

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

William Wordsworth, 1807



A Detour into discussing
Uighyurs, Iran and Greece in the
news this week.

(but the weather has been so beautiful this week!

I kept thinking of the Wordsworth phrase and shared it with
my ISU students this week (no one recognized it), but I like it.

October 6, 2022



China: Xinjiang vote failure betrays core mission of UN Human Rights Council

Responding to the United Nations Human Rights Council's rejection – by 19 votes to 17 with 11 abstentions – of a draft decision to hold a debate on China's Xinjiang region, Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnes Callamard said:

“Today's vote protects the perpetrators of human rights violations rather than the victims – a dismaying result that puts the UN's main human rights body in the farcical position of ignoring the findings of the UN's own human rights office.

“The [recent report on Xinjiang by the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) was an important step forward in addressing crimes against humanity and other serious human rights violations committed by the Chinese government in Xinjiang, yet today the UN has taken two steps back.

- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/china-xinjiang-vote-failure-betrays-core-mission-of-un-human-rights-council/>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/10/human-rights-council-adopts-21-texts-and-rejects-one-draft-decision-extends-mandates>

In favour (17): Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea, Somalia, United Kingdom and United States.

Against (19): Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Abstentions (11): Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Brazil, Gambia, India, Lybia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico and Ukraine.

Detour 1. The depressing UN vote on the human rights situation in Xinjiang.

I put in the UN vote and its pretty discouraging. The UN Human Rights Agency itself had evaluated the situation as a human rights disaster bordering of cultural genocide, but the Committee voted not to act on the report.

I think this is in part a reflection of where China's financial and BRI diplomacy has bought it credit in other countries, as well as countries in general not wanting interference in domestic affairs. But its also a vote of non-compliance with the West and I think influenced by frustration with the NATO-Russia situation in Ukraine.

At any event, will not be good for the Uighyurs or other groups facing persecution.

Detour 2: The Greece – Turkey Spat Continues

(Oct 7th dinner in Prague for EU leaders a hostess nightmare)

⋮ [Show replies](#)

 **Haskydoc** @haskydoc · Oct 7
Replying to @georgvh and @kmitsotakis
Anyone ever considers why Turkey participates in European meetings? They are not in Europe.

1 1 16

 **ze** @sheisspeaking · Oct 7
Replying to @haskydoc @georgvh and @kmitsotakis
Ask it to Europe. Why are they inviting Turkiye to meetings 😊?

1 5

 **Georg von Harrach**
@georgvh · [Follow](#)

Greek PM @kmitsotakis overheard this morning after reports of a stormy exchange with Turkish President at European Political Community #EPC

"Stood up and said to Erdogan...in your face"

 [Watch on Twitter](#)

4:30 AM · Oct 7, 2022

 [Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

Actually not a responsible quote here (he said "If I have something to say I will say it to your face")

At the dinner Erdogan made an unexpected “speech” on Greek actions in the Aegean, the Greek Prime Minister walked out and was misquoted in the press, and none of this was an inspiring show of NATO solidarity. Typical responses on Twitter illustrate the hostility towards Turkey, which had applied to the EU in 1999 and has been waiting ever since.

Why the delay in EU membership? Officially, the EU expresses concern with whether or not the Turkish military is truly civilian led and concern with the rights of ethnic minorities, like the Kurds, to preserve their culture. Also the EU has some concerns with the rights of religious minorities. In addition, many of the new right-wing populists in Europe argue that Europe is a “Christian” community. (the right-wing populists parties getting more power since the refugee crisis began in 2015).

What are the Issues between Greece and Turkey?

- The Cyprus Issue.
- The F-35 Issue (Greece has them, Turkey denied them by Congress)
- Turkey under sanctions for purchasing Russian S-400 anti aircraft system, but Greece has Russian S-300 system...
- The 2022 refugee issue, the 1922 refugee issue...(Smyrna still an issue and it's the 100th anniversary)
- The drilling and boundary issues in the Mediterranean

