



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
7 March 2024

English only

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non- governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 January 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic: Accountability for the Turkish Army Crimes**

### **Introduction**

For years, the Turkish State has been waging a war of genocide against the peoples of North-East of the Syrian Arab Republic (NES), disregarding all international laws and norms, and repeatedly committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. Since January 2018 Türkiye has undertaken an operation to occupy territory in North of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Relying on the collaboration of various jihadist groups, the Turkish government is pursuing two objectives at once: on the one hand, to cut the links between the Kurdish organisations in Türkiye and those in the Syrian Arab Republic (by pushing the latter further south) and, on the other hand, to deport the 3.5 million (Arab) Syrian refugees, for whom the European Union (EU) has paid out several billion Euros so that they do not arrive in the EU, to north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, thereby bringing about a radical change in the ethnic structure of the population in Northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic.

While the Kurdish democratic forces continue their fight against ISIS in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Turkish government is undermining the security and stability in the region.

### **October 2023**

The Turkish Army carried out a series of operations, targeting economic facilities and infrastructures in Northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic. From the 5th to the 9th of October were targeted:

1. Seventeen (17) sites and facilities, including the Sewidieh Gas Station, providing electricity and gas to the whole Northeast regions, affecting more than five million people in the region.
2. 11 power stations, affecting over two million people in areas such as Al-Hasakah, Amuda, Rmelan, Qamishlo, Al-Darbasiyah, and others.
3. 2 water sites, leading to the suspension of 18 stations in the Al-Jazira area, including the strategic Alouk Station for Al-Hasakah and its countryside.
4. 2 hospitals in Al-Jazira and Kobani have been completely decommissioned.
5. 48 educational sites, affecting thousands of students; two boys lost their lives, and one girl was wounded and lost her legs.
6. 3 industrial facilities in several areas of Al Jazira and Kobani have been disabled.
7. An academy for training internal security forces in the fight against drugs was destroyed in the Rmelan area.

### **December 2023**

On 23 December 2023, Turkish Army conducted airstrikes in Northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic that resulted in power outages in multiple cities and rural areas of Jazeera Canton, reducing the production capacity of electrical stations by 50%. The affected sites include:

1. Al-Awda oil station in the outskirts of Tirbe Spiyeh, which supplies electricity to the Suwaydiya station, was rendered inoperative, impacting the supply of electricity to the eastern countryside of Jazeera Canton, including Tirbe Spiyeh, Jal Agha, and Derik.
2. The Agricultural Bank and a plastics factory in Tirbe Spiyeh.
3. The Saeeda Oil Station in the outskirts of Tirbe Spiyeh.

4. Station 7 in the Banashkafti area in the Gujarat countryside of Derik city, responsible for supplying electricity to the Gujarat area (subjected to more than 10 airstrikes).

On 25 December 2023, the Turkish Army conducted airstrikes targeting vital infrastructure and civil institutions in the cities of Qamishlo, Amuda, and Kobani. The attacks resulted in the loss of eight civilian lives and serious injuries to ten others. The affected sites and their consequences are outlined below:

1. East of Qamishlo city, Alaya prison (housing Daesh/ISIS terrorists), causing material damage.
2. In the Al-Antariya neighbourhood, civil construction centres and the Qamishlo Mill were struck four times.
3. Simav Printing House in Qamishlo (producing textbooks), resulting in four civilian deaths and numerous injured.
4. In the Al-Alaya neighbourhood of Qamishlo, the vicinity of the train station and the Al-Jazeera food factory were targeted with three successive strikes, causing material damage.
5. The Al-Shamal Sewing Workshop in Maysaloun neighbourhood in Qamishlo was targeted with three successive strikes.
6. Cement Company in the village of Shurak in the countryside of Qamishlo.
7. Karam Wedding Hall on the Amuda-Darbasiyah Road.
8. Rohlat Alo Olive Oil Factory in the Amuda district.
9. Fawaz Arif grain separator machine west of Amuda district, resulting in material damage.
10. Kobani Hospital in the Mashta Nour neighbourhood.

