



**GiMUN**

## UNSC Background Guide

*(None of the information provided below has been typed by anyone associated with the conference; we do not take ownership of the content – it has simply been copy pasted from various sources and assimilated together to give a comprehensive timeline of the crisis for your understanding.)*

## ***Preface:***

This is a UN simulation at the organizational, structural and functional levels. We will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure, coupled with the Arria-Formula meeting structure, and Working Methods.

Importance will be placed on traditional methods of diplomatic courtesy, adherence to foreign policy, sovereign exercise of functions, and methodical negotiations. Through the annexures to this Letter, we are pleased to declare the programme of work, provisional agenda, and for the meeting.

As a principal organ of the UN, we are guided by the principles enshrined in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter. SC meetings are inclusive, and strongly averse to discrimination, misconduct and malpractices. As a representative at the conference, Members shall be bound by the codes of conduct, policies and regulations of the conference and the SC.

Needless to say, we expect the highest possible standard of commitment from all members involved. With hope that you will enhance the quality of this meeting with your substantive participation, we invite you to be a part of this Security Council meeting. We are looking forward to working with you all.

# ***Introduction to the United Nations Security Council***

## ***(UNSC)***

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six main organs of the UN established in the UN charter on June 26, 1945. There are five permanent members of the UNSC, the United States, China, the United Kingdom, France, and the Russian Federation. There are also 10 nonpermanent seats available on the UNSC, each with a two-year term. The states currently holding those seats are Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, and Uruguay. The main responsibility of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security.

The UNSC typically convenes whenever peace is threatened. As stated by the United Nations (UN) charter, other responsibilities include developing friendly relations among nations, cooperating in solving international problems, promoting respect for human rights, and being a center for international cooperation. Since the UNSC has the primary goal of maintaining peace between Member States and resolving current or potential conflicts, it must have a set of guidelines to give the committee the power to enforce this goal. The UNSC can set forth principles for such an agreement, undertake investigation and mediation, and in some cases, dispatch a mission, appoint special envoys, and request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The UNSC can also issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict and dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm, in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The five permanent members have veto power, which allows them to block draft working papers by voting against them. If even one of the big five votes against a working paper, then that resolution does not pass.

## **MANDATE AND INSTRUMENTS:**

The UNSC derives its mandate to protect and to uphold international peace and security from the UN Charter, adopted on June 26, 1945. It has a number of instruments available in carrying out its mandate.

## **FUNCTIONS:**

The UNSC has arguably one of the broadest mandates in the United Nations; tasked with the rather nebulous mandate of ensuring the "maintenance of international peace and security" (UN Charter, Ch. 5, Art. 21).

However within that, the Council has a wide range of instruments and powers at its disposal to achieve this aforementioned mandate to be proportional to the offence committed, and can range from simply condemning the actions of a state and ordering it to remain within the law (Ch.6 Art.33 Sec.2), all the way to invading a member state (Ch.7 Art. 42).

This also includes deploying peacekeeping missions around the world to monitor ceasefires, support civilian administrations, separate warring factions, protect human rights, or (in one instance) combat rebel groups. To illustrate how the UNSC has taken necessary action, on February 26th, 2011, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1970, which condemned the regime of the late Muammar Gaddafi for the use of deadly force in putting down protests.

At the same time, the Council also imposed a number of sanctions and travel bans on the regime. These sanctions were passed under Article 41 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, making them legally binding for all UN members. When sanctions 17 and diplomacy failed to restore order, the SC then escalated its action in Resolution 1973, which implemented a no-fly zone over Libya, and authorized any means necessary (except a ground invasion) to safeguard human rights.

This resolution paved the way for air strikes and arming rebel groups by such countries as France, the UK and the United States. The UNSC may also create any subsidiary

body that would assist the Council in performing its various functions. This is particularly useful as the UNSC can create any number of consulting bodies, panels, and rapporteurs in order to be kept up-to date with the latest developments



## ***Why should we discuss this topic?***

There are in the world a multiplicity of countries in the world with internal frictions. Turkey is of particular interest because it presents a fascinating range of issues that have considerable general applicability to conflict situations in the rest of the world.<sup>1</sup>

Turkey's key internal conflict centers on the presence of an ethnically and linguistically distinct people, the Kurds, in a country that constitutionally consists only in "citizens of Turkey" (i.e. Turks), with no recognition whatsoever. Bearers of a distinct culture for perhaps two millennia, they are now striving for legal recognition and for the rights deriving therefrom.

