

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should recognize the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, support its democratic institutions, and press Turkey to end its ongoing occupation and human rights violations in the region:

Whereas 12,000 local fighters of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) lost their lives fighting alongside US service members to liberate North and East Syria from ISIS control;

Whereas the people of North and East Syria have established a democratic and pluralistic society through the formation of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES);

Whereas DAANES has granted systematic protection and representation to religious and ethnic minorities in the region, such as Yezidis, Assyrians, and Armenians;

Whereas women in North and East Syria exercise unprecedented civil rights and political participation;

Whereas the people of North and East Syria have conducted multiple democratic elections, multiple nationwide referenda, and numerous local elections; and have exercised de-facto autonomy since the criminal Assad regime (which continues to threaten DAANES officials and peaceful activists) withdrew its forces from the region in 2012;

Whereas North and East Syria remains a steadfast partner of the United States and a staunch member of the international coalition against ISIS, hosting US service members, Congressional and State Department delegations, and maintaining diplomatic and cultural relations with countries around the world;

Whereas tens of thousands of ISIS militants and their families continue to be held by DAANES, which provides education, basic services and deradicalization programs at enormous strain and risk to the people of North and East Syria;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended in its 2021 Annual [Report](#) that the U.S. Government should “recognize the DAANES as a legitimate, local government”;

Whereas the lack of formal recognition of DAANES continues to strengthen the Assad regime and severely hinders the region’s access to desperately needed international aid, precluding direct coordination with the WHO, as well as their representation at international peace negotiations regarding the future of Syria;

Whereas since 2015 the United States has recognized the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as our most effective and reliable partner on the ground to counter ISIS in Syria;

Whereas the previous administration’s sudden withdrawal of US troops from the Syria-Turkey border in 2019 betrayed the United States’ long-standing partnership with the SDF, enabling Turkey’s invasion and subsequent occupation;

Whereas Turkey's invasion of northern Syria is an illegal act of aggression and inconsistent with Turkey's obligations under the United Nations Charter;

Whereas Congress responded to Turkey's illegal invasion of North and East Syria occupation by passing [H.J.Res. 77](#), the bipartisan joint resolution, which called on President Trump to honor our commitment to the people of North and East Syria by reversing his decision to end U.S. efforts to prevent Turkish invasion;

Whereas Turkey continues to illegally occupy territory in Northern Syria previously administered by DAANES, including Serê Kaniyê (Ras al-Ayn), Girê Spî (Tell Abyad) and Efrîn (Afrin), carrying out systematic displacement of Kurds and other minority groups, as well as pervasive human rights violations;

Whereas Turkey has continuously violated the US-brokered 2019 ceasefire agreement by continuing to carry out ongoing attacks in North and East Syria;

Whereas Turkish-backed proxy forces in Syria (under the umbrella of the "Syrian National Army" or "TFSA") continue to include Al Qaeda-linked militias and other jihadist extremist groups which have carried out widespread human rights violations including kidnapping, rape, torture, as well as assassinations of local political leaders in North and East Syria such as [Hevrin Khalaf](#) of the US-allied Future Syria Party;

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Syria recently [reported](#) an "onslaught of violations" against civilians in areas controlled by Turkish-backed militias, including kidnapping, torture, rape, and systematic displacement of Kurds and other minority groups on the basis of their identity, as well as a "pervasive climate of fear" preventing women's participation in society;

Whereas the United States Department of State found in its 2019 Human Rights Report on Turkey found that there were "credible reports that the country's military operations outside its borders led to the deaths of civilians"; and Human Rights Watch has [reported](#) "indiscriminate attacks by Turkey on civilians and civilian objects in northeast Syria";

Whereas reports indicate that Turkey and Turkish-backed forces have desecrated religious sites of minority Christian and Yezidi communities, including gravesites and places of worship;

Whereas Turkey has illegally arrested and [transferred](#) Syrian nationals to Turkish prisons, in violation of Turkey's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention;

Whereas Turkey continues to systematically obstruct the [flow of water](#) into SDF-held areas in violation of international law, directly threatening the health of the civilian population during a global pandemic;

Whereas, as a signatory to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Government of Turkey is obligated to maintain international peace, security and cooperation based on respect for the principles of democracy, equal rights and self-determination of peoples;

Whereas the Government of Turkey, as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, has made official commitments to observe and uphold the rights of all peoples;

Whereas, as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Government of Turkey undertook to refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

Whereas the Final Report of the bipartisan Syria Study Group found in 2019 that the United States should “encourage and offer to facilitate renewed Turkey-PKK peace talks”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended in its 2021 Annual [Report](#) that the U.S. should “Exert pressure on and engage with Turkey to provide a timeline for its withdrawal from all territory that it occupies as a result of cross-border operations into North and East Syria”;

Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the President should formally recognize the democratically elected the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria by granting it political status as a legitimate regional administration within Syria; and support their efforts to create a decentralized and democratic future for all of Syria;

(B) the President should normalize diplomatic relations with DAANES, appoint a diplomatic representative to North and East Syria, and grant diplomatic status to AANES offices and representatives in the United States;

(C) the President, the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, and other relevant officials should advocate for North and East Syria’s full membership in all negotiations regarding Syria’s future, including the Geneva-based negotiations of the Syrian Constitutional Committee and all activities pursuant to United Nations (UN) Resolution 2254.

(D) the President should lift all economic sanctions on the areas administered by DAANES, issue a regional waiver for the Caesar Act, rescind arbitrary agency guidelines restricting normal communication and interaction between United States and DAANES officials;

(E) the President should direct his administration to provide economic aid directly to the Autonomous Administration through the formation of a dedicated stabilization fund for North and East Syria, and advocate for other countries to follow suit;

(2) the United States condemns Turkey's occupation of northern Syria as an illegal act of aggression and violation of international law, inconsistent with Turkey's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty, and other international agreements;

(3) the United States denounces Turkey's consistent pattern of human rights violations against ethnic Kurds and other minority groups; and

(4) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the President should immediately halt all military aid to Turkey, and pursue targeted sanctions until it ceases all attacks on the SDF, withdraws from all territory that it occupies as a result of cross-border operations into North and East Syria, and fully restores the flow of water into Syria;

(B) the President should sanction the most heinous and violent “Syrian National Army” militias backed by Turkey, including but not limited to: Sultan Murad Brigade, Suleiman Shah Brigade and Hamza Division, as the Administration recently sanctioned Ahrar al Sharqiyah;

(C) the President should pursue the establishment of a no-fly zone over North and East Syria to protect U.S. allies and the civilian population against Turkey’s ongoing airstrikes;

(D) the President should urge Turkey to pursue peaceful resolution of the Kurdish conflict through democratic means within Turkish borders.