

The Theory of the Triangle of Conflict and the Geo-Strategic Justification for the Turkish Military Incursion in SINJAR and QANDIL to Pursue the PKK

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Abstract

Conflict is a natural state of affairs, so that we merely observe the behavior of the parties without trying to resolve it, i.e, managing the conflict.

Therefore, the conflict "is a competitive situation in which the parties are aware of the inconsistencies and inconsistencies of positions and visions."

John GALTHUNG (conflict triangle):

The conflict is seen as an equilateral triangle, and it is called the three corners of its sides: angle of contradiction, angle of perception, angle of behavior.

A - Contradiction: *The situation that crystallizes the incompatibility of goals and interests between the parties.*

B) Perception: *refers to the process of conceptualizing misconceptions about themselves (vision), and perception of each other.*

Behavior refers to the crystallization of contradiction and narration into behavior on the ground, usually embodied in the form of threat or oppression and the use of armed violence (war).

The strategic location of SINJAR and QANDIL is a triangle of equal footing because of the nature of the conflicting powers. The question of the existence of major conflict-driven states such as the United States of America and Russia or regional countries, including competition and conflict such as Israel, Turkey, Iran and Iraq or the presence of non-state actors, The PKK and the People's Protection Units and the YAZIDI SINJAR resistance units,

- In addition to the entry of the Popular Forces and the PESHMERGA of the Kurdistan region on the crisis line

:- So we are in front of a triangle of equal conflict conflicts of interest and in the conduct of conflict management and in the understanding and perception of each party's tactical and strategic interests in SINJAR

The strategic geo-strategic reality of SINJAR and QANDIL forced the Turkish armed forces to consider the possibility of accepting the idea of BASHIKA against SINJAR is not a part of the Turkish military deficit to resolve this battle, but there are motives and calculations Turkish accurate far-reaching region of SINJAR is:

First: *SINJAR for the PKK is much closer to RUGAJA, which allows the PKK to have excellent lines of communication and logistics with the territory under the control of the People's Protection Units.*

Second: *To block the PKK from forming military bases and command and control headquarters and infrastructure in SINJAR Cutting off lines of communication, support, logistical coordination and exchange of intelligence between the PKK and the People's Protection Units in northern Syria, on the other*

GHALTONG stresses the need for three components of the triangle to be available simultaneously in case of full conflict and only if the first and second components are available without the emergence of behavior that considers the conflict to be inherent or structural.

It is possible through the theory of the triangle of conflict to understand the Turkish military strategy regarding the strategic location of SINJAR and QANDIL, and the motivation and willingness of the Turkish withdrawal from BASHIKA in exchange for the immediate withdrawal of the PKK and the people protection units from SINJAR?

- Is it possible to consider the idea of BAASIKA against SINJAR , Iranian mediation and American pressure as a tactical, strategic or political step by Turkey?

The Kurdish political situation is divided and its challenges differ in different countries

In the east, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a huge burden to the emergence of a Kurdish political discourse,

In the north, the balance of power is not so ambiguous with Turkey, especially with Turkey's positive relations with the Kurdistan region of Iraq

It seems that the most confused situation today is the share of the Kurdistan of Syria, which is in particular what can be called the triangle of conflict in SINJAR and QANDIL, which was formed after the fall of Mosul in 2014 and the control of the preacher and still form, even after the liberation of Mosul a threat to Turkish national security

Keywords: *Theory of the Triangle of Conflict † Geo- Strategic Justification † Turkish Military Incursion in SINJAR † QANDIL † Pursue the PKK*

Introduction

Turkish President RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN believes in the importance of anticipating events to achieve the objectives of Turkish foreign policy in the Middle East and the Balkans. Turkey is adopting a foreign policy that precedes the events and extends from the Balkans to the Middle East, North Africa and the Caucasus region, and this geographical advantage constitutes the historical and cultural background of Turkey.

Accordingly, Turkey's regional role is based on objective, subjective and not ideological considerations.

It is understood that Turkey plays a regional role to promote its interests and protect its national security.

Therefore, Turkey has forced and calculated strategic geo-factors to intervene in Syria, Iraq and Qatar...