Since most countries in the world are multiethnic, even though they do not declare themselves as such, Turkey's situation is broadly representative of what many countries are facing, or will face. The question raises many problems related to multiculturalism:

- Is it desirable to seek assimilation of minorities, when they wish to keep their own culture and language?
- Is it understandable or anachronistic that minorities want to preserve their identity?
- How much can a state impose assimilation, particularly when it threatens the loss of distinct culture and ethnicity?

Secondly, Turkey's Kurds are only 50% of the total Kurdish population, making the Kurdish question an international problem as well as a national one. Kurds are especially present in Iran and Iraq, and to a lesser extent in Syria. Other peoples in the same situation include Baluch, Punjabis, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Pashtuns, Hungarians, Albanians, Mayas, Mongols, and many African peoples, to name just a few.

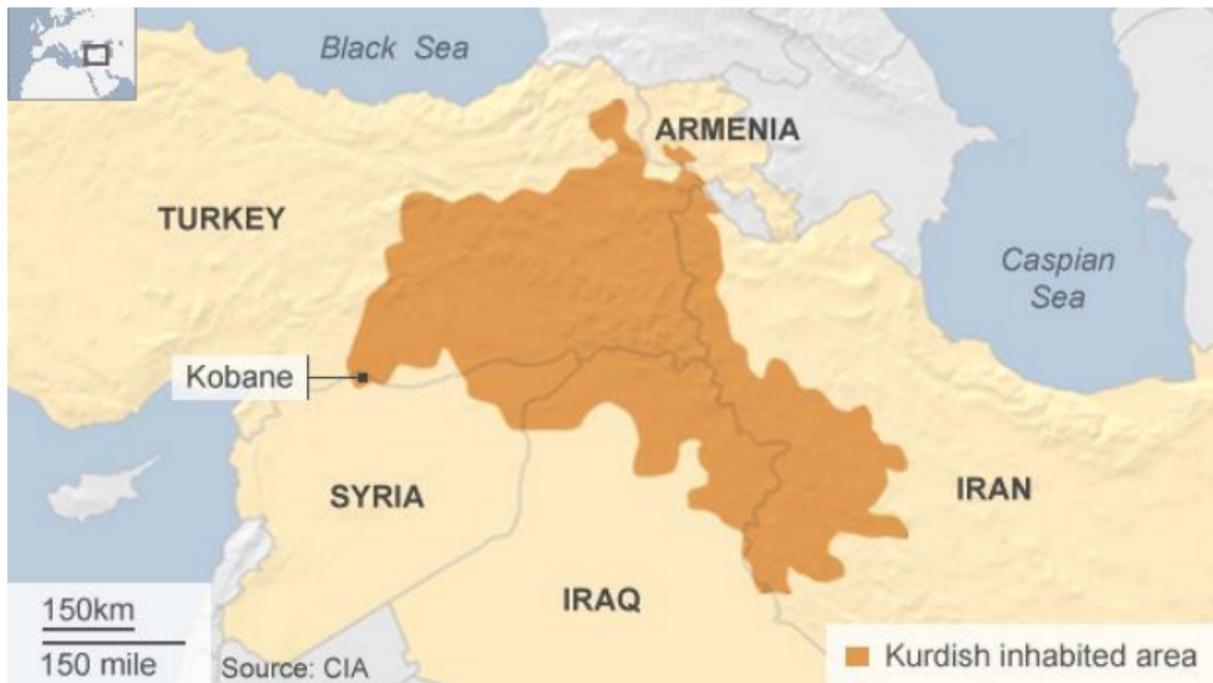
The pretensions to ethnic unification of one people not only implies separatism of territory from one country, but also an extensive redrawing of all international borders. Therefore, it is understandable that states in the same region will cooperate to counteract separatist pulls.

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<sup>1</sup> Henri J. Barkey, *Turkey's Kurdish Question*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1. Jan. 20

## ***Background of the Topic***

The Kurds are an ethnic group residing in the Middle East, with prominent populations living in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and other nations of the region. Most Kurds are Sunni Muslims, with their own distinct language and culture.



