Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The invasion of Afrin by Turkey, a member State of the Council of Europe and a NATO ally

Written declaration No. 653

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

The Kurdish region of Afrin has been one of the most stable and safe regions in Syria until its recent and unprovoked invasion by Turkey with the approval of the Russian Federation and the general silence of the international community. Afrin has also been hosting hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people from other war-torn regions of Syria.

This invasion is not simply destabilising Afrin but also undermining the fight against ISIS, creating various security and humanitarian risks, and destroying the already fragile efforts to build peace in the country.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, as of 23 January 2017, at least 27 civilians, including women and children have been killed in Turkish airstrikes. Thousands of citizens have already been displaced. And there are many casualties on both sides.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Turkish government to immediately stop this unprovoked invasion and focus on a peaceful solution to the Syrian conflict. We also call upon the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly to take a pro-active stance in ending the invasion and contribute to the efforts at peace building in Syria through an inclusive political process.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
BARDELL Hannah, United Kingdom, NR
BILDARRATZ Jokin, Spain, ALDE
BLAHA Ľuboš, Slovak Republic, SOC
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
GORROTXATEGUI Miren Edurne, Spain, UEL
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
KERESTECİOĞLU DEMİR Filiz, Turkey, UEL
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
MAKHMUDYAN Rustam, Armenia, EPP/CD
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL
NORDQVIST Rasmus, Denmark, UEL
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
SØNDERGAARD Søren, Denmark, UEL
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, NR

Total = 20

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group