

It's Time to Break with Erdogan.

The world has been—and still is—experiencing a health crisis of extraordinary proportions.

But, with unrelenting commitment, Justice for Kurds has continued to advance its mission of showing gratitude for, and solidarity with, the Kurdish people.

Nonetheless, during this dark period, there have been shafts of light for our cause: we were gratified, for example, by the decision of both the Democratic and Republican parties to embed direct expressions of support for the Kurds within their political platforms this year.

Unfortunately though, as we mark the first anniversary of the Turkish invasion of northern Syria on October 9, 2019, the Kurds' daily reality remains one of darkness and indeed oppression at the hands of those with designs of empire.

Nowhere has such a tragic plight been more strongly evidenced than by the aggressive and murderous offensive carried out by the Turkish government against the Kurds of Syria.

A recent report by the United Nations Human Rights Council, released in September, highlights the degree of savagery to which our allies and their families have been subjected in the year since the United States effectively deserted them.

The courageous and loyal Kurdish men and women fighters who bled and died for us by the thousands in the fight against ISIS, our stalwart comrades-in-arms the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), were betrayed to a tyrant whose imperial aspirations extend, beyond crushing the Kurds, to harassing practically all of Turkey's neighbors in a bid to re-establish a new Ottoman Caliphate.

The Kurds, yet again in their history, were merely the canaries in the coalmine. From Cyprus to Libya, the Aegean Islands to Syria, Iraq to Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the far reaches of Africa's Red Sea coast, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, strong with his military alliance with Qatar, constitutes a threat to the region on par with Iran.

Willful ignorance being no excuse, we will continue to denounce this menace until there truly is justice for Kurds.

Dr. Thomas S. Kaplan
Chairman

Bernard-Henri Lévy
President

"Our civilization is one of conquest"; interlocutors should 'stay away from mistakes that will open the way for them to be destroyed.'

"Some countries have missiles with nuclear warheads, not one or two. But (they tell us) we can't have them. This, I cannot accept."

"There is no power that can stand in the way of this country; we will not hesitate to sacrifice martyrs in this fight—are the people of Greece, France, certain north African and Gulf countries prepared to make such sacrifices?"

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

"Anyone who has been following Turkey closely knows that Erdogan has been mounting a silent, drip-by-drip coup of his own against Turkish democracy for years — jailing reporters, hounding rivals with giant tax bills, reviving an internal war against Turkish Kurds to stoke nationalist passions to propel his efforts to grab more powers — and by generally making himself into a modern-day sultan for life." **Thomas Friedman, The New York Times, 2016**

"President Recep Tayyip Erdogan champions his own brand of Islamist fundamentalism. He embraces terrorists from Hamas. He threatens U.S. allies such as Greece, France and the United Arab Emirates. Yet, somehow, he gets away with it..."

Today, the similarities with the ayatollahs' Iran are eerie... Both push radical versions of Islam at a time when moderate voices are rising in many Arab countries, such as the UAE, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Both have a backward-looking nostalgia for ancient glory, in the Ottoman and Persian empires. Both are exporting instability through proxy forces." **David Ignatius, The Washington Post, 2020**

What follows are additional commentaries and headlines that further describe President Erdogan's actions and the severe disruption he is creating under the cover of Covid-19 and the fog of war—yet very much in plain sight.

"Erdogan sees himself as the caliph of the Muslim world"
David Phillips, Director, Peacebuilding and Rights, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University quoted in **Voice of America**

"For 3rd straight year, Turkey jailed more journalists than any other country"
ABC News

"Fear and dismay as Erdogan tightens grip on Kurdish opposition"
Financial Times

"Civilians—primarily of Kurdish origin—were beaten, tortured, denied food or water, and interrogated about their faith and ethnicity."

"The West hoped for democracy in Turkey, Erdogan had other ideas"
New York Times

"Turkey: Erdogan threatens to flood Europe with refugees as Syria offensive ramps up"
CNN News

"The Commission notes the allegations that Turkish forces were aware of incidents of looting and appropriation of civilian property and that they were present in detention facilities run by the Syrian National Army where the ill-treatment of detainees was rampant, including during interrogation sessions when torture took place."