***Figure 1: Kurdish Inhabited Area***

A common theme throughout Kurdish history, and particularly after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, has been self-determination for the Kurdish diaspora. The geographic region of southwest Asia, in which the Kurds reside, is generally known as Kurdistan, but it is not a separate State and instead includes territory from roughly five politically diverse nations. Kurdish populations have notoriously been mistreated by their respective governments, causing much of the Kurdish population to turn to a more extreme nationalist sentiment.

The Kurds have been seeking to establish an independent Kurdistan state since the Ottoman Empire era. Over time, their independence movements have developed to a greater scale and from ideological mobilization to military struggle. In 1880, Sheikh Ubeydullah, hailed as a hero by the Kurdish people, led the Kurds to uprising simultaneously in eastern and southeastern Turkey and in northwestern Iran, swearing to fight to the end for an independent Kurdistan.

Although this uprising was put down by the Ottoman Empire and the Qajar dynasty of Persia collectively, the Kurds were allowed by the Treaty of Sevres in 1919 to establish autonomous regions or independent countries to the east of the Euphrates, the south of Armenia and the north of Syria and Iraq where the majority of Kurdish people live. The treaty was signed by the Ottoman Empire and the Entente powers following the Ottoman defeat in WWI, and is now the only document of international law concerning Kurdish autonomy or independence. The Kurdish political forces in the four countries have used it as a legal justification for an independent Kurdish state.

The origin of the Kurdish diaspora is found with the Treaty of Sevres (1920), which broke up Kurdistan and created the modern states of Iraq, Syria, and Kuwait. The Kurds were originally promised an independent Kurdistan; however, in 1923, Kemal Ataturk overthrew the Turkish monarchy. Ataturk rejected the independent Kurdish state, and ever since, Turkish Kurds have received especially harsh treatment at the hand of their government. The Turkish government outlawed the Kurdish language and forbade traditional Kurdish clothing. Even today Turkey does not recognize the Kurds as a minority group, classifying them instead as 'mountain Turks'. There were multiple Kurdish rebellions against the Turkish State, notably the Sheikh Said rebellion in 1925. A turning point for the Turkish Kurds was the Zilan massacre of July 1930.

In 1924, the Turkish government put forth a plan to relocate Kurds living in the eastern regions of the country. In response, Kurdish nationalist groups declared an independent Republic of Ararat in that region. Kurdish leaders even made appeals to the League of Nations. In response, the government decided to begin military operations against the region in 1930, with the goal of cleansing the region of Kurds entirely. On July 13, about 15,000 Kurds were killed.

In more modern history, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has emerged as the primary Kurdish rebel group in Turkey and Iraq. The PKK, a Marxist organization, was founded in 1978. They recruited thousands of young Kurds to fight in guerrilla units against Turkish forces and from 1984 to 1993, the PKK, led by Abdullah Ocalan, began an armed offensive against Turkish military targets. While the PKK have primarily been active in Turkey, per historical records, the organization extends into Iraq, Syria, and

Iran and in response to their engagement in the region, the Turkish State led a series of counter insurgency operations against the Kurds, escalating the fighting.

In 1998, Ocalan was forced to leave Syria and was eventually arrested in Kenya and brought to Turkey, triggering massive Kurdish protests. Ocalan is still considered the de-facto leader of the PKK, though he remains incarcerated. From 1999 to 2003 the PKK was relatively inactive, claiming a commitment to nonviolent support of Kurdish rights. In 2004, the PKK resumed armed fighting against Turkish forces. 2012 was the most violent year of the conflict to date, with at least 541 individuals losing their lives, leading the Turkish government to begin talks with Ocalan regarding a ceasefire.

