



1.3.3. Türkiye

Türkiye's military presence in Syria was established in 2016.²⁸⁹ Sources varyingly estimated that there were some 10 000²⁹⁰ or 20 000 Turkish troops in Syria,²⁹¹ based in the country's north, including around Afrin, Ras Al-Ain and Tell Abyad.²⁹² The Turkish parliament in October 2025 approved a three-year extension of military deployments in the country.²⁹³ In February 2026, the Turkish government acknowledged its active military support for the Syrian transitional government's offensive against the SDF (deemed a 'terrorist'-linked organisation by Turkish officials) and emphasised that Turkish forces would not withdraw from Syria in the foreseeable future, invoking national security concerns.²⁹⁴

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CATS, Visualising Turkey's Foreign Policy Activism (Update) [Map], 10 December 2025, [url](#)

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STJ, Northern Syria: Communication to UN Special Procedures Regarding Ongoing Violations of Property Rights in the Operation Peace Spring Area, 5 August 2025, [url](#)

- ²⁹¹

CATS, Visualising Turkey's Foreign Policy Activism (Update) [Map], 10 December 2025, [url](#)

- ²⁹²

STJ, Northern Syria: Communication to UN Special Procedures Regarding Ongoing Violations of Property Rights in the Operation Peace Spring Area, 5 August 2025, [url](#)

- ²⁹³

New Arab (The), No exit in sight: Why Turkey is keeping troops in Syria and Iraq, 16 February 2026, [url](#)

- ²⁹⁴

Nordic Monitor, Turkey admits military support of Syria's new Islamist rulers while refusing to pull troops from Iraq, Syria, 2 March 2026, [url](#)