

## Turkey rejects calls for ceasefire in Syria

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US President Donald Trump has asked Turkey's leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan to end his country's military actions in northern Syria. Turkey started attacking towns in northern Syria last week following the USA

pulling out a group of its troops in the area. Soon after the US withdrawal, Turkey launched attacks on Kurdish fighters. It wants to create a buffer zone on its border that is free of Kurds. President Trump called for an immediate ceasefire in the region and for talks with the Kurds. US Vice-President Mike Pence told President Erdogan: "The USA wants Turkey to stop the invasion, implement an immediate ceasefire and to begin to negotiate with Kurdish forces in Syria to bring an end to the violence".

President Erdogan has vowed that Turkey would press ahead with its offensive in northern Syria despite calls from around the world to stop its incursion. He said: "We will never declare a ceasefire. The USA is pressuring us to stop the operation. It is announcing sanctions. Our goal is clear. We are not worried about any sanctions." He wrote in the Wall Street Journal that: "The international community missed its opportunity to prevent the Syrian crisis from pulling an entire region into a maelstrom of instability. The European Union and the world should support what Turkey is trying to do." President Trump said yesterday: "It is not our problem. It is time for us to go home."

Sources: [sky.com](http://sky.com) / [cyprus-mail.com](http://cyprus-mail.com) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

## Writing

Turkey should agree to a ceasefire. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

leader / military / actions / group / troops / buffer zone / ceasefire / talks / violence / vowed / offensive / incursion / operation / sanctions / international / instability / home

## True / False

- President Trump ordered Turkey to stop attacks in southern Syria. T / F
- Turkey started attacking towns in Syria a month ago. T / F
- Turkey wants to create a buffer zone on its border. T / F
- President Trump wants Turkey to talk to the Kurds. T / F
- President Erdogan has vowed to stop the fighting. T / F
- President Erdogan is very worried about US sanctions. T / F
- President Erdogan said world inaction created a maelstrom of instability. T / F
- President Trump said the situation in Syria is a big problem for the USA. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>actions</b>    | a. back          |
| 2. <b>attacking</b>  | b. cushion       |
| 3. <b>withdrawal</b> | c. promised      |
| 4. <b>buffer</b>     | d. striking      |
| 5. <b>negotiate</b>  | e. assault       |
| 6. <b>vowed</b>      | f. exploits      |
| 7. <b>offensive</b>  | g. chaos         |
| 8. <b>sanctions</b>  | h. discuss terms |
| 9. <b>maelstrom</b>  | i. penalties     |
| 10. <b>support</b>   | j. pullout       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What does your country's leader think of this situation?
- What do you know about relations between the USA and the Kurds?
- How do you think this will end?
- What effect will sanctions have on Turkey?
- Is this situation the USA's problem?
- Should the European Union support Turkey?
- What questions would you like to ask President Erdogan?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. end his country's military     | a. zone on its border     |
| 2. pulling out a group            | b. to the violence        |
| 3. create a buffer                | c. Turkey is trying to do |
| 4. implement an immediate         | d. would press ahead      |
| 5. bring an end                   | e. actions                |
| 6. Erdogan has vowed that Turkey  | f. any sanctions          |
| 7. We will never                  | g. ceasefire              |
| 8. We are not worried about       | h. of instability         |
| 9. a maelstrom                    | i. of its troops          |
| 10. the world should support what | j. declare a ceasefire    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about this latest crisis?
- Why has Turkey gone into Syria?
- What do you think of the USA pulling troops out?
- How long do you think the military action will continue?
- What do you know about the Kurds?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What do you think the situation will be like in three months?
- What advice do you have for President Erdogan?

## Spelling

- iytariml actions
- create a brfeuf zone on its border
- stop the nsinvaio
- lenmeiptm an immediate ceasefire
- begin to etgientao with Kurdish forces
- bring an end to the eneviolc
- press ahead with its fisneeofv
- ladcere a ceasefire
- The USA is risurpengs us
- It is announcing tonsisacn
- missed its ptootyirupn
- into a ommretlas of instability

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. e	8. i	9. g	10. a

## Role Play

### Role A – A Buffer Zone

You think a buffer zone is the best thing to end this crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): UN intervention, US sanctions or Turkish-Kurd talks.

### Role B – UN Intervention

You think UN intervention is the best thing to end this crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a buffer zone, US sanctions or Turkish-Kurd talks.

### Role C – US Sanctions

You think US sanctions is the best thing to end this crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): UN intervention, a buffer zone or Turkish-Kurd talks.

### Role D – Turkish-Kurd Talks

You think Turkish-Kurd talks are the best thing to end this crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): UN intervention, US sanctions or a buffer zone.

## Speaking – Resolution

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to end this crisis at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • A buffer zone   | • US sanctions            |
| • UN intervention | • International sanctions |
| • US intervention | • The Syrian military     |
| • Russia          | • Turkish-Kurd talks      |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.