



Kurdish Red Crescent report - Turkish attacks and damages in NES from 20th to 24th November 2022:

The Kurdish Red Crescent (KRC) is one of the main providers of health services - including emergency response, WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and infrastructural services in North-East Syria, and partially North-West Syria. From our position we have conducted regular surveillance on the development of the situation since the start of the Turkish attacks in northern Syria on November 20th. This report aims to provide reliable, first-hand information regarding the consequences of the attacks on the civilian population. Our updates are acquired directly from our teams in the field, and we dedicate a great effort to confirm all the information that we receive, avoiding the rumours and misinformation that usually accompany such attacks.

Beside the injured and dead, as well as the damages inflicted to vital civilian infrastructure, the attacks also lead to new massive displacements inside a region which is already hosting thousands of refugees and internally displaced people. Even before the current attacks, the camps in northern Syria had reached their maximum capacities, and were lacking essential services such as healthcare, food, education or psychological support.

In most camps, people are still living in tents without electricity or heaters. The situation is particularly distressing in Al Hol Camp, since it is hosting nearly 60.000 people, the major part of them being families of members of the terrorist organization Islamic State (ISIS). The camp functions as a radicalization hub for its interns. The current Turkish aggression will increase the tensions inside the camp and will help operating ISIS cells in their influencing and radicalization tasks. The security forces may not have enough resources to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers inside the camp, nor preventing interns from fleeing, if the Turkish attacks continue.

As a result of an 11 year, on-going civil war (including the fights against ISIS) we are facing a major humanitarian crisis. Northeast Syria also hosts internally displaced people from Idlib and other areas of Syria. There are gaps regarding basic needs as food, water, gas, fuel and electricity. To worsen the situation, the on-going Cholera crisis has to be faced with very limited resources.

The prisons and detention centres in North East Syria host thousands of ISIS members, and their structural and infrastructural condition is poor. Outside the detention facilities, the presence of ISIS sleeping cells poses a great challenge, since they have taken advantage of any security crisis in the past in order to carry out their terrorist activities. The instability generated by the current Turkish attacks creates the perfect conditions for these actions.

This scenario would not only impact Syrian territory, but also Iraq and mainly Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRG). Despite the country's general conditions, immersed in an economic crisis and lacking adequate support for humanitarian needs in already overpopulated refugee camps, we expect that the flow of refugees towards Iraqi territory would experience a huge increase.

The instability and insecurity, together with the important decrease of international humanitarian funding for Syria since the war in Ukraine started, hampers the development of the work of many INGOs, up to the point of totally stopping their activities. At the same time, local NGOs, as KRC, do not have access to direct international funding, and are forced to depend upon the presence of international organizations on the field.



The current Turkish offensive is mainly targeting civilian structures, affecting the energy supply, cutting-off roads and stopping the supply chain for many essential goods, such as medicines and medical supplies. Despite this, and despite the fact that humanitarian workers and ambulances have been systematically targeted by the Turkish aerial attacks in the past, we have no choice but to carry on with our task, and to abide by our duty of providing humanitarian help for those in need in North East Syria.

