

December 26, 2025

**PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ON TURKISH CIVIL WAR**

**FOR CONGRESSIONAL USE ONLY**

TO ALL CONGRESSMEN AND CONGRESSWOMEN:

Good afternoon, and Merry Christmas to those who celebrate.

Unfortunately, it seems that the holiday spirit cannot be found within all of us. In the previous few weeks, the Republic of Turkiÿe has fallen into mass disarray following a magnitude 7.7 earthquake striking near the historic city of Antalya. While the situation in the country was originally tame, failure to effectively respond to the disaster by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has left the population entirely dissatisfied with his regime, leading to mass revolts that spiraled into a violent conflict. As of 12:23PM U.S. Eastern Time on December 26, 2025, President Erdoğan has declared a state of “total civil war”, plunging the country into a war that may hold European and NATO stability in the balance.

**There are three critical aspects of this issue that must be effectively analyzed and addressed to clearly resolve the situation:**

**1. War in Turkiÿe & Parties Involved**

One faction which has opposed Erdoğan’s regime for over a decade, the Republican People’s Party, originally seized the moment of confusion and anger to launch several military operations against the Republic of Turkiÿe, supported by several thousand soldier defectors of the Turkish Army as well as their equipment. **The Party follows democratic ideals that align closely with the establishment of a new government based on the idea of natural liberties.** This new group has found large support throughout the country and is growing stronger each day as more defectors join their forces. The party’s makeshift army, now known as the Republican Guard, has taken significant portions of the Republic’s southwestern area, with operations being based in Antalya.

Amidst the chaos, however, the Kurdish people have taken advantage of the situation and begun their own invasion of Eastern Turkiÿe. This group has been oppressed for decades, and, due to the nation lacking a sovereign state, has therefore set their sights on capturing and holding parts of the Republic of Turkiÿe for their own people. The Kurdish population is estimated to range between 35 and 40 million people, making it no small group in this fight. As far as American Intelligence Assessments can gather, the sole purpose of the Kurdish Insurgency is to establish a homeland for the Kurdish people, and the insurgency believes the only way of accomplishing this goal is through the capitulation of the Turkish Government.

The Turkish Government and Army has lost significant territory in the process, with the remnants of the Armed Forces being pushed back towards the nation’s capital of Ankara. However, the capital city is heavily fortified by terrain and manmade defenses. Consequently, any successful attempt to take Ankara by insurgent forces is likely to take several weeks, and the near-term capitulation of the Turkish Government is therefore unlikely.

**In response, the Turkish Navy launched an eastern counteroffensive, deemed Operation Iron Crescent, against the Kurdish Insurgency.** More details can be found in the Department of War’s briefing.

It’s important to note that as of yesterday evening, **the leaders of both the Kurdish Insurgency and the Republican Guard have signed off on a military alliance**, putting both parties directly at odds with the Turkish Government. As a result, U.S. Intelligence Services suggests that the two forces are currently attempting to meet in the southern part of the country before jointly marching on Ankara.

I highly suggest that each and every one of you take a deep look into further battle reports forwarded to you by the Department of War, which contains more critical information on the situation in Turkiÿe as well as a visualization of the crisis. These reports are the most recent that we have and were directly provided by United States Navy reconnaissance missions launched from the Mediterranean Sea.

There is one last major military operation that I suggest demands immediate attention. **As of this morning, the Battle of Istanbul is underway** following a large airstrike by the Turkish Air Force. The battle is being fought by Greek, Bulgarian, and Turkish forces in the west of the city, and Republican Guard forces in the east. Control of the Bosphorus Strait, the Black Sea’s only entry point, is currently undecided. See Sections 2 and 3 as well as the Department of War’s briefing for more details.

