

His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

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President of the Republic of Turkey

Office of the President of the Republic of Turkey

T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Genel Sekreterliği

06689 Çankaya, Ankara

Republic of Turkey

cumhurbaskanligi@tccb.gov.tr

Sent via: Electronic mail

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Re: The Republic of Turkey withdrawing from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Situation involving the Kurdish fighters and the government of the Republic of Turkey

Situation in the Republic of Yemen

Situation involving completing the Ring Road Project in Afghanistan

His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,

I am sending you this letter in regard and pertaining to four situations that I would like to respectfully bring to your attention. The four situations that I would like to bring to your attention are: (1) the government of the Republic of Turkey withdrawing from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); (2) the situation between the government of the Republic of Turkey and the Kurdish fighters in Syria; (3) the situation in the Republic of Yemen; and (4) the situation involving completing the Ring Road Project in Afghanistan. After you or officials with your office review this communication that I am sending to you, I am hoping that the government of the Republic of Turkey will take appropriate action by making sure that the things that I am respectfully requesting in this letter to you are a part of the foreign policy objectives of the government of the Republic of Turkey.

I would like to first express to you my extreme opposition that I have with the government of the Republic of Turkey withdrawing from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It appears as if this has been done after your picture was put up on the enemies list, due to the actions of an asinine individual, during some type of military drill or exercise of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.¹ As you already know, the Republic of Turkey in 1952 joined as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and it appears as if the Republic of Turkey has not had major issues as it was a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. After the incident that involved your picture being put up on the enemies list by a non-NATO employee, the Secretary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, General Jens Stoltenberg, issued a statement in which he said: "I apologize for the offence caused." While I do understand your frustration about that incident, I do not believe that the government of the Republic of

¹ It has been reported that the individual or individuals that did decide to do this were not employees of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization but was or were instead employed as a Norwegian civil contractor.

Turkey should have withdrawn from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It could be possible that some type of foreign intelligence service that was acting against the interests of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in which could have been totally or somewhat behind that incident with the primary purpose as to ensuring that the government of the Republic of Turkey withdraws from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). I hope that the government of the Republic of Turkey will not allow that incident to negatively state the fate of the Republic of Turkey, with its long procedural history with being a participant in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), from being a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I believe that from a foreign policy perspective, that the government of the Republic of Turkey needs to ensure that the Republic of Turkey reconsiders its position as to this issue and that the country will re-join as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). I hope that this occurs and I am confident that it is possible for this to occur.

Second, it appears as if the government of the Republic of Turkey and some of the Kurdish fighters in Syria, those who are battling individuals that are a part of extremist entities that have committed a countless number of atrocities in Iraq and in Syria, have been in a constant hostile state with the government of the Republic of Turkey. For instance, it appears as if the government of the Republic of Turkey in Syria has been involved in attacking Kurdish fighters in Syria, many of whom are supported and are assisted by the government of the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and even by some other countries throughout the international community. Currently and in the past when looking at the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, Kurdish fighters have been known by the international community as to being one of the most effective force in the fight against militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Because this is true, it has been reported that officials with the United Nations, the United States and the European Union have requested to the government of the Republic of Turkey that it's forces use restraint from hostility when dealing with Kurdish fighters that are fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in Syria. I do agree with this standpoint and from a foreign policy standpoint, I believe that those Kurdish fighters should show restraint from engaging in hostility with the Republic of Turkey whenever they come into contact with an agent, officer, employee, military official or some other type of official or resident that is with or that is working with the government of the Republic of Turkey.

Since it does appear as if Kurdish fighters in Syria are fighting against individuals that are in extremist entities, in which are those that have and that are committing a countless number of atrocities both in Iraq and in Syria, I do not believe that it would be a wise decision for the government of the Republic of Turkey to continue to have a hostile foreign policy towards the Kurdish fighters or even for the Kurdish fighters in Syria to have a hostile foreign policy towards the Republic of Turkey.² I believe that officials with the government of the Republic of Turkey needs to send its representatives and that representatives of the Kurdish fighters in Syria, in which are being assisted by the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, and some other countries in our world, in which have a hostile foreign policy toward the Republic of Turkey, do need to work together for the purpose as to establishing and entering into some type of treaty or some type of peaceful settlement agreement. I have this stance on this issue because both parties engaging in guerilla warfare against one another, while at the same time both having somewhat mutual allies and both trying to fight against fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is not going to work as to truly being able to dismantle the Islamic

² This includes those groups of Kurdish fighters in which are being assisted by the European Union, the United Nations, the United States, and some other countries in our world.

State of Iraq and Syria or other extremist entities that are operating out of Iraq and Syria. Since the United States, the European Union and the United Nations are assisting some Kurdish fighters in Syria, in which is helping to stop the atrocities that are being committed by fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, I am extremely confident that a peaceful settlement being established between the government of the Republic of Turkey and Kurdish fighters in which are assisted by the United Nations, the European Union and the United States, is possible even though it may seem impossible. I would respectfully request that you and your office help make sure that becomes a reality.

