

Geo-Political and Strategic Dimensions to Purge Turkey of Afrin from Syria's Democratic Forces: Is It Guaranteed the Security of Aazaz and Mara and the Door, and Even Idlib?

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Abstract

The preparations of the Turkish armed forces to start the battle of liberating Afrin from the forces of Qusd pose the central question: Is the security of Azzaz and Mara and the door, and even Idlib is linked to the cleansing of Turkey Afrin of the Syrian democratic forces? If this hypothesis is true militarily? Did they contribute, realistically and not hypothetically, to Turkish President Erdogan's recent revision of his policy on Syria as follows: First, the priorities have changed towards two goals simultaneously preventing the establishment of a self-governing Kurdish-controlled Syrian Democratic Union Party adjacent to Turkey and the re-engineering of Turkish-US strategic relations to ensure Turkish national security Second, is the new military operation in northern Syria bearing the same shape and character as the Euphrates Shield, or is the content different? Third: Will the operation be shared by the Turkish Special Forces and the armed opposition factions of the Syrian regime? Fourthly: Will the areas controlled by the PKK be targeted, "especially the land road for the PKK supplies of Shankal + Sinjar + Sulaymaniyah + Ranya + Kandil with Turkish air strikes?" And the forces loyal to him, such as the Syrian Democratic Forces and the People's Protection Units, the military wing of the Democratic Union Party, the Kurdistan Workers' Party branch in Syria?

Keywords: Geo-political strategic dimensions to purge Turkey of Afrin Syria's democratic forces guaranteed security Aazaz Mara door, Idlib

1. Introduction

The Israeli and American military intelligence reports may help us with the military actions in Syria and Iraq in our response to these questions:

And to understand the motives and justifications of linking Turkish President Erdogan to the battle of the liberation of Afrin several goals, notably:

Two of them can be realized in the near future

The first: the security of Azzaz, Mara and the door, and even Idlib is related to the cleansing of Turkey to Afrin of the Syrian democratic forces?

Second: Preventing the establishment of a self-governing Syrian Kurdish government under the control of the Democratic Union Party, which borders Turkey.

The third objective is to rearrange the strategic relations between Turkey and the United States and guarantee the Turkish national security

A goal that is dependent on two factors:

The time and the military variables on the Syrian arena after the recent Turkish-Iranian-Russian rapprochement?

And there may have been developments on the Syrian arena, which prompted Turkey to take firm positions to protect its national security

Russian media quoted Turkish President Erdogan as saying to Izvestia

Syria is currently experiencing negative operations, and if these operations result in any threat to the security of our borders, we will respond as we did during the operation of the Euphrates Shield?

He adds

The readiness of his country for a new work in northern Syria and to attach Afrin and Manbj region responsibility to ensure the security of the Turkish border?

Turkish President Erdogan said

Expressed his regret over "the complicity of Ankara's strategic partners with the terrorists of the PKK and its military wing of the Kurdish Popular Protection factions" active in northern Syria

The Turkish military sources indicate that the graph of the battle of Afrin and Manbaj coming will include several important strategic sites, most notably the following sites:

First: The chart of the movement of the Turkish armed forces and it will start from the south of Azzaz to Kafraniya through strategic geo points such as Ein Dikneh and Tal Refaat

Second: Concentration of aerial, artillery and missile bombardments on the areas of the concentration of the Syrian Democratic Forces in several locations, notably Mar'naz, Sheikh Issa, Dara 'Azza, Qal'at Sama'an, Atma, Bab al-Hawa, Jandiers

Third: Sending more military reinforcements to the Turkish state of Kels border with Syria

Fourth: Focus on the siege of Afrin geo-strategic location as it is located in the north-west of Syria in a mountainous area, bordered to the west by the deep plain in the Black River and the Iskenderun Brigade, and from the north line of the train trait that passes from the region of Ikbis to reach Kals, South of Mount Sim'an, and on the eastern side of Azaz.

1. 1 . The Afrin region is a mountainous region with a height of seven hundred to two hundred and ninety-nine meters.

The mountain is known as the Mount of Galilee, the highest peak, which is a part of the mountain range of Taurus, located in Syria, and Afrin mountainous area provides her mountain and the protection beyond the size of the naked force that is currently defended. Because of the strategic importance of Afrin, the Turkish military leadership will use the worst-case scenario in dealing with its mountain nature, which is a complex natural weapon contributes to the difficulty of storming.

According to this dilemma, the Turkish military command will enter Afrin from three main axes to control an area of 85 kilometers long and 35 kilometers deep, north of Afrin.

It plans to build a military corridor from the Azza-Qalaa Semaan eastward, to Khirbat al-Jawz in the west. It plans to enter from the border of Hatay province in southern Turkey to the plain of the jungle in western Hama, 35 kilometers deep.