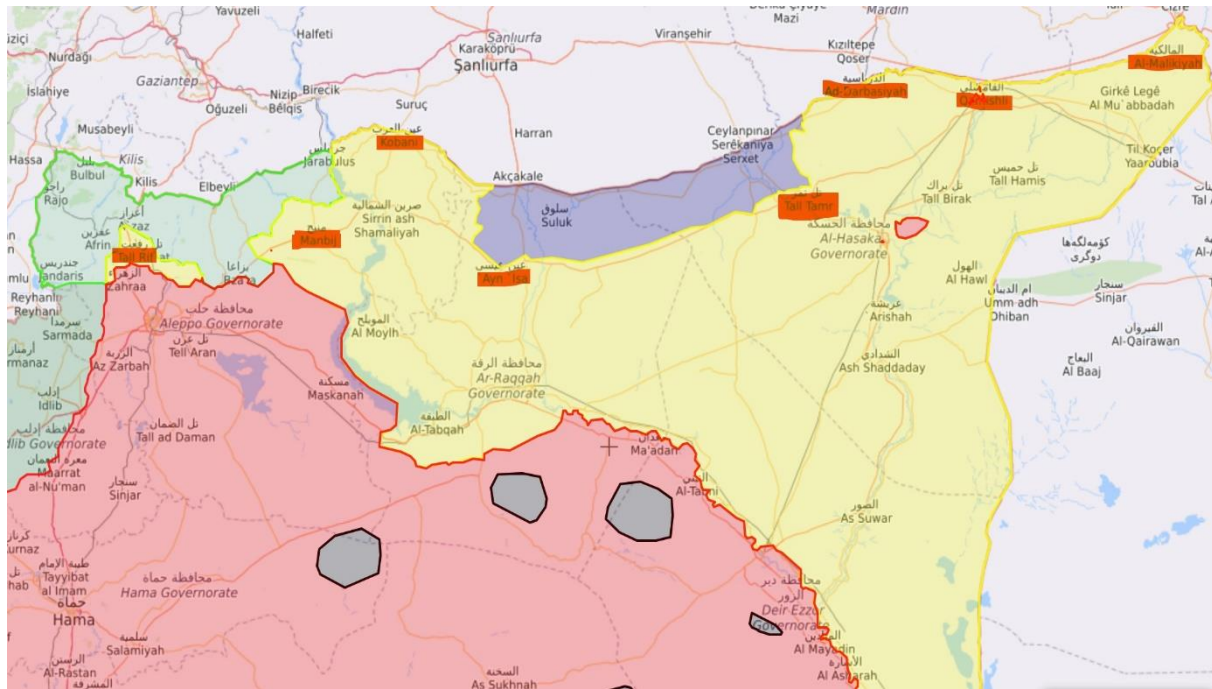


Figure 1: NES (November 2022)

Yellow: SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) / NES (North-East Syria)	Red: Syrian Government (Russia/Iran)
Grey/Black: ISIS	Grey/Blue: Occupied from Turkey and its allies since
Light Green: Occupied from turkey and its allies since 2018	Dark Green: Other groups such as ex- Al-Nusra

Highlighted locations in Kurdish areas:

- Tall Rif = Shahba Manbij = Menbij Kobani = Kobane Ayn Isa = Ein Issa Tall Tamr = Tal Tamr
 Ad-Darbasiyah = Derbasiye Qamishli = Qamishlo Al-Malikiyah = Derik



20th of November 2022

Turkish Attacks

On Saturday night, the 20th of November, Turkish forces escalated their offensive against areas in northern Syria. Those attacks including airstrikes caused human losses, material damage and destroyed vital civilian infrastructures (including a former Covid Hospital) in the region of Kobane. Airstrikes and cross-border artillery were recorded inside and around Kobane.

On the same night SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) positions and GoS (Government of Syria) positions as well as civilian neighbourhoods near Ein Issa (North of Raqqa), Derbasiye (at the border to Turkey), Derik (near to Iraqi border) and Shahba (near to Afrin) were targeted with airstrikes. It is worth to note that the Shehba region hosts thousands of internally displaced people from the Afrin region, occupied by Turkey in 2018.

In total, 11 civilians (including one journalist) in Derik lost their lives through the attacks. At least 6 civilians (including one journalist) got injured. The journalist was transferred to Kobane hospital with massive head shock but has recovered to a stable condition, as well as the other civilians.



Figure 2: Medical report (Injured Journalist) with Massive head shock

We have no information about injured or killed SDF members, but the information publicly available suggests that 13 soldiers of the Syrian Government were killed during this attack.

Severe damage to vital infrastructures

Through Turkish airstrikes the main grain silos of Derbasiye were damaged. This means the loss of tons of grain, which occurs in a period of food insecurity that affects all Syria, due to the lack of water and damage to the crops due to the war during recent years.



