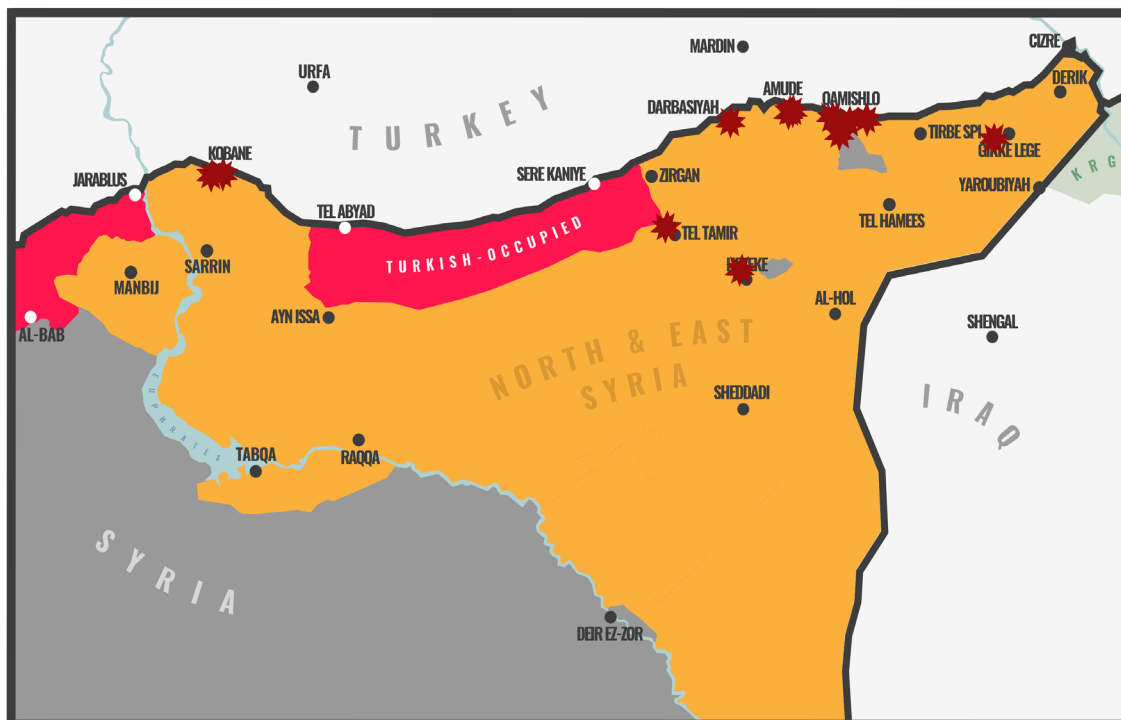


TURKEY'S CHRISTMAS AIRSTRIKES TARGETING NORTH AND EAST SYRIA'S CIVILIAN SERVICE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

KEY POINTS

- Turkey expands its airstrikes on Kurdish-led North and East Syria (NES), targeting 21 more locations including civilian service and infrastructure facilities as well as a string of checkpoints of NES' Asayish (Internal Security Forces).
- NES' factories, industrial sites, food production facilities, storage centers for oil, grain and construction materials and medical facilities lie devastated.
- This comes not 3 months after a 5-day Turkish airstrike campaign destroyed North and East Syria's power infrastructure, cutting electricity and water for over 1 million people.
- Turkey's strikes have killed a total of 8 civilians and wounded at least 25 – the death toll may rise as some people are injured critically.
- The DAANES states that yesterday Turkey conducted 40 airstrikes: 7 with warplanes, 33 with drones. RIC counts at least 25 more airstrikes today.
- Rojava Information Center is available to provide on-the-ground comment, plus photos and videos from airstrike sites and contact to political representatives and humanitarian personnel for comment.