Third, I would like to bring the situation in the Republic of Yemen to your attention. As you know, the Republic of Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East and it is involved in an extremely huge humanitarian crisis. A large number of children, young adults and older adults that reside in the Republic of Yemen have been known to have been subjected to malnutrition and diseases. Approximately 15 million people in the Republic of Yemen do not have access to clean water or other types of access of things in which they need in order to help ensure that they stay alive. According to Human Rights Watch, the Saudi Arabian led coalition's restrictions on imports to Yemen have resulted in the extremely concerning humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The restrictions have included delaying and diverting fuel tankers, closing a port or ports, and refusing to allow life-saving goods for the population from entering the seaports controlled by opposing Houthi-Saleh forces, according to Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch has also stated that Houthi-Saleh forces have also denied citizens of Yemen access to humanitarian aid in which has also contributed to harm on the civilian population of Yemen. I believe and I am respectfully requesting that the government of the Republic of Turkey help ensure that the countries that are a part of the Saudi-led coalition in the Republic of Yemen are in compliance with international humanitarian law by helping ensure that food, fuel, medicine and other life sustaining things that individuals need in order to survive, in which are destined for civilians, are only inspected by officials that are a participant in the blockade. Further, I hope that the government of the Republic of Turkey will help ensure that the inspected items in which are destined for civilians are not tremendously delayed to getting to the civilians that are in need and that those things will go directly to the civilians in which is the intended target for the humanitarian assistance.

Since it does appear as if the government of the Republic of Turkey has diplomatic relations with the government of the Republic of Yemen, the government of Saudi Arabia, and with other governments that are a part of the multi-country coalition that is conducting operations in the Republic of Yemen, I am hoping and I am respectfully requesting that the government of the Republic of Turkey gets involved in helping reform the situation in the Republic of Yemen. I hope and I am respectfully requesting that the government of the Republic of Turkey will do so by helping lead and being a participant in peace negotiations and ceasefire agreements. I hope and I am respectfully requesting that officials with the government of the Republic of Turkey will reach out to officials with the government of Saudi Arabia, the government of the Republic of Yemen and with and to other countries that are conducting operations in the Republic of Yemen, as to the things that they need to do to help ensure that the humanitarian crisis in the Republic of Yemen does not get worse. I hope and I am respectfully requesting that the government of the Republic of Turkey will help negotiate some type of a cease-fire treaty or some other type of agreement in which would mandate some type of restraint on military operations that are being conducted in the Republic of Yemen by the multi-coalition of countries, in which does include but is not limited to airstrikes and drone-strikes, that have and that are occurring in the Republic of Yemen. Specifically, I believe that this restraint treaty or agreement should be for all military

operations being conducted in the Republic of Yemen, so that it can be ensured that there is strict compliance with the laws of war as defined under international law. It is to my understanding that the laws of war as defined under international law mandates that governments of countries that are involved in some type of attack are doing so for military objectives. Military objectives to my knowledge and understanding according to international law are individuals and things that are contributing to an armed action in which its destruction, capture, or neutralization gives a benefit of a military advantage.³

It does appear that there have been a countless number of airstrikes and drone strikes in which have resulted in innocent civilians and their family members being killed in the Republic of Yemen. For instance, the United Nations Human Rights Spokesperson had stated that since December 6th of 2017 that airstrikes by the multi-country coalition in the Republic of Yemen have killed at least 136 civilians and non-combatants. This is not good and part of the reason why I believe that a lot of innocent civilians have been killed in the Republic of Yemen was and is due to the fact that there were not policies, practices or procedural safeguards in place that had the intent as to protecting non-combatants in the Republic of Yemen from being accidentally, and hopefully not deliberately targeted, by and through some type of military operation or some other type of armed attack. While I do believe that it is true that according to international law that civilians that were originally not “directly participating in hostilities” but that did decide to directly participate in hostilities do lose their immunity from being subjected to a military attack, I however do strongly believe that the government of the Republic of Turkey needs to help ensure that innocent civilians and their families are not targeted and that the multi-country coalition will help establish policies, practices and procedural safeguards that will distinguish combatants from non-combatants. I believe that in cases where innocent civilians and their families are targeted either accidentally or deliberately, I do believe that event could be the result as to civilians retaliating in response to them or their family members being targeted. One could imagine that retaliation could include those individuals making sure that they are a direct participant in hostilities, even when they originally were not doing so before, for the purpose as to trying to get revenge for them or their family members being wrongfully targeted.