As fighting intensifies in the northern provinces of IDLIB and Aleppo, many refugees flee to Turkey.

South Turkey is the usual destination for these refugees, many of whom have ties to Arab Turks in HATAY province (between Syria and the Mediterranean coast) and other areas.

1 . 1 The problem of research stems from the following legitimate questions:

Is it possible, through the theory of the conflict triangle, to understand the Turkish military strategy regarding the strategic location of SINJAR and QANDIL, and the motivation and willingness of the Turkish withdrawal from BAASIKA in return for the immediate withdrawal of the PKK and the People's Protection Units from SINJAR ?

- Is it possible to consider the idea of BAASIKA against SINJAR, Iranian mediation and American pressure as a tactical, strategic or political step by Turkey?

- Will it be a condition of Turkey on Iraq, Iran and the United States of America to be a "joint security mechanism" quadripartite between the United States of America represented by the International Coalition and a representative of the Kurdistan region of Iraq and a representative of YEZIDIN, under the direct supervision of the Iraqi government and Iran, The quartet set up

a command and control center led by the United States of America on the identification of checkpoints and control of this strategic area of SINJAR.

1.2. First: the deterioration of the security situation on the Iraqi-Syrian and Iraqi-Turkish borders after the fall of Mosul in 2014

The Turks suffer once again from the clashes from Syria to Turkish cities across the 900-kilometer-long border, as well as the deteriorating security situation on the Iraqi-Syrian and Iraqi-Turkish border after the fall of Mosul in 2014. Turkish National.

Even after the liberation of Mosul, the Kurdish political situation has become a question of Iraqi or Syrian, which is a burden imposed on the Turkish armed forces, especially with regard to protecting the borders and preventing the infiltration of terrorist groups from the KANDIL mountains to SINJAR

The Kurdish political situation is divided and its challenges differ in different countries

In the east, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a huge burden to the emergence of a Kurdish political discourse,

In the north, the balance of power is not so ambiguous with Turkey, especially with Turkey's positive relations with the Kurdistan region of Iraq

It seems that the most confused situation today is the share of the Kurdistan region of Syria, which is particularly what can be called the triangle of conflict in SINJAR and KANDIL, which was formed after the fall of Mosul in 2014 and the control of them and even after the liberation of Mosul is a threat to Turkish national security.

1.3. Second: the theory of the triangle of conflict and the importance of geo-strategy for SINJAR and KANDIL

Several factors have helped to make the strategic location of SINJAR and KANDIL a threat to Turkey's national security

First: What is the triangle of conflict and the author of this theory in the literature of international relations is John GALTHUNG (triangle of conflict):

Which views the conflict as an equilateral triangle, and is called on the three angles of its sides: angle of contradiction, angle of perception, angle of behavior.

A - Contradiction: The situation that crystallizes the incompatibility of goals and interests between the parties.

B) Perception: refers to the process of conceptualizing misconceptions about themselves (vision), and perception of each other.

BEHAVIOUR refers to the crystallization of contradiction and narration into behavior on the ground, usually embodied in the form of threat or oppression and the use of armed violence (war).

GALTUNG emphasizes that the three components of the triangle must be available simultaneously in case of full conflict

If only the first and second components are available without the emergence of behavior, the conflict is perceived as inherent or structural

Second, the strategic location of SINJAR and KANDIL is a triangle of equal footing due to the nature of the conflicting powers. The question of the existence of major conflict-driven states such as the United States of America and Russia or regional countries, including competition and conflict such as Israel, Turkey, Iran and Iraq or the existence of non-state actors, The most prominent of which are the PKK, the People's Protection Units and the YEZIDI SINJAR resistance units,

- In addition to the entry of the Popular Forces and the PESHMERGA of the Kurdistan region on the crisis line

-: So we are in front of a triangle of equal conflict conflicts of interest and in the conduct of conflict management and in the understanding and perception of each party's tactical and strategic interests in SINJAR

The strategic geo-strategic reality of SINJAR and KANDIL forced the Turkish armed forces to consider the possibility of accepting the idea of BAASIKA against SINJAR is not a part of the Turkish military deficit to resolve this battle, but there are motives and calculations Turkish accurate far-reaching SINJAR region is:

First: SINJAR for the PKK is much closer to RUGAJA, which allows the PKK to have excellent lines of communication and logistics with the territory under the control of the People's Protection Units.