Greece Can Help Ukraine by Sending its Russian S300s, US General Says

By Tasos Kokkinidis March 15, 2022

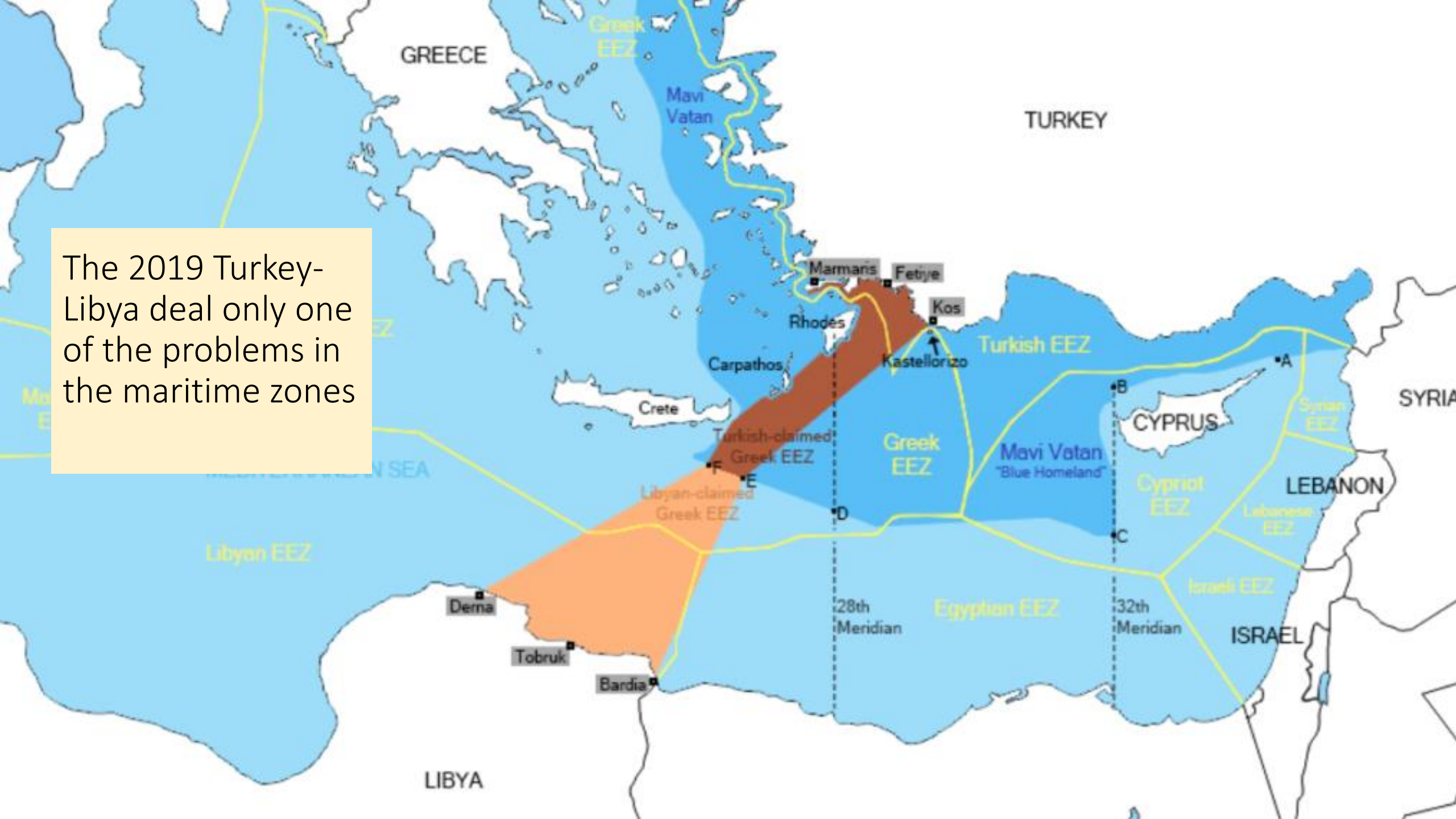


This is a 2014 map, now that Syria is settling down and gas prices are up there is a renewed push to open fields and explore for new fields.

Oil and natural gas fields in the Eastern Mediterranean Region



The 2019 Turkey-Libya deal only one of the problems in the maritime zones



Turkey – Libya and the Exploration Zones

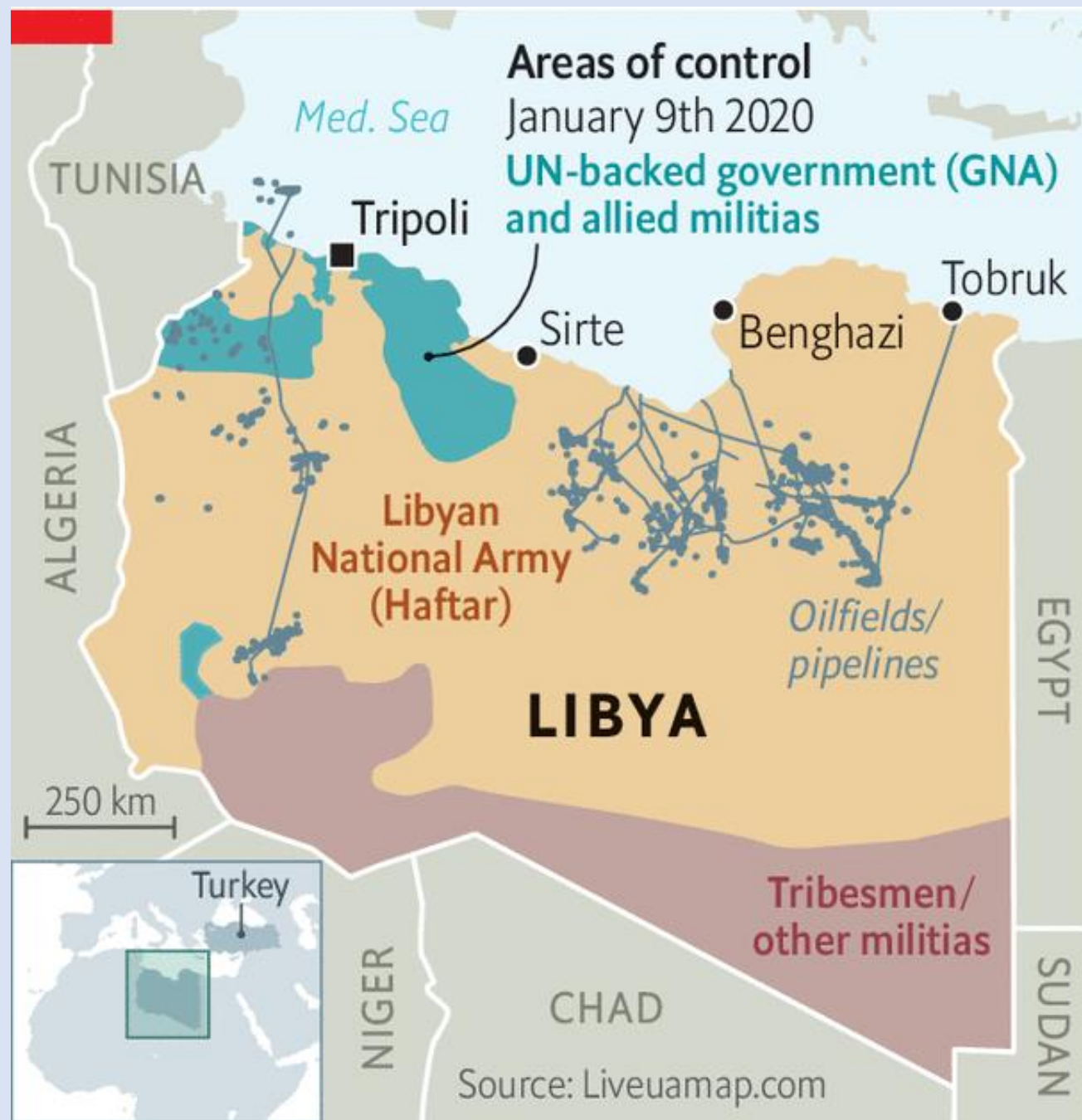
The 2019 agreement between Turkey and the UN recognized government of Libya based in Tripoli was controversial for two big reasons: first, the proposed swath of seabed cuts right through zones that the Greek government regards as its Exclusive Economic Zones (see the white lines on the slide previously), and second, Libya is in the midst of a civil war which in 2019 was in full swing. The UN recognized govt in Tripoli won elections and is supported by Turkey, but the Eastern city of Benghazi was the base for the opposition which actually controlled most of the territory. The Benghazi opposition led by Haftar, had support from the French, the UAE, the Italians, the Russians, and was at a minimum, tolerated by the US where Haftar regularly woos Congress. Note the oil fields in each sector.