I hope that you understand that some individuals and even some human rights organizations in our world believe that countries that commit airstrikes or even drone strikes in foreign countries are committing violations of international law. While that could somewhat be true to some extent and under certain circumstances, reports of innocent non-combatant civilians and their families dying due to the situation in the Republic of Yemen, does give fuel to legal assertions that are in support of individuals and entities, in which they have made concerning violations of international law occurring, as it pertains to airstrikes and even drone strikes. The airstrikes and even the drone strikes that have occurred in the Republic of Yemen have accidentally targeted many innocent civilians, their family members, and those military attacks through military operations have also occurred against hospitals, educational institutions, houses of worship, and homes in which were hopefully accidental and not deliberate. I believe that those incidents are and could be a violation of the laws of war as defined under

³ While it may be true that during an armed conflict that some civilians are inevitable when and during an armed conflict occurs, I believe that it is imperative for governments of countries around the world to set policies, practices and procedural safeguards to help ensure that combatants are distinguished from innocent civilians and their families and that their government operations only have the purpose as to targeting military objectives as defines under the laws of war pursuant to international law and that the laws of war as defined under international law is abided by.

international law. It is to my knowledge and understanding that the laws of war as defined under international law are supposed to protect civilian objects, things that are not military objectives, from being attacked. I believe that the government of the Republic of Turkey needs to help ensure and be an openly proud advocate for the establishment by the multi-country coalition of policies, practices and procedural safeguards and its enforcement, in which will have the purpose as to protecting innocent civilians, their families inside and outside of their residences, and helping to ensure that things that are not military objectives in which include but is not limited to hospitals, educational institutions, houses of worship, and homes are protected from harm. I am confident that if the government of the Republic of Turkey will help be an advocate and helped to ensure that policies, practices and procedural safeguards were in place as to this issue, as well as its enforcement of such policies, practices and procedural safeguards, I believe that would be beneficial to help achieve the stability of the Republic of Yemen and I believe that if this occurred, I believe that that their would be a great probability that the Republic of Yemen would reform into a "more perfect union."

The last situation and issue that I would like to bring to your attention is in regard and pertaining to the uncompleted Ring Road Project⁴ that sadly the United States did not have the opportunity to completely finish. To help ensure that you understand what the Ring Road Project was and is when looking at the procedural history of Afghanistan, I hope that you know that the United States invaded Afghanistan approximately 16 years ago. After the government of the United States invaded Afghanistan, the Taliban were mostly driven out of that country. During the armed conflict, it appears that roads, educational institutions, homes, places of worship, and hospitals were destroyed. Since the armed conflict had a devastating effect on Afghanistan, the United States and other countries partnered by providing financial assistance into helping rebuild Afghanistan. One priority of the government of the United States during the rebuilding phase of Afghanistan was a project on rebuilding the Ring Road in Afghanistan. The Ring Road was supposed to be a 3,200 kilometer loop around Afghanistan in which was supposed to have the purpose of connecting its four largest cities together and helping ensure that the population were able to travel freely, without delay and helping to ensure that isolated communities that live in Afghanistan were connected to the rest of the country.

While I am certainly not putting blame on any government of any country for the Ring Road Project not being completed in Afghanistan, I do believe that this unfinished Ring Road Project should be completed and I am respectfully requesting that the government of the Republic of Turkey works as to helping ensure that is a reality. There are so many positive consequences that would occur once the Ring Road Project is completed. If the Ring Road Project is not completed, I am extremely concerned that there is a possibility that the government of Afghanistan could fail and could fall in the wrong hands. I am hoping that the international community will ensure that will not occur. If the government of Afghanistan does fail then one could imagine how many negative and not positive consequences that would have on the international community and international security concerns that would arise.

In conclusion, I am hoping as a handsome 22 year old that you and your office will help ensure that everything that I have respectfully requested in my letter to you will become foreign policy objectives of the government of the Republic of Turkey. While I do believe that my letter to you has covered a lot of different situations that have and that are occurring in our world, I am extremely confident that the government of the Republic of Turkey will look through everything that I have

⁴ <https://www.vox.com/world/2018/1/11/16878056/afghanistan-us-fail-war-taliban>

brought to the attention of and in which I have respectfully requested the government of the Republic of Turkey to be involved in, in which are needed in our world will hopefully become a reality. Even if those reforms as listed in my letter to you may take time to accomplish, I am extremely confident that the reforms that I have listed will be of benefit by having positive consequences occur in our world. Even if reforms will take time to accomplish, I believe that those reforms that in the long run will have more positive consequences than negative ones may need to be considered by the international community, so long as the proposed reform or reforms are reasonable. I believe that whenever reforms are needed to be made in our world, I believe that society needs to discuss those reforms that will have the primary purpose as to making our world a more perfect union, as listed in this letter to you. Thank you for turning your attention to this communication.


Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith⁵

⁵ www.isaiahxsmith.com