



Dear Friends and Comrades,

As Youth Union of Turkey, we would like to present this letter to friendly youth organizations from various countries and all world youth in order to explicate briefly the rightful struggle of our country against terrorism.

Operation Peace Spring in 6 Questions

1. What is Operation Peace Spring?

Operation Peace Spring is the third cross border operation of our state and Armed Forces in Syria. It is against the attempt of the US to build “a terror corridor” or “a terror statelet” on our border which poses a vital threat to territorial integrity and security of not only Turkey but all regional countries.

2. What is the aim of Operation Peace Spring?

The aim of the Operation is to eliminate the entirety of PKK-PYD-YPG and DAESH terrorists in northern Syria that are supported and armed by the United States government. It is to secure our border and protect our citizens from the brutality of terrorists. Besides, it will open the path that enables millions of Syrian refugees to return their home towns and villages.

Our President Recep Tayyip Erdogan underlined repeatedly that the Operation defends the territorial integrity of Syria, and Turkey has no intention whatsoever to settle in the areas cleaned from the terrorists. After the Operation accomplishes its aim to obviate the immediate terror threat, the Armed Forces will turn back to the country.

3. Who is PKK-YPG and SDF that occupies Northern Syria?

The most of Turkish-Syrian border had been under the occupation of PYD-YPG prior to the Operation. As the U.S. CENTCOM Commander himself admits before the American Senate, PYD-YPG is an affiliate of PKK which is recognized as “terrorist” by the entire world as well as the United States. The organization called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) is nothing but a cloak for PKK-YPG terrorists. They are one and the same.

According to the Amnesty International report, PYD-YPG is an armed group that has committed “ethnic cleansing” by murdering Arab population and forcing them to migrate. The US recognizes PKK as one of the biggest drug trafficking organization in the world. There is a bunch of records on human trafficking and child recruitment of the PKK-YPG.

The official position of the legitimate Syrian government is to define these organizations as “the agents of imperialist US and Israel” and “separatist terrorist groups.” The government’s determination to eliminate these terrorist organizations has been stressed in the letter by Foreign Affairs Minister presented to the United Nations few weeks ago.

PKK-YPG is, as the US generals calls it, “the field force” of the United States, the country responsible for most of the bloodshed in the Middle East. The US supports that have been made so far to PKK-YPG terrorists are the following:

- For only 2018 and 2019, the Pentagon has officially allocated more than 1 billion \$ budget for financial aid.
- The US army has trained about 60 thousand militants and handed in weapons and ammunition to the amount of more than 30 thousand 18-wheelers.
- The US army has also given them high-tech equipment, drones, anti-tank missiles.



4. What is the justification for the Operation in terms of international law?

The Operation targets not the territories under the rule of the legitimate Syrian government but those under the occupation of PKK-YPG terrorists.

Since 1984, tens of thousands Turkish citizens lost their lives and much more wounded due to the PKK bombs and bullets. Dated only from 2015, there were a hundred attacks by PKK-YPG to Turkey from northern Syria and claimed more than a thousand lives of Turkish people.

Therefore, Operation Peace Spring falls under the scope of the "right of self-defense" pointed in the UN Charter Article 51. Besides, as our President Erdogan stresses, the Operation adheres to the spirit of Adana Protocol signed in 1998 and revised in 2010 with Syrian Arab Republic to fight against the terrorist organizations in each country's national territories.

5. What are the initial results of the Operation?

The first result of the Operation is that all US soldiers has been pulled from the northern Syria. As the Operation continues, PKK-YPG, abandoned from its protector, flees from the Operation zone and in turn Syrian Arab Army fills the void. Our President Erdogan has taken a positive stance on this development and underlined that what matters is to cleanse the region from terror.

By the 9th day of the Operation, more than 700 PKK-YPG terrorists have been neutralized. Thanks to the meticulous operations of the Turkish Army, no Syrian civilian got harmed. On the other side, 18 civilian Turkish citizens, amongst them a 9-month baby, lost their lives and more than 50 wounded due to PKK-YPG mortar attack to our border city Akçakale.

6. What will be the impact of the Operation on the situation of Daesh threat?

Turkey is by far the country that is most affected by and fought against Daesh terrorism. As consequence of Daesh attacks, 305 Turkish citizens died and more than one thousand wounded.

During the other cross border operations of Turkey in Syria, namely, Operation Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch, more than three thousand five hundred Daesh militants have been neutralized. Right now, near five thousand Daesh-related people are imprisoned in Turkey and more than nine hundred are deported from the country.

On the other hand, PKK-YPG terrorists, who are supported under the pretension of fighting against Daesh, began to release Daesh prisoners as from the Operation day one. Turkey, however, along with Iran, Iraq and Syria, is determined to eliminate Daesh threat for good.

Turkish youth is on the side with its state and Turkish Armed Forces for Operation Peace Spring. Turkish nation stands for this fight against terrorism. As we won a victory against imperialism one hundred years ago, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, we will gain new victories today that are going to change the fate of our country, region and the world. This struggle, in Atatürk's words, is for "peace at home, peace in the world."

We call for all anti-imperialist, patriotic youth in the world to sympathize with and support for this rightful struggle of Turkey against terrorism.

Işıkğün Akfırat
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