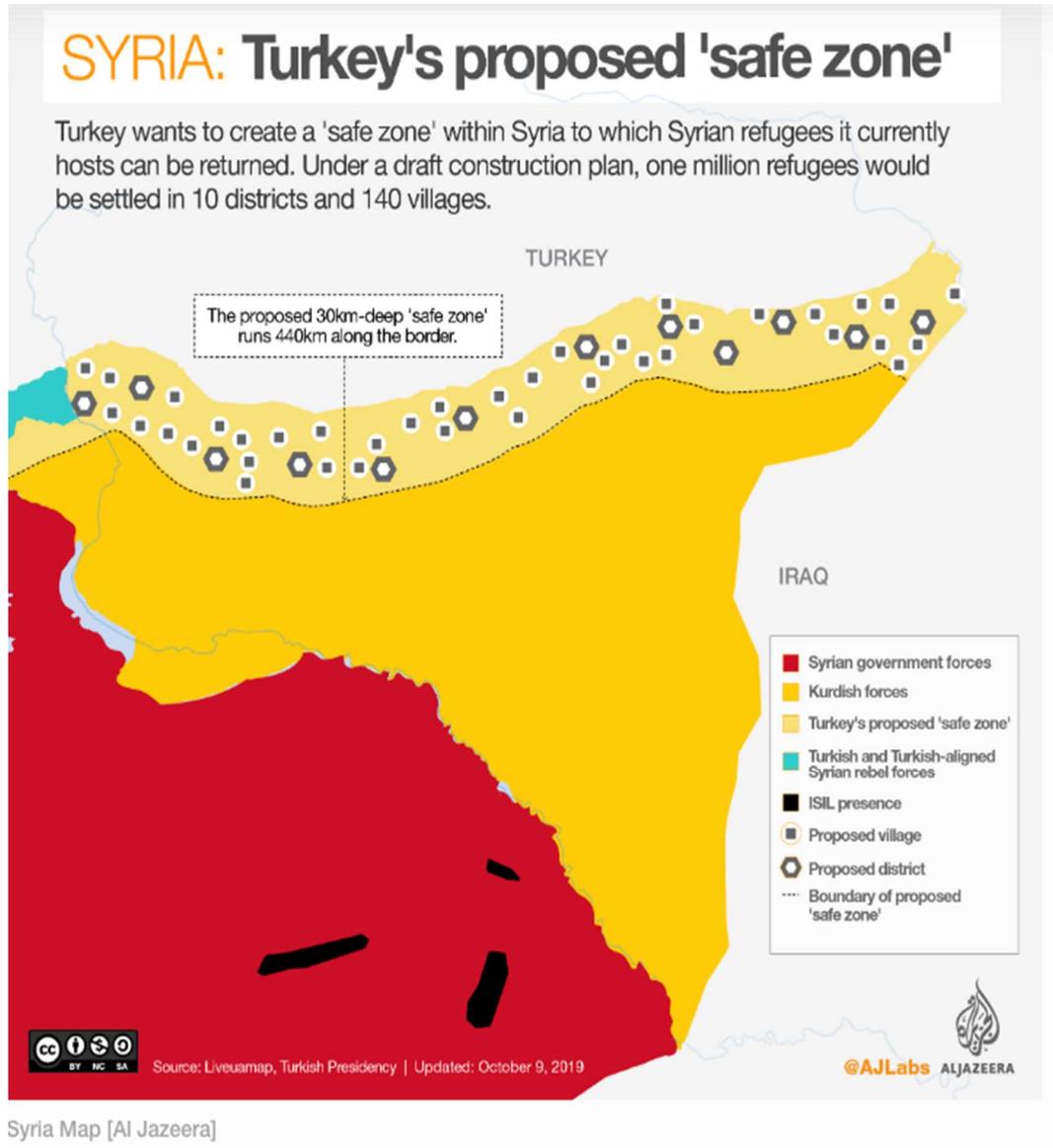
9. *Recommends* that the Council, in considering the renewal of the mandate of UNS, will take into account whether the parties have made adequate progress in achieving the goals as defined above;

10. *Emphatically calls upon* Member States, including but certainly not limited to those neighboring the TSZ, to contribute .00003% of 2019 GDP to establish a fund to financially support the aforementioned coalition's efforts and operations, and that these funds be allocated to areas including: (a) rebuilding shelters and educational facilities destroyed in violent conflict, (b) school supplies and clothing for underage inhabitants in the TSZ, (c) potable water, provisions, and vital medical resources for TSZ, (d) the establishment of centers for the fair distribution of aforementioned supplies in the TSZ, and (e) the payment of coordinators and workers overseeing these operations to improve conditions for TSZ;

11. *Proposes* the creation of a coalition of non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, Project Hope, and Save the Children, to make recommendations on creating positive human rights conditions in the TSZ;

12. *Encourages all* members to remain actively seized of the matter.

Annex



⁶ AlJazeera.com. "Erdogan and Putin hold talks as truce in Syria set to expire. "22 Oct.2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/erdogan-putin-meet-truce-northeast-syria-set-expire-191022065737650.html>