On April 25, 2012, a ceasefire was announced, and the PKK agreed to leave Turkey. Kurdish militants began to move into Iraq, which became a process that further increased tensions between Turkey and Baghdad. While promising, the peace process was fraught with tension and by 2015, had fallen apart, largely due to tensions with Syria and Syrian Kurds. In 2014, the Siege of Kobani pushed unprecedented numbers of Kurdish refugees into Turkey, generating tensions with the Turkish State resulting in widespread Kurdish riots, and in 2015, the Suruc bombing further escalated tensions. The attack, perpetrated by ISIS, killed 33 activists and a Turkish operation in response targeted PKK militants in Iraq and Syria, effectively ending the 2012 ceasefire. Turkey's future as a member of the European Union (EU) hinges on their ability to achieve a long-term resolution with the Kurds. Kurdish populations have also played a significant role in Syria. As in Turkey, the Syrian Kurdish population has consistently been mistreated.

Many Kurds in Syria have been stripped of their Syrian citizenship, making it impossible to access an education, acquire adequate jobs, own property, get married, and perhaps most importantly, participate in politics. In 2004, the People's Protection Units (YPG) were formed in response to further oppression by the Syrian government. Throughout the Syrian Civil War, the YPG sought initially to defend Kurdish areas, yet in 2012, they took a more offensive stance when the al-Nursa Front attacked al-Ayn, a Kurdish majority town. Since then, the YPG has been an important force in fighting against fundamentalists within the civil war. In Iraq, Kurds have faced similar repression. The Kurds allied themselves with Iran in the Iran-Iraq Wars of the 1980s

after Iraq implemented anti-Kurdish policies, including the use of chemical weapons against the Kurds. International scholars have argued that the 'Al-Anfal Campaign' against the Kurds constituted genocide. Saddam Hussein's government continued to clash with the Kurds until 1991, when Iraqi forces withdrew, leaving a semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. This region has been ruled by the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), yet his autonomous region has been fraught with controversy in the international community. Turkey is vehemently against the region, which has frequently become a base of operations for the PKK.

## Timeline

1920	The Treaty of Sevres is signed, dividing up the Ottoman Empire and creating an independent "Kurdistan" out of Turkish territory. Turkish military pushback against occupying forces means the agreement is never ratified.
1923	The Treaty of Lausanne is signed and ratified, splitting up the Kurds between Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Iraq.
1937–1938	The Dersim Rebellion occurs in response to Turkish resettlement efforts, prompting military repression and 20000 deaths.
1962	A special census serves to strip 20% of Syrian Kurds of their citizenship, leaving them and their descendants stateless.
1979	The Iranian Revolution occurs. While initially promising to support Kurdish aspirations for rights and autonomy, it fails to follow through with its word and the government kills 10,000 Kurds in a response to a Kurdish Rebellion.
1984	The PKK, a Kurdish terrorist group based in Turkey, launches its first attacks. The resulting war has caused up to 40000 deaths since 1984.
1988	The Iraqi government conducts the Anfal Campaign against its Kurds, killing 100000 and causing millions more to flee in what has since been recognized as genocide.
1991	The UN passes Resolution 688, which France, the UK, and the US use to justify no-fly zones over Iraq to protect Kurdish and Shia populations in the country until the Iraq War.
1994–1998	Iraqi Kurdish political parties fight a civil war that divided the country in two. The peace agreement ended the fighting but left the country divided under two administrations.
1995	35,000 Turkish troops enter Northern Iraq to attack PKK bases in the region.
1999	The leader of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan, is expelled from his base in Syria and eventually captured by the Turkish government.
2003	Iraqi Kurds fight with coalition forces against Saddam Hussein in Iraq.
2005	An informal referendum suggests 95% of Iraqi Kurds support independence.