In 2019 there was a significant shift as Haftar, with the help of the Wagner mercenary group (Russian) attempted for a final push toward Tripoli. Turkey began to supply Tripoli with drones and the Benghazi govt prevailed.

The seabed agreement was seen by the opposition as the payment for drone support.

Since 2013 Turkey has supported the UN recognized transitional government, France and Russia (and some others, had backed Haftar's revolt in Benghazi

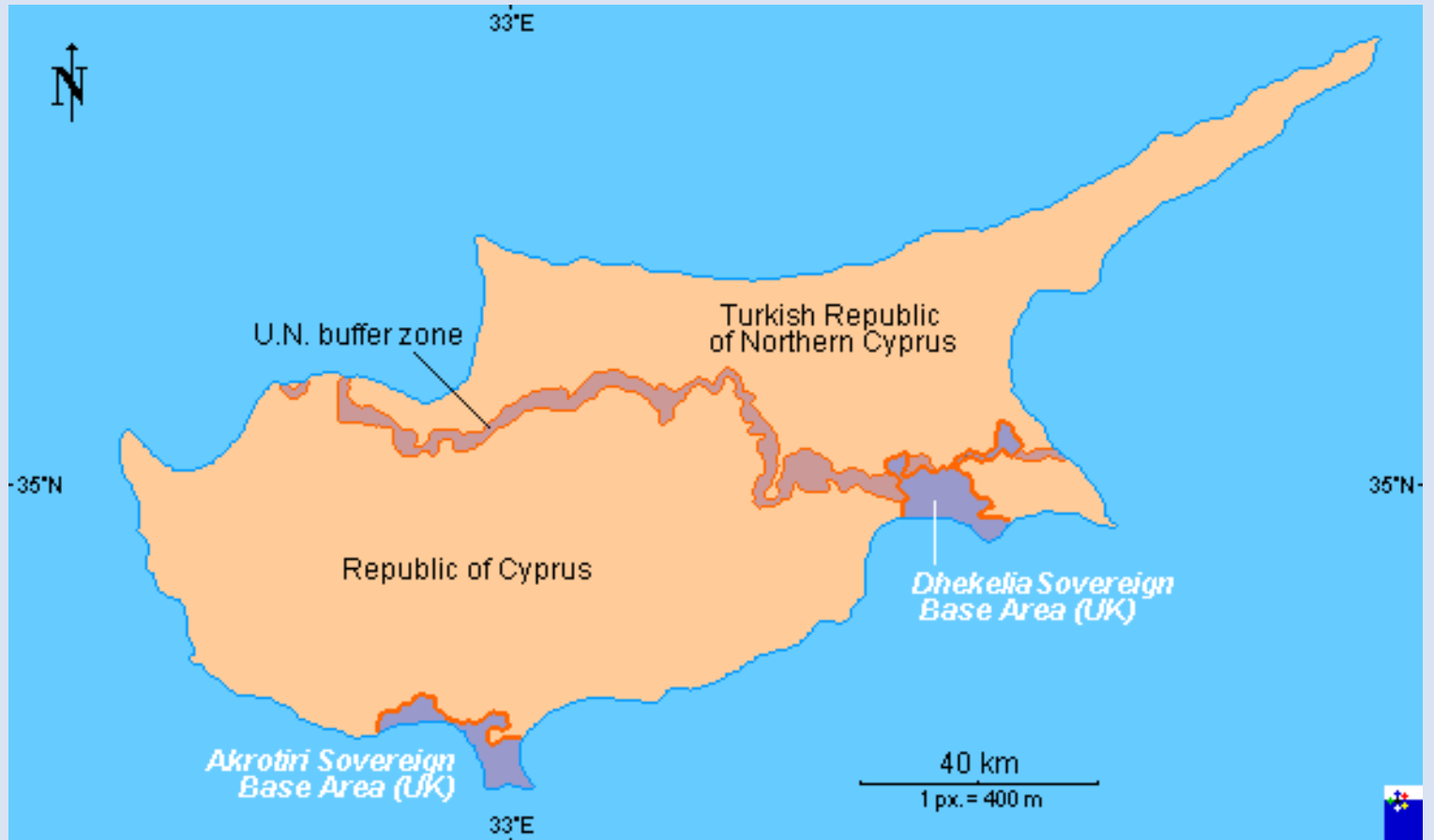
The battle is really over who controls the extremely lucrative oil and gas industry (main fields and pipelines shown in purple on the map)



The Cyprus issue

an Ottoman, then British protectorate (1878-1925), then independent state in 1925 with a British base (sort of like the Suez Canal Zone?). In 1974 Turkey invaded the North to prevent merger with Greece.

40,000 Turkish Troops in the 'independent' country of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (only recognized now by Turkey).



The Tourism War in Cyprus

After Russia annexed the Crimea 2014, Turkey stopped issuing Russians visas to visit Turkey, which eliminated a favorite winter escape for Russians. Cyprus was quick to welcome them and Russian tourists became a key part of the only major industry in Cyprus (gas and oil exploration might change that).

Then in 2022 Greece joined the NATO condemnation and sanctions on Russia and the Russian ambassador noted that his compatriots could easily switch to taking vacations in “The Turkish Republic of North Cyprus,” which they did.

This was alarming to Greece because the ambassador phrased the remark as if there is no dispute over the island, and hinted that Russia might even recognize the North Cyprus Republic, which would have dramatic impact on oil and gas claims.