**2. Root Causes of the Crisis, American Involvement, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

A significant root of this crisis can be found within President Erdoğan’s extremist and restrictive policies, most of which have sent the country on a path to becoming an authoritarian state. For the past eleven years, his policies have restricted freedom and liberties, censored the press and internet, placed political opponents under arrest, and more. **Because of these policies and the resulting conflict, it is now my opinion that the Republic of Turkiÿe must not be considered a formal ally of the United States of America. I have personally ordered the immediate evacuation of all American Citizens and State Department workers in Turkiÿe. However, it is up to Congressional discretion whether or not to support the Turkish Army’s efforts. I urge you to choose the option that most aligns with American ideals and what our great nation stands for.**

Regardless, in a desperate attempt to regain control of his country’s situation, Erdoğan announced the invocation of Article V of the NATO Treaty in order to receive external help in squashing the rebellions. However, due to Erdoğan’s consistent lack of support for the organization, only Bulgaria and Greece have mobilized forces in support of the Turkish Government. Said forces are currently fighting alongside stranded Turkish Army forces in the Battle of Istanbul.

**No other NATO member nation has expressed interest in supporting the Turkish Army, primarily due to Erdoğan’s aforementioned policies that heavily disagree with western ideology. In turn, due to a lack of support, Turkiÿe,** **Bulgaria and Greece have left the alliance entirely, citing lack of unity and perpetual weakness. Romania, North Macedonia, and Albania are all currently considering departing the now fragile alliance as well.** This mass exodus of nations from NATO is pushing the alliance to the verge of collapse. Immediate action by the United States and its closest allies are required to have a chance at keeping the organization together.

**3. Broader Implications of the Conflict on the World Stage**

Erdoğan’s declaration of total war has resulted in a significant fall in Turkish exports to foreign countries, with Germany, the United Kingdom, and several other European nations among the hardest hit by the lack of trade. In turn, Germany’s and the United Kingdom’s military strength are slightly reduced as military spending has been cut down. **This may be important if further NATO involvement were to be considered down the line.**

Perhaps most important is this conflict’s implications on the War in Ukraine. For several months, Ukrainian and Russian forces have been deadlocked in a stalemate. In an effort to accelerate Russian offensive efforts in Ukraine, American Intelligence suggests that Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking to supplant the Russian Navy’s Black Sea presence with military vessels of other Russian naval fleets around the world. Doing so, however, requires the passage of the aforementioned vessels through the Bosphorus Strait to reach the Ukrainian battlefront. Given the conflict, successful passage of these vessels is unlikely until fighting around Istanbul ceases. If Istanbul and the Bosphorus falls into the hands of the Turkish Army, it is extremely likely that passage of the Russian naval vessels will be allowed. **Therefore, it is absolutely paramount that the Battle of Istanbul is won by the Republican Guard against Greek, Bulgarian, and Turkish forces to prevent the passage of Russian naval vessels and further escalation in the War in Ukraine.**

Do note that this poses a precarious question: will the United States support a war against its former allies (Greek, Bulgaria, Turkey) to prevent escalation in Ukraine? Is the risk for an international diplomatic failure too great? I ask that you consider all options when determining the answer to this question.

**IN SUMMARY:**

* The Republic of Turkiÿe is fighting a war on two fronts, one against the Republican Guard in the west and the Kurdish Insurgency in the east.
* The Kurdish Insurgency and Republican Guard are officially allies.
* The Turkish Government is unlikely to fully collapse and is launching a counteroffensive operation against the Kurdish Insurgency.
* Greek and Bulgarian forces are working closely with the Turkish Army to regain control of the nation.
* Greece, Bulgaria, and Turkey have seceded from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with Romania, Albania, and North Macedonia considering the option as well. NATO is therefore significantly weakened, and the alliance may collapse within months.
* The European economy is taking a large hit as a result of the war.
* Control of the Bosphorus Strait and the Black Sea will be determined by the outcome of the Battle of Istanbul, with broader implications for other conflicts such as the War in Ukraine.

Effective immediately, I am issuing an order for all members of Congress to return to Washington D.C. in order to address the pressing situation. My efforts to quell the situation have failed, so it is up to this body of leaders to make the right decision and stop the violence from growing. I am monitoring the situation closely from the Situation Room. I am wishing you the best of luck.

Sincerely,

President Donald J. Trump