## ***DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS***

### *Separatism*

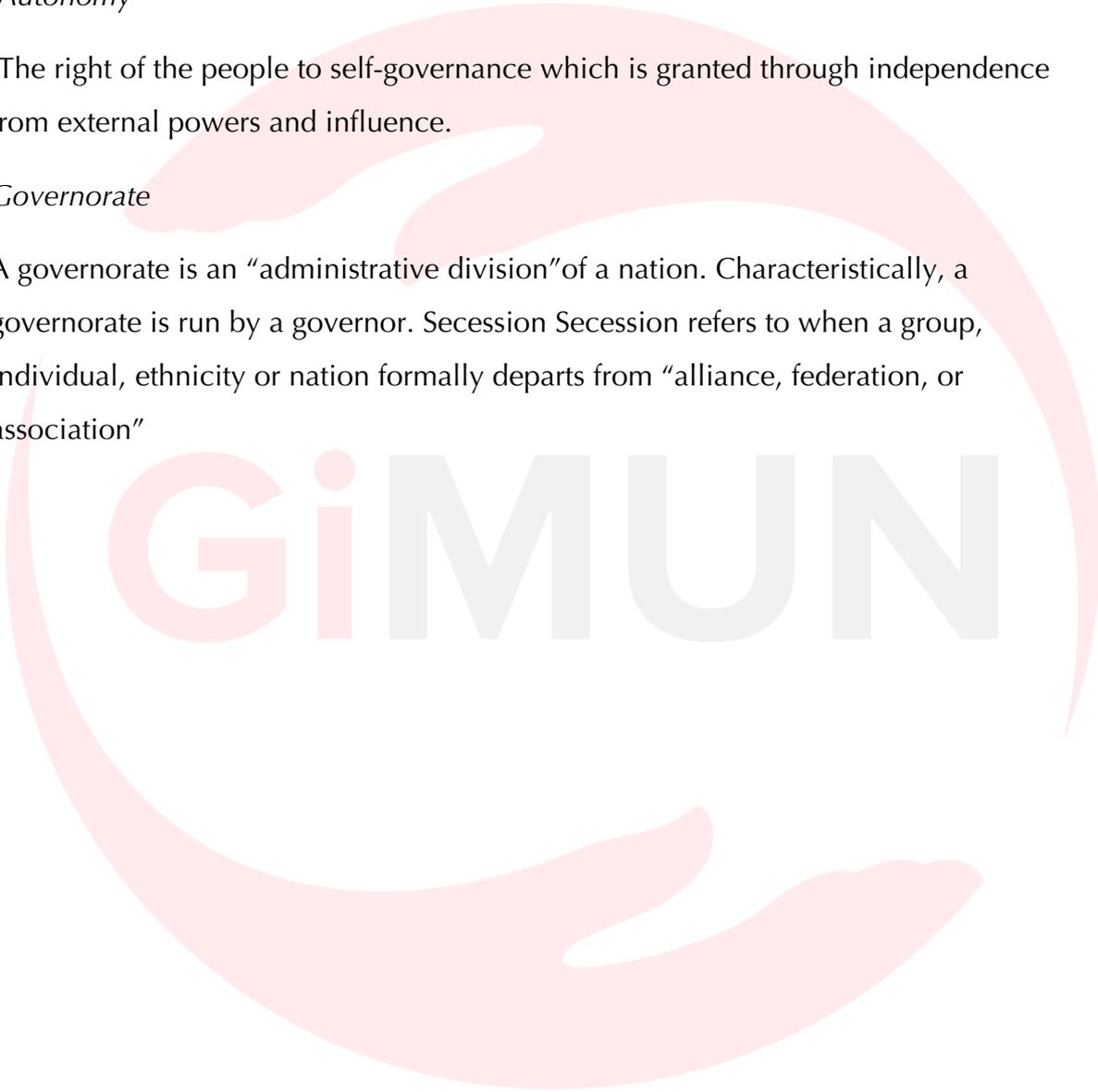
The will and support of separation of a number of people from a wider mass of people, community or society by reason of “ethnicity, religion or gender”

### *Autonomy*

The right of the people to self-governance which is granted through independence from external powers and influence.

### *Governorate*

A governorate is an “administrative division” of a nation. Characteristically, a governorate is run by a governor. Secession refers to when a group, individual, ethnicity or nation formally departs from “alliance, federation, or association”



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## ***STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM***

From the early days of the Iraqi republic until today's "American Iraq", the Kurds have consistently had to deal with three main issues:

- The relationship with Arab Iraq and the wider Arab world, and particularly the political currents upholding broader identities (pan-Arabism and Islamism)
- Relations with Turkey and to a lesser extent Iran
- and issues of democracy and governance.

Iraq's identity, its diversity and its relations with its neighbours have been crucial issues and a source of divergence between political and ideological currents throughout modern Iraq's history. But after decades of covert and overt ethnic and sectarian discrimination, they have become the foundation both of the ethnosectarian power-sharing and of the conflicts in post-2003 Iraq.