"Turkey's dangerous new exports: pan-Islamist, neo-Ottoman visions and regional instability"
Middle East Institute

"How rogue can Turkey go?"
Politico

Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, United Nations Human Rights Council, August 14, 2020

"Erdo>gan warns Macron: 'Don't mess with Turkey'"
The Guardian

"Turkey denies blackmailing NATO over Baltics defence plan"
The Guardian

"Turkey has been experiencing a deepening human rights crisis over the past four years with a dramatic erosion of its rule of law and democracy framework."

"Pentagon chief questions Turkey's NATO loyalty after base threat"
Stars and Stripes

"An aggressive Turkey is raising risks of conflict in the Mediterranean sea"
Forbes

Human Rights Watch

"Turkey, Russia reach deal to control Syrian areas once patrolled by the U.S."
NPR

"Turkey targets 'weakest link' Cyprus in regional dominance bid"
Euractiv.com

"Iran, Turkey and Qatar can form alliance says Hamas rep in Tehran"
Middle East Monitor

"Iran, Turkey and Libya maritime deal rattles East Mediterranean"
Reuters

"Turkish interior minister says Turkey spans from Damascus to Al-Arabiya"
Al Arabiya

"Turkey and Iran work together on Iraq and Libya, is Israel next?"
The Jerusalem Post

"Turkey and Iran work together on Iraq and Libya, is Israel next?"
The Jerusalem Post

"Erdogan's caliphate dream put in motion in Turkey"
Nordic Monitor

"Turkey has been experiencing a deepening human rights crisis over the past four years with a dramatic erosion of its rule of law and democracy framework."

"Turkey-Libya maritime deal rattles East Mediterranean"
Stars and Stripes

"Turkey bombs Iraq, Syria, targeting Kurdish group it says trains antifa"
Newsweek

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Defending Freedoms Project, United States Congress

"Turkey and Iran work together on Iraq and Libya, is Israel next?"
The Jerusalem Post

"Europe fails to contain Turkey"
The Wall Street Journal

"Turkey has been experiencing a deepening human rights crisis over the past four years with a dramatic erosion of its rule of law and democracy framework."

"Turkey launches 'largest ever' air raids against Kurdish fighters in Iraq"
The Independent

"Kurdish politician among nine civilians shot dead by pro-Turkey forces in Syria"
The Guardian

"In long-secular Turkey, sharia is gradually taking over"
The Washington Post

"King of Jordan tells U.S. politicians that Islamic radicals are being 'manufactured' in Turkey"
Middle East Eye

"Blue homeland: The heated politics behind Turkey's new maritime strategy"
War on the Rocks

"Turkey-backed militias rape and torture Kurds"
The Times

"Mossad thinks Turkey is a bigger menace than Iran"
The Times

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkey convicts human rights activists on terror charges"
CNN

"Erdogan should not erase Turkey's Christian past"
Foreign Policy

"Erdogan continues his lies and antisemitic statements against Israel, and it is important that the world know the double standards by which he has been living for many years"
Gilad Erdan, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, quoted in **The Jerusalem Post**

"Turkish-backed forces are freeing Islamic State prisoners"
Foreign Policy

"Turkey targets a journalist"
Tablet Magazine

"Turkish forces execute soldiers in Syria"
CBS News

"Turkey: the world's largest prison for journalists"
Amnesty International

"Erdogan and Hamas: 'He's presenting himself as leader of Muslim world'"
Financial Times

"Turkey launches 'largest ever' air raids against Kurdish fighters in Iraq"
The Independent

"Erdogan champions Khashoggi while trampling journalists and dissidents in Turkey"
New York Times

"King of Jordan tells U.S. politicians that Islamic radicals are being 'manufactured' in Turkey"
Middle East Eye

"Kurdish female politician, who worked to unite Christians, Arabs, Kurds, executed in Syria"
The Christian Post