Kyrenia
Harbor,
Republic of
North
Cyprus

1126-416

robertharding.com

The Fatih, one of four drilling ships all named after Ottoman heroes, was drilling in the zone based on the 2019 Turkish-Libyan agreement in August 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpL5jYf-HP8&t=36s> (2019 TRT clip on Turkish air force salute to the Fatih)



The Fatih, a drilling ship owned by the Turkish Government.



Status of Meis/Kastellorizo, a Greek possession since 1923 another source of legal disputes.

Turkey not a signatory of UNCLOS (Conference on Laws of the Sea on maritime zones (due to disputes with Greece

A battle over offshore resources

Potential Turkish EEZ claim

Potential Greek EEZ claim

1. Potential resource claim if Greece doesn't use Meis/Kasterlorizo as part of its EEZ



2. Potential resource claim if Greece uses Meis/Kasterlorizo as part of its EEZ



Iran

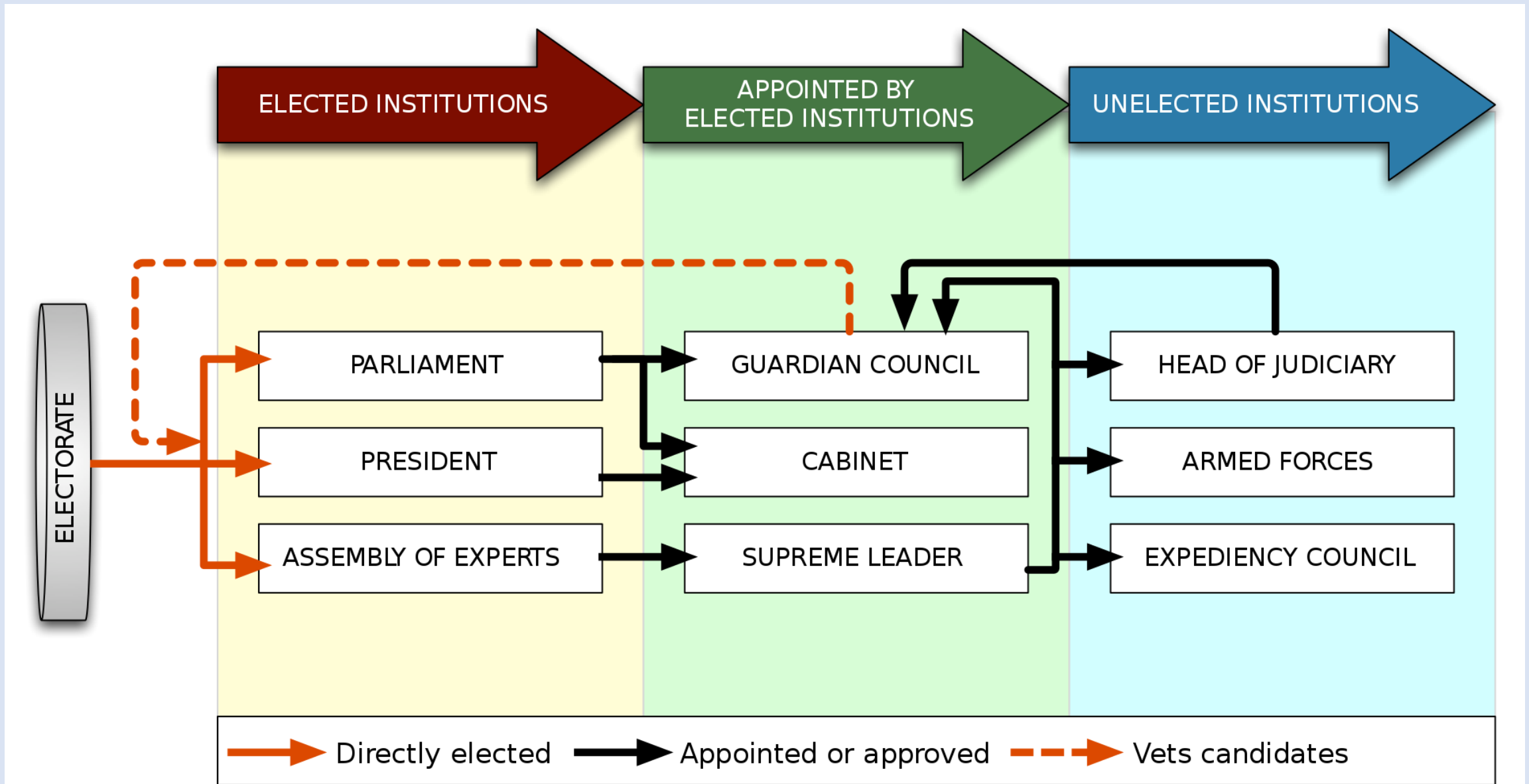
Getting pretty serious now



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-63188795.amp> October 8th State TV Hack

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZMvrkU_eEY BBC overview 10-5-22

Who Runs Iran?



In the early 1990s the Religious Police professionalized, but its unclear how much control the govt leaders have over the units.

In theory having mixed gender teams was supposed to eliminate complaints of extortion, abuse and even sexual harassment of women.



2020 photo

Digital surveillance and resistance to it is a constant now.

Govt use of CCTV to monitor women was countered with phone apps that share camera locations.