Second: To block the PKK from forming military bases and command and control headquarters and infrastructure in SINJAR Cutting off lines of communication, support, logistical coordination and exchange of intelligence between the PKK and the People's Protection Units in northern Syria, on the other

However, the mountainous region of SINJAR provides the PKK with the advantage of the rugged terrain most suited to its traditional irregular warfare tactics against Turkey

Third, the northern side of Mount SINJAR provides natural fortifications similar to the strategic fortifications of PKK bases in the KANDIL mountains. The Turkish armed forces have realized the importance of this and will therefore try to prevent the formation of the second KANDIL mountain in SINJAR

Fourthly: Turkey is not prepared to threaten its national security with the continued presence of Kurdish armed groups on its borders backed by the United States?

At the same time, Turkey's interests in Syria cannot be ignored and its standards are not ignored in its national security,

And that the lack of Turkish-American coordination would be detrimental to the interests of both countries.

Fifth: Turkey is trying to move by waving to withdraw from BAASIKA deliver clear messages not encrypted to each of the following parties:

The American side

Turkey believes that the United States of America can pressure the Syrian Kurdish parties to disengage from the PKK. The experience of the villages where the forces of QUSD withdrew has shown that the United States has the ability to pressure Kurdish forces

A double benefit to the US and Iranian sides

To make political gains to strengthen Iranian and US influence in Iraq because each of the parties (Iran and America) will be the role of the victor to achieve a political gain supporting the Iraqi government and that it is behind the Turkish withdrawal from BAASIKHA and perhaps this will be a double benefit to all the Kurdistan region of Iraq and the Iraqi government and help them in bringing the views closer and resolving their differences?

The value of the Turkish withdrawal from BAASIKHA will not only be a strategic move, but a political gain that may be used to support the new government after the end of Iraq's last parliamentary elections on April 12, 2018.

Will the Americans and Iranians determine the time and place to employ this Turkish withdrawal from a political mistress?

And who will benefit from the current Iraqi government or the next government?

It is not reasonable for the Iranians to agree to mediate the withdrawal of the PKK forces and the protection units of the people from SINJAR without gains that contribute to the protection of their national security on the one hand

And ensure a supply line to Syria and Hezbollah across the Iraqi-Syrian border

And perhaps Iran will demand or work to strengthen and create the presence of centers of allied forces to implement their policies along the geographical area between its western border with Iraq and the shores of the Mediterranean Sea,

And keep open lines of communication from the Kurdish armed forces, most notably the PKK, as long as this party serves its national interest on the other hand

Sixth, perhaps Ankara sees that rationalizing US military support to the Kurdish forces in Syria would open a wide door to democratic change in Syria to the satisfaction of most international parties and make the Kurdish model "in cooperation with the other components of the Syrian people" a key to a long-term solution Instead of being the Pope of a new internal war will also be long-term

1.4. Third: ERDOGAN claims anti-PKK operations began in SINJAR, QANDIL

Turkey's President RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN on Monday June 11-2018 said an operation against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has begun in the QANDIL mountains on the Iraq-Iran border and the YEZIDI-Kurdish homeland of SINJAR (SHINGAL), which is under the control of Iraqi forces.

"We destroyed 14 important targets using 20 of our [war] planes. They hit [their targets], they returned. We are not done.

This will continue," the Turkish President boasted during an election rally in the Central Anatolian city of NIGDE as the country prepares to head to the polls in less than two weeks.

Turkey has, in recent weeks, widened the scope of its military incursions into the Kurdistan Region's PKK-held border areas.

QANDIL, an extremely rugged mountain range with peaks as high as 3,587 meters (11,768 Ft) which serves as the PKK's headquarters.

ERDOGAN was referring to what he asserts is the casualty number for the US-armed Kurdish forces defending Syrian Kurdistan's northwestern Afrin enclave, which Turkey invaded earlier this year.