"Turkey's NATO ties must change"
Council on Foreign Relations

"Turkey threatens Biden, tells U.S. it will 'pay price' for criticism"
The Jerusalem Post

"Blue homeland: The heated politics behind Turkey's new maritime strategy"
War on the Rocks

"Why Recep Tayyip Erdogan's love affair with the Ottoman Empire should worry the world"
Time magazine

"Erdogan's ambitions go beyond Syria. He says he wants nuclear weapons"
New York Times

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkey's Erdogan wants to crush the Kurds and recreate the Ottoman world"
Newsweek

"Turkey threatens Biden, tells U.S. it will 'pay price' for criticism"
The Jerusalem Post

"Erdogan continues his lies and antisemitic statements against Israel, and it is important that the world know the double standards by which he has been living for many years"
Gilad Erdan, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, quoted in **The Jerusalem Post**

"Turkey is no ally of the United States"
The National Interest

"Erdogan should not erase Turkey's Christian past"
Foreign Policy

"Turkish forces execute soldiers in Syria"
CBS News

"Turkish military sees opportunity in vulnerable and war-torn places"
Voice of America

"Turkey targets a journalist"
Tablet Magazine

"Turkish-led forces film themselves executing a Kurdish captive in Syria"
The Washington Post

"Turkey threatens west in new Libya crisis"
The Times

"Mossad thinks Turkey is a bigger menace than Iran"
The Times

"Kurdish female politician, who worked to unite Christians, Arabs, Kurds, executed in Syria"
The Christian Post

"Turkey deploys extremists to Libya"
The Associated Press

"Erdogan wants Turkey to redraw the Middle East's ethnic map"
Foreign Policy

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"For western jihadists, path to ISIS runs through Turkey"
Fox News

"Armenians are still on the run 100 years later"
Time magazine

"Blue homeland: The heated politics behind Turkey's new maritime strategy"
War on the Rocks

"U.S. blacklists four Turkish companies for aiding ISIS"
The Wall Street Journal

"Months after turning the Hagia Sophia back into a mosque, Turkey's government is converting the Chora museum too"
Associated Press

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkey's aggression is NATO's 'elephant in the room'"
New York Times

"Erdogan wants Turkey to redraw the Middle East's ethnic map"
Foreign Policy

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkish government responsible for torture, arbitrary killings, and disappearances"
Foundation for Defense of Democracies

"Today the Kurdish civilians who allied with the U.S. against jihadists are at the mercy of jihadists aligned with Turkey"
Bloomberg

"Blue homeland: The heated politics behind Turkey's new maritime strategy"
War on the Rocks

"Christian villages hit by Turkish raids on PKK"
Independent Catholic News

"Erdogan wants Turkey to redraw the Middle East's ethnic map"
France 24

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Mapping the Turkish military's expanding footprint: Not since the days of the Ottoman Empire has the Turkish military had such an extensive global footprint"
Bloomberg

"Armenians are still on the run 100 years later"
Time magazine

"Blue homeland: The heated politics behind Turkey's new maritime strategy"
War on the Rocks

"Turkey threatens west in new Libya crisis"
The Times

"Months after turning the Hagia Sophia back into a mosque, Turkey's government is converting the Chora museum too"
Associated Press

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkey deploys extremists to Libya"
The Associated Press

"Riskier Turkish adventurism may threaten Middle East and beyond"
The Hill

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Only going to get worse": After Hagia Sophia ruling, many fear what's next from Erdogan"
NBC News

"Erdogan uses religion, fear to stay politically afloat"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Erdogan's 'new Turkey' narrative is no longer selling"
Middle East Eye

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

"Turkey, Iran defy Iraq's sovereignty in seemingly coordinated strikes"
The Arab Weekly

About Justice for Kurds

Justice for Kurds (JFK) is a non-profit organization that seeks to educate and raise public awareness about the Kurdish cause, politics, history, culture and societies in America and abroad. To read our Mission Statement visit www.justiceforkurds.org and get involved, please contact: info@justiceforkurds.org

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