Figure 3: Grain Silos in Derbasiye

Near Kobane, a children hospital under construction was damaged.

More than 70 villages around Derik lost access to the electricity network, since the main electric grid was targeted.

Furthermore, the attacks and the lack of electricity led to panic and demonstrations inside Roj Camp (near Derik). The inhabitants are refugees and international former ISIS families. This will lead to higher tensions inside the camp, which is already very sensitive and unstable.

21st of November 2022

Turkish Attacks

Cross-border shelling around Kobane continued during the day, impacting civilian-populated areas.

Furthermore, artillery shells fired from the Turkish-occupied areas of Serekaniye (Ras al-Ain) and Tel Abyad impacted the areas of Ein Issa (north of Ar-Raqqa) and Tel Tamr. Menbij region was also targeted by artillery fire from Turkish-occupied areas.

Cross-border fired artillery and drones were targeting the area near Amuda (west of Qamishlo).

During the day and night, the shelling continued along the border with small arms fire, airstrikes, drone attacks, and heavy artillery along the border between Derik and Kobane, as well as Menbij and Tal Tamr.

Severe damage to infrastructures and impacts of the attacks

Near Kobane a Primary Health Clinic was targeted and destroyed.

Kurdish Red Crescent, KRC – Heyva Sor A Kurd NGO

Headquarters: Sinaa district – Garage street, next to Heart and Eyes hospital, Al-Qamishli – Syria

Tell: +963 52 430 700 - email: info@hskurd.org - website: www.hskurd.org



The attacks in Menbij and Kobane regions lead to massive new displacements of civilians.

Cross-border artillery fire targeted a school near Amuda.

Several agricultural lands in Amuda area were hit by drone attacks.

22nd of November 2022

Turkish Attacks

The attacks continued during the day and night as the day before with heavy artillery, cross-border fire, drones, and airstrikes on the border between Derik and Kobane as well as Tal Tamr and Menbij regions.

An airstrike near Amuda targeted a vehicle, killing a 17 year old boy.

A GoS (Government of Syria) soldier was targeted by a sniper in Qamishlo, from Turkish soil. We have no further information.



Figure 4: Injured person in Qamishlo

Severe damage to infrastructures and impacts of the attacks

An oil field near Derik was impacted by a drone.

Near Kobane, a Health Center and a school was impacted by cross-border rockets.

23rd of November 2022

An attack by the Turkish air forces was targeting the area near Jerkin Detention center and Prison west of Qamishli city, which is hosting civilians as well as ISIS prisoners.

Kurdish Red Crescent, KRC – Heyva Sor A Kurd NGO

Headquarters: Sinaa district – Garage street, next to Heart and Eyes hospital, Al-Qamishli – Syria

Tell: +963 52 430 700 - email: info@hskurd.org - website: www.hskurd.org



Between 10:30 and 11:00hrs, several Turkish air forces targeted Tirbesipiye (Qahtaniye) and two other villages around as well as Derik and Yaroubia egion including oil fields.

Heavy shelling continued around Kobane and at the Serekaniye frontline.

Several attacks on SDF positions were counted around Kobane, Serekaniye, near to Amuda and Al Hol Town.

At a village near to Qamishlo, a truck was targeted by Turkish Air Forces. The attack resulted in three civilian injured people.

Victims and infrastructure destruction:

The attacks on Tirbesipiye (Qahtaniye) oil infrastructures fields and factories southwest of Qahtaniyeh town led to massive damage in the factories and displacement from two targeted villages which accommodate Jezidian and Christian minorities.



Figure 5: After the attacks on Tirbesipiye oil fields and electric grid

As a result of targeting the villages around Derik and two oil fields, more than 100 villages were cut-off from electricity.

In the attack on the truck near Qamishlo, three civilians were heavily wounded. While another airstrike hit the Newroz Company in Qamishlo, which had the main responsibility for food distribution across North East Syria.



