

TURKEY IS MURDERING CIVILIANS IN AFRIN UK GOVERNMENT IS COMPLICIT IN WAR CRIMES



On January 20th, the Turkish state launched an **unprovoked war of aggression on the peaceful people of Afrin** in north western Syria. The cross-border invasion of majority Kurdish Afrin is a **violation of international law**.

So far, **hundreds of civilians have been murdered** in the air strikes deliberately targeting civilian areas.

The Turkish president Erdogan is **recruiting al Qaeda-affiliated murderers** who

indiscriminately kill, loot, and terrorise the civilian population, and are even recording their own war crimes. At the moment, **1 million civilians are under threat of a genocide**. NATO's second largest army is **bombarding civilians with European weapons**.

Erdogan repeatedly stated that his war of aggression will not end in Afrin, but "cleanse" the north of Syria and return the lands to its "rightful owners". He uses **the language of ethnic cleansing** against the Kurdish people, who are the native population of the region.

The Kurdish people have been the only group on the ground to resist and eventually defeat the barbaric attacks of the so-called Islamic State. When ISIS was murdering, raping, crucifying and torturing civilians at the Syrian-Turkish border, Turkey remained silent, whilst directly and indirectly supporting ISIS.

Before Turkey's war, Afrin was the only peaceful and stable part of Syria, untouched by the violence that spiralled the rest of the country into chaos and destruction. It was **home to many internally displaced people who were forced to flee** from the attacks by the Assad regime, ISIS and similar groups, now recruited by Turkey. Afrin, which is a canton of the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (DFNS) is part of a grassroots-democratic, secular, gender egalitarian popular revolution that has managed to defeat the ISIS attacks, while creating a peaceful and democratic society. Women have achieved historic gains in the process. This system is now under attack.

Shamefully, the British government continues to offer support to the Turkish state, claiming that Turkey has a right to defend its borders. Recently, **British Prime Minister Theresa May signed a major arms deal with the Turkish state, despite evidence of Turkey's use of weapons on civilians**, as pointed out by the United Nations.

We demand:

- Stop Turkey's Invasion of Afrin
- Stop UK arms trade to Turkey and other anti-human regimes in the Middle East
- Independent investigation into war crimes in Afrin and humanitarian support for civilians in Syria

What you can do:

- write your MP
- get your union branch/campaign group to support peace efforts and condemn the war
- support Kurdistan Solidarity Campaign

www.kurdistansolidaritycampaign.org