According to the satellite images of the nature of the mountainous area of Afrin and based on the information of the intelligence effort and field knowledge, Turkey decided to choose two axes to enter Afrin, which may help in providing elements of time and military effort.

Either the axis of the road to the outskirts of the town of Dara Azza and Mount Barakat, west of Aleppo,

Or the axis of the path of slippery and hot?

In the priorities of the Turkish military leadership achieve convergence and harmony between the objectives of the battle of the Euphrates Shield and the battle of Saif al-Furat.

This is achieved by achieving two strategic objectives:

First: The military objective: to complete the axes surrounding Afrin.

Through the control of the Turkish armed forces on the areas between Azaz and Afrin, which means access to the eastern boundary of the city of Afrin, thus completing the status of the city in a siege arch from the east and north, where the Turkish border.

Second: The political objective.

With the Turkish armed forces thwarting the Afrin-Mediterranean plan ", to prevent the arrival of the " People's Protection "units (the armed wing of the Democratic Union Party, which is the Syrian branch of the PKK) stationed in Afrin, to the sea ... (Ain-Arab-Afrin) corridor in the battle of the "armor of the Euphrates" north of Aleppo.

These coordinated military steps prove that the Turkish military leadership is moving within a military strategy that includes unity of purpose in both the Operation Euphrates and the upcoming battle of Saif al-Furat.

Because Turkey, which is the Democratic Union and the People's Protection Units of the PKK and two terrorist organizations, the connection between the three areas was considered as Al-Hasakah and Ain Al-Arab, east of the Euphrates River and Afrin west of the Euphrates. Threatens its national security?

Therefore, the Turkish military strategy was built on a central objective in the operation of the Euphrates Shield, represented by the incursion of the Turkish forces north of Aleppo to prevent the connection between the regions of Hasakah and Ain Arabs east of the Euphrates and Afrin region west of Euphrates.

The Turkish military leadership appeared to be successful in employing tactical opportunistic elements and the timing of its battles. In August 2016, in the battles of Hasakah, which broke out between the Syrian army and the Kurdish People's Protection Units, Ankara found a tactical opportunity that quickly exploited it and launched the "Euphrates Shield".

1 . 1 . 2 Turkey may be employed in the battle of Afrin and Manbij coming to exploit the Russian withdrawal from Afrin

As the Turkish Defense Minister Nouredine Ganikli, that his country is determined to implement the Afrin operation, and waiting for the most effective time for that, indicating that the main goal is to remove all lines of terrorism from northern Syria.

This comes in conjunction with the withdrawal of Russian troops based in Afrin, from the city before the Turkish army began its expected operation "The Afrin military operation will be carried out, but its timing is related to its achievement in the most effective and successful time," Ganikli said in a television interview on a Turkish channel on Friday.

A tactical relationship or a strategy that links the United States and Syria's democratic forces?

The tactical relationship between them?

Despite the knowledge of America's association with the Democratic Union Party of the PKK?

Although the PKK is included in the list of terrorist organizations, and the Democratic Union Party has tightened its independence from the PKK, Syrian members of the PKK control the Democratic Union Party and non-

Syrian cadres Of the PKK held key positions in the People's Protection Units

Even so, the United States continues to work closely with the Democratic Union Party, despite the inclusion of the PKK as a terrorist organization, and the People's Protection Units have joined a number of Arab brigades to establish the Syrian Democratic Forces. The best Syrian ally of Washington against the organization «Da'ash

As US General Sean McFarland pointed out at a press conference on August 10, 2017: "When the Kurdish majority forces of Syria took control of 20 percent of the territory of the Da'ash organization in Syria with the help of US air strikes."

Syrian Democratic Forces units received heavy weapons (such as the Javelin missiles) and special forces training from the United States to that end

At a press conference on August 16, 2017, US Army Col. Christopher Garver pointed out that "the Kurdish People's Protection Units formed only 15 per cent of the victorious forces in Manbij and Al-Shadadi city south of Hasaka."

On August 20, 2017, US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter said it was "capable and motivated ground forces" when it comes to "land grabbing and control". So far, US cooperation has helped the Democratic Union Party consolidate the eastern island province and the central province of Kobany. The next goal of the party is to link these two areas to the smaller area of Afrin in the province of Aleppo and to create a corridor adjacent to the Turkish border.

Ankara has consistently expressed its strong opposition to this strategy ... These Turkish concerns have reinforced the presence of the forces of the Kurdish People Protection Units in the following areas:

First: Al-Hasakah in the north-east of Syria

Kurdish areas to the north controlled by the Democratic Union Party and Arab neighborhoods in the south controlled by the Syrian regime

Second, Kurds also control some points in the southwestern and southeastern parts of Syria Third: the province of the eastern island and the province of Kobany

The next Democratic Union Party aims to link these two areas to the smaller province of Afrin in the province of Aleppo and to create a corridor along the Turkish border, a red line for Turkey?