ERDOGAN did not elaborate on the details of the alleged strikes in SHINGAL

The town garnered worldwide attention in 2014 when the Islamic State (IS) group embarked on a genocidal campaign against the ETHNORELIGIOUS YEZIDI (EZIDI) minority, massacring thousands of their men, kidnapping and sexually enslaving thousands of other women and children.

The PKK found a foothold in the area when it came down from the mountains to help drive out IS militants from SHINGAL alongside the Kurdistan Region's PESHMERGA forces and US-led Coalition.

On March 21, ERDOGAN said military operations had started in SHINGAL and that Turkey had "neutralized" 38 PKK fighters there in a statement that remained unconfirmed by the army. ,the Turkish President threatened to strike the Makhmour refugee camp, 40 miles southwest of Kurdistan Region's capital Erbil, where over 12,000 Kurdish refugees who fled Turkey currently live.

,commander of Hashd al-Shaabi Security Operations in Sinjar town He said:

If ERDOGAN really wants to destroy the PKK he knows exactly where they are, but they are not in the Sinjar mountains and there are none here in the town of Sinjar

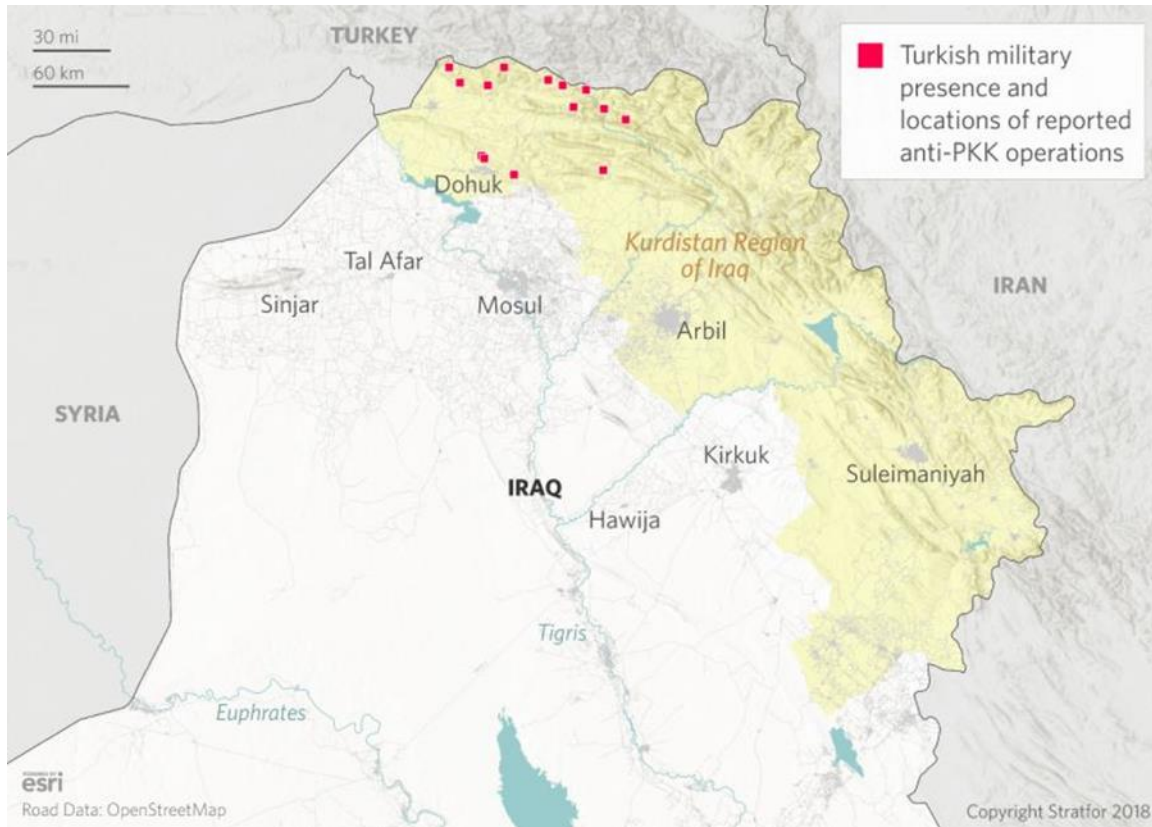
"Everyone here - Muslims as well as Yazidis - would fight against any Turkish forces who try to come to Sinjar because we all know how Turkey facilitated the movement of IS fighters coming here."