Figure 6: Qamishlo junction, after the airstrike on the truck

During the attack in Al Hol Town, targeting SDF Positions, responsible for the security inside the Al Hol Camp, eight SDF members, responsible for the camp security, passed away. As a result of the attacks, the situation in Al Hol became chaotic and demonstrations inside the camp became confusing. Smugglers were obviously ready to smuggle people (ISIS Families) out of the camp to bring them to other regions. As far as we know, all escapees were caught again.



Figure 7: Attack at Al Hol town, near to the camp

24th of November 2022

Turkish Attacks

Turkey continued the attacks at the border with heavy artillery, airstrikes, and drones.



Three villages around Kobane were targeted, two in the area arounds Tirbespiye and three in the region of Qamishli.

At the current stage, severe damage is not known and fortunately, no other victims were reported.

Background of Al Hol Camp and impact of targeting SDF positions around Al Hol

Due to the attack on Al Hol Town, the situation in the camp became very unstable and tensions increased again. Almost all International NGOs and UN agencies suspended their work inside the camp. On the 27th all NGOs including UN Organizations returned back to work.

KRC is providing two primary healthcare points and is responsible for the coordination of the ambulances inside and outside of the camp. KRC continued working at all time.

The camp is hosting almost 60.000 people, of which thousands are foreigners, joining ISIS (women and their children). It is known that the ISIS ideology is still broadly spread inside the camp.



Figure 8: Al Hol camp (2018)

The humanitarian crisis in the camp started mainly in 2018, during the battles against ISIS in Ar-Raqqa and Deir eZ-Zour. The infrastructure of the camp was never planned to host that many people (in 2018/2019 it reached more than 70.000 inhabitants). Resources to provide necessary mental health services and de-radicalization programs are very limited. Many ISIS cells inside and outside the camp are influencing the inhabitants, especially the children are a great target of influencing, many can be considered as child soldiers and are known as the "Cubs of the Caliphate". Even if there were enough resources to provide adequate infrastructure and humanitarian services, the situation would remain dangerous. During several raids in the



past through SDF forces, many weapons were found inside the camp, which were smuggled inside through tunnels or through service providers.

At the beginning of this year, we have lost one of our team-members. While he was trying to prevent a murderer from killing a wife and/or her baby, he was shot inside our clinic - the killer was able to flee. S. Basim left behind three children and his wife.

During the year of 2022 many camp inhabitants, mainly women were found murdered. The reason is almost always the same, violating the Sharia law.

For their security, we cannot allow our female employees (those living inside the camp) to take off their Hijab, even if they wanted to.

Sadly enough that this is the daily reality of our teams providing medical help. Until now only a very few internationals, whom supported ISIS, were brought back to their original countries to receive a fair trial. The humanitarian support in terms of living circumstances inside the camp is already weak even if all NGOs continue their work inside the camp. The security forces can hardly ensure the safety inside the camp or preventing ISIS members from escaping, already before turkey attacked.

The newest escalation from Turkey is directly supporting ISIS cells inside and outside of the camps and is supporting them to escape from the camps and detention centers.

If these attacks continue like they have, the humanitarian situation inside the camps will soon become far worse. This is especially so, as we are expecting that NGOs and UN agencies might suspend their work more often, due to the lack of security on the roads as well as inside the camp.



Figure 9: Ein Issa Camp in 2019 – After Turkey conducted some airstrikes near to the camp, ISIS members burned the tents and escaped [Photo: ANHA]

More will be published in the following days... Kurdish Red Crescent (KRC) / Heyva Sor a Kurd

Kurdish Red Crescent, KRC – Heyva Sor A Kurd NGO

Headquarters: Sinaa district – Garage street, next to Heart and Eyes hospital, Al-Qamishli – Syria

Tell: +963 52 430 700 - email: info@hskurd.org - website: www.hskurd.org