### **Results of the Attacks:**

The Turkish attacks resulted in the loss of human life and significant material damage. Eight civilians lost their lives (Reinas Hamid, Farhan Tami, Aya Al-Sabaawi, Faris Al-Faris, Farah Khalaf, Berivan Zubair, Muhammad Hussein, Riyad Hamo) and many others were injured.

Furthermore, on December 25, 2023, Turkish aircraft bombed civilian health centres providing free healthcare services to the local population. The impacted sites include:

1. The only oxygen plant in Qamishlo, responsible for supplying hospitals with oxygen, was destroyed and is now out of service, severely affecting the health conditions of patients.
2. The Dialysis Centre in Alaya neighbourhood in Qamishlo city, housing two dialysis units, a water treatment system, a laboratory and a pharmacy offering free medicine was severely damaged.
3. Mashtanour Hospital in Kobani, supported and operated by Doctors Without Borders, providing free healthcare services, was bombed and destroyed.

On December 26, 2023, the following sites and facilities were targeted:

1. A Bulgur wheat factory in Karbawi village of Qamishlo, resulting in material damage.
2. A drone struck the vicinity of the grain silos in the village of Kar Ziyarti Joli "Tuwaiba," west of the Girke Lakki district of Qamishlo countryside.
3. The village of Tal Tawila in the countryside of Tal Tamr was bombed.
4. The house of a civilian named Hakim Bakir in the Darbassia, resulting in material damage.
5. The house of a civilian named Ashraf Al-Mulla east of the Darbassia district on the Amuda-Darbassia Road, resulting in material damage.

6. A security point on Ali Faro Road, west of the city of Qamishlo, resulting in material damage.
7. A drone twice struck the vicinity of the Naamatli security checkpoint east of the city of Qamishlo, resulting in material damage.
8. Two security checkpoints in the Amuda district, resulting in material damage.
9. Two security checkpoints in the city of Kobani, resulting in material damage.
10. The security checkpoints in the districts of Halanj, Sharan, and Sheran of Kobani city were struck. It is worth mentioning that Internal Security Forces checkpoints are entrusted with the tasks of checking vehicles, verifying the documents of passengers, and arresting fugitives from justice.
11. All the bombed sites were civilians without connection to the North and East of the Syrian Arab Republic.

## **January 2024**

Between 12 and 16 January 2024, Türkiye launched 73 attacks, including seven airstrikes on oil stations and seven on power transformer stations. The General Administration of Oil and Hydrocarbons reported the following oil stations attacks:

1. Al-Sawediya station in Derik was targeted by more than 10 missiles, resulting in significant damage.
2. Awda oil station in Tirbespiyeh district faced three airstrikes.
3. Tafla refinery station in Derik was hit by two airstrikes, rendering it completely out of service.
4. Gire Beri refinery in Tirbespiyeh district suffered major damage.
5. Warehouses for maintaining oil fields and the electricity station in Rmelan town of Derik district were bombed.

Concerning power transformer stations, the Energy Office documented the following airstrikes:

1. Kobani: Two raids caused a power outage in the city and over 400 villages.
2. Ain Issa: The power station was bombed, resulting in an outage in the district centre and over 250 villages.
3. Amuda: The power station was bombed, leading to an outage in the city and 90 villages.
4. Tirbespiyeh: The power station was bombed, causing an outage in the city and 190 villages.
5. Qamishlo: Repeated bombardment resulted in a power outage in over 70% of the city and its countryside.
6. Al-Darbasiyah: The electricity transformer station was bombed, causing an outage in the district and surrounding countryside.

Additionally, the Turkish Army targeted five Internal Security Forces checkpoints and bombed 45 civilian facilities and homes. The airstrikes resulted in injuries of six citizens, two in Amuda district and four in Darbasiyah district. Heavy artillery bombardment affected the countryside of Tal Tamr district, Manbij city, and Al-Shahba district. Seven villages in the Zarkan district of Al-Jazira Canton were also bombed, with the extent of damage in these areas yet to be determined.

## **Recommendations**

In light of the aforementioned crimes, the Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP) urges:

A. the Turkish Government to immediately cease its unjustified aggression and hostilities against Northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic and its people, and to uphold its international legal obligations and commitments regarding human rights and the International Humanitarian Law;

B. the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the Special Rapporteur on racism and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons to inquiry, in the framework of their respective mandate, on the current situation in Northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic.

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