He said it was doubtful Turkish infantry would dare enter the area because local Yazidi forces have had the backing of the Iraqi government since Baghdad regained full control over Sinjar from the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in October.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) - deemed a terrorist entity by Turkey, the European Union and the United States for decades of insurgency against the Turkish government - came to Sinjar in 2014 when the area was under a brutal siege by the Islamic State group (IS), and opened a safe corridor to allow thousands trapped on Sinjar mountain to escape to Syria.

PKK forces also participated in the battle to liberate Sinjar in 2015.

On April 25, 2018 Turkish fighter jets attacked Iraq's Sinjar region as part of what the Turkish military cast as a pre-emptive action to avert attacks by the PKK party in Turkey itself.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's president, has claimed that the PKK is preparing to transform the Sinjar region into "another Qandil", a reference to the mountain range in Iraqi Kurdistan that the group has long used as a sanctuary throughout its decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state.

Turkey concluded its Euphrates Shield operation, which was originally launched to force ISIL away from its border and prevent Syrian Kurdish forces from linking up their territories. Ankara deemed that operation a success. Now the Turkish media are claiming that preparations are under way to launch Tigris Shield in northern Iraq.

Reportedly the purpose of the new operation is to secure the river banks around the Iraqi border-town of Khabur near PKK positions, presumably in order to disrupt their movements from Iraq into either Syria or Turkey.

According to the Iraqi Kurdish Rudaw news agency, the PKK has started preparing for a major action against them. They believe the Turks might carry it out in coordination with the region's Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the two biggest parties in Iraqi Kurdistan, which also opposes the continued PKK presence in Sinjar.

The PKK is not the only group Mr Erdogan has threatened in the wider northern Iraq region. Turkish troops were sent to the border with Iraq when the Mosul operation against ISIL began

last October. He said he would intervene against Iraqi Hashd Al Shaabi paramilitaries if they harmed Turkish interests.

Turkey is ready to go to the utmost to defend what it believes threatens its national security, which is the possibility of a form of government in a Kurdish region along the Syrian-Turkish border.

Turkey is concerned about its long experience in fighting the PKK, which Hafiz al-Assad supported as a Marxist Kurdish party against Turkey, hosted its leaders in Syria and Lebanon and opened military training centers for terrorist attacks against Turkey 40 years ago.

Conclusions

Based on the above, the following results can be reached

First: With all the differences between the PKK and the Kurdistan Regional Government, the provincial government avoids entering into direct confrontations with the PKK to consider:

Because PKK elements have high combat experience and skills

The party's general base is the Kurds in all four countries (Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran) on the one hand

And the fear of the Kurdistan Regional Government of the dangers of Kurdish-Kurdish war and the bloodshed Kurdish will have consequences that do not even disappoint the future of the survival of the Kurdistan region as a region enjoys security and economic stability on the other hand

The region may fear the repercussions of this confrontation on the Kurdish communities in the European Union, especially in Germany and the ability of these communities to influence the European and American public opinion

And change the gains of the current political, economic, security and even on the issue of self-determination and separation from Iraq in the near or near term.

Second, the threat of the PKK will continue to exist more seriously after the expansion of its control from the Qandil mountains to Sinjar and the surrounding areas to reach the areas of control in the north and north-east of Syria along the Turkish border

Third: From the point of view of the Turkish military strategy, the increasing Iranian presence through the joint alliance with the popular crowd and the PKK poses a more serious threat to national security and Turkish interests in northern Iraq in the near and medium term

Fourth: Sinjar and Mount Kandil will be military bases that will launch terrorist operations not only against Turkey but against the Kurdistan region of Iraq

This raises the question of whether it is possible to hit the bases of the PKK and the people's units and isolate Sinjar by the Turkish armed forces?