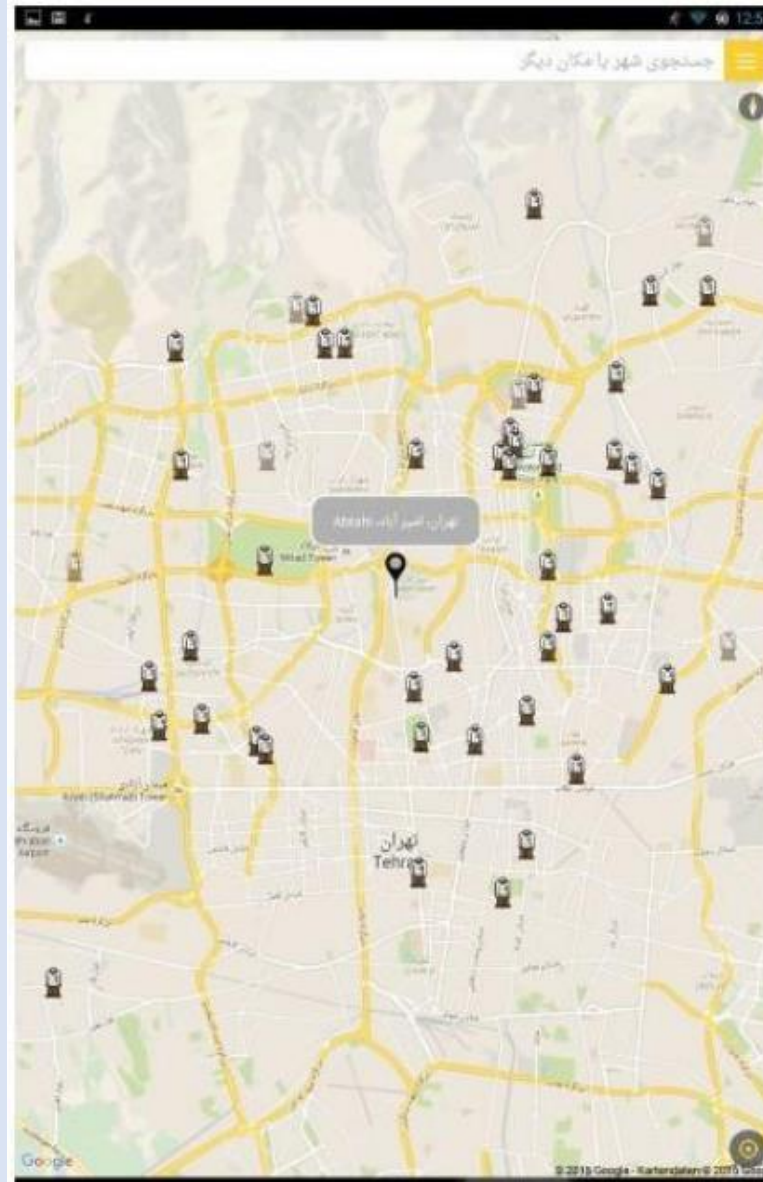


Figure 3: Screenshot of Gershad's map of Tehran (Spiegel Online 2016)



مجید آذرپی
@majidazarpey

Follow

این صف یارانه و شیر و نون و فیلان نیست.
این جماعت همه به خاطر بدحجابی در موقع رانندگی
اینجا(پلیس امنیت اخلاقی) هستند
جدیدا در جاده‌ها، بدحجابی توسط دوربین‌های راهنمایی
رانندگی ثبت می‌شود

Translate Tweet

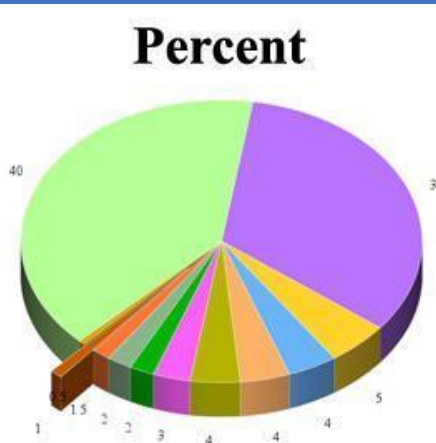


6:14 AM - 16 Dec 2017

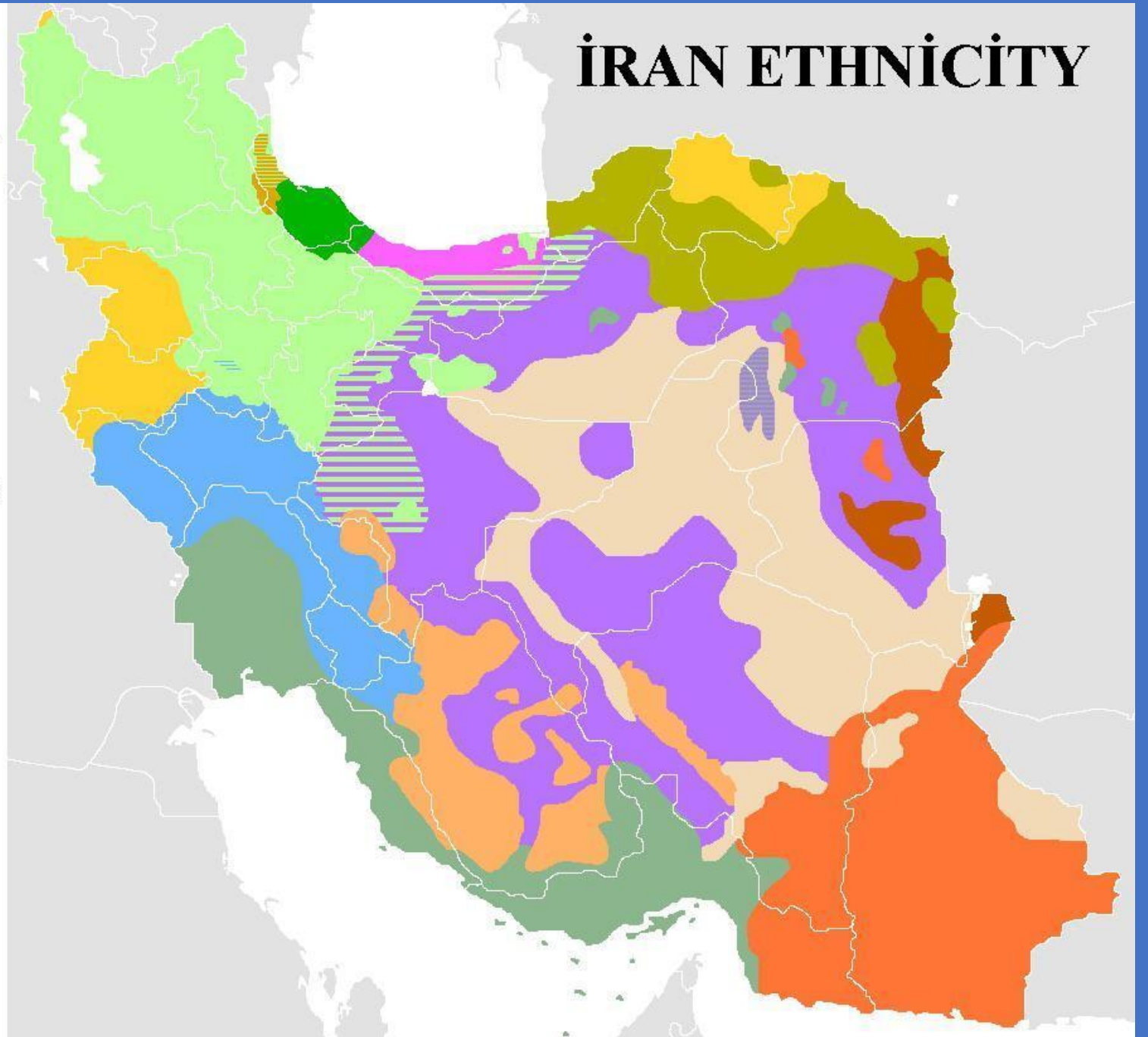
Figure 2. The Tweet reads, "This is not a milk or bread queue. All these people are at Moral Security Police station because the driver of their car has had improper hijab. Recently improper hijab is being captured on CCTV cameras on the roads" (Azarpey 2017).