And that the Kurdish "People Protection Units" constituted only 15 percent of the victorious forces in Manbij, while the Arabs formed the remaining fighters

And that the Arabs formed 40 per cent of the forces that recovered the city of Shaddadi south of Hasaka

The Democratic Union Party is supposed to shift its focus only to its survival rather than expanding its territory, and it is likely to redeploy its troops from the Aleppo area towards the eastern city of Hasaka.

Such a development could effectively end the US strategy to close the Manbij enclave, which has provided an "outlet" to the outside world across the Turkish border

1 . 1 . 3 The strategy has long been complicated by Turkey's opposition to the Democratic Union Party's dominance of the region.

In conclusion, we must mention the following First: There were unconfirmed reports of an agreement between Ankara and Moscow that fulfilled Russia's commitment to withdraw the "Syrian Democratic Forces" and "People Protection Units" from Tal Refa'at and nearby villages near Afrin in return for the entry of the "Euphrates Shield" Where the US military center.

Secondly, the subject of the Turkish intervention in Afrin was raised previously with the US Presidential Envoy, Brett Majurk, during his visit to the Rif Al-Rigga. The American position was clear and principled.

He also said

These areas (in Afrin) belong to Russia, and there are areas of the United States of America, and there is agreement between them (between the Americans and Russians) east of the Euphrates River to the Americans and the west Euphrates to the Russians.

Media sources told McGowork that during his meeting with the members of the Local Council of Tenderness, "the implementation by Turkey of any attack on Afrin or any other area in northern Syria would be another interruption of US-Turkish relations"

However, it can be said that the US military strategy vis-a-vis Turkey and Syria's democratic forces is based on a fundamental principle that the American insistence on managing the hostility between the Turks and the Kurds to serve the interests of the United States,

But the United States may have realized that Turkey will not be satisfied with half the solutions, especially if it is related to the threat to its national security?

Therefore, the Turkish military leadership will move towards Afrin and Manbij to their geo-strategic location, which distinguishes them from all other regions, including the island

This peculiarity stems from two things

The first is its geo-strategic location near the Mediterranean coast

Second: the presence of large numbers of Kurds in it, most of them loyal to the Democratic Union Party

This specificity concerns Turkey?

Conclusion

Turkey is concerned about the establishment of a Kurdish entity in northern Syria extending from the border of southern Syria, and ends on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea

At the same time, Turkey is aware of two facts that can not be ignored from the importance of Afrin and Manbij and their strategic geo-strategic importance:

First: Turkey knows that the control of the Kurds on the city of Manbij and Tal Rifat and Sheikh Issa gives them the opportunity at any time to liberate the door and Tripoli from the hands of the armed factions opposed to the Syrian regime, which are supported by Turkey and linked to Afrin.

Second: Turkey understands that the Syrian Kurdish self-management will not be complete without annexing the Afrin region

This Syrian Kurdish self-administration will be weak and can be contained through its economic blockade, and thus easily subordinated to it

Therefore, the fate of Afrin and Manbij region is very important in this area, hence the Turks are trying the following strategic steps:

Take control of Afrin or at least complete the encircling procedures to prepare for their entry

Turkey's control over Afrin will give it control over part of northern Syria to protect its national security

The expansion of its areas of influence, by linking the northern and eastern Aleppo countryside with the province of Idlib, which will increase the influence of Turkey in Syria on the one hand, and reduce the Kurdish role in Syria, especially after the task of liberating the city of Al-Rigga and the class on the other.

The United States has one option for the Turks to remain silent about Turkey's decision to enter Afrin?

Just as I had previously been silent about Turkey's entry into Tripoli and the door?

This is because the relationship between the US and Turkey is a strategic one and will continue in the near and medium term?

The Anatolia news agency reported

That groups of Russian troops stationed near the village of Kafr Jannah in the city of Afrin, began to leave their sites heading to the areas of Nabal and Zahra under the control of the Syrian regime.

The message of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the United States is clear and specific on the formation of an army of 30 elements in the Syrian territory under the control of the Democratic Union Party, as he said:

Do not stand between us and the terrorists.

Do not turn between us and the flock of killers

Otherwise, we are not responsible for the undesirable incidents that may occur in your flags in the strongholds of the terrorist organization (Democratic Union Party) so that we do not have to hand over them.

And take your slogans fixed on the uniforms of terrorists so that we do not have to bury them.

The Turkish army will solve the problems of Afrin and Manbij during the earliest time, God willing.

We have completed our preparations, and the process can begin at any moment.

After that, the role will come to other regions.

These operations will continue so that not one terrorist, not 30,000, will remain on our borders. "

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