Practically feasible, but a political decision rather than a military one?

So it is possible to use the Kurds of Syria who know Peshmerga Rouge Ava in order to isolate the northern slopes of Mount Sinjar?

It was tried but failed because of the combat skills and the quality of the weapon used by the People's Protection Units to counter Peshmerga Rojava?

Fifthly, as for Turkey, the best outcome may include the use of soft power to remove the PKK and the People's Protection Units from Sinjar, and to benefit from the threat of force,

But not their actual use.

This could include a combination of US and regional pressure, especially Iran, Kurdish and Iraqi incentives for self-rule, and security guarantees for local Yezidis.

Turkey, on the other hand, as a regional power, a pivotal state and a major player in the Middle East, can achieve the following strategic shifts:

That the preconditions of any solution in the region of the Syrian island does not correspond to what Turkey sees as a threat to its national security,

Turkey has strong allies in the cities of the Syrian island with ideological backgrounds and future visions that do not intersect with the aspirations of the Democratic Union Party to create a "Syrian Kurdistan"

And that this dispute may develop at any stage to a different result of clashes Kurdish - Kurdish may tear the Kurdish fabric in Syria.

With regard to the absence of US-Turkish coordination or its deliberate or continued interference from the American side, the Turkish reactions to US support for Syrian Kurdish forces may surprise them.

The PKK, after all, is an internationally recognized terrorist organization that has been waging an insurgency against the Turkish government for decades. Ankara has been conducting operations against it for just as long, including air raids in Iraq's northern Qandil mountains. What's more, Turkey views Sinjar as part of its rightful domain under the neo-Ottoman strategy it's pursuing in Syria and Iraq.

Mount Sinjar is just one area among many in Iraq where ethnic, cultural and religious diversity has left the door open to interference from foreign powers such as Turkey. But for all its military might, Turkey is encountering in northern Iraq political and diplomatic barriers that it hasn't come up against in northern Syria. And as Ankara is learning, no matter how strong its armed forces are, negotiating these barriers will be no small feat.

A Turkish presence in Iraq does three things. First, it threatens Iran close to home, just as a pro-Iran Syria threatens Turkey, without risking direct confrontation. Second, it aims to counter the threat of pro-Iran militias in Iraq with additional firepower. Finally, it places Turkish troops on both sides of Kurdish-controlled Syria, which could set Turkey up for a two-sided offensive against the rest of the land held by the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia along Turkey's southern border

After the Turkish armed forces declare full control over the Afrin region, attention is drawn to the next Turkish step: either Manbag west of the Euphrates River in Syria or Sinjar in northwestern Iraq. Waiting for Washington's response to Ankara's demands for coordination on Manbag; Sinjar appears to have priority on Turkey's list of targets.

On 25 March 2018,

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the Turkish military operations began in Sinjar and that his country is determined to remove the Kurdistan Party from them, adding that the "Olive Branch" will achieve its objectives after the control of the town of Tal Rifat east of Afrin.

The Sinjar district is a strategic and mountainous area close to the Iraqi-Syrian border. The text is in Twitter. It is inhabited by 90,000 people (mostly in the 2014 census), mostly from Yezidis, Arab and Turkmen minorities and others.

Ankara believes that its success in combating the party and its various organizational preparations are directed to bring him out of Manbag and the areas of East Euphrates in Syria, Sinjar and Qandil mountains in Iraq, according to the priorities formulated by the political and military capabilities and rates of each case"

To face the referendum of Iraqi Kurdistan, and after he flew to the time of disagreement over the camp Baasheqa Turkish northern Iraq.

Sinjar is about 100 kilometers from the Turkish border and about 80 kilometers from Baheshika camp, where there are limited Turkish forces north of Mosul.

This means that any ground military operation will be very complex and need coordination and cooperation with the governments of Erbil and Baghdad, where it is supposed to cut those forces large areas of the territories of the two parties, especially Iraqi Kurdistan. The terrain of the area is further complicated by its roughness and proximity to Mount Sinjar, its border with the Syrian border and the Syrian forces' control areas.