Mahsa Amini's Kurdish background is becoming an issue as well.

Population Estimates:
Iran total 83 m
Persians 50 m.
Azeris 16 m.
Kurds 10 m?

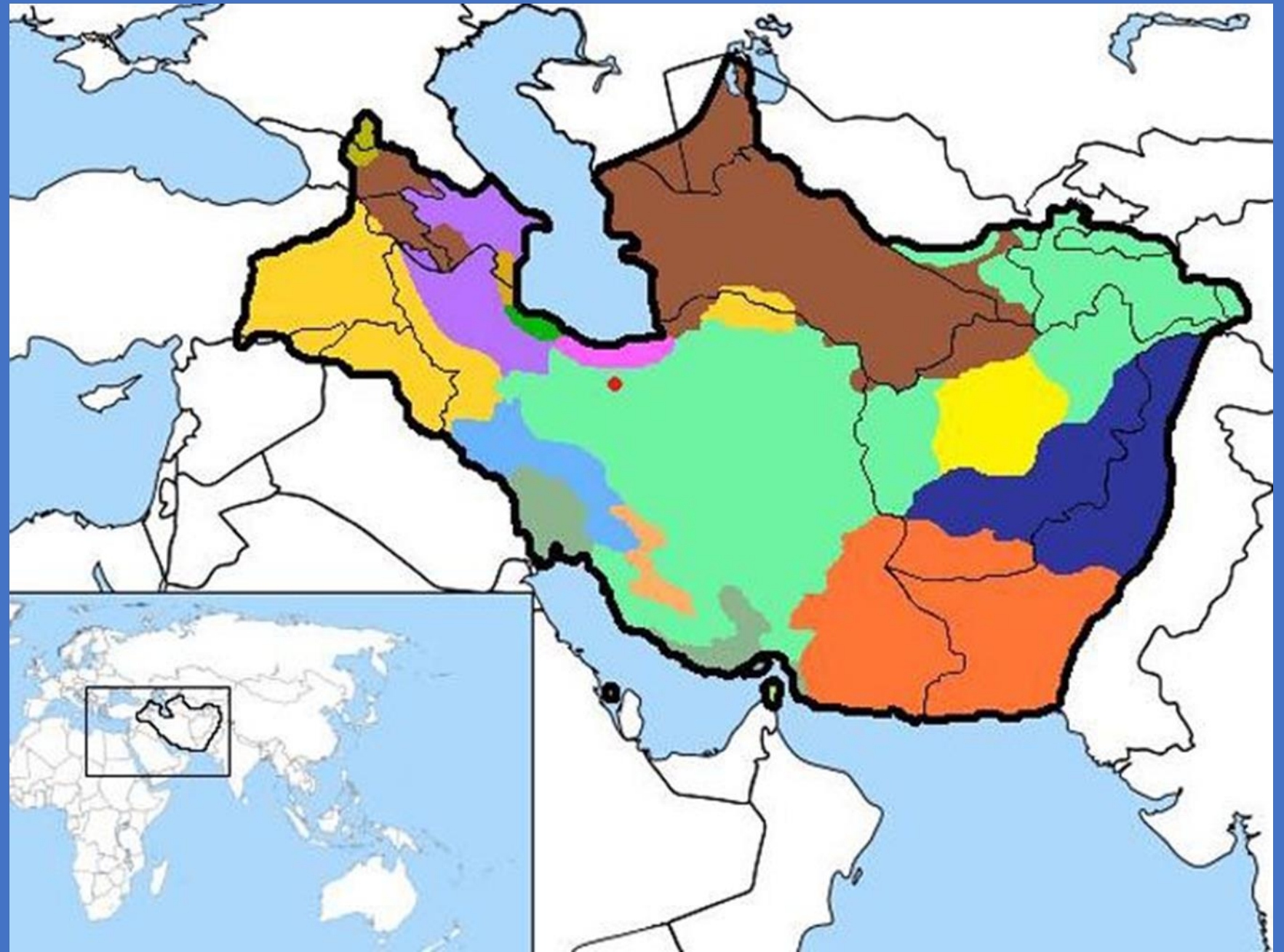


- Persian
- Azerbaijani Türk
- Kurd
- Lur
- Qashqai Türk
- Türkmen
- Mazandarani
- Gilaki
- Arab
- Balochi
- Pashtun
- Talish



Neighboring countries worry about spillover, in part based on Ethnicity

Turkey especially worried about Kurdish activism spilling over from Iran



Iran blaming the protests on outside agitators, both the Kurdish opposition and the West.