The Kurdish leadership has sought to prevent a repetition of past atrocities like the Anfal campaign by means of constitutional guarantees for a federal system designed to safeguard the de facto status of their region and its existing structure and balance of power.

In Iraq and in the wider Arab world, federalism has often been equated with sectarianism and partition. Yet other voices, such as Iraqi researcher Faleh Jabbar, have argued in favour of a federal solution to the Kurdish demands and a kind of "administrative federalism" to overcome past negligence, but against a Shiite "super region" in the south.

There is a need to overcome the worn-out patterns of suspicion and the rhetoric of "unity", and to acknowledge the failure of past approaches

Real opportunities for a peaceful settlement of the Kurdish question have been rare – this is definitively a new one, and it should not be forfeited. Any serious move towards

Kurdish independence would trigger armed conflict on several fronts and would mean hardship and renewed suffering for all sides. It is in everyone's interest, including that of the Kurds, to make the most of the present opportunity. A failure would be risky not only for Iraq, but also for the crucial relationship with Turkey and Iran. The Kurdistan Region could become the scene of another round of conflict, in particular if the tensions between the United States and Iran were to turn into open confrontation



## ***Cautious relations with Teheran***

Although Iran faces a similar Kurdish insurgency, led by the PJAK (Parti Jiyani Azadi Kurdistan, Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan), an offshoot of the PKK, Teheran did not side with Ankara in the autumn 2007 crisis but instead urged Ankara to find a peaceful solution. Iran's Foreign Minister and his Syrian counterpart both pledged help to defuse the crisis.

Again in contrast to Ankara, the government in Teheran has recognized the Kurdistan Regional Government and in November 2007 even opened consulates in Arbil and Sulaimaniya. There are several reasons for this difference of attitude and approach. Iraqi Kurdish parties have had links with Iran for several decades, extending from the support of the Shah for Mustafa Barzani, the father of today's KDP leader, to the war alliance between the PUK, the KDP and Teheran in the 1980s..

## ***Kurdish-ISIS Conflict in Syria***

In the 1980s, the Syrian government encouraged its Kurdish inhabitants to join the cause of the Kurdish separatist movement, known as the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), based in Turkey and Iraq, as a way of quelling local Kurdish nationalist aspirations within its own borders. The PKK's influence spread south from Turkey and Kurdish control of Syria began in 2012, when the People's Protection Units (YPG), a Kurdish paramilitary group dating from roughly 2004, under the influence of a Syrian PKK subset, began erecting checkpoints and claiming land in Northern Syria's Kobane, Afrin, Amuda and al-Malikiyah provinces.

It has remained in Northern Syria throughout the civil war, and is currently using its forces to combat ISIS. The YPG is made up of almost 50,000 fighters including the Women's Protection Units, and in addition to its combat troops, has a military intelligence branch that gathers information about ISIS, a "special forces" unit tasked with operating behind enemy lines, and an anti-terror unit.

The YPG units are renowned for their combination of ideology and moral resolve, as well as an excellence in guerilla warfare and strong tactical leadership. This mix of

drive, training and unconventional war strategy has made them a strong match for a decentralized group like ISIS. Currently, ISIS controls large swathes of land in central and Eastern Syria, including important cities such as Raqqa and Palmyra. However, its total territory shrank by nearly a quarter of its original size in both Iraq and Syria from January 2016 to December 2016, thanks in large part to Kurdish intervention (Figures 1 and 2). Because of a US-approved alliance with a group of Syrian Arabs called the Syrian Democratic Forces, the YPG has reclaimed strategic ISIS strongholds and portions of its own territory. Their effectiveness has allowed them to reclaim over 17,000 miles of ISIS-controlled land.

The YPG has been internationally considered one of the most effective forces currently combatting ISIS, and has gained the backing, albeit not outright political support, of the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union. Russia has insisted that the Kurds be more involved in the Syrian peace talks taking place in the United Nations Security Council, as it believes all ethnic groups and political factions should have a voice in the settling of this issue. Meanwhile, the United States and European Union, despite Kurdish military funding and armament coming from the former, have been more cautious towards the involvement of Kurdish input in UN negotiations, likely seeking to sidestep the issue of an autonomous Kurdish state.