- AMUDE LOCATIONS**
2 ASAYISH CHECKPOINTS
- RIMELAN LOCATIONS**
AL-TUWAIBA GRAIN SILOS
- KOBANE LOCATIONS**
7 ASAYISH CHECKPOINTS
- HESEKE LOCATIONS**
MUSHERFA BRICK FACTORY
- DARBASIYAH LOCATIONS**
CIVILIAN HOUSE
FORMER SDC BUILDING

- QAMISHLO LOCATIONS**
SADCOP INDUSTRY SITE
HIRME SHEIKHO FACTORY
BULGUR FACTORY
ASAYISH CHECKPOINT
N ANTERIYA MAIN ROAD
CEMENT FACTORY
CONSTRUCTION WAREHOUSE
- TEL TAMIR LOCATIONS**
TAWILA VILLAGE

Turkish airstrikes, 26.12.2023

BACKGROUND

-Turkey's campaign of airstrikes against NES has been ongoing since the 2019 invasion, killing hundreds of civilians to date.

-At the beginning of October, Turkey embarked on a 5-day airstrike assault, systematically hitting NES' electricity, gas and oil facilities, causing extensive infrastructural and economic damage and worsening the already-fragile humanitarian situation in NES, **as reported by RIC.**

- On the 23rd of December, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the militant Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) conducted operations against Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) positions, killing at least 12 TAF soldiers (TAF have stationed themselves in the KRI as part of their ongoing conflict with the PKK); Turkish President Erdogan referred to the attacks as "terrorist", vowing revenge; on night of the 23rd, the TAF proceeded to strike oil and gas infrastructure sites in NES, cutting power from electrical substations serving half the Jazira canton and injuring one civilian; the Turkish Ministry of Defence announced these airstrikes were "against terrorist targets" for the purpose of "border security".

-On the 25th, Turkey began an intense string of airstrikes, centered on Qamishlo city, systematically targeting more essential civilian infrastructure, this time hitting factories producing construction materials, agricultural products and foods, as well as grain silos, a mill, industrial sites, a dialysis center and a petrol station. Turkey continued its airstrikes on the 26th, expanding its targeting to include Asayish checkpoints.

-NES' political and military leaders state that this amounts to war crimes. They have long emphasised that NES' civilian and military institutions are separate from the PKK – contrary to Turkey's claims – and now accuse Turkey of "exporting its internal crises" to deliberately create instability and target the DAANES.



Qamishlo eastern Asayish checkpoint, 26.12.2023

LATEST UPDATES (FOR FULL LOCATION LIST SEE END)

-21 locations struck by Turkey on the 26th, adding to the 19 locations struck on the 25th, and 4 struck on the 23rd.

-Turkey targeted 10 Asayish checkpoints in Qamishlo, Amude and Kobane cities, echoing Turkey's October airstrike campaign in which Turkey directly targeted an Asayish training academy, killing 29 Asayish and wounding 28.

-Turkey's strike on Qamishlo's dialysis center on the 25th destroyed a USAID-supported oxygen facility, which provided free oxygen to public hospitals and could produce 300 oxygen cylinders a day.

-NES politicians and public alike have expressed dissatisfaction with the silence of the U.S. and Global Coalition during Turkey's attacks. Some analysts on social media have suggested links between the U.S.' refusal to condemn or stop Turkey's strikes and Sweden's NATO bid. Today, the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee approved Sweden's accession to NATO. The next step is now a full parliamentary vote. In return for taking gradual action towards approving Sweden's accession, Turkish President Erdogan has made demands from both Sweden (regarding the latter's stance towards groups and individuals which Turkey claims pose a threat to Turkish national security, including Kurdish political activists) and the U.S., from which Turkey is seeking to purchase F-16 fighter jets and modernization kits. In an effort to secure Turkish approval, Sweden amended its constitution and counterterrorism laws. The Turkish Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee only decided to hold the vote last week after a phone call between Erdogan and US President Biden.

-A rocket – likely from Iranian-backed militias – targeted a U.S. base in Shaddadi today; the latest such strike after Iran-U.S. tensions have heightened, with Iranian-backed militias claiming responsibility for over 70 attacks against U.S. bases in Syria and Iraq since October 7th, further threatening stability in NES.