Iran sees those as related, arguing that US/West has encouraged Kurdish extremism in Iraq and Syria, which is the same way that Turkey feels.

There is Turkish-Iranian cooperation in monitoring Kurdish activism.

AL-MONITOR
Independent, trusted coverage of the Middle East

EGYPT GULF IRAN IRAQ ISRAEL JORDAN LEBANON NORTH AFRICA PALESTINE SYRIA TURKEY
مصر الخليج إيران العراق إسرائيل الأردن لبنان شمال أفريقيا فلسطين سوريا تÜRKIYE

Tehran strikes Kurdish opponents in Iraq as protests over Mahsa Amini's death convulse Iran

Iran ramps up its bombing campaign in northern Iraq in what Iraqi Kurds argue is an attempt to divert the world's attention from the killing of Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini.

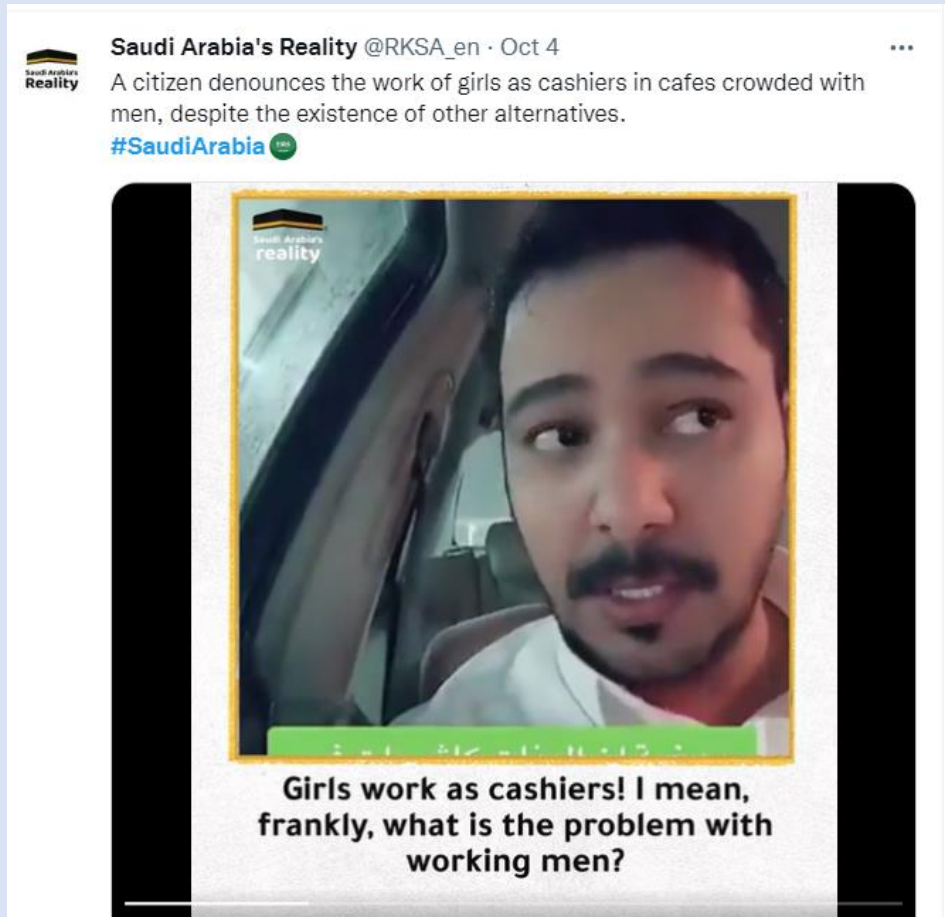


9-28-2022

And in Saudi Arabia?

Twitter strangely silent on Iran. Of course, the last time women demonstrated in Saudi over driving restrictions, some of them received 30 year sentences. (I realize we could find similar tweets from Americans on Twitter, but I enjoyed these two).

- https://twitter.com/hashtag/SaudiArabia?src=hashtag_click



Little comment from Erdogan

Protests in several cities in Turkey (including Diyarbakir) have supported Iranian women. Here is a woman in Istanbul cutting her hair outside the Iranian consulate



...although after ten days the Turkish state seemed to lose patience with the protests and hauled women off to jail.

Turkey is not so keen on protests these days in general, but the topic of Islamic culture and politics is a very touchy one, and Turkey also worries about any protests supporting Kurds in Iran.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsH5QIq3AZc&t=59s>

gazete
duvaR.

AGENDA

Mahsa Jîna Amini protest in Ankara: Many women were detained

The police did not allow women who wanted to come together on Sakarya Street for Mahsa Jîna Amini, and many people were detained.

Sunday, October 02, 2022 Time: 16:54

Ankara'da Mahsa eylemi: Çok sayıda kadın gözaltına alındı

MORE VIDEOS

0:59 / 2:23

YouTube

Turkey still has a troubled relationship with the “Mountain Turks” (Ataturks phrase)

To start with, they aren't Turks (language closer to Persian)



1910 Ethnographic map of Eastern Ottoman lands shows yellow “Kurdistan” and Green Armenian areas

Today?
35-40 million Kurds in the region.

15 m in Turkey
10 m in Iran
5 m in Iraq
2-3 m in Syria



Kurdish nationalism under Ottomans in the 1880s tamed by their incorporation into the Hamidian militias after 1890. Units modeled on the Cossacks



“Kurd Cavalry which the Turks are hurling against the Russians in the Passes of the Caucasus Mountains”

In Jan 1915 the NYT loves the Kurds.

(later in 1915 they were key in helping expel/murder Armenians in the East)



After assisting the government to expel Armenians in 1915, 700,000 Kurds were also subject to deportation to Western Anatolia in 1916. Many died en route.

2015 apology from MP Demirbas (a Kurd himself) of Diyarbakir.