What reassures Turkey in part about Sinjar is that both the governments of Baghdad and Erbil shared the refusal of the existence of the PKK,

So Ankara's first choice, which is trying to persuade Baghdad to do is to take care to remove the Kurdistan without any direct Turkish intervention.

The reports of the withdrawal of the Kurdistan - and handed over Iraqi forces Sinjar fully and final after the visit of an Iraqi military delegation to the city - that this option acceptable and welcome from Baghdad.

Turkish Prime Minister Ben Ali Yildirim said that Turkey is located on an area of 350 km inside Iraqi territory for the purpose of "combating terrorism".

Turkish Prime Minister Ben Ali Yildirim said in an interview with the Anatolia Agency that "this area extends from the borders of Iran to the region of Khabur, including the Qandil Mountains."

"We have to neutralize terrorism wherever it is. We have cleared an area of 400 kilometers from the White Sea to the west of the Euphrates River in northern Syria," he said.

"Over the past two years, we have followed a useful way to combat terrorism, based on the principle of attack instead of defense," he said.

Turkey has announced that it is working to establish a line (controlled area) depth of 26 to 27 kilometers inside Iraqi territory, in order to "drain the sources of terrorism," in reference to the PKK, which has been fighting Ankara for decades from northern Iraq.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleiman Suwailo said in remarks to NTV channel

"Progress is being made step by step towards the Qandil Mountains. It is not an elusive target for us. Turkey will not give up control of the Qandil Mountains. The issue is a matter of time." Turkish forces have moved into Iraqi territory for more than 10 kilometers, after fierce fighting with elements of the PKK deployed in the region.

"The Turkish forces that crossed the border were backed by an air cover and are currently stationed in the Sidkhan area," said the district commander of Suran district in Erbil province in Kurdistan province Kermang Izzat.

He added that the Turkish forces established fixed military positions in the region located in the border triangle between Iraq and Iran and Turkey, expected to continue this presence for a long time.

Anatolia news agency said 27 members of the Workers' Party had been killed as a result of Turkish military operations in the states of Diyarbakir, Tungeli and Chernak in northeastern Turkey and in northern Iraq.

PKK elements are active in areas adjacent to the border between Iraq and Turkey. Ankara occasionally carries out air raids on these sites, which it says are targeted at groups of Labor Party elements it considers a terrorist organization

In the near term, Turkey will remain active, influential and close in Iraq's Kurdistan

And we will not see the objection of the Kurdistan Regional Government to the Turkish military intervention to prosecute the PKK on its borders and for several objective reasons,

including with regard to the export of Iraqi Kurdistan oil through Turkey and the need for Turkey to reach the sea because the region does not have an authorized sea port

Considering these factors all together reveal that the KRG is dependent on the external events that would affect:

1. Its oil production and transfer.
2. Its land trade since there is no connection to the sea.
3. Its climate and water resources.

Such economic activities reveal that Turkey is more important than any of the other neighbors of the region due to the fact that:

1. The main oil reservoirs are within the Kirkuk Governorate which has significant number of Turkmen people and the oil is transferred through Turkey.
2. Turkey is the largest trade partner and has the most active trade routes of the Kurdistan Region.
3. The water stream of the main rivers is from Turkey to south therefore, Turkey has the control of the water.

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Conflict Triangle was first developed by Prof. Johan Galtung and provides an excellent basic concept for the analysis of even very complex conflict situations:

A First, there are the Attitudes (A) of the conflicting parties

, which tend to become more defensive or even hostile as the conflict escalates. In order to finally reach settlement of the conflict, the parties must first become aware of their attitudes and perceptions towards each other.

B Attitude in conflict situations not only effects one's own Behavior

(B), but is very much influenced by the behavior of others. Insults or provocations make it more difficult to see the mutual benefit of ending a conflict. Therefore it is essential to find ways of tackling the negative behavior in order to defuse the situation.

C Finally, we need to consider the Context (C) within which the conflict is being waged. Context is the 'objective' reality to which the conflict relates and the environment in which it takes place. If we ignore the influence of the context, all changes in attitudes and behavior will be in vain. Various factors in the context can either fuel or block a positive and transformative development of a conflict

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