Despite its combative success, response to the YPG's conquests has not been entirely positive. Turkey has prevented Kurdish representatives from participating in the Syrian peace talks, and has openly admitted to bombing ISIS fighters and YPG militia indiscriminately, as it feels threatened by an emboldened PKK, which ended a ceasefire with Turkey in 2015 and reopened a violent conflict to establish a Kurdish state. Disregarding the international community's urges for it to desist, Turkey has stated that it will continue to bomb the YPG if it believes the YPG poses a threat by supporting the PKK's agenda. While the YPG has not stated outright that it is an extension of the PKK, it does share aspirations with the latter to establish an autonomous democratic confederation.

## ***United Nations and International Involvement***

While the United Nations has rarely taken actions of intervention regarding the Kurdish separatist movement, many human rights resolutions are in place that have assisted the people

during the sometimes-violent transition. The UN has historically been involved with the Kurdish separatist movement when it was being heavily debated in Iraq. The UN Security Council passed UNSC Resolution 688 on April 5, 1991, which condemned Iraq's repression of human rights and demanded that the Member State ends such actions.

In addition, the Security Council encouraged Iraq to allow humanitarian organizations to enter the country and assist with humanitarian aid. Furthermore, Iraq was required to report the Kurdish population that had been oppressed by the current regime and the UNSC then used this resolution to declare Iraqi no-fly zones.

In 2004, there was an attempted referendum by the Kurdish people regarding the separatist movement. Although the UN wasn't actively involved and was simply called upon, the issue was further propagated. A petition, which called for a referendum for independence, was

signed by 1.7 million Kurds, and this was then given to the UN Security Council.

However, this referendum was not supported by the Kurdistan Democratic Party or the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, causing issues amongst the Kurdish people. This referendum never passed.

No more resolutions specific to the issue have been incredibly successful, but efforts to uphold human rights have been actively pursued by the UN.

## **Bloc Positions**

### United States

The United States currently has two major goals in the Middle East: to preserve stability and ensure access to oil. This desire to maintain stability is evidenced by the USA's relative reluctance to support Arab Spring revolutions. Historically, the US has hinted at support for the Kurds numerous times (such as after the Gulf War in 1991) but rarely followed through. The US does not, at present, claim to support an independent Kurdistan, but that may change if it considers autonomous or independent regions for Kurds as a path to eventual greater stability and oil sufficiency. Human rights for Kurds and the USA's historic support for self-determination of nations and ethnicities must also be considered.

### Other Western Nations

Other Western nations share the USA's concern for continued stability in the Middle East, seeking to avoid another outbreak of violence in the region. Some groups have been assertive in pressing Kurdish rights – the EU has made it a key issue for Turkey to resolve in accession negotiations.

### Nations with Significant Ethnic Minorities

Because of the precedent an independent Kurdistan would set for other stateless ethnic nations, some countries (China, Russia, and Pakistan, among others) may be hesitant to support an independent or autonomous Kurdistan. These countries, however, wish to avoid being seen as obstructing human rights and may support action taken on Kurdistan so long as it does not directly affect them.

### Iran

Iranian Kurdistan is also called Rojhelat and borders with Turkey and Iraq. To this day, the relationship between the Kurds of western Iran and the Iranian government remains tense. As of 2015, the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) is an active political and

militant organization, based on the Iraq-Iran border that is pushing for Kurdish autonomy in the Iranian provinces of Kordestan, Kermanshah and West Azerbaijan.

It is an Iranian Kurdish guerrilla group formed in 2004 as an offshoot of the Turkish PKK, with whom it shares some bases and resources in Iraqi Kurdistan. It claims to have three thousand fighters and has been designated a terrorist organization by both Iran and the United States, though reportedly, the United States and Israel had previously provided it with clandestine support.

In 2011, following a government offensive that killed hundreds of PJAK fighters, the group signed a cease-fire with Iran negotiated by Kurdistan Regional Government leader As a consequence of the Iraqi Kurdistan referendum, Iranian Kurds have grown more restless, giving the central government reason to send tanks to the area. They fear that their foes, Israel and Saudi Arabia, might use Kurdistan to cause unrest in Iran, and they also wish to contain the separatist pulls of other minorities.