Kurdish apologies for Armenian genocide

May 05, 2015

Kurdish apologies for Armenian genocide –



Outside the Surp Sarkis Armenian church, Diyarbakir Photo: *Frédérique Geerdink*

Post War I Allied treaty proposed a referendum to decide the future of Kurdistan

Ataturk defended the borders with broad Islamic alliance 1921-22.

In 1924 a reversal. The new constitution abolishes caliphate, outlaws Kurdish language.

Treaty of Sèvres



1927-31 Republic of Ararat 1931 Dersim Revolt

Both Kurdish revolts met with crushing military response from Ataturk: mustard gas, deportations, aerial bombing...

That is Mount Ararat in the distance.



South East Turkey pretty much a war zone after assimilation campaigns in early 1980s led to a Kurdish uprising. The Kurdish regions under “state of Emergency” military occupation 1987-2002. 2400 villages de-populated, hundreds of cemeteries destroyed.



The Syrian War renewed the Turkish-Kurdish conflict.

US training of Kurds as allies in the Syria fight against ISIS strongly objected to by Turkey. Here Turkey bombing Kurdish towns in SE Turkey (cizre) 2015. Tanks, check points, fighter jets and airstrikes, after 2019 drone strikes...



2019 Turkey established “safety zone” in Northern Syria as the US pulled out its support for Kurds after ISIS failing.

This followed the Turkish occupation of land to the West (purple) in 2017. (Operation Euphrates Shield)

Turkey has been accused of targeting Kurdish activists, or those with training in its military operations.


Also, Turkey seems to be encouraging Syrian Arab refugees to resettle in the occupation zone, creating a barrier between Kurdish areas with the demographic engineering.



Not much Tolerance for discussion of Kurdish culture today, even for members of Parliament.

This tweet Oct 9, 2022

More than 20 arrested at the march, the MP suffered a broken leg, another detainee was feared missing but had been taken to the hospital for injuries.

 **Ruşen Takva** ✓
@RusenTakva

Engellenen yürüyüşte, Mezopotamya Ajansı muhabiri Mazlum Engindeniz, JINNEWS muhabiri Rabia Önver, HDP İlçe Eşbaşkanı Şoreş Diri'nin de aralarında olduğu en az 20 kişi gözaltına alındı.

Milletvekili Habip Eksik, hastaneye kaldırıldı.
Translated from Turkish by Google

At least 20 people, including Mezopotamya Agency reporter Mazlum Engindeniz, JINNEWS reporter Rabia Önver, HDP District Co-chair Şoreş Diri, were detained during the blocked march.

Deputy Habip Lack was taken to the hospital.

← Thread

 **Meghan Bodette**
@__mjb

Here is how Turkish police treat Habip Eksik, an elected member of the Turkish parliament, simply because he's Kurdish and represents the pro-peace, pro-democracy, pro-Kurdish opposition HDP.



0:08 965K views

From **Amed Dicle** ✓

8:27 AM · Oct 9, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

497 Retweets 52 Quote Tweets 865 Likes

https://twitter.com/____mjb/status/1579101153165737985?s=20&t=FeBJeBSZ1XR6XtJJdYrJtw

Turkish monitoring of Kurdish news and viewpoints has contributed to it being rated 153 out of 180 in the World Press Freedom Index.

<https://www.turkishminute.com/2021/12/29/facebook-bans-pro-kurdish-rights-mezopotamya-news-agencys-account/>

15.5 Frankfurt am Main

TURKISH MINUTE

Turkey at a glance

NATIONAL - POLITICS BUSINESS - DIPLOMACY OPINION AND ANALYSIS FEATURED

HEADLINE NATIONAL TOP STORIES

Facebook bans pro-Kurdish rights Mezopotamya news agency's account

December 29, 2021 358

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AFP

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October 11, 2022

Must read

- Greece, Turkey set tensions aside for direct maritime link
October 11, 2022
- Erdoğan to meet Putin on Wednesday in Astana: Turkish official
October 11, 2022

Facebook has banned the verified account of the pro Kurdish rights Mezopotamya news agency (MA), which had 100,000 followers, the [Stockholm Center for Freedom](#) reported on Tuesday, citing the Bianet news web site.

According to MA officials, Facebook has been censoring the news published by the agency based on even minor complaints and did not take into consideration their objections.

MA has been the target of Turkish authorities for its coverage of human rights violations in the country, especially against Kurds. Many of its reporters were arrested in the past for alleged membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), an armed secessionist group designated as a terrorist

- Turkish has been carrying out bombing campaigns in Turkish, Iraqi and Syrian Kurdish areas all this year.

The New York Times

Turkey Strikes Iraq Resort, Killing at Least 8, Officials Say

The attack came in a region that Turkey targets because Kurdish militants take refuge there, in a new flaring of regional tensions.

Give this article



SOHR booklet, comprising with infographics, summarises all key d

2021

SOHR

Human Rights Violations

News

Areas

SOHR Statistics

International Powers In

A photograph of a tank firing an artillery shell in a field. The tank is dark-colored and is positioned in the center of the frame. A large plume of smoke is visible behind the tank, indicating the firing of a shell. The background shows a flat, open field under a clear sky.

Turkish bombardment | Over 30 rocket and artillery shells hit areas held by Kurdish and regime forces in northern Aleppo countryside

On Oct 11, 2022

Share

Aleppo province: SOHR activists have reported that Turkish forces stationed at Thulthana base on the outskirts of Marea' city in northern Aleppo countryside have fired more than 30 rockets and artillery shells on the perimeter of Al-Sha'ala and Al-Nairbiyah villages which are controlled by Kurdish and Syrian forces in the northern countryside of Alepe.

Yesterday, SOHR activists documented the death of a Turkish-backed National Army member in

Ok, so we did not make a lot of progress looking at the Turkic world today, but...

- We looked at the frustrating lack of support for Uyghur rights even at the UN
- We looked at the Greece-Turkey tension over history, the oil and gas resources, armaments and EU membership...
- We looked at how the Iran protests are destabilizing Iran
- And we looked at Turkey's fear that the Kurdish aspect of the protests could inspire Kurdish activism in Turkey
- And we looked at the history of the relationship between Turkey and the Kurds since WWI