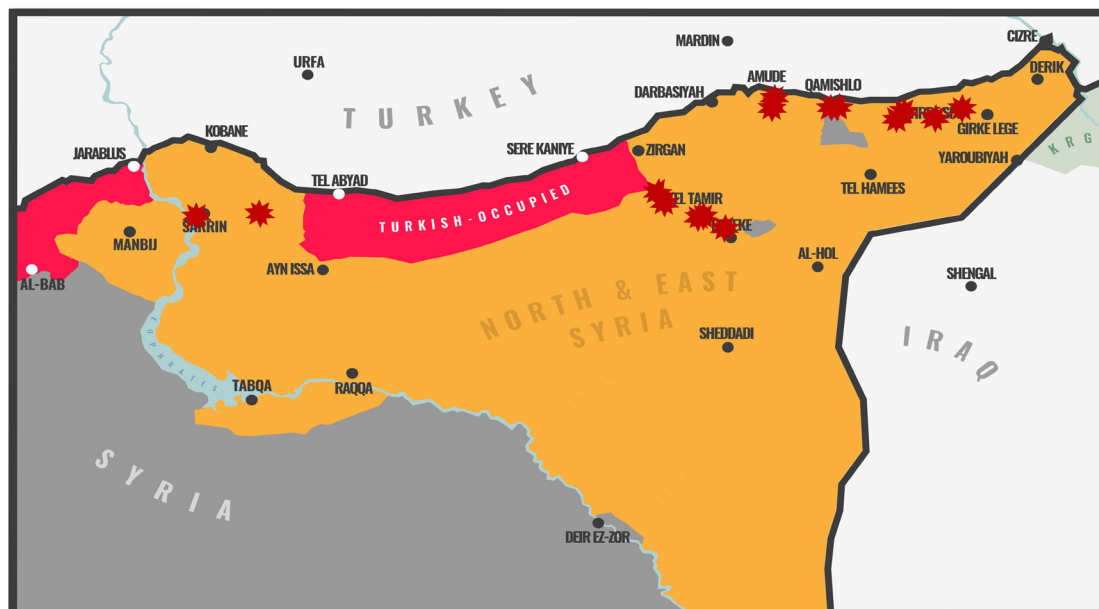


TURKEY'S AERIAL ASSAULT ON NORTH AND EAST SYRIA OCTOBER 2023

KEY POINTS

- Over 20 Turkish air-strikes target electricity, water, oil and other basic humanitarian infrastructure throughout Kurdish-led North and East Syria (NES)
- Refugees fleeing air-strikes as INGO staff withdraw from camp; eight deaths today bring total deaths in Turkish air-strikes to over 80 in 2023 alone
- No power or water across Kurdish regions of NES, including in hospitals; humanitarian collapse now feared in region home to millions already suffering water shortages and power-blackouts
- US forces in region reportedly shoot down Turkish drone in rare NATO-on-NATO clash
- Rojava Information Center available to provide on-the-ground comment, plus photos and videos from airstrike sites and contact to political representatives and humanitarian personnel for comment



BACKGROUND

- Turkey's campaign of air-strikes against NES has been ongoing since 2019 invasion, killing hundreds of civilians to date
- The current bombing campaign marks the worst escalation since 2019, putting millions of civilians' lives in jeopardy
- Turkey announced its intention to treat what it called 'YPG infrastructure' as legitimate targets following a recent bomb attack in Ankara, which injured two policemen and was claimed by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)- But NES' political and military leaders have emphasised they have no connection whatsoever to the Ankara attack, accusing Turkey of using the incident as a *casus belli*
- In a briefing, the US State Department Department reiterated its position that the Syrian Kurdish YPG, formally allied with the USA in the fight against ISIS, are separate to the PKK, further stressing that Turkish attacks on the region could harm the continued anti-ISIS fight

LATEST STRIKES

- Over 20 strikes so far (see below for full list), targeting a dam, three electrical substations, and four oil fields, as well as civilian vehicles, killing eight individuals so far
- Air strikes near Washokani refugee camp, housing IDPs who fled Turkey's 2019 invasion and occupation, sparked panic among IDPs and the withdrawal of INGO staff from the camp
- Widespread blackouts reported across Kurdish-majority city Qamishlo and towns of Tirbe Spi, Gire Spi, Amude and Cil Agha, including in civilian hospitals
- Around one million people already suffering water shortages due to Turkey's throttling of the water flow into the region, condemned by the UN and Human Rights Watch
- Strikes ongoing from 4 October into the night of 5 October

STATEMENT

In a statement to press, Syrian Kurdish political leader Saleh Muslim said:

"Previously, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan threatened to attack all our infrastructure, both minor and major. With this statement, he openly declared to the world his intent to commit crimes against humanity. The attacks have been continuous since yesterday, 4 October. So far, they have bombed

10 locations, including civilian and governmental facilities. They have targeted civilians, electrical transformers, civilian vehicles, oil refineries and water tanks.

"[The Turkish state] has never held back from [targeting those who align with the Kurds]. What they're doing is barbaric. This is an assault not just on the Kurdish people but on all of humanity.

Some claim the issue is terrorism, referring to the incident in Ankara. Our movement and the SDF [Syrian Democratic Forces] have clearly stated that we have no connection to that incident.

We don't involve ourselves in Turkey's internal affairs. We believe that if the warplanes cease to fly over Syria, we will be able to defend ourselves."

FULL LIST OF STRIKES SO FAR

1. Mushairfah area, Heseke (diesel tank burnt, 3 injured); 2. Darbasiyah/ Heseke/Tel Tamir junction (strike on car); 3. West of Washokani IDP camp, Heseke (causing NGO exodus from camp); 4. Mushairfah area, Heseke; 5. Near Cil Axa dam; 6. Tal Habash, Amude (6 killed, 2 injured); 7. Al-Tawila, Tel Tamir 8. Gerdahol oil facility, Tirbespi 9. Saida oil facility, Tirbespi 10. Qasf, Sarrin 11. Al Qaws oil facility, Cil Axa. 12. Power station, Qamishlo 13. Jalabiyah, Kobane (2 killed) 14. Al-Rakbah, Tel Tamir; 15. Electricity substation, west of Heseke; 16. Amude electricity station; 17. Al-Zarba oil facility, Tirbespi; 18. Dardara. Tel Tamir; 19. Odeh oil facility, Tirbespi; 20. Qamishlo construction site

CONTACT

Contact Rojava Information Center via WhatsApp on: +963 992 461 683 for photos, videos, comment and contact to interviewees on the ground.