## Iraq

The northern territories of Iraq are officially recognized as “the autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan” since 2005, when Masoud Barzani became president. The situation has been more or less stable in the following decade, with only some quarrels regarding some disputed territories. The important contribution of the Kurdish people in the fight against ISIL, however, has made it possible for nationalistic feelings to arise and to gain strength, and in 2017 a referendum for independence took place and passed with an overwhelming majority. Iraqi armed forces immediately occupied Kirkuk (rich oil fields) and Barzani preferred to resign

## Turkey

Turkey is the country in which the Kurdish presence is largest: about 18 million people. Their shared history is dramatic and violent; both sides have many reasons to be wary of each other. The most recent developments regard the Syrian war, in which the Turkish government has taken the side of the Syrian one (and is therefore against the Kurdish militias, allied with USA, Canada, UK, France, the Netherlands and Israel),

and the stiffening of Erdogan's policies, who has even suggested attacking a Kurdish enclave in northern Syria to "purge the Turkish southern border from terror".

In apparent contradiction to this line of thought, the current Turkish government is also pursuing a conciliatory policy with Iraqi Kurdistan. This is due to the fact that Turkey needs their oil and natural gas in order not to rely entirely on Russian resources for their economic growth.

## Syria

The Kurds in Syria played a central role both in the civil war and in the war against ISIL, probably hoping that their participation will be taken into account and that their claims over the territories of northeastern Syria (Rojava) will be recognized. In fact, the area of Rojava has nearly tripled while fighting ISIL in 2015. The YPG (Kurdish People's Protection Units), along with the KNC (Kurdish National Council) are the most prominent political parties in Kurdish Syria, and are considered terrorist groups by Ankara because they are seen as an extension of the PKK. Acts of ethnic cleansing have been reported. By expelling Arabs and other ethnic groups the Kurds could claim the areas.

Moreover, in the areas controlled by Kurdish fighters several US bases were created without the consent of the Syrian government violating thus international laws.

See more: <https://www.globalresearch.ca/u-s-coalition-cleansing-raqqa-ofarabs-to-expand-kurdish-autonomous-region/5595558>

[http://orientnews.net/en/news\\_show/138956/0/AAs-map-of-US-bases-in-Syria-infuriates-Penatg](http://orientnews.net/en/news_show/138956/0/AAs-map-of-US-bases-in-Syria-infuriates-Penatg)

## ***Questions A Resolution Must Answer***

1. What role should the international community take in the Kurdish question, insofar as it concerns international stability?
2. What actions should countries with Kurdish populations take to ensure human and political rights are protected? How can the UN influence the countries to take these actions?
3. How can fighting between the PKK and countries in the region be stopped? What role can the international community have in ending the warfare?
4. In the event of future warfare or military campaigns such as Anfal, what steps should the UN take to protect civilians?
5. What political state (autonomy, independence, the status quo) would most improve the prosperity and stability of Kurdistan and the region in the long term?
6. Would the instability of Kurdish regions transitioning to autonomy or independence be greater than the instability the status quo has caused and continues to cause?
7. Should the UN take different approaches to Kurdish populations and aspirations in each country? If so, what should these approaches be?

## Additional Resources

<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/> <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter5.shtml>

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/k/kurds/index.html>

[http://www.rusi.org/downloads/assets/Turkey\\_terrorism.pdf](http://www.rusi.org/downloads/assets/Turkey_terrorism.pdf)

<http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/workingdocs/doc06/edoc11006.htm>

<http://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/the-factors-behind-rebellion-in-iranian-kurdistan>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE13/088/2008/en/d140767b-5e45-11dd-a592-c739f9b70de8/mde130882008eng.pdf>

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/05/17/irans\\_kurdish\\_question](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/05/17/irans_kurdish_question)

<http://www.tesev.org.tr/Upload/Publication/d947a015-9505-421c-ae1d-c1c058e7d4a7/Report%20on%20Kurdish%20Question.pdf>



The logo features the word "GIMMUN" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "G" is a light pink color, while the letters "IMMUN" are a light grey color. The text is centered within a large, light pink circular graphic that resembles a hand holding a globe. The hand is positioned at the bottom, with fingers curved upwards to support the globe. The background of the globe is a very light pink color.

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