Crowds gather in Qamishlo for the funeral of 6 of the civilians killed by Turkey

STATEMENT

The Syrian Democratic Council (SDC) released a statement saying that “the Turkish Air Force has continued its aggression, using warplanes and drones to bomb several vital sites in the North and East region of Syria, with the aim of destroying the service and economic infrastructure of the civilian population. For the third time within the span of a year, the Turkish army is attacking the pillars of civilian life in this region, where nearly 5 million Syrian citizens live. Across 2 days, Turkish aircraft have bombed many institutions that constitute the economic base of the people, such as power generation stations, oil production fields, hospitals, agricultural development companies, construction development companies, and a printing press.” The SDC condemned “in the strongest terms the aggression of the Turkish army and its threat to security and stability, the terrorizing of safe civilians and the risking of their livelihoods under the pretext of protecting Turkey’s national security” and also condemned “Turkey’s hostile policies towards North and East Syria, and its continued pursuit of displacement policies and demographic change projects.” The SDC then called on the international community to condemn Turkey and hold the latter accountable for its actions.

Mamed Saydo, the co-chair of the Euphrates Canton’s media office, told RIC: “Today, Turkey has been striking both services infrastructure and sites of our Asayish (Internal Security Forces). In fact, the Asayish checkpoints are a 24/7 service site as they ensure security for the people of the region. 10 Asayish sites were struck today. Turkey has hit those places which are there to serve the people. Tens of civilians have been injured in the strikes and are receiving treatment in hospital. With these attacks, Turkey’s aim is to create instability, empty this region; to displace people and make them scared so they flee. Turkey wants to empty the region of its people in order to carry out a land invasion more easily. In particular, attacks on Kobane are significant because Kobane is a global symbol of struggle and resistance due to the defeat of ISIS there in 2014. It is celebrated across the world. Meshtanour clinic in Kobane was hit and destroyed. As part of the Euphrates Canton’s health body, it sees thousands of cases and gives free medicines to the region’s people. Turkey is committing war crimes, in front of the eyes of the whole world. In NES, Turkey is waging a truly violent war against the people here. Turkey is contravening international human rights laws, yet the UN and human rights organizations are silent, as are the guarantor powers here, the U.S. and Russia. This silence indicates that those guarantor powers actually support this war, in a hidden way.”

FULL LIST OF AIRSTRIKES (AS OF 22:00, 26.12.2023):

23.12.2023

SUMMARY REPORT: TURKEY STRIKES NES CIVILIAN SERVICE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE: 25-26TH DECEMBER 2023

1. Odeh oil field, Tirbespi; 2. Sayeeda oil field, Tirbespi; 3. Sabia power station;
4. Factory near Tirbespi.

25.12.2023

5. Sadcop industrial site, Qamishlo; 6. Printing house, Qamishlo; 7. Old train station, Qamishlo; 8. Cement factory, Qamishlo; 9. Mill, Qamishlo; 10. Grain silos, Qamishlo; 11. Cotton factory, Qamishlo; 12. Park near Alaya prison, Qamishlo; 13. Ceramics warehouse, Qamishlo; 14. Al-Falaheen petrol station, Qamishlo; 15. Agricultural materials factory, Qamishlo; 16. Oxygen facility for dialysis clinic, Qamishlo; 17. Lentil packaging factory, Amude; 18. Wedding venue, Amude; 19. Olive oil factory, Amude; 20. Mehrkan village, Tirbespi; 21. Meshtanour clinic, Kobane; 22. Car mechanic, Kobane; 23. Feed factory, Kobane.

26.12.2023

24. Hirme Sheikho factory; 25. Sharq Karbawi bulgur factory; 26. Al-Tuwaiba grain silos, Rimelan; 27. Sadcop industrial site, Qamishlo; 28. Qamishlo western Asayish checkpoint; 29. North Anteriya main road, Qamishlo; 30. Cement factory, Qamishlo; 31. Kobane eastern Asayish checkpoint; 32. Kobane western Asayish checkpoint; 33. Kobane southern Asayish checkpoint; 34. Tewila village, Tel Tamir; 35. Musherifah brick factory, Heseke; 36. Amude southern Asayish checkpoint; 37. Amude eastern Asayish checkpoint; 38. Civilian house, eastern Darbasiyah; 39. Former Syrian Democratic Council building, Darbasiyah; 40. Sheran Asayish checkpoint, Kobane; 41. Shiran Asayish checkpoint, Kobane; 42. Construction warehouse, Qamishlo; 43 & 44. 2 Asayish checkpoints in Kobane which RIC was unable to locate and map.



Turkish airstrikes, Jazira canton, 26.12.2023



Turkish airstrikes, Euphrates canton, 26.12.2023



Turkish airstrikes on NES, 25-26.12.2023

CONTACT

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